

and Willard. Mr. Armstrong has held the office of township trustee and has always been a stalwart Democrat since casting his first vote for Franklin Pierce. Throughout his career he has been honorable, straightforward and energetic, a man whom to know is to esteem and respect. His life illustrates the power of diligence in the active affairs of life, and now with a competency carefully secured for his declining years he is enabled to spend the evening of life in quiet and well earned rest.

CHARLES A. PEARCE.

The office of sheriff is the highest executive office within the gift of the people of any county. It is an office of responsibility, demanding in its incumbent not only first-class business ability but integrity in the highest degree. Franklin county, Ohio, has had many good sheriffs, but it has had none who filled the office more efficiently or more entirely to the satisfaction of the general public than it is being filled at this time by Charles A. Pearce.

Mr. Pearce is a native of Columbus and was born on Christmas day, 1854, a son of Grafton and Alvina (Auter) Pearce. He received his primary education in the public schools of the city and at a private school. After putting aside his text-books he entered the service of the Columbus Buggy Company, with whom he remained for twenty-four years. For many years as a Republican he has been identified with local and state politics and has done much important work for his party. In November, 1899, he was elected the sheriff of the county and he assumed the duties of his office in January, 1900. He is a thirty-second-degree Mason and also a member of the Odd Fellows order, the Knights of Pythias and the order of Elks.

Mr. Pearce has made his own way in the world to a position of trust and responsibility among his fellow men, and it may be said of him as truly as of any other man in the best sense of the term; and those who know best how he gained his present place know how well and truly he deserves it; and leading men of Columbus, irrespective of party, rejoice with him in his success.

RODNEY R. COOKE.

Rodney R. Cooke, deceased, was born on the old Cooke homestead in Clinton township, Franklin county, on the 26th of February, 1832. He was a son of Rodney Cooke and Laura (Cowles) Cooke, was a pioneer of the county and was reared upon his father's farm, obtaining his preliminary education in the district schools and in Otterbein University, where he pursued a partial course before attaining his majority. He afterward followed farming and school-teaching until his enlistment in the Civil war, on the 22d of February, 1864, for three years or during the war. He was assigned to Company G, of the Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and in March following he joined his regiment, which was then doing service in Kentucky. He participated in the battle of Snake Creek Gap, on the 8th of May; Resaca,

from the 13th to the 16th of May; Dallas, May 25; Kenesaw Mountain, July 9; and the battle of Atlanta, on the 26th of July. He was also in several skirmishes, and about the 1st of September, 1864, was taken ill and sent to the hospital in the rear of Atlanta. He was afterward transferred to various hospitals until he arrived at Bedloe's island, New York, and later was sent to Hilton Head, South Carolina, where he remained until the close of the war. He then participated in the grand review at Washington, in May, 1865. He served with the First Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, under Generals Sherman, McPherson and Logan, while Captain James Wilson, of Findlay, Ohio, had command of the company, and Colonel A. V. Rice of the regiment. He was honorably discharged June 27, 1865, but returned an invalid from the war. Broken down in health, he was largely incapacitated for performing manual labor upon the farm. However, he accomplished his work as well as he could, a resolute will enabling him to perform the task.

On the 24th of May, 1860, Mr. Cooke was married to Miss Cloe Williams, a daughter of William and Lucinda (Phelps) Williams, of Delaware county, Ohio. By this marriage was born a daughter, Luella Z., who fills a position in the patent office in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Cooke's father was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Bedford county, where his early life was passed. In 1800 his parents came to Ohio, settling in Fairfield county, near Lancaster, during the early childhood of their son. In 1807 they took up their abode in Genoa, Delaware county, Ohio, where a permanent home was made. William Williams was a son of Rev. John and Margaret (Taylor) Williams. The former was a chaplain in the colonial army during the Revolutionary war. He was born in Maryland and was of Welsh descent, his father having probably been born in the little rock-ribbed country of Wales, becoming the founder of his branch of the family in America. A minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. Mr. Williams became one of the early itinerant preachers in Ohio. He also followed farming and purchased fourteen hundred and ninety-six acres of land in Genoa township, Delaware county. He had nine children, all of whom have now passed away. Thomas, the eldest son, was a babe when his parents removed from Maryland to Bedford county, Pennsylvania. They traveled on horseback, carrying the baby, "Tom," in a basket. Out of this he rolled to the ground, when the mother exclaimed, "Laws 'a' massy! my baby is killed!" but the little fellow was not hurt at all. The other children are: Linda, born January 3, 1785; William, August 23, 1787; Martha, September 3, 1791; Elizabeth, October 22, 1793; Margaret, March 10, 1795; James, in 1797; Nancy, August 16, 1801; and Mary, August 28, 1803. Rev. Mr. Williams, the father, died April 7, 1814, at the age of fifty-seven years, two months and nine days, and his wife passed away February 13, 1833, at the age of seventy-five years and seventeen days.

