21st Indiana, and in November of the same year was discharged. He re-enlisted, in 1862, in the 97th Ind. reg., and served three years, and was at Corinth, Vicksburg, and the battle of Jackson. He was married in Covington to Miss Harriet A. Sangster, daughter of Capt. George Sangster, an old resident, and who served during the war of 1812, and settled at Covington, Fountain county, in 1840, and died there in 1873 in his eighty-fifth year. Mr. Shirk has a family of two children: George E. and Sallie B. In politics he is a prominent member of the democratic party. He does a large business in agricultural implements.

Oliver La Tourette, druggist and general merchant, Waterman, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, four miles southeast of Covington, January 9, 1837. His parents, John and Sarah (Schenk) La Tourette, came from western New York in 1829, where they were engaged in linen weaving, and manufactured large numbers of flowered coverlids. They had a family of fourteen children, six girls and eight boys, all of whom lived to be men and women, Oliver being the second youngest. The family name was originally De La Tourette, being one of the French Protestant families which came to this country at an early period. Up to the age of eighteen Mr. La Tourette went to school, receiving the latter portion of his education at the Bloomingdale Academy. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted in the 15th Ind. reg., and served three years and four months, and was engaged in the battles at Murfreesboro and Mission Ridge, besides numerous other smaller engagements. In 1870 he opened a store in Waterman and engaged in the drug business and general merchandising. His store-room is 70 x 18 feet, two stories high, and his stock is large and well selected to meet the demands of the neighborhood. By strict attention to business, careful management and square dealing he has built up a first-class business, his receipts for the last ten years averaging $3,000. March 30, 1871, he was married to Miss Mary E. Dowdell.

Michael R. Stanton, farmer, Sylvania, was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, in 1835, and came to this county with his parents when two years old, settling in Liberty township, at which time this part of the county was yet in the green and very sparsely settled. Game of all kinds, including deer and turkey, was numerous, and the wolves would howl around the cabin nightly. His father, Solomon B. Stanton, worked hard to clear up his farm, but was taken with milk-sickness and died, leaving the widow with four small children to fight the battle of life alone. With indomitable energy she worked early and late to keep her family together, and
succeeded in raising them, though in a very frugal manner. At the age of twenty years Michael responded to the call of his country and enlisted in Co. A, 85th Ind. reg., for three years. He served with honor throughout the campaign. At the fight at Thompson's Station he was taken prisoner and incarcerated in the Libby prison March 4, 1863, and was paroled in April following. Though he was there but for about a month, when paroled he was so weak as to be unable to walk without the assistance of his comrades. He served with Sherman in his famous campaign and march to the sea, and was one of the first to enter Atlanta. He was detailed orderly on Gen. Mower's staff, and served in that capacity till the close of the war. In 1867 he married Miss Rachel C. Richardson, of Fountain county, daughter of James Richardson, one of the oldest settlers of that county. They have one child, Emma L. Since returning from the war Mr. Stanton has devoted his time entirely to managing his farm, which he has acquired by hard work and industry. Mr. Stanton is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and also of the A. F. and A. M., being secretary of the Sylvania Lodge. In politics he is a republican.

Ira Hobson, farmer, Sylvania, was born in Liberty township, Parke county, in 1838, and is the son of Aaron and Polly (Newlin) Hobson, who were natives of North Carolina. His grandfather was one of the first settlers in the township. Mr. Hobson received his early education at the district school, and latterly at Bloomingdale, and taught school for some time during early life, his main business, however, being farming. Mr. Hobson has been married twice: the second time to Miss Elve Newlin, of this county, in 1862. They have had a family of eight children, only three of whom are now alive, one boy and two girls. Great changes have occurred in the township since the first as he recollects it, when very little clearing had been done and game was plentiful. He is a republican in politics and was elected township trustee in 1878, and re-elected this spring (1880) for another term.

Isaac B. Dowdell, farmer, Howard, is a native of this part of the country, born in Liberty township in 1844, half a mile north of his present location. His parents, Nathan and Ruth (Williams) Dowdell, came here in 1826, in a keel-boat, up the Wabash, and were among the pioneers of this part of the county. Mr. Dowdell has been engaged in farming all his life, with the exception of the time he was in the army. He enlisted in 1862 in the 85th Ind. reg., Co. A, and was wounded at Spring Hill, also at Dallas Woods, Georgia, and was in most of the engagements in which the regiment took
part. At the close of the war he returned to Liberty township, and in 1865 married Miss Matilda Martin, a daughter of Jesse Martin, one of the early settlers of Fountain county. They have a family of five children: Emma, Nathan, Jesse, Charles, and Willie. Mr. Dowdell is a member of the G.A.R. and is republican in politics.

Henry Durham, manufacturer, Sylvania, is a native of Indiana, born in Vigo county November 22, 1831. His parents, Daniel and Eliza (Watt) Durham, dying when he was very young, he was bound out to William Wildman. He came to Parke county when fourteen years old, having received his early education at the district school. He followed blacksmithing at Bloomingdale for seven or eight years; then followed farming for some time, eventually selling out, and began business in Sylvania as a general merchant, which business he sold out to Gillum Brothers. Since that time he has run machinery of various kinds. He has two steam-threshing machines and a corn-sheller, and is now engaged putting up a large building in Sylvania, 26×64 feet, which he intends fitting up with all the latest machinery for turning out broom handles and pickets, with a capacity of 2,000 a day. Mr. Durham opened the first blacksmith shop in Sylvania, and is very popular throughout the county. He is a member of the Society of Friends, and in politics is a republican. On August 9, 1853, he was married to Miss Susanah Newland.

