

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Regular Army, at Nogales, Arizona. There he was commissioned captain in November, 1918, a rank which he retained until his honorable discharge January 14, 1919.

Returning to Lima, Mr. Horner formed a partnership with Harold Steinle in the firm of Horner & Steinle, buying out his old employer, Mr. Grosjean. The retail shoe business at 121 and 123 Market street has been developed to important proportions and is rapidly becoming one of the large enterprises of the city. Mr. Horner, since his return, has organized Troop E, First Ohio Cavalry, made up of seventy-five young men of Lima. This troop has been furnished with horses and equipment by the Government, and is rapidly rounding into a crack organization, doing its training at the Allen County Fair Grounds. Mr. Horner is a Republican in his political allegiance. He belongs to the Elks and the Kiwanis Club, and has a number of civic and business connections.

In January, 1918, he married Miss Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of John and Elizabeth Stewart, of Macon, Mississippi, and they have one child, Betty Avanel, born in June, 1919. They are consistent members of the Lima Presbyterian Church.

JOHN J. ROBERTS. It would be difficult to find a finer class of men in Allen or any other county in Ohio than those who are devoting their talents to the cultivation of the soil and the developing of the natural resources of this region, and among them one worthy of special mention is John J. Roberts of Spencer township, whose valuable farm is located one and one-half miles west of Spencerville. He was born on the farm he now owns on August 13, 1882, a son of Simeon and Elizabeth Roberts, the former of whom was born in Coshoc-ton county, Ohio, on February 17, 1848, and died at Spencerville, Ohio, in 1914. His wife was born in Spencer township, Allen county, Ohio, on September 14, 1846, and died at Spencerville on April 11, 1920. When he was nine years old Simeon Roberts came to Allen county and, locating near Spencerville, lived on his farm until shortly before his death. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Spencerville. A Democrat, he was elected on his party ticket to the offices of supervisor, school director and town-ship trustee, and was a man of high character and excellent principles.

The children born to Simeon Roberts and wife were as follows: John J., Stewart D., who is a farmer of Spencer township; May E., the eldest, who married John J. Davies of Spencerville; Tena M., who married Leroy Wilkin, of Osborne, Ohio; Harriet A., who married J. P. Davies; Radnel R., Lema A., and Ichens.

Until he was twelve years old John J. Roberts remained at home and attended the district schools, but at that tender age went with a threshing machine outfit, and later conducted one of his own, and still operates it in season. Ever since his marriage he has lived on his present farm, and is specializing to some extent in breeding Duroc hogs. In addition to these interests Mr. Roberts is a stockholder of the Farmers' Union Elevator Company of Spencerville, the officers of which are: John Whetstone, president; John Wright, vice president; Ust Loveman, treasurer, and Elmer Wilkins, secretary. In addition to these officials, the Board of Directors has the

following members: Harry Bowen, Joseph Beck, M. Doarty and W. W. Rupert.

On November 4, 1905, Mr. Roberts was married to Emma P. Purdy, a daughter of John E. and Mary (Miller) Purdy. Mrs. Roberts was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, on February 7, 1886, and was educated in the common schools of that county. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have two children, namely: Hulda J., who was born August 20, 1906, and Ora K., who was born November 8, 1912, and both are attending school. The United Brethren Church holds the membership of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts. In politics he is a Republican, but has not taken any active part in public affairs. Having spent his life in Allen county, naturally he is deeply interested in its progress and willing to do his part in bringing about further improvements.

JACOB HENRY SMITH was for many years a worker in the oil fields of the Lima district. About fifteen years ago he bought a farm in Perry township, but death overtook him before he was able to realize his plans for its improvement. Mrs. Smith as his successor in the ownership of the farm has proved a very capable manager, and with the assistance of her children has made the place notable as a scene of well ordered industry and one of the fine country homes of Perry township.

