

A Sketch of the Wayne County Bar

THE house of George Bowhanan at Milford furnished the first temporary quarters for the seat of Wayne county when it was established March 21, 1798. An act of assembly of 1799 removed the courts from Milford to Wilsonville, until suitable buildings could be erected within four miles of the forks of the Dyberry and Lackawaxen rivers. Three years later the courts were moved back to Milford where they remained three years and in 1805 they were established at Bethany. When the region around the Dyberry forks broke from the wilderness and the Delaware & Hudson canal was established with its terminus at this place, then did Honesdale seize the county seat from

Wayne, with the commencement of their respective terms of office:

1. Hon. Jacob Rush; March 21, 1798.
2. Hon. John Spayd; March 1, 1806.
3. Hon. Robert Porter; July, 1809.
4. Hon. John B. Gibson; Oct. 16, 1812.
5. Hon. Thos. Burnside; June 28, 1816.
6. Hon. David Scott; July 16, 1818.
7. Hon. Wm. Jessup; April 7, 1838.
8. Hon. N. D. Eldred; April 6, 1849.
9. Hon. Geo. R. Barrett; April 29, 1853.



Bethany. That was in 1843, when the court was permanently established in Honesdale. Before the court was permanently established the bar traveled around with the Court. Lawyers from Easton, Wilkes-Barre and other places came with the old time circuit judges and the county seat was a lively place during court week. Daniel Dimmick was the first resident attorney at Milford. He was a native of Connecticut. When the courts of the county were established, the county was placed in the third judicial district, of which Hon. Jacob Rush had been appointed President Judge on August 13, 1791. For some reason he never occupied the bench of Wayne county and for eight years the senior Associate Judge presided over the courts. The following is a list, taken from the records, of the President Judges of the courts of

10. Hon. James M. Porter; Dec. 5, 1853.
11. Hon. Thos. S. Bell; March 23, 1855.
12. Hon. Geo. R. Barrett; Dec. 3, 1855.
13. Hon. S. S. Dreher; Dec. 5, 1870.
14. Hon. C. P. Waller; Jan. 4, 1875.
15. Hon. Henry M. Seely; August 28, 1882.
16. Hon. George S. Purdy; Jan. 1, 1894.
17. Hon. A. T. Searle; Sept. 15, 1909.

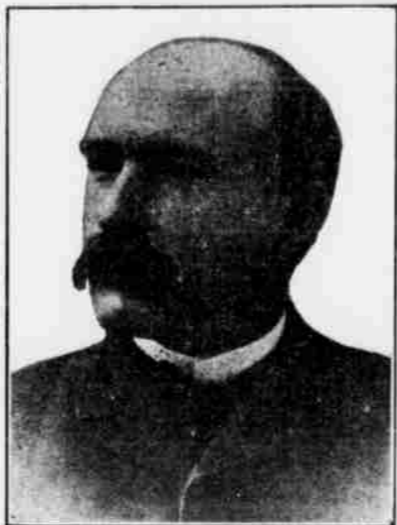
Judges Gibson and Burnside subsequently became Justices of the Supreme Court, and Judge Bell had been, from November 18, 1846, until December 1, 1851, a Justice of the Supreme Court. Hon. A. T. Searle was re-elected Judge of Wayne county in November, 1911, and is now serving in that capacity.

HENRY WILSON was born in Franklin, Susquehanna county, on October 7, 1834. He was admitted to the bar of Luzerne county in 1859, having studied law in the offices of D. N. Lathrop at Carbondale. He was blessed with a good memory and by close study and

the work of the paper. In January, 1878, he was appointed associate judge, it being the first instance where that position was filled by a member of the bar in the history of the county. While associate judge he was assigned to revise the court rules. For many years Judge Wil-

son has been associated with Chester A. Garratt in the law business in the Dimmick building on Ninth street. For some time he has not been an active member of the firm but nevertheless he is a valuable asset of the business.

ELWIN C. MUMFORD, a native of Wayne county, and son of ex-Judge James Mumford, was born in Starrucca on August 8, 1851. He received an excellent education in the local schools and later attended the State Normal School at Millersville. He began the study of law under the direction of Hon. M.



ELWIN C. MUMFORD.

J. Larrabee, at Susquehanna Depot and later entered the offices of Waller & Bentley at Honesdale as a student. He came to Honesdale in 1875. Mr. Mumford was admitted to the bar of this county on Sept. 6, 1876. Two years later he was elected district attorney and during his term of office many noted cases came up for trial. For six years he was attorney for the board of coun-

term. He read law in the offices of Blakelee & Davies at Montrose, his studies in the office of Hon. F. P. Kimble. He was admitted to the bar of Wayne county on May 21, 1895, and has for many years been actively engaged in practicing law for himself. His present offices are located on the second floor of the Old Savings Bank building. Mr. Iloff is a faithful supporter of the Democratic party. He has been admitted to the bar of the Supreme court of the state and the Superior and United States District courts.



MYRON E. SIMONS.

Susquehanna county, and was admitted to the bar of that county in 1884. Two years later he was admitted to the bar of Wayne county. He served as clerk in the commissioners office for six years and also as deputy county treasurer under W. C. Norton for three years, 1892-95. Mr. Simons has always been actively identified with the Republican party of the county and served several terms as county chairman. Mr. Simons was elected to the office of district attorney in November, 1908, and served successfully for two years after which he was re-elected in November, 1911, and is now serving in that capacity for his second term.



FRANK P. KIMBLE.

State Normal school preceding his graduation. He also taught in the Wayne County Normal school. Mr. Kimble came to Honesdale in 1883 and entered the law office of C. S. Miner as a student and was admitted to the bar of this county in 1886. Mr. Kimble was a director of the Honesdale schools for three terms. In 1891 he was elected to the Legislature. He has always been active in politics in Wayne county and a recognized force in the Democratic party. During part of his term of study as a law student Mr. Kimble acted as deputy prothonotary. Mr. Kimble enjoys a large practice in and around Honesdale and has offices on the second floor of the Foster building.

CHARLES A. McCARTY, who has been most prominent in the affairs of Wayne county and the borough of Honesdale since 1891, was a native of Canaan township, having been born there on February 22, 1858. He received his education in the local schools

DAN DIMMICK, the grandfather of William H. Dimmick, of Honesdale, was the first attorney who made his home in the county. He was born on March 1, 1775, in Mansfield, Connecticut. He came to Wayne county in 1800 and took up his residence at Milford. He was admitted to the bar of Wayne county in 1802. Mr. Dimmick practiced law in Milford until his death which occurred in February, 1825. Prior to the erection of Pike county, most of the attorneys admitted to the bar of Wayne were non-residents. The first person to prepare for the bar examination within the present limits of this county was Thomas Fuller, who was admitted in 1826.



ty commissioners. Mr. Mumford has been practicing law in Honesdale almost 36 years and is still actively engaged in such work. He has offices in the Liberty Hall building on Ninth street.

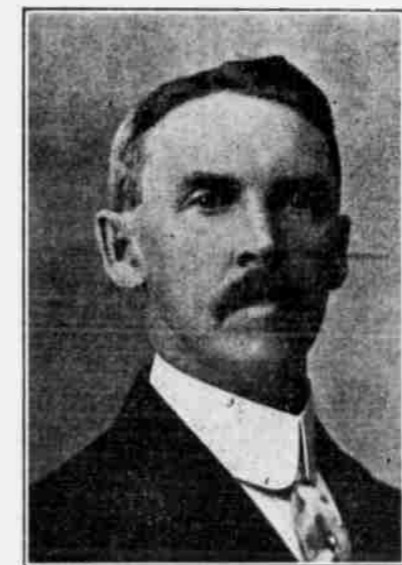
of the county and afterwards attended Wyoming Seminary at Kingston, Pa. He studied law under the di-

HOMER GREENE, Wayne county's poet and novelist, who has attained considerable prominence in that field, was born on January 10, 1853, in Salem township, what is now Lake Ariel. He was the only son of Hon. Giles Greene, of that place. In 1876 he graduated from Union College, receiving the de-



HOMER GREENE.

grees of A. B. and C. E. In 1877 he graduated from the Albany Law School, receiving a degree of LL.B. He was also at that time admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of New York. Mr. Greene came to Honesdale to live in the summer of 1877 and took up the more complete study of the law in the offices of H. M. Seely, Esq., and the following year, on December 10, Mr. Greene was admitted to the bar of Wayne county. In the fall of 1881 he was elected by the people of the county to fill the office of district attorney, which place he held for a term of three years, at the end of which he resumed the private practice of law. Mr. Greene has attained a wide reputation throughout the eastern states as a writer of fiction. Mr. Greene is at present actively engaged in the law business and has a suite of offices in the Reif building on Main street.



CHARLES A. McCARTY.

rection of G. G. Waller and on May 10, 1883, he was admitted to the bar of this county. Mr. McCarty has been actively engaged in the law ever since his admission and during that time has filled many public offices in the borough. Two years after being admitted to the bar he was elected to the Legislature. He was elected district attorney in 1891 and continued in that office for three years. That same year he was elected to fill the office of county solicitor, which he held three years. He was a member of the town council three years, and president of the council for two years. He was borough solicitor one year and solicitor for the Honesdale and Texas Poor Board two years more. He is now serving his second term as Burgess of our borough. Mr. McCarty has offices in the Reif building and enjoys a large practice.

MYRON E. SIMONS, present district attorney of Wayne county, was born in Sterling township on May 14, 1860. He received his education in the public schools of that township and at Bloomsburg Normal school. For several years after leaving school he engaged in teaching and was principal of the Nicholson graded school for one

RHAMANTHUS M. STOCKER, of New England ancestry and a noted historian, was born in Salem township in 1848. He received the rudiments of his education in the public schools of that county and later attended the schools of Honesdale, going from here to Lafayette College where he remained for one year. He engaged in teaching school for several years and for four years was principal of a school in Jermy. In 1881 he was elected register and recorder. He began the study of law in the offices of Waller & Bentley in Honesdale and in 1886 was admitted to the bar of this county. Much of Mr. Stocker's time has been engaged in writing histories and he has gained much prominence in that field. He assisted in writing the history of Wayne, Pike and Monroe counties. He had editorial charge of the writing of a history of Susquehanna county and assisted in the writing of a history of the state of Delaware. He also wrote a history of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Stocker was editor of the Wayne County Herald for a year and a half. He has practiced law in this county for twenty-six years and



R. M. STOCKER.

is still actively engaged in that work. Outside of the law work, Mr. Stocker has found much time to devote to politics, for he is a staunch Democrat. Mr. Stocker also takes great interest in farming. His law offices are located in the Liberty Hall building on Ninth street.

PETER H. ILOFF, eldest son of Henry and Johanna Iloff, and one of Honesdale's successful lawyers, was born in Cherry Ridge on October 21, 1870. He went to school in that vicinity until he passed the grades and then attended the High school at Honesdale. After graduating from there he attended the Wyoming Seminary. He acted as tax collector of Cherry Ridge township when twenty-two years of age and was judge of election until he moved out of that township. Mr. Iloff commenced the study of law under the direction of Hon. G. S. Purdy. After the latter was elected



PETER H. ILOFF.

President Judge, Mr. Iloff finished

his studies in the office of Hon. F. P. Kimble. He was admitted to the bar of Wayne county on May 21, 1895, and has for many years been actively engaged in practicing law for himself. His present offices are located on the second floor of the Old Savings Bank building. Mr. Iloff is a faithful supporter of the Democratic party. He has been admitted to the bar of the Supreme court of the state and the Superior and United States District courts.

MILTON SALMON, a member of the law firm of Searle & Salmon, was born in Honesdale on September 24, 1880, and is a son of H. S. Salmon, cashier of the Wayne County Savings Bank of this place. He received his early education in the public schools of Honesdale and graduated from the Honesdale High school with the class of 1898. He took up a course of study in Lafayette College from which institution he graduated in 1902, with the degree of Ph. B. He studied law in the office of A. T. Searle for two years after which he entered the law school of the University of Pennsylvania and graduated from there in 1907 with the degree of LL. B. Prior to his graduation he passed the examination of the State Board of Law Examiners and was admitted to practice in the Supreme and local courts of the State. He became associated with the law firm of Bowker & Rotan in Philadelphia, one of the leading law firms of that city and practiced law there for a year and a half. Mr. Salmon was admitted to the Philadelphia county bar in April, 1907, and to the Wayne county bar in March of the same year. He has since been admitted to the Superior court and United States District Courts of the State. After the death of L. M. Atkinson, Mr. Salmon came to Honesdale and opened offices in the Dimmick building. He became associated with Charles P. Searle in the practice of law on February 14,



R. M. SALMON.

1910, and since that time the firm of Searle & Salmon has enjoyed a lucrative business in the office formerly occupied by A. T. Searle.

