

BEELER
BIOGRAPHY AND GENEALOGY.
COMPILED AND PRINTED
BY MILO CUSTER.
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS,
1918.

BEELER.

SAMUEL BEELER (2), son of SAMUEL BEELER (1), (?) of German descent, was born in Virginia about the year 1757, married MARY GRAVES about the year 1780, came to McLean County, Illinois, about 1830, died Jan. 14, 1840, and is buried in East Twin Grove Cemetery, Dry Grove Township. His will is on file in Box 4, Case 139, Estate Files of McLean County, Ill. According to a traditional account he served as a soldier from Ohio in the War of 1812. His wife born about 1746, died Nov. 3, 1831, and is buried beside him.

A brief record of the service of SAMUEL BEELER (1) as Captain of a Company of Virginia Colonial Militia in 1775, is shown in the "Romney and Winchester Payrolls" preserved in the Virginia State Library. According to his grandson William Beeler Sr. he also served in the American Revolution. (See Duis' "Good Old Times" 1874, Pages 424, 431 and 521.)

The children and grandchildren of SAMUEL (2) and MARY (GRAVES) BEELER, were

ISABELLA (BEELER) ROCKHOLD, born in Ohio, 1788, married FRANCIS ROCKHOLD, son of JOHN ROCKHOLD SR. abt. 18... and died April 14, 1844. (Husband born 1796, died Jan. 22, 1880.) Children; Samuel, John (2), Lorenzo D., Sylvester, Mary Eliza (R.) Hicks, Martha Ann (R.) Woodard.

SAMUEL BEELER (3) born about 1790, Soldier of 1812, married and died at Indianapolis, Indiana. Children; James Harvey, m. Lucinda Hancock Nov. 29, 1860, d. April 8, 1865; Joel, Thomas and Dow. [Others?]

WILLIAM BEELER, SR. born in Fayette Co. Ky. Sept. 26, 1796, married 1st MARY HALL, about 1818, 2nd ELIZABETH SHEELEY, Oct. 14, 1824, and died March 3, 1878. 1st wife died 1824. Children of 1st wife; Cynthiana E. (B.) Hinshaw, William, Jr. and Morgan W. Children of 2nd wife; Harriet (B.) Rockhold and Mary (B.) Stiger.

MARY (BEELER) HENRY, born Oct. 4, 1797, married William Henry May 12, 1818, and died July 26, 1881. Children; William E., Samuel, George W., Mary E. [H.] Brown, Edward, John W., Caroline [H.] Hamilton and Julia [H.] Graham. [See Old Family Records No. 4.]

See Next Page.

BEELER;

(Continued.)

ELIZABETH (BEELER) DOLLAHAN, born about 1800, married MILTON DOLLAHAN, SR. and died near Cedar Rapids, Ia. Children; Emmeline (D.) Wyatt, who married Littleberry M. Wyatt, Nov. 3, 1846, and Milton Dollahan, Jr. who married Nancy Layton, Oct. 4, 1852.

GEORGE BEELER, born in Fayette Co. Ky. Sept. 6, 1802, married DELILAH SHEELEY, (sister of Elizabeth Sheeley Beeler,) Oct. 9, 1823, and died in McLean Co. Ill. Aug. 4, 1855. Wife born May 30, 1797, died June 21 1860. Children who lived to maturity; Mary Ann (B.) Winn, Benjamin S., Harriet E. (B.) Fowler, and Beverly.

AMELIA (BEELER) KELLY, born about 1805, married PATRICK KELLY, in McLean County, Ill. Sept. 22, 1833, and died at Cedar Rapids, Ia. Children; Margaret (K.) Bozarth, Mary E. (K.) Phillips, who m. David Phillips, Sept. 17, 1863; Emmeline (K.) Brown, who m. John S. Brown, April 23, 1864, and Anna C. (K.) Thatcher, who m. Wm. H. Thatcher, Feb. 12, 1868.

NANCY (BEELER) HILL, born April 4, 1809, married JESSE HILL, son of James and Polly (Cope) Hill, Aug. 17, 1831, and died Oct. .. 1838. (Husband born Nov. 24, 1809, died Sept. 9, 1894.) Children; John Wesley, born May 26, 1832; Polly, born Dec. 30, 1833; Jane (H.) Morgan, born Nov. 27, 1835, and Martha (H.) Sackett, born Dec. 1, 1837.

LAVINA (BEELER) RYNEARSON, born about 1810, married ISAAC H. RYNEARSON, and died near Cedar Rapids, Ia. Son, Henry T. Rynearson, who married Phoebe H. A. Walker, Feb. 12, 1867. [Amanda E. Rynearson married Benjamin Wyatt, in McLean Co. Ill. Sept. 22, 1853.]

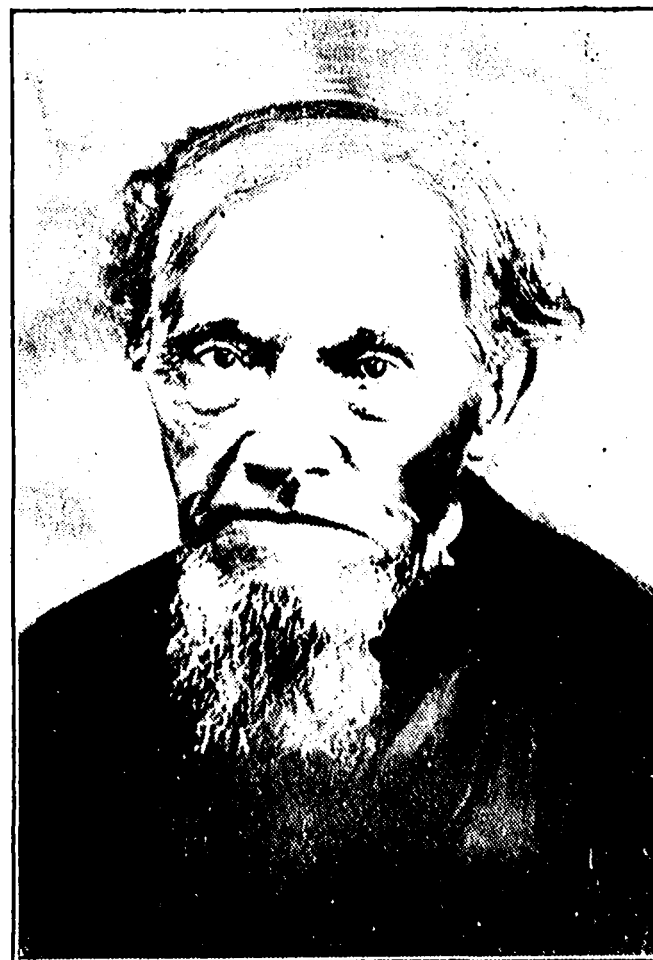
The muster rolls of soldiers who fought in the battle of Tippecanoe, Nov. 7, 1811, show the name of a Thomas Beeler, Private in Capt. Frederick Geiger's Company, Kentucky Mounted Riflemen.

Joel C. Beeler, son of James H. and Lucinda (Hancock) Beeler, who was born Oct. 8, 1861, and died in childhood, may have been named for Joel Collins, husband of Elizabeth (Beeler) Collins.



