

resides in the home of her daughter and son-in-law in Decatur county. Doctor and Mrs. Hill have had six children, Joseph Graydon, Martin Dwight, Mary Josephene, Paul Eugene, Rose Wendall and John Wesley.

On Doctor Hill's farm, located one mile north of Alert in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, there are two sets of buildings. He has a modern house, a large barn, fifty by sixty-eight feet in diameter, and a silo which was erected in 1914. Doctor Hill is an extensive raiser of mules. He buys weanling mule colts, and raises them until they are ready for the market. At the present time he has twenty-five head on the farm. Aside from his interest in mules he is engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Although a Democrat in politics, Doctor Hill has never taken any special interest in political matters. He is a member of Porter Lodge No. 137, Free and Accepted Masons.

CHARLES CLAY ROBBINS.

Occupying a commanding position on a hill, overlooking the river valley in Sand Creek township, this county, the elegant farm house of Charles C. Robbins presents to the eye of the traveler who may be journeying that way a most attractive appearance. This eleven-room farm house, erected in 1911, is one of the best-appointed houses of its kind in Decatur county. It was built along modern plans, is enclosed on three sides with an ornamental stone wall and is piped throughout for gas and water. Mr. Robbins has an admirable water-pressure system on his farm, and his private gas well, which flows with a pressure of three hundred and twenty-five pounds, gives him, in addition to ample gas for heating and lighting purposes throughout the house and barn, fine power for the operation of grinding-machines and other machinery on the place. His beautiful grounds also are well lighted from the gas thus supplied. The water plant not only supplies the house and barn with running water, but affords ample irrigation for the grounds and garden.

Mr. Robbins' farm of one hundred and seventy acres is one of the most fertile and productive in the county, including a fine stretch of river bottom, one hundred acres in extent, and seventy acres of hill land. The bottom lands produce about eighty bushels of corn and twenty bushels of wheat to the acre. There is excellent pasture land, through which a pretty, never-failing stream flows, and his meadows produce as much as two tons of hay to the acre. A copiously-flowing well, driven to a depth of one hun-

dred and fifteen feet, supplies water to the uplands. The barn, a commodious structure, sixty by one hundred feet, is equipped with cement floors for the stalls and has all the modern appliances for the most expeditious operation of a well-conducted farm. The carriage house, fifty by fifty feet, also has cement floor, as have the ample corn cribs and granaries, while the cement watering troughs are well shaded, a pleasant sidelight on Mr. Robbins' humane regard for his live stock.

One of the attractive features of the Robbins farm is a beautiful grove of sugar-maple trees, seventy-five or more in number, which supplies the Robbins table with a fine quality of maple syrup, besides quantities of choice maple sugar. A well-kept chicken park offers a fine range for the extensive brood of Plymouth Rock chickens which Mr. Robbins raises. There are few farms in Decatur county more carefully tended than is that of Mr. Robbins, and it is but natural that he takes a high degree of pride in his place, finding much comfort and content thereon. In addition to his general farm operations, Mr. Robbins is an extensive breeder and feeder of live stock. He formerly handled from sixty-five to seventy carloads of stock annually, but lately has reduced his operations in this direction and now handles about twenty-five car loads annually, his stock all being of high grade.

Charles C. Robbins has lived all his life on this same farm, having been born there on September 2, 1860, the son of Merritt Holmand and Jeannette (Gilchrist) Robbins, the former of whom, born on August 30, 1832, died on August 14, 1882, was the son of a pioneer settler of Decatur county, and the latter of whom, born on June 25, 1837, died on February 13, 1911, was a native of Steubenville, Ohio. Merritt H. Robbins was the son of William Robbins, who settled in this county in an early day and became one of the most influential pioneers of Sand Creek township. William Robbins was the son of William Robbins, a Virginian who served in the arm of the patriots during the War of the Revolution and located in Kentucky after the close of that war. Further interesting details regarding the genealogy of this family may be found in the biographical sketch relating to J. B. Kitchin, presented elsewhere in this volume. Jeannette Gilchrist was the daughter of Hugh Gilchrist, one of the early and influential settlers of this county.

