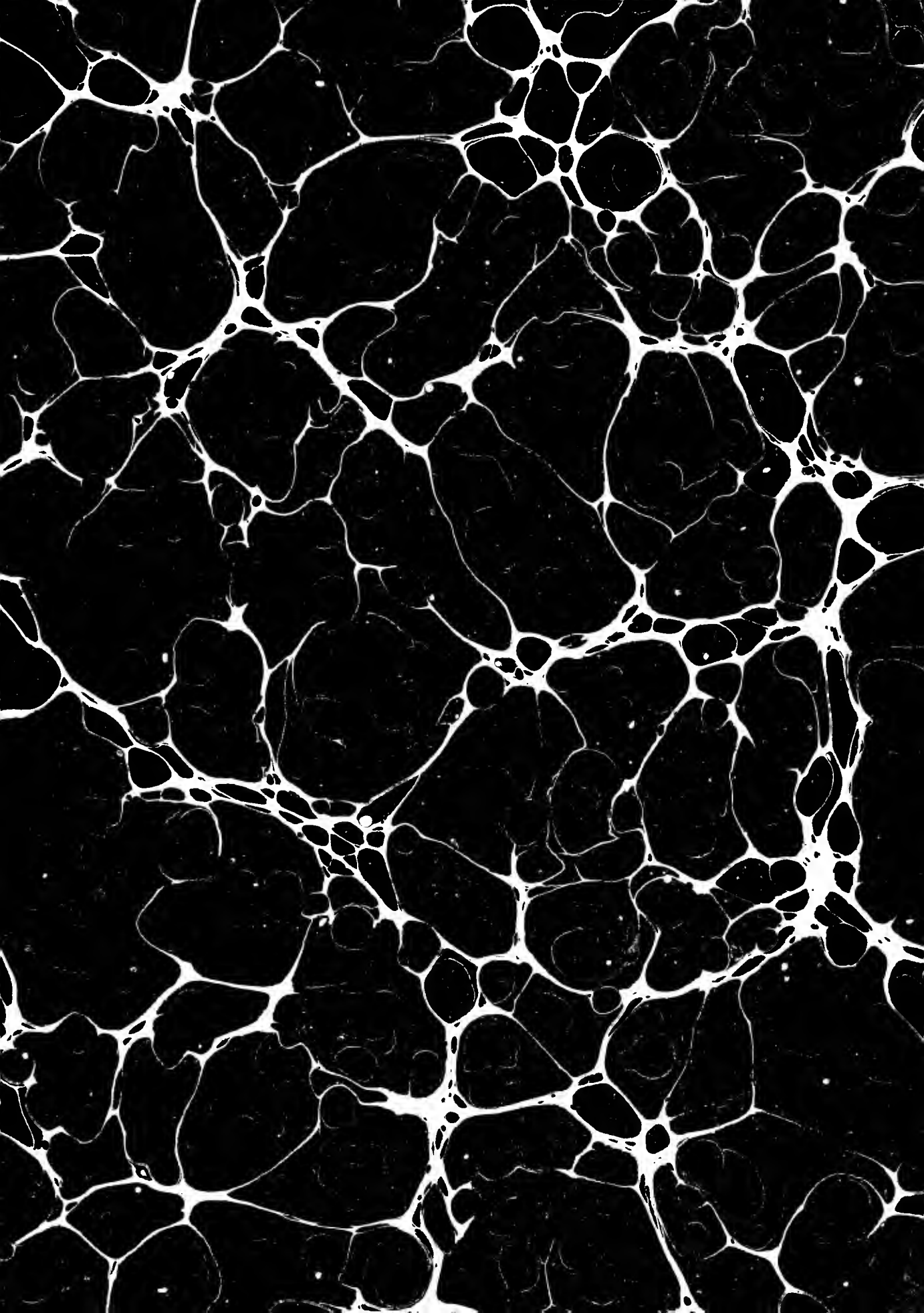


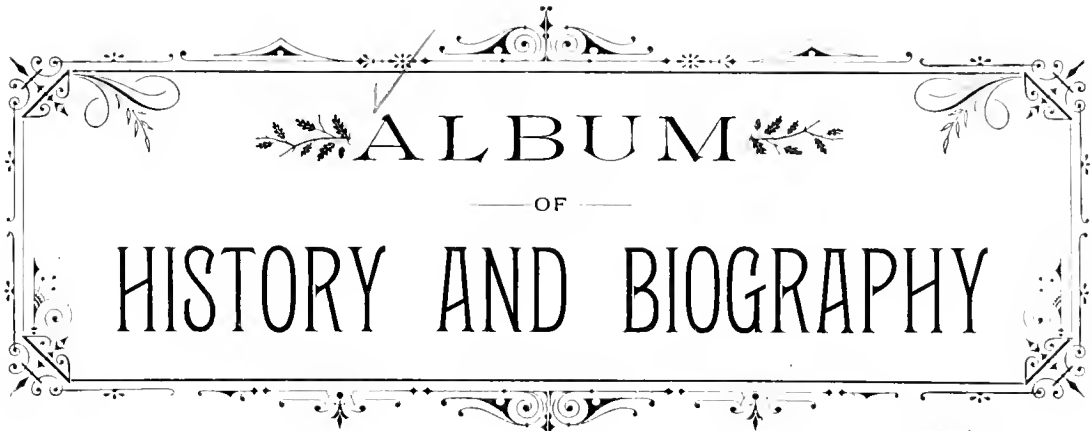




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ALBUM
— OF —
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

— OF —
MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA,

Containing Sketches of the Cities, Villages and Townships, Educational, Civil, Military and Political History; Portraits of Prominent Citizens and Biographies of Old Settlers and Representative Men, together with a Full History of Meeker County's Experience During the Famous Indian Massacre of 1862.

HISTORY OF MINNESOTA,

Embracing an Account of Early Explorations, Organization, a Review of the Political History and a Concise History of the Indian Outbreak.

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Embracing Biographical Sketches and Full Page Portraits of Each

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
ALDEN OGLE & COMPANY,
1888.

“BIOGRAPHY IS THE ONLY TRUE HISTORY.”—*Emerson.*

CHICAGO:
DONOHUE & HENNEBERRY,
PRINTERS AND BINDERS,
1888.

PREFACE.



IN the compilation of this volume, it has been the aim of the publishers to prepare a local encyclopedia dealing with the history and biography of the people of Meeker county, of the past and present, comprising in a single volume of convenient form a varied fund of information, not only of interest to the present, but for preservation for coming generations, from which future searchers for historic data may draw, without the tedium incurred in the preparation of this. We have gathered together a vast mass of historic facts, and present them with individual sketches of hundreds of those who have been identified with the development of the various localities. That our work is wholly without error, or that nothing of interest has been omitted, is more than we dare to hope, and is more than any reasonable or intelligent reader will expect, but we have spared neither pains nor expense in our efforts to have the work as nearly perfect as it is possible for such a work to be made. The manuscript of the historical portions was carefully submitted to committees of prominent old settlers, who were requested to make all changes or additions necessary for a complete and correct work. The certificates of these gentlemen will be found on page iv. As to the biographical department, equal care was bestowed. The biographical sketches, in every case, were submitted to those whom they concerned, so that all had an opportunity to correct and revise the statements and data before it was sent to press.

In closing our labors, we have the gratifying consciousness of having used our utmost endeavors in securing reliable data, and feel no hesitancy in submitting the result to an intelligent public, feeling justified in believing that the work will compare favorably with any local historical work ever published in the State.

There is always more or less difficulty, in an historical work, in selecting those things which will interest the greatest number of readers. Individual tastes differ so widely, that that which may be of absorbing interest to one has no attractions for another. Some are interested only in that which concerns themselves, and do not care to read of even the most thrilling adventures in which they were not participants. Such persons are apt to conclude that what they are not interested in is of no value, and its preservation in history a useless expense. In this, they are in error, as the most trivial reminiscence becomes more and more important, as years roll by, and the preservation of the names of the pioneer participants is regarded with a just pride by their descendants. In the settlement of any new township or county, no one person is entitled to all the credit for what has been accomplished, but every individual is a part of the great whole, and all are directly or indirectly connected with each step of progress. For this reason, it is always a very difficult — if not impossible — task to measure and express the exact meed of praise or commendation due to the individual, and we have, therefore, stated facts, with "naught set down in malice or in praise."

In conclusion, we desire to express our sincere thanks to the citizens generally, the pioneers, the press, and the county, township and village officials, who have extended more than ordinary courtesy to our employes in their arduous duties of obtaining data.

That our efforts may prove satisfactory, and this volume receive a welcome commensurate with the care bestowed upon its preparation, is the earnest desire of the compilers.

ALDEN PUBLISHING COMPANY.



CERTIFICATES OF COMMITTEES.

Certificate of Revision and Correction of the Indian Massacre and General Chapters.

WE, the undersigned, members of the committee appointed to revise and correct the chapter relating to the Indian massacre, and also the general historical chapters of the History of Meeker County, compiled and published by Alden, Ogle & Co., do hereby certify that the manuscript was duly submitted to us, and further, that we revised and corrected the same, making all the changes and additions we deemed necessary; and, as corrected, we hereby approve of the same as being correct and complete, to the best of our judgment and recollection.

[Signed,]

HAMIEL SILVENS,
J. B. ATKINSON,
A. NELSON,
J. B. SALISBURY,
M. J. FLYNN.

Certificate of the Revision and Correction of City and Township History.

WE, the undersigned, members of the various committees selected to revise and correct the history of our respective township or city for the History of Meeker County, do hereby certify, that the manuscript relating to our respective township or village was duly submitted to us, and further, that we revised and corrected the same, making all the changes and additions we deemed necessary; and, as corrected, we hereby approve of the same as being complete and correct, to the best of our judgment and recollection.

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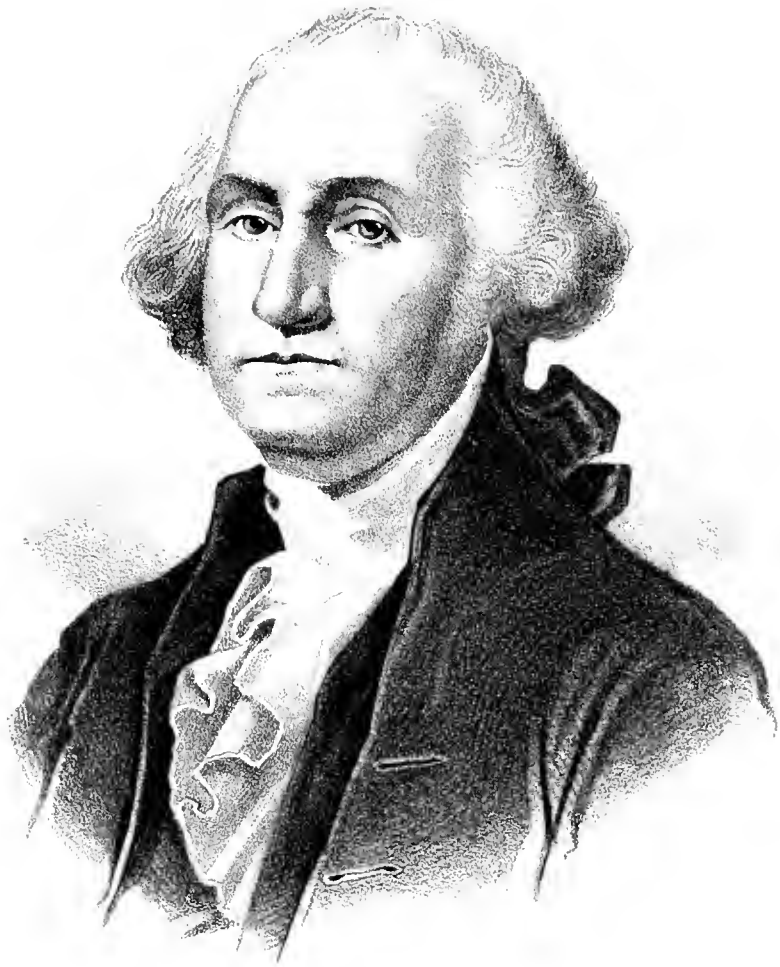
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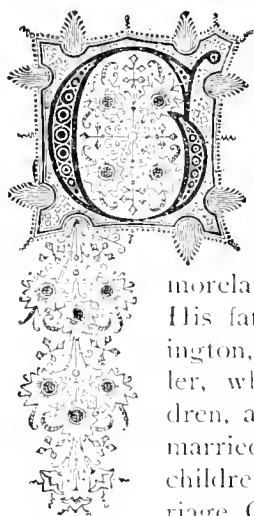
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George Washington



GEORGE WASHINGTON.



GEORGE WASHINGTON, the "Father of his Country" and its first President, 1789-'97, was born February 22, 1732, in Washington Parish, West-

moreland County, Virginia. His father, Augustine Washington, first married Jane Butler, who bore him four children, and March 6, 1730, he married Mary Ball. Of six children by his second marriage, George was the eldest,

the others being Betty, Samuel, John, Augustine, Charles and Mildred, of whom the youngest died in infancy. Little is known of the early years of Washington, beyond the fact that the house in which he was born was burned during his early childhood, and that his father thereupon moved to another farm, inherited from his paternal ancestors, situated in Stafford County, on the north bank of the Rappahannock, where he acted as agent of the Principio Iron Works in the immediate vicinity, and died there in 1743.

From earliest childhood George developed a noble character. He had a vigorous constitution, a fine form, and great bodily strength. His education was somewhat de-

fective, being confined to the elementary branches taught him by his mother and at a neighboring school. He developed, however, a fondness for mathematics, and enjoyed in that branch the instructions of a private teacher. On leaving school he resided for some time at Mount Vernon with his half brother, Lawrence, who acted as his guardian, and who had married a daughter of his neighbor at Belvoir on the Potomac, the wealthy William Fairfax, for some time president of the executive council of the colony. Both Fairfax and his son-in-law, Lawrence Washington, had served with distinction in 1740 as officers of an American battalion at the siege of Carthage, and were friends and correspondents of Admiral Vernon, for whom the latter's residence on the Potomac has been named. George's inclinations were for a similar career, and a midshipman's warrant was procured for him, probably through the influence of the Admiral; but through the opposition of his mother the project was abandoned. The family connection with the Fairfaxes, however, opened another career for the young man, who, at the age of sixteen, was appointed surveyor to the immense estates of the eccentric Lord Fairfax, who was then on a visit at Belvoir, and who shortly afterward established his baronial residence at Greenway Court, in the Shenandoah Valley.

Three years were passed by young Washington in a rough frontier life, gaining experience which afterward proved very essential to him.

In 1751, when the Virginia militia were put under training with a view to active service against France, Washington, though only nineteen years of age, was appointed Adjutant with the rank of Major. In September of that year the failing health of Lawrence Washington rendered it necessary for him to seek a warmer climate, and George accompanied him in a voyage to Barbadoes. They returned early in 1752, and Lawrence shortly afterward died, leaving his large property to an infant daughter. In his will George was named one of the executors and as eventual heir to Mount Vernon, and by the death of the infant niece soon succeeded to that estate.

On the arrival of Robert Dinwiddie as Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia in 1752 the militia was reorganized, and the province divided into four districts. Washington was commissioned by Dinwiddie Adjutant-General of the Northern District in 1753, and in November of that year a most important as well as hazardous mission was assigned him. This was to proceed to the Canadian posts recently established on French Creek, near Lake Erie, to demand in the name of the King of England the withdrawal of the French from a territory claimed by Virginia. This enterprise had been declined by more than one officer, since it involved a journey through an extensive and almost unexplored wilderness in the occupancy of savage Indian tribes, either hostile to the English, or of doubtful attachment. Major Washington, however, accepted the commission with alacrity; and, accompanied by Captain Gist, he reached Fort Le Boeuf on French Creek, delivered his dispatches and received reply, which, of course, was a polite refusal to surrender the posts. This reply was of such a character

as to induce the Assembly of Virginia to authorize the executive to raise a regiment of 300 men for the purpose of maintaining the asserted rights of the British crown over the territory claimed. As Washington declined to be a candidate for that post, the command of this regiment was given to Colonel Joshua Fry, and Major Washington, at his own request, was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel. On the march to Ohio, news was received that a party previously sent to build a fort at the confluence of the Monongahela with the Ohio had been driven back by a considerable French force, which had completed the work there begun, and named it Fort Duquesne, in honor of the Marquis Duquesne, then Governor of Canada. This was the beginning of the great "French and Indian war," which continued seven years. On the death of Colonel Fry, Washington succeeded to the command of the regiment, and so well did he fulfill his trust that the Virginia Assembly commissioned him as Commander-in-Chief of all the forces raised in the colony.

A cessation of all Indian hostility on the frontier having followed the expulsion of the French from the Ohio, the object of Washington was accomplished and he resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Virginia forces. He then proceeded to Williamsburg to take his seat in the General Assembly, of which he had been elected a member.

January 17, 1759, Washington married Mrs. Martha (Dandridge) Custis, a young and beautiful widow of great wealth, and devoted himself for the ensuing fifteen years to the quiet pursuits of agriculture, interrupted only by his annual attendance in winter upon the Colonial Legislature at Williamsburg, until summoned by his country to enter upon that other arena in which his fame was to become world wide.

It is unnecessary here to trace the details of the struggle upon the question of local

self-government, which, after ten years, culminated by act of Parliament of the port of Boston. It was at the instance of Virginia that a congress of all the colonies was called to meet at Philadelphia September 5, 1774, to secure their common liberties—if possible by peaceful means. To this Congress Colonel Washington was sent as a delegate. On dissolving in October, it recommended the colonies to send deputies to another Congress the following spring. In the meantime several of the colonies felt impelled to raise local forces to repel insults and aggressions on the part of British troops, so that on the assembling of the next Congress, May 10, 1775, the war preparations of the mother country were unmistakable. The battles of Concord and Lexington had been fought. Among the earliest acts, therefore, of the Congress was the selection of a commander-in-chief of the colonial forces. This office was unanimously conferred upon Washington, still a member of the Congress. He accepted it on June 19, but on the express condition he should receive no salary.

He immediately repaired to the vicinity of Boston, against which point the British ministry had concentrated their forces. As early as April General Gage had 3,000 troops in and around this proscribed city. During the fall and winter the British policy clearly indicated a purpose to divide public sentiment and to build up a British party in the colonies. Those who sided with the ministry were stigmatized by the patriots as "Tories," while the patriots took to themselves the name of "Whigs."

As early as 1776 the leading men had come to the conclusion that there was no hope except in separation and independence. In May of that year Washington wrote from the head of the army in New York: "A reconciliation with Great Britain is impossible. . . . When I took command of the army, I abhorred the idea

of independence; but I am now fully satisfied that nothing else will save us."

It is not the object of this sketch to trace the military acts of the patriot hero, to whose hands the fortunes and liberties of the United States were confided during the seven years' bloody struggle that ensued until the treaty of 1783, in which England acknowledged the independence of each of the thirteen States, and negotiated with them, jointly, as separate sovereignties. The merits of Washington as a military chieftain have been considerably discussed, especially by writers in his own country. During the war he was most bitterly assailed for incompetency, and great efforts were made to displace him; but he never for a moment lost the confidence of either the Congress or the people. December 4, 1783, the great commander took leave of his officers in most affectionate and patriotic terms, and went to Annapolis, Maryland, where the Congress of the States was in session, and to that body, when peace and order prevailed everywhere, resigned his commission and retired to Mount Vernon.

It was in 1788 that Washington was called to the chief magistracy of the nation. He received every electoral vote cast in all the colleges of the States voting for the office of President. The 4th of March, 1789, was the time appointed for the Government of the United States to begin its operations, but several weeks elapsed before quorums of both the newly constituted houses of the Congress were assembled. The city of New York was the place where the Congress then met. April 16 Washington left his home to enter upon the discharge of his new duties. He set out with a purpose of traveling privately, and without attracting any public attention; but this was impossible. Everywhere on his way he was met with thronging crowds, eager to see the man whom they regarded as the chief defender of their liberties, and everywhere

he was hailed with those public manifestations of joy, regard and love which spring spontaneously from the hearts of an affectionate and grateful people. His reception in New York was marked by a grandeur and an enthusiasm never before witnessed in that metropolis. The inauguration took place April 30, in the presence of an immense multitude which had assembled to witness the new and imposing ceremony. The oath of office was administered by Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State. When this sacred pledge was given, he retired with the other officials into the Senate chamber, where he delivered his inaugural address to both houses of the newly constituted Congress in joint assembly.

In the manifold details of his civil administration, Washington proved himself equal to the requirements of his position. The greater portion of the first session of the first Congress was occupied in passing the necessary statutes for putting the new organization into complete operation. In the discussions brought up in the course of this legislation the nature and character of the new system came under general review. On no one of them did any decided antagonism of opinion arise. All held it to be a limited government, clothed only with specific powers conferred by delegation from the States. There was no change in the name of the legislative department; it still remained "the Congress of the United States of America." There was no change in the original flag of the country, and none in the seal, which still remains with the Grecian escutcheon borne by the eagle, with other emblems, under the great and expressive motto, "*E Pluribus Unum.*"

The first division of parties arose upon the manner of construing the powers delegated, and they were first styled "strict constructionists" and "latitudinarian constructionists." The former were for confining the action of the Government strictly

within its specific and limited sphere, while the others were for enlarging its powers by inference and implication. Hamilton and Jefferson, both members of the first cabinet, were regarded as the chief leaders, respectively, of these rising antagonistic parties, which have existed, under different names from that day to this. Washington was regarded as holding a neutral position between them, though, by mature deliberation, he vetoed the first apportionment bill, in 1790, passed by the party headed by Hamilton, which was based upon a principle constructively leading to centralization or consolidation. This was the first exercise of the veto power under the present Constitution. It created considerable excitement at the time. Another bill was soon passed in pursuance of Mr. Jefferson's views, which has been adhered to in principle in every apportionment act passed since.

At the second session of the new Congress, Washington announced the gratifying fact of "the accession of North Carolina" to the Constitution of 1787, and June 1 of the same year he announced by special message the like "accession of the State of Rhode Island," with his congratulations on the happy event which "united under the general Government" all the States which were originally confederated.

In 1792, at the second Presidential election, Washington was desirous to retire; but he yielded to the general wish of the country, and was again chosen President by the unanimous vote of every electoral college. At the third election, 1796, he was again most urgently entreated to consent to remain in the executive chair. This he positively refused. In September, before the election, he gave to his countrymen his memorable Farewell Address, which in language, sentiment and patriotism was a fit and crowning glory of his illustrious life. After March 4, 1797, he again retired to Mount Vernon for peace, quiet and repose.

His administration for the two terms had been successful beyond the expectation and hopes of even the most sanguine of his friends. The finances of the country were no longer in an embarrassed condition, the public credit was fully restored, life was given to every department of industry, the workings of the new system in allowing Congress to raise revenue from duties on imports proved to be not only harmonious in its federal action, but astonishing in its results upon the commerce and trade of all the States. The exports from the Union increased from \$19,000,000 to over \$56,000,000 per annum, while the imports increased in about the same proportion. Three new members had been added to the Union. The progress of the States in their new career under their new organization thus far was exceedingly encouraging, not only to the friends of liberty within their own limits, but to their sympathizing allies in all climes and countries.

Of the call again made on this illustrious

chief to quit his repose at Mount Vernon and take command of all the United States forces, with the rank of Lieutenant-General, when war was threatened with France in 1798, nothing need here be stated, except to note the fact as an unmistakable testimonial of the high regard in which he was still held by his countrymen, of all shades of political opinion. He patriotically accepted this trust, but a treaty of peace put a stop to all action under it. He again retired to Mount Vernon, where, after a short and severe illness, he died December 14, 1799, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. The whole country was filled with gloom by this sad intelligence. Men of all parties in politics and creeds in religion, in every State in the Union, united with Congress in "paying honor to the man, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

His remains were deposited in a family vault on the banks of the Potomac at Mount Vernon, where they still lie entombed.





JOHN ADAMS.



JOHN ADAMS, the second President of the United States, 1797 to 1801, was born in the present town of Quincy, then a portion of Braintree, Massachusetts, October 30, 1735. His father was a farmer of moderate means, a worthy and industrious man. He was a deacon in the church, and was very desirous of giving his son a collegiate education, hoping that he would become a minister of the gospel. But, as up to this time, the age of fourteen, he had been only a play-boy in the fields and forests, he had no taste for books, he chose farming. On being set to work, however, by his father out in the field, the very first day converted the boy into a lover of books.

Accordingly, at the age of sixteen he entered Harvard College, and graduated in 1755, at the age of twenty, highly esteemed for integrity, energy and ability. Thus, having no capital but his education, he started out into the stormy world at a time of great political excitement, as France and England were then engaged in their great seven-years struggle for the mastery over the New World. The fire of patriotism

seized young Adams, and for a time he studied over the question whether he should take to the law, to politics or the army. He wrote a remarkable letter to a friend, making prophecies concerning the future greatness of this country which have since been more than fulfilled. For two years he taught school and studied law, wasting no odd moments, and at the early age of twenty-two years he opened a law office in his native town. His inherited powers of mind and untiring devotion to his profession caused him to rise rapidly in public esteem.

In October, 1764, Mr. Adams married Miss Abigail Smith, daughter of a clergyman at Weymouth and a lady of rare personal and intellectual endowments, who afterward contributed much to her husband's celebrity.

Soon the oppression of the British in America reached its climax. The Boston merchants employed an attorney by the name of James Otis to argue the legality of oppressive tax law before the Superior Court. Adams heard the argument, and afterward wrote to a friend concerning the ability displayed, as follows: "Otis was a flame of fire. With a promptitude of classical allusion, a depth of research, a rapid summary of historical events and dates, a profusion of legal authorities and a



John Adams

prophetic glance into futurity, he hurried away all before him. *American independence was then and there born.* Every man of an immensely crowded audience appeared to me to go away, as I did, ready to take up arms."

Soon Mr. Adams wrote an essay to be read before the literary club of his town, upon the state of affairs, which was so able as to attract public attention. It was published in American journals, republished in England, and was pronounced by the friends of the colonists there as "one of the very best productions ever seen from North America."

The memorable Stamp Act was now issued, and Adams entered with all the ardor of his soul into political life in order to resist it. He drew up a series of resolutions remonstrating against the act, which were adopted at a public meeting of the citizens of Braintree, and which were subsequently adopted, word for word, by more than forty towns in the State. Popular commotion prevented the landing of the Stamp Act papers, and the English authorities then closed the courts. The town of Boston therefore appointed Jeremy Gridley, James Otis and John Adams to argue a petition before the Governor and council for the re-opening of the courts; and while the two first mentioned attorneys based their argument upon the distress caused to the people by the measure, Adams boldly claimed that the Stamp Act was a violation both of the English Constitution and the charter of the Provinces. It is said that this was the first direct denial of the unlimited right of Parliament over the colonies. Soon after this the Stamp Act was repealed.

