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Full text of "Biographical and historical record of Jay and Blackford Counties, Indiana : containing ... portraits and biographies of some of the prominent men of the state : engravings of prominent citizens in Jay and Blackford Counties, with personal histories of many of the leading families and a concise history of Jay and Blackford Counties and their cities and villages."

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PHYSICIANS OF THE PAST.

Dixon Milligan, an Irishman, w'as the first physician to practice within the limits of Jay County, settling in Portland some time previous to 1840. After practicing here a number of years he went to Fort Recovery, where he died. He was good physician and surgeon, and became somewhat wealthy. It is related of him that he once cured a woman of hysterical hypochondria by breaking her best dishes before her eyes. She imagined she was a goose, guarding her eggs in the corner of the room. She would hiss and fly at the doctor, endeavoring to drive him away. Ascertaining privately of her husband what article about the house was dearest to her, namely, a valuable china set which her mother had given her, the doctor had them

brought forth. He set them out in order upon the dining table before her, and then broke one of them with his cane. This excited her, and she flew out at him, from her corner of the room, hissing and striking with greatly increased energy. Then he would break another dish, and with increased rage she chased him round and round the table, as he now and then would break another costly plate or vessel. Finally she suddenly

came to herself and exclaimed, "G - d

your old soul! Them was the cups and saucers my mother gave me." She was permanently cured; so the story goes.

Jacob M. Bosworth settled in the southern part of Wayne Township in 1836, was a farmer, and afterward practiced medicine also. He was well known throughout the county, on account of his superior intelligence. It is said that he delivered the first temperance address west of the Alleghany Mountains. He died at College Corner, in 1866.

Daniel W. McHeal, also county surveyor, came soon afterward. He died many years

*OHN CRING, furniture dealer and undertaker, Portland, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, February 7, 1828, a son of Tobias and Catherine Cring. The father was born in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1812, and when ten years old was taken by his parents to Ohio, in which State he grew to manhood, and was married to Catherine Hedrick, who died in 1870. In September, 1840, he came with his family to Jay County, Indiana, settling in Wabash Township. Tobias Cring and wife had a

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family of twelve children, ten reaching maturity, of whom two sons and six daughters are still living. John Cring, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest son and third child in his father's family. He was in his third year when brought by his parents to Jay County, and here he was reared to manhood. The remaining members of the family are Theophilus W., a resident of Fort Recovery, Ohio; Mrs. Jane Ashaugh, Mrs. Hannah Winters, Mrs. Amanda Clark, Mrs. Ellen Hitz, Mrs. Margaret Adams and Lovina, unmarried. The father being a farmer, John Cring was reared to the same avocation. He was for some time a student at Liber College, and taught a few terms of school. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Fifth Indiana Cavalry, and served his country until the close of the war. His regiment first operated in Kentucky, then under General Burnside in East Tennessee. Mr. Cring was captured on a skirmish line by Longstreet's forces with about forty of his command. He was held at Blountville, East Tennessee, about a week, then taken to Bris-

Tennessee, about a week, then taken to Bristol, Virginia, and a few days later to Richmond. He was imprisoned on Belle Island from January 1, 1864, until March 8 following, when he was sent to Andersonville, remaining there until the 8th of September. He was then taken to Savannah, Georgia, thence to Charleston, and from there to Florence, where he remained until December 8, 1864. He was returned to Charleston and released on parole, going thence to Annapolis, Maryland, receiving a thirty days' furlough, but was not exchanged until May, 1865. After being exchanged he remained at Camp Chase for a while, when he was discharged by reason of the war being over. After the war he went to Illinois, where he I

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was engaged in teaching school about a year. He also followed teaching in Indiana. In !

1868 he bought the drug store of Dr. Dixon Milligan, at Fort Recovery, where he remained until 1879. In that year he sold his drug business and came to Portland, Indiana, engaging in the furniture business. Mr. Cring was united in marriage in 1872 to Miss Martha V. Haidin, daughter of James Hanlin, of Wayne Township. They are the parents of four children - Ella, Fannie, Addie and George. In politics Mr. Cring casts his suffrage with the Republican party.

T. SHULL, M. D., the oldest physician now living in Blackford County, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Perry County, February 23, 1818, a son of Henry B. and Sarah (Wolf) Shull, the father born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, and the mother a native of Maryland. During his life the father was principally engaged in mercantile pursuits and in keeping hotel. When our subject was a lad of ten years his parents removed to Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, and there he was reared to the age of fifteen. In 1833 the family came to Indiana, locating in Wayne County, and from there the parents removed to the vicinity of Indianapolis, where they lived until 1854. In that year they settled in Montpelier, Blackford County, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father died in 1856, and the mother in 1862. While the family lived in Milton, Wayne County, William T., our subject, located in Jay County, in 1838, and engaged in the mercantile business at Portland, being one of the pioneer merchants of that place. He remained in business at Portland until 1840,

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but previous to this year he had commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Dixon Milligan, of Portland. He went to Salina, Mercer County, Ohio, where he practiced medicine for six months during 1844. He then returned to Portland greatly reduced in strength and in poor health. Soon after he came to Montpelier to engage in the practice of his profession, and was one of the first physicians of this place. He practiced here from September, 1844, until 1872, when he engaged in the drug business, and from that time gradually retired from active practice, until he may be said to have permanently retired from his medical practice. He has served several sessions in the Indiana State Legis-