

AUGUSTUS M. BALLARD, an enterprising citizen of Blairsville, and junior member of the well-known firm of Wilcox & Ballard, is a son of Jesse and Lucy (Brown) Ballard, and was born in Pontiac, Michigan, May 12, 1853. His father, Jesse Ballard, was born in Seneca county, New York, February 20, 1822, learned the trade of carpenter and in 1838 moved to Pontiac, Michigan, where he established himself as a contractor and builder, and where he still lives—one of the substantial citizens of that city. He is a prominent member of the Congregational church, and an enthusiastic supporter of the Democratic party. He married Lucy Brown, who was born in Canada, in 1826, and is a member of the Baptist church of Pontiac.

Augustus M. Ballard was reared in Pontiac, and after receiving his education in the public schools of that city, learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, under his father, for whom he worked for four years. He then accepted a position as a clerk with one of the well-known mercantile firms of Pontiac, with whom he continued some three years. After leaving their employ he entered the office of the P. O. & N. R. R., at Pontiac, as a clerk, which position he held until 1888, when he came to Blairsville, and in December, 1889, went into partnership with George F. Wilcox, for the purpose of dealing in groceries and queensware, under the firm-name of Wilcox & Ballard. They are both endowed with energy and perseverance and from their present rapidly increasing trade have every prospect of future patronage and success.

On April 27, 1885, he married Mary Donohue, daughter of William Donohue, of Armstrong county. Their union has been blest with three children, one son and two daughters; Jesse, name in memory of his grandfather; Alice and Edith.

A. M. Ballard is an energetic member of the Patriotic Order of Sons of America, and of the Junior Order of American Mechanics. In politics, he has been all his life an active worker in the cause of democracy. He is well qualified for mercantile life; full of energy and ambition, he has made his own way in life, overcoming many obstacles in his pathway to success that would have defeated a less determined man. With a keen sense of right-dealing, and full of pluck and perseverance, the firm of Wilcox & Ballard is fast advancing to the front rank among the mercantile firms of Blairsville.