

2. GEORGE W.² PIPER (*JOHN R.*¹) was born December 19, 1828 in Clark County, Ohio, and died September 14, 1906 in Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana,. He married SAMANTHA SHELPMAN October 24, 1858 in Indiana, daughter of WILLIAM SHELPMAN and HANNAH RANDALL. She was born July 21, 1839 in Marysville, OH, and died January 14, 1929 in Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana.

[Notes for GEORGE W. PIPER:](#)

The gentleman whose name opens this article has long occupied an eminent and enviable standing in the county where he has so long made his home. He has filled with marked credit public affairs of trust, and now possess to an unusually large degree the confidence and respect of the people with whom he has so long been associated. This standing has not been acquired by him because of the influence of wealth or original social position of the aid of influential friends, but has been honestly earned and richly merited by his own inherent worth, by the possession of those traits of character which have always formed expression in a life devoted to the welfare of his own home circle, and to the progress and advancement of the community with which he has been so closely connected.

George W. Piper is a native of the Buckeye state, having been born on the 19th of December, 1828, in Clark county, Ohio. His parents were John R. and Jane (Prickett) Piper, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Ohio. John R. Piper, when yet a child, was taken by his parents to Ohio, and by his marriage with Jane Prickett became the father of six children, as follows: Rachel K. and William, both deceased; George, the subject; John J. is now a resident of Washington; and David and Catherine are both deceased.

George W. Piper's early educational advantages were somewhat limited. He attended the public schools of his native state until about the age of twelve years, at which time he accompanied his mother upon her move to Indiana, settling in Washington Township, Noble County. From that time until he was thirty years old he remained with his mother, faithfully looking after her interest. About this time he hired out for a time, but in 1851, because of the death of his brother, he returned home and again took up the operation of the old farm. He continued at this occupation here until about 1868, when he moved onto the place of his present residence. He became the owner of five hundred and fifty acres of fine agricultural property, but sold a good deal of this to his children, his present real estate consisting of three hundred and eighteen acres. This was all accumulated by his own unremitting toil and indefatigable efforts, and he took a just pride in the results of his earlier labors.

On the 24th of October, 1858, the marriage of George W. Piper took place, Miss Samantha Shelpman being the lady of his choice. She was born July 21, 1830, near Marysville, Ohio, a daughter of William Shelpman, later of York township, Noble county, Indiana. The latter was the father of four children-Samantha, Emily J., Adaline and

Hannah. George W. and Samantha (Shelpman) became the parents of eight children, brief mention of whom is as follows: John J. was born January 29, 1860, married Mary Buffenbarger, and they have three children, Goldie M., Marie and Zelta; Charles E., born October 3, 1862, married Viola A. Brenninger, and to this union were born three children, Ray, Chester (deceased) and Jennie; William H., born January 21, 1865, married Cora Fahl, and they became the parents of five children, Bennie G., Esther, Carroll, Laura and Clarence; Elma J., born July 22, 1867, died September 1, 1889; Addie, born July 22, 1870, became the wife of H. D. Miller, and they have one child, George A., and she is a professional dressmaker and he is a principal of the high school at Topeka, Indiana; Phineas, born January 26, 1873, married Ocia O. Smith and they have one child, Smith; Dora was born April 15, 1876; and Nettie D. was born October 28, 1882.

Miss Dora completed the common-school course in the class of 1893 and received her diploma. She is her mother's main stay in the home circle. Miss Nettie has musical attainments, both vocal and instrumental. She is now learning the profession of Modeste.

Here is appended the obituary of the daughter, Elma, who died September 1, 1890. "On Sunday, September 1, at the home of her parents, George and Samantha Piper, occurred the death of their daughter, Elma J.; her age was twenty-two years, one month and eleven days. She had experienced a protracted illness of seven months, during which time she suffered extremely, though amidst it all she manifested a courage and though of character which continued to the last and contributed a beauty even to the dying hour. When she perceived that she must die she called to her bedside the members of the family and disposed of the few articles of worldly effects, consisting of little gifts, upon this one and that as tokens of remembrance; and, at her request, being tenderly adjusted upon the pillows, she bade an adieu and triumphantly died in the hope of life beyond. A beautiful life was followed by a beautiful death. For a number of years she had been a Sunday-school teach and organist at Ormas, and was one who could be relied upon as a helper in every good cause, everywhere displaying the same grand fortitude and nobleness of character. The funeral, which was held at the residence, was largely attended by the friends her life had won for her, the number of people in attendance being estimated at six hundred. The sermon was preached by Rev. H. Nickerson, pastor of the Methodist church at Wolf Lake. Though dead, she yet lives in the hearts of all who knew her. She had secured her teacher's certificate to teach in Noble county, but her illness deprived her of entering upon the profession as teacher."

