

The Hon. A. N. Martin, of Buffalo, is in the city this week, being an attorney in the Ward-Diel circuit court case, which is being tried for the second time.

Miss Mamie, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Geary, died Tuesday afternoon after a long and lingering illness with consumption. The funeral was held this morning at the Catholic church, interment at St. Joseph cemetery.

Simon Good, an old and respected citizen of Washington township, died at his home Tuesday morning after a long illness of eight weeks duration. The funeral was held at 10 o'clock this morning at Washington church. Interment at the Beery cemetery.

Since our last issue the population of the county has somewhat increased by the following arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heideman, town girls; Mr. and Mrs. Champe, boy; Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Weist, girl; Mr. and Mrs. Ira Lake, girl; Mr. and Mrs. Ira Steele, girl.

Clerk Lenhart issued marriage licenses this week to Robert B. McKeeman and Susie M. Hoeker, Frederick Brunner and Cecilia Marshaud, Jasper Luning and Eva Cook, Jay W. Brown and Essie O. Kern, Benjamin Breiner and Mary Linn, Elijah Libby and Grace Bell.

Jerry Ward, former of a ballast-gang on the C. & E., was struck by a hand car at Preble Monday morning and badly bruised. The car was on the track and while trying to get it off to allow a freight to pass, the engine struck the car. His injuries are not serious and he will soon be able to resume his duties.

A terrible forest fire has been raging about two miles east of the city for the past two days. The entire neighborhood has been hard at work for some time trying to stop the spread of the flames. The fire covers near one thousand acres and has a ready done great damage to fences and timber. Unless we get rain soon the damage to farmers by fire will be incalculable.

The whipping episode of a few nights ago has scared two or three wife-baters into a condition of peaceful quietude. Away down in their hearts they have resolved to do better, rather than be horse-whipped themselves. To improve the moral condition of man through the misfortune of others is not good teaching, yet if any good has resulted from the deprecations of others, let us hope that it has done enough good to make further lawlessness unnecessary.

New circuit court cases filed during the past week are entitled, Walding, Kinnan, Marvin Co. vs. M. G. Atwood, account; demand \$200. Williams H Hood vs. Patrick C. Kelley et al, foreclosure of chattel mortgage; demand \$200. Elizabeth A. Parrish vs. James T. Parrish, divorce John Studabaker and Hugh Dougherty vs. John H. Bass et al, venue from Allen county. Anna Schroll by her guardian Frank M. Schroyer vs. Jesse Clark, partition. John D. Edwards vs. Jonas S. Coverdale et al; damages; demand \$15,000. Joseph H. Cole vs. Edmund R. Wells et al, account; venue from Wells county.

On Tuesday, Oct. 5th, friends and relatives gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Kern to witness the marriage of their daughter, Essie, and Mr. Jay Brown, of Toledo, Ohio. Promptly at 3 o'clock as the sweet strains of the wedding march floated through the room, the bridal party entered and was joined in holy wedlock by Rev. J. M. Smith. The bride was gown in cream cassimere, while the groom wore the usual black. An elegant supper was served. The guests were beautiful and numerous. The bride will be greatly missed by her young friends, also by the Salem church, of which she was an active member. The groom is also well and favorably known here, but for the last year has been employed in Toledo, at which place they will make their future home. These young people start out in life under the most favorable circumstances, and it is the wish of their many friends that the voyage on the matrimonial sea of life may be smooth sailing, that the dark clouds may never arise and overshadow the brightness of the sunshine of love; nor thorns ever grow to choke the flowers that should adorn life's pathway.

Several officials of the Erie were in the city Tuesday. Their business was not made known, however, and the object of their visit remains a secret.

At a meeting of the Federation of Musicals and Literary Clubs held at the residence of Miss Lizzie Sudabaker Morrison, it was decided to hold a lecture course in this city. A course of six lectures will be given and the price of tickets was placed at \$1. Solicitors are now soliciting membership to make the course an assured fact.

Last Thursday evening Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Peoples were driving home from this city their team took fright and upset the buggy, throwing out the occupants and breaking Mrs. Peoples collar bone. She was taken to the home of J. W. Lower near where the accident occurred for medical attention and at this writing is greatly improved.

