

cepted a nomination from his party in its plucky, but hopeless fights against the overwhelming republican majority in Chautauqua county.

**JOHN W. O'BRIEN** had an unexpectedly hard battle to fight in life, but he fought it nobly and won a victory of which any one might be justly proud. He was born in county Carlow, province of Leinster, Ireland, July 20, 1842, and is a son of William and Ann (Kelley) O'Brien. His father, William O'Brien, was a native of the same place, a farmer by occupation, a member of the Catholic church and died in 1852, at forty years of age. He married Ann Kelley, of county Wicklow, a mining and pastoral district in the province of Leinster, by whom he had eight children, three sons and five daughters: John W.; James, who died in Ireland; Thos. B., is foreman in a large manufacturing establishment in Erie, Pa.; Ellen, wife of James Carroll; Jane, married Bartholomew Cavanaugh; Annie, married to P. C. Mulligan; Bridget and Mary, who resides with John W. All the daughters reside in Dunkirk. Mrs. O'Brien came to America in 1858 and located in Dunkirk, where she is now residing with her son, John W., in the seventy-fifth year of her age. She is also a member of the Catholic church.

John W. O'Brien received a portion of his education by a brief attendance in the common schools, but it came mainly by studying at home in the evenings. His father was in reduced circumstances at the time of his death, and John W., at the age of thirteen, with his sister Ellen, aged eleven, came alone to America in 1855, and from New York City to Dunkirk, where they expected to meet an uncle, Thomas O'Brien, but found he had died. He then went to work on a farm, remained there two years and then secured a position in the flour and feed house of William O'Neil, who was an old friend of the O'Briens in Ireland. He continued to clerk for

Mr. O'Neil until 1879, when he entered into partnership with Thomas O'Neil, under the firm name of O'Neil & Co., and bought out William O'Neil. This firm continued two years, when his partner died and he bought his interest of the heirs, and since then has continued the business alone. He carries a large stock of all kinds of flour, feed and seeds and enjoys a fine paying trade. He has reared and educated his brothers and sisters and has also accumulated a moderate competency. In politics he is a democrat and in religion is a member of the Catholic church. He enjoys the respect of all who know him and is satisfied with his experience in his adopted country.

**GILBERT M. RYKERT** was born in Attica, Wyoming county, New York, October 6, 1840, and is a son of Rev. Gilbert and Sarah A. (Nichols) Rykert. His father, Rev. Gilbert Rykert, was a native of Washington county, this State, a minister of the Free-Will Baptist church, and in politics a republican. He married Sarah A. Nichols, a native of the town where her son was born, who is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and now resides with her son in Westfield, in the seventy-sixth year of her age. They were the parents of three children. Rev. Gilbert Rykert died in Evans, Erie county, this State, where he had lived for several years, on June 12, 1864, at the age of fifty-three years.

Gilbert M. Rykert was reared principally in Erie and Chautauqua counties, and received a common-school education. In July, 1862, he enlisted in Co. C, 154th regiment, New York Vol. Infantry, and was honorably discharged in February, 1864, on account of a wound received at the battle of Gettysburg, on July 1, 1863, while he was color-bearer. His comrade, also a color-bearer, had been previously shot, and Mr. Rykert had taken his colors in addition to his own. He was struck in his right arm by a minie-ball, permanently disabling the arm.

After leaving the army, he entered the employ of the L. S. & M. S. R. R. company, where he has remained ever since. From 1876 to 1887 he was telegraph operator at Westfield, and in the latter year he was appointed station-agent, which position he still retains. He also devoted some attention to the cultivation of the grape. Politically he is a prohibitionist, in his religious convictions a Baptist, of which church he is a member and a trustee, and is a member of Summit Lodge, No. 219, F. and A. M.; Chautauqua Lodge, No. 3, A. O. U. W.; Westfield Council, No. 81, Royal Arcanum, and William Sackett Post, No. 324, G. A. R. He has served three years as a trustee of the town of Westfield.

November 10, 1868, Gilbert M. Rykert united in marriage with Arietta H., daughter of Leonard Smith, of Brocton, this county, and their union has been blest with three children: Homer S., Charles E. and William C.

G. M. Rykert is a gallant soldier, an honest, faithful, conscientious employe, and an upright, honorable and respected citizen, ever doing all in his power for the prosperity of the town in which he resides.

**MYRON W. PARDEE**, a son of James and Phoebe (Chandler) Pardee, was born April 15, 1856 and died at Jamestown, Nov. 22, 1889. Myron W. Pardee was a grandson of Woodley W. Chandler, a native of the Old Dominion State where he was born February 14, 1800, and was one of the earlier of Jamestown's settlers, arriving here in 1826. Prior to this date he lived for a while in Dexterville, Chautauqua county, where he married Phoebe Winsor, daughter of Abraham Winsor, by whom he had five children. Upon his advent here, in partnership with his brother-in-law, he bought a piece of land near the outlet formerly owned by Judge Foote, and built upon it a cloth-dressing and carding mill. Its site is now covered by a much larger similar establishment.

At about this season he was also interested in lumbering. He afterwards removed to Levant, Chautauqua county, where he died April 22, 1854. Chandler street, Jamestown, derives its name from this family. Grandfather Pardee was a native of Connecticut.

Myron W. Pardee was educated in the Jamestown schools, graduating from the normal department in 1876, and from the high school in 1879. Previous to his graduation, however, he had left school several times for the purpose of teaching. The first time when only seventeen years of age he was principal of the school at Kennedy, N. Y., for a year and at later periods had charge of schools at Falconer, N. Y., and at Farmington, Fayette county, Pa. Immediately after graduation, in 1879, he registered with Hon. Orsell Cook and began the study of law. He also, at the same time kept books for two Jamestown firms in order to procure means with which to go through with his studies. He afterwards entered the Albany law school, from which he graduated in 1881, and settled in Jamestown for the practice of his profession. Being bright, active and energetic he soon gained a lucrative practice, and at the time of his death was one of the leading young attorneys of Jamestown.

On September 19, 1883, he was united in marriage to Eudora E. Klock, the accomplished daughter of Hiram and Margaret (Quinn) Klock. Mrs. Pardee is a musician of recognized merit. An expert instrumentalist, she has also rare natural endowments of voice which she has cultivated by thorough courses at Meadville, Pa., and in New York city under instructions from the best artists in the profession. She has sung in nearly all the city church choirs.

Politically Mr. Pardee was a republican and with his wife was a member of the Methodist church.

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BIOGRAPHICAL AND PORTRAIT

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WITH A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE COUNTY

BY

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