

of Allen Davenport, a resident of North township. Grace U. graduates in the class of 1908. Myrtle and Florence are members of the seventh grade. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder reared a nephew, Orval Schroeder, from the age of ten to seventeen, educating him in the common schools.

Mr. Schroeder's homestead farm contains eighty acres in Polk township, forty of which he has cleared and improved, and on this estate he is engaged in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. During twenty-four years of his early business career he taught school in Marshall county, and in all this time he has also been a prominent factor in the public life of his community, upholding the principles of the Republican party.

Mr. Schroeder began teaching school at \$1 per day and during the evenings and mornings he took a job of grubbing out new land, adding a few dollars to his slim purse. He is a successful man in life and his business affairs and is held high in the esteem and respect of all who know him.

In 1904 he was elected the trustee of Polk township, receiving the largest majority of votes ever accorded a candidate in this township, and this, too, in a Democratic community. His fraternal relations connect him with the Maccabees, Tent No. 142, the Odd Fellows, No. 821, at Tyner, Indiana, and the Grange orders, also member of the state Grange, and is a member of the United Brethren church and was superintendent of Sunday school for six years. Mr. Schroeder has met many reverses on his road to prosperity, his home having twice been burned, and he has met with other losses, but steadily and persistently he has persevered, winning success in the business world and at the same time gaining for himself the respect and honor of his fellow men.

WILLIAM RAILSBACK is a member of one of the first families to establish their home amid the wilds of Marshall county, and all honor is due the brave and hardy pioneer, Caleb Railsback, who cast his lot with the earliest settlers of Marshall county and assisted in paving the way for its future development and prosperity. He was born in Roan county, North Carolina, July 7, 1805, but when he was a little lad of two years his parents, David and Sarah (Stevens) Railsback, with their family, left their southern home and journeyed to Indiana, this being in the year 1807, and they established their home on the Whitewater river in Wayne county, near where Richmond now stands. There Caleb Railsback attained to years of maturity and maintained his residence until the 10th of November, 1846. It was then that he came to Marshall county, and purchasing timber land he built him a little log cabin home in the wilderness and began the arduous task of clearing and cultivating his farm. He at one time was the owner of about seven hundred acres, but he divided his estate among his children as they attained to mature years and started out in life for themselves. For many years he served his community as its road commissioner. His political affiliations were with the Whig party and he was a member of the Church of God. The death of this brave and honored pioneer of Marshall county occurred on the 9th of July, 1895, long surviving his wife, Nancy (Barnhill) Railsback, who passed away on the 27th of April, 1874. She was born

in Butler county, Ohio, May 29, 1811, and both she and her husband died in Argos. They were married in Marion county, Indiana, January 17, 1828, and of the eleven children which blessed their union, six are now living: William, David, Nathan, U. B., R. C. and B. F.

William Railsback was born in Marion county, Indiana, December 3, 1830, and accompanying his parents to Marshall county during his early manhood he began farming for himself in Walnut township soon after his marriage. His farm consisted of Michigan road land in section 21, where the young couple resided for three years in a hewed log house which he had built, removing then two miles south of Argos, and in the winter of 1854-5 he erected the first saw mill in this locality. But after running this mill continuously until 1873 he sold it and moved to Argos, while later he purchased it and continued its conduct until 1885. On the 21st of April of that year, and in company with T. O. Taber, Mr. Railsback organized the Exchange Bank of Argos, and in 1890 with others he organized the State Exchange Bank of Argos, of which he was made the president and continued in the office until 1896, while in January, 1907, he was re-elected to the presidency. He has served as the trustee of his township for one year, and his vote was cast for the first presidential nominee of the Republican party, John C. Fremont. He is a member of the Church of God.

On the 3d of February, 1853, Mr. Railsback married Miss Melissa Brown, who was born in Henderson township, Jefferson county, New York, February 8, 1832, a daughter of Charles and Lucy (Conner) Brown, the former of whom was also a native of the Empire state, born on the 5th of April, 1805, and the latter was born near Dublin, Ireland, May 14, 1808. The father was called to the home beyond at the age of sixty-seven years, in 1872, and the mother died on the 16th of March, 1900. They were married in Madison county, New York, January 27, 1829, and became the parents of ten children, the five now living being: Melissa, Sallie, Kaziah, Sylvanus and Lucy. The family left their New York home in 1837, and with horse teams started on the overland journey to Indiana, but in Michigan they traded their horses for oxen, and thus proceeded on their way to Marshall county, where Mr. Brown entered eighty acres of government land. The first home of the family was a little log cabin which he had built in the wilderness, their most frequent visitors in those early days being the Indians and wild animals. He owned at one time two hundred and forty acres of land and was prominent in the public life of his community, serving as a justice of the peace and as a school director for many years, and was a member of the Church of God. He was a Whig politically. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Railsback, namely: Simon B., who married Alice Hoover; Diantha, the wife of William M. Bryan; Melissa J., the wife of Thomas O. Taber; Nancy M., who became the wife of William Cuffle and died at the age of twenty-two years; John W., and Lucy E. Mr. and Mrs. Railsback also have fifteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

JOHN W. LELAND, one of the most highly esteemed of Marshall county's early pioneers, was born in what was then the territory of Michigan, October 27, 1835, a son of Moses and Bretanna (Wells)