Mary (Beeler) Henry.

1797-1881.



William Beeler, Sr.

1796-1878.

TWO CHILDREN OF COL. SAMUEL BEELER.

BEELER;

WILLIAM BEELER, SR. son of Samuel (2) and Mary (Graves) Beeler, was born in Fayette Co. Ky. Sept. 26. 1796, married first, MARY HALL, about 1818, secondly, ELIZABETH SHEELEY, Oct. 14, 1824, and died in McLean Co. Ill. Mar. 3, 1878. (First wife born died 1824, second wife born Oct. 30, 1795, died Jan. 21, 1876. See Duis' "Good Old Times" 1874, P. 424. His children and grandchildren were as follows; By first wife;

[1] CYNTHIA ANN ELIZABETH (B.) HINSHAW, born June 22, 1820, married JEHU HINSHAW, son of George, Sr. and Susannah [Johnson] Hinshaw, Oct. 31, 1839, and died June 9, 1857. Children; Adolphus, William, Levi, Alonzo, Ellen (H.) Berry, and Cornelia (H.) McClure. See Hinshaw Genealogy. .

[2] WILLAM BEELER, JR. born Feb. 8, 1822, married first, CATHARINE LAYTON, June 25, 1844, secondly, REBECCA A. PRATT, Jan. 31, 1864, thirdly, MARY A. H. O'NEAL, Jan. 11, 1868, and died Dec. 27, 1912. Children by first wife who lived to maturity, Harriet (B.) Westmoreland, Sarah J. (B.) Fry, Mary E. (B.) Banner, John D., Alfaretta (B.) Fry, David E., and Martha B. (B.) Webb, by second wife, Cora (B.) Phillips, by third wife, Elzada (B.) McCue, Silas C., and Walter Clyde. First wife born July 21, 1827, died April 8, 1862. Third wife born April 3, 1835. See Duis "Good Old Times" 1874, P. 427.

[3] MORGAN WASHINGTON BEELER, born March 31, 1824, married FIDELIA ANN (PARKER) MCCLURE, daughter of Dr. Wanton H. and Rosannah (Lemmon) Parker, Aug. 27, 1848, and died Oct. 25, 1860. Children; Polly Rosannah (B.) Farlin, Harriet E. (B.) Gordon, Celia J. (B.) Lee, Oliver J., Mary J. (B.) Darby-Brock, and Sarah Ellen (B.) Farlin. Wife born April 4, 1828, died July 25, 1890.

By second wife;

[4] MARY [BEELER] STIGER, born Nov. 25, 1825, married WILLIAM STIGER, Dec. 28, 1843, and died Sept. 6, 1904. Children; John, Miles, James, Isaac, Harriet [S.] Beeler, Peter, and Clara [S.] Weinheimer. Husband born July 9, 1822, died May 16, 1899.

[5] MILES BEELER, born Dec. 27, 1826, died Aug. 20, 1841.

[6] HARRIET [BEELER] ROCKHOLD, born May 20, 1828, married LORENZO D. ROCKHOLD, son of Francis and Isabella [Beeler] Rockhold, Nov. 9, 1862, and died Sept. 6, 1912. Children; William H. and Belle.

BEELER;

WILLIAM BEELER, JR. son of William, Sr. and Mary (Hall) Beeler, was born in Fayette Co. Ky. Feb. 8, 1822, married 1st, **CATHARINE LAYTON**, June 25, 1844, 2nd, **REBECCA A. PRATT**, Jan. 11, 1864, 3rd, **MARY A. H. O'NEAL**, daughter of Cary and Louisa (Boyd) O'Neal, Jan. 11, 1868, and died in McLean Co. Ill. Dec. 27, 1912. First wife born Nov. 30, 1827, died April 8, 1862. Third wife born April 3, 1835. (See Duis "Good Old Times," 1874, Page 427.) His children who lived to maturity, and his grandchildren were as follows;

By first wife;

[2] **HARRIET [B.] WESTMORELAND**, born Dec. 21, 1846, married **JAMES WESTMORELAND**, Nov. 1, 1866. Children; William, and Cora [W.] Teagar.

[3] **SARAH J. [B.] FRY**, born Dec. 22, 1847, married **J. L. FRY**, Dec. 28, 1865, and died (No children.)

[4] **MARY ELLEN [B.] BANNER**, born Feb. 1, 1849, married **JOSHUA BANNER**, Sept. 10, 1871, and died Children; Rosa [B.] Simmons, Frank, Charles, Daniel, Edna [B.] Brining, Bert and Mirt.

[5] **JOHN D. BEELER**, born Sept. 6, 1850, married **JOSEPHINE TAME**, Mar. 14, 1872. Children; Dora [B.] Haines, Ira, Elmer, Claud, Maud [B.] Patton, Myrtle, and Earl.

[6] **ALFARETTA [B.] FRY**, born Nov. 9, 1853, married **EVANDER FRY**, Dec. 26, 1872. Children; Nellie [F.] Gill, Emory, and Ethel.

[7] **DANIEL E. BEELER**, born April 5, 1855, married **HARRIET J. STIGER**, daughter of William and Mary (Beeler) Stiger, Dec. 24, 1879. Children; Pearl [B.] Hennisy, Mabel [B.] Milligan, Ella [B.] Upton, Cecil, Parke, Liston, and Mamie.

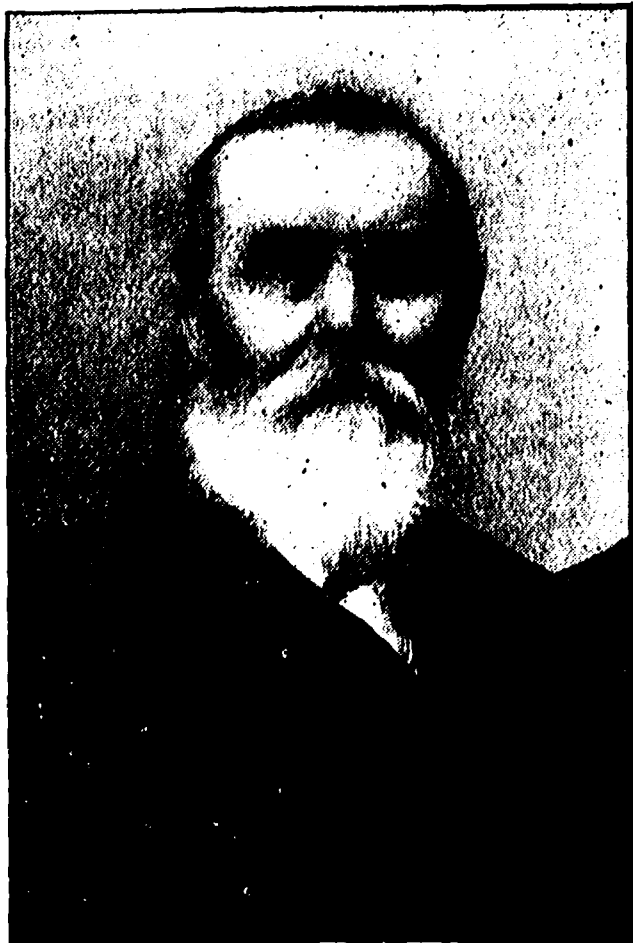
[8] **STEPHEN A. BEELER**, born Feb. 6, 1857, died unmarried Nov. 25, 1876.

