

D. H. Goble Printing Company

Founded: 1881

Location: Original location unknown, Greenfield (1881); 24 South Pennsylvania; 15–17 South East Street (1897, 1968); 15–17 American Legion Place (1973)

In January 1881 two Greenfield educators, Aaron Pope and Lee O. Harris, began publishing the *Home and School Visitor*, a supplemental reader for schoolchildren. Pope, originally from Shelby County, was superintendent of the Hancock County schools. Harris, originally from Pennsylvania, was a local teacher, as well as a poet and Civil War veteran. Pope taught James Whitcomb Riley and encouraged him to write verse. Pope died in July 1881, shortly after founding the magazine. David H. Goble purchased Pope's interest in the magazine the next month, and the *Home and School Visitor* was published by Goble & Harris for a time. Goble, born in Rush County in 1838, was from a family of Kentucky and Indiana pioneer farmers. He had farmed in Rush and Grant Counties before moving to Greenfield in 1876. Prior to purchasing an interest in the *Home and School Visitor*, Goble sold agricultural implements.

When Goble purchased the *Home and School Visitor*, it was four pages and had a circulation of just a few hundred. Beginning with the third number, Goble enlarged the magazine to sixteen pages. In 1883 he increased the number of pages to thirty-two and began to promote the supplemental reader outside Hancock County; by the end of the year schools across the state had adopted it. The magazine contained stories and poems for children of all ages and included a department of current events. Schools outside Indiana eventually used the reader, too. Goble was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church in Greenfield and began to publish a Primitive Baptist Hymn Book, which the D.

H. Goble Printing Company was still publishing in the 1990s. In 1897 Goble's printing company, located on South East Street, was publishing the *Home and School Visitor* and the *Primitive Monitor* monthly. Goble also took on other printing jobs. (By 1916 his company was printing many of the forms used in townships and schools throughout the state.) By 1902 Goble employed ten to fifteen men in his plant. Goble incorporated the D. H. Goble Printing Company in 1903, leaving a large estate when he died two years later.

Goble's sons, James N. and Isaac A. took over the company after his death. Harris, who had edited the *Home and School Visitor* when it was founded, seems to have been an assistant editor for a period before his death in 1909. The scope of the company gradually expanded as it began specializing in the sale of school supplies and equipment. Eventually, Bruce A. and his son Richard A. Goble became co-owners of the D. H. Goble Printing Company. Between 1968 and 1973 the firm moved from 15 South East Street to 15 American Legion Place. Bruce died in 1976, and Richard sold the school supply division of the company in 1983. In 1990 he sold the printing operation. In 1995 Ronald DeWeese was president of the company, which employed four workers.