Directly Mr. Adams was employed to defend Ansell Nickerson, who had killed an Englishman in the act of impressing him (Nickerson) into the King's service, and his client was acquitted, the court thus estab-

lishing the principle that the infamous royal prerogative of impressment could have no existence in the colonial code. But in 1770 Messrs. Adams and Josiah Quincy defended a party of British soldiers who had been arrested for murder when they had been only obeying Governmental orders; and when reproached for thus apparently deserting the cause of popular liberty, Mr. Adams replied that he would a thousandfold rather live under the domination of the worst of England's kings than under that of a lawless mob. Next, after serving a term as a member of the Colonial Legislature from Boston, Mr. Adams, finding his health affected by too great labor, retired to his native home at Braintree.

The year 1774 soon arrived, with its famous Boston "Tea Party," the first open act of rebellion. Adams was sent to the Congress at Philadelphia; and when the Attorney-General announced that Great Britain had "determined on her system, and that her power to execute it was irresistible," Adams replied: "I know that Great Britain has determined on her system, and that very determination determines me on mine. You know that I have been constant in my opposition to her measures. The die is now cast. I have passed the Rubicon. Sink or swim, live or die, with my country, is my unalterable determination." The rumor beginning to prevail at Philadelphia that the Congress had independence in view, Adams foresaw that it was too soon to declare it openly. He advised every one to remain quiet in that respect; and as soon as it became apparent that he himself was for independence, he was advised to hide himself, which he did.

The next year the great Revolutionary war opened in earnest, and Mrs. Adams, residing near Boston, kept her husband advised by letter of all the events transpiring in her vicinity. The battle of Bunker Hill

came on. Congress had to do something immediately. The first thing was to choose a commander-in-chief for the—we can't say "army"—the fighting men of the colonies. The New England delegation was almost unanimous in favor of appointing General Ward, then at the head of the Massachusetts forces, but Mr. Adams urged the appointment of George Washington, then almost unknown outside of his own State. He was appointed without opposition. Mr. Adams offered the resolution, which was adopted, annulling all the royal authority in the colonies. Having thus prepared the way, a few weeks later, viz., June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, who a few months before had declared that the British Government would abandon its oppressive measures, now offered the memorable resolution, seconded by Adams, "that these United States are, and of right ought to be, free and independent." Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Sherman and Livingston were then appointed a committee to draught a declaration of independence. Mr. Jefferson desired Mr. Adams to draw up the bold document, but the latter persuaded Mr. Jefferson to perform that responsible task. The Declaration drawn up, Mr. Adams became its foremost defender on the floor of Congress. It was signed by all the fifty-five members present, and the next day Mr. Adams wrote to his wife how great a deed was done, and how proud he was of it. Mr. Adams continued to be the leading man of Congress, and the leading advocate of American independence. Above all other Americans, he was considered by every one the principal shining mark for British vengeance. Thus circumstanced, he was appointed to the most dangerous task of crossing the ocean in winter, exposed to capture by the British, who knew of his mission, which was to visit Paris and solicit the co-operation of the French. Besides, to take him-

self away from the country of which he was the most prominent defender, at that critical time, was an act of the greatest self-sacrifice. Sure enough, while crossing the sea, he had two very narrow escapes from capture; and the transit was otherwise a stormy and eventful one. During the summer of 1779 he returned home, but was immediately dispatched back to France, to be in readiness there to negotiate terms of peace and commerce with Great Britain as soon as the latter power was ready for such business. But as Dr. Franklin was more popular than he at the court of France, Mr. Adams repaired to Holland, where he was far more successful as a diplomatist.

The treaty of peace between the United States and England was finally signed at Paris, January 21, 1783; and the re-action from so great excitement as Mr. Adams had so long been experiencing threw him into a dangerous fever. Before he fully recovered he was in London, whence he was dispatched again to Amsterdam to negotiate another loan. Compliance with this order undermined his physical constitution for life.

In 1785 Mr. Adams was appointed envoy to the court of St. James, to meet face to face the very king who had regarded him as an arch traitor! Accordingly he repaired thither, where he did actually meet and converse with George III.! After a residence there for about three years, he obtained permission to return to America. While in London he wrote and published an able work, in three volumes, entitled: "A Defense of the American Constitution."

The Articles of Confederation proving inefficient, as Adams had prophesied, a carefully draughted Constitution was adopted in 1789, when George Washington was elected President of the new nation, and Adams Vice-President. Congress met for a time in New York, but was removed to Philadelphia for ten years, until suitable

buildings should be erected at the new capital in the District of Columbia. Mr. Adams then moved his family to Philadelphia. Toward the close of his term of office the French Revolution culminated, when Adams and Washington rather sympathized with England, and Jefferson with France. The Presidential election of 1796 resulted in giving Mr. Adams the first place by a small majority, and Mr. Jefferson the second place.

Mr. Adams's administration was conscientious, patriotic and able. The period was a turbulent one, and even an archangel could not have reconciled the hostile parties. Partisanism with reference to England and France was bitter, and for four years Mr. Adams struggled through almost a constant tempest of assaults. In fact, he was not truly a popular man, and his chagrin at not receiving a re-election was so great that he did not even remain at Philadelphia to witness the inauguration of Mr. Jefferson, his successor. The friendly intimacy between these two men was interrupted for about thirteen years of their life. Adams finally made the first advances toward a restoration of their mutual friendship, which were gratefully accepted by Jefferson.

Mr. Adams was glad of his opportunity to retire to private life, where he could rest his mind and enjoy the comforts of home. By a thousand bitter experiences he found the path of public duty a thorny one. For twenty-six years his service of the public was as arduous, self-sacrificing and devoted as ever fell to the lot of man. In one important sense he was as much the "Father of his Country" as was Washington in another sense. During these long years of anxiety and toil, in which he was laying broad and deep, the foundations of the

greatest nation the sun ever shone upon, he received from his impoverished country a meager support. The only privilege he carried with him into his retirement was that of franking his letters.

Although taking no active part in public affairs, both himself and his son, John Quincy, nobly supported the policy of Mr. Jefferson in resisting the encroachments of England, who persisted in searching American ships on the high seas and dragging from them any sailors that might be designated by any pert lieutenant as British subjects. Even for this noble support Mr. Adams was maligned by thousands of bitter enemies! On this occasion, for the first time since his retirement, he broke silence and drew up a very able paper, exposing the atrocity of the British pretensions.

Mr. Adams outlived nearly all his family. Though his physical frame began to give way many years before his death, his mental powers retained their strength and vigor to the last. In his ninetieth year he was gladdened by the popular elevation of his son to the Presidential office, the highest in the gift of the people. A few months more passed away and the 4th of July, 1826, arrived. The people, unaware of the near approach of the end of two great lives—that of Adams and Jefferson—were making unusual preparations for a national holiday. Mr. Adams lay upon his couch, listening to the ringing of bells, the waftures of martial music and the roar of cannon, with silent emotion. Only four days before, he had given for a public toast, "Independence forever." About two o'clock in the afternoon he said, "And Jefferson still survives." But he was mistaken by an hour or so; and in a few minutes he had breathed his last.



THOMAS JEFFERSON.



THOMAS JEFFERSON, the third President of the United States, 1801-'9, was born April 2, 1743, the eldest child of his parents, Peter and Jane (Randolph) Jefferson, near Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Virginia, upon the slopes of the Blue Ridge. When he was fourteen years of age, his father died, leaving a widow and eight children. She was a beautiful and accomplished

lady, a good letter-writer, with a fund of humor, and an admirable housekeeper. His parents belonged to the Church of England, and are said to be of Welch origin. But little is known of them, however.

Thomas was naturally of a serious turn of mind, apt to learn, and a favorite at school, his choice studies being mathematics and the classics. At the age of seventeen he entered William and Mary College, in an advanced class, and lived in rather an expensive style, consequently being much caressed by gay society. That he was not ruined, is proof of his stamina of character. But during his second year he discarded

society, his horses and even his favorite violin, and devoted thenceforward fifteen hours a day to hard study, becoming extraordinarily proficient in Latin and Greek authors.

On leaving college, before he was twenty-one, he commenced the study of law, and pursued it diligently until he was well qualified for practice, upon which he entered in 1767. By this time he was also versed in French, Spanish, Italian and Anglo-Saxon, and in the criticism of the fine arts. Being very polite and polished in his manners, he won the friendship of all whom he met. Though able with his pen, he was not fluent in public speech.

In 1769 he was chosen a member of the Virginia Legislature, and was the largest slave-holding member of that body. He introduced a bill empowering slave-holders to manumit their slaves, but it was rejected by an overwhelming vote.

In 1770 Mr. Jefferson met with a great loss; his house at Shadwell was burned, and his valuable library of 2,000 volumes was consumed. But he was wealthy enough to replace the most of it, as from his 5,000 acres tilled by slaves and his practice at the bar his income amounted to about \$5,000 a year.

In 1772 he married Mrs. Martha Skelton, a beautiful, wealthy and accomplished



Th. Jefferson

young widow, who owned 40,000 acres of land and 130 slaves; yet he labored assiduously for the abolition of slavery. For his new home he selected a majestic rise of land upon his large estate at Shadwell, called Monticello, whereon he erected a mansion of modest yet elegant architecture. Here he lived in luxury, indulging his taste in magnificent, high-blooded horses.

At this period the British Government gradually became more insolent and oppressive toward the American colonies, and Mr. Jefferson was ever one of the most foremost to resist its encroachments. From time to time he drew up resolutions of remonstrance, which were finally adopted, thus proving his ability as a statesman and as a leader. By the year 1774 he became quite busy, both with voice and pen, in defending the right of the colonies to defend themselves. His pamphlet entitled: "A Summary View of the Rights of British America," attracted much attention in England. The following year he, in company with George Washington, served as an executive committee in measures to defend by arms the State of Virginia. As a Member of the Congress, he was not a speaker, yet in conversation and upon committees he was so frank and decisive that he always made a favorable impression. But as late as the autumn of 1775 he remained in hopes of reconciliation with the parent country.

At length, however, the hour arrived for draughting the "Declaration of Independence," and this responsible task was devolved upon Jefferson. Franklin, and Adams suggested a few verbal corrections before it was submitted to Congress, which was June 28, 1776, only six days before it was adopted. During the three days of the fiery ordeal of criticism through which it passed in Congress, Mr. Jefferson opened not his lips. John Adams was the main champion of the Declaration on the floor

of Congress. The signing of this document was one of the most solemn and momentous occasions ever attended to by man. Prayer and silence reigned throughout the hall, and each signer realized that if American independence was not finally sustained by arms he was doomed to the scaffold.

After the colonies became independent States, Jefferson resigned for a time his seat in Congress in order to aid in organizing the government of Virginia, of which State he was chosen Governor in 1779, when he was thirty-six years of age. At this time the British had possession of Georgia and were invading South Carolina, and at one time a British officer, Tarleton, sent a secret expedition to Monticello to capture the Governor. Five minutes after Mr. Jefferson escaped with his family, his mansion was in possession of the enemy! The British troops also destroyed his valuable plantation on the James River. "Had they carried off the slaves," said Jefferson, with characteristic magnanimity, "to give them freedom, they would have done right."

The year 1781 was a gloomy one for the Virginia Governor. While confined to his secluded home in the forest by a sick and dying wife, a party arose against him throughout the State, severely criticising his course as Governor. Being very sensitive to reproach, this touched him to the quick, and the heap of troubles then surrounding him nearly crushed him. He resolved, in despair, to retire from public life for the rest of his days. For weeks Mr. Jefferson sat lovingly, but with a crushed heart, at the bedside of his sick wife, during which time unfeeling letters were sent to him, accusing him of weakness and unfaithfulness to duty. All this, after he had lost so much property and at the same time done so much for his country! After her death he actually fainted away, and remained so long insensible that it was feared he never would recover! Several weeks

passed before he could fully recover his equilibrium. He was never married a second time.

In the spring of 1782 the people of England compelled their king to make to the Americans overtures of peace, and in November following, Mr. Jefferson was reappointed by Congress, unanimously and without a single adverse remark, minister plenipotentiary to negotiate a treaty.

In March, 1784, Mr. Jefferson was appointed on a committee to draught a plan for the government of the Northwestern Territory. His slavery-prohibition clause in that plan was stricken out by the pro-slavery majority of the committee; but amid all the controversies and wrangles of politicians, he made it a rule never to contradict anybody or engage in any discussion as a debater.

In company with Mr. Adams and Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jefferson was appointed in May, 1784, to act as minister plenipotentiary in the negotiation of treaties of commerce with foreign nations. Accordingly, he went to Paris and satisfactorily accomplished his mission. The suavity and high bearing of his manner made all the French his friends; and even Mrs. Adams at one time wrote to her sister that he was "the chosen of the earth." But all the honors that he received, both at home and abroad, seemed to make no change in the simplicity of his republican tastes. On his return to America, he found two parties respecting the foreign commercial policy, Mr. Adams sympathizing with that in favor of England and himself favoring France.

On the inauguration of General Washington as President, Mr. Jefferson was chosen by him for the office of Secretary of State. At this time the rising storm of the French Revolution became visible, and Washington watched it with great anxiety. His cabinet was divided in their views of constitutional government as well as re-

garding the issues in France. General Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, was the leader of the so-called Federal party, while Mr. Jefferson was the leader of the Republican party. At the same time there was a strong monarchical party in this country, with which Mr. Adams sympathized. Some important financial measures, which were proposed by Hamilton and finally adopted by the cabinet and approved by Washington, were opposed by Mr. Jefferson; and his enemies then began to reproach him with holding office under an administration whose views he opposed. The President poured oil on the troubled waters. On his re-election to the Presidency he desired Mr. Jefferson to remain in the cabinet, but the latter sent in his resignation at two different times, probably because he was dissatisfied with some of the measures of the Government. His final one was not received until January 1, 1794, when General Washington parted from him with great regret.

Jefferson then retired to his quiet home at Monticello, to enjoy a good rest, not even reading the newspapers lest the political gossip should disquiet him. On the President's again calling him back to the office of Secretary of State, he replied that no circumstances would ever again tempt him to engage in anything public! But, while all Europe was ablaze with war, and France in the throes of a bloody revolution and the principal theater of the conflict, a new Presidential election in this country came on. John Adams was the Federal candidate and Mr. Jefferson became the Republican candidate. The result of the election was the promotion of the latter to the Vice-Presidency, while the former was chosen President. In this contest Mr. Jefferson really did not desire to have either office, he was "so weary" of party strife. He loved the retirement of home more than any other place on the earth.

But for four long years his Vice-Presidency passed joylessly away, while the partisan strife between Federalist and Republican was ever growing hotter. The former party split and the result of the fourth general election was the elevation of Mr. Jefferson to the Presidency! with Aaron Burr as Vice-President. These men being at the head of a growing party, their election was hailed everywhere with joy. On the other hand, many of the Federalists turned pale, as they believed what a portion of the pulpit and the press had been preaching—that Jefferson was a “scoffing atheist,” a “Jacobin,” the “incarnation of all evil,” “breathing threatening and slaughter!”

Mr. Jefferson's inaugural address contained nothing but the noblest sentiments, expressed in fine language, and his personal behavior afterward exhibited the extreme of American, democratic simplicity. His disgust of European court etiquette grew upon him with age. He believed that General Washington was somewhat distrustful of the ultimate success of a popular Government, and that, imbued with a little admiration of the forms of a monarchical Government, he had instituted levees, birthdays, pompous meetings with Congress, etc. Jefferson was always polite, even to slaves everywhere he met them, and carried in his countenance the indications of an accommodating disposition.

The political principles of the Jeffersonian party now swept the country, and Mr. Jefferson himself swayed an influence which was never exceeded even by Washington. Under his administration, in 1803, the Louisiana purchase was made, for \$15,000,000, the “Louisiana Territory” purchased comprising all the land west of the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean.

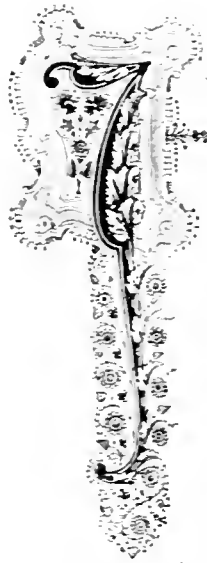
The year 1804 witnessed another severe loss in his family. His highly accomplished and most beloved daughter Maria sickened and died, causing as great grief in the

stricken parent as it was possible for him to survive with any degree of sanity.

The same year he was re-elected to the Presidency, with George Clinton as Vice-President. During his second term our relations with England became more complicated, and on June 22, 1807, near Hampton Roads, the United States frigate Chesapeake was fired upon by the British man-of-war Leopard, and was made to surrender. Three men were killed and ten wounded. Jefferson demanded reparation. England grew insolent. It became evident that war was determined upon by the latter power. More than 1,200 Americans were forced into the British service upon the high seas. Before any satisfactory solution was reached, Mr. Jefferson's Presidential term closed. Amid all these public excitements he thought constantly of the welfare of his family, and longed for the time when he could return home to remain. There, at Monticello, his subsequent life was very similar to that of Washington at Mt. Vernon. His hospitality toward his numerous friends, indulgence of his slaves, and misfortunes to his property, etc., finally involved him in debt. For years his home resembled a fashionable watering-place. During the summer, thirty-seven house servants were required! It was presided over by his daughter, Mrs. Randolph.

Mr. Jefferson did much for the establishment of the University at Charlottesville, making it unsectarian, in keeping with the spirit of American institutions, but poverty and the feebleness of old age prevented him from doing what he would. He even went so far as to petition the Legislature for permission to dispose of some of his possessions by lottery, in order to raise the necessary funds for home expenses. It was granted; but before the plan was carried out, Mr. Jefferson died, July 4, 1826, at 12:50 P. M.

JAMES MADISON.



JAMES MADISON, the fourth President of the United States, 1809-17, was born at Port Conway, Prince George County, Virginia, March 16, 1751. His father, Colonel James Madison, was a wealthy planter, residing upon a very fine estate called "Montpelier," only twenty-five miles from the home of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. The closest personal and political attachment existed between these illustrious men from their early youth until death.

James was the eldest of a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters, all of whom attained maturity. His early education was conducted mostly at home, under a private tutor. Being naturally intellectual in his tastes, he consecrated himself with unusual vigor to study. At a very early age he made considerable proficiency in the Greek, Latin, French and Spanish languages. In 1769 he entered Princeton College, New Jersey, of which the illustrious Dr. Weatherspoon was then President. He graduated in 1771, with a char-

acter of the utmost purity, and a mind highly disciplined and stored with all the learning which embellished and gave efficiency to his subsequent career. After graduating he pursued a course of reading for several months, under the guidance of President Weatherspoon, and in 1772 returned to Virginia, where he continued in incessant study for two years, nominally directed to the law, but really including extended researches in theology, philosophy and general literature.

The Church of England was the established church in Virginia, invested with all the prerogatives and immunities which it enjoyed in the fatherland, and other denominations labored under serious disabilities, the enforcement of which was rightly or wrongly characterized by them as persecution. Madison took a prominent stand in behalf of the removal of all disabilities, repeatedly appeared in the court of his own county to defend the Baptist nonconformists, and was elected from Orange County to the Virginia Convention in the spring of 1776, when he signalized the beginning of his public career by procuring the passage of an amendment to the Declaration of Rights as prepared by George Mason, substituting for "toleration" a more emphatic assertion of religious liberty.



James Madison

In 1776 he was elected a member of the Virginia Convention to frame the Constitution of the State. Like Jefferson, he took but little part in the public debates. His main strength lay in his conversational influence and in his pen. In November, 1777, he was chosen a member of the Council of State, and in March, 1780, took his seat in the Continental Congress, where he first gained prominence through his energetic opposition to the issue of paper money by the States. He continued in Congress three years, one of its most active and influential members.

In 1784 Mr. Madison was elected a member of the Virginia Legislature. He rendered important service by promoting and participating in that revision of the statutes which effectually abolished the remnants of the feudal system subsistent up to that time in the form of entails, primogeniture, and State support given the Anglican Church; and his "Memorial and Remonstrance" against a general assessment for the support of religion is one of the ablest papers which emanated from his pen. It settled the question of the entire separation of church and State in Virginia.

Mr. Jefferson says of him, in allusion to the study and experience through which he had already passed:

"Trained in these successive schools, he acquired a habit of self-possession which placed at ready command the rich resources of his luminous and discriminating mind and of his extensive information, and rendered him the first of every assembly of which he afterward became a member. Never wandering from his subject into vain declamation, but pursuing it closely in language pure, classical and copious, soothing always the feelings of his adversaries by civilities and softness of expression, he rose to the eminent station which he held in the great National Convention of 1787; and in that of Virginia, which followed, he sustained the

new Constitution in all its parts, bearing off the palm against the logic of George Mason and the fervid declamation of Patrick Henry. With these consummate powers were united a pure and spotless virtue which no calumny has ever attempted to sully. Of the power and polish of his pen, and of the wisdom of his administration in the highest office of the nation, I need say nothing. They have spoken, and will forever speak, for themselves."

In January, 1786, Mr. Madison took the initiative in proposing a meeting of State Commissioners to devise measures for more satisfactory commercial relations between the States. A meeting was held at Annapolis to discuss this subject, and but five States were represented. The convention issued another call, drawn up by Mr. Madison, urging all the States to send their delegates to Philadelphia, in May, 1787, to draught a Constitution for the United States. The delegates met at the time appointed, every State except Rhode Island being represented. George Washington was chosen president of the convention, and the present Constitution of the United States was then and there formed. There was no mind and no pen more active in framing this immortal document than the mind and pen of James Madison. He was, perhaps, its ablest advocate in the pages of the *Federalist*.

Mr. Madison was a member of the first four Congresses, 1789-'97, in which he maintained a moderate opposition to Hamilton's financial policy. He declined the mission to France and the Secretaryship of State, and, gradually identifying himself with the Republican party, became from 1792 its avowed leader. In 1796 he was its choice for the Presidency as successor to Washington. Mr. Jefferson wrote: "There is not another person in the United States with whom, being placed at the helm of our affairs, my mind would be so completely at

rest for the fortune of our political bark." But Mr. Madison declined to be a candidate. His term in Congress had expired, and he returned from New York to his beautiful retreat at Montpelier.

In 1794 Mr. Madison married a young widow of remarkable powers of fascination—Mrs. Todd. Her maiden name was Dorothy Paine. She was born in 1767, in Virginia, of Quaker parents, and had been educated in the strictest rules of that sect. When but eighteen years of age she married a young lawyer and moved to Philadelphia, where she was introduced to brilliant scenes of fashionable life. She speedily laid aside the dress and address of the Quakeress, and became one of the most fascinating ladies of the republican court. In New York, after the death of her husband, she was the belle of the season and was surrounded with admirers. Mr. Madison won the prize. She proved an invaluable helpmate. In Washington she was the life of society. If there was any diffident, timid young girl just making her appearance, she found in Mrs. Madison an encouraging friend.

During the stormy administration of John Adams Madison remained in private life, but was the author of the celebrated "Resolutions of 1798," adopted by the Virginia Legislature, in condemnation of the Alien and Sedition laws, as well as of the "report" in which he defended those resolutions, which is, by many, considered his ablest State paper.

The storm passed away; the Alien and Sedition laws were repealed, John Adams lost his re-election, and in 1801 Thomas Jefferson was chosen President. The great reaction in public sentiment which seated Jefferson in the presidential chair was largely owing to the writings of Madison, who was consequently well entitled to the post of Secretary of State. With great ability he discharged the duties of this responsible

office during the eight years of Mr. Jefferson's administration.

As Mr. Jefferson was a widower, and neither of his daughters could be often with him, Mrs. Madison usually presided over the festivities of the White House; and as her husband succeeded Mr. Jefferson, holding his office for two terms, this remarkable woman was the mistress of the presidential mansion for sixteen years.

Mr. Madison being entirely engrossed by the cares of his office, all the duties of social life devolved upon his accomplished wife. Never were such responsibilities more ably discharged. The most bitter foes of her husband and of the administration were received with the frankly professed hand and the cordial smile of welcome; and the influence of this gentle woman in allaying the bitterness of party rancor became a great and salutary power in the nation.

As the term of Mr. Jefferson's Presidency drew near its close, party strife was roused to the utmost to elect his successor. It was a death-grapple between the two great parties, the Federal and Republican. Mr. Madison was chosen President by an electoral vote of 122 to 53, and was inaugurated March 4, 1809, at a critical period, when the relations of the United States with Great Britain were becoming embittered, and his first term was passed in diplomatic quarrels, aggravated by the act of non-intercourse of May, 1810, and finally resulting in a declaration of war.

On the 18th of June, 1812, President Madison gave his approval to an act of Congress declaring war against Great Britain. Notwithstanding the bitter hostility of the Federal party to the war, the country in general approved; and in the autumn Madison was re-elected to the Presidency by 128 electoral votes to 89 in favor of George Clinton.

March 4, 1817, Madison yielded the Presi-

dency to his Secretary of State and intimate friend, James Monroe, and retired to his ancestral estate at Montpelier, where he passed the evening of his days surrounded by attached friends and enjoying the merited respect of the whole nation. He took pleasure in promoting agriculture, as president of the county society, and in watching the development of the University of Virginia, of which he was long rector and visitor. In extreme old age he sat in 1829 as a member of the convention called to reform the Virginia Constitution, where his appearance was hailed with the most genuine interest and satisfaction, though he was too infirm to participate in the active work of revision. Small in stature, slender and delicate in form, with a countenance full of intelligence, and expressive alike of mildness and dignity, he attracted the attention of all who attended the convention, and was treated with the utmost deference. He seldom addressed the assembly, though he always appeared self-possessed, and watched with unflagging interest the progress of every measure. Though the convention sat sixteen weeks, he spoke only twice; but when he did speak, the whole house paused to listen. His voice was feeble though his enunciation was very distinct. One of the reporters, Mr. Stansbury, relates the following anecdote of Mr. Madison's last speech:

"The next day, as there was a great call for it, and the report had not been returned for publication, I sent my son with a respectful note, requesting the manuscript. My son was a lad of sixteen, whom I had taken with me to act as amanuensis. On delivering my note, he was received with the utmost politeness, and requested to come up into Mr. Madison's room and wait while his eye ran over the paper, as company had prevented his attending to it. He did so, and Mr. Madison sat down to correct the report. The lad stood near him so that

his eye fell on the paper. Coming to a certain sentence in the speech, Mr. Madison erased a word and substituted another; but hesitated, and not feeling satisfied with the second word, drew his pen through it also. My son was young, ignorant of the world, and unconscious of the solecism of which he was about to be guilty, when, in all simplicity, he suggested a word. Probably no other person then living would have taken such a liberty. But the sage, instead of regarding such an intrusion with a frown, raised his eyes to the boy's face with a pleased surprise, and said, 'Thank you, sir; it is the very word,' and immediately inserted it. I saw him the next day, and he mentioned the circumstance, with a compliment on the young critic."

Mr. Madison died at Montpelier, June 28, 1836, at the advanced age of eighty-five. While not possessing the highest order of talent, and deficient in oratorical powers, he was pre-eminently a statesman, of a well-balanced mind. His attainments were solid, his knowledge copious, his judgment generally sound, his powers of analysis and logical statement rarely surpassed, his language and literary style correct and polished, his conversation witty, his temperament sanguine and trustful, his integrity unquestioned, his manners simple, courteous and winning. By these rare qualities he conciliated the esteem not only of friends, but of political opponents, in a greater degree than any American statesman in the present century.

Mrs. Madison survived her husband thirteen years, and died July 12, 1849, in the eighty-second year of her age. She was one of the most remarkable women our country has produced. Even now she is admirably remembered in Washington as "Dolly Madison," and it is fitting that her memory should descend to posterity in company with that of the companion of her life.



JAMES MONROE, the fifth President of the United States, 1817-'25, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, April 28, 1758.

He was a son of Spence Monroe, and a descendant of a Scottish cavalier family. Like all his predecessors thus far in the Presidential chair, he enjoyed all the advantages of education which the country could then afford. He was early sent to a fine classical school, and at the age of six-

teen entered William and Mary College. In 1776, when he had been in college but two years, the Declaration of Independence was adopted, and our feeble militia, without arms, ammunition or clothing, were struggling against the trained armies of England. James Monroe left college, hastened to General Washington's headquarters at New York and enrolled himself as a cadet in the army.

At Trenton Lieutenant Monroe so distinguished himself, receiving a wound in his shoulder, that he was promoted to a Captaincy. Upon recovering from his wound, he was invited to act as aide to Lord Sterling, and in that capacity he took an active part in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth. At Germantown

he stood by the side of Lafayette when the French Marquis received his wound. General Washington, who had formed a high idea of young Monroe's ability, sent him to Virginia to raise a new regiment, of which he was to be Colonel; but so exhausted was Virginia at that time that the effort proved unsuccessful. He, however, received his commission.

Finding no opportunity to enter the army as a commissioned officer, he returned to his original plan of studying law, and entered the office of Thomas Jefferson, who was then Governor of Virginia. He developed a very noble character, frank, manly and sincere. Mr. Jefferson said of him:

"James Monroe is so perfectly honest that if his soul were turned inside out there would not be found a spot on it."

In 1782 he was elected to the Assembly of Virginia, and was also appointed a member of the Executive Council. The next year he was chosen delegate to the Continental Congress for a term of three years. He was present at Annapolis when Washington surrendered his commission of Commander-in-chief.

With Washington, Jefferson and Madison he felt deeply the inefficiency of the old Articles of Confederation, and urged the formation of a new Constitution, which should invest the Central Government with something like national power. Influenced by these views, he introduced a resolution



James Monroe

that Congress should be empowered to regulate trade, and to lay an impost duty of five per cent. The resolution was referred to a committee of which he was chairman. The report and the discussion which rose upon it led to the convention of five States at Annapolis, and the consequent general convention at Philadelphia, which, in 1787, drafted the Constitution of the United States.

At this time there was a controversy between New York and Massachusetts in reference to their boundaries. The high esteem in which Colonel Monroe was held is indicated by the fact that he was appointed one of the judges to decide the controversy. While in New York attending Congress, he married Miss Kortright, a young lady distinguished alike for her beauty and accomplishments. For nearly fifty years this happy union remained unbroken. In London and in Paris, as in her own country, Mrs. Monroe won admiration and affection by the loveliness of her person, the brilliancy of her intellect, and the amiability of her character.

Returning to Virginia, Colonel Monroe commenced the practice of law at Fredericksburg. He was very soon elected to a seat in the State Legislature, and the next year he was chosen a member of the Virginia convention which was assembled to decide upon the acceptance or rejection of the Constitution which had been drawn up at Philadelphia, and was now submitted to the several States. Deeply as he felt the imperfections of the old Confederacy, he was opposed to the new Constitution, thinking, with many others of the Republican party, that it gave too much power to the Central Government, and not enough to the individual States.

In 1789 he became a member of the United States Senate, which office he held acceptably to his constituents, and with honor to himself for four years.

Having opposed the Constitution as not leaving enough power with the States, he, of course, became more and more identified with the Republican party. Thus he found himself in cordial co-operation with Jefferson and Madison. The great Republican party became the dominant power which ruled the land.

George Washington was then President. England had espoused the cause of the Bourbons against the principles of the French Revolution. President Washington issued a proclamation of neutrality between these contending powers. France had helped us in the struggle for our liberties. All the despotisms of Europe were now combined to prevent the French from escaping from tyranny a thousandfold worse than that which we had endured. Colonel Monroe, more magnanimous than prudent, was anxious that we should help our old allies in their extremity. He violently opposed the President's proclamation as ungrateful and wanting in magnanimity.

Washington, who could appreciate such a character, developed his calm, serene, almost divine greatness by appointing that very James Monroe, who was denouncing the policy of the Government, as the Minister of that Government to the republic of France. He was directed by Washington to express to the French people our warmest sympathy, communicating to them corresponding resolves approved by the President, and adopted by both houses of Congress.

Mr. Monroe was welcomed by the National Convention in France with the most enthusiastic demonstrations of respect and affection. He was publicly introduced to that body, and received the embrace of the President, Merlin de Douay, after having been addressed in a speech glowing with congratulations, and with expressions of desire that harmony might ever exist be-

tween the two nations. The flags of the two republics were intertwined in the hall of the convention. Mr. Monroe presented the American colors, and received those of France in return. The course which he pursued in Paris was so annoying to England and to the friends of England in this country that, near the close of Washington's administration, Mr. Monroe, was recalled.

After his return Colonel Monroe wrote a book of 400 pages, entitled "A View of the Conduct of the Executive in Foreign Affairs." In this work he very ably advocated his side of the question; but, with the magnanimity of the man, he recorded a warm tribute to the patriotism, ability and spotless integrity of John Jay, between whom and himself there was intense antagonism; and in subsequent years he expressed in warmest terms his perfect veneration for the character of George Washington.

Shortly after his return to this country Colonel Monroe was elected Governor of Virginia, and held that office for three years, the period limited by the Constitution. In 1802 he was an Envoy to France, and to Spain in 1805, and was Minister to England in 1803. In 1806 he returned to his quiet home in Virginia, and with his wife and children and an ample competence from his paternal estate, enjoyed a few years of domestic repose.

In 1809 Mr. Jefferson's second term of office expired, and many of the Republican party were anxious to nominate James Monroe as his successor. The majority were in favor of Mr. Madison. Mr. Monroe withdrew his name and was soon after chosen a second time Governor of Virginia. He soon resigned that office to accept the position of Secretary of State, offered him by President Madison. The correspondence which he then carried on with the British Government demonstrated that

there was no hope of any peaceful adjustment of our difficulties with the cabinet of St. James. War was consequently declared in June, 1812. Immediately after the sack of Washington the Secretary of War resigned, and Mr. Monroe, at the earnest request of Mr. Madison, assumed the additional duties of the War Department, without resigning his position as Secretary of State. It has been confidently stated, that, had Mr. Monroe's energies been in the War Department a few months earlier, the disaster at Washington would not have occurred.

The duties now devolving upon Mr. Monroe were extremely arduous. Ten thousand men, picked from the veteran armies of England, were sent with a powerful fleet to New Orleans to acquire possession of the mouths of the Mississippi. Our finances were in the most deplorable condition. The treasury was exhausted and our credit gone. And yet it was necessary to make the most rigorous preparations to meet the foe. In this crisis James Monroe, the Secretary of War, with virtue unsurpassed in Greek or Roman story, stepped forward and pledged his own individual credit as subsidiary to that of the nation, and thus succeeded in placing the city of New Orleans in such a posture of defense, that it was enabled successfully to repel the invader.

Mr. Monroe was truly the armor-bearer of President Madison, and the most efficient business man in his cabinet. His energy in the double capacity of Secretary, both of State and War, pervaded all the departments of the country. He proposed to increase the army to 100,000 men, a measure which he deemed absolutely necessary to save us from ignominious defeat, but which, at the same time, he knew would render his name so unpopular as to preclude the possibility of his being a successful candidate for the Presidency.

The happy result of the conference at Ghent in securing peace rendered the increase of the army unnecessary; but it is not too much to say that James Monroe placed in the hands of Andrew Jackson the weapon with which to beat off the foe at New Orleans. Upon the return of peace Mr. Monroe resigned the department of war, devoting himself entirely to the duties of Secretary of State. These he continued to discharge until the close of President Madison's administration, with zeal which was never abated, and with an ardor of self-devotion which made him almost forgetful of the claims of fortune, health or life.

Mr. Madison's second term expired in March, 1817, and Mr. Monroe succeeded to the Presidency. He was a candidate of the Republican party, now taking the name of the Democratic Republican. In 1821 he was re-elected, with scarcely any opposition. Out of 232 electoral votes, he received 231. The slavery question, which subsequently assumed such formidable dimensions, now began to make its appearance. The State of Missouri, which had been carved out of that immense territory which we had purchased of France, applied for admission to the Union, with a slavery Constitution. There were not a few who foresaw the evils impending. After the debate of a week it was decided that Missouri could not be admitted into the Union with slavery. This important question was at length settled by a compromise proposed by Henry Clay.

The famous "Monroe Doctrine," of which so much has been said, originated in this way: In 1823 it was rumored that the Holy Alliance was about to interfere to prevent the establishment of Republican liberty in the European colonies of South America. President Monroe wrote to his old friend Thomas Jefferson for advice in the emergency. In his reply under date of

October 24, Mr. Jefferson writes upon the supposition that our attempt to resist this European movement might lead to war:

"Its object is to introduce and establish the American system of keeping out of our land all foreign powers; of never permitting those of Europe to intermeddle with the affairs of our nation. It is to maintain our own principle, not to depart from it."

December 2, 1823, President Monroe sent a message to Congress, declaring it to be the policy of this Government not to entangle ourselves with the broils of Europe, and not to allow Europe to interfere with the affairs of nations on the American continent; and the doctrine was announced, that any attempt on the part of the European powers "to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere would be regarded by the United States as dangerous to our peace and safety."

March 4, 1825, Mr. Monroe surrendered the presidential chair to his Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams, and retired, with the universal respect of the nation, to his private residence at Oak Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia. His time had been so entirely consecrated to his country, that he had neglected his pecuniary interests, and was deeply involved in debt. The welfare of his country had ever been uppermost in his mind.

For many years Mrs. Monroe was in such feeble health that she rarely appeared in public. In 1830 Mr. Monroe took up his residence with his son-in-law in New York, where he died on the 4th of July, 1831. The citizens of New York conducted his obsequies with pageants more imposing than had ever been witnessed there before. Our country will ever cherish his memory with pride, gratefully enrolling his name in the list of its benefactors, pronouncing him the worthy successor of the illustrious men who had preceded him in the presidential chair.



John Quincy Adams.



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, the sixth President of the United States, 1825-'9, was born in the rural home of his honored father, John Adams, in Quincy, Massachusetts, July 11, 1767. His mother, a woman of exalted worth, watched over his childhood during the almost constant absence of his father. He commenced his education at the village school, giving at an early period indica-

tions of superior mental endowments.

When eleven years of age he sailed with his father for Europe, where the latter was associated with Franklin and Lee as Minister Plenipotentiary. The intelligence of John Quincy attracted the attention of these men and received from them flattering marks of attention. Mr. Adams had scarcely returned to this country in 1779 ere he was again sent abroad, and John Quincy again accompanied him. On this voyage he commenced a diary, which practice he continued, with but few interruptions, until his death. He journeyed with his father from Ferrol, in Spain, to Paris. Here he applied himself for six months to study; then accompanied

his father to Holland, where he entered, first a school in Amsterdam, and then the University of Leyden. In 1781, when only fourteen years of age, he was selected by Mr. Dana, our Minister to the Russian court, as his private secretary. In this school of incessant labor he spent fourteen months, and then returned alone to Holland through Sweden, Denmark, Hamburg and Bremen. Again he resumed his studies under a private tutor, at The Hague.

In the spring of 1782 he accompanied his father to Paris, forming acquaintance with the most distinguished men on the Continent. After a short visit to England, he returned to Paris and studied until May, 1785, when he returned to America, leaving his father an ambassador at the court of St. James. In 1786 he entered the junior class in Harvard University, and graduated with the second honor of his class. The oration he delivered on this occasion, the "Importance of Public Faith to the Well-being of a Community," was published—an event very rare in this or any other land.

Upon leaving college at the age of twenty he studied law three years with the Hon. Theophilus Parsons in Newburyport. In 1790 he opened a law office in Boston. The profession was crowded with able men, and the fees were small. The first year he had



J. Q. Adams

no clients, but not a moment was lost. The second year passed away, still no clients, and still he was dependent upon his parents for support. Anxiously he awaited the third year. The reward now came. Clients began to enter his office, and before the end of the year he was so crowded with business that all solicitude respecting a support was at an end.

When Great Britain commenced war against France, in 1793, Mr. Adams wrote some articles, urging entire neutrality on the part of the United States. The view was not a popular one. Many felt that as France had helped us, we were bound to help France. But President Washington coincided with Mr. Adams, and issued his proclamation of neutrality. His writings at this time in the Boston journals gave him so high a reputation, that in June, 1794, he was appointed by Washington resident Minister at the Netherlands. In July, 1797, he left The Hague to go to Portugal as Minister Plenipotentiary. Washington at this time wrote to his father, John Adams:

"Without intending to compliment the father or the mother, or to censure any others, I give it as my decided opinion, that Mr. Adams is the most valuable character we have abroad; and there remains no doubt in my mind that he will prove the ablest of our diplomatic corps."

On his way to Portugal, upon his arrival in London, he met with dispatches directing him to the court of Berlin, but requesting him to remain in London until he should receive instructions. While waiting he was married to Miss Louisa Catherine Johnson, to whom he had been previously engaged. Miss Johnson was a daughter of Mr. Joshua Johnson, American Consul in London, and was a lady endowed with that beauty and those accomplishments which fitted her to move in the elevated sphere for which she was destined.

In July, 1799, having fulfilled all the purposes of his mission, Mr. Adams returned. In 1802 he was chosen to the Senate of Massachusetts from Boston, and then was elected Senator of the United States for six years from March 4, 1804. His reputation, his ability and his experience, placed him immediately among the most prominent and influential members of that body. He sustained the Government in its measures of resistance to the encroachments of England, destroying our commerce and insulting our flag. There was no man in America more familiar with the arrogance of the British court upon these points, and no one more resolved to present a firm resistance. This course, so truly patriotic, and which scarcely a voice will now be found to condemn, alienated him from the Federal party dominant in Boston, and subjected him to censure.

In 1805 Mr. Adams was chosen professor of rhetoric in Harvard College. His lectures at this place were subsequently published. In 1809 he was sent as Minister to Russia. He was one of the commissioners that negotiated the treaty of peace with Great Britain, signed December 24, 1814, and he was appointed Minister to the court of St. James in 1815. In 1817 he became Secretary of State in Mr. Monroe's cabinet in which position he remained eight years. Few will now contradict the assertion that the duties of that office were never more ably discharged. Probably the most important measure which Mr. Adams conducted was the purchase of Florida from Spain for \$5,000,000.

The campaign of 1824 was an exciting one. Four candidates were in the field. Of the 260 electoral votes that were cast, Andrew Jackson received ninety-nine; John Quincy Adams, eighty-four; William H. Crawford, forty-one, and Henry Clay, thirty-seven. As there was no choice by the people, the question went to the House

of Representatives. Mr. Clay gave the vote of Kentucky to Mr. Adams, and he was elected.

The friends of all disappointed candidates now combined in a venomous assault upon Mr. Adams. There is nothing more disgraceful in the past history of our country than the abuse which was poured in one uninterrupted stream upon this high-minded, upright, patriotic man. There was never an administration more pure in principles, more conscientiously devoted to the best interests of the country, than that of John Quincy Adams; and never, perhaps, was there an administration more unscrupulously assailed. Mr. Adams took his seat in the presidential chair resolved not to know any partisanship, but only to consult for the interests of the whole Republic.

He refused to dismiss any man from office for his political views. If he was a faithful officer that was enough. Bitter must have been his disappointment to find that the Nation could not appreciate such conduct.

Mr. Adams, in his public manners, was cold and repulsive; though with his personal friends he was at times very genial. This chilling address very seriously detracted from his popularity. No one can read an impartial record of his administration without admitting that a more noble example of uncompromising dignity can scarcely be found. It was stated publicly that Mr. Adams' administration was to be put down, "though it be as pure as the angels which stand at the right hand of the throne of God." Many of the active participants in these scenes lived to regret the course they pursued. Some years after, Warren R. Davis, of South Carolina, turning to Mr. Adams, then a member of the House of Representatives, said:

"Well do I remember the enthusiastic zeal with which we reproached the administration of that gentleman, and the ardor and vehemence with which we labored to

bring in another. For the share I had in these transactions, and it was not a small one, *I hope God will forgive me, for I shall never forgive myself.*"

March 4, 1829, Mr. Adams retired from the Presidency and was succeeded by Andrew Jackson, the latter receiving 168 out of 261 electoral votes. John C. Calhoun was elected Vice-President. The slavery question now began to assume pretentious magnitude. Mr. Adams returned to Quincy, and pursued his studies with unabated zeal. But he was not long permitted to remain in retirement. In November, 1830, he was elected to Congress. In this he recognized the principle that it is honorable for the General of yesterday to act as Corporal to-day, if by so doing he can render service to his country. Deep as are our obligations to John Quincy Adams for his services as ambassador, as Secretary of State and as President; in his capacity as legislator in the House of Representatives, he conferred benefits upon our land which eclipsed all the rest, and which can never be over-estimated.

For seventeen years, until his death, he occupied the post of Representative, towering above all his peers, ever ready to do brave battle for freedom, and winning the title of "the old man eloquent." Upon taking his seat in the House he announced that he should hold himself bound to no party. He was usually the first in his place in the morning, and the last to leave his seat in the evening. Not a measure could escape his scrutiny. The battle which he fought, almost singly, against the pro-slavery party in the Government, was sublime in its moral daring and heroism. For persisting in presenting petitions for the abolition of slavery, he was threatened with indictment by the Grand Jury, with expulsion from the House, with assassination; but no threats could intimidate him, and his final triumph was complete.

On one occasion Mr. Adams presented a petition, signed by several women, against the annexation of Texas for the purpose of cutting it up into slave States. Mr. Howard, of Maryland, said that these women discredited not only themselves, but their section of the country, by turning from their domestic duties to the conflicts of political life.

“Are women,” exclaimed Mr. Adams, “to have no opinions or actions on subjects relating to the general welfare? Where did the gentleman get his principle? Did he find it in sacred history,—in the language of Miriam, the prophetess, in one of the noblest and sublime songs of triumph that ever met the human eye or ear? Did the gentleman never hear of Deborah, to whom the children of Israel came up for judgment? Has he forgotten the deed of Jael, who slew the dreaded enemy of her country? Has he forgotten Esther, who, by her *petition* saved her people and her country?”

“To go from sacred history to profane, does the gentleman there find it ‘discreditable’ for women to take an interest in political affairs? Has he forgotten the Spartan mother, who said to her son when going out to battle, ‘My son, come back to me *with* thy shield, or *upon* thy shield?’ Does he remember Cloelia and her hundred companions, who swam across the river under a shower of darts, escaping from Porsena? Has he forgotten Cornelia, the mother of the Gracchi? Does he not remember Portia, the wife of Brutus and the daughter of Cato?”

“To come to later periods, what says the history of our Anglo-Saxon ancestors? To say nothing of Boadicea, the British heroine in the time of the Cæsars, what name is more illustrious than that of Elizabeth? Or, if he will go to the continent, will he not find the names of Maria Theresa of Hungary, of the two Catherines of

Prussia, and of Isabella of Castile, the patroness of Columbus? Did she bring ‘discredit’ on her sex by mingling in politics?”

In this glowing strain Mr. Adams silenced and overwhelmed his antagonists.

In January, 1842, Mr. Adams presented a petition from forty-five citizens of Haverhill, Massachusetts, praying for a peaceable dissolution of the Union. The pro-slavery party in Congress, who were then plotting the destruction of the Government, were aroused to a pretense of commotion such as even our stormy hall of legislation has rarely witnessed. They met in caucus, and, finding that they probably would not be able to expel Mr. Adams from the House drew up a series of resolutions, which, if adopted, would inflict upon him disgrace, equivalent to expulsion. Mr. Adams had presented the petition, which was most respectfully worded, and had moved that it be referred to a committee instructed to report an answer, showing the reason why the prayer ought not to be granted.

It was the 25th of January. The whole body of the pro-slavery party came crowding together in the House, prepared to crush Mr. Adams forever. One of the number, Thomas F. Marshall, of Kentucky, was appointed to read the resolutions, which accused Mr. Adams of high treason, of having insulted the Government, and of meriting expulsion; but for which deserved punishment, the House, in its great mercy, would substitute its severest censure. With the assumption of a very solemn and magisterial air, there being breathless silence in the audience, Mr. Marshall hurled the carefully prepared anathemas at his victim. Mr. Adams stood alone, the whole pro-slavery party against him.

As soon as the resolutions were read, every eye being fixed upon him, that bold old man, whose scattered locks were whitened by seventy-five years, casting a withering glance in the direction of his assailants,

in a clear, shrill tone, tremulous with suppressed emotion, said:

"In reply to this audacious, atrocious charge of high treason, I call for the reading of the first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence. Read it! Read it! and see what that says of the rights of a people to reform, to change, and to dissolve their Government."

The attitude, the manner, the tone, the words; the venerable old man, with flashing eye and flushed cheek, and whose very form seemed to expand under the inspiration of the occasion—all presented a scene overflowing in its sublimity. There was breathless silence as that paragraph was read, in defense of whose principles our fathers had pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. It was a proud hour to Mr. Adams as they were all compelled to listen to the words:

"That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; and that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of those ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

That one sentence routed and baffled the

foe. The heroic old man looked around upon the audience, and thundered out, "Read that again!" It was again read. Then in a few fiery, logical words he stated his defense in terms which even prejudiced minds could not resist. His discomfited assailants made several attempts to rally. After a conflict of eleven days they gave up vanquished and their resolution was ignominiously laid upon the table.

In January, 1846, when seventy-eight years of age, he took part in the great debate on the Oregon question, displaying intellectual vigor, and an extent and accuracy of acquaintance with the subject that excited great admiration.

On the 21st of February, 1848, he rose on the floor of Congress with a paper in his hand to address the Speaker. Suddenly he fell, stricken by paralysis, and was caught in the arms of those around him. For a time he was senseless and was conveyed to a sofa in the rotunda. With reviving consciousness he opened his eyes, looked calmly around and said, "*This is the end of earth.*" Then after a moment's pause, he added, "*I am content.*" These were his last words, and he soon breathed his last, in the apartment beneath the dome of the capitol—the theater of his labors and his triumphs. In the language of hymnology, he "died at his post;" he "ceased at once to work and live."



Andrew Jackson



ANDREW JACKSON.

ANDREW JACKSON, the seventh President of the United States, 1829-'37, was born at the Waxhaw Settlement, Union County, North Carolina, March 16, 1767. His parents were Scotch-Irish, natives of Carrickfergus, who came to America in 1765, and settled on Twelve-Mile Creek, a tributary of the Catawba. His father, who was a poor farm laborer, died shortly before Andrew's birth, when his mother removed to Waxhaw, where some relatives resided.

Few particulars of the childhood of Jackson have been preserved. His education was of the most limited kind, and he showed no fondness for books. He grew up to be a tall, lank boy, with coarse hair and freckled cheeks, with bare feet dangling from trousers too short for him, very fond of athletic sports, running, boxing and wrestling. He was generous to the younger and weaker boys, but very irascible and overbearing with his equals and superiors. He was profane—a vice in which he surpassed all other men. The character of his mother

he revered; and it was not until after her death that his predominant vices gained full strength.

In 1780, at the age of thirteen, Andrew, or Andy, as he was called, with his brother Robert, volunteered to serve in the Revolutionary forces under General Sumter, and was a witness of the latter's defeat at Hanging Rock. In the following year the brothers were made prisoners, and confined in Camden, experiencing brutal treatment from their captors, and being spectators of General Green's defeat at Hobkirk Hill. Through their mother's exertions the boys were exchanged while suffering from smallpox. In two days Robert was dead, and Andy apparently dying. The strength of his constitution triumphed, and he regained health and vigor.

As he was getting better, his mother heard the cry of anguish from the prisoners whom the British held in Charleston, among whom were the sons of her sisters. She hastened to their relief, was attacked by fever, died and was buried where her grave could never be found. Thus Andrew Jackson, when fourteen years of age, was left alone in the world, without father, mother, sister or brother, and without one dollar which he could call his own. He

soon entered a saddler's shop, and labored diligently for six months. But gradually, as health returned, he became more and more a wild, reckless, lawless boy. He gambled, drank and was regarded as about the worst character that could be found.

He now turned schoolmaster. He could teach the alphabet, perhaps the multiplication table; and as he was a very bold boy, it is possible he might have ventured to teach a little writing. But he soon began to think of a profession and decided to study law. With a very slender purse, and on the back of a very fine horse, he set out for Salisbury, North Carolina, where he entered the law office of Mr. McCay. Here he remained two years, professedly studying law. He is still remembered in traditions of Salisbury, which say:

"Andrew Jackson was the most roaring, rollicking, horse-racing, card-playing, mischievous fellow that ever lived in Salisbury. He did not trouble the law-books much."

Andrew was now, at the age of twenty, a tall young man, being over six feet in height. He was slender, remarkably graceful and dignified in his manners, an exquisite horseman, and developed, amidst his loathesome profanity and multiform vices, a vein of rare magnanimity. His temper was fiery in the extreme; but it was said of him that no man knew better than Andrew Jackson when to get angry and when not.

In 1786 he was admitted to the bar, and two years later removed to Nashville, in what was then the western district of North Carolina, with the appointment of solicitor, or public prosecutor. It was an office of little honor, small emolument and great peril. Few men could be found to accept it.

And now Andrew Jackson commenced vigorously to practice law. It was an important part of his business to collect debts. It required nerve. During the first seven years of his residence in those wilds he

traversed the almost pathless forest between Nashville and Jonesborough, a distance of 200 miles, twenty-two times. Hostile Indians were constantly on the watch, and a man was liable at any moment to be shot down in his own field. Andrew Jackson was just the man for this service—a wild, daring, rough backwoodsman. Daily he made hair-breadth escapes. He seemed to bear a charmed life. Boldly, alone or with few companions, he traversed the forests, encountering all perils and triumphing over all.

In 1790 Tennessee became a Territory, and Jackson was appointed, by President Washington, United States Attorney for the new district. In 1791 he married Mrs. Rachel Robards (daughter of Colonel John Donelson), whom he supposed to have been divorced in that year by an act of the Legislature of Virginia. Two years after this Mr. and Mrs. Jackson learned, to their great surprise, that Mr. Robards had just obtained a divorce in one of the courts of Kentucky, and that the act of the Virginia Legislature was not final, but conditional. To remedy the irregularity as much as possible, a new license was obtained and the marriage ceremony was again performed.

It proved to be a marriage of rare felicity. Probably there never was a more affectionate union. However rough Mr. Jackson might have been abroad, he was always gentle and tender at home; and through all the vicissitudes of their lives, he treated Mrs. Jackson with the most chivalric attention.

Under the circumstances it was not unnatural that the facts in the case of this marriage were so misrepresented by opponents in the political campaigns a quarter or a century later as to become the basis of serious charges against Jackson's morality which, however, have been satisfactorily attested by abundant evidence.

Jackson was untiring in his duties as

United States Attorney, which demanded frequent journeys through the wilderness and exposed him to Indian hostilities. He acquired considerable property in land, and obtained such influence as to be chosen a member of the convention which framed the Constitution for the new State of Tennessee, in 1796, and in that year was elected its first Representative in Congress. Albert Gallatin thus describes the first appearance of the Hon. Andrew Jackson in the House:

"A tall, lank, uncouth-looking personage, with locks of hair hanging over his face and a cue down his back, tied with an eel skin; his dress singular, his manners and deportment those of a rough backwoodsman."

Jackson was an earnest advocate of the Democratic party. Jefferson was his idol. He admired Bonaparte, loved France and hated England. As Mr. Jackson took his seat, General Washington, whose second term of office was just expiring, delivered his last speech to Congress. A committee drew up a complimentary address in reply. Andrew Jackson did not approve the address and was one of twelve who voted against it.

Tennessee had fitted out an expedition against the Indians, contrary to the policy of the Government. A resolution was introduced that the National Government should pay the expenses. Jackson advocated it and it was carried. This rendered him very popular in Tennessee. A vacancy chanced soon after to occur in the Senate, and Andrew Jackson was chosen United States Senator by the State of Tennessee. John Adams was then President and Thomas Jefferson, Vice-President.

In 1798 Mr. Jackson returned to Tennessee, and resigned his seat in the Senate. Soon after he was chosen Judge of the Supreme Court of that State, with a salary of \$600. This office he held six years. It is said that his decisions, though sometimes ungrammatical, were generally right. He

did not enjoy his seat upon the bench, and renounced the dignity in 1804. About this time he was chosen Major-General of militia, and lost the title of judge in that of General.

When he retired from the Senate Chamber, he decided to try his fortune through trade. He purchased a stock of goods in Philadelphia and sent them to Nashville, where he opened a store. He lived about thirteen miles from Nashville, on a tract of land of several thousand acres, mostly uncultivated. He used a small block-house for a store, from a narrow window of which he sold goods to the Indians. As he had an assistant his office as judge did not materially interfere with his business.

As to slavery, born in the midst of it, the idea never seemed to enter his mind that it could be wrong. He eventually became an extensive slave owner, but he was one of the most humane and gentle of masters.

In 1804 Mr. Jackson withdrew from politics and settled on a plantation which he called the Hermitage, near Nashville. He set up a cotton-gin, formed a partnership and traded in New Orleans, making the voyage on flatboats. Through his hot temper he became involved in several quarrels and "affairs of honor," during this period, in one of which he was severely wounded, but had the misfortune to kill his opponent, Charles Dickinson. For a time this affair greatly injured General Jackson's popularity. The verdict then was, and continues to be, that General Jackson was outrageously wrong. If he subsequently felt any remorse he never revealed it to anyone.

In 1805 Aaron Burr had visited Nashville and been a guest of Jackson, with whom he corresponded on the subject of a war with Spain, which was anticipated and desired by them, as well as by the people of the Southwest generally.

Burr repeated his visit in September, 1806, when he engaged in the celebrated

combinations which led to his trial for treason. He was warmly received by Jackson, at whose instance a public ball was given in his honor at Nashville, and contracted with the latter for boats and provisions. Early in 1807, when Burr had been proclaimed a traitor by President Jefferson, volunteer forces for the Federal service were organized at Nashville under Jackson's command; but his energy and activity did not shield him from suspicions of connivance in the supposed treason. He was summoned to Richmond as a witness in Burr's trial, but was not called to the stand, probably because he was out-spoken in his partisanship.

On the outbreak of the war with Great Britain in 1812, Jackson tendered his services, and in January, 1813, embarked for New Orleans at the head of the Tennessee contingent. In March he received an order to disband his forces; but in September he again took the field, in the Creek war, and in conjunction with his former partner, Colonel Coffee, inflicted upon the Indians the memorable defeat at Talladega, Emuckfaw and Tallapoosa.

In May, 1814, Jackson, who had now acquired a national reputation, was appointed a Major-General of the United States army, and commenced a campaign against the British in Florida. He conducted the defense at Mobile, September 15, seized upon Pensacola, November 6, and immediately transported the bulk of his troops to New Orleans, then threatened by a powerful naval force. Martial law was declared in Louisiana, the State militia was called to arms, engagements with the British were fought December 23 and 28, and after re-enforcements had been received on both sides the famous victory of January 8, 1815, crowned Jackson's fame as a soldier, and made him the typical American hero of the first half of the nineteenth century.

In 1817-'18 Jackson conducted the war

against the Seminoles of Florida, during which he seized upon Pensacola and executed by court-martial two British subjects, Arbuthnot and Ambrister—acts which might easily have involved the United States in war both with Spain and Great Britain. Fortunately the peril was averted by the cession of Florida to the United States; and Jackson, who had escaped a trial for the irregularity of his conduct only through a division of opinion in Monroe's cabinet, was appointed in 1821 Governor of the new Territory. Soon after he declined the appointment of minister to Mexico.

In 1823 Jackson was elected to the United States Senate, and nominated by the Tennessee Legislature for the Presidency. This candidacy, though a matter of surprise, and even merriment, speedily became popular, and in 1824, when the stormy electoral canvass resulted in the choice of John Quincy Adams by the House of Representatives, General Jackson received the largest popular vote among the four candidates.

In 1828 Jackson was triumphantly elected President over Adams after a campaign of unparalleled bitterness. He was inaugurated March 4, 1829, and at once removed from office all the incumbents belonging to the opposite party—a procedure new to American politics, but which naturally became a precedent.

His first term was characterized by quarrels between the Vice-President, Calhoun, and the Secretary of State, Van Buren, attended by a cabinet crisis originating in scandals connected with the name of Mrs. General Eaton, wife of the Secretary of War; by the beginning of his war upon the United States Bank, and by his vigorous action against the partisans of Calhoun, who, in South Carolina, threatened to nullify the acts of Congress, establishing a protective tariff.

In the Presidential campaign of 1832

Jackson received 219 out of 288 electoral votes, his competitor being Mr. Clay, while Mr. Wirt, on an Anti-Masonic platform, received the vote of Vermont alone. In 1833 President Jackson removed the Government deposits from the United States bank, thereby incurring a vote of censure from the Senate, which was, however, expunged four years later. During this second term of office the Cherokees, Choctaws and Creeks were removed, not without difficulty, from Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, to the Indian Territory; the National debt was extinguished; Arkansas and Michigan were admitted as States to the Union; the Seminole war was renewed; the anti-slavery agitation first acquired importance; the Mormon delusion, which had organized in 1829, attained considerable proportions in Ohio and Missouri, and the country experienced its greatest pecuniary panic.

Railroads with locomotive propulsion were introduced into America during Jackson's first term, and had become an important element of national life before the close of his second term. For many reasons, therefore, the administration of President Jackson formed an era in American history, political, social and industrial. He succeeded in effecting the election of

his friend Van Buren as his successor, retired from the Presidency March 4, 1837, and led a tranquil life at the Hermitage until his death, which occurred June 8, 1845.

During his closing years he was a professed Christian and a member of the Presbyterian church. No American of this century has been the subject of such opposite judgments. He was loved and hated with equal vehemence during his life, but at the present distance of time from his career, while opinions still vary as to the merits of his public acts, few of his countrymen will question that he was a warm-hearted, brave, patriotic, honest and sincere man. If his distinguishing qualities were not such as constitute statesmanship, in the highest sense, he at least never pretended to other merits than such as were written to his credit on the page of American history—not attempting to disguise the demerits which were equally legible. The majority of his countrymen accepted and honored him, in spite of all that calumny as well as truth could allege against him. His faults may therefore be truly said to have been those of his time; his magnificent virtues may also, with the same justice, be considered as typical of a state of society which has nearly passed away.



MARTIN VAN BUREN.



MARTIN VAN BUREN, the eighth President of the United States, 1837-'41, was born at Kinderhook, New York, December 5, 1782.

His ancestors were of Dutch origin, and were among the earliest emigrants from Holland to the banks of the Hudson. His father was a tavern-keeper, as well as a farmer, and a very decided Democrat.

Martin commenced the study of law at the age of fourteen, and took an active part in politics before he had reached the age of twenty. In 1803 he commenced the practice of law in his native village. In 1809 he removed to Hudson, the shire town of his county, where he spent seven years, gaining strength by contending in the courts with some of the ablest men who have adorned the bar of his State. The heroic example of John Quincy Adams in retaining in office every faithful man, without regard to his political preferences, had been thoroughly repudiated by General Jackson. The unfortunate principle was now fully established, that "to the victor belong the spoils." Still, this principle, to which Mr. Van Buren gave his ad-

herence, was not devoid of inconveniences. When, subsequently, he attained power which placed vast patronage in his hands, he was heard to say: "I prefer an office that has no patronage. When I give a man an office I offend his disappointed competitors and their friends. Nor am I certain of gaining a friend in the man I appoint, for, in all probability, he expected something better."

In 1812 Mr. Van Buren was elected to the State Senate. In 1815 he was appointed Attorney-General, and in 1816 to the Senate a second time. In 1818 there was a great split in the Democratic party in New York, and Mr. Van Buren took the lead in organizing that portion of the party called the Albany Regency, which is said to have swayed the destinies of the State for a quarter of a century.

In 1821 he was chosen a member of the convention for revising the State Constitution, in which he advocated an extension of the franchise, but opposed universal suffrage, and also favored the proposal that colored persons, in order to vote, should have freehold property to the amount of \$250. In this year he was also elected to the United States Senate, and at the conclusion of his term, in 1827, was re-elected, but resigned the following year, having been chosen Governor of the State. In March, 1829, he was appointed Secretary of



Wm. B. B. B.

State by President Jackson, but resigned in April, 1831, and during the recess of Congress was appointed minister to England, whither he proceeded in September, but the Senate, when convened in December, refused to ratify the appointment.

In May, 1832, Mr. Van Buren was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Vice-President, and elected in the following November. May 26, 1836, he received the nomination to succeed General Jackson as President, and received 170 electoral votes, out of 283.

Scarcely had he taken his seat in the Presidential chair when a financial panic swept over the land. Many attributed this to the war which General Jackson had waged on the banks, and to his endeavor to secure an almost exclusive specie currency. Nearly every bank in the country was compelled to suspend specie payment, and ruin pervaded all our great cities. Not less than 254 houses failed in New York in one week. All public works were brought to a stand, and there was a general state of dismay. President Van Buren urged the adoption of the independent treasury system, which was twice passed in the Senate and defeated in the House, but finally became a law near the close of his administration.

Another important measure was the passage of a pre-emption law, giving actual settlers the preference in the purchase of public lands. The question of slavery, also, now began to assume great prominence in national politics, and after an elaborate anti-slavery speech by Mr. Slade, of Vermont, in the House of Representatives, the Southern members withdrew for a separate consultation, at which Mr. Rhett, of South Carolina, proposed to declare it expedient that the Union should be dissolved; but the matter was tided over by the passage of a resolution that no petitions or papers relating to slavery should be in any way considered or acted upon.

In the Presidential election of 1840 Mr. Van Buren was nominated, without opposition, as the Democratic candidate, William H. Harrison being the candidate of the Whig party. The Democrats carried only seven States, and out of 294 electoral votes only sixty were for Mr. Van Buren, the remaining 234 being for his opponent. The Whig popular majority, however, was not large, the elections in many of the States being very close.

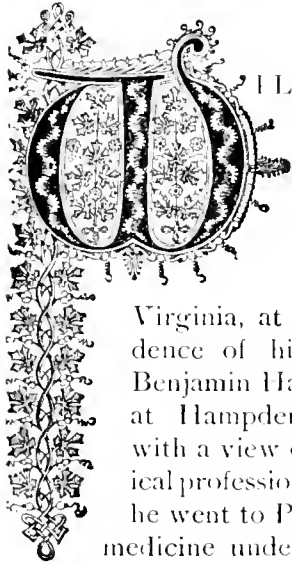
March 4, 1841, Mr. Van Buren retired from the Presidency. From his fine estate at Lindenwald he still exerted a powerful influence upon the politics of the country. In 1844 he was again proposed as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, and a majority of the delegates of the nominating convention were in his favor; but, owing to his opposition to the proposed annexation of Texas, he could not secure the requisite two-thirds vote. His name was at length withdrawn by his friends, and Mr. Polk received the nomination, and was elected.

In 1848 Mr. Cass was the regular Democratic candidate. A schism, however, sprang up in the party, upon the question of the permission of slavery in the newly-acquired territory, and a portion of the party, taking the name of "Free-Soilers," nominated Mr. Van Buren. They drew away sufficient votes to secure the election of General Taylor, the Whig candidate. After this Mr. Van Buren retired to his estate at Kinderhook, where the remainder of his life was passed, with the exception of a European tour in 1853. He died at Kinderhook, July 24, 1862, at the age of eighty years.

Martin Van Buren was a great and good man, and no one will question his right to a high position among those who have been the successors of Washington in the faithful occupancy of the Presidential chair.



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the ninth President of the United States, 1841, was born February 9, 1773, in Charles County, Virginia, at Berkeley, the residence of his father, Governor Benjamin Harrison. He studied at Hampden, Sidney College, with a view of entering the medical profession. After graduation he went to Philadelphia to study medicine under the instruction of Dr. Rush.

George Washington was then President of the United States. The Indians were committing fearful ravages on our Northwestern frontier. Young Harrison, either lured by the love of adventure, or moved by the sufferings of families exposed to the most horrible outrages, abandoned his medical studies and entered the army, having obtained a commission of ensign from President Washington. The first duty assigned him was to take a train of pack-horses bound to Fort Hamilton, on the Miami River, about forty miles from Fort Washington. He was soon promoted to the

rank of Lieutenant, and joined the army which Washington had placed under the command of General Wayne to prosecute more vigorously the war with the Indians. Lieutenant Harrison received great commendation from his commanding officer, and was promoted to the rank of Captain, and placed in command at Fort Washington, now Cincinnati, Ohio.

About this time he married a daughter of John Cleves Symmes, one of the frontiersmen who had established a thriving settlement on the bank of the Maumee.

In 1797 Captain Harrison resigned his commission in the army and was appointed Secretary of the Northwest Territory, and *ex-officio* Lieutenant-Governor, General St. Clair being then Governor of the Territory. At that time the law in reference to the disposal of the public lands was such that no one could purchase in tracts less than 4,000 acres. Captain Harrison, in the face of violent opposition, succeeded in obtaining so much of a modification of this unjust law that the land was sold in alternate tracts of 640 and 320 acres. The Northwest Territory was then entitled to one delegate in Congress, and Captain Harrison was chosen to fill that office. In 1800 he was appointed Governor



W. H. Harrison

of Indiana Territory and soon after of Upper Louisiana. He was also Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and so well did he fulfill these duties that he was four times appointed to this office. During his administration he effected thirteen treaties with the Indians, by which the United States acquired 60,000,000 acres of land. In 1804 he obtained a cession from the Indians of all the land between the Illinois River and the Mississippi.

In 1812 he was made Major-General of Kentucky militia and Brigadier-General in the army, with the command of the Northwest frontier. In 1813 he was made Major-General, and as such won much renown by the defense of Fort Meigs, and the battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813. In 1814 he left the army and was employed in Indian affairs by the Government.

In 1816 General Harrison was chosen a member of the National House of Representatives to represent the district of Ohio. In the contest which preceded his election he was accused of corruption in respect to the commissariat of the army. Immediately upon taking his seat, he called for an investigation of the charge. A committee was appointed, and his vindication was triumphant. A high compliment was paid to his patriotism, disinterestedness and devotion to the public service. For these services a gold medal was presented to him with the thanks of Congress.

In 1819 he was elected to the Senate of Ohio, and in 1824, as one of the Presidential electors of that State, he gave his vote to Henry Clay. In the same year he was elected to the Senate of the United States. In 1828 he was appointed by President Adams minister plenipotentiary to Colombia, but was recalled by General Jackson immediately after the inauguration of the latter.

Upon his return to the United States, General Harrison retired to his farm at

North Bend, Hamilton County, Ohio, sixteen miles below Cincinnati, where for twelve years he was clerk of the County Court. He once owned a distillery, but perceiving the sad effects of whisky upon the surrounding population, he promptly abandoned his business at great pecuniary sacrifice.

In 1836 General Harrison was brought forward as a candidate for the Presidency. Van Buren was the administration candidate; the opposite party could not unite, and four candidates were brought forward. General Harrison received seventy-three electoral votes without any general concert among his friends. The Democratic party triumphed and Mr. Van Buren was chosen President. In 1839 General Harrison was again nominated for the Presidency by the Whigs, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Mr. Van Buren being the Democratic candidate. General Harrison received 234 electoral votes against sixty for his opponent. This election is memorable chiefly for the then extraordinary means employed during the canvass for popular votes. Mass meetings and processions were introduced, and the watchwords "log cabin" and "hard cider" were effectually used by the Whigs, and aroused a popular enthusiasm.

A vast concourse of people attended his inauguration. His address on that occasion was in accordance with his antecedents, and gave great satisfaction. A short time after he took his seat, he was seized by a pleurisy-fever, and after a few days of violent sickness, died April 4, just one short month after his inauguration. His death was universally regarded as one of the greatest of National calamities. Never, since the death of Washington, were there, throughout one land, such demonstrations of sorrow. Not one single spot can be found to sully his fame; and through all ages Americans will pronounce with love and reverence the name of William Henry Harrison.



JOHN TYLER, the tenth President of the United States, was born in Charles City County, Virginia, March 29, 1790. His father, Judge John Tyler, possessed large landed estates in Virginia, and was one of the most distinguished men of his day, filling the offices of Speaker of the House of Delegates, Judge of the Supreme Court and Governor of the State.

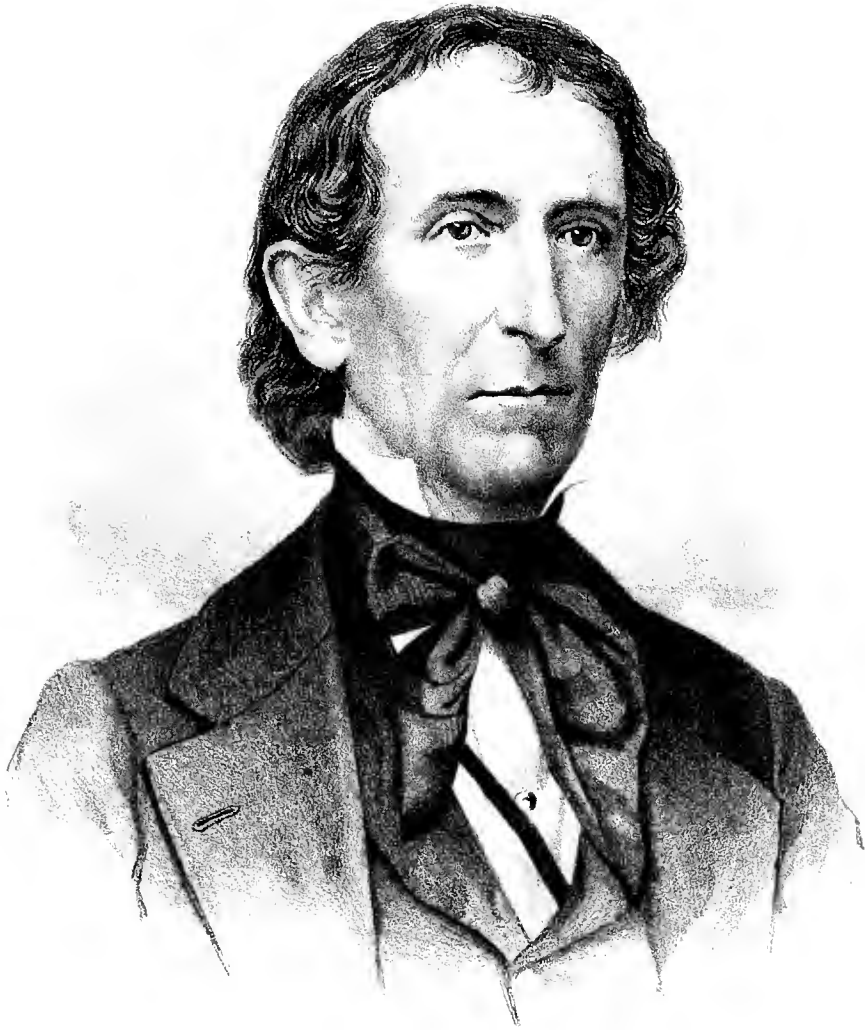
At the early age of twelve young John entered William and Mary College, and graduated with honor when but seventeen years old. He then closely applied himself to the study of law, and at nineteen years of age commenced the practice of his profession. When only twenty-one he was elected to a seat in the State Legislature. He acted with the Democratic party and advocated the measures of Jefferson and Madison. For five years he was elected to the Legislature, receiving nearly the unanimous vote of his county.

When but twenty-six years of age he was elected a member of Congress. He advocated a strict construction of the Constitution and the most careful vigilance over

State rights. He was soon compelled to resign his seat in Congress, owing to ill health, but afterward took his seat in the State Legislature, where he exerted a powerful influence in promoting public works of great utility.

In 1825 Mr. Tyler was chosen Governor of his State—a high honor, for Virginia had many able men as competitors for the prize. His administration was signally a successful one. He urged forward internal improvements and strove to remove sectional jealousies. His popularity secured his re-election. In 1827 he was elected United States Senator, and upon taking his seat joined the ranks of the opposition. He opposed the tariff, voted against the bank as unconstitutional, opposed all restrictions upon slavery, resisted all projects of internal improvements by the General Government, avowed his sympathy with Mr. Calhoun's views of nullification, and declared that General Jackson, by his opposition to the nullifiers, had abandoned the principles of the Democratic party. Such was Mr. Tyler's record in Congress.

This hostility to Jackson caused Mr. Tyler's retirement from the Senate, after his election to a second term. He soon after removed to Williamsburg for the better education of his children, and again took his seat in the Legislature.



John Tyler

In 1839 he was sent to the National Convention at Harrisburg to nominate a President. General Harrison received a majority of votes, much to the disappointment of the South, who had wished for Henry Clay. In order to conciliate the Southern Whigs, John Tyler was nominated for Vice-President. Harrison and Tyler were inaugurated March 4, 1841. In one short month from that time President Harrison died, and Mr. Tyler, to his own surprise as well as that of the nation, found himself an occupant of the Presidential chair. His position was an exceedingly difficult one, as he was opposed to the main principles of the party which had brought him into power. General Harrison had selected a Whig cabinet. Should he retain them, and thus surround himself with councilors whose views were antagonistic to his own? or should he turn against the party that had elected him, and select a cabinet in harmony with himself? This was his fearful dilemma.

President Tyler deserves more charity than he has received. He issued an address to the people, which gave general satisfaction. He retained the cabinet General Harrison had selected. His veto of a bill chartering a new national bank led to an open quarrel with the party which elected him, and to a resignation of the entire cabinet, except Daniel Webster, Secretary of State.

President Tyler attempted to conciliate. He appointed a new cabinet, leaving out all strong party men, but the Whig members of Congress were not satisfied, and they published a manifesto September 13, breaking off all political relations. The Democrats had a majority in the House; the Whigs in the Senate. Mr. Webster soon found it necessary to resign, being forced out by the pressure of his Whig friends.

April 12, 1844, President Tyler concluded, through Mr. Calhoun, a treaty for the an-

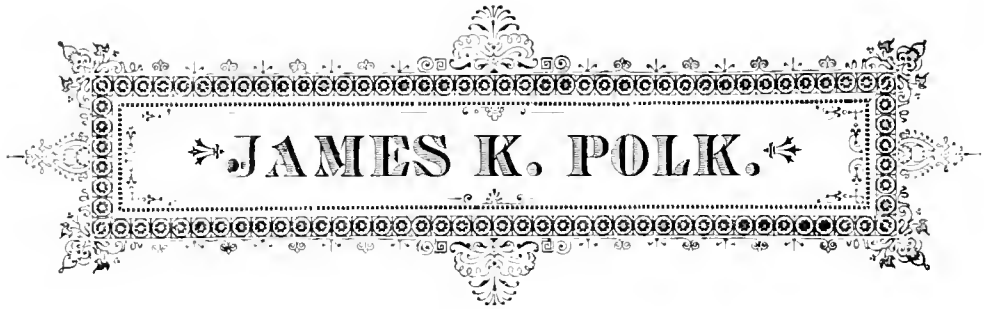
nexation of Texas, which was rejected by the Senate; but he effected his object in the closing days of his administration by the passage of the joint resolution of March 1, 1845.

He was nominated for the Presidency by an informal Democratic Convention, held at Baltimore in May, 1844, but soon withdrew from the canvass, perceiving that he had not gained the confidence of the Democrats at large.

Mr. Tyler's administration was particularly unfortunate. No one was satisfied. Whigs and Democrats alike assailed him. Situated as he was, it is more than can be expected of human nature that he should, in all cases, have acted in the wisest manner; but it will probably be the verdict of all candid men, in a careful review of his career, that John Tyler was placed in a position of such difficulty that he could not pursue any course which would not expose him to severe censure and denunciation.

In 1813 Mr. Tyler married Letitia Christian, who bore him three sons and three daughters, and died in Washington in 1842. June 26, 1844, he contracted a second marriage with Miss Julia Gardner, of New York. He lived in almost complete retirement from politics until February, 1861, when he was a member of the abortive "peace convention," held at Washington, and was chosen its President. Soon after he renounced his allegiance to the United States and was elected to the Confederate Congress. He died at Richmond, January 17, 1862, after a short illness.

Unfortunately for his memory the name of John Tyler must forever be associated with all the misery of that terrible Rebellion, whose cause he openly espoused. It is with sorrow that history records that a President of the United States died while defending the flag of rebellion, which was arrayed against the national banner in deadly warfare.



JAMES K. POLK.



JAMES KNOX POLK, the eleventh President of the United States, 1845-'49, was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, November 2, 1795. He was the eldest son of a family of six sons and four daughters, and was a grand-nephew of Colonel Thomas Polk, celebrated in connection with the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

In 1806 his father, Samuel Polk, emigrated with his family two or three hundred miles west to the valley of the Duck River. He was a surveyor as well as farmer, and gradually increased in wealth until he became one of the leading men of the region.

In the common schools James rapidly became proficient in all the common branches of an English education. In 1813 he was sent to Murfreesboro Academy, and in the autumn of 1815 entered the sophomore class in the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, graduating in 1818. After a short season of recreation he went to Nashville and entered the law office of Felix Grundy. As soon as he had his finished

legal studies and been admitted to the bar, he returned to Columbia, the shire town of Maury County, and opened an office.

James K. Polk ever adhered to the political faith of his father, which was that of a Jeffersonian Republican. In 1823 he was elected to the Legislature of Tennessee. As a "strict constructionist," he did not think that the Constitution empowered the General Government to carry on a system of internal improvements in the States, but deemed it important that it should have that power, and wished the Constitution amended that it might be conferred. Subsequently, however, he became alarmed lest the General Government become so strong as to undertake to interfere with slavery. He therefore gave all his influence to strengthen the State governments, and to check the growth of the central power.