Only a few knowing ones understood the suspicious capers of Dr. McKeeman on his arrival in this city last Tuesday evening, until it was learned that he was united in marriage that evening to Susie Hoeker. The ceremony took place at the residence of Ed. Coffee and was performed by Rev. Horton in the presence of a few relatives and friends. They will reside at Monroe, where the Doctor has an extensive practice.

The big Jay county fair last week was a success, as they are every year. On Thursday 11,000 paid admissions concluded the day's receipts, which added to the 3,000 or 4,000 season and complimentaries represents the total number of people on the ground that day. The display was unusually attractive and the racing all one might expect. The fair association have made lots of money but the surplus, instead of being put into dividends and paid the stockholders, is placed into improvements of the grounds and buildings. This tells the tale of their success.

The sixty-sixth birthday of Rev. W. W. Watts, of Monmouth, occurred last Sunday and the children and friends had previously arranged to celebrate the event. When everything was in readiness friends and relatives from near and far suddenly appeared on the scene and greatly surprised the venerable old gentleman. Of course plenty of good things had been prepared, and the time was spent in having a grand good time. Besides the friends present, from this vicinity, there was also present Messrs. and Mesdames Judge R. T. Watts, of Adrian, Mich.; James N. Watts, of Mendon, Ohio; O. N. A. Watts, of Lima, Ohio; Hugh Hamilton, Mendon, Ohio, and Ace Mahan, Van Wert, Ohio, Mrs. Bessie Lennyon, Mendon, Ohio, Mrs. Ida Smith and Miss Myrtle Tucker, Dayton, Ohio.

The free silver barbecue at Monroeville last Thursday was a glittering success in point of attendance and enthusiasm. Not less than 5,000 people listened to the speakers and took part in the exercises of the day. The large crowd was remarkable from the fact that no election is near in this state to stir up enthusiasm. It must have been sour grapes to our republican friends, for it clearly indicates that free silver is not dead, neither is it sleeping. The large crowd was made up of silver enthusiasts. The exercises were begun long before the hour advertised, owing to the great crowd of people and their great desire to hear something about their favorite theme. The neighboring towns sent large delegations, this city contributing near 500 people, but the majority of the spectators were well to do farmers who were there to listen and learn more of the only political topic now before the people. The Hon. Walpole G. Colerick of Fort Wayne, presided and after a neat speech made way for the army of speakers that were to follow. The enthusiasm that followed the closing remarks of each speaker, was remarkable and plainly showed which way the wind is blowing. The exercises were concluded late in the evening, and during all this time the crowd never abated, but grew larger and stronger. The people of Monroeville are to be commended for their heroic work. Everything was carried out as planned, and the committee having the matter in charge labored night and day to make things pleasant for the large crowd.

Elizabeth A. Parrish has made application for divorce from her husband James T. Parrish. She alleges in the complaint that the defendant treated her in a cruel and inhuman manner at divers times, until she was obliged to take to her bed. They were married in February, 1879, and lived together until September 28, 1897. She also asks the care and custody of their three children.

Arrangements have been made for the opening of the new opera house during the week of November 8th. The Holden Comedy Co. has been engaged to open the house, thus giving to the public of our city the opportunity of seeing one of the finest theatrical companies on the road, as well as taking in the new opera house. Arrangements are being made to entertain everybody in royal style, and nobody should miss seeing the new opera house during this week, thus showing your appreciation to the proprietor.

Monday evening Musical was entertained at the home of Miss Orvis last Monday evening, it being the beginning of the meetings for the winter with Miss Miller for president and Miss Orvis, secretary. A brief outline of last year's work was given and the following program was rendered: "Angels ever bright and fair", Mrs. Townsend; "Leave me to languish", Miss Alben; "Bach's Invention", Miss Adlesperger, "Menrut de Boenp-Haydu", Miss Orvis; "Handi's Lango", Miss Rademacker. Miss Bunn, of Akron, Ohio, was the guest of honor.

The district meeting of the W. R. C. was held in this city Tuesday. A large number of visitors and out of town delegates were present to assist in transacting the business. The meetings were held in the G. A. R. hall and the rooms above Gerber & Sprunger's meat market. The morning session was devoted to hearing a report of the National convention held in Buffalo. After this came a general discussion of business for the benefit of the organization. In the afternoon district officers were elected and it was decided to hold the next convention at Jonesboro. Mrs. John Watson of Geneva was elected department president, and Mrs. Mollie Gilson of this city, was chosen as delegate to the next National convention.

The city council met in regular session Tuesday evening with all members present. In the absence of the mayor Dr. J. S. Coverdale was elected mayor pro tem. The proposition of Auditor Mangold to place the city property on the tax duplicate for taxation for the sum of \$60 was rejected. The judiciary committee reported that it was part of his duty as county auditor to list city property for taxation without compensation other than his regular salary. The prayer of W. H. Meyers and others petition to vacate streets and alleys in the W. H. Meyers addition to the city was also rejected. The judiciary committee reported that the property was more valuable for taxation in its present condition. The following bills were allowed: Standard Oil Co., \$8.24; Street Commissioner's pay roll, \$21.45; Gas Co., \$51.30; C. Dorwin, \$40; N. Jackson, 40; Democrat, \$1.50; J. Bohler & Son, \$6.76; John Watson, \$13.05; John D. Andrews, \$28; Kirk Mann, \$9.51; H. Cutting, \$33.91; H. H. Bremerkamp, \$1.50; Wm. Geary, \$5. The bill of H. A. Fristoe was referred to the judiciary committee. The committee on streets and alleys reported that they met at the city hall to listen to complaints on the Gregory alley and none of the property owners appearing they recommended that the report of the city engineer be approved. The matter of extending the stone walk on the corner of Dr. Thomas property was referred to the street committee with power to act. The salaries of the school trustees were allowed as follows: A. J. Smith, \$50; J. E. Kern, \$91.66; C. A. Dugan, \$33.34; R. K. Allison, \$75. Contracts made by the electric light committee with Martin Mylott as electrician and Geo. Kinzel, lineman, were read and approved. They were both employed for a period of one year, the former at a salary of \$50 per month and the latter at a salary of \$45 per month. There being no midnight business to transact the council did not go into executive session but adjourned until next Tuesday evening.

On last Wednesday the Israelites celebrated the day of atonement, called in Hebrew "Yom Kippur," or the day of sacrifice. It is laid down in the scriptures as a day for repentance and prayer for forgiveness of sins and shortcomings committed during the past year. The Jewish people, reformed as well as the orthodox, observe that day more than any other holiday. They abstain from any manual labor or business and go to their synagogues, where they devote the whole day to the service of God. A beautiful custom connected with that day is the general reconciliation and dropping of all enmities that existed among them, a custom worthy of imitation by other creeds. Barney Kalveriskey worshipped at Fort Wayne on this occasion.

The circuit court has disposed of the following business during the past week: Jennie Walker vs. William Berkley Walker, divorce granted plaintiff, \$300 alimony and custody of child. George W. Zimmerman vs. Richard B. Johnson, Clark J. Lutz appointed special judge. Lhaben G. vs. Precilla Gage, divorce granted defendant on her cross complaint; judgment vs. plaintiff for costs. Edward Marshaud vs. Magdalena Marshaud et al, cause of action dismissed by plaintiff. State vs. Joseph W. Stoneburner, verdict of not guilty rendered by the jury. Isaac Johnson vs. Toledo, S. Louis & Kansas City railway, dismissed; judgment vs. defendant for costs. Cora Cook vs. Robert N. Steele, finding for plaintiff on plea of abatement; judgment vs. defendant up to this time and that defendant plead over. Isaac Robinson vs. John King, set for trial October 28. Jacob Weidler vs. Henry Dauber, defendant adjudged insane and dangerous to community. State vs. Jacob Wolf, defendant discharged. James H. Ward vs. John T. France, executor, now on trial.