Allan L. Rich, farmer, Waterman, is one of the old settlers in this township, having come to this locality in 1846 from Randolph county, North Carolina, where he was born in 1820. His parents, Aaron and Lurina (Lamb) Rich, were born in that state and lived and died there. Mr. Rich has been a farmer all his life, and has a well appointed farm of ninety-nine acres, the result of his own industry and hard work. Mr. Rich has been twice married: the first time to Miss Annie Swaim, daughter of Daniel Swaim, in 1844, one of the early settlers in this county; and the second time to Mrs. Dowdell, a widow, daughter of David Shirk, the second settler on Coal creek. She died January 13, 1880, aged sixty-five years, and had been a member of the Baptist church for thirty-five years. Mr. Rich has a family of three children: William Daniel, Lurena Susan, now married to Mr. James Chat, and James. He has been a member of the Baptist church for the last twenty-five years, and belongs to the democratic party.

Riley Swaim, farmer, Sylvania, is a native of Randolph county, North Carolina, and came from there to Parke county in 1844, and settled in Annapolis, where he remained working at his trade as wagon-maker for two years. Returning again to North Carolina he
staid during the winter and came back in the spring to Annapolis,
where he did a large business making dump carts for the laborers
who were constructing the Wabash and Erie canal. His father,
Daniel Swaim, was a school teacher, and in 1811 came to Indiana
and taught school in the various block houses on the frontier, and
was probably the first school teacher in the state. The family on
the father's side is of Dutch origin, the family tree running back
to three brothers who came from Holland to New Amsterdam, now
New York, at a very early period. Mr. Swaim settled on his pres-
et farm about 1848, but not being satisfied here he took a trip to
Kansas a short time since, and was so captivated with the appear-
ance of that state that on his return he arranged to sell out his farm
in Liberty, and went again to Kansas and bought a farm of 160 acres
in Labette county, well improved, and he intends to move on it this
fall. He has been married twice: the first time in North Carolina,
and the second time, March 4, 1858, to Miss Sarah McMasters,
daughter of Andrew McMasters, who came to Liberty township in
1831 from North Carolina. Mr. Swaim's family consists of five
children: Louisa, William Andrew, Daniel Elsworth, Charles Sher-
man, and Annie Jane. Mr. Swaim and his wife are members of the
Reserve church, old Baptist denomination. He is a strong member
of the republican party, having been formerly a member of the old
whig party.

John M. Swaim, farmer, Waterman, was born in North Carolina
in 1844, and came to Parke county in 1848. His father, Daniel
Swaim, moved into Indiana in 1811, and taught school in Orange
and Washington counties in the various block-houses there, and was
probably the first school teacher in Indiana. John Swaim has been
engaged principally at farming, and part of his time has been occu-
pied working at the carpenter trade. In 1864 he enlisted in the
137th Ind. reg. and served five months, returning to his farm at the
close of the war. In 1869 he was married to Miss Sarah Jenne,
daughter of one of the early settlers of Silver Island. They have
two children: Oliver Wesley and Harrison Riley. Mr. Swaim now
owns the farm of ninety-three acres formerly belonging to J. H.
Beadle. He is a member of the republican party.

Jesse H. McCoy, farmer and school teacher, Sylvania, son of John
(one of the oldest settlers in this part of the country) and Elizabeth
(Towell) McCoy, was born September 1, 1850. His early education
was obtained at the district school, and during his youth he followed
agricultural pursuits, and latterly has been engaged almost entirely
in school teaching. December 25, 1873, he was married to Miss
Loretta C. Jester, of Ohio, and they had two children: Edna and Frank C. He is a member of the Friends meeting, also of the Sylvanía Lodge, A. F. and A. M., and is a popular member of the republican party, being a candidate for the office of recorder, with every prospect of success.

Charles R. Bright, proprietor of flouring-mill, Waterman, the son of John and Ann La Tourette Bright, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, May 29, 1850. His grandfather was one of the earliest settlers in Liberty township. During his early youth he worked on the farm, and from twenty until he was twenty-six years old he taught school and completed his education, and spent 1879 in Colorado and the western territories. May 1, 1880, he entered into partnership with Mr. Lewis C. Davis, an experienced miller, in a flouring-mill at Waterman, which they erected at a cost of over $7,000. It is a four-run mill, with a capacity of fifteen bushels per hour, with all the latest improvements in machinery for making patent flour, the machinery being operated by a sixty horse power engine. April 6, 1880, he was married to Miss Emma M. Carwile, of Covington, Fountain county. Mr. Davis, his partner in the mill, is a native of Maryland, and is one of the best millers in the state, having served an apprenticeship in the mills at Baltimore. He was at the Attica mills for four years, and during the last ten or twelve years has been engaged at the Union flouring-mills at Coal Creek, Fountain county, Indiana. He is married and has a family of four children. Both partners are good business men, intelligent and energetic, and their business will do a great deal toward increasing the business and welfare of the town.

William K. Parent, farmer, Sylvania, is a native of Kentucky, born in Hardin county, of that state. He is the son of David and Jane (Awbrey) Parent; his father died in 1844, and his mother is still living, and continues to reside in Kentucky. In 1852 Mr. Parent moved to Indiana, locating in Parke county, where he resided for six years, when, in 1858, he removed to Eugene township, Vermillion county. In 1865 he enlisted in the 149th Ind. reg., Co. E, and served until the close of the war, when he returned to Eugene, where he continued to reside until the spring of 1869, when he returned again to Parke county and settled on his present location, where he has a good farm of eighty acres, well improved and in a good state of cultivation. In July, 1856, he was married to Miss Elizabeth A. Stanton, daughter of Solomon B. Stanton, one of the pioneers of Liberty township. They have a family of three boys and one girl: