

# BAIRD'S HISTORY

OF

# CLARK COUNTY

JAMES HOWARD

# INDIANA

Volume 2

By CAPTAIN LEWIS C. BAIRD

President of the Clark County Historical Society, Assisted by  
Well Known Local Talent.

ILLUSTRATED

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longs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Although reared under the influence and teachings of the Christian church, with which his family were identified, he is a member of the Methodist church.

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### REV. JOHN SIMONSON HOWK, D. D.

Pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Jeffersonville, and one of the most learned and popular divines of his church in Indiana, is he whose name appears above, who is a native of Floyd county, this state, and a son of the late Hon. George Vail Howk, of New Albany, formerly a Judge of the Supreme Court and a jurist of national repute. The Howk family is of German origin, but settled in Massachusetts early in the eighteenth century and engaged in agricultural pursuits. Isaac Howk, the subject's grandfather, was born in that state, received a liberal education in Williams College and in 1817 located at Charlestown, Indiana, where he engaged in the practice of law. His wife, Elvira Vail, was a daughter of Dr. Gamaliel Vail, who moved from New England to Indiana Territory in 1806, and settled in Clark county.

Hon. George V. Howk was reared in Charlestown, graduated from Asbury University in 1846, studied law with Hon. Charles Dewey, a Judge of the Indiana Supreme Court, and was admitted to the bar in 1847, beginning the practice of his profession in New Albany, where he soon arose to eminence in his chosen calling. He filled various official positions and was long prominently before the public, serving as City Judge of New Albany, Common Pleas Judge, Circuit Judge and Representative to the General Assembly. In 1876 he was chosen one of the Judges of Indiana Supreme Court, which distinguished position he held twelve years with credit to himself and to the honor of the state, and in which he achieved national repute as a learned and profound jurist. Judge Howk was twice married, the first time in 1848 to Eleanor, daughter of Judge Charles Dewey, of Charlestown, and in 1854 to Jane Simonson, daughter of Gen. John S. Simonson, of the United States army. The subject of this sketch is the only survivor of the family of eight children, born of these marriages. Charles D. and George V. Howk, Jr., brothers of the subject, were lawyers at New Albany, both dying in early manhood, and a sister, Jennie, also grew to years of maturity, the others dying in infancy and childhood. Judge Howk was one of the leading Democrats of Indiana, and for many years filled a large place in public view. His professional and judicial careers were eminently honorable and distinguished and his life for many years closely identified with the history of his native state, made him distinctively one of the noted men of his day. He died at his home in New Albany January 13, 1892.

Rev. John Simonson Howk was born May 28, 1863, and spent his early life in New Albany, receiving his elementary education in the public schools of the city. Manifesting an ardent desire for more thorough intellectual training, he was prepared for college under the tutorship of Miss Suda May, and in due time entered DePauw University, where he prosecuted his studies until 1883, when he was graduated with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts. Subsequently in 1886 he received from the same institution the Degree of Master of Arts, and having taken up the study of theology in the meantime, and achieved high standing as a scholar and much more than ordinary success in the ministry, he was granted in the year 1896 the Degree of Doctor of Divinity, by his alma mater. Animated by a laudable ambition to attain the highest possible efficiency in his holy calling, he afterwards took a two years' post-graduate course in philosophy and ethics under Rev. Dr. McCosh, at Princeton University, and in 1888 he was graduated with an honorable record from the Princeton Theological Seminary, thus laying broad and deep a substantial foundation for his subsequent career in one of the noblest and most responsible fields of endeavor.

At one time Doctor Howk seriously contemplated entering the legal profession and to this end studied law under his father, and in due time was admitted to the bar, but after a year's practice he abandoned the business to devote his life to the Christian ministry. On May 17, 1887, he was licensed by the New Albany Presbytery, and on June 19th of the year following, was ordained by the Presbytery of New Castle, since which time he has given himself unreservedly to his chosen calling, his first charges being the churches at Rehoboth and Pitts Creek, Maryland, where he labored with great acceptance from 1888 to 1898 inclusive. In the latter year he was chosen minister of the church at East Palestine, Ohio, but after a residence of a little more than a year at that place he resigned the pastorate to take charge of the First Presbyterian church of Jeffersonville, of which he was duly installed pastor on the 19th day of October, 1899, and to which he has since ministered with marked ability and happy results as the growth of the congregation in all lines of activity abundantly attests. Doctor Howk's labors in Jeffersonville have been highly creditable to himself and satisfactory to his congregation, presenting a series of successes which have tended greatly to the strengthening of the church temporally and spiritually, and making it one of the most prosperous Presbyterian organizations in the southern part of the state. Fruitful in expedients, he has introduced a number of reforms calculated to arouse the latent energies of the members and develop their usefulness along practical lines, not the least of which was a Presbyterian Brotherhood he established five years before the national organization of the same name went into effect. This society, which has fully realized the object for which intended, has been of almost inestimable value by keeping alive an interest in religious and benevolent

work, while at its sessions many subjects of vital importance to the church as well as ways and means for the general dissemination of the cause of Christ, are considered and discussed. He was also instrumental in organizing the Thomas Posey Post, Presbyterian Brotherhood Cadets, for the purpose of enlisting the interest of the boys of his congregation by means of Bible study, athletics, physical training, healthful amusements, etc., the success of the enterprise more than meeting his expectations and proving a sure safeguard against the many alluring temptations and evils to which the youth and young men of cities are subjected.

During the past nine years Doctor Howk has been secretary of the home missionary work of the New Albany Presbytery, and as such has been untiring in his efforts to advance its interest and plant churches and Sunday schools in destitute fields. He was a commissioner of the General Assembly in 1893 and 1903 respectively, and for several years served as chairman of the Sunday school work of the Baltimore Synod, comprising the states of Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia. He keeps in close touch with his denomination and everything relating thereto, is influential in its public assemblages and stands high in the esteem of his fellow ministers and co-workers, besides enjoying the confidence of the public irrespective of faith or creed. While loyal to the church of his choice, the faith and practice of which he justifies by reason and history, showing that its object and aim both appeal to and receive the sanction of all fair-minded persons, he is by no means narrow in his views, perceiving good in all religious organizations and being ready at all times to co-operate with his brother ministers of other bodies in the laudable work of the world's evangelization.

Doctor Howk is not unknown in the domain of literature, having contributed a number of articles, chiefly of a religious and historical character, to the different magazines and periodicals. While pastor of the old church at Rehoboth, Maryland, he discovered and secured the history of the first Presbyterian organization on the American continent, which appears to have been established as early as 1683, by Rev. Francis Makenzie, who ministered to the little band of worshippers for many years. Collecting all available data bearing on this church, the doctor wrote a very interesting history of the birthplace of Presbyterianism in the United States, the sketch proving one of the most valuable additions to church literature in recent years. He has also written not a few poems of decided merit and a number of hymns which have appeared from time to time in various religious and secular journals, all of his literary productions finding ready publishers and appreciative readers.

The doctor's fraternal relations include the Phi Gamma Delta college fraternity, Jeffersonville Lodge, No. 240, Free and Accepted Masons; R. S. Taggart Camp, Sons of Veterans of East Palestine, Ohio, and the Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution, being eligible to membership in the last

named organization through his great-great-grandfather, Colonel William Edmonson, who was second in command at King's Mountain and distinguished himself by bravery and gallantry in that and other battles. His maternal grandfather, Gen. John S. Simonson, was a soldier in the War of 1812 and the war with Mexico, and bore a distinguished part in the Civil war from 1861 to 1866, besides serving a number of years in the frontier against various hostile Indian tribes. He was a soldier by profession, rose by successive promotions from private to the rank of general and was noted for fearlessness and bravery in action as well as for strict discipline as a commander.

Doctor Howk was married at New Albany to May Lorraine Collins, daughter of Henry H. and Mary (Scribner) Collins, both residents of New Albany, and representatives of the early pioneer families of that city and well and favorably known in social and religious circles. Mrs. Howk was reared and educated in her native city, graduating from the high school with the class of 1886. Doctor and Mrs. Howk have two daughters, Margaret, born March 12, 1890, at Pocomoke, Maryland, and Mary Simonson, whose birth occurred at the same place on March 31st of the year 1895, both being students at Hanover College. Doctor Howk has been a trustee of Hanover College since 1905, and his interest and activity in educational work is secondary only to his ministerial and religious duties.

Since October, 1908, Doctor and Mrs. Howk have moved to Hanover to be with their children, and Doctor Howk has engaged in general evangelistic work.

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### JOHN C. ZULAUF.

The fact that this name appears in the city directory of Jeffersonville is due to a somewhat romantic episode, involving a rather interesting chapter in the history of Southern Indiana. Many years before the Civil war a wealthy citizen of Switzerland, by the name of Fischli, pre-empted a large amount of land near Seymour, and owned other extensive tracts near Jeffersonville. At that time the law of Indiana prohibited the inheritance of land by foreign heirs, and at the death of the original owner the estate escheated to the school fund of the commonwealth by provision of the statute. To recover lands John Zulauf, a distant relative of Fischli, was employed to come to America. He was born in Switzerland, in 1818, and obtained a collegiate education, spoke six languages and altogether was an unusually well informed man. He spent several years in clerical occupations in some of the factories and banks in different parts of Europe, including one year in the bank at Marseilles, France, and several years in the large manufactories at Birmingham,