[9] **JULIET BEELER**, born Nov. 7, 1858, died unmarried Jan. 3, 1872.

[10] **MARTHA B. [B.] WEBB**, born Nov. 19, 1860, married **STEPHEN C. WEBB**, son of William Webb, Jr. and Mary (Cooper) Webb-Custer, Aug. 31, 1882. Children; Zettie [W.] Brown, Belva [W.] Tucker, and Roy.

By second wife;

[11] **CORA [B.] PHILLIPS**, born Jan. 1, 1865, married **DAVID W. PHILLIPS**, Jan. 2, 1883. Children; Deane, George, and Nellie [P.] Minkey.
(See Next Page.)



WILLIAM BEELER, Jr.
1822-1912.



Mary A. H. O'Neal Beeler.
1835 ———

BEELER

By third wife; (Children who lived to maturity, etc.)

[13] ELZADA (BEELER) McCUE, born April 30, 1871, married OSCAR McCUE, son of Neal [1] and Jane (Elliott) McCue, Feb. 25, 1892. Children; Hazel, Neal, [2] Charlie, Irene and Edna.

[14] SILAS C. BEELER, born Jan. 12, 1873, married first JENNIE DUNLAP, Feb. 16, 1898, second, BESSIE GULICK, Oct. 6, 1910. Children by first wife, Wendell, Guy and Ralph. Child of second wife, Vivian Frances. First wife died July 25, 1907.

[16] WALTER CLYDE BEELER, born Mar. 23, 1876, died Dec. 2, 1890.

GEORGE BEELER, son of Samuel [2] and Mary (Graves) Beeler, was born in Fayette County, Kentucky, Sept. 6, 1802, married DELILAH SHEELEY, Oct. 9, 1823, and died in McLean County, Illinois, Aug. 4, 1855. His wife was born May 30, 1797, and died June 21, 1860. Their children who lived to maturity and their grandchildren were as follows;

[1] MARY ANN (BEELER) WINN, born Sept. 9, 1824, married EDWARD WINN, Jan. 1, 1846. Son, Edwin, and other children, names unknown to the writer.

[2] BENJAMIN S. BEELER, born Oct. 18, 1825, married SARILDA ROBINSON, Feb. 25, 1849, and died June 23, 1881. Children who lived to maturity; Benjamin F., Mary D. (B.) Gordon, George L., Huldah Ellen (B.) Eicher, Alpharetta (B.) Gordon, Owen, Warren, and Rosa L. (B.) Camper. (See Duis' "Good Old Times" 1874, Page 521.)

[3] HARRIET E. (BEELER) FOWLER, born June 6, 1827, married secondly, SAMUEL A. FOWLER, Dec. 23, 1855, and died Mar. 16, 1891. Children; Frances (F.) Malone, Martha (F.) Beeler, Harriet, Anna (F.) Malone, Walter, and Scott.

[7] BEVERLY BEELER, born July 18, 1835, married PERMELIA BRASFIELD, and died at Anna, Ill. Aug. 21, 1911. (Wife born died Feb. 23, 1911.) Children; George L., Lucy A. (B.) Rogers, John S., Iona Bell (B.) Liebman and Winona Dell (B.) Green. (Twins).

BEELER

BENJAMIN S. BEELER, son of George and Delilah [Sheeley) Beeler, was born in Butler County, Ohio, Oct. 18, 1825, married SARILDA ROBINSON, daughter of Ormond and Mary Ann [Brown] Robinson, Feb. 25, 1849, and died in McLean County, Illinois, June 3, 1881. His wife was born May 23, 1827, and died April 17, 1912. Their children and grandchildren who lived to maturity were as follows ;

[2] BENJAMIN F. BEELER, born Mar. 14, 1851, married HENRIETTA HENRY, daughter of William, Jr. and Mary (Snell) Henry, Jan. 31, 1878, and died Dec. 10, 1899. Daughter, Gertrude [B.] Chism.

[3] MARY D. [B.] GORDON, born July 15, 1852, married WILLIAM E. GORDON, son of Christopher C. and Phoebe [Layton] Gordon, Mar. 4, 1880. Daughter, Grace M. [G.] Ross.

[4] GEORGE L. BEELER, born May 25, 1854, died unmarried Feb. 21, 1875.

[5] HULDAH ELLEN [B.] EICHER, born June 25, 1856, married WILLIAM P. EICHER, son of Nicholas and Catharine [Waltz] Eicher, May 7, 1876. Children; Parke I., Elsie M. [E.] Kennedy, Melvin P., and Lawrence E.

[6] ALPHARETTA B. GORDON, born April 25, 1859, married ELIJAH J. GORDON, son of Christopher C. and Phoebe Layton Gordon, Dec. 26, 1880. Children; Elmo, Earle, and Estill.

[7] OWEN BEELER, born April 10, 1863, married MARTHA FOWLER, daughter of Samuel A. and Harriet E. [Beeler] Fowler, Aug. 15, 1881. Children; Guy H., Pearl [B.] Arndt, and Florence.

[8] WARREN BEELER, born Nov. 28, 1865, married MARY SCHARON, daughter of Loius and Anna M. [Haas] Scharon, Dec. 12, 1888, and died May 22, 1912. Children; Ralph W., Benjamin L., and Mabel R.

[9] ROSA L. [BEELER] CAMPER, born Dec. 29, 1869, married JOHN CAMPER, Dec. 14, 1892. Children; Harold, Lyle, and Ammon.

TWO EARLY PIONEERS.



Sarilda Robinson Beeler.



Benjamin S. Beeler.

THE WILL OF "COL." SAMUEL BEELER.

Copied from the Original on file in the County Clerk's Office,
Bloomington, Illinois.

"I Samuel Beeler of the county of McLean and State of Illinois do make and publish this my last will and Testament hereby Revoking and making void all former wills by me at any time heretofore made, and firstly I direct that my funeral be conducted in a manner corresponding with my Estate in life, and as to such worldly Estate as it hath pleased god to entrust me with I dispose of as follows; I direct that all my debts and funeral Expenses be paid as soon after my decease as possible out of the first moneys that shall come into the hands of my Executors from any portion of my Estate real or personal, also I direct that a fair valuation or appraisement be made according to law of all of my Estate, also I direct that all my stock in trade be sold by public auction for good current money on a credit of twelve months, and that all the real Estate of which I shall die possessed shall be sold by my Executors for its reasonable value for the current money or on such credit and the amount thereof secured in such manner as is usual in like cases to insure the full and punctual payment thereof and to effectuate this my intention I do hereby vest in my Executors full power and authority to dispose of my real Estate in fee simple or for a term of years or otherwise in as full and large a manner as I could myself do if living, also I direct that the net produce of my personal Estate heretofore ordered by me to be disposed of, be divided Equally as soon as it can be done, share and share alike amongst my nine Children, to-wit; Samuel, William, Mary, Elizabeth, George, Amelia, Nancy, Emmeline & Milton, and I also will and bequeath one dollar to Isabella Rockhold, and I also will and bequeath one dollar to Lavina Rynearson, and that the produce of the real Estate if sold on credit shall be divided in like manner as soon as it shall come into the hands of my Executors; the heirs or representatives of any of my Children who shall have died between the time of my decease and the time of such division or distribution, to be Entitled to such share or shares as their respective ancestors would have been Entitled to receive if then living."