The late Mr. Smith was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, June 6, 1862, a son of William and Barbara (Conrad) Smith. He was educated in the common schools, and after his marriage located at St. Mary's, where he was employed as a pumper in the oil fields. Two and a half years later he moved to Elida, Ohio, and six months after that bought some property in Lima. He continued his occupation as an oil pumper until 1905, when he traded his city real estate for a seventy-acre farm in section 30 of Perry township. After that he gave all his time to the cultivation of his land, but died November 8, 1909.

In addition to operating the farm with systematic thoroughness Mrs. Smith had added to its value by many improvements, including the re-building of the barn, the building of silos, and other farm buildings. In 1917 she had a modern frame residence erected, with cement milk house and garage, and with these facilities she and her children at home have a very reliable and comfortable income. The late Mr. Smith was a Republican voter, and Mrs. Smith and family are members of the Lutheran Church.

The maiden name of Mrs. Smith was Anna Kruse. She was born at Elida, Ohio, and she and her husband were married January 20, 1891. Her parents, Henry and Doretta (Bowman) Kruse, were natives of Germany, but came to the United States separately and when about twenty years of age. Henry Kruse was born in Prussia, Germany, July 24, 1833, and crossed the ocean on a sailing ship, being on the sea for eight weeks. Her mother was born in Hanover, Germany, November 24, 1833, and came to this country with her father, who was looking for a home for his family. Henry Kruse and wife were married at Urbana, Ohio, and in 1865, after a journey by wagon, settled in German township of Allen county. Mrs. Smith's mother died September 16, 1915, and her father May 3, 1907. Mrs. Smith has five children. Paul, the oldest,

John J. Roberts
Property in west
owned by the
father Simeon
Roberts
See 188 atlas
map

May E. on
Marshall
See pg 331

John J. Roberts was the son of Simeon and Elizabeth Roberts. Simeon Roberts was the son of our Great-Grandfather Joseph Johnson Roberts.

pany, Lima; and Grace, wife of W. L. Hook, a clothing merchant at Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

While a member of the State Senate Mr. Crites had the distinction of serving on a number of committees with Warren G. Harding of Marion. During the past forty years he has missed only a few seasons hunting big game, and has to his credit a large collection of fine specimens. On one of his hunting expeditions he shot an alligator in Florida weighing 600 pounds, 12 feet long, and claimed to be 200 years old. Senator Crites also has some of the interests of the real antiquarian, and has accumulated many old relics and specimens now quite valuable. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic Order, is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason, and is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Elida.

BRICE C. MILLER. When consideration is given to the substantial farmers of Auglaize Township, one deserving of special consideration is Brice C. Miller, a young man of great energy and business ability whose work stands in evidence at his home farm two miles southeast of Harrod.

Mr. Miller was born in Monroe Township of Allen County January 24, 1886, son of Joseph H. and Alice Miller. His parents were born in this county, in Sugar Creek Township, and the Millers have lived here from pioneer times. The grandfather Miller in early days managed a farm and also operated a mill at West Cairo, and after his death the mill was taken over by two sons and continued in operation for several years by them, after which they sold it. Joseph H. Miller since his marriage has been a leading farmer, and his home is a mile and a quarter east of West Cairo. He is a republican and he and his wife are members of the Dunkard Church. They had four children: Chloe, wife of J. A. Vore; Brice C.; Guy, a farmer in Monroe Township; and Paul, who also is a well known young farmer in Monroe Township.

Brice C. Miller grew up on his father's place in Monroe Township and made good use of his advantages in the district schools. His life was spent at home to the age of twenty-one.

On March 4, 1916, Mr. Miller married Gladys Truex, who was born in this state December 21, 1894. They have two children: Ivan, born February 21, 1917, and Harold, born September 19, 1918. Mr. Miller also has a daughter, now fifteen years old, by a former marriage.

Mr. Miller is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he votes and acts with the republican party. He has served as a member of the Central Committee. As a farmer he has 136 acres in Auglaize Township, and while not a specialty farmer, he has always kept good grades of livestock and most of his profits come from the sale of stock.