In January, 1824, Mr. Polk married Miss Mary Childress, of Rutherford County, Tennessee. Had some one then whispered to him that he was destined to become President of the United States, and that he must select for his companion one who would adorn that distinguished station, he could not have made a more fitting choice. She was truly a lady of rare beauty and culture.

In the fall of 1825 Mr. Polk was chosen a member of Congress, and was continu-



James H. Falk

ously re-elected until 1839. He then withdrew, only that he might accept the gubernatorial chair of his native State. He was a warm friend of General Jackson, who had been defeated in the electoral contest by John Quincy Adams. This latter gentleman had just taken his seat in the Presidential chair when Mr. Polk took his seat in the House of Representatives. He immediately united himself with the opponents of Mr. Adams, and was soon regarded as the leader of the Jackson party in the House.

The four years of Mr. Adams' administration passed away, and General Jackson took the Presidential chair. Mr. Polk had now become a man of great influence in Congress, and was chairman of its most important committee—that of Ways and Means. Eloquently he sustained General Jackson in all his measures—in his hostility to internal improvements, to the banks, and to the tariff. Eight years of General Jackson's administration passed away, and the powers he had wielded passed into the hands of Martin Van Buren; and still Mr. Polk remained in the House, the advocate of that type of Democracy which those distinguished men upheld.

During five sessions of Congress Mr. Polk was speaker of the House. He performed his arduous duties to general satisfaction, and a unanimous vote of thanks to him was passed by the House as he withdrew, March 4, 1839. He was elected Governor by a large majority, and took the oath of office at Nashville, October 14, 1839. He was a candidate for re-election in 1841, but was defeated. In the meantime a wonderful revolution had swept over the country. W. H. Harrison, the Whig candidate, had been called to the Presidential chair, and in Tennessee the Whig ticket had been carried by over 12,000 majority. Under these circumstances Mr. Polk's success was hopeless. Still he canvassed the

State with his Whig competitor, Mr. Jones, traveling in the most friendly manner together, often in the same carriage, and at one time sleeping in the same bed. Mr. Jones was elected by 3,000 majority.

And now the question of the annexation of Texas to our country agitated the whole land. When this question became national Mr. Polk, as the avowed champion of annexation, became the Presidential candidate of the pro-slavery wing of the Democratic party, and George M. Dallas their candidate for the Vice-Presidency. They were elected by a large majority, and were inaugurated March 4, 1845.

President Polk formed an able cabinet, consisting of James Buchanan, Robert J. Walker, William L. Marey, George Bancroft, Cave Johnson and John Y. Mason. The Oregon boundary question was settled, the Department of the Interior was created, the low tariff of 1846 was carried, the financial system of the Government was reorganized, the Mexican war was conducted, which resulted in the acquisition of California and New Mexico, and had far-reaching consequences upon the later fortunes of the republic. Peace was made. We had wrested from Mexico territory equal to four times the empire of France, and five times that of Spain. In the prosecution of this war we expended 20,000 lives and more than \$100,000,000. Of this money \$15,000,000 were paid to Mexico.

Declining to seek a renomination, Mr. Polk retired from the Presidency March 4, 1849, when he was succeeded by General Zachary Taylor. He retired to Nashville, and died there June 19, 1849, in the fifty-fourth year of his age. His funeral was attended the following day, in Nashville, with every demonstration of respect. He left no children. Without being possessed of extraordinary talent, Mr. Polk was a capable administrator of public affairs, and irreproachable in private life.



ZACHARY TAYLOR.



ZACHARY TAYLOR, the twelfth President of the United States, 1849-'50, was born in Orange County, Virginia, September 24, 1784. His father, Richard Taylor, was Colonel of a Virginia regiment in the Revolutionary war, and removed to Kentucky in 1785; purchased a large plantation near Louisville and became an influential citizen;

was a member of the convention that framed the Constitution of Kentucky; served in both branches of the Legislature; was Collector of the port of Louisville under President Washington; as a Presidential elector, voted for Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Clay; died January 19, 1829.

Zachary remained on his father's plantation until 1808, in which year (May 3) he was appointed First Lieutenant in the Seventh Infantry, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of his elder brother, Hancock. Up to this point he had received but a limited education.

Joining his regiment at New Orleans, he

was attacked with yellow fever, with nearly fatal termination. In November, 1810, he was promoted to Captain, and in the summer of 1812 he was in command of Fort Harrison, on the left bank of the Wabash River, near the present site of Terre Haute, his successful defense of which with but a handful of men against a large force of Indians which had attacked him was one of the first marked military achievements of the war. He was then brevetted Major, and in 1814 promoted to the full rank.

During the remainder of the war Taylor was actively employed on the Western frontier. In the peace organization of 1815 he was retained as Captain, but soon after resigned and settled near Louisville. In May, 1816, however, he re-entered the army as Major of the Third Infantry; became Lieutenant-Colonel of the Eighth Infantry in 1819, and in 1832 attained the Colonelcy of the First Infantry, of which he had been Lieutenant-Colonel since 1821. On different occasions he had been called to Washington as member of a military board for organizing the militia of the Union, and to aid the Government with his knowledge in the organization of the Indian Bureau, having for many years discharged the duties of Indian agent over large tracts of Western



Zachary Taylor

country. He served through the Black Hawk war in 1832, and in 1837 was ordered to take command in Florida, then the scene of war with the Indians.

In 1846 he was transferred to the command of the Army of the Southwest, from which he was relieved the same year at his own request. Subsequently he was stationed on the Arkansas frontier at Forts Gibbon, Smith and Jesup, which latter work had been built under his direction in 1822.

May 28, 1845, he received a dispatch from the Secretary of War informing him of the receipt of information by the President "that Texas would shortly accede to the terms of annexation," in which event he was instructed to defend and protect her from "foreign invasion and Indian incursions." He proceeded, upon the annexation of Texas, with about 1,500 men to Corpus Christi, where his force was increased to some 4,000.

Taylor was brevetted Major-General May 28, and a month later, June 29, 1846, his full commission to that grade was issued. After needed rest and reinforcement, he advanced in September on Monterey, which city capitulated after three-days stubborn resistance. Here he took up his winter quarters. The plan for the invasion of Mexico, by way of Vera Cruz, with General Scott in command, was now determined upon by the Government, and at the moment Taylor was about to resume active operations, he received orders to send the larger part of his force to reinforce the army of General Scott at Vera Cruz. Though subsequently reinforced by raw recruits, yet after providing a garrison for Monterey and Saltillo he had but about 5,300 effective troops, of which but 500 or 600 were regulars. In this weakened condition, however, he was destined to achieve his greatest victory. Confidently relying upon his strength at Vera Cruz to resist the enemy for a long time, Santa Anna directed his entire army

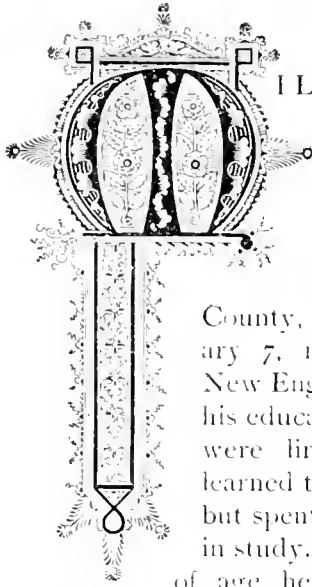
against Taylor to overwhelm him, and then to return to oppose the advance of Scott's more formidable invasion. The battle of Buena Vista was fought February 22 and 23, 1847. Taylor received the thanks of Congress and a gold medal, and "Old Rough and Ready," the sobriquet given him in the army, became a household word. He remained in quiet possession of the Rio Grande Valley until November, when he returned to the United States.

In the Whig convention which met at Philadelphia, June 7, 1848, Taylor was nominated on the fourth ballot as candidate of the Whig party for President, over Henry Clay, General Scott and Daniel Webster. In November Taylor received a majority of electoral votes, and a popular vote of 1,360,752, against 1,219,962 for Cass and Butler, and 291,342 for Van Buren and Adams. General Taylor was inaugurated March 4, 1849.

The free and slave States being then equal in number, the struggle for supremacy on the part of the leaders in Congress was violent and bitter. In the summer of 1849 California adopted in convention a Constitution prohibiting slavery within its borders. Taylor advocated the immediate admission of California with her Constitution, and the postponement of the question as to the other Territories until they could hold conventions and decide for themselves whether slavery should exist within their borders. This policy ultimately prevailed through the celebrated "Compromise Measures" of Henry Clay; but not during the life of the brave soldier and patriot statesman. July 5 he was taken suddenly ill with a bilious fever, which proved fatal, his death occurring July 9, 1850. One of his daughters married Colonel W. W. S. Bliss, his Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff in Florida and Mexico, and Private Secretary during his Presidency. Another daughter was married to Jefferson Davis.



MILLARD FILLMORE.



MILLARD FILLMORE, the thirteenth President of the United States, 1850-'3, was born in Summer Hill, Cayuga County, New York, January 7, 1800. He was of New England ancestry, and his educational advantages were limited. He early learned the clothiers' trade, but spent all his leisure time in study. At nineteen years of age he was induced by

Judge Walter Wood to abandon his trade and commence the study of law. Upon learning that the young man was entirely destitute of means, he took him into his own office and loaned him such money as he needed. That he might not be heavily burdened with debt, young Fillmore taught school during the winter months and in various other ways helped himself along.

At the age of twenty-three he was admitted to the Court of Common Pleas, and commenced the practice of his profession in the village of Aurora, situated on the

eastern bank of the Cayuga Lake. In 1825 he married Miss Abigail Powers, daughter of Rev. Lemuel Powers, a lady of great moral worth. In 1825 he took his seat in the House of Assembly of his native State, as Representative from Erie County, whither he had recently moved.

Though he had never taken a very active part in politics his vote and his sympathies were with the Whig party. The State was then Democratic, but his courtesy, ability and integrity won the respect of his associates. In 1832 he was elected to a seat in the United States Congress. At the close of his term he returned to his law practice, and in two years more he was again elected to Congress.

He now began to have a national reputation. His labors were very arduous. To draft resolutions in the committee room, and then to defend them against the most skillful opponents on the floor of the House requires readiness of mind, mental resources and skill in debate such as few possess. Weary with these exhausting labors, and pressed by the claims of his private affairs, Mr. Fillmore wrote a letter to his constituents and declined to be a candidate for reelection. Notwithstanding this communi-



Millard Fillmore

cation his friends met in convention and renominated him by acclamation. Though gratified by this proof of their appreciation of his labors he adhered to his resolve and returned to his home.

In 1847 Mr. Fillmore was elected to the important office of comptroller of the State. In entering upon the very responsible duties which this situation demanded, it was necessary for him to abandon his profession, and he removed to the city of Albany. In this year, also, the Whigs were looking around to find suitable candidates for the President and Vice-President at the approaching election, and the names of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore became the rallying cry of the Whigs. On the 4th of March, 1849, General Taylor was inaugurated President and Millard Fillmore Vice-President of the United States.

The great question of slavery had assumed enormous proportions, and permeated every subject that was brought before Congress. It was evident that the strength of our institutions was to be severely tried. July 9, 1850, President Taylor died, and, by the Constitution, Vice-President Fillmore became President of the United States. The agitated condition of the country brought questions of great delicacy before him. He was bound by his oath of office to execute the laws of the United States. One of these laws was understood to be, that if a slave, escaping from bondage, should reach a free State, the United States was bound to do its utmost to capture him and return him to his master. Most Christian men loathed this law. President Fillmore felt bound by his oath rigidly to see it enforced. Slavery was organizing armies to invade Cuba as it had invaded Texas, and annex it to the United States. President Fillmore gave all the influence of his exalted station against the atrocious enterprise.

Mr. Fillmore had serious difficulties to

contend with, since the opposition had a majority in both Houses. He did everything in his power to conciliate the South, but the pro-slavery party in that section felt the inadequacy of all measures of transient conciliation. The population of the free States was so rapidly increasing over that of the slave States, that it was inevitable that the power of the Government should soon pass into the hands of the free States. The famous compromise measures were adopted under Mr. Fillmore's administration, and the Japan expedition was sent out.

March 4, 1853, having served one term, President Fillmore retired from office. He then took a long tour through the South, where he met with quite an enthusiastic reception. In a speech at Vicksburg, alluding to the rapid growth of the country, he said:

"Canada is knocking for admission, and Mexico would be glad to come in, and without saying whether it would be right or wrong, we stand with open arms to receive them; for it is the manifest destiny of this Government to embrace the whole North American Continent."

In 1855 Mr. Fillmore went to Europe where he was received with those marked attentions which his position and character merited. Returning to this country in 1856 he was nominated for the Presidency by the "Know-Nothing" party. Mr. Buchanan, the Democratic candidate was the successful competitor. Mr. Fillmore ever afterward lived in retirement. During the conflict of civil war he was mostly silent. It was generally supposed, however, that his sympathy was with the Southern Confederacy. He kept aloof from the conflict without any words of cheer to the one party or the other. For this reason he was forgotten by both. He died of paralysis, in Buffalo, New York, March 8, 1874.



FRANKLIN PIERCE.



FRANKLIN PIERCE, the fourteenth President of the United States, was born in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, November 23, 1804. His father, Governor Benjamin Pierce, was a Revolutionary soldier, a man of rigid integrity; was for several years in the State Legislature, a member of the Governor's council and a General of the militia.

Franklin was the sixth of eight children. As a boy he listened eagerly to the arguments of his father, enforced by strong and ready utterance and earnest gesture. It was in the days of intense political excitement, when, all over the New England States, Federalists and Democrats were arrayed so fiercely against each other.

In 1820 he entered Bowdoin College, at Brunswick, Maine, and graduated in 1824, and commenced the study of law in the office of Judge Woodbury, a very distinguished lawyer, and in 1827 was admitted to the bar. He practiced with great success in Hillsborough and Concord. He served

in the State Legislature four years, the last two of which he was chosen Speaker of the House by a very large vote.

In 1833 he was elected a member of Congress. In 1837 he was elected to the United States Senate, just as Mr. Van Buren commenced his administration.

In 1834 he married Miss Jane Means Appleton, a lady admirably fitted to adorn every station with which her husband was honored. Three sons born to them all found an early grave.

Upon his accession to office, President Polk appointed Mr. Pierce Attorney-General of the United States, but the offer was declined in consequence of numerous professional engagements at home and the precarious state of Mrs. Pierce's health. About the same time he also declined the nomination for Governor by the Democratic party.

The war with Mexico called Mr. Pierce into the army. Receiving the appointment of Brigadier-General, he embarked with a portion of his troops at Newport, Rhode Island, May 27, 1847. He served during this war, and distinguished himself by his bravery, skill and excellent judgment. When he reached his home in his native State he was enthusiastically received by



Franklin Pierce

the advocates of the war, and coldly by its opponents. He resumed the practice of his profession, frequently taking an active part in political questions, and giving his support to the pro-slavery wing of the Democratic party.

June 12, 1852, the Democratic convention met in Baltimore to nominate a candidate for the Presidency. For four days they continued in session, and in thirty-five ballots no one had received the requisite two-thirds vote. Not a vote had been thrown thus far for General Pierce. Then the Virginia delegation brought forward his name. There were fourteen more ballots, during which General Pierce gained strength, until, at the forty-ninth ballot, he received 282 votes, and all other candidates eleven. General Winfield Scott was the Whig candidate. General Pierce was elected with great unanimity. Only four States—Vermont, Massachusetts, Kentucky and Tennessee—cast their electoral votes against him. March 4, 1853, he was inaugurated President of the United States, and William R. King, Vice-President.

President Pierce's cabinet consisted of William S. Marcy, James Guthrie, Jefferson Davis, James C. Dobbin, Robert McClelland, James Campbell and Caleb Cushing.

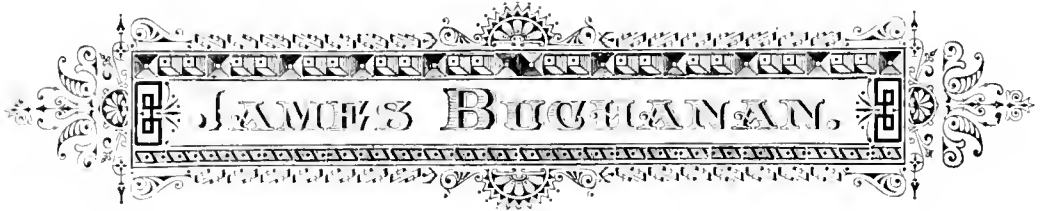
At the demand of slavery the Missouri Compromise was repealed, and all the Territories of the Union were thrown open to slavery. The Territory of Kansas, west of Missouri, was settled by emigrants mainly from the North. According to law, they were about to meet and decide whether slavery or freedom should be the law of that realm. Slavery in Missouri and other Southern States rallied her armed legions, marched them into Kansas, took possession of the polls, drove away the citizens, deposited their own votes by handfuls, went through the farce of counting them, and then declared that, by an overwhelming majority, slavery was estab-

lished in Kansas. These facts nobody denied, and yet President Pierce's administration felt bound to respect the decision obtained by such votes. The citizens of Kansas, the majority of whom were free-State men, met in convention and adopted the following resolve:

Resolved, That the body of men who, for the past two months, have been passing laws for the people of our Territory, moved, counseled and dictated to by the demagogues of other States, are to us a foreign body, representing only the lawless invaders who elected them, and not the people of this Territory; that we repudiate their action as the monstrous consummation of an act of violence, usurpation and fraud unparalleled in the history of the Union."

The free-State people of Kansas also sent a petition to the General Government, imploring its protection. In reply the President issued a proclamation, declaring that Legislature thus created must be recognized as the legitimate Legislature of Kansas, and that its laws were binding upon the people, and that, if necessary, the whole force of the Governmental arm would be put forth to enforce those laws.

James Buchanan succeeded him in the Presidency, and, March 4, 1857, President Pierce retired to his home in Concord, New Hampshire. When the Rebellion burst forth Mr. Pierce remained steadfast to the principles he had always cherished, and gave his sympathies to the pro-slavery party, with which he had ever been allied. He declined to do anything, either by voice or pen, to strengthen the hands of the National Government. He resided in Concord until his death, which occurred in October, 1869. He was one of the most genial and social of men, generous to a fault, and contributed liberally of his moderate means for the alleviation of suffering and want. He was an honored communicant of the Episcopal church.



JAMES BUCHANAN.



JAMES BUCHANAN, the fifteenth President of the United States, 1857-'61, was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, April 23, 1791. The place where his father's cabin stood was called Stony Batter, and it was situated in a wild, romantic spot, in a gorge of mountains, with towering summits rising all around. He was of Irish ancestry, his father having emigrated in 1783, with very little property, save his own strong arms.

James remained in his secluded home for eight years enjoying very few social or intellectual advantages. His parents were industrious, frugal, prosperous and intelligent. In 1799 his father removed to Mercersburg, where James was placed in school and commenced a course in English, Greek and Latin. His progress was rapid and in 1801 he entered Dickinson College at Carlisle. Here he took his stand among the first scholars in the institution, and was able to master the most abstruse subjects with facility. In 1809 he graduated with the highest honors in his class.

He was then eighteen years of age, tall,

graceful and in vigorous health, fond of athletic sports, an unerring shot and enlivened with an exuberant flow of animal spirits. He immediately commenced the study of law in the city of Lancaster, and was admitted to the bar in 1812. He rose very rapidly in his profession and at once took undisputed stand with the ablest lawyers of the State. When but twenty-six years of age, unaided by counsel, he successfully defended before the State Senate one of the Judges of the State, who was tried upon articles of impeachment. At the age of thirty it was generally admitted that he stood at the head of the bar, and there was no lawyer in the State who had a more extensive or lucrative practice.

In 1812, just after Mr. Buchanan had entered upon the practice of the law, our second war with England occurred. With all his powers he sustained the Government, eloquently urging the rigorous prosecution of the war; and even enlisting as a private soldier to assist in repelling the British, who had sacked Washington and were threatening Baltimore. He was at that time a Federalist, but when the Constitution was adopted by both parties, Jefferson truly said, "We are all Federalists; we are all Republicans."

The opposition of the Federalists to the war with England, and the alien and sedi-



James Buchanan

tion laws of John Adams, brought the party into dispute, and the name of Federalist became a reproach. Mr. Buchanan almost immediately upon entering Congress began to incline more and more to the Republicans. In the stormy Presidential election of 1824, in which Jackson, Clay, Crawford and John Quincy Adams were candidates, Mr. Buchanan espoused the cause of General Jackson and unrelentingly opposed the administration of Mr. Adams.

Upon his elevation to the Presidency, General Jackson appointed Mr. Buchanan, minister to Russia. Upon his return in 1833 he was elected to a seat in the United States Senate. He there met as his associates, Webster, Clay, Wright and Calhoun. He advocated the measures proposed by President Jackson of making reprisals against France, and defended the course of the President in his unprecedented and wholesale removals from office of those who were not the supporters of his administration. Upon this question he was brought into direct collision with Henry Clay. In the discussion of the question respecting the admission of Michigan and Arkansas into the Union, Mr. Buchanan defined his position by saying:

"The older I grow, the more I am inclined to be what is called a State-rights man."

M. de Tocqueville, in his renowned work upon "Democracy in America," foresaw the trouble which was inevitable from the doctrine of State sovereignty as held by Calhoun and Buchanan. He was convinced that the National Government was losing that strength which was essential to its own existence, and that the States were assuming powers which threatened the perpetuity of the Union. Mr. Buchanan received the book in the Senate and declared the fears of De Tocqueville to be groundless, and yet he lived to sit in the Presidential chair and see State after State, in accordance with his own views of State

rights, breaking from the Union, thus crumbling our Republic into ruins; while the unhappy old man folded his arms in despair, declaring that the National Constitution invested him with no power to arrest the destruction.

Upon Mr. Polk's accession to the Presidency, Mr. Buchanan became Secretary of State, and as such took his share of the responsibility in the conduct of the Mexican war. At the close of Mr. Polk's administration, Mr. Buchanan retired to private life; but his intelligence, and his great ability as a statesman, enabled him to exert a powerful influence in National affairs.

Mr. Pierce, upon his election to the Presidency, honored Mr. Buchanan with the mission to England. In the year 1856 the National Democratic convention nominated Mr. Buchanan for the Presidency. The political conflict was one of the most severe in which our country has ever engaged. On the 4th of March, 1857, Mr. Buchanan was inaugurated President. His cabinet were Lewis Cass, Howell Cobb, J. B. Floyd, Isaac Toucey, Jacob Thompson, A. V. Brown and J. S. Black.

The disruption of the Democratic party, in consequence of the manner in which the issue of the nationality of slavery was pressed by the Southern wing, occurred at the National convention, held at Charleston in April, 1860, for the nomination of Mr. Buchanan's successor, when the majority of Southern delegates withdrew upon the passage of a resolution declaring that the constitutional status of slavery should be determined by the Supreme Court.

In the next Presidential canvass Abraham Lincoln was nominated by the opponents of Mr. Buchanan's administration. Mr. Buchanan remained in Washington long enough to see his successor installed and then retired to his home in Wheatland. He died June 1, 1868, aged seventy-seven years.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the sixteenth President of the United States, 1861-'5, was born February 12, 1809, in Larue (then Hardin) County, Kentucky, in a cabin on Nolan Creek, three miles west of Hudgensville. His parents were Thomas and Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln. Of his ancestry and early years the little that is known may best be given in his own language: "My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks, some of whom now remain in Adams, and others in Macon County, Illinois. My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockbridge County, Virginia, to Kentucky in 1781 or 1782, where, a year or two later, he was killed by Indians—not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. His ancestors, who were Quakers, went to Virginia from Berks County, Pennsylvania. An effort to iden-

tify them with the New England family of the same name ended in nothing more definite than a similarity of Christian names in both families, such as Enoch, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham and the like. My father, at the death of his father, was but six years of age, and he grew up, literally, without education. He removed from Kentucky to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in my eighth year. We reached our new home about the time the State came into the Union. It was a wild region, with bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew to manhood.

"There were some schools, so called, but no qualification was ever required of a teacher beyond 'readin', writin', and cipherin' to the rule of three.' If a straggler, supposed to understand Latin, happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizard. There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education. Of course, when I came of age I did not know much. Still, somehow, I could read, write and cipher to the rule of three, and that was all. I have not been to school since. The little advance I now have upon this store of education I have picked up from time to time under the pressure of necessity. I was raised to farm-work, which



Your friend as ever
A. Lincoln

I continued till I was twenty-two. At twenty-one I came to Illinois and passed the first year in Macon County. Then I got to New Salem, at that time in Sangamon, now in Menard County, where I remained a year as a sort of clerk in a store.

"Then came the Black Hawk war, and I was elected a Captain of volunteers—a success which gave me more pleasure than any I have had since. I went the campaign, was elated; ran for the Legislature the same year (1832) and was beaten, the only time I have ever been beaten by the people. The next and three succeeding biennial elections I was elected to the Legislature, and was never a candidate afterward.

"During this legislative period I had studied law, and removed to Springfield to practice it. In 1846 I was elected to the Lower House of Congress; was not a candidate for re-election. From 1849 to 1854, inclusive, I practiced the law more assiduously than ever before. Always a Whig in politics, and generally on the Whig electoral tickets, making active canvasses, I was losing interest in politics, when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise roused me again. What I have done since is pretty well known."

The early residence of Lincoln in Indiana was sixteen miles north of the Ohio River, on Little Pigeon Creek, one and a half miles east of Gentryville, within the present township of Carter. Here his mother died October 5, 1818, and the next year his father married Mrs. Sally (Bush) Johnston, of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. She was an affectionate foster-parent, to whom Abraham was indebted for his first encouragement to study. He became an eager reader, and the few books owned in the vicinity were many times perused. He worked frequently for the neighbors as a farm laborer; was for some time clerk in a store at Gentryville; and became famous throughout that region for his athletic

powers, his fondness for argument, his inexhaustible fund of humorous anecdote, as well as for mock oratory and the composition of rude satirical verses. In 1828 he made a trading voyage to New Orleans as "bow-hand" on a flatboat; removed to Illinois in 1830; helped his father build a log house and clear a farm on the north fork of Sangamon River, ten miles west of Decatur, and was for some time employed in splitting rails for the fences—a fact which was prominently brought forward for a political purpose thirty years later.

In the spring of 1851 he, with two of his relatives, was hired to build a flatboat on the Sangamon River and navigate it to New Orleans. The boat "stuck" on a mill-dam, and was got off with great labor through an ingenious mechanical device which some years later led to Lincoln's taking out a patent for "an improved method for lifting vessels over shoals." This voyage was memorable for another reason—the sight of slaves chained, maltreated and flogged at New Orleans was the origin of his deep convictions upon the slavery question.

Returning from this voyage he became a resident for several years at New Salem, a recently settled village on the Sangamon, where he was successively a clerk, grocer, surveyor and postmaster, and acted as pilot to the first steamboat that ascended the Sangamon. Here he studied law, interested himself in local politics after his return from the Black Hawk war, and became known as an effective "stump-speaker." The subject of his first political speech was the improvement of the channel of the Sangamon, and the chief ground on which he announced himself (1832) a candidate for the Legislature was his advocacy of this popular measure, on which subject his practical experience made him the highest authority.

