The Findlay Jeffersonian.

E. G. DE WOLFE & CO., Proprietors. *Let us have Faith that Right makes Might, and in that Faith let us to the end dare to do our Duty as we understand it.*—ABRAHAM LINCOLN. TERMS—Two Dollars Per Annum

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FINDLAY.

Its Past and Present—Pen and Ink Sketches of the City and its Business Interests.

Although it is not yet half a century since Findlay was founded, it is even now almost impossible to obtain accurate data of the past. So far as has been possible, from individuals and records we have aimed to glean information; we know it is incomplete, but such as it is we herewith present it to the readers of the JEFFERSONIAN, believing it will not be wholly without interest.

There is a commendable desire on the part of our citizens to see in print an article of this nature,—we have aimed at impartiality and truthfulness, and can only add by way of apologetic prelude

"What is writ is writ,
Would it were worthier."

We are accustomed to look upon Ohio as an old settled State, and so it is in contrast with those west of the Mississippi—but (with a few solitary exceptions) the whole country is new—many of those who lived in the County of Hancock when it was organized in 1820, are still living, doubtless, though none of them are here, and the development of the County has occurred within a lifetime. Then it was a County but in name, settlers were few, and all the disadvantages of a pioneer's life were to be encountered.

Until 1828 Hancock County was attached to Wood County, for municipal purposes, and it was not until the first Monday in April, 1828, that an election was held for the purpose of securing separate organization. There were no voting places in the County except Findlay, and here the voters came. The total number of votes cast were but seventy-two, the officers elect holding office for six months.

If we are not mistaken, Matthew Riley was the first Auditor, William Hackett the first Assessor, Joshua Hedges the first Treasurer and Don Alonzo Hamblin the first Sheriff; the Commissioners being John P. Hamilton, John Long and —— —— Huff, and the first Associate Judges were Messrs. Huft, Hammond and McKinnis.

Office-holding was not very profitable in these early days. The first assessment of property resulted in a total tax of between seven and eight dollars. The Assessors' fees for his first year's work amounted to fourteen dollars, and for the second year's work he received fifteen dollars, the Commissioners increasing the amount subsequently to the munificent sum of twenty-five dollars, his duties being to assess the personal property and realty of the entire County. Now-a-days it costs $1,500 to assess the personal property alone.

The first prosecuting attorney of the county was Anthony Cozard, who lived in Bellefontaine, and whose yearly income from this source was $25. The first County Clerk was Wilson Vance.

The first written data to which we have access is that of March 2d, 1829, when the Board of Commissioners met for the usual purpose of transacting regular business. Those Commissioners were John P. Hamilton, Charles McKinnis and John Long, being the second board elected.

There are no records of the platting of the town, or what Commissioners designated Findlay County seat, to be found in the Court House House here, though we are informed the records of Wood County give this information, and at the date of which we write the chief business of the Commissioners seemed to consist of hearing petitions from sundry parties praying for County roads.

Findlay was laid out in 1827 or '28 by Messrs. John Vance (afterward Governor of Ohio,) and Mr. Cory, father of Hon. D. J. Cory, the former then living at Urbana and the latter at Dayton. In 1829 a sale of lots took place. The first white settler here was John Cox, in '24, but when the town was laid out Wilson Vance, a brother of the Governor, and a man named Schroof were the only settlers, Mr. Vance then living where the Walker House now is and Mr. Schroof near the Ashery.

Long before this date there had been whites living here, but who could not be properly called settlers. During the war of 1812 a block house was built where Mr. Corey now lives, which was garrisoned for a time, and Hull, on his famous march to Detroit passed here. In '20, however, the block house had fallen from its high estate and was being used by Wilson Vance as a stable. "To what base uses are we turned."

In 1827 Squire Carlin came from Maumee City and was the first one to open a store here. There were then but few citizens in the county, and they mostly along the banks of the streams, but emigrants were gradually coming in, and their wants had to be supplied. To the north and west were the Ottawa Indians, and to the south and east were the Wyandots, and the trade with them was an important part of, if not the principal, business. There wasn't a superabundance of money among either Indians or whites, so coon and other skins supplied its place—a specie of currency that few, even the most bitter opponents of our banking system of to-day—would care to return to. This little store of Squire Carlin was, then, the foundation stone of our business system of to-day, a superstructure of no mean dimensions as the succeeding columns will show.

Wm. Taylor came the following year, bringing a few goods with him, and he was the second merchant here. In '28 a man by the name of Wickham opened school in a small log hut, and in the same year Parlee Carlin, Mathew Riley, a carpenter, Mr. Hale, and some others came, including Mr. Slight and Mr. Hamilton, who engaged in farming near here Parlee Carlin went into partnership with his brother, and the following year took a stock of goods down to the mouth of Blanchard's Fork of the Auglaize, where he did a thriving trade with the Indians and white settlers, subsequently returning here. The hotel accommodations were rather primitive. Wilson Vance entertaining travelers in a small log house. Probably rooms nor *cuisine* then would compare very favorably with the "Joy" now.

