

WOLFE, HARVEY S., M.D., physician and surgeon, of Corydon, Harrison County, was born in Floyd County, Indiana, June 22, 1832. He is the son of George I. Wolfe and Elizabeth Wolfe. His father followed the occupation of a shoemaker, and was a prominent political man of his day. He was twice elected to the state Legislature, overcoming great obstacles. In politics he was an ardent and thorough-going Whig, following the leadership of Henry Clay, the idol of the West; but the district in which he lived was overwhelmingly Democratic, and his success was a fine tribute to his character as a man. His children received the best education it was possible for him to afford, and all became professional men. Three of them became physicians, and one a lawyer. The latter, S. K. Wolfe, has represented his district in Congress. Harvey S. Wolfe attended school each winter until the age of twenty. In the summer he worked at his father's business of shoemaker, and acquired in it a high degree of proficiency. In school he was always at the head of his class. His nature was diligent and studious. He was prompt in his attendance, quick in comprehension, and never flinched from a difficulty. In the sports of the play-ground he was the foremost of the boys. None could play ball, run a race, jump ditches, or climb fences better than he. Among other things he learned at this time was to handle a gun, and he is now one of the crack shots of the county. His nature was ambitious, and when he left school he determined to study medicine. He had already acquired a good English education, and he was admitted to the office of one of the leading physicians of that region, his brother, Dr. S. C. Wolfe, at Georgetown. There he continued studying and practicing until 1856, continuing the same course with another brother, Dr. H. Wolfe, at Washington, Indiana, until 1859, when he graduated at the Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville. He chose as a place of residence Corydon, in Harrison County, formerly the capital of Indiana Territory, which retains many of the descendants of the residents of that period. There he still remains, enjoying a large and successful practice, while his reputation has been steadily growing. He is now regarded as the leading physician of the county. When the war broke out he did not fail to answer to the call of his country. In the summer of 1862 he was commissioned assistant surgeon to the 81st Indiana Regiment. On the 8th of October the battle of Perryville was fought, in which he bore a part. He took charge of the hospital afterwards, and for his valuable services was promoted to be surgeon of the regiment. He was also in charge of a hospital after the battle of Stone River, shortly after which his health failed, and he was compelled to resign, much against his own wish and that of his comrades. Returning to Corydon, he began practicing again. After being engaged in the medical profession for a few years longer, in which he had acquired much knowledge of disease, he went back to the Medical University at Louisville, to gain a fuller and more scientific insight. There he graduated with honors in the year 1867. In politics he has taken an active part. He has not been chosen to office, for he has steadily refused to allow his name to be used in that way, but he attends all the political meetings of his party, the Democratic, and labors zealously in their councils. He is a ready and effective speaker. When younger, he was a member of the Sons of Temperance, and for the past two years has been actively engaged in the temperance cause as a lecturer in the Blue Ribbon movement. In this he has met with the most flattering success. He shows the uselessness and wickedness of the custom of drinking, its diminution of the public wealth, the wretchedness of the families in which the father is a partaker of the cup, the bad example set to others, the poverty and crime engendered, the cost to the community of the jails, poor-houses, and officers of the law, the destruction of the usefulness of men, and the sure

retribution that will follow from divine justice. He is himself a living exponent of the doctrine he advocates, being strictly temperate in all things, and enjoying most excellent health. He became a member of the Odd-fellows in 1853, taking all the degrees, and also belongs to the Harrison County Medical Society, of which he is vice-president. The last seven years he has been a member of the Presbyterian Church, and for three years superintendent of its Sunday-school. He displays, in the labors of the church, the same earnestness that he does in his own affairs. He has recently bought a large farm, and is now devoting much of his leisure time to its cultivation. He has a natural love for the country, its fields, orchards, and woods, and is now gratifying a taste he has had since childhood. On his land he is raising some fine, choice stock. Doctor Wolfe married, September 30, 1858, Annie E. Bence, daughter of John (and Elizabeth) Bence, a farmer of Harrison County. They have had four children – two sons, whom they have lost, and two daughters, who remain to them. The Doctor is a man of fine personal appearance. He is a thorough physician, an educated, courteous, and genial gentleman, and is highly respected by all who know him.