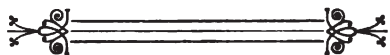


tional Church. In the Order of Maccabees he has been Commander of Tent No. 161 for four years, and is a leader in that organization.

Summing up the life and character of Mr. Russell, it may be said that he is one of the best known men in the county. The people have signified their appreciation of his worth by electing him to a number of responsible offices, which fact sufficiently attests his popularity and qualifications. In deportment he is a courteous and affable gentleman, which, united with industrious habits and honesty in business transactions, has secured for him the confidence of the people of the county.



**C**HESTER C. MITCHELL, one of Gaylord's pioneer citizens, settled at this place in September, 1874, having previously located a homestead five miles from the present site of the town. For some time he followed the trade of a carpenter, and many of the first buildings here were erected under his supervision. The county was organized in 1875, and he was appointed by the Board of Supervisors the first Sheriff. The county seat was then at Otsego Lake, where he remained one year, meantime erecting at that place suitable buildings for the transaction of official business. It was largely through his influence that the county seat was removed to Gaylord, and this action on his part, being against the wishes of many property holders in the vicinity of Otsego Lake, gained him their dislike and secured his defeat when he was again nominated as Sheriff.

Intending to resume work at his trade, Mr. Mitchell built a house in Gaylord, making it large enough so that some of the county business could be transacted in it, and the Board of Supervisors held meetings there until they built a court house. Instead, however, of using the building for a carpenter shop, he put in a stock of groceries, and conducted an increasing and profitable trade until

December 1, 1890, when he disposed of the business. He served again as Sheriff in 1885-86, and in the fall of 1892 was elected Register of Deeds. At other times he has served as Township Treasurer, Supervisor and Justice of the Peace. In the ranks of the Democratic party he is an active worker, and takes a lively interest in local politics.

Mr. Mitchell was born in Orleans County, N. Y., August 15, 1826, and is the son of Dexter and Malancy (Kingman) Mitchell, natives of Massachusetts and New York, respectively. His grandfather engaged in whale-fishing in the Bay State. Dexter Mitchell followed the trade of a carpenter in early life, but later engaged in farming. In 1831 he came to Michigan and settled at Farmington, Oakland County, improving a farm in the vicinity of that place. Thence he went to Northville, Wayne County, where he worked as a carpenter for eighteen years. Returning to Oakland County, he spent some ten years there, and then removed to Eaton County, locating near Olivet, where he died at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife passed from earth in 1851, in Lansing, Mich., where the family lived a short time.

The family of Dexter Mitchell consisted of five children, who attained years of maturity. Maria, the eldest, married Asa Whitaker, and died near De Witt, January 11, 1895; Dexter, a physician, died in Laddonia, Mo.; Chester C. was the next in order of birth; Julia, widow of Ezra Willis, lives in Gaylord, Mich.; and Lucy, deceased, was formerly the wife of Jonah Austin. The parents of this family were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. After the death of his first wife, the father married again, but had no children by his second union.

After completing the studies of the common schools, our subject learned the carpenter's trade. March 29, 1849, he married Miss Adaline Hotchkiss, who died twenty years later. Seven children were born to them, of whom five are living, namely: Elizabeth, wife of Winfield Smith, of St. Joseph, Mich.; Dexter, of Gaylord; Albert, also of Gaylord; Fred, who is in Palouse, Wash.; and Ida. The second wife of Mr. Mitchell was Mrs. Eunice R. French, whom he married April 8, 1871, and by whom he has a son, Harry. By her marriage with

Milo French she had one daughter, Linda V., who married and died, leaving one child.

The first marriage of Mr. Mitchell took place in Lansing, Mich., where he afterward followed his trade, and among other buildings assisted in the erection of the first State House. Later he worked in the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad for one year, then settled at Yankee Springs, where he engaged in farming, and also operated a saw-mill. Three years were spent there, and then he went to Newaygo, from there in 1861, to Kent County, and ten years later to Olivet. In 1874 he established his home in Otsego County. To some extent he has dealt in real estate, and now carries on agricultural pursuits. In religious belief he is a Congregationalist. Interested in educational matters, he has been School Director for nine years, and as such assisted in the erection of the handsome public school building of Gaylord.

During the progress of the Civil War, in December, 1863, Mr. Mitchell became a member of Company B, First Michigan Engineers, with whom he served until September, 1865. He joined the regiment at Chattanooga, and from there accompanied Sherman in the memorable march to the sea. When peace was declared, he went to Washington, D. C., and took part in the Grand Review. He takes an active interest in Grand Army affairs, and is a member of C. F. Doore Post, of Gaylord.



**G**EORGE J. CUMMINS has the honor of being the oldest member of the Clare County Bar in point of years of practice. Since 1885 he has been an inhabitant of Harrison, and for over six years was a member of the law firm of Browne & Cummins. Since 1892 he has been engaged in practice alone. He is a local leader among the Republicans, is active in campaign work, and has sometimes served as a delegate to conventions. Besides holding minor offices he was Prosecuting Attorney of Clare County for one term and was

highly commended by his constituency for his fidelity to their interests.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, George Cummins, was a native of New Jersey. During his active years he was a minister in the Methodist Church. He also owned a distillery, which fact in no wise interfered with his influence for good in those days, for it was a matter of very common occurrence, and no outcry had been made against the liquor traffic. His death occurred at the age of fifty years. Of his five or six children, our subject's father, Opdyke H., was probably the youngest. He was a farmer by occupation and came to Michigan in 1864, settling on a homestead in Oakland County. From 1870 to 1881 he resided at Ann Arbor, that his children might obtain better school advantages. While there he was in the marble business for a time. In 1881 he returned to his farm in Oakland County, and in 1894, with his wife, went to New Jersey, where he now resides. The latter, a native of that state, was in her girlhood Miss Ellen D. Axford.

In his early manhood, Opdyke H. Cummins was a Whig and when the Republican party was organized joined its ranks. He steadfastly refused public office, but took an active part in whatever concerned the public good. Religiously he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years and leads an earnest Christian life. In the Odd Fellows' society near his old Michigan home he was a leading member. To himself and wife were born six children. Rebecca, who died at Rochester, Mich., was the wife of George Flummerfelt; Mary is the wife of Wesley Main, of New Stillwater, N. J.; Susan is the wife of Raus Cooper, of Oquawka, Ill.; Leona is Mrs. Edgar J. Wiley, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; Allie is the wife of Herman Osthause, of Scranton, Pa.; and George J. is the only son.

Born in Vienna, Warren County, N. J., November 4, 1853, George J. Cummins was a lad of eleven years when he left his native state and settled in Oakland County, Mich. Six years later he went to Ann Arbor and attended the University of Michigan, having graduated from the law department in the Class of '75. For over a year he was in the office of Judge E. D. Kinne, of Ann Arbor, and