CLARENCE H. FOLSOM. The sentiment which brings about marriages creates a desire for a home, and the men who are engaged in satisfying it not only are achieving a material prosperity, but are building the bulwarks of real Americanism. The owner of a home naturally takes more interest in his community than the transient who can easily move if conditions are not to his liking, and he works to bring about improvements and raise the moral standards and increase the educational advantages. With his grow-

ing interest in his immediate vicinity comes the broader outlook which teaches him that the interests of the whole county are of concern to him, and with this is born true patriotism. There are a number of the best business men of Lima who are devoting themselves to the handling of real estate and the placing of loans which will make possible the creation of homes, and among them one of considerable importance on account of the number and magnitude of his transactions is Clarence H. Folsom of 219 Holmes Building.

Clarence H. Folsom was born a son of Charles and Lydia (Pennock) Folsom. The Folsom family was founded in America many generations ago by Josiah Folsom, and his descendants have been as a general rule professional men, although Charles Folsom was a merchant and miller after he had owned and operated a farm on Mad River at Zanesfield, Logan County, Ohio. He died at the age of seventy-seven years, his wife surviving him until 1917, when she passed away at the age of eighty-seven years.

Mr. Folsom attended the local schools and academy of Zanesfield and then spent two years at the Urbana, Ohio, Presbyterian College, completing his studies with a commercial course at the Toledo Business College of Toledo, Ohio. Coming to Lima in 1882, Mr. Folsom established himself in his present business and has carried it on ever since, being one of the most successful realtors in Allen County. Mr. Folsom has many other interests, and is a stockholder of the Lima Trust Company, the Lima Telephone Company, the Allen County Fair Grounds Association, the Lima Club and the Masonic Club.

In 1869 he was united in marriage at Zanesfield, Ohio, with Jennie Crew, a daughter of Dr. James and Lucinda (Stewart) Crew, and she died on December 16, 1897, leaving one daughter, Belle F., who married Dr. Oliver S. Steiner, of Lima, and they have two children, Mary Jane and Helen Pauline. Mr. Folsom is a thirty-second degree Mason and also belongs to Antioch Shrine of Dayton, Ohio. He is a member of Zanesfield Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lima Lodge Knights of Pythias, and Lima Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. When he came to Lima the city did not offer the opportunities it does today, but Mr. Folsom possessed that courage and bigger vision which have made him the successful man of affairs he is, and the shrewd business sense which enabled him to carry on his transactions with well-directed effort, always regulating them according to his own sound judgment and innate honesty so that his name has come to be a synonym for successful and inspiring operations all over Allen County.

STEWART D. ROBERTS. A highly respected citizen of Spencer Township, Allen County, who has ever had the interests of his community at heart, is Stewart D. Roberts, a man who has won success in life because he has been persistent and never permitted obstacles to thwart him in his course when once he knew he was right. He comes of sterling ancestry and in his own life he has exemplified those sturdy qualities of character which ever commend a man to the regard and esteem of his fellows.

Stewart D. Roberts was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, on December 13, 1871, and is the son of Simon and Elizabeth (Stoffer) Roberts, the former a native of Knox County, Ohio, and the latter born

Stewart "Demic" Roberts was the son of Simeon and Elizabeth Roberts.

and reared in Spencer Township, two miles west of Spencerville. They were married in Allen County and lived on a farm here until their removal to Van Wert County, where they remained about two years. At the end of that time they returned to Spencer Township, Allen County, where they bought a farm and where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Roberts was a democrat, and served several years as a member of the school board. To him and his wife were born eight children, of whom four are now living, namely: (Marellen), the wife of John J. Davis, of Spencerville; Stewart D., the immediate subject of this sketch; John J., of Spencer Township; and Tena, the wife of Rev. Roy Wilken, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church at South Troy, Ohio.

