

HISTORY
OF
Richland County
OHIO

FROM 1808 TO 1908

By A. J. BAUGHMAN

Also Biographical Sketches of Prominent
Citizens of the County

ILLUSTRATED

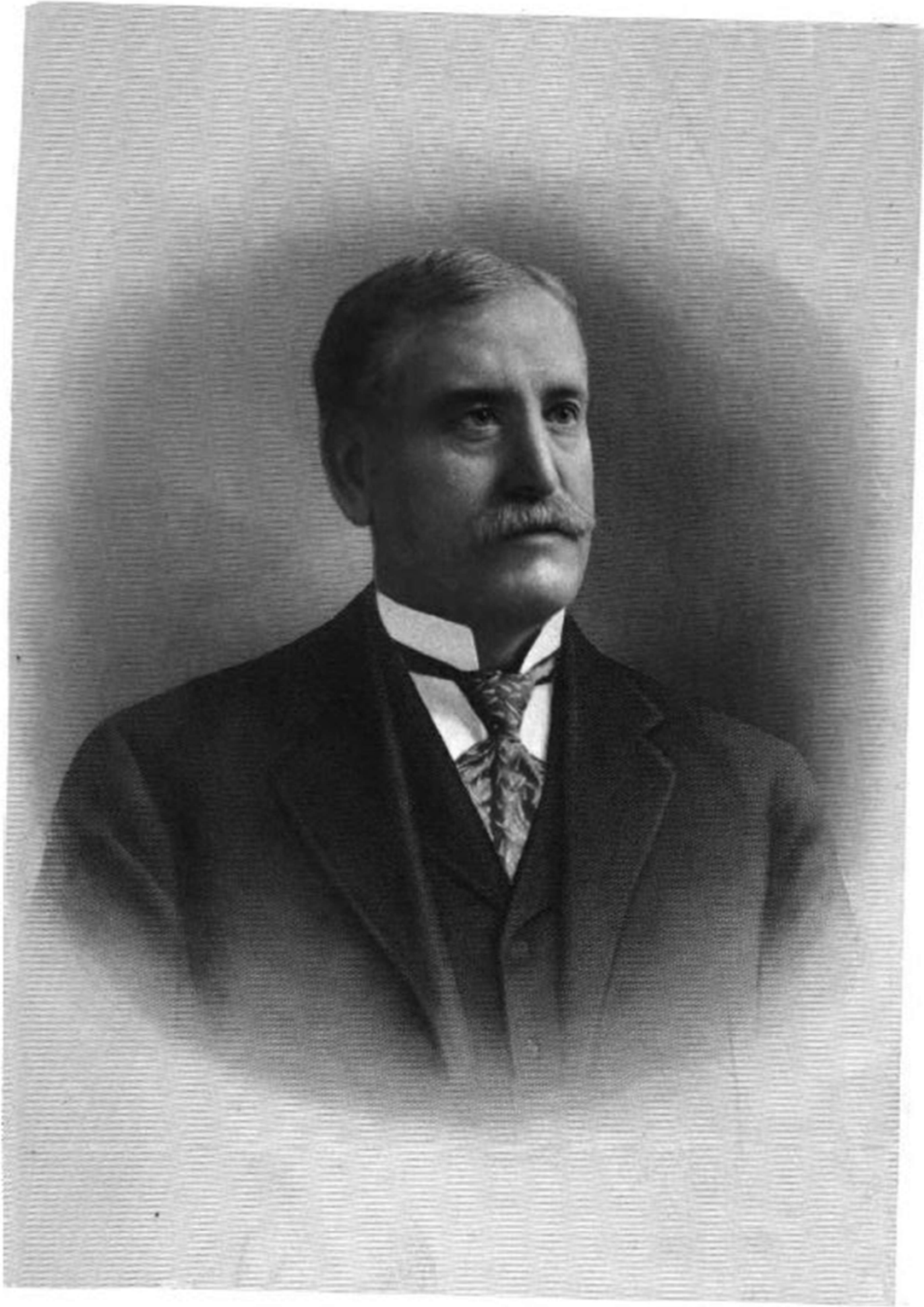
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CHARLES N. GAUMER.

Charles N. Gaumer, who for many years was prominently known as one of the leading democratic editors of Ohio, is now retired from active connection with business affairs but is still financially interested in various corporations and business concerns. He was born in Adamsville, Muskingum county, Ohio, November 19, 1849. His father, Jonathan Gaumer, was a native of the same county, a carpenter and farmer. He married Mahala Barrett and died in the year 1895, his widow still surviving at the age of eighty-four years. The family were long pioneers of Muskingum county, coming to Ohio a century ago from Somerset county, Pennsylvania. Jacob Gaumer, the great-grandfather of our subject, was an officer in the Revolutionary war, and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. He came to Ohio with his family in the year 1803 and located near Zanesville. His son, Daniel Gaumer, grandfather of Charles N., came to Ohio three years later and established his home in the then unbroken forest, a few miles north of Zanesville. He was a soldier in the war of 1812.