After deliberating for twenty-two hours the jury in the celebrated case of State vs. Joseph W. Stoneburner, reached a verdict that may well cause premeditated joy to the defendant. The long deliberation was anything but favorable to Stoneburner, and if he sweat and had great anguish of mind, he had license so to do, for the long time consumed by the jurors in doing justice to all concerned, was decidedly unfavorable to the defendant. The case was called to trial Monday morning of last week. The first day was consumed in selecting a jury. The testimony of witnesses began Tuesday morning and continued until some time Friday. Between seventy-five and one hundred witnesses were examined, among the number were six medical experts, and with them much time was consumed. Their testimony varied somewhat, although in the main it contained nothing that showed conclusively that Stoneburner was directly instrumental in the death of Lavina Brown. The circumstantial evidence offered contained many points that had a tendency to lend color to the Dr.'s acts and intentions, but evidence was lacking to directly prove them. However, the state was able to produce enough evidence to cause the jury to give some consideration to the probabilities exposed, and among a few of them a conviction would not have been disappointing. The jury retired at nine o'clock Saturday morning. The first ballot standing seven to five for acquittal. After a few hours and several ballots the vote narrowed down to ten to two for acquittal. The vote remained this way until seven o'clock Sunday morning, after much argument and on the twenty-sixth ballot a unanimous agreement of acquittal was agreed upon, and Judge Heller and the attorneys were sent for. After the usual preliminaries incident to the receipt of a verdict into open court, the verdict was accepted and the jury discharged. Much diversified opinion has been ventilated upon the probable guilt or innocence of the defendant. It is a hard case to secure a conviction, owing to the fact that two much circumstantial evidence is necessary to carry the proper effect for a conviction. The death of Dr. Ulmer had something to do in weakening the case for the state. Nevertheless Dr. Stoneburner may well congratulate himself. He has been declared not guilty of a charge that if proven true would have meant several years confinement in the state's prison.

A large number of the old soldiers of the county met in the city Tuesday to perfect a county organization and bring the ties of friendship existing between the old veterans still closer together. The meeting was held in the Studabaker block on south Main street and when called to order the large hall was well filled with the boys in blue. Short addresses were made by Judge A. O. Marsh, of Winchester, Hon. A. N. Martin of Bluffton and R. S. Peterson, of this city. The officers chosen to manage the affairs of the new organization are James H. Smith, president, Joseph Hoeker, vice president, William A. Wisner, secretary, and Ezra Cowan, treasurer. In the evening a camp-fire was held in the court room, at which place several short speeches were made, interspersed with songs and essays. Annual meetings will be held and one day set aside for the entertainment of the boys who fought for their country during the rebellious period.

The citizens of Decatur were greatly excited Sunday morning over the appearance of white caps in the city the night previous, at which time a well known citizen and officer of the law was cruelly whipped. For some time it has been rumored that constable James Parrish has been whipping his wife and the neighborhood in which he lived was greatly wrought up over his actions. Late Saturday night a small band of men entered his residence on north Ninth street, and after assuring his wife that they only intended using him in the same way in which he had been using her, passed upstairs into the room occupied by their victim. They found him in bed sound asleep and placing a rope around his neck, jerked him out onto the floor before he was awake. Another strong pull landed him against the banister of the stairway and broke it into splinters. In this encounter one of his ears was nearly torn off and after a desperate effort Parrish succeeded in displacing the rope from his neck. His captors however grabbed and led him out into the street. Clad only in his night robe they marched him about three squares and then whipped him until his entire body was covered with welts and gashes. All this time the poor man begged for mercy but his appeals were not heard by his tormentors. He finally escaped from their clutches and made a bold dash for liberty, and the white caps took a few shots at him. None took effect, however, and he reached home in an exhausted condition. Clothing himself he came down street to the office of Dr. Boyers to have his wounds dressed. The white caps after performing their mission mysteriously disappeared, since which time no trace of them has been found. Parrish cannot positively identify any of his tormentors although he thinks he knows who they are and desperate attempts will be made by the officers of the law to locate them and bring them to justice. Public opinion is divided on the question as to whether or not he received his just deserts. But it is unanimously conceded that the perpetrators should be brought to justice and made to pay for their depredation before the majesty of the law. Parrish has undoubtedly learned a lesson which he will not soon forget, although since the flogging has taken place, many stories are being circulated that he is not alone to blame. Parties who claim to know say the wife is oft times to blame for stirring up the temper of her liege lord. Be that as it may, she is an invalid and some allowance should be made for her exhibition of temper, and an effort made to soothe her brow in her declining days. The fair name of our city is again besmirched by the actions of this gang of white caps, and it will be many days before the wrong doings which have taken place in the last few days will be entirely wiped out. Parrish will recover from his wounds and wife beating may be checked in this vicinity temporarily, but for years to come strangers will point to our city as a lawless vicinity and business of all kinds will receive a serious setback. Parties seeking locations will give us a wide berth on account of the stigma resting over the city. Let us hope that no more crimes of a like character will mar the pages of history, and endeavor to uproot the evil influences this episode has planted and start anew as law abiding citizens.

