HISTORY

OF

GREENE SULLIVAN COUNTIES,

STATE OF INDIANA,

FROM

THE EARLIEST TIME TO THE PRESENT; TOGETHER WITH INTERESTING

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, REMINISCENCES, NOTES, ETC.

ILLLUSTRATED.

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September, 1854, up to the 1st day of April, 1855, of great value, to wit, of the value of \$200; and the said plaintiff says that the defendant afterward, to wit, on the 10th day of September, 1854, at the county and township aforesaid, did drive in and upon the said lands of the said plaintiff 100 head of large hogs, being the hogs of the defendant, and from thence hitherto and up to the time of filing this complaint did feed upon and eat up the mast of the said plaintiff, and thereby deprive the stock of the said plaintiff of the use and benefit of said mast, to the damage of plaintiff," etc.

That part of the complaint in regard to the land of Downing & Co. was stricken out, on motion of defendant's attorney. There was a trial by jury, finding for plaintiff, and assessment of damages at \$6.

MURDER OF JAMES RAINWATER.

On the 4th day of September, 1856, Prettyman Meuse murdered James Rainwater. The murder occurred in front of Lot No. 8 on Washington street in Bloomfield. Meuse was a physician who had recently located at Bloomfield. Rainwater was a young man—a day laborer—who had recently come to the town.

Dr. Meuse became incensed on account of some remark that he heard Rainwater had made about him, in connection with his conduct at a camp meeting. Without saying anything to Rainwater, Meuse approached him with a rawhide and revolver and commenced striking him with the raw-Rainwater turned and started to run down the street away from Meuse shot at him as he ran. The first shot struck him, and he him. expired in about fifteen minutes. The bystanders were so amazed at the suddenness and manner of the assault, that for a few moments they stood appalled at the scene before them. After the second shot, however, Thomas Patterson, a cool, resolute man, seized the murderer, and called upon some of the bystanders to assist in his arrest. He was tried before James D. Knap, a Justice of the Peace, adjudged guilty and remanded to the county jail to await the action of the grand jury. At the October term; the Grand Jury returned an indictment against him, and on account of the excitement against him in Greene County, the case, on application of the defendant for change of venue, was sent to Monroe County. was tried in Monroe County, and found guilty, and sentenced to State's Prison for life. Some years after he was pardoned, but never returned to Greene County. The last heard of him he was a Surgeon in the rebel army.

In 1857, all the officers of the courts elected at the October election of the year before appeared and entered upon the discharge of their duties. During the year, Jesse Powell, M. F. Burke and Thomas Flinu were admitted to practice. On the 11th day of May, 1857, Hugh L. Livingston died. He had continuously practiced in the courts of the county

1810, and then returned to the home he had selected in Washington County, Ind. From this place, he moved to Owen County, and from there to Iowa, where he died in 1853, leaving seven sons and one daughter by his first marriage, and two sons and three daughters by his second. When Absalom Lukenbill and his father settled in Owen County, this State, everything was in a wild and uncivilized condition. Indians and wild game of numerous kinds were in abundance, while their nearest white neighbors were miles distant. Here, the subject of this sketch was reared to manhood, working at farming. By working around, he had earned \$400 to begin married life with, and since that time he has increased that amount materially. In 1806, he came to Greene, where he has since resided. He is a member of the Christian Church and an in-

fluential citizen.

NELSON SINCLAIR, farmer and tile manufacturer, is a native of Wayne County, Ky., and is descended from an old and honored Scottish family, which traces its ancestry far back into the history of the United Kingdoms. Both his maternal and paternal grandparents were among the early settlers of the Old Dominion, which was the birthplace of his parents, from whence they removed to Kentucky at an early day. a small boy, Nelson was taken by his parents to Breckinridge County. Ky, and from there to Orange County, Ind., where after a residence of eighteen years his father died. The widow then removed to Greene County, Ind., induced so to do by a daughter who had married and preceeded them, Nelson Sinclair is one of the following named family of children: Patsy, Nelson, Joseph, Isaac, Nancy (deceased), Fannie, and Mrs. Shelton, of Howard County, this State. He was joined in marriage in 1848 with Miss Elizabeth Tarter, a native of Pulaski County, Ky., and a daughter of John and Nancy (Lawrence) Tarter, and to their union the following children were born: Ellen (deceased), Jane Wyley, Carrie J., Martha, Francis M., Albert (deceased), Edward, William D., and Lovell H., who was named in honor of Gen. L. H. Rousseau, a distinguished soldier of the Mexican war and the rebellion. Mr. Sinclair was the first to engage in the manufacture of tile in Fairplay Township, and at this he is yet employed, and is also operating a farm, in both branches of business making a success. He is a substantial and much esteemed citi-

CHARLES SHEPHERD was born in Greene County, Ind., in the year 1842, and is the third child in a family of seven born to William and Martha (Bradford) Shepherd, who were natives of Kentucky. was reared to manhood upon his father's farm, educated in the common schools of the neighborhood, and was joined in marriage in 1865 with Miss Mary Hicks, daughter of Rev. W. C. and Winnie (Alford) Hicks. who were from Tennessee. Mr. Shepherd is a well-to do farmer, a good citizen and neighbor, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church, and parents of six children—Ida M., Loretta, William (who was named for his grandfather), Myrthe, Oscar and Mary. William Shepherd, father of the subject of this sketch, was widely and favorably known in Greene County, where he settled at a very early day. He was born in Kentucky January 7, 1814, and his wife, who was formerly Martha Bradford, was born in the same State in 1815. They died respectively in the years 1860 and 1881, and were the parents of Thomas H., Margaret, Charles, Leander, William and Andrew. Mrs. Charles Shepherd's father, the Rev. W. C. Hicks, was among the pioneers of Greene County,