

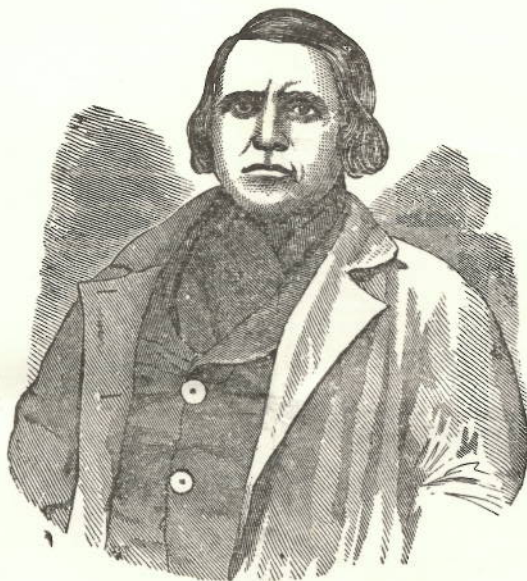
WILLIAM PAINTER
Phrenological character and
Biography.

Phrenological Character.

The person from whose portrait we dictate this character has solidity and vigor of bodily development, soundness and hardihood of constitution, which give force, endurance, energy, and practical efficiency. He has harmony of vital development and a plenty of muscular power; hence he ought to be tough, healthy and hardy. His head is rather wide, showing a full development of Combativeness and Destructiveness, Acquisitiveness, Cautiousness and Secretiveness. These organs give thoroughness, policy, economy, and prudence. His head rises high from the ears upward to the location of Firmness and Conscientiousness, indicating stability, determination, a strong will, self-reliance, and general integrity, and a tendency to be at the head of affairs. The center of the top-head shows rather large Veneration, which gives him respect for age, wisdom, superiority, and things sacred. His faith is not remarkably strong. He inclines to question and criticise whatever seems new, strange, and wonderful and he is more likely to settle down on some plain, common-sense platform of faith and doctrine than he is to be carried away by enthusiasm beyond the ordinary summit-level of belief.

He appears to have a full development of the social organs, as shown by a side-view daguerreotype in our possession. He is candid in his friendships, steady in his attachments; is not much inclined to flatter and fawn upon his friends, and is fond of home and its associations. He appears to have large benevolence, as seen by that elevation above the root of the nose, under the hair. His kindness, however, is shown in a practical way among his acquaintances, not in speculative schemes of philanthropy. His missionary money is all expended within the vicinity of his acquaintance, where he can watch its effect and know that it is properly appropriated. If a person is sick and in trouble, his sympathy and kindness are exercised liberally; and he is much more inclined to exhibit, in his general conduct, the principles of the Christian in acts of justice and neighborly kindness, than he is to accept the form of devotion and the doctrine of a creed.

The features of his character which are most distinct as seen in the portrait, are those located in the forehead. It will be observed that his head from the eyes outward through the temples, is broad - so much so as to make the head look rather low and flattened. This development evinces great mechanical talent and mathematical ability, power to invent and use tools, plan business, and work out results practically. He ought to have been educated for a builder or civil engineer. His organs on Calculation and Order are large evincing system, organization, knowledge of combination and arrangement, also great talent for reckoning figures, keeping accounts, working out problems, understanding the relations of numbers and the laws of mathematics. The whole brow is prominent - the eyes are widely spread and every portion of the forehead indicates practical judgement, sound common sense, ability to understand busi-



Portrait of William Painter

ness and to follow out its details thoroughly.

He has fair talking talent, a good memory of what he sees and experiences power to look ahead and understand the effects of business operations.

He has much in his organization indicative of the pioneer spirit, and he rarely makes a move that is not dictated by sound sense. His judgment is reliable, because not to much swayed by anticipation or a warm imagination, but based upon a careful calculation and estimate of what he can make out of the circumstances or do with the means in his power. He has just the organization to work out his own success without assistance; still he ought to have been educated, at least in the sphere of the sciences and he would have made his mark among men of culture. Without education he makes his mark among men of business.

He will be known for his sound judgment, mechanical ingenuity, strong affections, thoroughness, and uniformity; for his love of truth and disposition to fulfill his engagements, and to treat other men with justice and proper consideration.

Biography

William Painter was born in Greene County, Ohio, April 28th, 1821. His parents were Quakers, and good honest Ohio farmers. His ancestors were among the original settlers of Greene County, where the subject of our narrative lived, and worked on the farm till his twentieth year, when he was sent to Mount Pleasant Friends' Boarding School, where he remained for about two years, till he was employed on a farm, and a part of the time in doing carpenter work, jobbing, etc., required about the farm, among which was the building a large barn, which he did in a workmanlike manner, without having been taught the trade. He was married in June, 1843, to Caroline Fawcett with whom he lived in Paintersville, Greene County, Ohio till June, 1844, when she died.

In 1845 he married Elizabeth Self, when he moved to his farm, near Paintersville, where he continued farming, and, at intervals, threshing grain for the neighboring farmers on an improved machine of his own construction; also superintending the building of houses, barns etc.

In March, 1847, he obtained an

interest in a grist-mill, in Clinton County, Ohio, where, without anything to depend on but his own skill, backed by untiring energy and a strong will, succeeded, without previous apprenticeship, in running the mill himself, and making good work. At the same time he superintended the building of houses, constructing of pumps, and machinery of different kinds. In September, 1847 he took his wife and one child, and in a two-horse wagon started for Wisconsin. He arrived and pitched his tent in Grant County, at the head of Platt River, where he purchased a farm and built a cabin, lived there farming and following those mechanical pursuits for which his genius seemed to be peculiarly adapted.

In March 1849, he started, in company with ten others, on an exploring ring expedition to Northern Iowa, then the habitation almost exclusively of the red man. Being struck by the beauty and fertility of the country, he with the rest determined to make it his home. Mr. Painter, with his usual decision of character, made a claim and built a cabin on the Upper Iowa River, on the place where the town of Decorah now stands.

It was here that his character began to be displayed in its true light. He soon commenced the erection of a grist-mill, an arduous task in Northern Iowa at that time for any one, but especially so for one with very limited means, and without a mechanical education. In spite of all difficulties he succeeded in starting a mill in 1852 with one run of stones, capable of grinding from fifteen to twenty bushels of wheat per hour, this was planned by himself, and built with his own hands. The building of this mill gave a new impetus to the progress of the country, and though farmers were obliged to come here to dispose of their grain, or to get it floured, Mr. Painter was never known to take advantage of their necessities by overcharging or extortion.

He always lends a helping hand to the poor, and has been associated with the benevolent movements of the country, and is a strict temperance man.

He is emphatically a people's man, and may be seen about his mills, dressed in his plain clothes and large bone buttons, as he appears in the engraving, in which dress he seems to take pride. He is in favor of all the progressive movement of age.

In 1853 he laid out the present site of Decorah, in connection with Mr. Day, and under their fostering care she has grown to her present position, as the largest town in Northern Iowa in the short term of five years. It now contains 2,000 inhabitants, is the county seat of Winneshiek County, and the center of trade in the northern part of the State. This all radiating from the energy of one man, with very limited means, a plain farmer, without the advantage of a good education, shows that self-made men are the ones for new countries, and that well-directed energy in a good cause is almost omnipotent. If Decorah ever occupies the position that her present prospects would seem to indicate, William Painter may well be proud of the appellation of The Father of Decorah, to which he is so justly entitled. H. K.