

## WILLIAM ACKERMAN.

William Ackerman, of Mansfield, Ohio, comes from the fatherland and the strongest and most creditable characteristics of the Teutonic race have been marked elements in his life and have enabled him to win success in the face of opposing circumstances. He possesses the energy and determination which mark the people of Germany and by the exercise of his powers he has steadily progressed, and is to-day able to lay aside all business cares and spend his remaining years in ease and quiet.

Mr. Ackerman was born in Esslingham, Germany, a son of Jacob and Magdalene Ackerman. When young he came to New York, and through his own exertions obtained a good practical education by attending night school in that city. On coming to Ohio, in 1857, he first located in Canton, where he worked for the Ball Machinery Company, but in 1861 came to Mansfield, which has since been his home. On his arrival here the first buildings of the Aultman Taylor Company were being erected and he helped put in the machinery. He then worked in the wood department for several years, and held the responsible position of foreman for the long period of twenty-six years, retiring in 1897 on account of ill health. Those who know him best speak in unqualified terms of his integrity and honor, and the old employes of the company say that there never was a better man or better foreman. Of the original stockholders only Mr. Ackerman and Andrew Burneson are now living.

Mr. Aultman, a practical machinist, interested Mr. Taylor, the president

of the Elgin Watch Company, in the enterprise, and under the name of the Aultman-Taylor Company they began business in Mansfield, at first employing only a few men, but the business of the firm has now reached such vast proportions that eight hundred men find work in the factory. Mr. Ackerman and Mayor Huntington Brown were the first representatives of the company on the road. They traveled all over the western states and visited many agents in the interest of the company from 1860 to 1880, and in 1876 Mr. Ackerman rode throughout Texas on horseback, introducing their business. He and Mr. Brown are about the only ones left of the men who first composed the company. He had the pleasure of dining with Mr. Taylor at his home in Chicago about a week before the latter's death. His only son, Chatfield Taylor, inherited about two million dollars. Mr. Aultman died suddenly at his home in Canton, Ohio, about twenty years ago. M. D. Harter, also of Canton, became interested in the business at a very early day and was the manager and president for many years. He was a congressman from his district two terms. Mr. Ackerman was once caught in a fifteen-foot fly-wheel which was going at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour and made two revolutions before he was released! He was under the care of three physicians for nine days, but at the end of five weeks was able to be out, his escape from death being almost miraculous. He had charge of the exhibit of the company at the World's Fair in Chicago, where he remained seven months, going a month early in order to put the machinery in operation. They had the largest exhibit of the kind on the grounds. Mr. Ackerman designed and built the threshing machine that took the prize at the Nebraska State Fair in Omaha, in 1883. He served the company faithfully and well for many long years, and can now enjoy a well-earned rest.

In Canton, Ohio, Mr. Ackerman married Miss Mary Bankof, a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Koons) Bankof, who were born in Switzerland and died in Canton, Ohio. Five children blessed this union, namely: William, who is now in the employ of I. R. Brown, of Mansfield; Jannette, a graduate of the Aultman Hospital in Canton; Ida, who was graduated at the high school of Mansfield and is now a stenographer in the office of the Aultman-Taylor Company; and Maud, a stenographer. The family have a pleasant home on West Third street.

Politically Mr. Ackerman is a strong Republican, and in 1889 he was appointed a member of the election board of Mansfield for four years by Governor Foraker. He is a thirty-second-degree Mason, having joined the order in Canton in 1861, and was the first to take that degree in Mansfield,

February 17, 1881. He is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and was one of the organizers of the Richland County Historical Society. In 1864, during the Civil war, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Sixty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served four months. Religiously he is a faithful member of the Lutheran church, and was an active member of the choir for many years.