William Shelpman was a native of Ohio, and was an agriculturist. He was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a benevolent man, and died in 1856, aged thirty-nine years. Mother Shelpman was also a native of Ohio, and she died at the age of twenty-eight. There were four daughters - Samantha; Emily J., deceased; Adaline, wife of E. T. Rector, residing in Indianapolis, who is a carpenter and joiner by trade and was a soldier in the Civil war for three years. They are adherents of the Methodist Episcopal church. Adaline previously married to J. H. Brown, now deceased, and three

children were born - Almer W., Minnie E. and Frank H. The next daughter is Hannah, wife of Henry Stephenson, a resident of Lincoln, Neb., and he is an agriculturist. They have five children.

Mr. Piper has followed agricultural pursuits all his life, though not exclusively. He has also paid considerable attention to the breeding and raising of sheep and cattle, the latter stock being his specialty at the present time. That he has made a success of his calling is abundantly evinced by the well-kept appearance of his farm and the abundant harvests he gathers.

Politically Mr. Piper has been a staunch and active worker in the ranks of the Republican party ever since its organization, and has been honored by his fellow citizens with several offices of honor and trust. He was elected a trustee of Washington township, and that his service was efficient and thoroughly satisfactory to his constituents is attested by the fact that for nine consecutive years he was retained in that office. He was also elected a member of the board of county commissioners, serving in that capacity at the time the present court-house was being erected. It was at a time when there was especial call for watchfulness and attention to the interests of the people of the county, and Mr. Piper acquitted himself of his onerous duties in a manner that earned him the commendation of all, irrespective of party.

Religiously the family are all active and consistent members of the Free Baptist church at Cold Springs, Whitley County, Indiana. Socially the members of this family are accounted worthy members of the best people in their community, and by their courteous manners, genial dispositions and careful regard for the ethics of life have endeared themselves to a wide circle of friends.

Source of information:

Alvord's History of Noble County, Indiana

By Samuel E. Alvord

A comprehensive compendium of local biography--memoirs of representative men and women of the county, whose works of merit have made their names imperishable.

Published in 1902 by B. F. Bowen, Publisher, Logansport, Indiana

OBITUARY

George W. Piper, one of the good men of the county, formerly county commissioner, and one of the best known citizens of the southern part of the county, died at his home in Washington Township last Thursday after a long and painful illness. He was afflicted with cancer for a number of years, and for nearly two weeks prior to his death was unable to eat anything. He gradually succumbed to the ravages of the disease and at last sank into that dreamless sleep. His funeral occurred on Sunday and was attended by many prominent citizens throughout the county, who realized that in the death of Mr. Piper a

true citizen had gone. He was honest, conscientious, patriotic, and possessed a high and noble purpose, loyal to home and country, and the world is certainly better for his having lived. He leaves many relatives and friends to mourn.

GEORGE PIPER AGED SEVENTY SEVEN YEARS

Geo. W. Piper died at his home in Washinton Township, Noble County, Ind., September 14, 1906, after many months of affliction with malignant cancerous affection. He was born in Clark county, Ohio, Dec. 19, 1828, and was aged 77 years, 8 months and 25 days.

In 1842, his widowed mother and her six children came to Indiana and settled in Washington Township, Noble County, on the farm which has been in the family possession ever since. On Oct. 24, 1858, he was united in marriage to Samantha Shelpman, and to this union were born eight children, four boys and four girls, Elma, the oldest daughter, preceded her father to the spirit world.

In the days when Mr. Piper came to this country, the country was new and the settlements were far apart and the roads wound through the forests. Mr. Piper was a sturdy youth and aside from a few months spent in the rural schools in the winter, he devoted himself assiduously to the task of clearing up the farm and endured all the hardships incident to developing a new country. The splendid farm which his mother secured he finally procured as his own, which with several adjoining farms that he purchased and improved to a high degree of perfection shows how well he did his work, and made a great success in his chosen vocation, as one of the leading farmers of the country. Such men of such sterling qualities are usually sought out by their fellow men as fitted for places of public trust, especially when they have qualities of honesty and integrity and fair dealing, all of which Mr. Piper enjoyed to a high degree. It was remarked by one who knew him well, that it was doubtful if a man, woman or child in all his large acquaintance could be found who would not fully trust him and trust his word to the utmost. Accordingly his neighbors kept him busy much of the time looking after estates as administrator all of which he managed in an equitable and satisfactory manner.

