

Business College at Chatham, clerked for a time in his father's store, later married Miss Susan Shepherd, of Enniskillen, and then removed to New Haven, Conn., where he is connected with the offices of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. They have three daughters, Eunice, Helen V. and Georgina E. (2) Henrietta is a professional nurse. (3) Charlotte G. graduated as a professional nurse at the Sarnia College, and is now located at Minneapolis. (4) Harriet C. died in May, 1887. (5) Frederick C. follows the trade of machinist in New York. He married Mary Wasel, of Elizabethport, New Jersey. (6) Clifford R. entered the Oil Springs *Chronicle* office in boyhood and learned the printing business, which he followed for a time, but is now bookkeeper at Ansonia, Connecticut, for the Coe Brass Works Company. (7) Gertrude Alma (known to the family as "Queen") is at home.

Mrs. Yates is one of the early residents of Oil Springs, and has been a witness to much of the town's rapid development. With much of this she has been closely connected on account of the prominence of both her father and husband, two of the most upright and useful men who ever resided here. The family is prominent in educational, religious and social circles.

HENRY BROWN, father of Mrs. Yates, was born Nov. 5, 1820, in Ireland. He was of Holland descent, however, his ancestors having come over with King William, though his parents, William and Alice (Tymond) Brown, were also born in Ireland, where the latter died. She was a granddaughter of John Tymond, the military engineer who built the Tymond iron bridge, in County Limerick, Ireland, which was named after him. After his wife's death William Brown came to Canada with his family and settled in Hastings County, where his life closed. He was the father of a family of twelve children, all of whom have passed away. The father of Mrs. Yates was the youngest of this large family and he was afforded excellent educational advantages in Ireland. After coming to Canada he

taught school for a short time, after which he engaged in farming.

On Dec. 5, 1840, Henry Brown was married to Miss Margaret Orr, who was born in 1824, near the city of Belfast, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Carter) Orr, who were born and reared in Ireland, and died there. Henry Brown was a farmer in his younger days, and later on engaged in work as a clerk for the village of Sterling, Hastings County, and his penmanship may yet be seen in the old deeds and official papers of that time. During the Mackenzie rebellion he served as a soldier for three years and was honorably discharged.

In 1861 Mr. Brown removed to Lambton County and settled at Oil Springs, where he became interested in the handling of real estate and in the production of oil. In 1863 he was elected the first town clerk of Oil Springs, a position he held with the greatest efficiency for a number of years. He was foremost in all progressive movements here, was a charter member of the Masonic fraternity, and filled official positions in the lodge for a considerable period. During his whole life he was an upright, honorable, public-spirited man solicitous for the welfare of the community. The death of this good citizen took place Sept. 18, 1899, and that of his widow, in the following year, the only survivor of their family being their daughter, Mrs. Yates.

- LT.-COL. GEORGE STEWART. Among the many citizens of Moore township who have contributed to its development there is none to whom honor more fittingly can be given than to Lt.-Col. George Stewart, a retired cavalry officer, who both in civil and military life has ever been ready at his country's call to devote himself to her service, and whose career as an officer in the Dominion forces was appropriately rounded out by recognition from the Imperial government. Col. Stewart is a native of Scotland, born in West Calder, near Edinburgh, April 7, 1825, but for over seventy years he has been identified with Lambton County, Ontario.

John Stewart, father of George, was born in the same place and there married Miss Mary Gowans. Two children were born to them, George and Mary, but the latter died in Moore township while still in her youth. John Stewart died in 1828, and a few years later his widow married James Nesbitt, who immediately started with his wife and step-children for Canada. They located on Bear creek, in Moore township, but after a short time removed to the river front along the St. Clair, and settled down permanently to farming. Mr. and Mrs. Nesbitt both died there, and were buried in the cemetery at Moore Town. They were members of the Presbyterian Church. Five children were born to them, as follows: Alexander, deceased; James, of Detroit; Janet and Mary, both deceased; and John, a contractor in St. Clair, Michigan.

George Stewart attended school in West Calder until he was nine years old and made the most of that opportunity, for he became even then an excellent reader. In 1834 came the exodus to Canada, and with his mother and step-father the boy embarked at Leith on the sailing vessel "Margaret Bogle," which eight weeks later reached Quebec. From there they made their way down Lake Erie to Ontario. They reached Moore township, which was then unbroken wilderness, without even roads, and whose few settlers were squatters along the river front, chiefly French Canadians. Here Col. Stewart's boyhood and youth were passed, working with his step-father, who was rather harsh and exacting, to clear their land from the timber. When he was eighteen he started out for himself, with little to help him save the meager education he had secured in Scotland. He shipped as cook on the lake vessel "Athol," first sailing from Buffalo to Chicago, and during his seventeen seasons on the lakes he rose steadily until he became commander of a ship. He was mate of the steamer "Benjamin Franklin," and also of the "Huron," and while on the latter vessel was presented by the passengers on one trip in 1854 with a spy glass, a memento he still

carefully preserves. Later he was captain of the steam tug "Magnet."

