

Capt. Charles M. Siders, still a young man, not yet forty, has used the time and talents allotted him to splendid purpose. He has prospered in business affairs, has recently completed two full terms of service as clerk of courts in Van Wert County, and was long active and prominent in military circles, having attained the rank of captain in the National Guard, and having served with his regiment during the Spanish-American war.

He was born in Van Wert June 11, 1879. His people were very early settlers in Southern Ohio. His great-grandfather was a farmer and died in Galia County, Ohio, and came to this state after having served in the Revolutionary war. Joseph Siders, grandfather of Captain Siders, was born in Galia County, was reared there, and when a young man went to Indiana and bought a tract of timbered land in Union Township of Jay County. He improved that land, but in 1876 sold out his possessions there and removed to Van Wert County and lived in the county seat until his death at the age of seventy-five. He married Almira Rhea, who was born in Preble County, Ohio, and is still living at Van Wert at the age of seventy-eight, having reared five children. Her father, Robert Rhea, was an extensive farmer in Jay County, Indiana, and gave to each of his children 200 acres of land. Robert Rhea died in Jay County.

Robert Siders, father of Captain Siders, was born on a farm in Union Township of Jay County, Indiana, February 21, 1857, came to Van Wert in 1876 and is still living in that city. He married Eva Tomlinson, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio. Her father, Lewis Tomlinson, was a prominent pioneer, a native of Madison County, Ohio, and on going to Mercer County he owned and operated a flour mill on St. Marys River. That was before the days of railroads and people living over a vast extent of country brought their corn and wheat by horseback or other conveyance for long distances to his mill. Mr. Tomlinson operated his mill on St. Marys River several years, and then removed to Van Wert, where he was engaged in the boot and shoe business until he retired. The maiden name of his wife was Richard Boroff, who was born in Cincinnati and died in Van Wert. Lewis Tomlinson and wife were both active Methodists, feared their families in the same faith, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Siders are regular attendants at that church. Capt. Charles M. Siders was the oldest of five children, the others being Foster, Ethel, Edith and Vernal.

While growing up in Van Wert Charles M. Siders attended the public schools, and then seeking a means of self support he spent two years working in the Eagle Stave Works. His next employment was as clerk in the Boston Store at Van Wert. In the meantime he had enlisted in Company D of the Second Regiment Ohio National Guard, and on the breaking out of the Spanish-American war in 1898 he went with his regiment when it

was called into service. He was with his comrades in the southern concentration camps until they were mustered out and honorably discharged in 1899. Captain Siders retained his membership in his company and regiment until 1910, and was promoted from the ranks through the different grades until he became captain of his company.

After the close of his military service in the field he spent a year and a half with the Allen Grocery Company as a clerk, and then set up a business in that line of his own. Captain Siders was one of the prosperous merchants of Van Wert until 1912, when he was elected clerk of courts of the county. He was re-elected in the fall of 1914 and at this writing is closing his second term of efficient handling of the duties of office.

In 1909 he married Miss Mary E. Thomas, who was born in York Township of Van Wert County, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Thomas. Mrs. Siders' maternal grandfather, Richard Jarvis, was born in Wales, was reared and married there, and about 1845 came to America accompanied by his family. From Cincinnati he removed in the spring of 1848 to Van Wert County, and his was one of the first white families in this section. He bought sixty acres of timbered land in York Township from William Belt, and after improving that place and occupying it for several years he sold out and bought 200 acres in Jennings Township. He lived there until his death. At the age of twenty one Richard Jarvis married Mary Bebb, who was born August 2, 1821. Her cousin George Bebb was a member of the Calvinistic Methodist Episcopal Church and served as a trustee and superintendent of the Sunday school. Mr. and Mrs. Siders have two children, Richard and Robert. In politics Captain Siders has always been a loyal democrat and besides his county office has served on the city council. He is affiliated with Van Wert Lodge No. 130, Knights of Pythias, with Van Wert Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and with Aerie No. 886 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Source - A history of northwest Ohio: a narrative account of its historical ..., Volume 2; Winter, Nevin Otto, 1869, pg 890.