The people of his township often elected him to serve in its offices. The people of the country also recognizing his splendid business ability, chose him in one of the most important periods of its history as county commissioner and the excellent management and economical plans in the erection of the new court house is largely due to the credit of Mr. Piper. He was known and often counseled by the leading business men of the country.

In early life he was converted and was a devoted and active member of the Free Baptist Church at Ormas for several years. The experience of religion he always clung to and was always ready to encourage and assist any religious enterprise through his life. During his

long sickness he showed the most perfect resignation, never complaining and always cheerful and pleasant to his devoted companion and children whom he so tenderly loved and cherished. He fully trusted in God and often spoke of his bright hope for the future. Truly a noble man has fallen.

He leaves to mourn his loss, his devoted companion, four sons, John, Charles, William and Phineas Piper, all of Washington Township; three daughters, Mrs. Dora Shew of Kendallville, Mrs. Addie Miller of Nashville, Ill., and Miss Delle Piper at home, and one brother, Dr. Piper, of Spokane, Wash., eleven grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held at the residence, the service was conducted by a former Pastor, Rev. J. W. Randal, assisted by Rev. Page. The high esteem in which he and his family are held was shown by the vast concourse of people in attendance, there being several from all of the adjoining towns, Ligonier, Columbia City, Albion, Kendallville, Cromwell and other places. The interment was in the Metz Cemetery.

'We, the wife and children of Mr. Geo. W. Piper, hereby express our heartfelt thanks to the many neighbors and friends who so nobly assisted during the long sickness of our husband and father.

MRS. SAMANTHA PIPER AND CHILDREN

[More About](#) GEORGE W. PIPER:

Burial: Abt. September 18, 1906, Metz Cemetery

[More About](#) SAMANTHA SHELPAN:

Burial: Abt. January 17, 1929, Metz Cemetery

[Children](#) of GEORGE PIPER and SAMANTHA SHELPAN are:

- [4.](#) i. JOHN J.³ PIPER, b. January 29, 1860, Indiana; d. February 05, 1917, Indiana.
- [5.](#) ii. CHARLES E. PIPER, b. October 03, 1862, Indiana; d. 1929, Indiana.
- [6.](#) iii. WILLIAM H. PIPER, b. January 21, 1865, Indiana; d. 1944, Indiana.
- iv. ELMA JANE PIPER, b. July 20, 1867, Noble County, Indiana; d. September 01, 1889, Noble County, Indiana.

[More About](#) ELMA JANE PIPER:

Burial: Metz Cemetery

- [7.](#) v. ADDIE ESTELLE PIPER, b. July 22, 1870, Noble County, Indiana; d. June 09, 1955, Warsaw, Indiana.
- [8.](#) vi. PHINEAS GEORGE PIPER, b. January 26, 1873, Noble County, Indiana; d. January 30, 1952, Noble County, Indiana.
- vii. DORA PIPER, b. April 15, 1876, Noble County, Indiana; d. November 10, 1945, Rome City, Indiana; m. CLARENCE W. SHEW, October 15, 1905, Indiana; b. November 10, 1874, Indiana; d. April 06, 1968, Indiana.

[More About](#) DORA PIPER:
Burial: Rome City, Indiana

[Notes for](#) CLARENCE W. SHEW:
Clarence Shew's Biography

I, Clarence W. Shew was born November 10, 1874 in York Township, Noble County, Indiana. My mother died when I was 7 years old. Then I went with my father and sister Bertha to live with my grandmother Shew in York Township, Noble County, Indiana. When I was 15 years old we moved to Albion, Indiana. After 4 years we moved to a farm in Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana. While living there 12 years I married Dora Piper on October 15, 1905. We moved to Kendallville in the Spring of 1906 and lived there until 1939 then we moved to Atwood, Indiana in Kosciusco County, Indiana. We lived there 5 years and then moved back to Perry Township in Noble County. My wife Dora died November 10, 1945. In 1946 I moved to Kimmell, Indiana. Lived there until 1947 where I married Gertrude Klick and moved to Ligonier October 10, 1947.

I have always been a Methodist at the Albion Church when a boy then to Kendallville, then to Ligonier at the time of my death. My request no flowers.

Written by Clarence Shew.

[More About](#) CLARENCE W. SHEW:
Burial: April 09, 1968, Orange Township Cemetery, Rome City, Indiana

9. viii. NETTIE DELLE PIPER, b. October 28, 1882, Noble County, Indiana; d. November 13, 1973, Allen County, Indiana, buried Sparta Cemetery Kimmell, Indiana.