Elected to the Legislature in 1834 as a

"Henry Clay Whig," he rapidly acquired that command of language and that homely but forcible rhetoric which, added to his intimate knowledge of the people from which he sprang, made him more than a match in debate for his few well-educated opponents.

Admitted to the bar in 1837 he soon established himself at Springfield, where the State capital was located in 1839, largely through his influence; became a successful pleader in the State, Circuit and District Courts; married in 1842 a lady belonging to a prominent family in Lexington, Kentucky; took an active part in the Presidential campaigns of 1840 and 1844 as candidate for elector on the Harrison and Clay tickets, and in 1846 was elected to the United States House of Representatives over the celebrated Peter Cartwright. During his single term in Congress he did not attain any prominence.

He voted for the reception of anti-slavery petitions for the abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia and for the Wilmot proviso; but was chiefly remembered for the stand he took against the Mexican war. For several years thereafter he took comparatively little interest in politics, but gained a leading position at the Springfield bar. Two or three non-political lectures and an eulogy on Henry Clay (1852) added nothing to his reputation.

In 1854 the repeal of the Missouri Compromise by the Kansas-Nebraska act aroused Lincoln from his indifference, and in attacking that measure he had the immense advantage of knowing perfectly well the motives and the record of its author, Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, then popularly designated as the "Little Giant." The latter came to Springfield in October, 1854, on the occasion of the State Fair, to vindicate his policy in the Senate, and the "Anti-Nebraska" Whigs, remembering that Lincoln had often measured his strength with

Douglas in the Illinois Legislature and before the Springfield Courts, engaged him to improvise a reply. This speech, in the opinion of those who heard it, was one of the greatest efforts of Lincoln's life; certainly the most effective in his whole career. It took the audience by storm, and from that moment it was felt that Douglas had met his match. Lincoln was accordingly selected as the Anti-Nebraska candidate for the United States Senate in place of General Shields, whose term expired March 4, 1855, and led to several ballots; but Trumbull was ultimately chosen.

The second conflict on the soil of Kansas, which Lincoln had predicted, soon began. The result was the disruption of the Whig and the formation of the Republican party. At the Bloomington State Convention in 1856, where the new party first assumed form in Illinois, Lincoln made an impressive address, in which for the first time he took distinctive ground against slavery in itself.

At the National Republican Convention at Philadelphia, June 17, after the nomination of Fremont, Lincoln was put forward by the Illinois delegation for the Vice-Presidency, and received on the first ballot 110 votes against 259 for William L. Dayton. He took a prominent part in the canvass, being on the electoral ticket.

In 1858 Lincoln was unanimously nominated by the Republican State Convention as its candidate for the United States Senate in place of Douglas, and in his speech of acceptance used the celebrated illustration of a "house divided against itself" on the slavery question, which was, perhaps, the cause of his defeat. The great debate carried on at all the principal towns of Illinois between Lincoln and Douglas as rival Senatorial candidates resulted at the time in the election of the latter; but being widely circulated as a campaign document, it fixed the attention of the country upon the

former, as the clearest and most convincing exponent of Republican doctrine.

Early in 1859 he began to be named in Illinois as a suitable Republican candidate for the Presidential campaign of the ensuing year, and a political address delivered at the Cooper Institute, New York, February 27, 1860, followed by similar speeches at New Haven, Hartford and elsewhere in New England, first made him known to the Eastern States in the light by which he had long been regarded at home. By the Republican State Convention, which met at Decatur, Illinois, May 9 and 10, Lincoln was unanimously endorsed for the Presidency. It was on this occasion that two rails, said to have been split by his hands thirty years before, were brought into the convention, and the incident contributed much to his popularity. The National Republican Convention at Chicago, after spirited efforts made in favor of Seward, Chase and Bates, nominated Lincoln for the Presidency, with Hannibal Hamlin for Vice-President, at the same time adopting a vigorous anti-slavery platform.

The Democratic party having been disorganized and presenting two candidates, Douglas and Breckenridge, and the remnant of the "American" party having put forward John Bell, of Tennessee, the Republican victory was an easy one, Lincoln being elected November 6 by a large plurality, comprehending nearly all the Northern States, but none of the Southern. The secession of South Carolina and the Gulf States was the immediate result, followed a few months later by that of the border slave States and the outbreak of the great civil war.

The life of Abraham Lincoln became thenceforth merged in the history of his country. None of the details of the vast conflict which filled the remainder of Lincoln's life can here be given. Narrowly escaping assassination by avoiding Balti-

more on his way to the capital, he reached Washington February 23, and was inaugurated President of the United States March 4, 1861.

In his inaugural address he said: "I hold, that in contemplation of universal law and the Constitution the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied if not expressed in the fundamental laws of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination. I therefore consider that in view of the Constitution and the laws, the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability I shall take care, as the Constitution enjoins upon me, that the laws of the United States be extended in all the States. In doing this there need be no bloodshed or violence, and there shall be none unless it be forced upon the national authority. The power conferred to me will be used to hold, occupy and possess the property and places belonging to the Government, and to collect the duties and imports, but beyond what may be necessary for these objects there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere. In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it."

He called to his cabinet his principal rivals for the Presidential nomination—Seward, Chase, Cameron and Bates; secured the co-operation of the Union Democrats, headed by Douglas; called out 75,000 militia from the several States upon the first tidings of the bombardment of Fort Sumter, April 15; proclaimed a blockade of the Southern posts April 19; called an extra

session of Congress for July 4, from which he asked and obtained 400,000 men and \$400,000,000 for the war; placed McClellan at the head of the Federal army on General Scott's resignation, October 31; appointed Edwin M. Stanton Secretary of War, January 14, 1862, and September 22, 1862, issued a proclamation declaring the freedom of all slaves in the States and parts of States then in rebellion from and after January 1, 1863. This was the crowning act of Lincoln's career—the act by which he will be chiefly known through all future time—and it decided the war.

October 16, 1863, President Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers to replace those whose term of enlistment had expired; made a celebrated and touching, though brief, address at the dedication of the Gettysburg military cemetery, November 19, 1863; commissioned Ulysses S. Grant Lieutenant-General and Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United States, March 9, 1864; was re-elected President in November of the same year, by a large majority over General McClellan, with Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, as Vice-President; delivered a very remarkable address at his second inauguration, March 4, 1865; visited the army before Richmond the same month; entered the capital of the Confederacy the day after its fall, and upon the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's army, April 9, was actively engaged in devising generous plans for the reconstruction of the Union, when, on the evening of Good Friday, April 14, he was shot in his box at Ford's Theatre, Washington, by John Wilkes Booth, a fanatical actor, and expired early on the following morning, April 15. Almost simultaneously a murderous attack was made upon William H. Seward, Secretary of State.

At noon on the 15th of April Andrew

Johnson assumed the Presidency, and active measures were taken which resulted in the death of Booth and the execution of his principal accomplices.

The funeral of President Lincoln was conducted with unexampled solemnity and magnificence. Impressive services were held in Washington, after which the sad procession proceeded over the same route he had traveled four years before, from Springfield to Washington. In Philadelphia his body lay in state in Independence Hall, in which he had declared before his first inauguration "that I would sooner be assassinated than to give up the principles of the Declaration of Independence." He was buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery, near Springfield, Illinois, on May 4, where a monument emblematic of the emancipation of the slaves and the restoration of the Union mark his resting place.

The leaders and citizens of the expiring Confederacy expressed genuine indignation at the murder of a generous political adversary. Foreign nations took part in mourning the death of a statesman who had proved himself a true representative of American nationality. The freedmen of the South almost worshiped the memory of their deliverer; and the general sentiment of the great Nation he had saved awarded him a place in its affections, second only to that held by Washington.

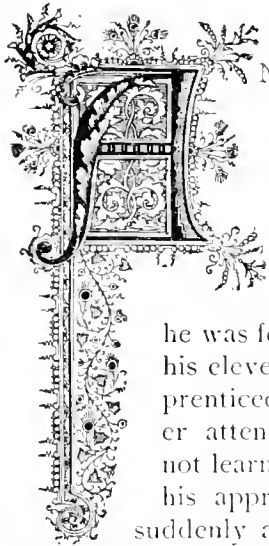
The characteristics of Abraham Lincoln have been familiarly known throughout the civilized world. His tall, gaunt, ungainly figure, homely countenance, and his shrewd mother-wit, shown in his celebrated conversations overflowing in humorous and pointed anecdote, combined with an accurate, intuitive appreciation of the questions of the time, are recognized as forming the best type of a period of American history now rapidly passing away.



Andrew Johnson



ANDREW JOHNSON.



ANDREW JOHNSON, the seventeenth President of the United States, 1865-'9, was born at Raleigh, North Carolina, December 29, 1808.

His father died when he was four years old, and in his eleventh year he was apprenticed to a tailor. He never attended school, and did not learn to read until late in his apprenticeship, when he suddenly acquired a passion for obtaining knowledge, and devoted all his spare time to reading.

After working two years as a journeyman tailor at Lauren's Court-House, South Carolina, he removed, in 1826, to Greenville, Tennessee, where he worked at his trade and married. Under his wife's instructions he made rapid progress in his education, and manifested such an intelligent interest in local politics as to be elected as "workingmen's candidate" alderman, in 1828, and mayor in 1830, being twice re-elected to each office.

During this period he cultivated his talents as a public speaker by taking part in a

debating society, consisting largely of students of Greenville College. In 1835, and again in 1839, he was chosen to the lower house of the Legislature, as a Democrat. In 1841 he was elected State Senator, and in 1843, Representative in Congress, being re-elected four successive periods, until 1853, when he was chosen Governor of Tennessee. In Congress he supported the administrations of Tyler and Polk in their chief measures, especially the annexation of Texas, the adjustment of the Oregon boundary, the Mexican war, and the tariff of 1846.

In 1855 Mr. Johnson was re-elected Governor, and in 1857 entered the United States Senate, where he was conspicuous as an advocate of retrenchment and of the Homestead bill, and as an opponent of the Pacific Railroad. He was supported by the Tennessee delegation to the Democratic convention in 1860 for the Presidential nomination, and lent his influence to the Breckenridge wing of that party.

When the election of Lincoln had brought about the first attempt at secession in December, 1860, Johnson took in the Senate a firm attitude for the Union, and in May, 1861, on returning to Tennessee, he was in imminent peril of suffering from

popular violence for his loyalty to the "old flag." He was the leader of the Loyalists' convention of East Tennessee, and during the following winter was very active in organizing relief for the destitute loyal refugees from that region, his own family being among those compelled to leave.

By his course in this crisis Johnson came prominently before the Northern public, and when in March, 1862, he was appointed by President Lincoln military Governor of Tennessee, with the rank of Brigadier-General, he increased in popularity by the vigorous and successful manner in which he labored to restore order, protect Union men and punish marauders. On the approach of the Presidential campaign of 1864, the termination of the war being plainly foreseen, and several Southern States being partially reconstructed, it was felt that the Vice-Presidency should be given to a Southern man of conspicuous loyalty, and Governor Johnson was elected on the same platform and ticket as President Lincoln; and on the assassination of the latter succeeded to the Presidency, April 15, 1865. In a public speech two days later he said: "The American people must be taught, if they do not already feel, that treason is a crime and must be punished; that the Government will not always bear with its enemies; that it is strong, not only to protect, but to punish. In our peaceful history treason has been almost unknown. The people must understand that it is the blackest of crimes, and will be punished." He then added the ominous sentence: "In regard to my future course, I make no promises, no pledges." President Johnson retained the cabinet of Lincoln, and exhibited considerable severity toward traitors in his earlier acts and speeches, but he soon inaugurated a policy of reconstruction, proclaiming a general amnesty to the late Confederates, and successively establishing provisional Governments in the Southern States.

These States accordingly claimed representation in Congress in the following December, and the momentous question of what should be the policy of the victorious Union toward its late armed opponents was forced upon that body.

Two considerations impelled the Republican majority to reject the policy of President Johnson: First, an apprehension that the chief magistrate intended to undo the results of the war in regard to slavery; and, second, the sullen attitude of the South, which seemed to be plotting to regain the policy which arms had lost. The credentials of the Southern members elect were laid on the table, a civil rights bill and a bill extending the sphere of the Freedmen's Bureau were passed over the executive veto, and the two highest branches of the Government were soon in open antagonism. The action of Congress was characterized by the President as a "new rebellion." In July the cabinet was reconstructed, Messrs. Randall, Stanbury and Browning taking the places of Messrs. Denison, Speed and Harlan, and an unsuccessful attempt was made by means of a general convention in Philadelphia to form a new party on the basis of the administration policy.

In an excursion to Chicago for the purpose of laying a corner-stone of the monument to Stephen A. Douglas, President Johnson, accompanied by several members of the cabinet, passed through Philadelphia, New York and Albany, in each of which cities, and in other places along the route, he made speeches justifying and explaining his own policy, and violently denouncing the action of Congress.

August 12, 1867, President Johnson removed the Secretary of War, replacing him by General Grant. Secretary Stanton retired under protest, based upon the tenure-of-office act which had been passed the preceding March. The President then issued a proclamation declaring the insurrec-

tion at an end, and that "peace, order, tranquility and civil authority existed in and throughout the United States." Another proclamation enjoined obedience to the Constitution and the laws, and an amnesty was published September 7, relieving nearly all the participants in the late Rebellion from the disabilities thereby incurred, on condition of taking the oath to support the Constitution and the laws.

In December Congress refused to confirm the removal of Secretary Stanton, who thereupon resumed the exercise of his office; but February 21, 1868, President Johnson again attempted to remove him, appointing General Lorenzo Thomas in his place. Stanton refused to vacate his post, and was sustained by the Senate.

February 24 the House of Representatives voted to impeach the President for "high crime and misdemeanors," and March 5 presented eleven articles of impeachment on the ground of his resistance to the execution of the acts of Congress, alleging, in addition to the offense lately committed, his public expressions of contempt for Congress, in "certain intemperate, inflammatory and scandalous harangues" pronounced in August and September, 1866, and thereafter declaring that the Thirty-ninth Congress of the United States was not a competent legislative body, and denying its power to propose Constitutional amendments. March 23 the impeachment trial began, the President appearing by counsel, and resulted in acquittal, the vote lacking

one of the two-thirds vote required for conviction.

The remainder of President Johnson's term of office was passed without any such conflicts as might have been anticipated. He failed to obtain a nomination for reelection by the Democratic party, though receiving sixty-five votes on the first ballot. July 4 and December 25 new proclamations of pardon to the participants in the late Rebellion were issued, but were of little effect. On the accession of General Grant to the Presidency, March 4, 1869, Johnson returned to Greenville, Tennessee. Unsuccessful in 1870 and 1872 as a candidate respectively for United States Senator and Representative, he was finally elected to the Senate in 1875, and took his seat in the extra session of March, in which his speeches were comparatively temperate. He died July 31, 1875, and was buried at Greenville.

President Johnson's administration was a peculiarly unfortunate one. That he should so soon become involved in bitter feud with the Republican majority in Congress was certainly a surprising and deplorable incident; yet, in reviewing the circumstances after a lapse of so many years, it is easy to find ample room for a charitable judgment of both the parties in the heated controversy, since it cannot be doubted that any President, even Lincoln himself, had he lived, must have sacrificed a large portion of his popularity in carrying out any possible scheme of reconstruction.



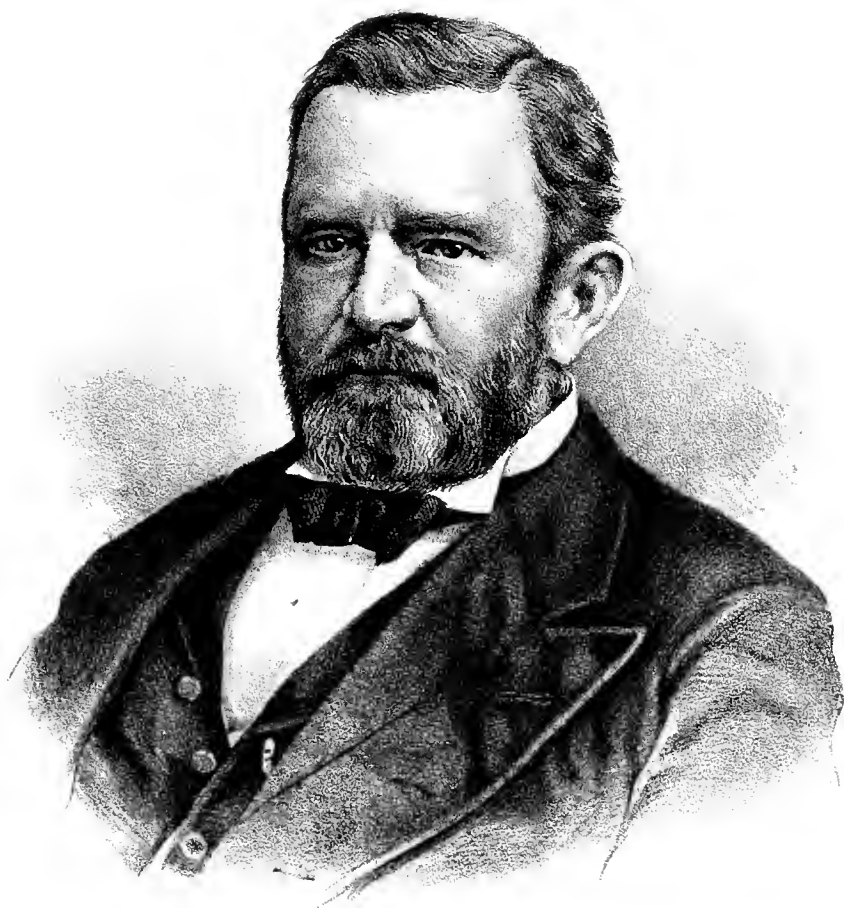
ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT, the eightieth President of the United States, 1869-'77, was born April 27, 1822, at Point Pleasant, Clermont County, Ohio. His father was of Scotch descent, and a dealer in leather. At the age of seventeen he entered the Military Academy at West Point, and four years later graduated twenty-first in a class of thirty-nine, receiving the commission of Brevet Second Lieutenant. He was assigned to the Fourth Infantry and remained in the army eleven years. He was engaged in every battle of the Mexican war except that of Buena Vista, and received two brevets for gallantry.

In 1848 Mr. Grant married Julia, daughter of Frederick Dent, a prominent merchant of St. Louis, and in 1854, having reached the grade of Captain, he resigned his commission in the army. For several years he followed farming near St. Louis, but unsuccessfully; and in 1860 he entered the leather trade with his father at Galena, Illinois.

When the civil war broke out in 1861, Grant was thirty-nine years of age, but entirely unknown to public men and without

any personal acquaintance with great affairs. President Lincoln's first call for troops was made on the 15th of April, and on the 19th Grant was drilling a company of volunteers at Galena. He also offered his services to the Adjutant-General of the army, but received no reply. The Governor of Illinois, however, employed him in the organization of volunteer troops, and at the end of five weeks he was appointed Colonel of the Twenty-first Infantry. He took command of his regiment in June, and reported first to General Pope in Missouri. His superior knowledge of military life rather surprised his superior officers, who had never before even heard of him, and they were thus led to place him on the road to rapid advancement. August 7 he was commissioned a Brigadier-General of volunteers, the appointment having been made without his knowledge. He had been unanimously recommended by the Congressmen from Illinois, not one of whom had been his personal acquaintance. For a few weeks he was occupied in watching the movements of partisan forces in Missouri.

September 1 he was placed in command of the District of Southeast Missouri, with headquarters at Cairo, and on the 6th, without orders, he seized Paducah, at the mouth of the Tennessee River, and commanding the navigation both of that stream and of



A. S. Grant

the Ohio. This stroke secured Kentucky to the Union; for the State Legislature, which had until then affected to be neutral, at once declared in favor of the Government. In November following, according to orders, he made a demonstration about eighteen miles below Cairo, preventing the crossing of hostile troops into Missouri; but in order to accomplish this purpose he had to do some fighting, and that, too, with only 3,000 raw recruits, against 7,000 Confederates. Grant carried off two pieces of artillery and 200 prisoners.

After repeated applications to General Halleck, his immediate superior, he was allowed, in February, 1862, to move up the Tennessee River against Fort Henry, in conjunction with a naval force. The gunboats silenced the fort, and Grant immediately made preparations to attack Fort Donelson, about twelve miles distant, on the Cumberland River. Without waiting for orders he moved his troops there, and with 15,000 men began the siege. The fort, garrisoned with 21,000 men, was a strong one, but after hard fighting on three successive days Grant forced an "Unconditional Surrender" (an alliteration upon the initials of his name). The prize he captured consisted of sixty-five cannon, 17,600 small arms and 14,623 soldiers. About 4,000 of the garrison had escaped in the night, and 2,500 were killed or wounded. Grant's entire loss was less than 2,000. This was the first important success won by the national troops during the war, and its strategic results were marked, as the entire States of Kentucky and Tennessee at once fell into the National hands. Our hero was made a Major-General of Volunteers and placed in command of the District of West Tennessee.

In March, 1862, he was ordered to move up the Tennessee River toward Corinth, where the Confederates were concentrating a large army; but he was directed not

to attack. His forces, now numbering 38,000, were accordingly encamped near Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, to await the arrival of General Buell with 40,000 more; but April 6 the Confederates came out from Corinth 50,000 strong and attacked Grant violently, hoping to overwhelm him before Buell could arrive; 5,000 of his troops were beyond supporting distance, so that he was largely outnumbered and forced back to the river, where, however, he held out until dark, when the head of Buell's column came upon the field. The next day the Confederates were driven back to Corinth, nineteen miles. The loss was heavy on both sides; Grant, being senior in rank to Buell, commanded on both days. Two days afterward Halleck arrived at the front and assumed command of the army, Grant remaining at the head of the right wing and the reserve. On May 30 Corinth was evacuated by the Confederates. In July Halleck was made General-in-Chief, and Grant succeeded him in command of the Department of the Tennessee. September 19 the battle of Iuka was fought, where, owing to Rosecrans's fault, only an incomplete victory was obtained.

Next, Grant, with 30,000 men, moved down into Mississippi and threatened Vicksburg, while Sherman, with 40,000 men, was sent by way of the river to attack that place in front; but, owing to Colonel Murphy's surrendering Holly Springs to the Confederates, Grant was so weakened that he had to retire to Corinth, and then Sherman failed to sustain his intended attack.

In January, 1863, General Grant took command in person of all the troops in the Mississippi Valley, and spent several months in fruitless attempts to compel the surrender or evacuation of Vicksburg; but July 4, following, the place surrendered, with 31,600 men and 172 cannon, and the Mississippi River thus fell permanently into the hands of the Government. Grant was made a

Major-General in the regular army, and in October following he was placed in command of the Division of the Mississippi. The same month he went to Chattanooga and saved the Army of the Cumberland from starvation, and drove Bragg from that part of the country. This victory overthrew the last important hostile force west of the Alleghanies and opened the way for the National armies into Georgia and Sherman's march to the sea.

The remarkable series of successes which Grant had now achieved pointed him out as the appropriate leader of the National armies, and accordingly, in February, 1864, the rank of Lieutenant-General was created for him by Congress, and on March 17 he assumed command of the armies of the United States. Planning the grand final campaign, he sent Sherman into Georgia, Sigel into the valley of Virginia, and Butler to capture Richmond, while he fought his own way from the Rapidan to the James. The costly but victorious battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna and Cold Harbor were fought, more for the purpose of annihilating Lee than to capture any particular point. In June, 1864, the siege of Richmond was begun. Sherman, meanwhile, was marching and fighting daily in Georgia and steadily advancing toward Atlanta; but Sigel had been defeated in the valley of Virginia, and was superseded by Hunter. Lee sent Early to threaten the National capital; whereupon Grant gathered up a force which he placed under Sheridan, and that commander rapidly drove Early, in a succession of battles, through the valley of Virginia and destroyed his army as an organized force. The siege of Richmond went on, and Grant made numerous attacks, but was only partially successful. The people of the North grew impatient, and even the Government advised him to abandon the attempt to take Richmond or crush the Confederacy in that way; but he

never wavered. He resolved to "fight it out on that line, if it took all summer."

By September Sherman had made his way to Atlanta, and Grant then sent him on his famous "march to the sea," a route which the chief had designed six months before. He made Sherman's success possible, not only by holding Lee in front of Richmond, but also by sending reinforcements to Thomas, who then drew off and defeated the only army which could have confronted Sherman. Thus the latter was left unopposed, and, with Thomas and Sheridan, was used in the furtherance of Grant's plans. Each executed his part in the great design and contributed his share to the result at which Grant was aiming. Sherman finally reached Savannah, Schofield beat the enemy at Franklin, Thomas at Nashville, and Sheridan wherever he met him; and all this while General Grant was holding Lee, with the principal Confederate army, near Richmond, as it were chained and helpless. Then Schofield was brought from the West, and Fort Fisher and Wilmington were captured on the sea-coast, so as to afford him a foothold; from here he was sent into the interior of North Carolina, and Sherman was ordered to move northward to join him. When all this was effected, and Sheridan could find no one else to fight in the Shenandoah Valley, Grant brought the cavalry leader to the front of Richmond, and, making a last effort, drove Lee from his entrenchments and captured Richmond.

At the beginning of the final campaign Lee had collected 73,000 fighting men in the lines at Richmond, besides the local militia and the gunboat crews, amounting to 5,000 more. Including Sheridan's force Grant had 110,000 men in the works before Petersburg and Richmond. Petersburg fell on the 2d of April, and Richmond on the 3d, and Lee fled in the direction of Lynchburg. Grant pursued with remorseless

energy, only stopping to strike fresh blows, and Lee at last found himself not only out-fought but also out-marched and out-generaled. Being completely surrounded, he surrendered on the 9th of April, 1865, at Appomattox Court-House, in the open field, with 27,000 men, all that remained of his army. This act virtually ended the war. Thus, in ten days Grant had captured Petersburg and Richmond, fought, by his subordinates, the battles of Five Forks and Sailor's Creek, besides numerous smaller ones, captured 20,000 men in actual battle, and received the surrender of 27,000 more at Appomattox, absolutely annihilating an army of 70,000 soldiers.

General Grant returned at once to Washington to superintend the disbandment of the armies, but this pleasurable work was scarcely begun when President Lincoln was assassinated. It had doubtless been intended to inflict the same fate upon Grant; but he, fortunately, on account of leaving Washington early in the evening, declined an invitation to accompany the President to the theater where the murder was committed. This event made Andrew Johnson President, but left Grant by far the most conspicuous figure in the public life of the country. He became the object of an enthusiasm greater than had ever been known in America. Every possible honor was heaped upon him; the grade of General was created for him by Congress; houses were presented to him by citizens; towns were illuminated on his entrance into them; and, to cap the climax, when he made his tour around the world, "all nations did him honor" as they had never before honored a foreigner.

The General, as Commander-in-Chief, was placed in an embarrassing position by the opposition of President Johnson to the measures of Congress; but he directly manifested his characteristic loyalty by obeying Congress rather than the disaffected Presi-

dent, although for a short time he had served in his cabinet as Secretary of War.