See Next Page.

THE WILL OF "COL." SAMUEL BEELER.

(Continued.)

"I also will and bequeath to my daughter Amelia and the heirs of her body forever, a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the county of McLean and State of Illinois, known and described as follows, to-wit; the North west quarter of the South East quarter of Section numbered three in Township numbered twenty-three North of Range numbered one East, containing Forty acres, and I do hereby make and ordain William Beeler and William Henry my Executors and administrators of this my last will and testament. in witness whereof I, Samuel Beeler the testator, have to this my will written on one sheet of paper, set my hand and seal this 3rd day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty."

Saml. Beeler. (Seal).

"Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of us who have subscribed in the presence of each other"

John Enlow.

his

John X Layton.

mark

Abraham Enlow.

State of Illinois, }
McLean County, } ss.

AFFIDAVIT.

Before me the undersigned probate justice of the peace in and for said county this day came personally William Beeler and William Henry, and present here the last will and testament of Samuel Beeler, deceased, and being sworn on their oath do say that said Samuel Beeler did on the fourteenth day of January, instant, depart this life, whereupon they pray letters testamentary on said will be to them granted – as executors therein named.

Sworn and Subscribed

before me this 18th day

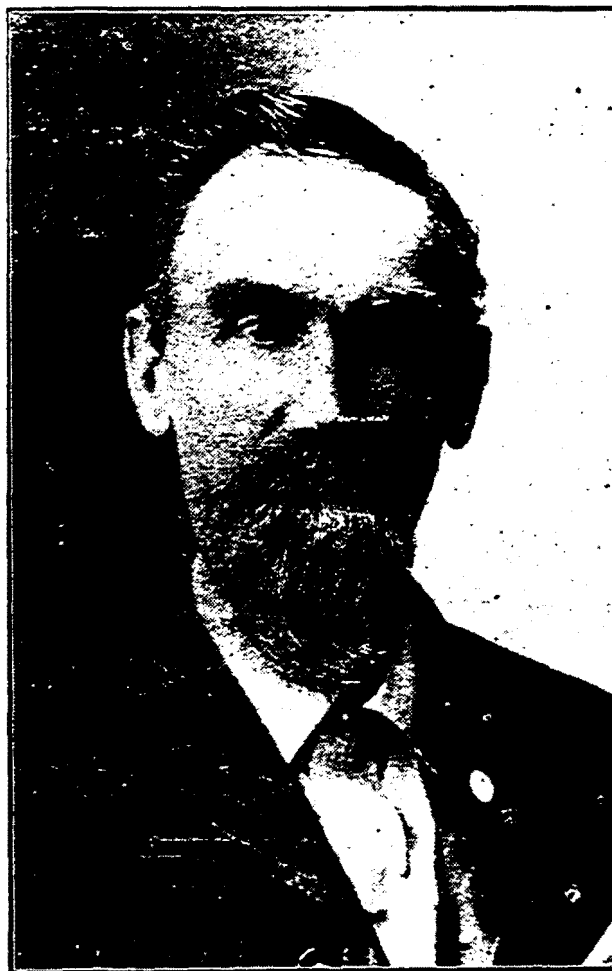
of January, 1840.

Wells Colton,
prob. justice.

William Beeler.

his

William X Henry.
mark



WILLIAM HINSHAW,
Son of Jehu and Cynthia (Beeler) Hinshaw.



CYNTHIA ANN (BEELER) HINSHAW.

JEHU HINSHAW.

The Estate of "Col." Samuel Beeler.

The miscellaneous papers on file along with the will of Col. Samuel Beeler afford some interesting information. These documents consist of the appraisement bill, the sale bill of personal property, various accounts and receipts, etc.

The appraisement bill dated Jan. 25, 1840, shows among other items the following and the amounts at which they were valued. One dark bay horse appraised at \$40. One dun colored horse, \$60. One red muley cow, \$13. One brindle cow and calf, \$18. One white cow and calf, \$15. One white steer, \$7.50. One spotted heifer, \$4.50. One white heifer, \$4. One sow and five pigs, \$4.50. Eighteen head of young hogs at two dollars per head, \$36. One Dearborn wagon, \$55. Fourteen harrow teeth, \$7.87½. One Cary plow, \$5.50.* 157 bushels of corn at twenty cents per bushel, \$31.40. One stack of winter wheat, \$8. Two stacks of spring wheat, \$8. Twelve bushels of potatoes at 25 cents per bushel, \$3. One mantle clock, \$15. One table, \$2. Two beds, bedsteads and bedding, \$30. One trunk, \$1. One small spinning wheel, \$3. One saddle, bridle and martingales, \$15. Four chairs, 50 cents. One pair of spoon moulds, 50 cents. One bar iron and four trammels, \$5. Two pairs of scissors, 12½ cents. One shot gun and powder flask, \$6. 1200 pounds of pork at \$5 per 100 pounds, \$60. 30 pounds of lard at five cents per pound, \$1.50. One scythe and cradle and one mowing scythe, \$4.50. Four dozen chickens at fifty cents per dozen, \$2. Four turkeys at 37½ cents apiece, \$1.50, etc.

The appraisers were Timothy M. Gates, John M. Layton and John McGinley.

The sale of this personal property was held Feb. 13, 1840, and the sale bill bearing that date shows among others the following names of purchasers and the amounts they paid for various articles, viz. George Beeler, one frow, 87½ cents, one hay fork, (i. e. pitch fork.) \$1. one mowing scythe, \$1.93. seven harrow teeth, \$4.37½. one chisel, 25 cents. one ax, 37½ cents, one razor hone, 25 cents, 63 pounds of lard, \$5.18¾, and one lantern, 18¾ cents.

* This was a wooden mouldboard turning plow. M. C.

(See Next Page.)

The Estate of Col. Samuel Beeler.

(Continued.)

William Beeler, One pot trammel, 50 cents, One scythe and cradle, \$2.38½, Seven harrow teeth, \$4, One sickle, 28 c. One pocket knife, 25 cents, One hoe, 18¾ cents, 11½ bushels of potatoes at 16 cents per bushel, \$1.84, and 246 pounds of pork at six cents per pound, \$14.76. William Henry, One pair of hames, 75 cents, One clevis, 37½ cents, One hatchet, 37½ cents, One sugar kettle, \$3.18¾, One large pot, \$3, One frying pan, 50 cents, One spinning wheel, \$3, and one looking glass, 56¼ cents. John Stout, One pair of steelyards, 25 cents. and one mattock, 50 cents. Jehu Hinshaw, One bar iron, \$1.50. Jesse Hill, Two trammels, 43¾ cents, One skillet, 75 cents, One wagon, \$52.50, One clock, \$10.62½, and one coffee pot, 56 cents. John Perry, One ax, \$1.68¾, and one pair of (wool) cards, 37½ cents. Amelia Kelly, One churn, 50 cents, One small pot, \$1.31¾, One keg of vinegar, \$1, Four chairs, \$1.25, Six plates, 50 cents, One pair of candle moulds, 25 cents, One table, \$2, Two bushels of potatoes, 40 cents, and one pair of scissors, 12½ cents. Milton Dollahan, One saddle, \$4, and one dun horse, \$5. (?) Zera Munsell, One gun and (powder) flask, \$8.37½. I. S. Hall, Four turkeys, \$2.12½. Alvin Barnett, One bay horse, \$40, and fifty bushels of corn at twenty cents per bushel, \$10. Emmeline Dollahan, One bed and bedding, \$10, and one coverlet, \$4.12½. Stewart Ward, One coverlet, \$4.56. Thomas Fell, Auctioneer, John McGinley, Clerk.