ONLY \$15,000.
J. D. Edwards, the once was electrician of this city, has been wearing red war paint since his retirement from business, the date of which takes us back to that memorable night when the city council laid law and order on the shelf and endeavored to demonstrate to our citizens and their constituents that they were the law and the rulers thereof. Not much surprise was manifested Saturday when a voluminous looking document was filed with the clerk of the circuit court, and which was a complaint upon which will be based a civil suit, with demands for damages in the aggregate sum of \$15,000. It is an individual suit entitled J. D. Edwards vs. Jonas S. Coverdale, William H. Niblick, John W. Vail, Judson W. Teeple, Millard F. Rice, Ezra Cutting, Millard F. Cowan, George Debolt, Martin Mylott, George Kinzel, James F. Mann, Amos P. Beatty and Henry Stevens. The defendants in the suit include five of the six councilmen, street commissioner, marshal, attorneys, and those who were known to be actively engaged in the destruction of the property in issue. The complaint is written in three paragraphs the first alleging the cutting down of the electric light poles and destroying property maliciously for which the plaintiff alleges damages for \$700. The second paragraph alleges collusion for the purpose of destroying property, and sets out specific property destroyed, such as poles, wires, insulators, &c., and makes a general demand for damages for \$15,000. The third paragraph sets up a franchise to the Thompson-Huston Company or their assigns, the same being granted in 1889. The franchise gave the Thompson-Huston Company the privilege of erecting poles, and stringing wire for the purpose of carrying or furnishing electric light to the citizens and public. That by the malicious acts in destroying the property and franchise, the plaintiff has been deprived of a means of livelihood for himself and family, which consists of himself, wife and five children, and has suffered great anguish of body and mind, and humiliation, and damaged in the sum of \$15,000. Attorneys R. S. Peterson, Peterson & Lutz, Paul G. Hooper and R. K. Erwin prepared the complaint and will fight the case in the courts for the plaintiff. The suit is against the defendants individually, and in no way connects the city with any liabilities. Following is the record at the time the franchise was granted:

COPY OF ORDINANCE.
To the Honorable Town Board of the City of Decatur, Indiana. Gentlemen: We are here for the purpose of installing an Electric Light Plant in your town, to furnish your citizens with both arc and incandescent lights, and therefore ask the privilege to plant poles and string wires in the streets and alleys of Decatur.
THOMPSON-HUSTON ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.
REPORT OF COMMITTEE.
We the committee to whom was referred petition of the Thompson-Huston Electric Light Company, would recommend that the prayers of the petitioners be granted, and that the erection of electric light poles be placed under the direction of our street commissioner, and consent of property holders in front of whose property poles are placed.
A. J. SMITH,
D. SHOWERS,
Councilman Niblick moves to accept the report.

RESOLUTION.
Resolved, That the Thompson-Huston Electric Light Company be and are hereby given and granted permission to plant and erect poles in the streets and alleys of Decatur, for the purpose of stringing wires thereon, to furnish electric lights to the citizens of said city; The planting of such poles shall be made under the direction of the street commissioner of said city, and not erected so as to inconvenience said citizens: That the said council hereby reserves the right to revoke this grant, and demand that the poles be removed, and remove the same if necessary. The adoption of said resolution being in order, the ayes and nays were called, resulting as follows: Showers, yea; Woods, yea; Smith, yea; Niblick, yea; Mayor declared same adopted. The defendants' first appearance in the courts will be on October 14, at which time they will be called upon to answer the complaint.