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OUR COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE

A HISTORICAL AND MEMORIAL RECORD

OF

CRAWFORD COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

BY

SAMUEL P. (BATES,) LL. D.

"They weakly err, who think there is no other use of government than correction. Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them, and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them are they ruined too. That, therefore, which makes a good constitution must keep it, men of wisdom and virtue, qualities that, because they descend not with worldly inheritances, must be carefully propagated by a virtuous education of youth, for which after ages will owe more to the care and prudence of founders and the successive magistracy than to their parents for their private patrimonies."

—WILLIAM PENN.

Illustrated

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Mr. McDowell was united in marriage to Miss Eveline Beard, and they now have two children. Iris Banks, the son, is a graduate of the Conneautville high school, and is now a student in Clarion, Pennsylvania; Belle, his twin sister, is at home.

In his political views Mr. McDowell is a stalwart Republican, unwavering in support of the principles of his party and now serving as a member of the Republican county committee. He has never been an aspirant for office, however. On the contrary, he has steadily refused to become a candidate. He holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Dicksonburg, and is a member of its board of trustees. As a public-spirited citizen he takes a deep interest in all measures pertaining to the general good, but his time is necessarily largely taken up with his business interests. He is spoken of as "a first-class farmer"; he is industrious, economical, possesses sound judgment, is thoroughly reliable, and has therefore met with success in his undertakings. He makes a specialty of the raising of fine stock and has taken many premiums at county fairs. For a number of years he has served as marshal at the Crawford County Fairs, has been superintendent of the horse department, and vice-president of the Fair Association. He is particularly active in supporting all measures for the advancement of the agricultural interests of the community and is a highly respected citizen.

Henry R. Bates, of West Shenango township, was born in West Shenango, February 12, 1835. His great-grandfather, Andrew Bates, came from Westmoreland in 1799, and located on the farm near the Ohio line now occupied by Henry R. Bates.

Andrew Bates' son Christian took up land in Mercer county, and his younger brother, Reason, fell heir to the old estate, upon which he lived and died at an advanced age. Before his death, however, he had sold the property to his nephew Andrew Bates, the father of the subject of this sketch, who in turn gave his uncle Reason a small site for his own use.

A clear, rushing brook ran through the old farm, and the first Andrew, in the dawn of the century, made a dam, and erected a "noisy" mill and a "still" house, and kept a tavern, in which he was married to a Miss Shibondi. The second Andrew after his marriage had scarcely a dollar to his name. He lived in Crawford county, and after a severe struggle bought a tract of land which he cleared of brush and stumps and which is now worked by his son Reason. He bought the old place in 1855 and lived on it until his death, May 3, 1862, aged sixty-eight years. Andrew Bates was a prominent stockman and did an extensive business in breeding, driving, feeding and selling cattle. He owned four hundred and ninety-five acres of land and was a man of vast enterprise and financial ability. He married Miss Jane Sisley, and their family consisted of Nancy Ann, the wife of John Probst, who died in middle life;

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Christian Reason
Andrew
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Henry R. Bates

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