In 1859 Col. Stewart gave up seafaring and locating in what is now Courtright, went into the cord wood business. He bought large tracts of timber land in and around Moore township, converted the timber into cord wood and sold it to lake boats, an enterprise which he carried on for fifteen years and in which he was very successful. From this he worked naturally into the lumber business, and putting up a planing mill in Courtright he conducted that for another period of fifteen years. Besides manufacturing and selling lumber he also owned and ran a vessel which carried the lumber and building materials to the different ports. This boat was stranded on Georgian Bay and was wrecked with a loss of \$3,000, without insurance. About the same time the mill was struck by lightning and burned, which caused another loss of over \$8,000, and after these two disasters Col. Stewart retired from active business and has since engaged in looking after his land. He owns 700 acres in Moore township, all under cultivation and rented, and is the largest individual tax payer in the township. He also has 160 acres in New Ontario which was a veteran grant. His home is a small farm facing the St. Clair river, one mile south of Courtright.

Col. Stewart's military career began during the Fenian Raid in 1866, when he raised a troop of cavalry of seventy men, and was its lieutenant, being stationed at Moore Town to guard the river front between Sarnia and Sombra. Again in 1870 he performed a similar duty, and for his services was presented by the Dominion government with the "Fenian Raid Medal," which is still in his possession. The troop of cavalry which he raised remained in the service and he rose to the rank of major, while in 1894, after more than a quarter of a century of service, he was retired by the Dominion government with the title of Lieutenant-colonel. In 1902 Col. Stewart received a gold medal from the Imperial government which the late Queen Victoria had ordered for all

officers who had served for over twenty-five years in the colonial auxiliary forces, a fitting recognition of his loyal service.

Always a staunch supporter of the Liberal party, Col. Stewart cast his first vote in 1845 for the Reform forces led by the Hon. George Brown. In local affairs he has taken a prominent part, has been member of the council for Moore township for four years, and for two served in the county council, while he has always manifested a deep interest in the management of the public schools. Religiously he and his family have always been connected with the Presbyterian Church, and Col. Stewart has been a liberal contributor, giving half the money needed for the Courtright church. He has also served as manager of the church. Fraternally, he is a member of the A. F. & A. M., having joined the Masonic lodge at Saginaw, Michigan, over half a century ago, in 1853, and he organized the lodge at Moore Town, now at Courtright. He is a Royal Arch Mason of St. Clair, Michigan, and belongs to the Knight Templar Commandery, of Port Huron. He is also a member of the I. O. O. F.

Col. Stewart's marriage occurred Jan. 25, 1855, when he was united to Miss Jean Gibb, daughter of Robert Gibb, Sr., and sister of Robert and John Gibb, well-known citizens of Sarnia. Forty years of happy married life followed, but March 23, 1895, Mrs. Stewart passed away, and her remains were laid to rest in Moore Town cemetery. A family of nine children were born to Col. and Mrs. Stewart, viz.: Margaret, who married Milton Day, a contractor and real estate dealer in Cleveland, Ohio, and has one son, George; Mary, at home; John James, who died in infancy; John James (2), who died in early manhood, Aug. 15, 1895; Miss Jessie, at home; Eliza Jane, who died June 3, 1899; Robert G., mentioned below; Annie Laurie, who married John James, a hardware dealer in Courtright and has two children, Jean and Adalina; and a daughter who died in infancy. Col. Stewart is now in his declining years tenderly cared for by his children, but though

in advanced age, he is as active as ever, both mentally and physically, and is a remarkable example of the sturdy old pioneer. He began as a poor boy and his present influential and prominent position is due entirely to his own efforts and ability. He stands as a fine example of noble manhood and patriotic citizenship.

MAJOR ROBERT GIBB STEWART, only surviving son of Col. Stewart, was born Oct. 14, 1872, in the old Stewart home, Courtright, and in boyhood attended the district schools. At the age of fourteen he went into his father's lumber mill, and during nine years there worked in different capacities, being foreman for the last two years. At the end of that time, as he wished to continue his education, he went to Sarnia and at a business college there studied stenography and typewriting. After returning to Courtright he spent two years in the grain business, also dealing in hardware, but then sold out and was engaged by the Michigan Central Railroad as inspector of railway ties. At present he is foreman of the freight handlers on the Michigan Central Railroad dock at Courtright, while at the same time he is engaged in the coal business at Courtright. Politically he is a Liberal like his father, has been trustee of School Section No. 18 for eight years; since 1896 has been justice of the peace, being appointed by the Dominion government, and he fills the position with both dignity and unvarying justice. In 1903 he was elected a trustee for the village of Courtright, and the following year a member of the council for Moore township, and in every position has more than justified the choice of his constituents.

At the early age of eleven Robert Stewart joined the cavalry, of which his father was then major, and for twenty-one years has been connected with C Squadron, 1st Hussars, in which he has himself now attained the rank of major, having risen from the bottom. During the Boer war he volunteered for service but his senior officer was chosen. He has very genial manners, and is not only well-known and respected, but very generally liked by all who know him, for he