The postal facilities must have been moderate indeed, since it is currently reported that Squire Vance (the first to be invested with the cabalistic title P. M.) was wont to carry the mail in his hat and deliver letters to parties addressed as he might happen to meet them in his store or elsewhere.

Most of the buildings were of logs. In '26 the town proprietors had built a saw mill here as an inducement to immigration, but in '29 there were but one or two frame buildings in town.

The luxuries of life were not in abundance. Flour was only to be obtained in small quantities, and when purchased made to do duty in a manner that would astonish even our most economical housekeepers now-a-days, one barrel lasting a large family for a year or more. Instead of it corn meal was used. There was a primitive mill in town, rigged up after a fashion peculiarly its own, and propelled by horse power. Instead of *grinding* the corn it really but *cracked* it, and yet there was usually an eager throng around the mill, each anxious for an opportunity to get in their grist.

At their meeting Dec. 15, 1831 the Commissioners ordered that advertisements be posted upon the three public places for contracts for putting up and finishing a frame in the village of Findlay, to be 24x36 feet, two stories high: the lower story to be nine feet in the clear and the upper story 8½ feet; the lower story to have hall or entry eight feet wide through the centre, with good partitions on either side, of planed board; the one end to be divided by a partition through the center; a good substantial flight of stairs to be put up in the entry, the doors to be panneled" and then follows description of the manner in which it is to be built. The award of contract was made to Wilson Vance, Frederick Henderson and Jonathan Parker, for $750.00. The building was erected upon the site where J. J. Wheeler's store now stands. In 1840 the Court House now in use was built, and the old C. H. now forms the residence of Dr. Carr, dentist.

The earliest preaching here of which we have any account was by Rev. Thomas Thompson, who was missionary to the Wyandot Indians. Rev. Mr. Gavitt, a Methodist preacher, officiated quite regularly during '30, and he was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Day, who organized the Methodist society, and in '32 Rev. Mumfort organized the Presbyterian church. These two societies were the pioneers in the work of the church; and the seed they sowed must have fallen upon good ground for it has brought forth more than an hundred fold.

At this early day the facilities for intercommunication were of a limited character. There was but one really passable road—leading from Bellefontaine to Perrysburg, perhaps better known as "Hull's trace" having been the route he pursued in his march to Detroit. By-paths, blazed through the woods were about the only things to be relied upon. Of course there was little home market for any thing. There was scarcely ever a superabundence raised, and those who had wheat to sell would haul it to Maumee or Sandusky City and there sell it for from 85 cts. to $1.25 per bushel; hogs were driven to Detroit and sold there.

As early as 1839 the railway fever broke out and took shape in the form of an appropriation of $100,000 by the County to the Bellefontaine & Perrysburg railway company, but the enterprised vanished into air—thin air, and but few of our people are aware that such an enterprise was ever contemplated.

At this time the population of Findlay was still small, not exceeding two hundred and fifty. Ginseng, beeswax and furs continued to bear rent, and and there was no special promise of the town ever amounting to its present size. In fact there was much against its growth. The ground was low, wet and disagreeable,—just such a country as one could readily believe was abounding in miasmas. Roads were still indifferently or positively bad, the school system was yet in embryo, and the only sustaining causes of village growth were the fact that it was county seat, possessing moderate milling advantages, and the settlement of the adjacent country. Ten years had made many changes it is true, still the outlook was not the most promising. Government lands were to be had in abundance, the tertility of the soil had been abundantly demonstrated, and settlers came in quite rapidly, and the town borrowed importance from that.

The first real impetus its growth received was by the building of the branch road from Carey here in 1850 or '51. By means of it Findlay became a desirable market and reached out for trade in every direction. Subsequently the Lake Erie & Louisville road was completed from Fremont here, giving us competition in freights, and materially benefitting the town, indeed, the good effects resulting therefrom will last as long as time. And here we will remark that work is, this season to be pushed forward along the entire line of this road, reaching from Sandusky to Cambridge City Ind., and thence to Louisville, actual head of navigation of the Ohio. It penetrate a most desirable section of country, and give Findlay most decided advantages as a shipping point. The work has commenced in earnest, and will be completed as rapidly as possible, as subscriptions are fast being taken.

Without its railways Findlay would have remained an unimportant inland town, possessing no advantages, offering no attractions. With its railways it has become a stirring, thriving city of not less than 4000 inhabitants.

But we cannot longer trace the early development of the town. There are thousands of anecdotes and incidents connected with the past which cannot even be alluded to here, but must content ourselves with simply saying that its development was slow but sure. Except at the very outset of its career but little of the speculative has characterized its growth.