Stewart D. Roberts received his educational training in the common schools of Spencer Township, his summer months being spent in work on the home farm. He assisted his father on the farm until twenty-one years of age, then rented the farm for two years. At the end of that time he bought forty acres of land included in the farm which he now owns, and applied his energies indefatigably to its operation. He has been eminently successful and has made two additional purchases of farm land, one of forty acres and one of eighty acres in Van Wert County. He has demonstrated his thorough knowledge of the best agricultural methods, raising all the crops common to this locality, and also gives some attention to the raising of live stock, specializing in Duroc hogs. A number of years ago Mr. Roberts engaged in the threshing business in association with his father, but subsequently bought his father's interests and now owns the outfit. He is also the owner of a saw mill outfit, and in both of these enterprises he has done a good deal of business in this community.

On December 10, 1891, Mr. Roberts was married to Nettie Masters, of Van Wert County, Ohio, the daughter of John Masters. When she was but six months old her mother died, and her father afterward remarried. To Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have been born five children, namely: Bessie, the wife of Arthur Craft, of Van Wert County; Edna, the wife of Ernest Reibesell, of Randolph County, Indiana; John B., Emma and Leroy, who remain at home.

Mr. Roberts and his family are members of the United Brethren Church at Monticello, Ohio, in the various activities of which they take a prominent part. Fraternally he is a member of Deep Cut Lodge No. 311, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a democrat in his political views and takes an intelligent interest in the public affairs of the community, though not an aspirant for public position or leadership. However, he is rendering good service as assessor of Spencer Township. He is a stockholder of the Farmers Union Elevator at Spencerville, and is considered a man of broad views and excellent business judgment, standing high in the esteem of all who know him.

JOHN J. REAGAN. A number of the most substantial men of Allen County are connected with one or other of the large corporations operating in their midst, and one of them is John J. Reagan, gauger for the Buckeye Pipe Line Company of Spencerville, who is not only well thought of by his

company, but by his community as well, as is proven in his being elected by his fellow citizens as a member of the Board of Education.

John J. Reagan was born in Olean, New York, on April 21, 1874, a son of Thomas and Catherine (Morearity) Reagan, the former of whom was born in Ireland, but was brought to the United States in childhood and reared in New York State. He was married in Allegany, Cattaraugus County, New York, and spent the remainder of his life in that neighborhood, dying on a farm not far from Allegany. His widow moved to Auglaize County, Ohio, where she later passed away. The parents had the following children born to them: Michael D., who lives at Delphos, Ohio; Theresa, who is the widow of Dr. J. F. Gallison, of American, Ohio; J. J., whose name heads this review; William J., who is a farmer and oilman in the neighborhood of Beaver Dam, Ohio; Thomas F., who lives at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is superintendent of the Texas Pipe Line Company; Vincent D., who is superintendent of an oil company in Texas; Mary E., who married Len H. Barr, of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and three who died in infancy.

John J. Reagan was reared on his father's farm, where he lived until he reached his majority, and until he was nine years old went to a parochial school, and then until he was fifteen went to the public schools, but after that put in all of his time on the farm. Coming to Spencerville, he entered the employ of the Buckeye Pipe Line Company, and has risen to be one of their gaugers.

On September 16, 1902, Mr. Reagan was married to Gertrude E. Butcher, of Buckland, Ohio, a high school graduate. Mr. and Mrs. Reagan have a comfortable modern home on Canal Street, their faith in this community being evidenced by their investment in its realty. Hard-working and thrifty, Mr. Reagan has gone ahead steadily and honorably, and it would be difficult to find a man better fitted for his duties or one who more thoroughly exemplifies the spirit of real Americanism.

IRA ELLSWORTH BABER began his career as a farm hand, was a farm renter for a number of years and through his hard work and thrifty management made enough by operating the land of others to purchase the good farm home he now occupies in Bath Township on rural route No. 8 out of Lima.