VICTOR A. DECKER, of Hawley was born in Bradford County, this state, in 1872. The place is important since it does not let him from the Republican Congressional nomination in any year which that party has no chance. He is credited with some political foresight, due to a considerable convention experience in the wick days before the primaries purged and made inexpensive the political path, and two years ago procured the endorsement of a citizen of Wayne by the conferees of Bradford, Susquehanna and Wyoming, for future nomination, of his son of the same name, then two years old. View of the hundred-year history of the Congressional District this is regarded as a hopeful confession.

When three years old our subject migrated to Wayne and has since been a resident of Hawley. There he attended, with occasional lapses, the village school, working sometimes the village drug store from the age he was twelve until he became seventeen, when he succeeded to the charge of the Erie railroad. After ten years' service, this corporation found itself able to run with



VICTOR A. DECKER.

his personal attention, and he engaged in statistical work at Washington for the government and consideration, becoming the anonymous author of some works on Kaffir Corn, Crimson Clover, and other farm subjects. There, he was graduated from the National University Law School and admitted to the Bar.

Thereafter, he was, upon trial and strict examination let into the Wayne county bar during the excitement of the Hull murder trial.

Mr. Decker is now cashier of the First National Bank of Hawley and although he does not have an extensive law practice, it is because there is not much legal work to be done there. However, after the trolley line is completed, and the three million dollar power plant is placed in operation it will provide an extensive law practice for the subject of this sketch.



WILLIAM H. DIMMICK.

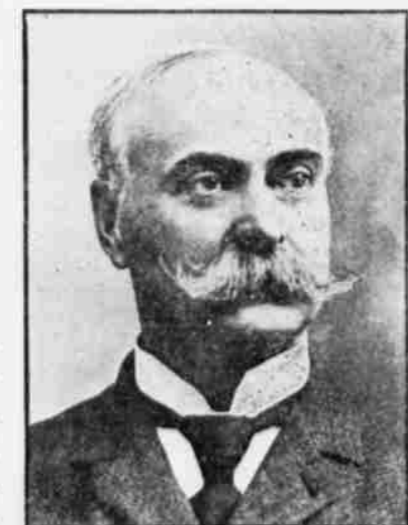
WILLIAM H. DIMMICK, JR., is a son of Oliver S. Dimmick and a grandson of Dan Dimmick, the first practicing attorney, who made a permanent home in Wayne county. He was born in Milford, Pike county, on March 19, 1841. In early life he graduated from the Claverack



WILLIAM H. DIMMICK.

Institute of New York. He began his law studies in the office of L. F. Barnes at Milford but soon removed to Honesdale. He was admitted to the bar of Wayne county on December 4, 1862. Mr. Dimmick was elected district attorney in 1864 and re-elected in 1867. He was sent to the Legislature in 1869 and in 1873 was again elected. In October, 1864, Mr. Dimmick was united in marriage to Annie, daughter of Zenas Russell. They had two children, Lucy and Russell. For more than twenty years Mr. Dimmick was prominent in politics and at the bar of Wayne county. He served at one time as attorney for the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, the Pennsylvania Coal Company, and the

WILLIAM HENRY LEE, a native of Clinton township, Wayne county, was born on January 1, 1849. He was the oldest child of Samuel and Anna Lee and received a liberal education. He attended the Waymart Normal School and the Delaware Literary Institute at Franklin, N. Y. He graduated from the latter in 1871 and received second honors. In March, 1866, he received his first teacher's certificate and beside teaching in the schools of Wayne county he was instructor



WILLIAM H. LEE.

in the school at Meredith Square, Delaware county, N. Y., and at the Normal School at Waymart. He commenced his study of the law in