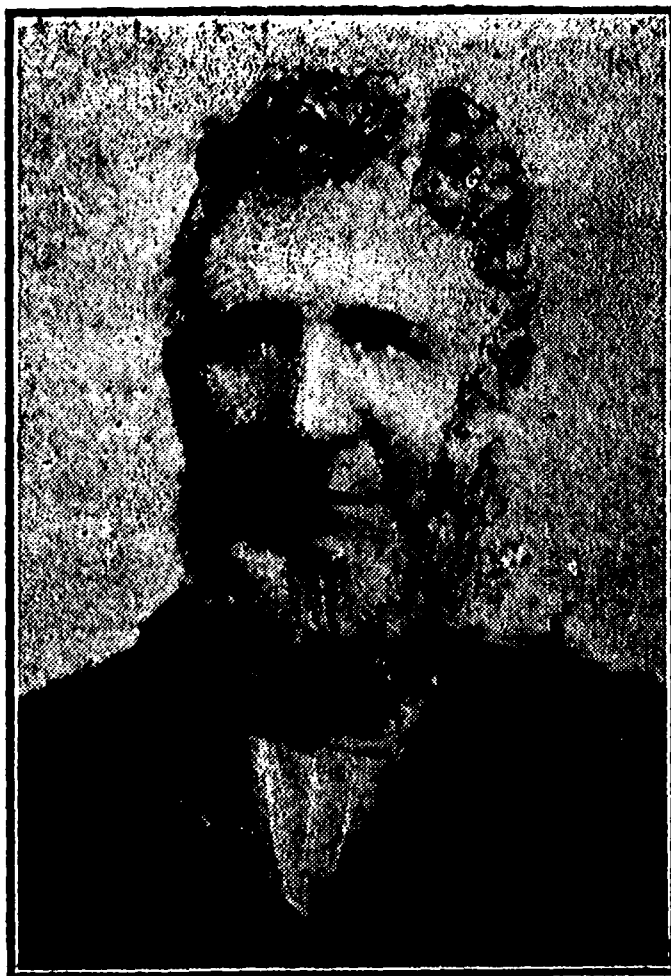
Among the accounts appears one of Ortogrul Covell, dated at Bloomington, Ill. Oct. 31, 1841, showing among other items charged, the following; Under date of Feb. 7, 1839, among other articles, two pounds of tobacco, 50 cents, one curry comb, 38 cents, and one three-quarter inch augur, 56 c. Under date of Feb. 21, 1839, two pairs of shoes, \$4, one gimlet, twelve cents, and seven yards of calico, \$2.19: Under date of March 12, 1839, five pounds of coffee, \$1, one pound of saleratus, 25 cents, one gallon jug, 62 cents, and one spool of thread, twelve cents. Under date of April 12, 1839, one pound of nails, twelve cents, and five pounds of coffee, \$1. The last item under date of May 30, 1839, was one pound of tobacco, 25 cents.

Credits of ten dozen eggs, \$1.25, and eleven pounds of butter, \$2.20, are also shown under date of Feb. 9, 1839.



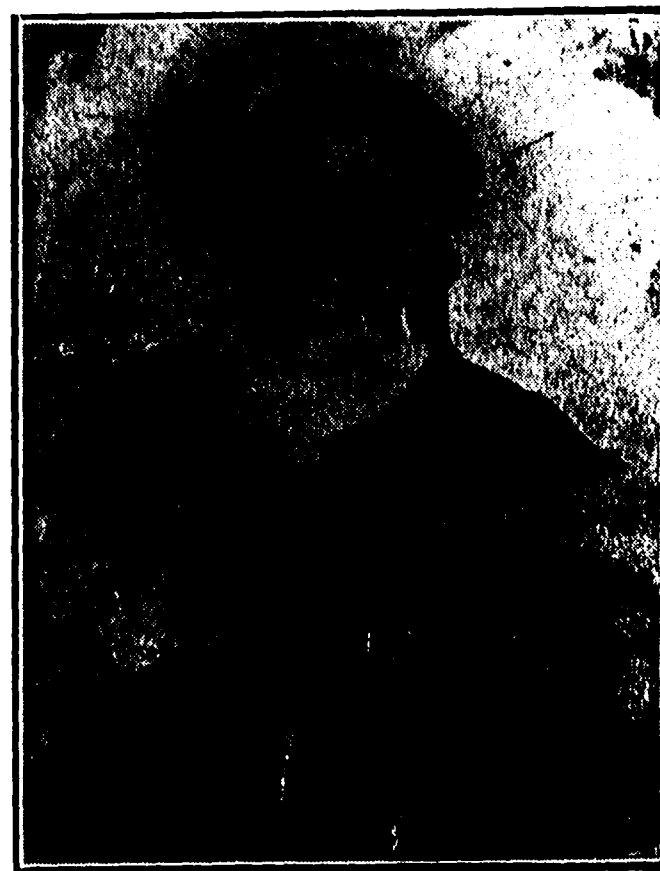
Mary (Beeler) Stiger.

1825-1904.



William Stiger.

1822-1899.



Harriet (Beeler) Rockhold.

1828-1912.

The Estate of Col. Samuel Beeler.

(Continued.)

An account of George Beeler for \$1.25 for two days work gathering corn at 62½ cents per day, and \$2.12½ for three bushels of wheat, is also shown.

Another account dated May 5, 1837, is that of A. N. Deming for fifteen gallons of whiskey at 62½ cents per gallon.

Still another account is that of Zera Munsell for \$2.25 for one quarters tuition of Milton Dollahan.

The account of Doctor George Espey of \$10.25 for three visits and medicine furnished in January, 1840, also appears, and perhaps the receipt of Jehu Hinshaw and William Henry, Jr. dated Feb. 25, 1840, for \$6.50 for making one coffin may appropriately follow as evidence of the good doctors effective service. (?)

Receipts on file show that Thomas Fell was paid five dollars for his services as auctioneer, that John McGinley was paid five dollars for clerking the sale, and that Oliver Pease received one dollar as auctioneer of the real estate.

Among other receipts shown are those of Abner Dodd, attorney, for three dollars, "counsell fee", one of William H. Hodge for \$4.48, taxes for the year 1840 on real estate described as seventy acres, being a part of the Northeast Quarter of Section Three, in Township Twenty-three North, Range One East of the Third Principal Meridian.

Last of all appears a receipt dated April 12, 1845, from George Beeler for three dollars for making a paling fence for his father's grave.

