

History Of (Including The Original Boundaries.) Its Past and Present, Containing A Condensed Comprehensive History of Ohio, Including an Outline History of the Northwest; A Complete History of Richland County; Its Townships, Cities, Towns and Villages, Schools, Churches, Societies, Industries, Statistics, &c.; A History of its Soldiers in the Late War; Portraits of its Early Settlers and Prominent Men; Miscellaneous Matter; Map of the County; Biographies and Histories of our Patrons and the Most Prominent Families, &c., &c., Compiled by A. A. Graham., Mansfield, Ohio: A, A, Graham & County, Publishers. 1807-1880.

BLOOM, S. S., attorney at law. He was born in Waterford, Juniata County, Penn., March 11, 1834; he never knew a mother's fostering care, and at her death, quickly following his birth, was moved to his grandfather's family, **Mr. John Stambaugh**, near Blain, Perry County, Penn., where he spent his entire youth on the farm. His grandfather dying when he was 19 years of age, he soon came to Shelby, Richland County, where his father had settled in 1836, but where he died in 1843. He was married to **Miss Anna M. Stambaugh**, a lady of the same name but not the same family as his grandfather. In March, 1856, moved with her to Shelby; his wife and infant son dying in August, 1867, he was again left alone in the world, but this gloom cast so early upon his life, did not deter him from pursuing the even tenor of his way. In 1859, he was again married to **Mrs. Jennie M. Smiley**, daughter of the late **Robert Mickey**, with whom he is still living, happy and contented, surrounded by the children which have blessed their union—a son and two daughters. In 1858, **Mr. Bloom** was elected Mayor of Shelby by the votes of both parties, for, though a Democrat, his party has always been in a large minority in his village and township. He continued to be re-elected until the spring of 1863, when the party lines were closely drawn, and he was defeated for a sixth term by a few votes. During this time he also held the office of township clerk for five years, and Justice of the Peace for three years; in 1863, he was nominated without opposition to the Legislature, and was one of the few who were that year elected upon the Democratic ticket in the county. He served two years in the House of Representatives, with only eighteen Democratic colleagues.

In 1865, he was re-elected by a handsome majority. During the two terms he served on the Committee of Agriculture (being then a farmer), and also on the Committee on Benevolent Institutions. During his second term, having been admitted to the bar, he served on the Judiciary Committee; he also raised on his motion a special joint committee on insurance, of which he was made chairman, to which committee all bills relating to insurance were referred. His labors on the last-named committee were untiring, and finally culminated in State supervision of insurance, and soon after, the creation of the present insurance department in the State government, so fraught with good results to the people of the State. During the war, he was a warm advocate of its vigorous prosecution, and, as a friend of the soldiers, he may well be proud of his record. In 1866, he first introduced House Bill No. 3, to provide a bounty for veteran volunteers, who had not heretofore received a local bounty, and, later in the session, House Bill No. 200, requiring Assessors to make returns of necessitous soldiers' families, and estimate the amount required for their relief. In addition to this, he had a resolution passed for the investigation of the condition of soldiers in the hospitals, and in his own counties he encouraged enlistments by speeches and otherwise. While at Columbus, all business passing through his hands, for soldiers or their families, and at home, in the distribution of relief funds, was performed gratuitously. His entire life throughout the war period bears the record of a true patriot, and of a man who felt the importance of the issues involved in the vexed questions growing out of our internecine conflict. In public life, **Mr. Bloom** has never shrunk from avowing the moral sentiment which governed his private actions, being a member of the Lutheran Church. In 1864, he was admitted to the bar and had built up a good and growing practice in the State and United States Courts, until he was again elected to the Legislature, Nov. 11, 1868; he became the founder of the *Shelby Independent News*, which has remained under his editorial control ever since, in connection with his other business. In 1875, he was

President of the Democratic District Congressional Convention in Mansfield, and by his skill and ability in managing that body through a two-days turbulent session, won distinction as a presiding officer. In 1877, he was nominated against strong competitors for a third term in the Ohio House of Representatives, a distinction granted to no other candidate in the county for the past fifty years, and subsequently elected by an overwhelming majority, and in January, 1878, took a seat in the Sixty-fifth General Assembly, a body which had the great work before it of completing the codification and consolidation of the laws of Ohio since the organization of the State, of which project he had always been an ardent and enthusiastic supporter. Of his course during this session we find the following, cut from a Columbus paper published at the time, which is all that need be here said on that subject. The writer says:

*"If there is one member deserving of more credit for actual labor and industry in pushing forward the business of the House than another, that gentleman is the **Hon. S. S. Bloom**, of Richland County. You will always find him occupying his chair, which is just in front of the Speaker's stand, in the front row of seats, generally employed, with pen in hand, busily engaged in writing, and if not, paying the strictest attention to the business before the House. He is among the first of the members who puts in an appearance in the morning, and the last at leaving on an adjournment in the evening; nor does he merely come to be seen and to put in his time reading newspapers or in frivolous conversation, as do too many of the people's representatives.*

***Mr. Bloom**, on the contrary, is a worker; he is never idle. He is either engaged in the committee-rooms, or participating in the discussions on the floor. Having been a worker all his life, he has illustrated the injunction, 'Whatsoever thy hands find to do, do it with all thy might,' and he knows no abatement of energy in the public service. He examines, with scrutiny, every topic of legislation, and is always ready with his strong reasons and sound arguments, to defend or enforce any course of action he has decided on pursuing. He has made the codification of the laws a specialty, and, being a member of the Joint Committee on Consolidated Laws, he has rendered valuable service toward the completion and perfection of this important undertaking. The Democracy of old Richland need not blush to own her representative, for his standing on the floor, in all the elements that go to make up a good legislator, is second to none in the House."*

At the close of that session, on June 23, 1879, he had the great satisfaction of seeing his object fully completed, and the Revised Statutes of Ohio became an accomplished fact. During this session and without any effort on his part, he was again nominated for the same position, against strong competitors, who made an active canvass (which public duty forbade him doing). He was again elected for a fourth term, and, upon the assembling of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly, was nominated by acclamation by the Democratic minority as their candidate for Speaker, and was at once recognized as the leader of the Democracy in that body. His knowledge of parliamentary law and the rules of the body in which he had so long served, and his knowledge of the new code of Ohio, made his services invaluable to his fellow-members, of which all the members of the House freely availed themselves on all occasions. His candor, earnestness and courteous treatment of all his fellow-members won their united esteem, and, aside from political questions, he wielded, perhaps, more influence than any other member of the House. His enlarged experience and general knowledge of men and things, coupled with a broad and liberal mind, gave him a great influence in shaping legislation, and, as the laws now stand, we doubt whether any other member of the Legislature has more generally stamped the impress of his views upon the laws of the State than has the subject of this sketch. He has still one session to serve of the eight-years service in the House of Representatives of Ohio, of which he has so long been a valuable and honored member.