

SYRACUSE REGISTER.

SYRACUSE, ROCHESTER COUNTY, INDIANA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1891



SYRACUSE BUSINESSMEN

SYRACUSE REGISTER, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1898 (republished M-J, Dec. 25, 1974):

Dr. B. F. Hoy DR. B. F. HOY (bottom row, left) — Dr. B. F Hoy commenced the practice of medicine in the year 1881, in Apple Creek, Ohio. He graduated at Toledo Medical college in 1883, and previous to that time had studied medicine in Columbus and Ohio medical colleges. He also took a four-year course in Muskingum college, New Concord, Ohio. Dr. Hoy moved from Ohio to Middlebury. Ind., in 1890, and in the year 1891 moved his family to Syracuse where he has built an extensive and paying practice. He is a gentleman of wide experience in his profession and keeps himself thoroughly posted on all the new and improved methods and practices of the day. Dr Hoy has purchased a nice home on Huntington street and has a well-equipped office in the center of town

EDWIN OTT (bottom row. second from left)

— Our genial and accommodating postmaster, Edwin Ott, succeeded William Wallis last spring. Under his management, the office has been brought to a high state of efficiency, and we can assure the Honorable L. W. Royse that he made no mistake by recommending Ott for appointment

J. P. DOLAN (bottom row. third from left) — When a young man, a little past 21 years of age, J P. Dolan came to Syracuse as timekeeper for the contractors who graded the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad track in 1873. After finishing his work with them, he taught in the Mellinger district school. His success there made a place for him in the schools in town, to the head of which his abilities and sterling qualities soon bore him. Though many splendid positions have been offered him elsewhere, at salaries much greater than our town could afford to pay, Dolan has always been influenced first by the desires of friends here who have begged him not to leave. How much the community is indebted to Dolan cannot be computed. Of the many young men and women pupils he taught, who are now in active life, there is probably not one that would not be glad to confess his indebtedness for the influence that Mr. Dolan's splendid moral

teachings and precepts have had on him. The moral and intellectual standard of the whole town has been raised by his presence here during nearly a quarter of a century. Professor Dolan holds high rank, having been for many years an honored member of the state teachers' association and a regular attendant at the association's annual meetings before which he has read many papers. In 1895, he was elected a member of the Indiana Academy of Sciences.

SAM WIDNER (bottom row. fourth from left) — Sam Widner was born in Syracuse and attended the Syracuse school where he was known to all as an obedient, studious, well-mannered youth, a favorite among his playmates and classmates, and a joy to his several teachers. Sam started at an early age helping the different merchants about town. He is experienced in most any store, such as furniture, drug, clothing and grocery stores. At this writing, he is helping E. E. Miles and Son in their new grocery and bakery. Sam is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Syracuse Methodist church

J. W. STETLER (bottom row. fifth from left) — The Honorable J. W. Stetler came to our town in 1874 from Benton, and engaged in trade in the merchandise business. He was engaged in business for some time with the late Joseph Kindig and later with J. P. Dolan. During his business career here, he has built for himself a very comfortable fortune. At the present time, Mr. Stetler pays very little attention to the business of the store with his junior partner, A. W. Strieby, having full control of the business. Today they are enjoying a very large trade. Mr. Stetler was elected Representative for Kosciusko county in 1895 and was honored a second time with the office. He has built some very desirable residences in Goshen during the past year, and also an attractive store in Syracuse, plus a very nice brick home on Main street. He also owns many acres of splendid farming land near town, and is able to take life easy in the future. Mr. Stetler has held many positions of trust in the town and county, being township trustee for eight years plus a number of years on the school board. He has always shown himself to be a careful, conscientious business man. At the age of 60 years, he has many years before him to enjoy his wealth, and with an excellent wife and surrounded by all the comforts of his beautiful home, he can take his ease in the future

GEORGE DARR (middle row. left) — George Darr, our popular undertaker, purchased the business of the late Frances Landis following his death and has conducted it in a most efficient manner. Mr. Darr was born on a farm near Syracuse and has spent his lifetime in the community. He is one of our best and most deserving citizens.