Merritt H. Robbins and his wife were members of the Liberty Baptist church and took a large part in the good works of their community in an early day. Mr. Robbins was a Republican and was one of the leaders of

that party in his part of the county. He was not inclined to seek office, however, and several times declined to accept positions of public trust and responsibility which his neighbors sought to thrust upon him. He was an active, energetic farmer and became the owner of four hundred and eighty-four acres of fine land in Sand Creek township. At the age of fifty, Mr. Robbins was overcome by an illness which would not respond to local treatment. He was taken to Sheppard sanitarium at Columbus, Ohio, where treatment likewise proved unavailing, and there he died. His land was all sold with the exception of the tract of one hundred and seventy acres surrounding the home, and which now is occupied by his son, Charles C.

To Merritt H. and Jeannette (Gilchrist) Robbins were born six children, as follow: Alpha B., who married Caleb Wright, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county; Laura L., who married Walter B. Planke and lives in Washington township; Charles Clay, the immediate subject of this sketch; Greeley G., of Greensburg, a rural mail carrier; William W., who died on June 1, 1914, at the home of his brother, Charles C., at the age of forty-seven years, and Erie Etna, the wife of Bird Sefton, of Washington township, this county.

On February 28, 1888, Charles Clay Robbins was united in marriage to Effie M. Styers, who was born on the old Styers homestead, near Greensburg, this county, on April 6, 1868, the daughter of William G. and Dorinda F. (Wright) Styers, the former of whom is now deceased. Further details of the genealogy of this couple may be found in the biographical sketch of William G. Styers, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Charles C. and Effie M. (Styers) Robbins have been born six children, namely: Harry H., born on November 29, 1889; Walter W., who lives on the John W. Ferris farm, in Marion township, this county, was born on July 6, 1891, married Grace Ferris and has three children, Gerald, Roy R. and Wilma; Marie, February 1, 1898, is in high school; Corinne C., December 25, 1900, also in school; Millard M., October 30, 1902, and Lowell, July 18, 1905, who died on March 4, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Robbins are members of the Liberty Baptist church, as are all the members of their family, and long have been prominent in the affairs of that church, as well as being included among the leaders in the various good works of the community in which they live. Mr. Robbins is a Republican and takes a warm interest in political affairs, though not an office seeker or a particularly active political worker, preferring to give the full measure of his time to his farm and to his home. Harry Robbins

is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is deeply interested in the affairs of that ancient fraternal order. No family in Decatur county is held in higher repute than the Robbinses and their home is one of the most popular places of social gatherings in the part of the county in which it is situated.

HAMLIN ANDERSON.

Situated on a hill, the handsome farm residence of Hamlin Anderson, in Clay township, this county, commands a fine view of the country thereabout. This residence, painted an attractive yellow, with its broad veranda lending a particularly home-like air to the place, is regarded as one of the pleasantest and most hospitable farm homes in the county, and is the center of much cordial hospitality, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson being fond of their friends and their friends likewise fond of them. Corresponding with the general well-kept appearance of the house, the big bank barn, painted in slate color, and the outlying farm buildings all are in excellent condition, speaking well for Mr. Anderson's orderliness and accurate attention to detail. Though somewhat past what generally is regarded as the meridian of life, Mr. Anderson retains a youthful appearance and manner that belie the date of his birth, and takes the liveliest interest in affairs. He is an excellent conversationalist and a good companion. A keen, intelligent, enterprising man, he has made a success of his affairs, and is rated among the wealthy men of Decatur county. He has traveled widely and is well informed. For three years he lived in Los Angeles, California, and for a time was engaged in the automobile business in Indianapolis, but now confines his attention wholly to his extensive farming interests, finding Decatur county the most desirable spot on earth, his pleasant home being to him all that he desires.

Hamlin Anderson was born on the farm on which he still lives August 29, 1853, son of William and Mary (Stanley) Anderson, the former of whom was born in 1811 and died in 1891; the latter born in 1832, died in 1908. William Anderson was born of poor parents in a log cabin in the pine woods of New Jersey, and in his youth was compelled to work hard. He was one of eleven children born to his parents, four boys and seven girls. By the utmost diligence and frugality, he had saved four hundred dollars by the time he had reached his majority, at which time he started for Indiana, arriving in Decatur county in 1831, having driven through in a