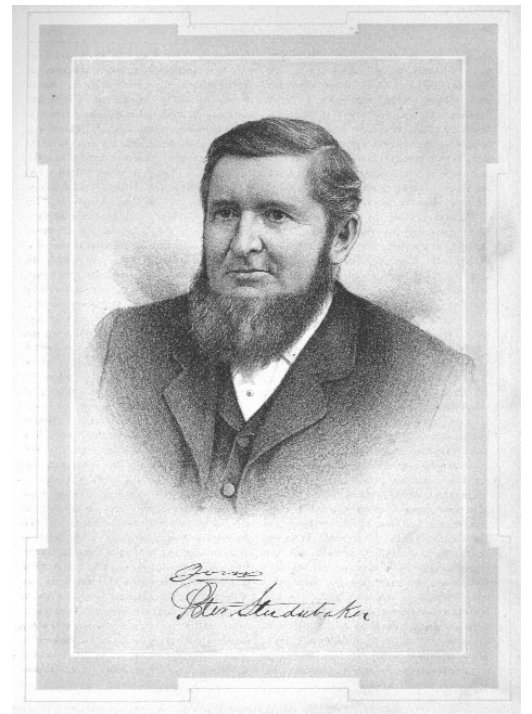


MAJOR PETER STUDABAKER, an active and influential citizen of Wells County, a member of the banking firm of John Studabaker & Co., and an extensive farmer, is a native of the State of Ohio, born in Darke County, February 26, 1833. His parents, Abraham and Elizabeth (Hardman) Studabaker, were among the first settlers of Darke County. Major Studabaker was reared and educated in his native county at the common schools until attaining the age of fourteen years, when he came to Bluffton and entered the store of his brother, John Studabaker (to whom he is indebted for his early business education), as clerk, and continued so until 1851, when, at only eighteen years of age, he was taken into partnership with his brother in the dry goods business. He was united in marriage, October 28, 1852, to Sarah Morgan, daughter of John Morgan, an extensive miller from Lancaster, Ohio. They have five living children, three sons and two daughters. George W., the eldest, was married to Olive Kemp in 1876, and lives on a farm near Bluffton, and is employed as paying teller in the Exchange Bank. James M. was married to Emma Ervin in 1881, and resides in Bluffton and is a dealer in jewelry. Anna E. was married [sic] to John H. Thornburg, a druggist of Farmland, Indiana, in 1882, and resides there. Alice was married in 1887, to Charles E. Lacey, a young attorney and member of the firm of Wilson, Todd & Laeey, and resides in Bluffton. Hugh D., the youngest, is at home, and looks after the farm and stock. David, a bright boy of eleven years, was accidentally drowned in the Wabash River June 10, 1868. In 1857 Mr. Studabaker retired from the dry goods business and engaged in farming and stock-raising and buying and shipping to Eastern markets. In 1858, then but twenty-five years of age, he was elected treasurer of Wells County, and in 1860 was re-elected to the same office. When the Rebellion of 1861 broke out he took an active part in raising volunteers for the Union army. In 1862 he enlisted as private, while yet county treasurer, and August 15, 1862, was commissioned Captain of Company B, One Hundred and First Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was immediately sent to the front with the regiment, and on June 1, 1863, was commissioned Major of his regiment. The regiment saw much active service and was in most of the battles under General Thomas in the Fourteenth Army Corps, and in the battle of Chickamauga was the last to leave the battlefield. He was with Sherman in the Atlanta campaign and marched with him to the sea at Savannah, thence through the Carolinas to Goldsborough, thence to Raleigh, North Carolina, and after the surrender of Johnston's army marched to Washington, D. C., via Richmond, West Virginia, and was in the grand reunion at Washington in May, 1865. From thence he traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, by rail and steamboat, and was there mustered out with his men June 24, 1865. From thence he went to Indianapolis, Indiana, where the regiment was paid off, and he returned home July 4, 1865. He was wounded in the left foot at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, but while in the service never lost a day from sickness or any other cause. No company of soldiers ever had an officer who was more devoted to their welfare and comfort than the company that Major Studabaker led to the field from Wells County, as is well attested by the surviving members of his regiment. After his return he resumed farming and stock raising and in 1866 accepted the position of cashier in the First National Bank, and in 1869 he became a member of the Exchange Bank of John Studabaker & Co., which as a private bank is meeting with excellent success. In 1874 Major Studabaker was elected commissioner of Wells County, was re-elected to the same office in 1876 and 1880, and while commissioner had the superintending of the building of the county infirmary and jail, two splendid buildings of which the people of the county are justly proud, and also took an active part in building both our railroads and was among the foremost in advocacy of our free gravel roads, and the people of the county are largely indebted to Major Studabaker for the success of that enterprise in our midst. As a business man and accountant he has no superior in the county, and his integrity, honesty and judgment are so well known that his advice is sought after more frequently, perhaps, in both public and private affairs than that of any other man in Bluffton. Considered either as a man, a county official, neighbor, soldier, patriot or friend, Major Studabaker is popular and honorable. In politics he is a Democrat and cast his first vote as such. He is a member of the Baptist church and also of the



Masonic lodge of Bluffton, Indiana. Both he and his wife are highly esteemed, and are well and favorably known for their generosity and acts of kindness. Their home is open to their many friends.

Biographical and historical record of Adams and Wells counties, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887. pp. 704-707.