A. W. STRIEBY. (middle row. second from left) — The junior member of the Stetler-Strieby firm is a young man named A. W. Strieby, son of Henry Strieby of Turkey Creek township. Young Strieby secured a position with J. W. Stetler more than 14 years ago and by his strict attention to business and his sterling worth, soon won the confidence of his employer who took him into full partnership. He has given all his attention to the business and by his pleasant ways and honest

dealings with customers, has won the esteem and confidence of all. Strieby is a man who believes in doing business on a square basis and will give his customers the benefit of his long experience in the dry goods and grocery business. He was honored by the people of Turkey Creek township as trustee and has filled that office to the entire satisfaction of all. He owns a very handsome residence on Huntington street.

ELMER P. MILES (middle row. third from left) — Elmer Miles was in business with his father, E. E. Miles, and information is given under E. E Miles, pictured in the top row.

DR. J. H. BOWSER (middle row. fourth from left) Dr John H. Bowser is a product of Elkhart county, having been born near New Paris and brought up at Goshen. After graduating from Goshen high school, he spent a year at the Hillsdale college, Hillsdale. Mich., and later took up the study of medicine. He graduated from the Indiana Medical college at Indianapolis and came to Syracuse, sticking out his shingle 12 years ago and has built up a good practice here. Dr. Bowser has a nice home and office in the center of town where he and his esteemed wife reside. The doctor is a member of the school board and a valuable citizen of the town.

WILLIAM WALLIS (middle row. fifth from left) — William Wallis is one of the pioneers of the place and possibly has been a resident of the same state more years than any other citizen of the town or township. For many years prior to the building of the railroad, he was postal route and express agent between here and Goshen, going via Benton, during which time he carefully conducted the business. The construction of the railroad put an end to the mail and express work across country and Mr. Wallis then engaged in the harness and saddler business. On Cleveland's second elevation to President, Wallis, who had been an ardent Democrat and a good soldier, was chosen by his political friends for the post office, a position which he held until the fortunes of political chance called for a change. After leaving the post office, he returned to his office work and now conducts a growing business in insurance and real estate.

D. S. HONTZ (middle row. sixth from left) — D. S. Hontz, our popular dentist, is a born Hoosier and proud of it. His youth was spent in Noble county, and after successfully teaching several terms of school in that county, he entered a dental office at Ligonier for the study of his chosen profession. He graduated from Indiana Dental college at Indianapolis with the class of 18 and immediately thereafter located here where he rapidly built a nice business for himself. Dr. Hontz was married shortly after coming to Syracuse, to Miss Lucky, of near his former home, and they have a cozy home on Henry street. The doctor will shortly remove his office to the rooms situated over E. E, Miles & Son Grocery.

J. W. ROTHENBERGER (lop row, far left) — Another young man from the farm is J. W. Rothenberger who purchased the furniture store of Isaac Kindig about three-years ago. Mr. Rothenberger was married a year ago to Miss Myrtle Bushong then in charge of our grammar

department of the school. Within the past year, Rothenberger has greatly increased his stock of furniture, and upon completion of the new building built by J. W. Stetler, rented the ground floor room and has moved in. Obliging, watchful, and attentive to business, he is gradually building a trade that seems to promise success for him.

E. E. MILES (top row, second from left) — Ten years ago, Ed Miles purchased the small bakery that stood on the ground now occupied by their fine new room. The business had not previously been a success and there was less than a hundred dollars' worth of salable goods at that time. Mr. Miles had a hundred dollars to invest in the business at that time, and no more, but he had what was better - energy, pluck and good business ability. Son Elmer, then a youth, was brought home from his employment as a brakeman on the B and O, and the two went to work. Gradually business grew year by year showing a satisfactory growth until at present, it is a place our people can be proud of and does a very large business - particularly during the season of summer visitors when their wagons deliver groceries around the lakes. Elmer was made a partner in the business the third year. The Register has given a description of the fine building erected by the firm last fall and in which they are now at home with a large stock of splendid new groceries and chinaware.