William Williams, the father of Mrs. Cooke, was married, in Ohio, to Lucinda, a daughter of Edward and Azubah (Moore) Phelps, who were

pioneers of Franklin county, having located in Blendon township in 1806, entering land there from the government. They removed westward from Windsor, Connecticut, and made a permanent home in Blendon township, becoming identified with the best interests of the county and with all lines of substantial improvement. Mr. and Mrs. Phelps had eight children, namely: Edward, born May 10, 1790; Abraham, August 16, 1791; Azubah, May 19, 1794; Lewis, January 10, 1796; Lucinda, January 28, 1797; Cloe, May 30, 1799; William, September 26, 1802; and Homer M., February 9, 1812. The last named was a native of Blendon township. Edward Phelps was a successful farmer and carried on agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career, dying August 10, 1840, in his eighty-first year, and his wife passed away October 18, 1849, in Delaware county, Ohio, at the age of eighty-five years. When eighty years of age she was immersed, becoming a member of the Disciple church.

William Phelps, of Tewkesbury, England, came to America in the good ship Mary and John in 1630, and was the first settler of Windsor, Connecticut, 1635. Edward, son of Timothy, son of Cornelius, son of Timothy, son of William and Mary (Dover) Phelps, with his wife, Azubah (Moore) Phelps, and sons, Abram, Edward and William, and daughters, Lucinda, Chloe and Azubah, were the first settlers of Blendon, Franklin county, Ohio, locating there in August, 1806, with Isaac and Ursula Griswold.

Edward Phelps left Windsor, Connecticut, with his wife and six children, and his wife's father and mother, Simeon and Hannah (Barber) Moore, also with Isaac Griswold, his wife and two sons and their families. They started for Blendon, Ohio, arriving at Worthington on the 24th of August, 1806. The journey was made with ox teams and two months passed before they reached their destination. In October of the same year Mr. and Mrs. Phelps removed to Blendon township, two and a half miles further east, their home being near Alum creek. They located in the midst of the forest, and for more than four years had no neighbors nearer than Worthington. The fourteen persons constituting the party on the westward journey were the first white settlers of Blendon township. They were obliged to cut a road from Granville to Worthington, a distance of twenty miles, and were prominently identified with the pioneer development.

After his marriage William Williams located on the home farm in Genoa township, Delaware county, Ohio, where he and his wife remained throughout the residue of their days. They had fifteen children, five now living, namely: Amos, a resident of Meriden, Kansas; Alma, the wife of Harry Grinnell, a resident of Kankakee, Illinois; Mrs. Cloe Cooke, of Clintonville, Ohio; Lucinda L., the widow of William Vincent, of Delaware county, Ohio; and Victor A., who resides on the old homestead in that county. Those who have passed away are: Homer, Milton, Miles, Emily, Edward, Harriet, Mary, Harlow, Corinthia and Virgil. The last named was a member of Company D, Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted September 24,

1861, for three years, and saw active service, participating in a number of the most hotly contested engagements of the war, in one of which—Champion Hills—he received a wound on the forehead from a spent ball. This subsequently caused his death, which occurred June 19, 1875. He was a member of Galena Lodge, No. 104, I. O. O. F. He participated in the battles at Fort Donelson, Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, Iuka, Metamora Cross Roads, Grand Junction, Grand Gulf, Raymond, Champion Hills, siege of Vicksburg and others. He was a brave and valiant soldier and performed every duty with that care and fidelity which stamped him as one of the nation's truest and most loyal defenders. As a citizen, son, brother and husband he discharged every duty with fidelity similar to that which he displayed when following the old flag that he loved so well.