Of course, everybody thought of General Grant as the next President of the United States, and he was accordingly elected as such in 1868 "by a large majority," and four years later re-elected by a much larger majority—the most overwhelming ever given by the people of this country. His first administration was distinguished by a cessation of the strifes which sprang from the war, by a large reduction of the National debt, and by a settlement of the difficulties with England which had grown out of the depredations committed by privateers fitted out in England during the war. This last settlement was made by the famous "Geneva arbitration," which saved to this Government \$15,000,000, but, more than all, prevented a war with England. "Let us have peace," was Grant's motto. And this is the most appropriate place to remark that above all Presidents whom this Government has ever had, General Grant was the most non-partisan. He regarded the Executive office as purely and exclusively *executive* of the laws of Congress, irrespective of "politics." But every great man has jealous, bitter enemies, a fact Grant was well aware of.

After the close of his Presidency, our General made his famous tour around the world, already referred to, and soon afterward, in company with Ferdinand Ward, of New York City, he engaged in banking and stock brokerage, which business was made disastrous to Grant, as well as to himself, by his rascality. By this time an incurable cancer of the tongue developed itself in the person of the afflicted ex-President, which ended his unrequited life July 23, 1885. Thus passed away from earth's turmoils the man, the General, who was as truly the "father of this regenerated country" as was Washington the father of the infant nation.



RUTHERFORD BIRCHARD HAYES, the nineteenth President of the United States, 1877-'81, was born in Delaware, Ohio, October 4, 1822. His ancestry can be traced as far back as 1280, when Hayes and Rutherford were two Scottish chieftains fighting side by side with Baliol, William Wallace and Robert Bruce. Both families belonged to the nobility, owned extensive estates and had a large following. The Hayes family had, for a coat-of-arms, a shield, barred and surmounted by a flying eagle. There was a circle of stars about the eagle and above the shield, while on a scroll underneath the shield was inscribed the motto, "Recte." Misfortune overtaking the family, George Hayes left Scotland in 1680, and settled in Windsor, Connecticut. He was an industrious worker in wood and iron, having a mechanical genius and a cultivated mind. His son George was born in Windsor and remained there during his life.

Daniel Hayes, son of the latter, married Sarah Lee, and lived in Simsbury, Con-

necticut. Ezekiel, son of Daniel, was born in 1724, and was a manufacturer of scythes at Bradford, Connecticut. Rutherford Hayes, son of Ezekiel and grandfather of President Hayes, was born in New Haven, in August, 1756. He was a famous blacksmith and tavern-keeper. He immigrated to Vermont at an unknown date, settling in Brattleboro where he established a hotel. Here his son Rutherford, father of President Hayes, was born. In September, 1813, he married Sophia Birchard, of Wilmington, Vermont, whose ancestry on the male side is traced back to 1635, to John Birchard, one of the principal founders of Norwich. Both of her grandfathers were soldiers in the Revolutionary war.

The father of President Hayes was of a mechanical turn, and could mend a plow, knit a stocking, or do almost anything that he might undertake. He was prosperous in business, a member of the church and active in all the benevolent enterprises of the town. After the close of the war of 1812 he immigrated to Ohio, and purchased a farm near the present town of Delaware. His family then consisted of his wife and two children, and an orphan girl whom he had adopted.

It was in 1817 that the family arrived at Delaware. Instead of settling upon his



Sincerely
R. B. Hayes

farm, Mr. Hayes concluded to enter into business in the village. He purchased an interest in a distillery, a business then as respectable as it was profitable. His capital and recognized ability assured him the highest social position in the community. He died July 22, 1822, less than three months before the birth of the son that was destined to fill the office of President of the United States.

Mrs. Hayes at this period was very weak, and the subject of this sketch was so feeble at birth that he was not expected to live beyond a month or two at most. As the months went by he grew weaker and weaker so that the neighbors were in the habit of inquiring from time to time "if Mrs. Hayes's baby died last night." On one occasion a neighbor, who was on friendly terms with the family, after alluding to the boy's big head and the mother's assiduous care of him, said to her, in a bantering way, "That's right! Stick to him. You have got him along so far, and I shouldn't wonder if he would really come to something yet." "You need not laugh," said Mrs. Hayes, "you wait and see. You can't tell but I shall make him President of the United States yet."

The boy lived, in spite of the universal predictions of his speedy death; and when, in 1825, his elder brother was drowned, he became, if possible, still dearer to his mother. He was seven years old before he was placed in school. His education, however, was not neglected. His sports were almost wholly within doors, his playmates being his sister and her associates. These circumstances tended, no doubt, to foster that gentleness of disposition and that delicate consideration for the feelings of others which are marked traits of his character. At school he was ardently devoted to his studies, obedient to the teacher, and careful to avoid the quarrels in which many of his schoolmates were involved. He was

always waiting at the school-house door when it opened in the morning, and never late in returning to his seat at recess. His sister Fannie was his constant companion, and their affection for each other excited the admiration of their friends.

In 1838 young Hayes entered Kenyon College and graduated in 1842. He then began the study of law in the office of Thomas Sparrow at Columbus. His health was now well established, his figure robust, his mind vigorous and alert. In a short time he determined to enter the law school at Cambridge, Massachusetts, where for two years he pursued his studies with great diligence.

In 1845 he was admitted to the bar at Marietta, Ohio, and shortly afterward went into practice as an attorney-at-law with Ralph P. Buckland, of Fremont. Here he remained three years, acquiring but limited practice, and apparently unambitious of distinction in his profession. His bachelor uncle, Sardis Birchard, who had always manifested great interest in his nephew and rendered him assistance in boyhood, was now a wealthy banker, and it was understood that the young man would be his heir. It is possible that this expectation may have made Mr. Hayes more indifferent to the attainment of wealth than he would otherwise have been, but he was led into no extravagance or vices on this account.

In 1849 he removed to Cincinnati where his ambition found new stimulus. Two events occurring at this period had a powerful influence upon his subsequent life. One of them was his marriage to Miss Lucy Ware Webb, daughter of Dr. James Webb, of Cincinnati; the other was his introduction to the Cincinnati Literary Club, a body embracing such men as Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, General John Pope and Governor Edward F. Noyes. The marriage was a fortunate one as everybody knows. Not one of all the wives of

our Presidents was more universally admired, revered and beloved than is Mrs. Hayes, and no one has done more than she to reflect honor upon American womanhood.

In 1856 Mr. Hayes was nominated to the office of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, but declined to accept the nomination. Two years later he was chosen to the office of City Solicitor.

In 1861, when the Rebellion broke out, he was eager to take up arms in the defense of his country. His military life was bright and illustrious. June 7, 1861, he was appointed Major of the Twenty-third Ohio Infantry. In July the regiment was sent to Virginia. October 15, 1861, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel of his regiment, and in August, 1862, was promoted Colonel of the Seventy-ninth Ohio Regiment, but refused to leave his old comrades. He was wounded at the battle of South Mountain, and suffered severely, being unable to enter upon active duty for several weeks. November 30, 1862, he rejoined his regiment as its Colonel, having been promoted October 15.

December 25, 1862, he was placed in command of the Kanawha division, and for meritorious service in several battles was promoted Brigadier-General. He was also brevetted Major-General for distinguished

services in 1864. He was wounded four times, and five horses were shot from under him.

Mr. Hayes was first a Whig in politics, and was among the first to unite with the Free-Soil and Republican parties. In 1864 he was elected to Congress from the Second Ohio District, which had always been Democratic, receiving a majority of 3,098. In 1866 he was renominated for Congress and was a second time elected. In 1867 he was elected Governor over Allen G. Thurman, the Democratic candidate, and re-elected in 1869. In 1874 Sardis Birchard died, leaving his large estate to General Hayes.

In 1876 he was nominated for the Presidency. His letter of acceptance excited the admiration of the whole country. He resigned the office of Governor and retired to his home in Fremont to await the result of the canvass. After a hard, long contest he was inaugurated March 5, 1877. His Presidency was characterized by compromises with all parties, in order to please as many as possible. The close of his Presidential term in 1881 was the close of his public life, and since then he has remained at his home in Fremont, Ohio, in Jeffersonian retirement from public notice, in striking contrast with most others of the world's notables.



James A. Garfield



JAMES A. GARFIELD.



JAMES A. GARFIELD, twentieth President of the United States, 1881, was born November 19, 1831, in the wild woods of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. His parents were Abram and Eliza (Ballou) Garfield, who were of New England ancestry. The senior Garfield was an industrious farmer, as the rapid improvements which appeared on his place attested. The residence was the familiar pioneer log cabin, and the household comprised the parents and their children—Mehetable, Thomas, Mary and James A. In May, 1833, the father died, and the care of the household consequently devolved upon young Thomas, to whom James was greatly indebted for the educational and other advantages he enjoyed. He now lives in Michigan, and the two sisters live in Solon, Ohio, near their birthplace.

As the subject of our sketch grew up, he, too, was industrious, both in mental and physical labor. He worked upon the farm, or at carpentering, or chopped wood, or at any other odd job that would aid in support of the family, and in the meantime made the

most of his books. Ever afterward he was never ashamed of his humble origin, nor forgot the friends of his youth. The poorest laborer was sure of his sympathy, and he always exhibited the character of a modest gentleman.

Until he was about sixteen years of age, James's highest ambition was to be a lake captain. To this his mother was strongly opposed, but she finally consented to his going to Cleveland to carry out his long-cherished design, with the understanding, however, that he should try to obtain some other kind of employment. He walked all the way to Cleveland, and this was his first visit to the city. After making many applications for work, including labor on board a lake vessel, but all in vain, he finally engaged as a driver for his cousin, Amos Letcher, on the Ohio & Pennsylvania Canal. In a short time, however, he quit this and returned home. He then attended the seminary at Chester for about three years, and next he entered Hiram Institute, a school started in 1850 by the Disciples of Christ, of which church he was a member. In order to pay his way he assumed the duties of janitor, and at times taught school. He soon completed the curriculum there, and then entered Williams College, at which he graduated in 1856, taking one of the highest honors of his class.

Afterward he returned to Hiram as President. In his youthful and therefore zealous piety, he exercised his talents occasionally as a preacher of the Gospel. He was a man of strong moral and religious convictions, and as soon as he began to look into politics, he saw innumerable points that could be improved. He also studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1859. November 11, 1858, Mr. Garfield married Miss Lucretia Rudolph, who ever afterward proved a worthy consort in all the stages of her husband's career. They had seven children, five of whom are still living.

It was in 1859 that Garfield made his first political speeches, in Hiram and the neighboring villages, and three years later he began to speak at county mass-meetings, being received everywhere with popular favor. He was elected to the State Senate this year, taking his seat in January, 1860.

On the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion in 1861, Mr. Garfield resolved to fight as he had talked, and accordingly he enlisted to defend the old flag, receiving his commission as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Forty-second Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, August 14, that year. He was immediately thrown into active service, and before he had ever seen a gun fired in action he was placed in command of four regiments of infantry and eight companies of cavalry, charged with the work of driving the Confederates, headed by Humphrey Marshall, from his native State, Kentucky. This task was speedily accomplished, although against great odds. On account of his success, President Lincoln commissioned him Brigadier-General, January 11, 1862; and, as he had been the youngest man in the Ohio Senate two years before, so now he was the youngest General in the army. He was with General Buell's army at Shiloh, also in its operations around Corinth and its march through Alabama. Next, he was detailed as a member of the general

court-martial for the trial of General Fitz-John Porter, and then ordered to report to General Rosecrans, when he was assigned to the position of Chief of Staff. His military history closed with his brilliant services at Chickamauga, where he won the stars of Major-General.

In the fall of 1862, without any effort on his part, he was elected as a Representative to Congress, from that section of Ohio which had been represented for sixty years mainly by two men—Elisha Whittlesey and Joshua R. Giddings. Again, he was the youngest member of that body, and continued there by successive re-elections, as Representative or Senator, until he was elected President in 1880. During his life in Congress he compiled and published by his speeches, there and elsewhere, more information on the issues of the day, especially on one side, than any other member.

June 8, 1880, at the National Republican Convention held in Chicago, General Garfield was nominated for the Presidency, in preference to the old war-horses, Blaine and Grant; and although many of the Republican party felt sore over the failure of their respective heroes to obtain the nomination, General Garfield was elected by a fair popular majority. He was duly inaugurated, but on July 2 following, before he had fairly got started in his administration, he was fatally shot by a half-demented assassin. After very painful and protracted suffering, he died September 19, 1881, lamented by all the American people. Never before in the history of this country had anything occurred which so nearly froze the blood of the Nation, for the moment, as the awful act of Guiteau, the murderer. He was duly tried, convicted and put to death on the gallows.

The lamented Garfield was succeeded by the Vice-President, General Arthur, who seemed to endeavor to carry out the policy inaugurated by his predecessor.



C. A. Arthur.



CHESTER A. ARTHUR.



CHESTER ALLEN ARTHUR, the twenty-first Chief Executive of this growing republic, 1881-'5, was born in Franklin County, Vermont,

October 5, 1830, the eldest of a family of two sons and five daughters. His father, Rev. Dr. William Arthur, a Baptist clergyman, immigrated to this country from County Antrim, Ireland, in his eighteenth year, and died in 1875, in Newtonville, near Albany, New York, after serving many years as a successful minister. Chester A. was educated at that old, conservative institution, Union College, at Schenectady, New York, where he excelled in all his studies. He graduated there, with honor, and then struck out in life for himself by teaching school for about two years in his native State.

At the expiration of that time young Arthur, with \$500 in his purse, went to the city of New York and entered the law office of ex-Judge E. D. Culver as a student. In due time he was admitted to the bar, when he formed a partnership with his intimate

friend and old room-mate, Henry D. Gardiner, with the intention of practicing law at some point in the West; but after spending about three months in the Western States, in search of an eligible place, they returned to New York City, leased a room, exhibited a sign of their business and almost immediately enjoyed a paying patronage.

At this stage of his career Mr. Arthur's business prospects were so encouraging that he concluded to take a wife, and accordingly he married the daughter of Lieutenant Herndon, of the United States Navy, who had been lost at sea. To the widow of the latter Congress voted a gold medal, in recognition of the Lieutenant's bravery during the occasion in which he lost his life. Mrs. Arthur died shortly before her husband's nomination to the Vice-Presidency, leaving two children.

Mr. Arthur obtained considerable celebrity as an attorney in the famous Lemmon suit, which was brought to recover possession of eight slaves, who had been declared free by the Superior Court of New York City. The noted Charles O'Connor, who was nominated by the "Straight Democrats" in 1872 for the United States Presidency, was retained by Jonathan G. Lem-

mon, of Virginia, to recover the negroes, but he lost the suit. In this case, however, Mr. Arthur was assisted by William M. Evarts, now United States Senator. Soon afterward, in 1856, a respectable colored woman was ejected from a street car in New York City. Mr. Arthur sued the car company in her behalf and recovered \$500 damages. Immediately afterward all the car companies in the city issued orders to their employes to admit colored persons upon their cars.

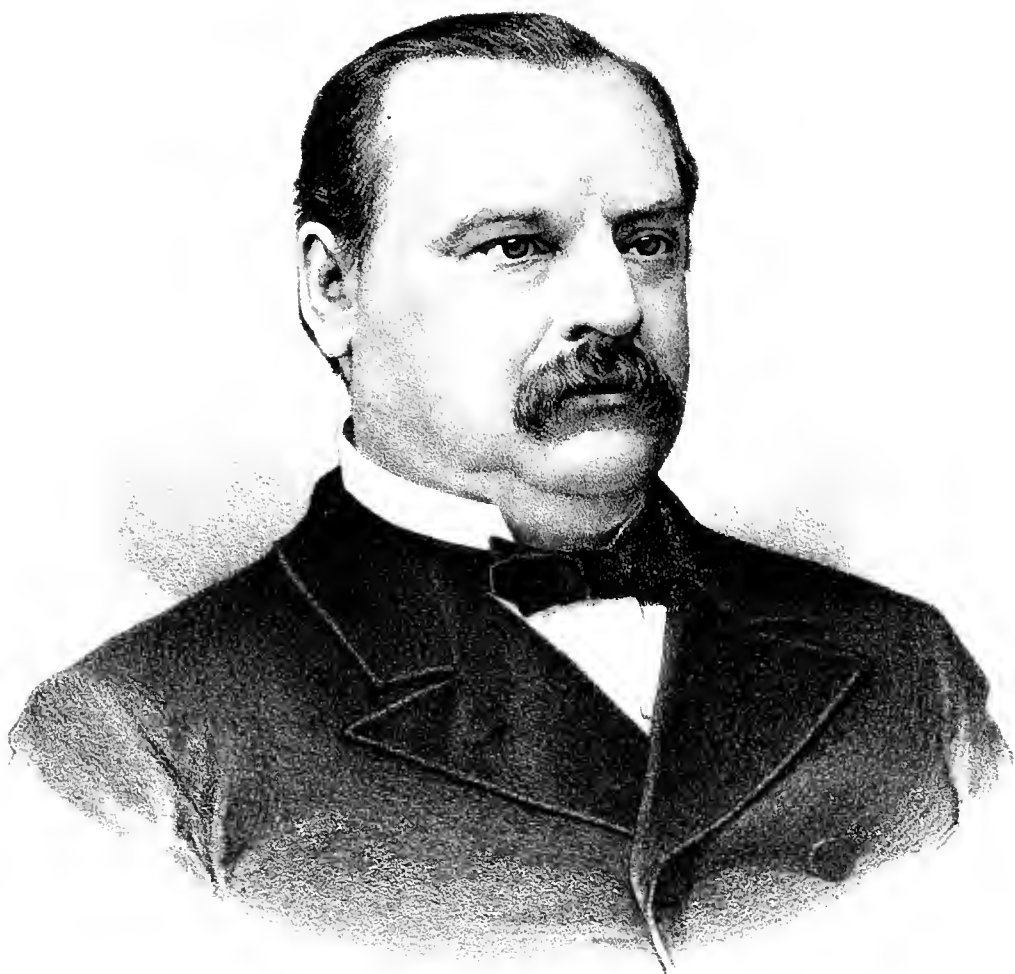
Mr. Arthur's political doctrines, as well as his practice as a lawyer, raised him to prominence in the party of freedom; and accordingly he was sent as a delegate to the first National Republican Convention. Soon afterward he was appointed Judge Advocate for the Second Brigade of the State of New York, and then Engineer-in-Chief on Governor Morgan's staff. In 1861, the first year of the war, he was made Inspector-General, and next, Quartermaster-General, in both which offices he rendered great service to the Government. After the close of Governor Morgan's term he resumed the practice of law, forming first a partnership with Mr. Ransom, and subsequently adding Mr. Phelps to the firm. Each of these gentlemen were able lawyers.

November 21, 1872, General Arthur was appointed Collector of the Port of New York by President Grant, and he held the office until July 20, 1878.

The next event of prominence in General Arthur's career was his nomination to the Vice-Presidency of the United States, under the influence of Roscoe Conkling, at the National Republican Convention held at Chicago in June, 1880, when James A. Garfield was placed at the head of the ticket. Both the convention and the campaign that followed were noisy and exciting. The friends of Grant, constituting nearly half

the convention, were exceedingly persistent, and were sorely disappointed over their defeat. At the head of the Democratic ticket was placed a very strong and popular man; yet Garfield and Arthur were elected by a respectable plurality of the popular vote. The 4th of March following, these gentlemen were accordingly inaugurated; but within four months the assassin's bullet made a fatal wound in the person of General Garfield, whose life terminated September 19, 1881, when General Arthur, *ex officio*, was obliged to take the chief reins of government. Some misgivings were entertained by many in this event, as Mr. Arthur was thought to represent especially the Grant and Conkling wing of the Republican party; but President Arthur had both the ability and the good sense to allay all fears, and he gave the restless, critical American people as good an administration as they had ever been blessed with. Neither selfishness nor low partisanship ever characterized any feature of his public service. He ever maintained a high sense of every individual right as well as of the Nation's honor. Indeed, he stood so high that his successor, President Cleveland, though of opposing politics, expressed a wish in his inaugural address that he could only satisfy the people with as good an administration.

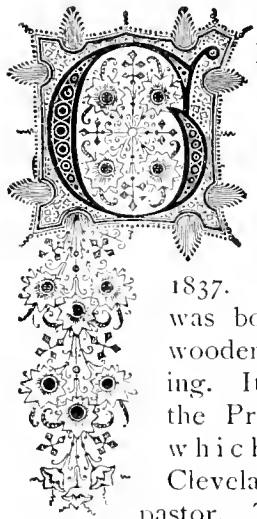
But the day of civil service reform had come in so far, and the corresponding reaction against "third-termism" had encroached so far even upon "second-term" service, that the Republican party saw fit in 1884 to nominate another man for President. Only by this means was General Arthur's tenure of office closed at Washington. On his retirement from the Presidency, March, 1885, he engaged in the practice of law at New York City, where he died November 18, 1886.



Es war Cleveland



GROVER CLEVELAND.



GROVER CLEVELAND, the twenty-second President of the United States, 1885—, was born in Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey, March 18, 1837. The house in which he was born, a small two-story wooden building, is still standing. It was the parsonage of the Presbyterian church, of which his father, Richard Cleveland, at the time was pastor. The family is of New England origin, and for two centuries has contributed to the professions and to business, men who have reflected honor on the name. Aaron Cleveland, Grover Cleveland's great-great-grandfather, was born in Massachusetts, but subsequently moved to Philadelphia, where he became an intimate friend of Benjamin Franklin, at whose house he died. He left a large family of children, who in time married and settled in different parts of New England. A grandson was one of the small American force that fought the British at Bunker Hill. He served with gallantry throughout the Revolution and was honorably discharged at its close as a Lieutenant in the Continental army. Another grandson, William Cleveland (a son of a second Aaron

Cleveland, who was distinguished as a writer and member of the Connecticut Legislature) was Grover Cleveland's grandfather. William Cleveland became a silversmith in Norwich, Connecticut. He acquired by industry some property and sent his son, Richard Cleveland, the father of Grover Cleveland, to Yale College, where he graduated in 1824. During a year spent in teaching at Baltimore, Maryland, after graduation, he met and fell in love with a Miss Annie Neale, daughter of a wealthy Baltimore book publisher, of Irish birth. He was earning his own way in the world at the time and was unable to marry; but in three years he completed a course of preparation for the ministry, secured a church in Windham, Connecticut, and married Annie Neale. Subsequently he moved to Portsmouth, Virginia, where he preached for nearly two years, when he was summoned to Caldwell, New Jersey, where was born Grover Cleveland.

When he was three years old the family moved to Fayetteville, Onondaga County, New York. Here Grover Cleveland lived until he was fourteen years old, the rugged, healthful life of a country boy. His frank, generous manner made him a favorite among his companions, and their respect was won by the good qualities in the germ which his manhood developed. He attended the district school of the village and

was for a short time at the academy. His father, however, believed that boys should be taught to labor at an early age, and before he had completed the course of study at the academy he began to work in the village store at \$50 for the first year, and the promise of \$100 for the second year. His work was well done and the promised increase of pay was granted the second year.

Meanwhile his father and family had moved to Clinton, the seat of Hamilton College, where his father acted as agent to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, preaching in the churches of the vicinity. Hither Grover came at his father's request shortly after the beginning of his second year at the Fayetteville store, and resumed his studies at the Clinton Academy. After three years spent in this town, the Rev. Richard Cleveland was called to the village church of Holland Patent. He had preached here only a month when he was suddenly stricken down and died without an hour's warning. The death of the father left the family in straitened circumstances, as Richard Cleveland had spent all his salary of \$1,000 per year, which was not required for the necessary expenses of living, upon the education of his children, of whom there were nine, Grover being the fifth. Grover was hoping to enter Hamilton College, but the death of his father made it necessary for him to earn his own livelihood. For the first year (1853-'4) he acted as assistant teacher and bookkeeper in the Institution for the Blind in New York City, of which the late Augustus Schell was for many years the patron. In the winter of 1854 he returned to Holland Patent, where the generous people of that place, Fayetteville and Clinton, had purchased a home for his mother, and in the following spring, borrowing \$25, he set out for the West to earn his living.

Reaching Buffalo he paid a hasty visit to an uncle, Lewis F. Allen, a well-known

stock farmer, living at Black Rock, a few miles distant. He communicated his plans to Mr. Allen, who discouraged the idea of the West, and finally induced the enthusiastic boy of seventeen to remain with him and help him prepare a catalogue of blooded short-horn cattle, known as "Allen's American Herd Book," a publication familiar to all breeders of cattle. In August, 1855, he entered the law office of Rogers, Bowen & Rogers, at Buffalo, and after serving a few months without pay, was paid \$4 a week—an amount barely sufficient to meet the necessary expenses of his board in the family of a fellow-student in Buffalo, with whom he took lodgings. Life at this time with Grover Cleveland was a stern battle with the world. He took his breakfast by candle-light with the drovers, and went at once to the office where the whole day was spent in work and study. Usually he returned again at night to resume reading which had been interrupted by the duties of the day. Gradually his employers came to recognize the ability, trustworthiness and capacity for hard work in their young employe, and by the time he was admitted to the bar (1859) he stood high in their confidence. A year later he was made confidential and managing clerk, and in the course of three years more his salary had been raised to \$1,000. In 1863 he was appointed assistant district attorney of Erie County by the district attorney, the Hon. C. C. Torrance.

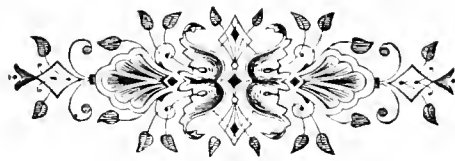
Since his first vote had been cast in 1858 he had been a staunch Democrat, and until he was chosen Governor he always made it his duty, rain or shine, to stand at the polls and give out ballots to Democratic voters. During the first year of his term as assistant district attorney, the Democrats desired especially to carry the Board of Supervisors. The old Second Ward in which he lived was Republican ordinarily by 250 majority, but at the urgent request of the

party Grover Cleveland consented to be the Democratic candidate for Supervisor, and came within thirteen votes of an election. The three years spent in the district attorney's office were devoted to assiduous labor and the extension of his professional attainments. He then formed a law partnership with the late Isaac V. Vanderpoel, ex-State Treasurer, under the firm name of Vanderpoel & Cleveland. Here the bulk of the work devolved on Cleveland's shoulders, and he soon won a good standing at the bar of Erie County. In 1869 Mr. Cleveland formed a partnership with ex-Senator A. P. Laning and ex-Assistant United States District Attorney Oscar Folsom, under the firm name of Laning, Cleveland & Folsom. During these years he began to earn a moderate professional income; but the larger portion of it was sent to his mother and sisters at Holland Patent to whose support he had contributed ever since 1860. He served as sheriff of Erie County, 1870-'4, and then resumed the practice of law, associating himself with the Hon. Lyman K. Bass and Wilson S. Bissell.

The firm was strong and popular, and soon commanded a large and lucrative practice. Ill health forced the retirement of Mr. Bass in 1879, and the firm became Cleveland & Bissell. In 1881 Mr. George J. Sicard was added to the firm.

In the autumn election of 1881 he was elected mayor of Buffalo by a majority of over 3,500—the largest majority ever given a candidate for mayor—and the Democratic city ticket was successful, although the Republicans carried Buffalo by over 1,000 majority for their State ticket. Grover Cleveland's administration as mayor fully justified the confidence reposed in him by the people of Buffalo, evidenced by the great vote he received.