From the past then we turn to a consideration of Findlay as it is. Imagine (if you are unsequainted with the town, reader) a level plat of ground that bears indication of having been at one time a forest, but, now that it is cleared, seeming like a prairie, with a stream of water (Blanchard fork) running through the northern portion. Upon every hand see forests stretching away, seeming to enclose the town in a circle. Imagine streets platted with regularity, crossing each other at right angles,—see church spires and towers pointing heavenward—behold street after street lined upon either side with residences or business establishments—see warehouses and mills and factories, schools, and all those component parts that go to make up a town, and you see Findlay, in a superficial way. But let us look at it a little closer. The beauty or attractiveness of a town not only depends upon its location, but even more largely upon its business blocks, its churches, its schools and its private residences, no less than upon its social features and business life.

Of its location we have spoken; its business is manufacturing, mercantile and shipping. The mercantile business is chiefly confined to Main and Main Cross streets, Main st. being the real business thoroughfare.

There are in all about 75 business houses here; Main street is filled upon either side for a distance of four blocks with two and three story brick blocks, with occasionally a frame building sandwiched between, also excepting space occupied by the Court House. Of these business houses we speak more in detail elsewhere. The manufacturing interests are scattered in and about town.

We can take special pride in our churches. Perhaps more than any other one thing the churches of a city bespeak its enterprise or liberality. Instead of worshipping in a log school building as did the pioneers nearly a half century ago, we can point with pride to really noble structures, the result of voluntary contributions on the part of our people. The Methodists have the most elegant church—a magnificent brick edifice, erected at a cost of $31,000. It is fitted up in most exquisite taste, has a large and handsome pipe organ, the walls and ceilings are frescoed, and the seating capacity is large. The Congregational church is also a beautiful one, showing not only architectural taste, but its finishing is also fine. It is supplied with a superior reed organ, and is only second in point of excellence to the Methodist. The Presbyterians also have a very superior church, attractively furnished; the building is of brick, of large dimensions, and is an ornament to the city. The Catholics, not to be behind others in enterprise so far as church buildings are concerned, have built a large and nicely appointed building in the west part of town, and the German Lutheran, Evangelical Lutheran and Lutheran Reform societies also have good houses of worship as have the Church of God, United Brethren and Evangelical—all of the churches, excepting one, being substantial brick buildings, whose aggregate cost has been large.

If the church buildings are an object of pride on the part of the people of Findlay, so also are the schools and school system. The Union School, an elegant brick building near the C. S. & C. depot, was built at a cost of $36,000, and from basement to roof is furnished throughout in the best possible manner. Beside the necessary study and recitation rooms it contains a large Hall—Columbia Hall, and is well worth a visit. There are three other school buildings, two brick and one frame. The Union school and two of the others are operated under the general school law, while the third is an independent district under what it known as the Akron law. With these facilities no town in the State can offer better free educational advantages than can this—an item that parents, seeking a new location, will not readily overlook.

We also have various secret societies—Masonic and Odd Fellows—a Young Men's Christian Association &c. The social feature of the city is worth more than casual mention, but we can only allude to it. It is well-formed and yet free from hauteur. Though there is large wealth here, there is little of that so-called aristocracy that usually proceeds from its possession. A feeling of cordiality seems to prevail.

Rents are very reasonable but difficult to be obtained and we would suggest to some of our capitalists the propriety of erecting a number of houses—the tenants would readily be obtained. Improvements are constantly being made, both in private grounds and also along the business streets. A system of sewerage has been carried out that has converted the erstwhile marsh into dry land.—The streets are well graded and the pavements are excellent, being mainly of stone and brick. Gas works are needed, and it seems strange some Company does not utilize the natural gas wells so abundant hereabouts.—That done there would be little need for new public improvements except a substantial fire proof Court House and a new bridge over Blanchard's Fork. These improvements will come in good time.

The amount of grain, wool, cattle, hogs, horses, and other products, shipped from the city is immense. It was our purpose to present in this connection a compilation from the railway freight books, but the agent of the C. S. & C. RR. would neither make out so far as that Road was concerned nor allow us to do so, consequently we cannot give such facts as we would wish to in this matter.—Below we present a few items relative to the grain, seed, wool and produce shipments.

Having thus, in an imperfect manner, given a sketch of the past growth and present appearance of the city, let us now turn our attention to those evidences of material prosperity—our manufactures. Most prominent is the Woolen Mill, owned and operated by

WM. ANDERSON & CO.

The business was established in 1858 by Mr. Anderson. It was then a comparatively small affair, using the building now occupied by the oil mill. From the outset the business was very successful, proving very profitable during the war, and in 1865 the present mill was built. It is a fine brick structure, specially designed for this purpose. The main building is 40x80 feet, three stories. There is also an office 24x40, dye-house 20x50, and a boiler house 16x35, as well as a large warehouse. Two complete setts of machinery are used, consuming from 40,000 to 60,000 pounds of wool per annum, the firm also shipping largely of the raw material. A force of twenty-five persons is employed, the principal lines of manufacture being cloths, casimeres, satinetts, jeans, flannels, blankets and yarns, and the market is almost wholly a home one—a fact speaking well for the excellence of their manufactures. The firm, comprising W. Anderson and M. B. Patterson, was formed Nov. 1, 1869. Mr. Anderson has been a resident of Findlay fourteen years, coming from Muskingum county, where he had formerly been in the same business,—indeed it has been his occupation for a quarter of a century. He is also a partner in the Oil Mill, and one of the owners of the Planing Mill. Mr. Patterson has resided in this county ever since a small boy. Prior to engaging in this business he had been farming. Both gentlemen are energetic business men—they are accomplishing much good in the community, and we gladly give them this prominent place.

