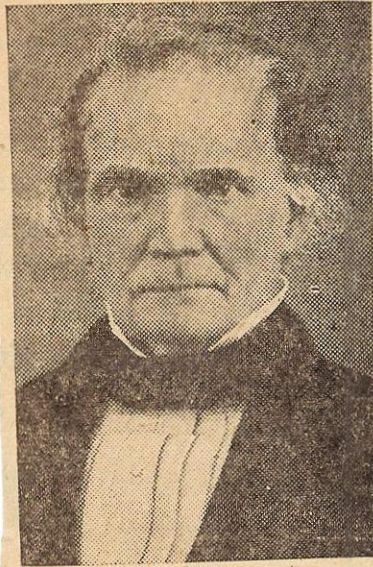


Charles Bell



PIONEER MERCHANT. Char-

les Bell was the youngest son of William Bell, one of Greenfield's first citizens, and with his brothers, Joseph and Josiah, he formed a family triumvirate which engaged in many business enterprises. William Bell died Nov. 18, 1801, and was the first white adult to be buried in the Old Burial Ground. As a boy, Charles Bell worked in his brother's blacksmith shop in the mornings and evenings, and each day would ride on his pony to the old Hop Run meeting house to attend school. He was so noted for his mathematical accuracy that he was called "the town scales." In 1827 he bought the general store of Joseph Jones to begin a highly successful mercantile career. He later built the Bell Block now owned by the Elks Lodge. He was the great grandfather of Mrs. Ernest E. Ellis, 424 Jefferson st.