Reinhard, George Louis

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Mr. Gavin was nominated for Prosecuting Attorney on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated, although he ran ahead of his ticket. In 1884 he was elected Presidential elector on the same ticket. In 1892 he was nominated for Judge of the Appellate Court on the Democratic ticket. The Democratic ticket was successful by a plurality of 20,000 votes, and Judge Gavin took his seat January 1, 1893, for the term of four years. When he reached the bench he was less than forty years of age, but he had been eighteen years in the practice. He has shown himself to be an able lawyer and a sound jurist. His written opinions take high rank; he has brought to their composition ripe scholarship; he prepares them with great care and scrupulosity, and examines the authorities exhaustively. Judge Gavin has taken a great interest in Masonry. Within two months after he reached his majority (April 6, 1875), he was initiated into the mysteries of that order. Two years later he became Master of his lodge. September 19, 1884, he was made Royal Arch Mason in the Greensburg Chapter. No. 8. In 1886 he received the grades of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite at Indianapolis. In 1894, after having served on various important committees and having been elected Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Warden and Deputy Grand Master successively, he became Grand Master of the Lodge of Indiana, an unusual attainment for so young a member of the order. In November, 1875, he was united in marriage to Miss Ella B. Lathrop, daughter of Rev. James B. Lathrop, long a presiding elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which church Judge and Mrs. Gavin belong. They are the parents of three children, the eldest, James L., being a member of the junior class of DePauw University. Socially Judge Gavin is a very pleasing and courteous gentleman, kind and generous of heart, having considerate and due regard for the rights and opinions of others.

Otz, Orlando J., is a native of Indiana, having been born in Jay county, where his ancestors settled in an early day. He commenced the practice of law at Muncie, in 1875. He was appointed Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court by Governor Isaac P. Gray in March, 1885. At the general election in 1886 he was elected to succeed himself as Judge of the same Court. In 1892 he was elected Judge of the Appellate Court of Indiana, for the Fourth Judicial District, and is now a member of that Court.

Reinhard, George Louis. In a small village in Bavaria, George Louis Reinhard, now a Judge of the Appellate Court of Indiana, was born July 5th, 1843. After receiving such information as the schools of his native village afforded, at the age of fourteen he came with his mother and step-father to the United States. The family proceeded at once to Cincinnati, where an uncle of the lad had previously settled and was successfully
engaged in the manufacture of a variety of articles made from wood. Young Reinhard accepted employment in his uncle’s business where he remained for more than a year, acquiring some practical knowledge along with a livelihood, although the character of the employment was far from congenial. Young as he was, he soon realized that the opportunities for fortune and distinction were not monopolized by those who were born to wealth and that the prerogative of birth which almost wholly controlled the destinies of individuals in his native Germany were utterly valueless, indeed had no existence in this free land. He saw the popular regard in which some of his own countrymen were held and accepted their advancement to eminent positions at the bar, on the bench, and in politics as proofs that foreign birth was no obstacle in the way of the attainment of the highest honors of the state. At that time the names of Groesbeck, Stallo and Hassaurek were among the most distinguished in the community where he lived, while Carl Schurz’s star had just arisen in the West, giving promise of the brilliant career that was to follow and which is now a part of the nation’s history. Young Reinhard’s aspirations were aroused. While he did not neglect his work at the lathe, he felt that handicraft was not the field of action to which he was best suited. All vocations were equally respectable in his eyes and he would gladly have continued in the business where a reasonable measure of material prosperity seemed certain if he could have ignored the question of personal adaptation. But if the trite aphorism be true that a good shoemaker is spoiled to make a poor preacher, why should not the converse of the proposition be sound philosophy? Why might not a good lawyer be spoiled in making an indifferent worker in wood? In 1846, the family of which he was a member moved to Union county, Indiana. A crisis had arisen in national affairs over the slavery question and it was plain that the sectional feeling which had grown in intensity during the last few years had now reached a point where civil war was imminent. The election of Abraham Lincoln was construed by the South as a direct challenge and