

MAIN, REUBEN P., merchant, of New Albany, was born on a small farm at North Stonington, Connecticut, September 29, 1824. His father, Rufus Main, and his mother, Sabra (Wells) Main, daughter of Thomas and Phoebe Wells, were both natives of Stonington. Their families emigrated from England, and were among the early settlers of the colonies. His grandfather, Rufus Main, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and fought in the battle of Stonington. Reuben Main is one of a family of twelve children, and received early instruction from a kind mother. He worked on the farm in summer and attended school in winter until he was fourteen years of age. He then went to New York City and was employed in the wholesale grocery and provision store of his two brothers for about six years, when, becoming convinced that a wider field was open to him in the West, he started, in 1847, for Cincinnati, Ohio. There he engaged in the grocery and provision trade one year, and then went to Louisville, Kentucky, where he continued the business until 1853. He then removed to New Albany, where he has carried on a successful wholesale grocery and produce trade, and has also dealt extensively in grain and flour and engaged in milling. He owns a considerable amount of bank stock, and also stock in glass and iron manufacturing companies. He has always given his personal attention to his business, and has built up a large and profitable trade. Mr. Main thinks much but talks little, and claims the right to vote for the best man regardless of party. In 1878 he was nominated by the National Greenback party as candidate for state Treasurer, and received a vote largely in excess of his ticket, which was in a minority in the state. Mr. Main has been twice married; first, to Mattie E. Neal, daughter of Charles and Maria Neal, of Louisville, Kentucky; she died in 1871, leaving three children – Laymond P., Reuben F., and Victoria E. Main. In February, 1872, he married Miss Hattie J. Knepfly, daughter of John and Margaret Knepfly, of New Albany. They have two children, John K. and William L. Main. With his family Mr. Main attends the Methodist Episcopal Church. He occupies a prominent position in social and business circles, and is a valuable and respected citizen.