

**Wm. H. Kemper, General Manager
Gaylord Branch Dayton Last Block Works**

Wm. H. Kemper, the subject of this sketch, and the genial manager of the Dayton Last Block Works of Gaylord (with headquarters in Dayton, Ohio) first saw the light of day at Indianapolis, Ind., in 1841, where his boyhood was passed. He gained wisdom at the public schools, and at 20 years of age his youthful heart was stirred to deeds of patriotism by the opening of the Civil War, being among the first to respond in 1861 when the martyred President Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers. He enlisted in a company of zouaves Gen. Lew Wallace raised in his native city and, returned from the theater of war in three months to assist in recruiting another regiment under command of ex-President Benjamin Harrison. He was also with Sherman in his famous "march to the sea," and was also present at the grand review at the city of Washington at the close of the war.

After peace was declared he engaged in the manufacturing of lasts at Indianapolis for a number of years, and in 1869 moved to Dayton, Ohio, and associated himself in business with the concern he is now identified with, and when some ten years ago the said company needed a good all-round manager at their works in Gaylord. Mr. Kemper was chosen to the responsible position, and by his faithful and prudent management has added fresh laurels to his name and reputation.