Charles N. Gaumer was the second in a family of nine children, of whom six are yet living. His boyhood days were spent near Adamsville on a farm, to which his father removed when he was but a young lad. His education was acquired in the country schools and at the age of eighteen years he began teaching, following the profession for five years. He then entered the field of journalism as city editor of the Zanesville Signal, and after a short time, when he had become familiar with newspaper publication in its various phases, he purchased the St. Clairsville Gazette, taking charge on the 1st of November, 1873. He conducted that paper successfully until February 1, 1883, when he came to Mansfield and purchased the Shield and Banner, one of the leading weekly newspapers of Ohio. He continued to issue this as a weekly paper until June, 1888, when he also established the Daily Shield, conducting the two until January 1, 1894, when the Shield Publishing Company was organized, Mr. Gaumer remaining as manager of the corporation until July, 1896, when he sold his interest and retired. During his ownership of those papers he acted alternately as business manager and editor, according to the needs of the situation, and sometimes served in both capacities. The Shield has practically been the only democratic organ of Richland county, although there were two other democratic papers in existence when he entered the ranks of journalism in Richland county, but, like several others that have since been started, they were short lived. That as editor of the Shield he was an earnest and influential worker for the party is evidenced by the fact that democracy has never been so strong since as when he was publishing the Shield. Under his guidance and control the business was rapidly increased and he soon gained a large subscription list



C. N. Gummer.

for both the weekly and daily editions, the paper proving a success from a financial standpoint as well as from an influential one. He at all times embraced and utilized the most advanced ideas in connection with modern journalism and gave to the public a dignified, but vigorous and entertaining sheet, devoted not only to political interests, but to the dissemination of local and general news, in such a manner as to insure the continuance of a liberal patronage. While he has now retired from active connection with business management, Mr. Gaumer is still a director of the Bank of Mansfield and of the Zanesville Tile Company and is interested in many other commercial and financial concerns.

In community affairs he has wielded a wide and helpful influence and has always stood for progress and improvement in all lines relating to the general good. A staunch democrat since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, he has taken an active part in local and state politics and was chairman of the central and executive committees in Belmont county for six years prior to his removal to Mansfield. His work in that capacity was most gratifying to the followers of the party. He aided in carefully systematizing the working forces and securing results which enhanced the interests of democracy in that locality. He was also a member of the city council of St. Clairsville, and in 1889, after his removal to Mansfield, he was a candidate on the democratic ticket for the state legislature, the strongest contest then being for the nomination, in which his opponent was Judge Mansfield, then a popular young attorney. This contest, in which Mr. Gaumer was victorious, was one of the most bitter ever fought in Richland county, though the contestants remained good friends throughout the struggle. Mr. Gaumer was elected that fall and was reelected in 1891, serving two terms of two years each as one of the lawmakers of the state. He gave careful consideration to each question that came up for settlement and championed many progressive measures. In 1880 he was a candidate for presidential elector, on the ticket headed by General Hancock.

While Mr. Gaumer was a member of the state legislature, his brother, Daniel H., was representative from the Zanesville district in the state senate. He was also a newspaper man, as was their older brother, Thomas M. Gaumer. The former published the Zanesville Signal, while the latter was publisher of the Urbana Democrat. Both are now deceased. At the present writing Charles N. Gaumer is a member of the board of trustees of the Ohio State School for the Blind, at Columbus, being appointed by Governor Herrick in 1905 for a term of five years. He has also been a director of Wittenberg College at Springfield, Ohio, for the past sixteen years and is a director of the Young Men's Christian Association at Mansfield. His fraternal relations are with the Knights of Pythias and of St. Luke's Lutheran church, in which he is serving as elder.

On the 22d of October, 1874, Mr. Gaumer was married at Adamsville, Ohio, to Miss Susan Slater, a daughter of Harrison V. Slater, a prominent farmer of that place. Their home is a beautiful residence at No. 30 South Mulberry street, which was erected by Mr. Gaumer twenty-two years ago.

His rise in the world has been by the gradual stages that mark orderly progression. Each forward step in his career is easily discernible and the success which he has achieved is attributable to the fit utilization of the innate talents which are his and the directing of his efforts along the lines where mature and rare discrimination lead the way.