On the 25th of May, 1865, he married Emeline Cox, and unto them were born three children: Ione Cox, who was born January 8, 1868, and was married, in 1886, to Ira H. Steele; Bertha Phelps, who was born July 15, 1871, and became the wife of George W. Page; and Gilbert Hoover, who was born March 12, 1873, and died January 11, 1875. Victor Williams, the twin brother of Virgil Williams, was born in Genoa, Ohio, August 16, 1839, and was married, September 12, 1865, to Priscilla Martin. Their children were as follows: Lucinda, who was born October 24, 1866; Edward, born June 4, 1871, and died two days later; Clayton Gilbert, born August 24, 1872, and married Elizabeth Haines; Effie Fayette, born May 8, 1875, and was married, April 29, 1897, to Charles F. McCarty; Virgil Clifton, who was born August 31, 1878; and Clarence Victor, born on the 31st of May, 1884.

Mrs. Williams, the mother of Mrs. Rodney R. Cooke, died November 25, 1873. Both she and her husband held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and they always entertained the ministers at their home. Mr. Williams was a soldier in the war of 1812.

Simeon Moore, Jr., was born March 20, 1760, and was married to Hannah Cooke, who died October 27, 1796. His second wife bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Andrews, and after her death he wedded Mrs. Roxana Meacham. He served with the Connecticut troops at the battle of Bunker Hill and then returned home, afterward enlisting in Captain Ben Hammond's company, receiving an honorable discharge at the close of the war. He then entered the privateer's service, in which he remained for a year or two. On the 7th of June, 1807, he became a resident of Blendon township, Franklin county, Ohio, where he purchased five hundred acres of land. He served as a justice of the peace of the township from 1810 until 1815. On the journey to Ohio he had been accompanied by his wife, her brother Benjamin, his son Simeon and daughter Phœbe, and five of his wife's children by her first husband. He died June 26, 1825. The children of his first marriage were Polly, Lovina, Wealthy, Simeon and Hannah. By the second marriage the children were Elhannan W., Thomas J. and Phœbe, and the only child of

the third marriage was Benjamin, who was the first white child born in Blendon township, his natal day being June 11, 1807.

It will thus be seen that the ancestors of Mrs. Cooke have been prominent factors in the improvement, development and upbuilding of Franklin county. She is a member of the United Brethren church, with which she has long been connected, and is a consistent Christian woman. She is a member of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, having on its organization joined Colonel Ellsworth Circle, No. 11, of Columbus. For two terms, of one year each, she served as its president and has also been its chaplain by election, secretary by appointment two years, and department chaplain of the L. of the G. A. R. one year. She is a member of the Rebekah Order of the Odd Fellows, belonging to Chidsey Lodge, No. 399, held the office of noble grand one term, was chaplain three terms and deputy three years. She was then elected for a fourth year, but declined to serve.

Mrs. Cooke is a lady of prominence, fearless, sincere and earnest in whatever she champions. She is loyal to the defenders of her country, and her chief pleasure is to perpetuate in the minds of the young the gratitude and honor which is so justly deserved by those who followed the starry banner upon the battle-fields of the south. Her husband died October 28, 1886, having been confined to his bed eleven years, and his sickness and death resulting from his army experience. His was a record of a noble and useful life, consistent with the right, and wherever he was known he was held in the highest regard. In many respects his career was worthy of emulation, and among the representative men of Franklin county he well deserves mention.

WILLIAM EDGARDSON MEYER.

This is emphatically an age in which the young man is prominent. He is a leader in business, in the professions, in religious works and in politics. Columbus, Ohio, has a good representation of young men, and not the least popular of them is the well-known young Republican whose name is above.

William Edgardson Meyer is a son of Charles and Louise (Bowman) Meyer, and was born near Steubenville, Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1867, and at the age of thirteen was brought to Columbus by his parents, who took up their residence here in 1880. Mr. Meyer began his education at Steubenville and finished it at Columbus. He began his active career in the shops of the Columbus Buggy Company, where he learned carriage painting in all its branches, and for several years he has been a contractor for house painting and as such has won deserved success.

From boyhood Mr. Meyer has taken an interest in politics. At the age of sixteen he was a drummer for the Southside Republican Club, which won a banner for being the best drilled Republican club in the state. Before he was twenty-one he painted the Thirteenth ward Republican banner. He has been a delegate to state and county conventions of his party, a member of the Republican county executive committee, secretary of the First Ward