

OLD LANDMARKS

of

CANTON AND STARK COUNTY

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and distinguished father. He is one of the prominent and popular young men of Alliance, and takes a deep interest in all that tends to conserve its welfare, having served as a member of the city council, in which connection he rendered most effective service, and he is also president of the board of public safety. In politics he accords a staunch allegiance to the Republican party, in whose local contingent he is known as an active and zealous worker, and is now a member of the county executive committee. He is an admirer of good horses, and has a carriage team which holds a matinee record of 2:20. Fraternally Mr. Morgan is identified with Alliance Lodge No. 467, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Lone Rock Lodge No. 23, Knights of Pythias, while he is also a member of the Uniformed rank of the latter order, being affiliated with Yellow Cross Commandery No. 85. He further extends his fraternal relations by holding membership in Court of Alliance No. 1516, Independent Order of Foresters. He is captain and commissary of the Eighth Regiment, Ohio National Guard, being a member of Col. Edward Vallrath's staff, and he is also adjutant of the Eighth Regiment, Uniformed Rank Knights of Pythias, on the staff of Colonel Shew.

On the 9th of September, 1893, Mr. Morgan was united in marriage to Miss Flora Knowles, a daughter of Oliver H. and Margaret (Battershell) Knowles, of Alliance, her father being a prominent carriage manufacturer of the city. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have one child, Oliver K., who was born on the 25th of August, 1894.

HENRY W. WERTS.—As the name indicates, the subject was of German descent, and at what period the family was first represented in America is not known, though it must have been at quite an early period, in the time

of the colonies. From the most reliable information at hand, his ancestors, on coming to this country, appear to have settled in Pennsylvania, in various parts of which state the name Werts is still familiar, all bearing it having undoubtedly sprung from the same parental stock. Jacob Werts, father of Henry W., was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and, like his ancestors for several generations, obtained a livelihood by tilling the soil. He married in his native state Miss Mary Wagner, and a number of years ago moved his family to Wadsworth, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his days, his wife dying shortly after his demise, in Bronson, Michigan.

Henry W. Werts was born March 29, 1832, in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and when a boy removed with his parents to Wadsworth, Ohio, near which place he lived on a farm until a youth of eighteen. Leaving home, he went to Akron, where he learned carriage making with C. A. Collins, a well-known manufacturer of that city, and after becoming an efficient workman followed his trade at different places until his removal to Canton, in the year 1859. On coming to this city he established a shop of his own, and in due time achieved an enviable reputation as a manufacturer of the well-known carriages that bore his name, the Werts vehicles in a few years taking precedence of any other make on the markets of eastern Ohio. Later they became widely known throughout this and other states, and the demand for them grew to such an extent that Mr. Werts was obliged to enlarge the capacity of his establishment and greatly increase his force of workmen in order to meet the same. By reason of the high grade of his vehicles his financial success was most encouraging and within a comparatively few years his sales had so augmented as to make him financially independent. He continued to operate his works, however, until 1884, when he disposed of the business and with an ample fortune retired to private life to

spend the remainder of his days in the enjoyment of the fruits of his toil and thrift. As a manufacturer Mr. Werts easily ranked with the most enterprising and progressive of his contemporaries, and to him as much as to any one man is due the credit of establishing for Canton the high reputation it has since sustained as an important industrial center.

Mr. Werts, on the 6th day of December, 1859, was married, in the city of Akron, to Miss Frank A. Mason, whose father, Elijah Mason, a native of Lebanon, Connecticut, came west when a young man and settled at Hudson, Ohio, where he established a newspaper of which, for a number of years, he was editor and proprietor. Subsequently he removed to Akron (then Middleburg) and became prominently identified with the city's interests, taking an active part in its material development and serving a series of years as justice of the peace and postmaster, besides filling other positions of trust and profit. The maiden name of Mrs. Elijah Mason was Charlotte Gillett, a native of Wolcottville, Connecticut, of which city her uncle was the original settler and founder. The Gilletts were among the oldest families of Connecticut, the name appearing in the early annals of the colony, and for many years after the war for independence it was a household word in many parts of the state, many bearing it having risen to important public status in their respective locations. Col. James Mason, father of Elijah, was a native of England; he came to America in the time of the colonies, settled in New England, and when the Revolutionary war broke out joined the American army and bore a distinguished part in the struggle until independence was achieved, having held a colonel's commission in a Connecticut regiment.

Of the domestic life of Mr. and Mrs. Werts little need be said, for fear of trespassing upon sacred ground, but suffice it to say that their relations were ever mutually agreeable and that

their pleasant home, at No. 112 North Market street, was the abode of a free-handed, open-hearted hospitality which made it a favorite resort for the best society circles of the city. Mr. Werts was essentially the architect of his own fortunes, and few men of his day were as widely known and as sincerely respected, and in his death, which occurred at the family residence on the 5th day of May, 1891, the city lost one of its most enterprising and public-spirited citizens, and to those who knew him a friend whose loyalty was never questioned, whose character stood above reproach and whose life, measured by the true standard of excellence, was fraught with substantial good and large benefits to his kind.

JOHN C. ALLEN.—The death of the subject of this memoir, on the 8th of October, 1890, deprived the city of Canton of one of its representative and honored citizens and able and progressive business men,—one of distinctive individuality and gracious personality and one who made his life a power for good, ever standing "four square to every wind that blows." Mr. Allen was born on the old homestead farm of his maternal grandfather, in Jackson township, this county, and on the Fulton road, the date of his nativity having been December 23, 1848, while he was a son of Ira M. and Ella O. (Graham) Allen, the former of whom was born in the state of New York and the latter in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, her father having been one of the early pioneers of Stark county. Ira M. Allen was a man of fine scholastic attainments and was for many years a successful teacher in the public schools of Stark county, having been principal of the Canton schools at the time of the birth of the subject. He died in the city of Canton in 1897, and his widow still maintains her home here, having attained the venerable age of ninety-seven years. They became the parents of five