preparations were at once inaugurated in the Southern States to carry out the threatened secession from the Union which Southern Senators and Representatives in Congress had frequently indulged. There was but one sentiment in Indiana at that time; it was that the Union must be preserved at whatever cost. In response to President Lincoln’s first call for troops the youth of the State came forward in large numbers, prompted by the patriotic impulse that Americans have ever shown whenever the safety or the honor of the country was in danger. Among them was young Reinhard, who had not yet reached the age of eighteen. Early in April, 1861, he enlisted in the Union County Guards, a company which, under the command of Thomas W. Bennett, was first assigned to the Sixteenth Regiment of Infantry, organized for one year’s service in accordance with the President’s first call for troops. Subsequently, at the earnest request of Captain Bennett and most of his men, the Union County Guards was transferred to the three years’ service, and as Company I, became a part of the Fifteenth Regiment, which was then
organizing at Lafayette under command of Colonel George D. Wagner. During the succeeding three years and four months young Reinhard served faithfully as a private soldier, taking part in many battles, among which were Greenbrier, Perryville, Shiloh, Siege of Corinth and Stone River. Thus the first years of his manhood were spent in giving the highest proofs of his sincere loyalty to his adopted country. The learned professions afford avocations which are naturally preferred by those inclined to books and study. All of young Reinhard's tastes and inclinations were in this direction. During the years of his service in the army the most of his time when off duty was devoted to the study of American history and especially to the inception and development of our constitutional form of Government. He had determined to adopt the profession of the law and the serious question was how could he obtain the education which he felt to be the first essential in the direction of his ambition. He attended a private school in Cincinnati for a year, and in 1866 was matriculated as a student of Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. But his scanty purse was wholly inadequate to his wants, simple as he had learned to make them, and although he was able to add something to his financial resources by teaching German, he was compelled to abandon his college course at the end of the collegiate year of 1868. With many regrets he left Oxford and located at Owensboro, Ky., where he taught school for a livelihood and devoted all of his leisure hours to the study of law. Here he was admitted to the bar in accordance with the practice then prevailing in Kentucky, which required the applicant for legal honors to undergo an examination before two Judges of the Circuit Court. About this time he was married to Miss Mary Wilson, whose parents still reside on the old Wilson homestead near Philpot Station, in Daviess county, Kentucky. Judge and Mrs. Reinhard have two children living, both daughters. In the winter of 1870-71, he returned to Indiana, locating at Rockport. At that time the bar of Rockport was distinguished for its ability, numbering in its membership such lawyers as Gen. James C. Veach, Judge L. Q. DeBruler, Edwin R. Hatfield and others whose names were familiar throughout southern Indiana. Notwithstanding the many hardships with which the young lawyer had to contend he soon made an impression upon the community. His practice began to yield him a good support and to give certain promise of a prosperous future. The services of Mr. Reinhard were sought by litigants not only in Spencer but in many neighboring counties. He practiced in all the Courts held at Evansville and in the circuits contiguous to the one in which he resided, meeting as antagonists many of the leading members of the bar of the State. As early as 1872 the Democrats of Spencer county nominated him against his will as their candidate for Representative in the General Assembly, and he came within seventy-one votes of an election, although the county was at that time Republican by several hundred. In 1876 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of the Second Judicial District. He discharged the duties of the office so faithfully during his first term that he was re-elected in 1878 without opposition. In addition to his official labors during these
four years he wrote a volume on the "Indiana Criminal Law," which was
given to the public in 1879. The work was welcomed by the entire profes-
sion of the State as a useful and timely publication, eliciting words of com-
mandation from the press and from many leading lawyers after they had fully
tested its merits. Retiring from the office of Prosecuting Attorney he
devoted himself to general practice for two years, but his ability as a jurist
was now so widely recognized that he was not long permitted to continue in
private station. In 1882 he was nominated by his party for Judge of the cir-
cuit composed of the counties of Warrick, Spencer and Perry. Owing to
some local party divisions this contest was quite a memorable one. Mr.