ORIGIN AND MEANING OF THE FAMILY NAME.

The family name Beeler is of German origin. Heintze classes it in the form of "Biehler" among many others derived from the Middle High German word Bili, meaning a "Steinhacke" or "Streitax" i. e. a stone hatchet. (Die Deutschen Familienamen, Page 115.)

Extracts From the Account Book of Benjamin S. Beeler.

"This book contains a correct account of the transactions of business betwixt myself and those with whom I have to deal." * * * * *

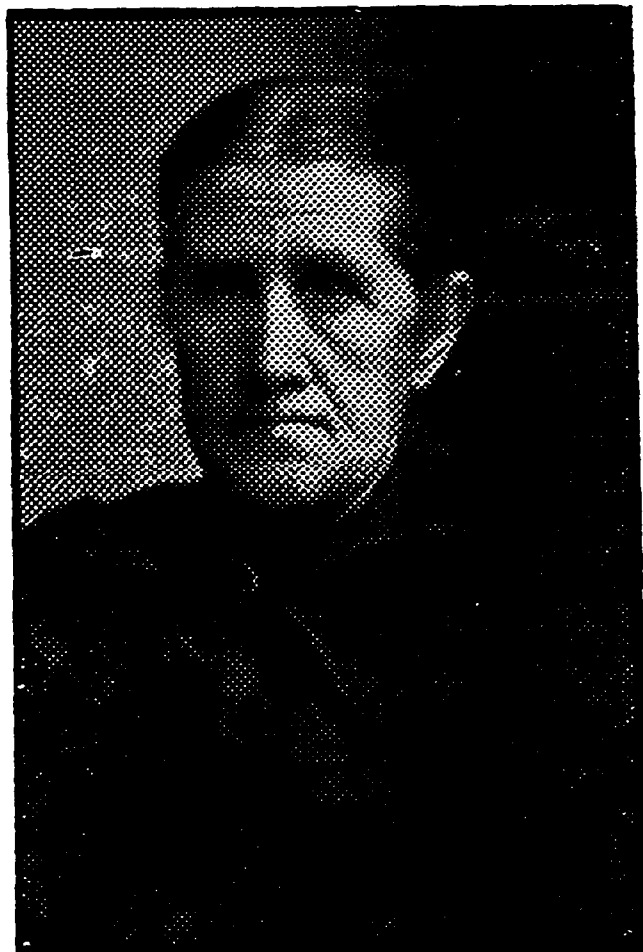
Feb. 8th 1854.

Benjamin S. Beeler.

McLean Co. Ills. Twin Grove.

Page 1.

1850. Feb. 12, D. S. Lewis, Cr. To hauling posts and plank for fencing, \$1.25.
1851. Aug. 21, D. S. Lewis, Dr. To making one harrow, \$1.00.
1851. Sep. 6, D. S. Lewis, To use of horse 3 days harrowing wheat ground, 60c.
1851. Dec. 14, D. S. Lewis, Cr. To work one day chopping wood, 50c.
1853. May 27, D. S. Lewis, Dr. To planting corn 1 day, 62½c.
1853. June 9, D. S. Lewis, Dr. To potatoes, 1½ bushels at 40 cts. per bushel, 60c.
1853. Aug. 15, D. S. Lewis, Dr. To hand and team one day thrashing wheat, \$1.25.
1853. May 1, D. S. Lewis, Cr. To breaking 40 acres of prairie at 2 dollars per acre and wait till Christmas without interest, \$80.00.
1853. Dec. 15, D. S. Lewis, Dr. To cash paid on the breaking, \$55.00.
1853. Oct. 28, Abraham Harrison, Dr. To 2½ bushels of wheat, \$1 87½.
1853. Oct. 28, Isaac Veatch, Dr. To 10 bushels of wheat, \$7.50.
1853. Nov. 1, Mary Ann Robison, Dr. One cow, \$24.75.
1853. Nov. 1, Mary Ann Robison, Cr. To 19 lbs. of wool, \$4.75.
1853. Nov. 9, John Stout, Dr. To pork, 141 lbs. gross, \$3.82.
1854. Mar. 25, Hamilton Robison commencing to work for me, to work 2 months at \$11 per month.
1854. May 8, William E. Henry, Dr. To one bushel of potatoes, 25c.
1854. May 9, William E. Henry, Dr. To the use of horse one ½ day furrowing out corn ground, 12½c.
1854. May 9, D. S. Lewis, Dr. To one day dropping corn, 75c.
1854. Oct. 10, Samuel H. Brown, Dr. To Cash, \$20.00 in gold due from date at ten per cent interest, \$20.00.
1854. Oct. 28, Hamilton Robinson, Cr. To one day gathering corn, 75c.
1855. Nov. 30, Beverly Beeler, Dr. To 21 bushels of corn, \$5.25.
1856. July 30, D. S. Lewis, Dr. To hand and team one day harvesting spring wheat, \$2.50.
1857. Dec. 23, William Stiger, Dr. To 416 lbs. of pork at \$4. per hundred lbs. \$16.64.
1858. Jan. 9, Thomas Ready, Cr. To chopping 13 cords of wood at 65 cts. per cord, \$8.45.
1859. Mar. 2, Cairy Kent, Dr. To 8 cords of wood, \$22.00.
1859. Apr. 15, William Beeler, Sr. Cr. To wheat, 10 bushels at \$1 00 per bushel, \$10.00.
1860. Feb. 4, Isaac Stewart, Cr. To 1 day gathering corn, 60c.



Mary Eliza Rockhold Hicks,
Daughter of Francis and Isabella Beeler Rockhold.
1837-1917.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The original manuscript of the will of Col. Samuel Beeler shows no punctuation, all such marks appearing in the foregoing copy were supplied by the copyist.

'Emmeline & Milton' mentioned in this will were really not children of the testator, but were his grandchildren, Emmeline (Dollahan) Wyatt and Milton Dollahan, children of the testator's daughter, Elizabeth (Beeler) Dollahan.

The year date of birth of Isabella (Beeler) Rockhold, 1788, as previously printed herein, was given by her son, Lorenzo D. Rockhold. The inscription on her gravestone however, reads "Isabella, wife of Francis Rockhold, died April 10, 1844, aged 41 years." Thus born 1793.

Ellen M. (Beeler) Banner died Feb. 19, 1911.

[LETTER OF PROF. WILLIAM H. BEELER.]

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

GEORGE L. REINHARD, Professor and Dean.

ENOCH G. HOGATE. Professor.

CHARLES M. HEPBURN, Professor.

WILLIAM H. BEELER. Instructor.

Bloomington, Ind. Oct. 6, 1905.

Mr. William Beeler,

Bloomington, Ill.

"Dear Sir - Your communication * * * received today, and who knows but it may result in clearing up a difficulty that has puzzled our family for many years, and that is what became of Samuel Beeler who was a brother to my Grandfather George Washington Beeler, both of whom were born and raised near Lexington, Kentucky. My father's people lost trace of his uncle Samuel years ago and have never been able to learn anything about him. Our people most likely originally came from Holland or Germany and settled in Maryland, near Cumberland, before the Revolution. Some of them removed to Kentucky, probably before it was a State. - in fact I know it was before, as my Grandfather, George Washington Beeler, was born there in 1790, but what his father's given name was I do not know. Grandfather had an older brother named Samuel, of whom I spoke before, and another named William, who died when a child from the bite of a rattlesnake." (See Next Page.)

