

engine ran into an obstruction at night at the entrance to a tunnel. After investigation they found a sawmill on the track. During a heavy rain, the mill, standing on the embankment which had been washed out by the water, had slipped down until it rested on the track. This was in the year 1874. Mr. Edwards was never seriously injured except once when braking. On that occasion he was thrown from the top of the car by catching his foot on an iron. He struck the platform and rolled off on the track. He was then picked up by a drover who had witnessed the accident and was carried into a caboose with three of his ribs broken, and neither the conductor nor any of the crew learned of his injury until after reaching the next stop. When off duty, by reason of the accident, he was notified by the officers of the road to appear for examination for promotion. He did so, passed the examination, and since that time he has been on the end of the line where he still runs. In June, 1878, he was promoted conductor and still fills that position. He has indeed been a very faithful employe of the road and has been given preferred runs because of his ability and carefulness in discharging his duties. He has never caused the company to lose a single dollar by reason of inefficient service or neglect. He is now on a special train running between Columbus and Dennison, Ohio. Fifteen years ago he was offered a position as passenger conductor, but declined it, the company acceding to his wishes, and he is still on preferred freight runs.

Mr. Edwards has been living in Columbus for twenty-three years and the fine residence which he now occupies, at No. 754 North St. Clair avenue, was erected by him. In 1877 he was married to Miss Martha Hammel, of Tuscarawas county, and unto them have been born two sons and three daughters. Her parents were both natives of Ohio and are now deceased. William John, the eldest child, born in 1878, is now a fireman on the Pennsylvania road. He was married to Miss Lashura Wheeling and resides in the capital city. Ada and Jennie are twins, seventeen years of age, and are now students in the high school. Bessie died at the age of three years and eleven months. Thomas Edwin was born February 9, 1888. Mr. Edwards is a member of the Episcopal church and for fifteen years was a member of the Order of Railway Conductors, of Columbus.

FREDERICK WEBER.

Frederick Weber, deceased, was one of the leading German-born citizens of Franklin county, and in his business career he displayed the characteristic thrift and enterprise of his race. Beginning life in the new world with no capital except that acquired by his own industry, he became one of the most prosperous business men of Clinton township.

Mr. Weber was born in Bavaria March 17, 1806, and passed his boyhood and youth in his native land. In 1830, when a young man, he emigrated from Rhenish Bavaria to America, and after spending one year in York county, Pennsylvania, came to Ohio, making his home in Stark county for

three years. On the 30th of May, 1833, he was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Tascher, and the following year they came to Franklin county, locating on a farm in Clinton township. A year or two later he erected the first distillery in Franklin county, which at first had a capacity of but from one to two barrels per day. At that time there were only a few houses east of the Scioto river, and one or two north of the present Union depot at Columbus. In connection with farming Mr. Weber successfully operated his distillery, and to meet the growing demands of his trade he increased its capacity to eight barrels per day, carrying on business uninterruptedly up to within a few years of his death, and meeting with marked success in the undertaking. His first purchase consisted of forty acres of heavily wooded land, upon which he erected a log cabin, and there the family began life in true pioneer style. As years advanced and he prospered in his business he added to his landed possessions from time to time until he had three hundred and twenty-four acres at the time of his death. Without money, prestige or friends, a stranger in a strange land, the language of whose people he could not speak or comprehend, he began life in America, but having learned in youth the most important lesson of how to attend to his own affairs, by his industry, perseverance and frugality, he succeeded in accumulating a handsome competence for his declining years, and was able to leave his family in comfortable circumstances. He was a member of the German Independent Protestant church, and lived a consistent Christian life, it being an assuring comfort to him in his last days that he never had occasion to regret any act performed by him. Mr. Weber exercised his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy. Surrounded by his wife and children, he passed away May 10, 1885, leaving many friends as well as his immediate family to mourn his loss.

Mr. Weber's first wife died in 1851, and of the ten children born to them those living are: Frederick, a resident of Clinton township; Louisa, wife of Dr. L. Schaub, of Columbus; George, mentioned below; Henry, professor of chemistry in the Ohio State University; and Herman, a resident of Clinton township. The deceased were Mrs. Caroline Tascher, Wilhelmina, Mrs. Amelia Graeff, Charles, and Lena, wife of William Westervelt, of Hardin county, Ohio. In 1862 Mr. Weber married Mrs. Ida Emily Homilus, now deceased.

George Weber, son of Frederick, was born on the home farm in Clinton township March 30, 1843, and after completing his education in the district schools of the neighborhood assisted his father in the distillery until after the inauguration of the Civil war. In 1862 he enlisted for three years, in Company C, One Hundred and Thirteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and in the spring of 1863 went south with his regiment, joining the Army of the Cumberland, under command of General Buell. From Kentucky they went to eastern Tennessee, taking part in the battle of Fort Donelson, and the engagements at Franklin, Tennessee, and Shelbyville. They were in the outskirts of the fight at Chattanooga, and for two days were in battle at Chick-

amauga. On the second day Mr. Weber was wounded in the neck by a rifle ball, which confined him in the hospital, first at Stevenson and later at Cumberland. On his recovery he rejoined his regiment near Atlanta, and later took part in the heavy fighting in and around that stronghold. His regiment went with Sherman's army on the march to the sea, and took part in the battle of Jonesboro, after which they were stationed near Savannah for a time. They were in the Carolina campaign, taking part in the battle at Bentonville, North Carolina, which was the last engagement of the war. They next marched to Washington, D. C., and participated in the grand review at that place. The war having ended, they went to Albany, New York, and from there to Louisville, Kentucky, where they were honorably discharged in August, 1865. On his return home Mr. Weber resumed work in the distillery, where he was employed until his father disposed of the business.

In 1865 he married Miss Amelia Herbig, and after that event located on a farm in Clinton township, on which he has since made his home. He owns eighty acres of valuable land, which is highly improved and in an excellent state of cultivation, and is now successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Mr. and Mrs. Weber have a family of three children, namely: Bertha, Ida and Laura. The parents are both members of the Lutheran church, with which Mr. Weber has been connected since the age of seventeen years. He is a charter member of Elias J. Beers Post, in which he has filled all of the offices from commander down. He was land appraiser of his township in 1900, and for thirteen successive years has efficiently served as township trustee. He is one of the representative and prominent men of his community—one who commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact, either in business or social life.

ORLANDO W. ALDRICH.

Orlando W. Aldrich, a distinguished lawyer and one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Columbus, was born in Erie county, New York, March 30, 1840, and is a son of Sidney and Lydia A. (York) Aldrich. His father was born near Framlingham, Suffolk county, England, in 1817, and came to this country in 1832. Two years later he located in Erie county, New York, and lived in that state until 1864, when he moved to Jackson county, Michigan, making his home there until his death, which occurred in 1891. From 1833 until his death he was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a class-leader from 1840. He was also licensed as a local preacher, and for many years prior to his death was chosen to officiate at more weddings and funerals than any other minister in his part of the state, as he was honored and trusted by all who knew him. In business affairs he was active, zealous, hospitable and self-sacrificing. His estimable wife preceded him to the better world, dying in Michigan, in 1882. She was a native of Clarence, New York, and was descended on the paternal side from Asahel Franklin, of Bennington, Vermont, who was a nephew of