THE FINDLAY FLAX CO.

Are engaged in an undertaking that is accomplishing an immense amount of good for the farmers hereabouts, inasmuch as the establishment of the Flax Mill has furnished a ready market for straw otherwise worthless, or nearly so, and the growth of flax is one of the most profitable our farmers can engage in. The mill was established eighteen months ago by two Delaware, Ohio, gentlemen, J. M. Hawes and A. Thomson, who are also running a large establishment there. Previous to the establishment of this one, others had been operated here, but had been mismanaged and died, while this has proved a most gratifying success. The active management of the business is with Mr. G. H. Gardiner, a courteous, energetic gentleman, to whom we are indebted for many items. The mill is a frame structure, two stories, 35x80 feet, with a neat little office close at hand. Four setts of machinery are in operation—the Mallory brake, one picker, and a power press. The works are engaged in making bagging tow, manufacturing about 2500 pounds per day. This is put up in bales of 400@500 pounds and shipped to Delaware, O., where it is converted into bagging tow. The mill is kept busy the entire year. An average force of twenty men is employed, and in August and September as many as sixty. The mill is complete in all its appointments, and its interests are carefully looked after by Mr. Gardiner, the Superintendent.—No matter how much flax our farmers may raise, they can rely upon good prices and a home market, not only for seed, but straw, and we believe they will consult their own interests by embarking in this branch of agriculture more extensively than heretofore.

J. T. ADAMS & CO.,

Are operating the Findlay Oil Mills. We confess to a liking for oleaginous places of this kind. The cake as it is being ground, or the oil as it drips from the presses, has an odor anything but disagreeable to us, and so we spent some time inspecting the mill and the *modus operandi* of converting flax seed into oil, Mr. Adams kindly officiating as *chaperone*. The mill has been in operation seven years. Originally the building was occupied as a woolen mill, but was adapted to its present uses, and makes convenient quarters. A few inquiries develop the fact that an average of 3,200 bushels of flax seed are consumed per month, that two and a half tons of "cake" are made per day and forty-five barrels of oil per week. Most of the seed is obtained in this vicinity; the oil is in great part shipped to Detroit, while a large proportion is consumed in the neighboring towns, as is also the cake. The business is in a gratifying condition; it employs from nine to twelve men, furnishes a ready home market for seed, and is accomplishing good. No little energy has been required to be exercised to make it a pecuniary success, and the achievement is the more praiseworthy. The firm comprises J. T. Adams and Wm. Anderson, the former managing the business. He has been a resident of town for the past fourteen years, coming from Richland county. Before going into the oil mill he was in the hardware trade. As an energetic citizen and good business man he is known to the entire community, and the JEFFERSONIAN alludes to him and the business with pleasure.

WOLF & POWELL

At the Jackson Foundry and Plow Factory comes next. Their business is chiefly the manufacture of the well-known Jackson Plow. The works were established a number of years ago, the present firm having been operating them, however, only since last June, though both partners have heretofore been connected with them. The manufacture of plows as a distinctive branch of trade here was really begun by Powell & Co., in January, '71. They were treading upon somewhat dangerous ground, and comparatively few plows were made. Proving successful, Wolt & Powell have entered upon it more largely this year, and will probably make 500. They design making quite a specialty of the Ball Plow, and as soon as possible will quit the machine business altogether. They employ from ten to fifteen men, and will soon be compelled to increase the number, as besides manufacturing for the home trade they design shipping quite largely. No plows in this country have won a better or more deserved reputation. Jesse Wolf, the senior member, has been in the foundry business almost a life time, and for twenty years in this city, and a more thoroughly practical man can't be found. J. C. Powell has been in the county thirty-nine years, and has been variously engaged in farming, as brick mason, and saw-milling, now carrying on a saw mill and lumber yard in the north part of town. Both men mean "business," and we are glad to be able to state that the prospect is of the most satisfactory character. We sincerely hope every wish will be realized. They are also manufacturing large numbers of wood saws, probably the most complete made, and are doing a large business in this line as well as in general castings.

LINVILLE & BIGGS.

