

and fig tree." Their small possessions installed in the new house, they compared notes to determine the precise condition of their exchequer and found each was the owner of exactly \$5 wherewith to begin the world together. The farm is now in creditable condition, with 25 acres under improvements and all necessary farm buildings.

The household now comprises a young daughter, I. Mabel Evarts, born Nov. 23, 1882.

Mr. Evarts is a Republican in political affiliation and belongs to Lodge No. 34, F. & A. M., at Grand Rapids. He is an adherent to the tenets of the Congregational Church, and Mrs. Evarts belongs to the Methodist Church.

Solomon K. Riblet, merchant at Newaygo, was born in Elizabeth Township, Allegheny Co., Pa., Nov. 2, 1834, and is the son of Samuel and Deborah (Woods) Riblet. The earliest ancestor to whom the family traces its origin was a Huguenot, and a descendant from a long line of French nobility, who, in consequence of his embracing the Protestant religion, suffered the extinction of his rank, the confiscation of his estates and expatriation, on penalty of being burned as a heretic. His trials differed in no sense or degree from the others of the devoted class, whose sufferings, fortitude and pertinacious adherence to their faith placed them upon the pages of history in all the luster of their heretic struggles for principle, and left a seared stain on the escutcheon of France. Driven from his native land, he settled in Germany, where he married and reared a large family. Two of his sons, Christian and Bartholomew Riblet, emigrated to the United States and settled in Northampton Co., Pa., where John, son of Christian, and grandfather of Samuel Riblet, was born, in the year 1758. John Riblet was still in his minority when the American Colonies revolted from the impositions of the British Crown; and, true to his ancestral blood and inherited sense of justice, he hastened to declare himself the champion of liberty and the foe of oppression. He threw himself, heart and soul, into the exigencies of the Revolution, and was commissioned First Lieutenant of a company belonging to a regiment of riflemen. Soon after he

entered the service, his command was detailed as rear guard to cover the retreat of the Federal troops from Long Island, and after the final withdrawal were taken prisoners. The retreat was so hasty, and the British so close upon them, that they took to the woods, where they ambushed seven days in total destitution, being without food or comfort of any description, which made their capture inevitable. Lieutenant Riblet was placed in custody on board the man-of-war "Roeback." After his release he married and settled near Hagerstown, Md. His son Solomon, father of Samuel, was born there in August, 1782. John Riblet removed with his family in the year 1800 to Erie, Pa., and, during the second war with England, adopted the grievance of his country, and was the chief officer of the body-guard of Commodore Perry during the construction of the flotilla commanded by that officer on Lake Erie during the struggle of 1812. Solomon, his son, was captain in a regiment of minute-men and served with distinction.

Samuel Riblet was born in Harbor Creek, Erie Co., Pa., Feb. 22, 1811. During his childhood his grandfather instructed him in the rudiments of a German education, and he received like training in English at the common schools. At the age of 17 years he attended the academy at Erie and pursued a course of study during the summers of the next three years, teaching winters to obtain necessary funds. Influenced by his parents' wishes, that he should become a physician, at the age of 20 he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. A. Beebe, of Erie; but he found it uncongenial, and obtained a situation as teacher near Pittsburg, where he was occupied three years. He was married Nov. 19, 1833, to Deborah Woods, and soon afterward emigrated to Michigan and settled in Litchfield, Hillsdale County, where he purchased 160 acres of land, on which he has since resided. Michigan was in her Territorial days, and settlers from the overflowing East were crowding in, pioneer privations and hardships had then a character of uniqueness which made them all the more severe, and the allotment of Mr. and Mrs. Riblet, if recorded in its reality, unshaded by fancy and depicted in all its cost of strain to mind and body, would sound like the exaggerations of fiction. The fall of 1835 is particularly remembered as one of peculiar embarrassment, and only the wise counsel