LETTER OF PROF. WILLIAM H. BEELER.

(Continued.)

"If he had any others I do not recall their names. I remember the name of one of his sisters, Betsey, who married Joel Collins, and removed with him from Lexington to Oxford, or College Corner, Ohio. My grandfather located in Washington Township, Wayne County, Indiana, about 1813 or '14, married Rosannah Dollihan, an Irish girl, and lived on the same farm on which he located, until his death in 1869 or '70. Ten or eleven children were born to him. Benjamin and Joel, his eldest, both dying while children. However, eight grew to manhood and womanhood, and were named as follows; George, John, Samuel and Christopher, twins, Cynthia Ann, Cordelia, Emily and William Henry, my father. All of these children are now dead unless Emily is living yet. She married Jacob Waymire and lived in Kansas 40 years or more.

My uncles George and John married and lived and died in or near Elwood, Indiana. One of these I don't know which, had two boys named Oswald and Willard, both of whom, I think are still living. The other had boys born to him but I think they died while young. My uncle Samuel married probably twice, his last wife being a Burchfield, but he did not raise any children. Uncle Christopher married and spent most of his life in Nebraska and Kansas. Children were born to him but I do not know their names. My father married an Anderson, a Virginian, and seven children were born to them, George, the oldest, Dora, James, Robert, Cordelia, Ida, and William Henry, myself.

A peculiarity you will perhaps notice * * is the continuation of old fashioned names, especially those of the men. I occasionally meet people having the same name as myself and in trying to determine if related, have never failed to find several names common to both parties. I have given the genealogy of our family on my father's side as far and complete as we have been able to trace it. Compare it with that of your own and write me again. I had a neighbor in Anderson, Indiana, my old home, named John Beeler. He came there from Rockport, Indiana. His relatives bore the same given names as mine but we were unable to find the connecting link. He had an uncle Samuel and so had I, a brother James as I have, and so on. While in Joplin, Missouri, in the summer of 1904, I ran across a William, a James and a George Beeler, but could not trace our kinship. If I did not know that my father had been dead for four years, I would be willing to make oath that he had written the letter you sent me. Your signature, especially your capitals are exact reproductions of his. An expert could not distinguish them. I do not know your age of course, but I judge from the way in which you form the letter r that you attended school more than 40 years ago, probably 60. Am I wrong? Yours Truly. William H. Beeler."



G. W. HENRY,
SON OF WILLIAM AND MARY (BEELER) HENRY.

(See Old Family Records, No. 4.)

BIOGRAPHY.

WILLIAM BEELER, Sr.

"William Beeler, Sr. was born Sept. 26, 1796, in Fayette Co. Kentucky. His father's name was Samuel Beeler and his mother's name before her marriage was Mary Graves. His father was descended from the Dutch of Virginia, but his mother probably came from English stock. The father of Samuel Beeler, who was the grandfather of William Beeler, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and saw some very hard service and severe campaigning. He sometimes laid on brush heaps at night to keep out of the water. Samuel Beeler moved to Kentucky at an early day, where he was often engaged in contests with the Indians. He was a great hunter, and very skillful in the use of the rifle. At one time, while the settlers were troubled by the Indians, Mr. Beeler went with three other men out hunting for buffalo and deer, which were both very plenty. Mr. Beeler killed a buffalo and afterwards a deer. Two other deer ran off but came back unaccountably in fright and were both killed by the hunter. but as Mr. Beeler was skinning one of the deer he learned what had frightened them back, for he heard a cracking in the brush and looking up saw a man coming, and a second glance showed him to be an Indian. Mr. Beeler sprang instantly for his gun and ran, and was pursued by six Indians who fired at him. He stubbed his toe and fell, and they set up a whoop, but he sprang to his feet and ran forward and as he was remarkably fleet he distanced them all except one which he turned upon and shot. He then had some difficulty in finding his camp, but at last he arrived and found only one of his companions. The camp was moved into a sink hole. The next morning the remainder of the party came in, and all returned home. The Indians killed several families, stole some horses and tried to get away with the plunder, but were pursued and killed and the horses recaptured."

"When William Beeler was ten years of age he went with his father's family to Butler County, Ohio, and there they lived while the war of 1812 was fought." * * *

"When William Beeler became of age he went to Kentucky, and there married Mary Hall. He lived there a few years until the death of his wife, and then moved back to Ohio, where he lived until he came to Illinois." * * *

BIOGRAPHIES.

(Continued.)

WILLIAM BEELER, Sr. (Cont.)

"He came to Illinois, to what is now McLean County, in the fall of 1830, and settled in the southern edge of Twin Grove, where he has remained ever since.

Mr. Beeler suffered a great deal during the winter of the deep snow. [1830-'31.] When the first heavy fall of snow came, he found his pigs all huddled together to keep warm, but the snow had melted down around them, and Mr. Beeler found them wet and shivering. He made a lot of shavings from a linn rail, and cut hazel brush, and in this his pigs made a bed and kept warm." * * * * *

WILLIAM BEELER, Jr.

"William Beeler, Jr. was born Feb. 8, 1822, in Fayette County, Kentucky. When he was only a year old, his mother whose maiden name was Mary Hall, died, and his father moved to Ohio, * * * married Elizabeth Sheeley, and in the fall of 1830 the family came to Twin Grove, where they arrived Oct. 14. During the winter of the deep snow, Mr. Beeler, Sr. fed three yoke of cattle which he brought with him from Ohio, on the boughs [twigs] of trees. The cattle became so accustomed to this fare that they would run after the sound of an ax in the timber while Mr. Beeler was cutting a tree for them as eagerly as ever they hastened after a feed of corn. * * * * *

The settlers exercised their ingenuity in making clothing. The best clothing was made of buckskin, and a good pair of pants of this material lasted three years. The buckskin was tanned by soaking it in weak lye or lime-water and scraping it with a knife or sharp-cornered implement. This took off the hair and the grain. The grain is a kind of coating next to the hair, and must be worked off or the skin can never be made soft. After being scraped, the skin is soaked in the brain of a deer and washed in soapsuds, and may be colored with smoke. * * * * * (Duis' "Good Old Times", 1874, Page 427.)

BENJAMIN S. BEELER.

"Benjamin S. Beeler was born Oct. 18, 1825, in Butler County, Ohio. His father's name was George Beeler, and his mother's maiden name was Delilah Sheeley. He is of English and German descent. His grandfather Beeler was a soldier of the Revolutionary War. Benjamin Beeler came to Twin Grove in Tazewell, now McLean County, in October, 1830. He had a rough time, and was three weeks on his journey. He came through Indiana, where the roads were in a great measure blockaded by timber, which had been blown down by a hurricane. His father, George Beeler, bought a claim and lived during the first year in a little log cabin".

(See Next Page.)

BIOGRAPHIES.

(Continued)

Benjamin S. Beeler. (Cont.)