Are among the leading carriage makers of town. The carriage making interests here have become of large consequence, and we state but the truth when we say that Mr. L. has perhaps been more instrumental in their development than any other one here. The shop was established about ten years ago, at that time being chiefly engaged in making heavy work, and has had several proprietors, the present firm which was formed last September succeeding to Heck & Linville. An average force of thirteen men is employed and about eighty-five vehicles are annually turned out, fifty being buggies and light spring wagons, the remainder two horse farm wagons. Through the courtesy of Mr. L. we were shown through the shops, covering a ground area of 200x24 feet. We found everything convenient as could be, excepting that they are somewhat crowded for room. A large stock of the best of material is on hand, carefully selected by Mr. L., and we feel assured that no poor material is ever used. In styles, prices and the like they keep up with the competition of large cities, and are turning out most beautiful work, all of which is for the home market. Both gentlemen are young men and masters of their trades. Mr. Linville has been here about eight years, working as a "jour" for 1½ years, and then becoming connected with one of the large shops at South Bend, and afterward returning here. An active experience of thirteen years certainly qualifies him for the business. His partner, Mr. Biggs, is a native of town, and this has been his business since boyhood. He has charge of the ironing and blacksmithing department. The firm has built up a splendid trade—it is based upon merit, and it requires no gift of prophecy to foretell their success.

ADAMS & COONS

At the Findlay Foundry and Machine shop are doing a most excellent and large trade, and we are glad of this opportunity to speak of it and them. The business was established about fourteen years ago by Mr. Sheffield—since then there have been numerous changes, the present firm taking posession two years ago. The works employ fourteen to sixteen men and are chiefly engaged in manufacturing portable saw mills and portable and stationary engines as well as doing a general foundry business. Heats are made from two to three times per week, each averaging 2500 lbs. Most of their manufactured articles are sold in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, and the works are kept busy in supplying the demand. The shops are conveinient and roomy; the main building or machine room is 30x80 feet, blacksmith shop 24x24, moulding room 30x50, and all are well arranged. The mechanical department is under the charge of Wm. France, a practical mechanic, who has been connected with the works almost since their organization, and the general business mainly under the management of Mr. V. H. Coons, an energetic gentleman, who believes in pushing things. He has resided in the county for 22 years, and has been variously engaged in farming cabinet making, sawmilling and his present business, becoming connected with the works three years ago. His partner, Mr. L. Adams is an old resident of the county and has been connected with this business seven or eight years. Previous to that he was engaged in groceries, distilling and banking, and now operates a grocery near the shop.

D. BUCK & CO.

Come next. Beside Mr. Buck the firm comprises Mr. A. Reimund and S. Seyfang, all three being practical workmen. Their line of trade is the manufacture of wagons and carriages, of all kinds making about 150 vehicles per year, but more wagons than anything else. Recently the firm has commenced paying more attention to buggies, carriages and light work and are turning out some elegant jobs, Mr. Dickinson having charge of that branch of the business. In quality, finish, or style their work is unsurpassed. They are about to largely increase their shop, and now desire to employ several additional workmen. The works were established by Mr. Buck twelve years ago. He had then been living here six years, working as a journeyman. Upon commencing trade for himself his trade, capital and shop room were alike small. Then one man and a boy were all that were necessary to do the work, which was mostly repairing, only occasionally building a new wagon. Now a force of 15 to 16 men constantly employed and they can hardly turn the work out fast enough, the market for which is wholly in Hancock, Wood and Putnam counties. Mr. Seyfang became a partner six years ago and Mr. Reimund about four years ago. They both learned their trade in Findlay, are young men, and the firm makes a strong one. One great secret of the success of the establishment has been the quality of the work turned out. Upon the tail boards of half the wagons that come to this town can be seen their imprint: D. Buck & Co., and an inspection will satisfy any one that every one of those wagons is a good one. We congratulate the firm upon the success it has had and hope and believe it will continue increasing.

JOHN SHULL & CO.,

Operate the planing mill—the only one here. They are engaged in the manufacture of doors, sash, blinds, door and window frames, and also deal largely in all varieties of rough and dressed lumber. The firm, comprising Jno. Shull and C. E. Seymour, was formed the 1st of January last as successors to D. C. Fisher & Co., both gentleman having been members of the old firm. They have a large and commodious mill on the west side of Crawford street, the main building being 35x75 feet two stories, with turning shop store room and office by the side 14x75 feet, and engine room 14x30 feet. The mill is well supplied with the most approved and best machinery, and the quality of work turned out is surpassed nowhere. The firm make a speciality of handling all varieties of building material, carrying a large stock of pine lumber, shingles, &c., and also ships considerable hard wood timber to the Eastern markets. Mr. Shull is a native of this County and has resided in town about 6 years, becoming one of the firm of D. C. Fisher & Co. in 1869, and is a thorough practical mechanic. Mr. Seymour is also a practical man. He came here from Franklin Co. about four years ago and since then has been connected with the business. Both gentleman are young men and possess a sufficiency of what is known as business "snap" to insure success. They have made hosts of friends by their courteous manners and their business-like way of transacting business and we take pleasure in giving them this prominent place in the business interests of the city.

