

the esteem of his fellow citizens and as one of the respected residents of Bureau county we present the record of his life to our readers. His father, John Wolfersberger, was a native of Pennsylvania, as was the mother, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Carper. John Wolfersberger was a merchant throughout his active business career and died in the year 1863 at the age of seventy-three years, while his wife passed away in 1851.

Philip Wolfersberger was educated in the schools of his native county and after putting aside his text-books acted as a clerk in his father's store for two years. On the expiration of that period he learned and followed the carpenter's trade, devoting his energies to building operations until after the inauguration of the Civil war, when his patriotic spirit was aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union. He had come to Illinois in 1854 and at the outbreak of hostilities between the two sections of the country he enlisted with the Fourth Illinois Cavalry as a member of Company D. He joined the army as a private, but in two years was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and was commissary of the Third United States Colored Cavalry for two years and six months. He was for six months in the freedmen's bureau and on being mustered out returned to Princeton with a creditable military record, having ever been faithful to each duty that devolved upon him in connection with his service as a member of the Union army. He took part in thirteen battles and acted as orderly under General Grant when a member of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry. He was present at the engagements of Fort Donelson, Pittsburg Landing, Shiloh, Holly Springs, Jackson, Mississippi, and the siege of Vicksburg and thus took part in many of the most hotly contested engagements of the entire war.

When the country no longer needed his service Mr. Wolfersberger returned to Illinois and established a planingmill, which he conducted for six years. He then sold out and resumed work at the carpenter's trade. For twelve years he had charge of a private postoffice in the north end of Princeton and when it was made a government office in 1901 he was appointed postmaster and has since remained in that position, giving a public-spirited and prompt and faithful administration.

In the year 1837 Mr. Wolfersberger was married to Miss Magdalen Miller, who died in 1856, and in 1857 he married her sister, Elizabeth Miller. There are six children, three daughters having been born of the first marriage and three sons of the second marriage, all of whom are living with the exception of the eldest son, Frank. The others are Clara, the wife of John Holman, of Princeton; Emma, the wife of Ira J. Caw, of Nebraska; William H., a resident of Denver, Colorado; Charles, of Chicago; and Leah, the wife of George Walters, of Princeton. In 1902 Mr. Wolfersberger was called upon to mourn the loss of

his second wife, who died in the month of June of that year. She was a most estimable lady and her death was deeply deplored by many friends.

Mr. Wolfersberger is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he has served as alderman of the fourth ward. He has ever stood for progressive citizenship, being as loyal to his country in days of peace as when he followed the old flag on southern battlefields, and he regards a public office as a public trust, so that as postmaster of the sub-station of Princeton he is giving commendable and capable service.

ELIJAH ROSS.

Elijah Ross, a capitalist, who has placed his money in the safest of all investments—real estate,—his landed possessions being now very extensive, and who has also been connected for thirty years with the financial interests of the county as a director of the Farmers Bank of Princeton, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 23, 1832. His father, James Ross, was a native of Pennsylvania, but at an early age removed with his parents to Ohio, where he was reared, educated and married, and in the year 1851 arrived in Bureau county, where he began farming, securing seven hundred acres of land. He married Miss Margaret Butt, who was born in Pennsylvania and was of German extraction. His death occurred in 1895, when he was in his eighty-eighth year, and his wife passed away in 1888, when in her seventy-sixth year.

Elijah Ross, the eldest of a family of thirteen children, was educated in the public schools of Ohio and of Bureau county, Illinois, and when his text-books were put aside he turned his attention to the carpenter's trade, which he followed for ten years. As he accumulated money he bought land from time to time and at the end of a decade his real-estate interests compelled him to give up his building operations and concentrate his energies upon the supervision of his farms. He began with one hundred and twenty acres of land, but his interests have grown through judicious investment and the natural appreciation in land values, the record of his prosperity and success being unbroken as the years have gone by. He has given to each of his sons and his daughter a piece of land and the sons have also been successful in business. He has also sold several eighty-acre tracts to them and he still is owner of one thousand acres, which represents a large investment owing to the value of real estate in Illinois. He has been a director of the Farmers Bank for about thirty years and in addition to his farming lands he owns considerable other property in various parts of the county.