3. JOHN J.² PIPER (*JOHN R.*¹) was born April 06, 1831 in Clark County, Ohio, and died Aft. 1906 in Spokane County, Washington. He married ELIDA KIRKPATRICK 1859 in California. She died 1868 in California.

Notes for JOHN J. PIPER:

Do not have much information on John J. Piper. He was still living at the time of his brother George W. Piper's death in 1906. He was a resident of Spokane, WA.

More Information from Doug Jones of Issaquah, WA 11/01/2003 Published in the History of Spokane County.

Dr. J. J. Piper, a pioneer of 1879, is a native of Tippecanoe county, Indiana, born April 6, 1831. While he was yet a boy, his family moved to Clark county, Ohio, and he grew to manhood there, but in 1852 came to California and engaged in mining enterprises. In 1856 he began the study of medicine with Dr. Elias Jones, of Wolf Lake, Indiana and attended lectures at the Indiana Medical School at LaPorte. He practiced as a physician for twenty-nine years afterward, then came to Spokane county and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land on Peone Prairie. Subsequently he purchased a half section more, so that he is now the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres. In addition to his farming, he still practiced his profession for a time among the residents of the prairie, but is now retired from the work. Dr. Piper is looked upon, by those best acquainted with his abilities, as an excellent physician, and his many amiable qualities as a man render him a universal favorite. Though quite an old man now, he still takes an active interest in all matters of local concern and occupies a place among the leading and representative men of his community. He was a member of the second board of county commissioners in this county, and has served as a commissioner twice since. The Doctor is one of the oldest, probably the oldest, member of the I. O. O. F. in the state of Washington, having joined the order in March, 1852. He was married in California, in 1859 to Elida Kirkpatrick, and they have two daughters: Albertina Jane and Carry Aneta. Mrs. Piper died in California in 1868.

Children of JOHN PIPER and ELIDA KIRKPATRICK are:

- i. ALBERTINA JANE³ PIPER, b. Bef. 1868, California ?; d. 1901, Idaho;
m. MARCUS D. WRIGHT, March 18, 1881.

[Notes for](#) MARCUS D. WRIGHT:

Occupying a place in the foremost ranks of those who have made a fortune in the development and exploitation of the timber lands of the west is Marcus D. Wright, who resides at Hayden Lake, Kootenai County, Idaho. A native of the Mississippi Valley, he came west in 1871 at the age of twenty years, his birth having occurred in Bowling Green, Kentucky, April 16, 1851. His parents were John W. and Mary (Gibson) Wright, the former a prominent Baptist minister of Kentucky.

Marcus D. Wright obtained his education in the common schools of Kentucky and at the age of sixteen years entered business life as a salesman for a pump concern in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was employed in this capacity for four years when he gave up his position and went west, locating in Montana. There he conducted a freighting business in summer and drove a stage during the winter for the following six years. In 1877 he accompanied General Sherman on his tour of inspection of all the frontier posts, covering the territory extending from Montana over the the old Mullen road to Walla Walla, Washington. Subsequently he resided in Colfax, Whitman County, Washington, where he drove a stage until 1878. In that year he came to Spokane and engaged in the livery business, buying out the stable owned by James N. Glover. In 1881 he gave up this enterprise and went to Idaho to look over the prospects for an investment in real estate. Finding a suitable tract of land, he purchased a half-interest in forty acres from C. W. Wood and on that site laid out the town of Westwood, now know as Rathdrum.

In conjunction with George B. Wannacott he called a meeting of the residents of this locality and organized Kootenai County. He was appointed the first assessor and tax collector, as well as deputy sheriff, serving in these positions until the first general elections of the county. In October, 1881, during the great mining excitement in this section of the country, Mr. Wright took the first pack train into Pritchard Creek, Eagle City, Idaho. Two years later he engaged in business at Rathdrum, Idaho, conducting a general mercantile establishment and also contracting to railroads for the sale of timber and ties. The latter branch of his business increased so rapidly that he discontinued his general mercantile establishment and has since that time concentrated his entire attention upon the lumber business, furnishing lumber supplies mainly to the Northern Pacific Railroad. Within the last twenty-three years he has supplied approximately twenty million ties which, at a rough estimate, would be sufficient, if laid end to end, to circle the globe. He was also financially interested in the First National Bank of Coeur d'Alene, of which he was president for several years, resigning in 1910 in order to

ii. CARRY ANETA PIPER, b. Bef. 1868