THE EAGLE MILLS,

Under the care of McConnell, Rockwell & Co., is filling an important place in the manufacturing interests of Findlay, and we herewith speak of it. The mill was originally built for custom work a quarter of a century ago, and has passed through various hands, McConnell & Rockwell becoming purchasers four years ago. In 1870-1 they entirely remodeled and enlarged it, and it is now quite an imposing structure and is one among the best flouring mills in Northern Ohio. The main building is 30x60 feet and, including the basement, 2½ stories high, and there are also additions for office, ware room and other purposes. It is supplied with four run of burrs, having capacity of making 150 barrels of flour per day, most of which is shipped to New York. Last Spring D. C. Connell became one of the firm, and we believe this is the first instance in which the changed style of the firm has been in print. In the course of a year's operation, including the custom work, the mill grinds about 100,000 bushels of grain. There is no necessity for us to dilate upon the character of the work done, the reputation is already too well established at home and abroad to require it. W. W. McConnell has resided here for 12 years, coming from Hardin. Formerly he was engaged in the dry goods trade at Kenton, and also here and was also interested in a distillery. Mr. Rockwell has been in the county ten or twelve years, and is a practical miller, but his feeble health precludes his taking an active part in the management of the business. Mr. D. C. Connell is formerly from Mansfield. He came here in 1864 and was engaged in mercantile operations until becoming a partner in the mill. The first and last named gentlemen conduct the business. Personally, they are active, go-ahead men, who are desirous of seeing Findlay attain greater prominence and they are willing to assist heartily in whatever promises to accomplish that desideratum. Findlay could illy afford to lose either from the business circle of town.

RAY & CALLAHAN

Are new candidates for manufacturing laurels, their firm having been formed only about six months ago. Their speciality is light wagons and carriages—the finer grade of work, making vehicles ranging in price from $150 to $500. In looking through their repository we noticed some elegant work, not the least noticeable being some handsome sewing machine wagons. They employ about twelve men, and though in trade so short a time they have already become formidable competitors of older establishmens. Both gentlemen are young men and practical workmen. James K. Ray is a native of town and learned his trade here, now having had eight years experience. David Callahan is a carriage painter by trade, has lived here six years, coming from Pennsylvania. The boys have thus far shown the right spirit. They are not afraid of competition, are willing to succeed or fail according to merit, and the result is not difficult to fortell.

A. & J. PARKER & CO

Are operating the Hancock Flouring Mill. In 1858 Jonathan Parker, father of the members of this firm, and one of our oldest and most highly esteemed citizens, established a planing mill and in 1860 added to it the flouring mill. He operated both concerns until 1865, since when some changes have occurred in the proprietorship the present firm having been formed the first of January last. All three of the brothers, A., J., and W. S. Parker, are natives of town, and this has chiefly been their home from infancy. They all pay personal attention to the business, which has grown to such dimensions that they have all they can do. Three run of stone are used, The mill doing both custom and merchant work, the flour for the trade being shipped mainly to Cleveland and New York. In their planing mill they do all manufacture anything, but the firm deals largely in lumber, shingles, sash, doors, blinds and building material generally. As a firm they have entered upon no untried experiment—the business has been developed by long years of labor, and they will see that none of its laurels are lost.

Of the other manufacturing interests we speak elsewhere.

We now turn our attention to the various monetary and mercantile interests of the city. Whatever we may write is in the utmost impartiality, and we have aimed to make the following sketches true to the life. First, as one of the leading monetary interest of Findlay we speak of the

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

In 1863, when the national banking law first went into operation, some capitalists of this city having perfected an organization sent in their application the first week after the law become operative. In June of that year they received a charter, being the 24th National Bank created. The authorized capital was $100,000, $50,000 having been paid in the first day it opened business. At an election of officers E. P. Jones was elected President and Chas. E. Niles Cashier, and as such they have since remained. Under their management, the Bank has declared profitable dividends, and the deposit account has swelled to an amount second to but few Banks in the State. Their loan and discount account is also large, and from the day the First National Bank opened its doors for business it has commanded the confidence of the entire people. The stockholders are all residents of this county, and it is essentially a home institution. Many ill-informed people are in the habit of declaiming against the system of National Banks, accusing them of being monopolies, freed from taxation, &c. In point of fact the First National Bank of Findlay has paid taxes, since its organization, to the amount of $25,621, averaging $6.50 per annum upon each $100 of stock. Their school tax alone for 1871 was $480. These facts refute such charges. Mr. Jones, the President, has resided here since the fall of 1849. He had formerly been conductor on the Mad River Road and run the first 8 wheel freight car over the road. Upon coming here it was as lessee of the branch from Carey to Findlay, built of strap rail, and from its commencement until '57 was manager and general agent. From '57 to '60 was engaged in mercantile business in New York in connection with a brother on the Pacific coast, and from '60 to '63 was at Washington city dealing in exchanges and government securities upon a large scale, these three years being perhaps the most active portion of his life. Since '63 he has been actively engaged in the Bank. As a practical business man Mr. Jones is well known not only at home but abroad. He has succeeded in life, and by his own exertions. Mr. Niles, the cashier, is a young man, but has had large experience in banking, formerly being connected with the State Bank of Ohio, and subsequently in private banking in Michigan. He came here in '63 and assisted in the organization of this enterprise. He is an energetic business man, who has shown the metal he is made of. The affairs of the First National could not be in better hands than those of its present officers.