Mr. Baber was born at Peru, Indiana, March 16, 1880, a son of Henry Floyd and Rhena (Bowers) Baber. When he was a child his parents moved to Shawnee Township of Allen County and bought a farm of a hundred acres. Ira Ellsworth Baber grew up there and attended winter sessions of school in Amanda Township until he was about fifteen. After that he was employed regularly on the home farm, worked out for others, and had made only a modest advance towards prosperity when he set up a home of his own by his marriage on December 4, 1904, to Mary Altha Beeber. Mrs. Baber is a daughter of W. H. and Mary Catherine (Mosher) Beeber, of Elida, American Township. Mr. and Mrs. Baber started housekeeping with very limited equipment and capital, and they have been steadily achieving economic independence at the same time they had been rearing their family of nine children, all of whom are still living: Ira Williams, Paul Lester, Zelma Marie, Zelin Harold, Jessie Helm, Howard

A PORTRAIT OF GRANDMA

Source:
Library in
Celina, Ohio

My Grandmother's Great Grandfather, Joseph Johnson Roberts, was born on May 19, 1825, in Holmes County, Ohio.¹ Little is known about his early life, but records show that he moved to Spencerville, in Allen County, Ohio, and April 4, 1847, he married Christiane Wescott.² They lived in a log cabin along the railroad tracks. There they raised thirteen children, one of which was Edward, born March 23, 1872.³

Edward's childhood was spent in Spencerville where later he became a farmer. On October 26, 1893, he married Mary Jane Chambers.⁴ Of their thirteen children, one was Mildred Leona Roberts, born on August 25, 1910.⁵ She later married Howard F. Coats on February 6, 1928.⁶ They had nine children. One of them was my Grandmother, Joyce Lanore Coats, born on a lovely summer day, July 19, 1934, on Forrest Street in Celina, Ohio in Mercer County.⁷ Dr. John T. Gibbons made the delivery in their home.

Joyce was the fifth child to be born to Mildred and Howard Coats. They had nine all together. Dr. Gibbons commented to her father, as he did the delivery, that Joyce didn't wait for anyone.

Life was pleasant for her, and Grandmother had a normal childhood. But being the middle child did have a few drawbacks. Having one older sister and three older brothers, one younger sister and three younger brothers, did at times create mass confusion.

Nevertheless, Grandmother attended grades one through four at West School, then located at the site of Celina Insurance Group on the corner of Walnut and Livingston Streets. Some of her teachers were, Miss. Winters, Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Darby, and Mrs. Speckman. Grades five and six were spent in the East Building, where Bethany Church now stands. She remembers having Dwight Laffin as one of her teachers there. The next few years were spent at Celina High School, where the Education Complex is now located. Some of her teachers were, Mrs. B. Curry, Mr. Luther Brumm, and Mr. George Kreachbaum.

Her seventh grade was interrupted because her mother was very ill, and Grandmother had to stay home and take care of her. Having missed alot of school, Grandma had to repeat the seventh grade, but went on to finish the ninth grade. Then she quit school so that the four younger children would have a chance to complete their education.

During Grandma's teenage years she worked at Edgewater Park, owned by Berle A. Meyers and managed by Theo Temple. There her parents operated a popcorn stand for eleven years. Not only did they sell popcorn, but they also sold sno cones, root beer, and orange drinks, and sometimes candy apples, which the whole family pitched in to make.

Grandmother also worked in a concession stand that sold souvenirs. When she turned fifteen, however, she worked at the Big Dance Hall, which was then located on the south side of State Route 703, Where Bob's Wheel Ranch is now located. There she worked as a hat check girl. She said the Grand Ballroom was a very interesting place to work, with many celebrity bands and band leaders during the Era of the Big Bands. Some of the many Grandma got to see were, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Les Brown, and Guy Lombardo.

Grandma was raised on the dance floor was something her father used to say because the family spent alot of time there. Grandma learned how to dance at an early age.

Besides the Big Dance Hall, the Green Lantern, a smaller dance hall, sat across from the Arcade where the Golden Corral is presently located. The Green Lantern was the sort of place where all had a good time square dancing, round dancing, (a form of rock and roll which Grandma says is better than today's rock and roll.) and enjoying everyone's favorite at the time the waltz.

