

sale and retail furniture business, also made coffins and conducted an undertaking establishment. After some years Henry Beckenbach purchased his brother's interest and subsequently admitted his sons to a partnership in the concern, and later they discontinued the manufacturing branch of the business, concentrating their energies upon the development of a large retail furniture enterprise conducted under the name of H. Beckenbach & Sons. This is still the property of the family, constituting in itself a desirable estate. Mr. Beckenbach was ever watchful of opportunities pointing to success and seemed to realize the value of every situation that arose in connection with his manufacturing and mercantile interests.

In 1854 Mr. Beckenbach was married to Miss Catherine Becker, who was brought to Cleveland when three years of age by her father, Jacob Becker, who purchased a farm on Madison avenue covering an important part of what is now the business and residence section of the town. He cleared the timber from his land, placed it under the plow and continued there to engage in general agricultural pursuits until the borders of the city extended to his place. He divided his property before his death and the children laid off his farm in streets, subdivided it into town lots and sold much of it for building purposes. Mrs. Beckenbach, however, still has her share of the property where the old home was situated and yet maintains her residence there. From the time of his arrival in the county until his death Mr. Becker resided continuously on the old home farm.

Unto Mrs. and Mrs. Beckenbach were born nine children, of whom seven survive, namely: John, Henry, Charles, Albert, Edward, Kate and William O. All of the sons are living here in this city, some of them being engaged in the wholesale and retail drug business, while others continue the furniture business established by their father.

In addition to his other interests Mr. Beckenbach was one of the directors and the prime movers in the building of the Superior street car line. He was a man of marked business enterprise, carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertook, and over the record of his commercial career there fell no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. He was always active and much interested in the welfare and upbuilding of Cleveland and withheld his cooperation from no movement which he deemed would prove of public benefit. He was an active and devoted member of the Christian church and died in that faith at the age of sixty years.

Not the good that comes to us but the good that comes to the world through us is the measure of our success, and judged by this standard Mr. Beckenbach was a most successful man. His salient characteristics were sterling qualities of manhood and he received the respect and confidence which the world instinctively gives to those who attain prominence and affluence through honorable effort.

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