Reinhard was elected, carrying his own county by 753 majority, though his
majority in the circuit was a very narrow one, and as a proof that no ill-
feeling had resulted from the victory he was re-elected in 1888 by a largely
increased majority. In 1891 the General Assembly passed a law establishing
the Appellate Court and Judge Reinhard was appointed as a member of the
new Court from the First Appellate District, his associates being Judges
James F. Black, Jeptha D. New, Milton S. Robinson and Edgar D. Crum-
packer. In the general election of the following year he was chosen Judge
of this Court for a full term, having received the nomination of his party for
this high honor without opposition. He was elected by a majority of nearly
7,000 and will remain a member of this exalted tribunal until January 1st,
1897, when his term will have expired. He is the only remaining one of the
list of Judges originally appointed to this Court. In 1894 Judge Reinhard
was nominated for Judge of the Supreme Court without opposition, but shared
the defeat which overtook all of the Democratic candidates in the election of
that year. There are men to whom public confidence and honors seem natu-
really to belong. They make no effort in their own behalf, yet the recognition
of their capacity for dealing with large affairs is what might be termed a
popular intuition. George Louis Reinhard is one of this class. From Pros-
ecuting Attorney of his circuit through natural stages of advancement he
has gone from the Circuit to the Appellate bench, and that he was not still
further promoted to a place in the Supreme Court is wholly due to the
caprices of politics and not to any decline of popular confidence in his abil-
ity and integrity. A man of his personal attributes never feels any bitter-
ness in defeat, because, recognizing that he owes certain obligations to society,
in any event he follows the line of duty without much solicitude as to
whether it leads to public or private station. At the beginning of his early
prime he has already achieved for himself a reputation which places him, it
is not too much to say, in the foremost rank of Indiana's most distinguished
lawyers and Judges. He might well afford to retire upon the laurels he has
already earned. But in addition to his high character and qualifications he
is fortunate in possessing that subtle quality of disposition to which the
psychologists have given the name of magnetism. His manner is of the
quiet, dignified kind, not lacking in cordiality, but never drifting into
extremes. It is not probable that his public career will terminate with the
close of his term of office. The people of Indiana have learned to know his worth so well that they will witness his retirement from the bench with unaffected regret, always remembering that whether as soldier, citizen or public servant, George Louis Reinhard has never failed in the discharge of functions requiring a cool head and a true heart.

HARRISON, BENJAMIN. To accurately and fully portray the life and character of a man who has occupied as prominent an office as Benjamin Harrison, in the short space allotted to the writer in such a volume as this, is impossible, and the task is not, for that reason, inviting; and it is undertaken with a full realization of the fact that justice to the subject cannot be done. The Adams family is the only other instance of a family furnishing more than one President. That was a case of father and son; this of grandfather and grandson. The Harrison family has always been a prominent one in America. The Harrison colonial mansion, standing upon the banks of the James, is yet one of the old landmarks of Virginia, a reminder of almost baronial magnificence of the ante-Revolutionary days. The family is, perhaps, of Roundheads, not of Cavalier origin. Benjamin Harrison was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1642. He had a son Benjamin, born in 1645, and who died in 1712. The latter had a son known as Benjamin Harrison of Berkley, who died in 1749. In the genealogical tree of the Carters of Virginia appears his name, by virtue of an intermarriage with that family. A little farther along in the same tree appears a second Benjamin Harrison, born in 1726, who married a Miss Bassett; and thence forward the genealogy of the American Harrisons is easily traceable. The second Benjamin, as early as 1764, was a member of the House of Burgesses of his native State. Ten years later he was a member of the Continental Congress; and on the 4th of August, 1776, affixed his name to the Declaration of Independence. In 1782 he was elected Governor of Virginia. He served two terms and was again elected in 1791. This record is an honorable and enviable one. He died April 24, 1795, in comparative poverty, although at one time rich in this world's goods. His second son, William Henry Harrison, was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. He was born February 9, 1773, and became the ninth President of the United States. All the students of history are familiar with his public career—a successful General, the first Territorial Governor of Indiana, a United States Senator, a minister to the Republic of Colombia, and, lastly, President—dying in office April 4, 1841. He married Anna Symmes, daughter of John Cleves Symmes, one of the Judges of the Northwest Territorial Court, November 29, 1795. To them were born three sons—William S., Benjamin, John Scott—and daughters. John Scott Harrison was twice married. By his first wife he had three children. His second wife was Miss Elizabeth Irwin, a daughter of Archibald Irwin, of Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. By her he had Archibald Irwin, Benjamin, Jennie, Carter Bassett, John Scott and Anna. Benjamin, the second son, was