

his trade until 1870, and in the meanwhile he has also turned his attention to farming and stock-growing. He eventually gave his undivided attention to the latter lines of industry, with which he continued to be identified during the remainder of his active business career. Since 1894 he has lived retired, having an attractive home in Bethel and renting his farm to his son, as has already been stated in this context. He is known as a plain, unassuming citizen of sterling integrity of character and as one who has ever borne his share in connection with the work of material and social development and progress. His political support is given to the Republican party and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1861 Mr. Bower was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Roser, who was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 1, 1833, and who came with her parents to Shelby county in the pioneer days, the family becoming members of the Bethel colony. Mr. and Mrs. Bower became the parents of four children, of whom three are living, Miranda, who is the wife of Henry Fox, of Bethel; John J., who resides on and rents the old homestead farm of his father; and Gideon, who likewise is a successful farmer of this county.

HARRY C. BAIR.

The able and popular postmaster of the village of Bethel is Harry C. Bair, who is a native son of Shelby county, where his grandfather, Reuben Bair, a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, took up his abode in 1846, hav-

ing come hither from Stark county, Ohio. The postmaster is a son of Samuel J. Bair, who is the subject of a specific sketch on other pages of this volume, so that further reference to the family history is not demanded in this article.

Harry C. Bair was born in Bethel, this county, on October 15, 1875, and here he was reared to maturity, securing his early educational discipline in the public schools and assisting his father in his farming operations. At the age of twenty years he severed the home ties and during the ensuing five years he traveled about from place to place, principally in the west, for the sake of seeing the country, gaining experience, etc., the while he found employment 'at various occupations and defrayed his expenses, besides saving a portion of his earnings. In 1900 he returned to Bethel, and here he followed the carpenter's trade and house painting until July 1, 1907, when he received appointment to the office of Postmaster, under the administration of President Roosevelt. He has since continued incumbent of this position, has carefully handled the affairs of the office and has gained public commendation of an unequivocal type. He is well known in this part of the county and his friends are in number as his acquaintances. In politics he is an uncompromising Republican and he has been a zealous worker in the local camp of the "grand old party."

On August 30, 1908, Mr. Bair was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Ziegler, who was born and reared in Bethel and who is a daughter of William F. Ziegler, of this village.