

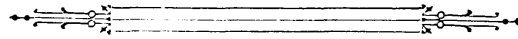
whose homes are in Montgomery County, Ind.; and Eleazar B., who resides in Cerro Gordo this State. When old enough to attend school Mr. Booher pursued his studies in a log building with puncheon floor and rude furnishing, where instruction was obtained under the subscription method. Public schools were organized and he was privileged to attend for a time, but the system had not reached its present perfection in the Hoosier State, and he of course had not the advantages open to those who are living there to-day. However, early deficiencies have not prevented his becoming well-informed and well fitted to transact all the business affairs which have fallen to his lot. The young man enlisted February 28, 1865, in the Eleventh Indiana Infantry, and was enrolled in Company I. The regiment was attached to the Army of the Potomac, and the company was stationed at Baltimore for post duty. Mr. Booher was honorably discharged in July following his enlistment, the war having closed, and returning to his home he resumed the duties of civil life.

An important epoch in the history of Mr. Booher was August 31, 1865, on which day he was married to Mary C. Smith, with whom he lived happily until January 19, 1873, when she was called hence. She had borne two children, one of whom, a daughter Carrie Myrtle, is still living. Mr. Booher was again married, February 11, 1875, his bride on this occasion being Miss Elizabeth Ross, a native of Wayne County, Ky., and daughter of Marion and Sarah Ross. Mrs. Elizabeth Booher was born January 18, 1852, and is an intelligent and energetic woman.

Early in his wedded life Mr. Booher came to this State, establishing his home in Macon County in 1866. He remained there until the spring of 1872, when he decided to make Piatt County his home and coming here settled on a tract of land which bore a log house, and had some acres of cultivated ground. This farm he has developed, finding it necessary to do considerable of the initial work necessary in obtaining that result, and it now affords him a home in which he can take just pride.

In politics Mr. Booher is independent, voting for the principle which he considers the important issue instead of for the party. He belongs to the

Grand Army Post at Cerro Gordo, and is also a member of the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association. He has been Road Commissioner of Cerro Gordo Township, and now holds the office of School Director. Even a short conversation with him is sufficient to convince one of his intelligence, large fund of information and marked courtesy. Both himself and wife are active and popular in the social circles of the vicinity, as well they may be, each possessing the necessary qualifications of mind and character.



**C**APT. ZADOC C. WEEDMAN was a native of Illinois, and during his life was one of the well-known prominent citizens who for many years was intimately connected with its farming interests until his retirement from active business. During the late Civil War he was an officer of an Illinois regiment and his military career reflected credit on the State.

Capt. Weedman was born July 9, 1836, in the pioneer home of his parents near Heyworth, McLean County. His father, John Weedman, was an active pioneer of that part of the country. He had come there with his wife from Ohio in an early day of its settlement. He lived there a few years and then came to De Witt County and took up his residence on a farm near Farmer City; and from that time until his removal to Iowa, where he died when an old man, he was of much assistance in developing the agriculture of this part of the county. Here his first wife, whose maiden name was Rachael Wilson, died, and he was married a second time. (For a fuller account of the family history see biography of George Weedman on another page of this work.)

Our subject was educated in De Witt County and nearly the whole of his life was passed within its precincts. He was married near Farmer City to Miss Rebecca D. Wolfe, a native of Clarke County, Ohio, where she was born January 4, 1836. Her father, Joseph Wolfe, was born in Jasper County, not far from Harper's Ferry, Va., and he came of German parentage. He was eleven years old when

his father and mother moved with their family to Clarke County, Ohio, of which they thus became early pioneer farmers. They were well known in that part of the State and died there full of years. Joseph Wolfe grew up on a farm in Ohio which he helped his father to hew from the wilderness. He was married in Clarke County to Mary V. Lemmen, a native of Clarke County and of Scotch-Irish ancestry. After marriage Mr. Wolfe and his wife lived on a farm in Clarke County until 1838 when they emigrated overland with teams, camping by the wayside and finally arriving at their destination in De Witt Township, this county. They there began life anew as pioneers and developed a farm out of unbroken prairie on which was a log cabin, afterward replaced by a more substantial residence. Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe were successful in life and were numbered among the good citizens of this section of the country. Mrs. Wolfe departed this life in 1874 at the age of sixty years. She was a Christian and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Some years after his wife's death Mr. Wolfe came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Weedman, and he died in their home April 1, 1878, at the age of nearly seventy-eight years. He was in early life a Whig and later a Republican. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and had many friends in this county. Mrs. Weedman is the second child and only daughter of the three children born to her parents. Her brother, John H., died at the age of four years. Her other brother, the Rev. George B. Wolfe, is now holding a pastorate at Naples, Ill., and is one of the prominent local ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Weedman was reared in this State and received a good education, attending college at Bloomington, and she was also a pupil at the Jacksonville Seminary.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Weedman settled on a farm in De Witt Township and for some years he was very successfully engaged in agriculture. He finally lost his health and retired to Farmer City, where he died December 11, 1887. De Witt County then suffered the loss of one of its best citizens, one who had grown with its growth and had been an instrument in advancing its material prosperity. He was a man of much native ability

whose judgment was sound and who managed his affairs with discretion and discrimination, and underlying these were those high personal traits that commanded both the respect and regard of his fellow-citizens. He was a prominent local politician, being an active working member of the Republican party. He was an enumerator for this township in the census of 1880. He was among the most worthy members of the Grand Army of the Republic and also of the Masons, being in his last years a Knight Templar. Religiously he and his wife were always connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and her name is still associated with it. To our subject and his wife came one son, Lawrence W., who is receiving a practical education in the city schools of Farmer City. Mrs. Weedman is a woman of rare character well educated, cultured and refined.

We will now turn to that important period in the life of our subject when he won his spurs on the battlefield for his brave and efficient conduct in the times that tried men's souls, when he showed himself to be a capable leader of men. He enlisted in 1862 in the One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Infantry and was commissioned First Lieutenant of Company G. After two years of hard service he received deserved promotion to a captaincy and served in that capacity for some time. Finally his failing health obliged him to resign his commission in the fall of 1864 and he was honorably discharged. He left the army with a high reputation for his devotion to the cause for which he fought, and for his fine record in the various battles and skirmishes in which he took an active part.



**J**OHAN H. MILLS was a small child when he was brought from his Kentucky birthplace to De Witt County in early pioneer days, so that he has been a witness of nearly its entire development from the wilderness to its present advanced condition as a rich agricultural center, and he has had a hand in bringing about this great change, for he has for many years aided in carrying on its farming and stock-raising interests and has a good farm on section 24, Barnett Township.