S. L. KETRING (top row, third from left) — Silas L. Ketring is the oldest merchant in Syracuse, having been continuously in business since the (Civil) war. He began as a clerk for the late Samuel F. Eisenhour. Nearly 30-years ago, Silas and his father, Adam Ketring, established the firm of S. L. Ketring & Co., which continued until the death of the father, ten years later. Since then, Mr. Ketring has continued the business almost continuously at the northwest corner of Main and Huntington streets where he has been very successful. At present, his financial rating is justly higher than any other firm or businessman in town. Mr. Ketring also buys and sells all kinds of seeds and until lately has dealt largely in wheat and other grains. The latter business has been turned over to his brother, J. A. Ketring, proprietor of the B and O Elevator, and B. F. Hoopingarner & Co. Besides the brick store in which the Ketring business is located, Silas has constructed many dwellings here and has held many offices including township trustee. At present he is treasurer of the school board. At not more than 50, he has many years of active business life yet before him.

E. E. STRIEBY (top row, fourth from left) — Three years ago, Elmer Strieby, son of our much-esteemed farmer citizen, Andrew Strieby, late township trustee, moved from the farm to town and purchased the hardware and implement store of I. P. Rummel. He was then a young man, lately married, and was new to business therefore had some misgivings as to whether he would succeed. The young man went to work with vim and determination, and with the able assistance of Sam Akers who had grown up in the store and seemed to be inseparable from it, has made his business one of the most successful in town. Mr. Strieby is strictly up-to-date and

always ready to meet any competition in goods or prices. Indeed, we have frequently heard it claimed by purchasers that he has given them prices much lower than they were given at Goshen and other larger places. Strieby built a nice new home at the corner of Lake and Henry streets, where he now resides. His success is now as fully assured as that of any businessman in town; and, unselfish and public spirited as he is, no success which he may attain will be undeserved.

SHELDON HARKLESS (top row. fifth from left) — The shop of Sheldon Harkless, tinner, plumber, bicycle repairer, and general machinist, is a busy place, both summer and winter. A very profitable business has been built in the last ten years, and being a genera/all-around mechanic, he and his place of business are of much usefulness. He has recently added a new and large machinist's lathe and is now prepared for nearly anything in his line.

GEORGE MILES (top row. sixth from left) — The subject of this sketch needs no formal introduction as to his antecedents. George Miles is absolutely a home product and without question, the one citizen who believes supremely in the future prosperity, if not greatness, of his home. His native modesty precludes our saying aught of his many-sided relations to the community as a social factor and we are perforce limited to the one, his professional relation. After a year's experience as editor and publisher of the Syracuse Gazette, George Miles retired in 1879. It was Leonard Swett, the famous Chicago lawyer, who said that every young lawyer should start poor, and Mr. Miles' experience as editor gloriously enabled him to exemplify this sage advice. Up to this time of 1880, Syracuse had numbered H. M. Collander, W. H. Redinour, O. O. Felkner and G. M. Ray as its lawyers. Miles formed with Ray a partnership which continued until the senior member was elected county prosecuting attorney. This necessitated a dissolution. For many years, he has been counsel for the town board and has wisely directed them in the conduct of the town's affairs, so that today we rejoice in having one of the best governed towns in the state. Our streets are well-lighted, graded and graveled; substantial street crossings are found at all the principal squares; good pipe culverts have replaced the old wooden boxes; and sidewalks are well-kept. Other minor matters that silently proclaim good government, characterize the town. George Miles has not been able to wean himself from the "Art Preservative" and today can set a stick full as neatly as when he was the "whole thing" of the Gazette. Here The Register must acknowledge the great obligations to him for he has been the printer's friend in every circumstance.