

and courageous resolution of his wife prevented Mr. Riblet from disposing of his property and abandoning the "West," as Michigan was then called. The five children born to them reached maturity and became heads of families. The venerable pair whose 46 years of wedded life were interrupted in 1879 by the death of the wife and mother, could boast of 22 grandchildren, and at present date the enumeration of great-grandchildren has begun. Mr. Riblet has always been an important factor in the affairs of his township, as well as in those of more extended scope. On the organization of the Northern Central (Michigan) Railroad Company, he was elected a director and served until the road was sold to the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Company. To the influence and exertions of Mr. Riblet, Litchfield is largely indebted for the construction and location of the road. His mother died in Litchfield, Dec. 21, 1879.

Mr. Riblet of this sketch passed the first 17 years of his life on a farm, and in 1851 turned his attention to the details of the builder's trade, which he followed three years. He came to Newaygo in 1856 and was employed by Leonard & Woolley, druggists. Soon afterward he became manager of the mercantile establishment of S. W. Matevey, and three years later (in 1859) became its proprietor by purchase. He has since conducted his business continuously at the same stand. His stock is general, including dry goods, groceries, clothing, hats, caps, crockery, etc.

Mr. Riblet was married in Newaygo, Sept. 10, 1859, to Jennie L., daughter of Pliny E. and Martha (Putnam) Day, a native of Morean, Saratoga Co., N. Y., born Nov. 10, 1837. Mr. and Mrs. Riblet have five children, born as follows: Grace, Oct. 11, 1866; Fred, April 19, 1870; Ruth, Dec. 13, 1872; Mattie, May 30, 1874; Lavinia L., Feb. 2, 1881.

Mr. Riblet has been intimately associated with the progress and development of Newaygo village and county, and has served in most of the official capacities incident to its municipal regulations. He is prominent in temperance work, and was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge at Newaygo, and also of Newaygo Lodge, Order of Good Templars.

Mr. Riblet is heir to the fixedness of principle, industry and frugality and the unrivaled powers of physical endurance of his progenitors. His judgment is always reliable, his foresight unerring and

his integrity unimpeachable. He is valuable to Newaygo, not only in his stainless citizenship, but in his social relations and through his strongly sympathetic character. The needy always find in him a practical friend.

Phraim Misner was born in the State of New York, July 12, 1823, and was the son of Abraham and Sarah (Newton) Misner, natives of New York and Massachusetts. He lived in his native State until the winter of 1866, when he came to Newaygo County and bought 80 acres of partially improved land in Dayton Township. He has since added 40 acres, and now has 45 acres under cultivation.

In July, 1850, he was married to Margaret Duling, a native of New York State. This union has resulted in six children: Raymond E., Margaret J., Sarah M., William H., Edna C. and Myrtie L. Politically, Mr. Misner has generally been identified with the Republican party; but he is now independent in his views.

William S. Utley, a leading pioneer citizen of Newaygo County, resident on section 7, Big Prairie Township, was born in Richmond, Ontario Co., N. Y., Nov. 6, 1827. His father, William Utley, was of English descent and was born April 19, 1797, in Bennington Co., Vt., and his mother, Mahala (Wiley) Utley, of Irish parentage, was born Sept. 22, 1798, in Nashua, N. H. After their marriage they resided in the State of New York.

Mr. Utley was the sixth child of his parents, who came to Michigan and settled in Plymouth, Wayne County, in June, 1828. Ten years later they made another transfer of their interests, namely, to Dewitt, Clinton Co., Mich., where the son was a resident until he was 22 years of age. He had been at liberty since he was 17 years of age, engaged winters in teaching and working summers as a carpenter, fully understanding the value of mechanical skill in a new country, where he designed to settle permanently.

He came to Newaygo County in 1850, and in that