"It was for a time very difficult to get something to eat, and the family was obliged to pay fifty cents per bushel for corn and gather it themselves. They were much troubled by wolves, and could not get their stock near enough to the house for protection. The wolves were impudent during the day time, and came up within fifty yards of the house. The wild-cats were very dangerous and troublesome in Twin Grove when the early settlers came, and people often had very exciting sport in chasing them. * * * * *

Benjamin Beeler remembers the sudden change in the weather in December, 1836, when everything was so suddenly frozen, and he also remembers another sudden change since then, which was very severe. He was going to Bloomington, and was crossing Sugar Creek, when his horse broke the ice very easily, but on his return, without delay, the ice on the creek bore his horses weight without cracking". * * * * *

(Duis' "Good Old Times" 1874, Page 521.)

AN ANECDOTE OF "COL " SAMUEL BEELER.

"When Jesse Hill was twenty-one years of age he moved to Twin Grove, Illinois, where he arrived Oct. 9, 1830. He lived with Col. Beeler for a year and a half after his arrival. Col. Beeler had known the father of Jesse Hill in Kentucky, and the two gentlemen had once traded horses. Mr. Hill, Sr. gave the Colonel three hundred dollars "boot" in exchanging horses, and the horse Hill received died a day or two afterwards. When Jesse Hill came to Illinois he heard the Colonel bragging about this horse trade, and the circumstance made them acquainted, and Hill afterwards made matters still more agreeable by marrying the old gentleman's daughter."

(Duis' "Good Old Times", 1874, Page 431.)

NOTE.

The account book of Benjamin S. Beeler runs from Feb. 12, 1850 to Oct. 21, 1877, and contains many more interesting entries other than those printed herein, especially those of the Civil War period, but the publishers lack of time and assistance in type-setting prevented further publication.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MRS. BENJAMIN S. BEELER.

(Daily Pantagraph, Bloomington, Ill. July 25, 1907.)

"Mrs. Beeler was born May 23, 1827, in Nashville, Tennessee, and when only four years old, came with her parents, Ormond and Mary Ann (Brown) Robinson, to Blooming Grove. * * * * They came overland in a wagon drawn by oxen and endured all the hardships of the early pioneers. * * In 1832 Mr. Robinson moved with his family to Dry Grove and in 1835 to White Oak Grove, where they lived until the death of Mr. Robinson in 1851.

Mrs. Beeler remembered well the winter of the deep snow. * * * The snow fell on a level of three feet covering fences and 'everything' to say nothing of the great snow drifts which were much deeper. * * * * The deer roamed on top of the snow and the people also walked on top of it and drove teams over it as soon as it became packed. * * * * *

Mr. Robinson * * * bought corn in that early day at fifty cents a bushel and picked it in the fields himself. The plows of that day were rude affairs, as were the hoes and other utensils, hoop iron and wood being used largely in their construction. The prairie fires frightened the early settlers so much that [some of them] wanted to go back * * * whence they came. * * * Deer and other wild game roamed over the vast areas in large numbers, and much food was secured by the gun. * * * Mrs. Beeler says her father was often thankful to get work at fifty cents a day. * * *

Then they ate off wood or pewter plates and a tin cup was something unheard of. They were compelled to raise [dipper] gourds from which to drink. They spun and wove every stitch of their wearing apparel. * * * They used flax thread and made with this a hard knot or button. * * * * * Mr. Beeler bought 80 acres * * * in Twin Grove " * * * * * [This land was never mortgaged or otherwise encumbered while it was owned in his family, a period of about fifty-four years.]

NOTE.

The early land records of McLean County, Illinois, show that Samuel Beeler entered the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 3, T. 23 N. R. 1 W. 3rd P. M. (160 acres.) May 8, 1830. From this it would seem that he came to this state a few months earlier than some of his sons. The same record also shows that William Beeler entered three tracts adjoining, two of 160 acres each, and one of 40 acres, on the same date.

EXTRACTS FROM BIOGRAPHY OF G. W. HENRY.

(Daily Pantagraph, Bloomington, Ill. Mar. 27, 1916.)

"When G. W. Henry was about seven years of age, his parents [William and Mary (Beeler) Henry.] removed to Illinois, locating on the present homestead [at Twin Grove.] west of Bloomington. At that time the wigwam poles of the former Indian owners were still to be found, and it was no uncommon occurrence for the white owners to find Indian relics, an Indian settlement having formerly occupied the present Henry farm.

While Mr. Henry's father did not get his land directly from the government, it was the first transfer, as he bought the claim from a half-breed Indian, and it was filed for record at Danville, Ill. it being necessary in those days to go there to make such entries. This land has ever since remained in the family, and a daughter, Mrs. Hoysradt, with whom Mr. Henry made his home, is the latest occupant of the tract.

When the family first came here, there was but one store in Bloomington. It was located on the site of the Third National Bank, northwest corner of Front and Main Streets, and was owned by the late Asahel Gridley.

Mr. Henry remembered Abraham Lincoln well and had often seen him. He told of the incidents that happened at Crossley's Tavern in Metamora, Ill. during the sessions of the court.

During the early days when the lawyers traveled around to different places where court was held, Mr. Henry was engaged by various tavern keepers as a carver. It was the carvers duty to sit at the head of the table and serve the turkey, roast hog or whatever other chief item happened to be on the bill of fare." * * * * *

George Washington Henry was born at Oxford, Ohio, June 27, 1825, married Mary S. Bush Oct. 23, 1851, and died at Twin Grove, McLean County, Ill. March 26, 1916. His children are Mrs. Nettie Hodler, Mrs. Kate Renie, Mrs. Lillian Hoysradt, Mrs. Carrie Hart, Mrs. Hattie Kershner, Charles, Edward, and George.

His father, William Henry, was born in England, Dec. 25, 1794, emigrated to Baltimore, Maryland, when a young man, served on the privateer "Joseph and Mary" during our second war with Great Britain, was taken prisoner when that vessel was captured by the British Nov. 25, 1812, escaped from the island of Jamaica, returned to the United States, married Mary Beeler at Oxford, Ohio, May 12, 1818, and died at Twin Grove, Ill. April 28, 1846. His widow received a pension.

PIONEER GAME TRAPPING.

“ The settlers hunted and trapped a great deal. A trap set for turkeys was the most absurd thing imaginable. It was simply a little pen with a hole at the bottom large enough for a turkey to walk in. Corn was sprinkled in a line leading thru the hole, and a turkey picking up the corn walked thru the hole. They would starve to death before finding their way out.” (Duis’ “Good Old Times”, 1874, Page 429. Biography of William Beeler, Jr.)

‘ The settlers killed game of all kinds for it was plenty. They killed prairie chickens by catching them traps. They had what was called the fall-door trap. A hole was dug with a board put over it on a pivot, and bait fastened to one end. When a chicken attempted to seize the bait the board allowed the chicken to drop into the hole, and then turned back into its place. The hunters killed a great many turkeys in the spring, in gobbling time. They chirped thru a quill, making a sound resembling that of a hen turkey, and soon some gobbler would make his appearance and the hunter would shoot him down. The settlers were much troubled by wildcats, which caught lambs and pigs, but would never fight the hunters unless cornered.” (Duis’ “Good Old Times”, 1874, Page 523. Mrs. Ormond Robinson.)