WILLIAM EDWARDS,

Though a young man is quite an old resident of town, having lived here for twenty five years. Fifteen years ago he commenced learning the harness and saddlery business, and has followed it since, opening a shop of his own about five years ago. Like a sensible man he preferred "going it alone" to a partnership, and has conducted his business alone since. The business has grown very much, now compelling him to employ an average force of five workmen, and he spends most of his time also at the bench. His long connection with the trade of town enables him to know what the people need, and that he caters to their necessities successfully is abundantly illustrated by his large business.

JOHN ADAMS & BRO.

Is the style of one of our leading stove and tinware houses. John Adams came here seventeen years ago from Plymouth. Here he learned his trade as tinner and worked for a long time as journeyman, also carrying on business for himself. His brother, N. Adams, came here four years ago from Indiana. He also is a practical man, having had an experience of years, and they two are certainly well qualified to carry on the business successfully. They own and occupy a building 22x150 feet. The salesroom is 22x85—the shop and ware room being in the rear. This space is well filled. Of stoves they handle large numbers—last year selling three hundred and fifty. They also do a general jobbing business, make or repair any thing in their line and pay special attention to guttering, roofing, spouting, &c. Though the firm has been formed but three years it is well-known; their trade is good and growing, and is well worthy mention herein. The firm also own and manufacture a patent-stove drum, called the Giant Drum and Heater, John Adams patentee, well-known to our people, and parties desirous of investigating its merits can obtain full information by addressing the firm.

THE CITIZENS BANK

Is the oldest Banking institution of Findlay now in existence, having been established the 3d day of April, 1854. The Findlay Bank was the first to be organized in November preceeding, but after six years it went out of operation. Upon the organization of the Citizen's Bank Ewings, Carlin & Co., were proprietors. That firm continued two years, then becoming Adams, Carlin & Co., until December 1863, when the firm of Carlins & Co., was formed, since then remaining unchanged, and comprising S. Carlin, P. Carlin and P. Sours. The Citizen's is not only the oldest bank here but transacts the heaviest business, its deposits averaging $250,000 and its loans and discounts $225,000. Of the Messrs. Carlins we speak elsewhere. Mr. Sours came here in 1834. At that time he was a carpenter, subsequently following chair making and painting until 1847. He was then elected Recorder, serving six years, and also officiated as J. P. for six years, and in 1854 entered the employ of the Bank, remaining ten months. He was not with it again until 1856 when he took entire charge of its business. Mr. S. landed in Findlay with the net cash capital of $5.87. Since then, whatever he has accomplished or accumulated has been by his own foresight and business energy, and he has reason to feel proud of the result. The active management of the details of the business are now chiefly with his son M. D. Sours, who as Assistant Cashier, is kept busy as can be. He has been in the Bank ever since he was big enough to look over the counter, and the experience gained has been of incalculable benefit. The Citizen's Bank has been a power in this community—a power that has accomplished good, and it has before it, we hope, long years of continued prosperity.

PETER KUNZ

Is one of the able representatives of the grocery trade of Findlay. Not of groceries only, for he also deals in provisions generally and in glass and queensware, wooden and willow ware. Mr. K. has been in trade here about five years, coming from New Philadelphia. At first he was in partnership with Henry Sewartz, but the firm was dissolved last December and now he is going it alone. He has enjoyed a good trade thus far—has made himself personally popular, and we doubt if any merchant in Findlay stands higher in the estimation of the people than does he. He has a good location, No. 87 Main street, occupying a room 100x22 feet, with ware room in the rear, carries a large and select stock of goods, and has built up a most flattering trade. No place in town offers better attractions and there are none where a customer will be more courteously treated. We are glad to make this note of Mr. Kunz successful business career here—he has well deserved it.

K. S. BAKER & CO.,

Are in the boot, shoe and leather line, the firm, which now besides Mr. Baker comprises J. Stackhouse and A. Fullhart, having been in operation since 1868, the last named gentleman entering it in '69. Beside carrying a very large stock of goods the firm manufacture to a considerable extent, employing from five to seven men. The store is a large one, the salesroom being 100x22 feet, a part of the 2d floor being used as a manufacturing department. In 1855 Mr. Baker came here and engaged in the grocery and leather trade and after a time exclusively leather and findings. In 1860 he changed business to the present one. That year the total business amounted to $12,000—last year to $32,000—a comment upon the increase better than any other we can make. Mr. Stackhouse came here in '52. He was then a journeyman shoemaker and continued as such until 1864, when in partnership with another gentleman he opened a shop, carrying it on until '68 and since then he has been in this house. Mr. Fullhart was raised in this county. Farming was his profession until a few years ago—he then commenced as a salesman and since '69 has been one of the firm, which is in every respect a strong one. They do the leading business in their line here.