Grandma met her future husband, Charles Edward Ward Jr. when one of her brothers brought him home. Grandma married Grandpa on August 4, 1950, by Justice of the Peace J.L. Loughridge, at his residence which is still standing on East Livingston Street, east of and across the alley from the Fire Department.⁸ Grandpa's mother and best friend were witnesses, and Mr. Loughridge tried to marry them instead of the young couple. However, Grandma finally got married. On May 17, 1952, their first child and my mother Vickie Lynn was born.⁹ Seven more children were born with one son dying in infancy.

While Grandpa worked, first at Mersmans and then at Birt's Auto Wrecking, Grandma stayed at home to raise children. Then when Grandma was expecting her second child, her mother-in-law had a small stroke. So Grandma cared for her too, with some help from my Great-Great Grandmother, Mary Cotterman. Later her mother-in-law didn't need as much help.

Shortly before the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. my Grandfather took ill and was hospitalized in Parkview Hospital, in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Grandma drove back and forth everyday. She spent the days at the hospital and at night she stayed at home to care for her children.

Although Grandpa overcame his illness, a few years later he again returned to the hospital in Ft. Wayne. While he was in the hospital Grandma needed to have their home hooked up to the new water and sewer lines. With Grandpa in the hospital, Grandma by hand dug the ditch 100 feet long, 3 feet wide, and anywhere from 4 to 7 feet deep. And the children hauled the dirt out. Shortly after Grandpa returned home, and with the help of his uncle, they put the lines in. This big and hard job Grandma did without complaint.

Soon Grandma needed to get a job to help pay bills. She was hired at the Celina Coffee Shop, however, after getting her job she needed to learn how to drive. On the day she went to take her test , she passed the driving with 100% but failed her parallel parking test so she had to go back the following week. After studying the rules and practicing countless hours, she tried the parking test one more time. The examiner told her to approach the flags, but Grandma knowing she couldn't be on the highway without a licensed driver, backed all the way out to the flags in a perfect straight line. With that exhibition, the examiner told Grandma that she had passed, and she didn't have to park because, anyone who could back like that had to be a good driver.

In 1969 Grandma had to go to work again to help pay Grandpa's medical, specialists', hospital, and doctor bills. So Grandma went to the Celina City Schools and put in her application. Later she called the school to inquire about her application because she had not heard from them. They told her the application had been misplaced, and when she came to town to fill out another one.

Grandmother being the type of person she is didn't wait until she was in town again. After she got a sitter for the two youngest children, because the others were in school, she went to town and put her application in again. Then she waited but still didn't hear anything. Being impatient, she called the school again. In December, she was called to help clean during Christmas vacation. Before those two weeks were up she was asked to work for four hours each evening, five days a week after school hours. This turned out better than Grandma had ever expected. Grandma worked at the High School for principals Brandon and Cooper for four years.

She then went to the Junior High, where the Ed. Complex is now located. She worked there for two years, and her hours increased to thirty-one hours per week.

In December of 1975, Joe Davis, the business manager told her to try for a boilers license, so that she could learn how to run the boilers that heat the school. With the help from the library, purchased books, and the help from other custodians, Grandma went to Toledo, Ohio, on March 22, 1976, to take her test. The examiner told her she would hear shortly if she had passed or failed.

The examiner told her if she passed she would receive the news in a long envelope, if she failed, in a small envelope. Well Grandma went to work that particular Wednesday, and when she came home for lunch, she asked if any mail had come for her, the reply was no. She sat down and tried to eat but her mind just wasn't on eating. Then she saw it! The family " had pulled a fast one on her" and framed the license to surprise her.

At this time my Grandparents moved to where they presently live in Wabash, Ohio. In 1976 Grandma went to work at the West School where she is presently employed, fourteen years later, with a total of twenty years in the Celina School system.

In 1984, because my Grandfather, again ill, retired. Grandma was glad she still had her job, and is still working at Celina's West School, and is currently the secretary of her employee's union. She still resides in Wabash at 1348 State Route 29, with Grandpa. All seven children, their spouses, eleven grandchildren, and six adopted step-grandchildren come home on week ends to visit, play cards, work on their cars, and, I think most of all to eat Grandma's fine home cooking.

That's my Grandma!