MORRISON & VANDENBURGH

Are among the representative business men of Findlay, their line being stoves, tinware, &c. The firm was organized four years ago. Both gentleman are old residents, P. B. Morrison being a native of town. In 1861 or '62 he commenced this business, conducting it for two or three years, then retiring from it, after a time resuming operations about six years ago in partnership with Mr. Rice. His partner, O. B. Vandenburgh has lived here for twenty-two years, and for eighteen years was the well known gunmaker of town. The firm do a large business—doubtless the largest here in its line. They occupy a store 22x100 feet, the rear of which is used as shop, wherein they employ several hands and do a large amount of manufacturing of tin, sheet-iron and copper ware—this and general jobbing, such as spouting, roofing, and the like, forms an important item in their business. Both gentleman pay active attention to the business, and they have had the satisfaction of seeing it grow each year. Their own energy and self-reliance has had much to do with this result, and it is evident they intend to build it up to still more gratifying proportions.

BAKER & CO.

Are the leading Furniture dealers of town, and the firm comprises Isaac Baker and W. H. Wheeler, their copartnership having been formed last August. Mr. Baker is an old resident—he has been here for twenty years and for most of that time has been engaged in this business. He is a practical cabinet maker and without doubt one of the finest workmen in this portion of the State, abundant evidence of which can be found in an inspection of their store and contents. There are few hereabouts who do not know of his skill. His partner, Mr. Wheeler, is a still older resident, having come here when a boy in 1837, since when, for most of the time, this has been his home. The dry goods trade has been his business most of the time since, and he with Mr. Fisher, built the sash factory. He seems to have taken kindly to the furniture trade however, and appears contented with the way the world wags. The firm, besides occupying a store room 150x22 feet, which by the way is filled with a choice stock of fine and common goods, also have a two-story brick shop, 25x75 feet where their manufacturing is done. All of their arrangements are of the best order. Although not thoroughly getting started in their new quarters until October last, they have built up a fine and growing trade—a fitting reward for their energy and business like tact and address. We can take a sincere pleasure in thus speaking of them and of their business. Both gentleman are well known to the entire community. Their busines career here has been characterized by a public spirit that can be imitated with benefit to the town and its business, and the JEFFERSONIAN wishes them well.

RUTHRAUFF & CORY

Are among our leading merchants, hardware, iron and agricultural implements being their forte. The firm was organized in 1866, though Mr. R. has been in the same line of trade since '56, he having come here from Lima the previous year, commencing business as with a Mr. May. Hon. D. J. Cory, his partner, is one of our oldest residents, a man of large means, which have been acquired here. His occupation has mainly been that of a farmer, and for some time was Associate Judge. He has not been in mercantile operations here until this firm was formed. The business of the firm is wholly under the management of Mr. R.—a gentleman of large business experience and excellent executive ability. Their store is, for a town of this size, a mammoth concern, occupying a room 22x115 feet, with a ware room in the rear leading back to the alley. The front of this salesroom is devoted to general shelf hardware, nails, etc.,—a complete assortment in fact of everything kept in a first class house. The rear is mainly devoted to heavy iron, &c. The firm is agent for the celebrated Champion Reaper and Mower for nine of the adjoining counties—last year selling 273 machines, beside a large amount of other agricultural implements of all kinds, such as plows, hay rakes, etc. They are exclusive agents here, also, for the famous Gibbs Imperial Plow—acknowledged by our farmers to be without a superior. Their large business has not been attained in a day but by years of careful, watchful exertion on the part of Mr. Ruthrauff, and to him belongs much of the credit pertaining thereto.

J. J. WHEELER & CO.

Is the style of another of our leading firms—their line of trade being dry goods and general merchandise.—When the eternal fiat went forth: "By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat thy bread," among other corrollaries was this: that others should minister to the necessities of those who toiled in the field, office or shop, the system of barter or exchange sprang into existence which has finally culminated in the grand mercantile system of to-day. And among the representatives of that system in Findlay, we know of none more worthy a prominent place herein than the firm whose title heads this paragraph. Beside the ordinary mercantile buiness they also buy largely of seeds and wool. The firm was formed in March, 1869. Mr. Wheeler is an old resident however, having been here since boyhood since 1837. He learned the painting trade following it some time, and then engaged in clerking, and finally, in 1854 became one of the firm of Wheeler Bros. Since then there have been numerous changes in the style of the firm. They occupy one of the best corners in town, and the room is an immense one, being, 28x100 feet, with ware room 28x50. They also occupy a part of the second floor.—Five salesmen are usually employed and the annual business of the house is an important item in the yearly transactions of town. The active management of the business is with Mr. J. J. Wheeler, one of those enterprising men who are never thoroughly happy unless thoroughly busy, a gentleman