The Democratic State Convention met at Syracuse, September 22, 1882, and nominated Grover Cleveland for Governor on the third ballot and Cleveland was elected by 192,000 majority. In the fall of 1884 he was elected President of the United States by about 1,000 popular majority, in New York State, and he was accordingly inaugurated the 4th of March following.





HISTORY

OF

MINNESOTA.





HISTORY OF MINNESOTA.

CHAPTER I.

LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GENERAL REMARKS.



MINNESOTA is located in the geographical center of the continent of North America—midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and also midway between Hudson's Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. It embraces territory extending from latitude 43 degrees 50 minutes, to 49 degrees, and from 89 degrees 29 minutes to 97 degrees 5 minutes west longitude. As to its area, it can only be estimated, as portions of the State are as yet unsurveyed; but as near as can be arrived at, the area is 85,531 square miles, or about 53,760,000 acres. In size Minnesota is the fourth State in the Union. From its southern boundary to the northern is about 400 miles, and from the most eastern to the extreme western point about 354 miles. In altitude it appears to be one of the highest portions of the continent, as the headwaters of the three great river systems are found in its limits—those of streams flowing northward to Hudson's Bay, eastward to the Atlantic Ocean, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico.

Nearly three-quarters of the surface of the State is made up of rolling prairie, interspersed with frequent groves, oak openings and belts of hardwood timber, watered by numerous lakes and streams, and covered with a warm, dark soil of great fertility. The balance, embracing the elevated district

immediately west of Lake Superior, consists mainly of the rich mineral ranges on its shores, and of the pine forests which extend over the upper Mississippi country, affording extensive supplies of timber. But a very small portion is broken, rocky or worthless land; nearly all is arable. But few States are so well watered as Minnesota, and the numerous rivers and water-courses give excellent drainage. A number of the rivers—the Mississippi, the Minnesota, the St. Croix, the St. Louis, the Red and the Red Lake rivers—are navigable, and nearly all of the balance afford water power. The lakes of Minnesota are among its principal physical characteristics. The estimate of 10,000 lakes in the State is not an unreasonable one.

With all these natural advantages, favorable climate and rich soil, Minnesota has become one of the most successful agricultural States in the Union, and stock-raising and dairying is rapidly becoming a leading industry. Lumbering is also carried on very extensively, and the manufacturing branch is rapidly becoming large. While at first it was supposed that this State was destitute of valuable minerals, recent discoveries prove to the contrary. Inexhaustible supplies of the best iron ore exist, and are now being mined and exported in large quantities. Silver veins have also been found near the boundary line; copper ore has also been found, and it is known that plumbago and gold quartz exist. Building material, gran-

ite, brownstone, limestone, sandstone and brick and potter's clay are abundant.

A few words as to railroads and history relating to their construction will also be interesting. Twenty-five years ago (1862), there were only ten miles of railway in operation in the State. At the close of 1885 there were 6,721 miles in operation. The general government has granted to railroads within this State 12,151,527 acres of land, and the State has given 1,811,750 acres of swamp and other lands, making a total of 13,933,277 acres of land within the State given to railroads, valued on the average at \$5 per acre, making \$69,666,385 thus given. In addition, local, county and State bonds have been given them amounting to over \$6,680,000, making in lands and cash a total gift of \$76,496,385, or about \$19,345 for

every mile completed. There is material in these facts for an extended political essay, and they certainly furnish food for thought.

In concluding these general remarks it may justly be said that the outlook for the State is most gratifying. Its population is rapidly increasing, and its taxable wealth increasing in similar ratio. Every year sees an enormous area of its rich soil brought under cultivation, while there are still millions of acres awaiting the plow of the settler.

The following table of census returns will show the growth of the State as to population: 1850, population 6,077; 1860, population 172,023; 1865, population 250,099; 1870, population 439,706; 1875, population 597,407; 1880, population 780,773, and in 1885 the population was 1,117,798.



CHAPTER II.

HISTORY OF MINNESOTA—FROM 1660 TO 1887.



THE first exploration by whites of the territory which now comprises the State of Minnesota dates back early into the seventeenth century. It is claimed by good authority that Jean Nicolet (pronounced Nicolay), one of Champlain's interpreters, was the first to spread knowledge of the country west of Lake Michigan. As early as 1635 he set foot upon the western shores of Lake Michigan, and traded near Green Bay, also roaming over various portions of Wisconsin at about that time. In December of the same year he returned to Canada. It is very doubtful whether Nicolet ever set foot on Minnesota soil, although it is certain that his visit to the country west of Lake Michigan was the means of spreading knowledge of this country, and of the aborigines of Minnesota. It was said of him that he penetrated far distant countries, and in a letter bearing date of 1640, it is stated that "if he had proceeded three days more on a river which flows from that lake (Green Bay), he would have found the sea." The death of this explorer occurred at Three Rivers in 1640.

After Nicolet's visit to Wisconsin, for a quarter of a century history brings no trace of any explorations concerning this region. At the end of this time, in 1660, the first white men of whom there is any reliable record, set foot on Minnesota soil. They were Medard Chouart, called Groselliers, and Pierre d'Esprit, who was known as Sieur Radisson. Both were Frenchmen who had come to Canada when young men to engage

in the fur trade. About the middle of that century several important changes had been made in the location of Indian tribes. The Hurons and their allies, the Ottawas, after successive battles, had drifted to the west of Lake Michigan. In former times they had been located in the St. Lawrence region. Finally reaching the Mississippi they found the Iowa River. Later, returning to the Mississippi, they settled upon an island in the river near where the city of Hastings is now located; but becoming involved in battles with the Sioux, we finally find the Hurons located about the headwaters of the Chippeway, and the Ottawas on the shores of Lake Superior, near where Bayfield is now situated. It was to trade with the Indians that the two Frenchmen mentioned, Groselliers and Radisson, made their trip to this wild region. They passed the winter of 1659-60 among the Sioux villages in the Mille Lacs country, and the following spring and summer was spent in the region of Lake Superior. In August, 1660, they returned to Montreal, and their report of the country they had visited created much excitement. Within a few weeks an exploring and trading party was formed, and accompanied by six Frenchmen and two priests, one of whom was the Jesuit, Rene Menard, they again started westward, and on the 15th of October, 1660, they reached the Ottawa settlement on the shores of Lake Superior. The objects of this party were various, some bent on exploration, others on trading, while Father Menard went as a missionary. Groselliers (pronounced Grosay-ya) and Radisson, accompanied by others,

pushed on through the country to the northwest of Lake Superior and at length reached Hudson's Bay. They returned to Montreal in May, 1662. The names of all the members of this party have not been preserved. Groselliers and Radisson proceeded to Paris, thence to London, where they were well received by the nobility and scientific men. A vessel was fitted out and placed at their disposal, in the hope of finding a northwest passage to Asia. In June, 1668, they left England and made an extended voyage, reaching a tributary of Hudson's Bay and returning to England, where, in 1679, the famous trading corporation, the "Hudson's Bay Company," was chartered.

Now to return to the venerable Father Menard, who had been left among the Ottawa Indians on the shores of Lake Superior in October, 1660. For nearly a year he lived there in a cabin built of fir branches. In the summer of 1661 he decided to visit the Hurons, who had fled eastward from the Sioux of Minnesota and were located among the woods of northern Wisconsin, as stated. He was accompanied by one Frenchman, whose name has been lost in the mist of years. They became separated, and Father Menard was lost, as Perrot says, "in the labyrinth of trees." This was the last ever positively known of him, although his breviary and cassock were said afterward to have been found among the Sioux Indians. Whether this good and venerable man starved or was murdered or captured by the Indians will forever be shrouded in mystery.

These were the earliest explorations of the Northwest of which any record has been left, but after that period this region was visited by various parties at long intervals, and many interesting documents have been preserved giving accounts of their journeys and discoveries.

About the year 1665 several French trad-

ers and the Jesuit, Allouez, visited the country off the western shore of Lake Superior. Early in 1679 we find Daniel G. Du Luth west of Lake Michigan, and it is believed he planted the French arms on Minnesota soil. His records state that "on July 2d he caused his Majesty's arms to be planted in the great village of the Nadousioux, called Kathio, and at Songaskicous and Houetbatons, one hundred and twenty leagues distant from the former." Rev. E. D. Neill in his thorough work relating to early explorers of Minnesota, locates this as being "one hundred and twenty leagues beyond Mille Lacs." Du Luth states that at one point on Minnesota soil he found upon a tree this legend: "Arms of the King cut on this tree in the year 1679." He established several posts, carried on trading with the Indians, and was probably the most prominent of the early explorers. Later he was stationed near Lake Erie and died in 1710. His reports furnish much interesting information regarding the early explorations in the Northwest.

La Salle was given a commission by the King of France in 1678 to "explore the West," and do limited trading. He visited various parts of the Northwest. His jealousy of Du Luth appears to form a considerable portion of his official reports, but it is stated on good authority that he wrote the first description of the upper Mississippi Valley, August 22, 1682, some months before the publication of Father Hennepin's first work, "Description de la Louisiane." He must, however, have obtained his information from one of Hennepin's men.

Father Louis Hennepin's explorations and adventures through the Northwest form an interesting chapter in the earlier history of this region. He was a native of Ath, an inland town of the Netherlands, and had early assumed the robes of priesthood. In 1676 he came to Canada, and two years later was

ordered to join the La Salle exploring expedition. A ship was rigged, and on August 7th, 1679, its sails caught the breezes of Lake Erie—the first European vessel launched on the great lakes. La Salle conducted his expedition to Green Bay, thence along the coast of Lake Michigan, and about the middle of January, 1680, landed it on an eminence near Lake Peoria, on the Illinois River, where he commenced the erection of Fort Crevecoeur. On the last of February of the same year, Father Hennepin, in company with Michael Accault (Ako) and Angelle, left the fort to ascend the Mississippi River. On the 11th of April, 1680, after having reached a point north of the Chippewa River, they were met and taken charge of by a party of over a hundred Sioux Indians. They then proceeded with the Indians to their villages, nearly sixty leagues north of St. Anthony falls. They remained with the Indians some time, being well treated, and on the 25th of July, 1680, they were met by Du Luth, who was accompanied by his interpreter, Faffart, and several French soldiers. They then proceeded to Mille Laes, arriving, according to Father's Hennepin writings, on the 11th of August, 1680. In the latter part of September they started to return to the French settlement, passing by St. Anthony falls. Father Hennepin published two works relating to his discoveries, the first, "Description de la Louisiane," in 1683; the second, "The New Discovery," in 1697. These works called forth much criticism, as there can be no doubt Hennepin greatly magnified his own importance, and exaggerated his services and discoveries. For instance, he claims to have descended the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, before proceeding northward, then returned and proceeded on to the St. Anthony falls. This in the face of his own stated facts—leaving Fort Crevecoeur the last of February, he claims to have made this wonderful trip, and arrived two

miles south of where the city of St. Paul is now located, late in April, giving the 11th of April as the date of their capture by the Indians. However this may be, Father Hennepin's work was not in vain, and his memory is entitled to the credit for that which he did. His publications hastened and facilitated exploration, and his failing—if such it was—should be treated with charity. La Salle speaks of him highly, but charitably says, "it was his failing to magnify those adventures which concerned him."

During 1684, Nicholas Perrot and Le Sueur visited Lake Pepin, and the following winter the French traded with the Indians on Minnesota soil. Perrot had been appointed by the governor of Canada as the commandant for the West, and was accompanied by twenty men. Upon his arrival he caused a stockade to be built on the east bank of Lake Pepin, which bore his name for many years. He discovered a number of lead mines, and his name figures conspicuously in the history of the early French explorations and frontier work. Perrot remained for some time after building the fort, then, in 1686, returned to Green Bay. He passed much time in collecting allies for the expedition against the Iroquois in New York, and in the spring of 1687, was with Du Luth and Tonty with the French and Indian allies in the expedition against the Senecas of the Genesee Valley in New York. The following year he was sent with a company of Frenchmen to reoccupy the post on Lake Pepin, in Minnesota, and it was in 1689 that Perrot, in the presence of Father Joseph James Marest, a Jesuit, Boisguiblot, a trader on the Wisconsin and Mississippi, and Le Sueur, made a formal record of taking possession of the Sioux country in the name of the King of France.

Le Sueur, who accompanied Perrot in his first trip to Lake Pepin in 1684, was intimately connected with that explorer's move-

ments. In 1692 Le Sueur was sent by Gov. Frontenac, of Canada, to the extremity of Lake Superior to maintain peace between the Indian tribes. Entering the Sioux country, in 1694, he established a post upon a prairie island, nine miles below where Hastings is now located. He was accompanied by Penicant and others. Here they established a fort and storehouse and passed the winter, as game was very abundant. On July 15, 1695, Le Sueur went back to Montreal accompanied by a party of Ojibways, and the first Dakotah brave that ever visited Canada. Le Sueur then visited France, and in 1697 received a license to open certain mines that were supposed to exist in Minnesota. The ship in which he was returning was captured by the English, and he was taken to England; when released he returned to France and secured a new commission, but it was afterward suspended. Fortunately, D'Illerville, a kinsman of Le Sueur, was appointed governor of the new territory of Louisiana, and in December, 1699, Le Sueur arrived from France with thirty workmen to proceed to the mines. During the next year he ascended the Minnesota River with his expedition, and in October, 1700, built a fort on the Blue Earth River, which he named L'Huillier. This was occupied by Le Sueur's men until 1702, when it was abandoned because of the hostility of the Indians. Charlevoix, who visited the valley of the lower Mississippi in 1722, says that "Le Sueur spent at least one winter in his fort on the banks of the Blue Earth, and that in the following April he went up to the mine, *about a mile above*, and in twenty-two days they obtained more than 30,000 pounds of the substance—lead." Le Sueur estimated the Sioux Indians at that time as being four thousand families.

In 1703 a little volume was published in France and England by Baron La Hontan, giving an account of his "travels," in

which he claimed to have penetrated and pursued explorations through the territory which now forms Minnesota, farther than any of his predecessors. He states that he found a river tributary to the Mississippi, and describes a journey of 500 miles up this stream, which he named Long River. His wonderful story was believed at the time and the river was placed upon the early maps; but in later years it was discredited and is now by the closest students and ablest historians treated as fabulous.

In September, 1727, Fort Beauharnois was erected and a French post established on the shores of Lake Pepin, under the directions of Sieur de la Perriere. An extensive trade was carried on with the Indians here, and it was occupied for a number of years. In 1728 Veranderie, who had been placed in command of a post on Lake Népigon, began laying plans for finding a communication with the Pacific Ocean. An expedition was fitted out which left Montreal in 1731, under the management of his sons and a nephew, De la Jemeraye, he not joining the party until 1733. A fourth son joined the expedition in 1735. In the autumn of 1731, the party reached Rainy Lake, at the foot of which a post, called Fort St. Pierre, was erected. The next year they reached Lake of the Woods, and established Fort St. Charles on its southwest bank. A few miles from Lake Winnepeg they established a post on the Assinaboine, and a fort was established on the Maurepas (Winnepeg) River. In June, 1736, while twenty-one of the expedition were encamped on an isle in the Lake of the Woods, they were surprised by a band of Sioux Indians hostile to the French allies, and all were killed. The island on this account is called Massacre Island. The remaining portion of the expedition progressed as best they could. October 3, 1738, they built an advanced post called Fort la Reine on the Assinaboine River.

They came in sight of the Rocky Mountains on the 1st of January, 1743, and, on the 12th, ascended them. In 1744, after planting a leaden plate of the arms of France in the upper Missouri country, they returned, reaching Minnesota soil late in June, and after establishing several posts in the extreme northern frontier country they finally returned to Montreal. Expeditions were afterward fitted out, one of which again reached the Rocky Mountains, but the clash of arms between France and England put an end to the explorations so far as the French were concerned.

In 1763, by the treaty of Versailles, France ceded Minnesota east of the Mississippi to England and west of it to Spain. In 1766 Capt. Jonathan Carver, the first British subject, although a native of Connecticut, visited the Falls of St. Anthony. He spent some three years among the different tribes of Indians in the upper Mississippi country; found the Indian nations at war and succeeded in making peace between them. As a reward for his good offices, it is claimed that two chiefs of the Sioux, acting for their nation, at a council held with Carver at a great cave, now within the corporate limits of St. Paul, deeded to Carver a vast tract of land on the Mississippi River, extending from the Falls of St. Anthony to the foot of Lake Pepin, on the Mississippi, thence east one hundred miles; thence north one hundred and twenty miles; thence west to the place of beginning. This pretended grant, however, was examined by our government and totally ignored.

At the beginning of the present century there were no white men in Minnesota, except the few engaged in the fur trade, and the posts were chiefly held by the Northwest Company, which corporation in 1794 erected a stockade at Sandy Lake. In 1802 we find William Morrison trading at Leech Lake, and two years later at Itasca. In the meantime,

in 1796, the laws of the ordinance of 1787 had been extended over the Northwest, and on May 7, 1800, that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi had become a part of Indiana by the division of Ohio. On the 20th of December, 1803, that part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi, for forty years in the possession of Spain as a part of Louisiana, was ceded to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte, who had just obtained it from Spain. In 1804 Upper Louisiana Territory was constituted. During the following year the United States for the first time sent an officer to Minnesota, in the person of Lieut. Z. M. Pike, who established government relations and obtained the Fort Snelling reservation from the Dakotahs. He remained here for some time, but the war of 1812 coming on postponed the military occupation of the upper Mississippi by the United States for several years. Pike afterward fell in battle at York, in Upper Canada.

In 1817 the Earl of Selkirk, a nobleman, visited the Scotch colony on the Red River, established in 1812, and created quite an excitement on the part of some of the United States authorities. The same year Mayor Stephen H. Long, of the United States Engineer Corps, visited Minnesota and made a report recommending the bluff at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers as a site for a fort.

In 1819 Minnesota east of the Mississippi River became a part of Crawford County, Mich. During the same year Fort Snelling was established and the site of Mendota was occupied by the United States troops, under Col. Leavenworth. Major Taliaferro was appointed Indian agent.

During the year 1820 much of interest transpired on Minnesota soil. Early in the spring Jean Baptiste Faribault brought Leavenworth's horses from Prairiedu Chien. On the 5th of May Col. Leavenworth established summer quarters at Camp Coldwater,

(Hennepin County). In July Gov. Cass, of Michigan, visited the camps. In August Col. Joshua Snelling succeeded Leavenworth in command, and on the 20th of September the corner-stone of Fort Snelling (then Fort St. Anthony) was laid. On the 15th of April the superintendent of farming for Earl Selkirk left Prairie du Chien, having purchased seed wheat; he ascended the Minnesota River to Big Stone Lake, where the boats were placed on rollers, dragged a short distance to Lake Traverse, and reached Pembina June 3. This year the first marriage in Minnesota occurred. Lieut. Green to a daughter of Capt. Gooding. The first birth of a white child in the State occurred this year, a daughter to Col. Snelling; died the following year.

In 1821 Fort St. Anthony (Snelling) was sufficiently completed to be occupied by troops. During this year a sawmill was constructed at St. Anthony Falls for the use of the garrison under the supervision of Lieut. McCabe.

Nothing of particular interest transpired during 1822. In 1823, however, the first steamboat, the Virginia, arrived at the mouth of the Minnesota River on the 10th of May, and created consternation among the Indians. Beltrami, the Italian, during the same year explored the northernmost sources of the Mississippi, and Maj. Long, of the United States army, visited the northern boundary by way of the Minnesota and Red rivers. Millstones for grinding flour were sent to St. Anthony to be placed in the sawmill.

In 1824 Gen. Winfield Scott visited Fort St. Anthony, and at his suggestion the name was changed to Fort Snelling.

After this time events crowd rapidly one after the other to fill in the time. From 1825 on, the arrival of steamboats became more frequent. During this year a heavy flood visited the Red River, and a portion of the colony were driven to Minnesota and settled near Fort Snelling.

In 1832 Schoolcraft explored the sources of the Mississippi River, and during the following year Rev. W. T. Boutwell established the first mission among the Ojibways on Leech Lake. About the same time E. F. Ely opened a mission school at Atkins, a trading post on Sandy Lake.

That portion of Minnesota lying west of the Mississippi River was attached to Michigan in 1834. During this year Gen. H. H. Sibley settled at Mendota as agent for the fur company, and Samuel W. and Gideon H. Pond, missionaries among the Sioux, arrived. They were followed the next year by T. S. Williamson, J. D. Stevens and Alexander G. Huggins, and in June, 1835, a Presbyterian Church was organized at Fort Snelling. Late the same year Maj. J. L. Bean, in accordance with the treaty of 1825, surveyed the Sioux and Chippeway boundary line as far as Otter Tail Lake.

In 1836 the Territory of Wisconsin was organized, embracing all of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River; that territory west of the river being attached to Iowa. A number of steamboats arrived during this year, a passenger on one of them being the distinguished French astronomer, Jean N. Nicollet.

In 1837 Gov. Dodge, of Wisconsin, made a treaty at Fort Snelling with the Ojibways, by which the latter ceded all their pine lands on the St. Croix and its tributaries; a treaty was also effected at Washington with a deputation of Dakotahs for their pine lands east of the Mississippi. These treaties led the way to the first actual settlements in the State. The treaty was ratified by Congress in 1838. At about this time Franklin Steele made a claim at St. Anthony Falls; Pierre Parrant took a claim and built a cabin on the present site of St. Paul; Jeremiah Russell and L. W. Stratton made the first claim at Marine in the St. Croix Valley. During the year 1838 a steamboat arrived at Fort Snelling with J. N. Nicollet and J. C.

Fremont on a scientific expedition. Development begins in the St. Croix Valley. The next year the chapel of "St. Paul" was built and consecrated, giving the name to the capital of the State.

Henry M. Rice arrived at Fort Snelling in 1840, others came and in November, 1841, St. Croix County was established with "Dakotah" designated as the county-seat.

On the 10th of October, 1843, a settlement was commenced on the present site of the city of Stillwater, and the erection of a saw-mill was immediately commenced. The names of the town proprietors were: John McKusiek, from Maine; Calvin Leach, from Vermont; Elam Greeley, from Maine and Elias McKeane, from Pennsylvania.

Dr. E. D. Neill in his "Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota," says that in 1846 "the site of St. Paul was chiefly occupied by a few shanties, owned by 'certain lewd fellows of the baser sort,' who sold rum to the soldiers and Indians." On the 6th of August, 1846, the Wisconsin enabling act was passed.

In 1847 St. Croix County was detached from Crawford County, Wis., and reorganized for civil and judicial purposes with Stillwater as the county-seat. The town of St. Paul was surveyed and platted, and recorded in St. Croix County. During this year the Wisconsin constitutional convention was held.

On the 29th of May, 1848, Wisconsin was admitted to the Union, leaving Minnesota (with its present boundaries) without a government, and on the 26th of the following August a convention was held at Stillwater to take measures for a separate territorial organization. On the 30th of October, 1848, Henry H. Sibley was elected delegate to Congress, and he was admitted to a seat January 15, 1849. March 3d, 1849, a bill was passed organizing Minnesota Territory, and on the 19th of the same month territorial officers were appointed. June 1st Gov. Ramsey issued a proclamation declaring

the territory organized, and on September 3d the first territorial Legislature assembled. In 1851 the capital of the State was permanently located, as was also the penitentiary. In June, 1854, the first line of railway was completed to St. Paul.

On the 23d of February, 1857, an act passed the United States Senate, to authorize the people of Minnesota to form a constitution, preparatory to their admission to the Union. In June a constitutional convention was held, and the State constitution was framed. This was adopted on the 13th of October, 1857, and a full list of State officers was elected. On the 11th of May, 1858, the President approved of the bill admitting the State, and Minnesota was fully recognized as one of the United States of America. The first State officers were sworn in on the 24th of May.

From this time on we can only briefly review the most important events that have transpired. A great tide of immigration had set in early in the "fifties," which rapidly filled up portions of the State, until in 1857 a census gave the State a total population of 150,037. During that year, however, real estate speculation reached a climax, and the terrible financial panic occurred which greatly retarded the settlement.

In 1858 the State loan of \$250,000 was negotiated; five million loan bill was passed, being voted on April 15; great stringency in money market.

During 1859 the hard times continued to intensify. "Wright County War" occurred; "Glencoe" and "Owatonna" money was issued; work on the land grant roads ceased; collapse of the five million scheme; first export of grain that fall; hard political struggle, in which the Republicans triumphed.

Another warm political canvass occurred in 1860; the census taken this year gave the State a total population of 172,123.

In 1861 war cast its gloom over the country; on April 13th the President's proclamation for troops was received; the first regiment recruited at once, and June 22d it embarked at Fort Snelling for the seat of war.

In 1862 occurred the memorable Sioux outbreak; August 17th, massacre at Acton; August 18th, outbreak at Lower Sioux Agency; 19th, New Ulm attacked; 20th, Fort Ridgely attacked; 25th, second attack on New Ulm; 30th, Fort Abercrombie besieged; September 1st, the bloody affair at Birch Coolie; 19th, first railroad in Minnesota in operation, between St. Paul and Minneapolis; 22d, battle of Wood Lake; 26th, captives surrendered by the Indians at Camp Release; military commission tried 321 Indians for murder, 303 condemned to die; December 26th, thirty-eight hung at Mankato.

In 1863 Gen. Sibley conducted an expedition to the Missouri River; July 3d, Little Crow was killed; July 24th, battle of Big Mound; 26th, battle of Dead Buffalo Lake; July 28th, battle of Stony Lake.

In 1864 the civil war was still in progress, and large levies for troops were made in Minnesota; expedition to Missouri River, under Sully; inflation of money market; occasional Indian raids.

In 1865 the war closed and peace returns; Minnesota regiments return and are disbanded; in all, 25,052 troops were furnished by the State; census showed 250,000 inhabitants.

After the close of the war, and from 1866 until 1872, "good times" prevailed; immigra-

tion was very heavy, and real estate and all values were inflated. The western portion of the State received many settlers. Railway construction was very active.

In 1873 the famous grasshopper raid began throughout the western part of the State, and continued about five seasons. January 7-8-9 of this year, a terrible storm swept over the State, in which seventy persons perished. In September of the same year, the financial "panic of 1873" began.

In 1874 and 1875 nothing of especial importance occurred.

On the 7th of September, 1876, an attack was made on the Bank of Northfield by a gang of armed outlaws from Missouri; three of the latter were killed, and three were captured.

In 1877 biennial sessions amendment was adopted.

In 1878 (May 2), three flouring mills at Minneapolis exploded, and eighteen lives lost.

On November 15th, 1880, a portion of the hospital for the insane, at St. Peter, was destroyed by fire; eighteen inmates were burned to death, seven died subsequently of injuries and fright, and six were missing. Total loss was \$150,000.

In 1881 the State capitol at St. Paul was destroyed by fire.

In 1884 the State prison, located at Stillwater, was partly burned.

In 1886 (April 14), a cyclone swept over St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids, demolishing scores of buildings, and killing about seventy people.

CHAPTER III.

THE INDIAN MASSACRE.



THE outbreak of the Indians in 1862 furnishes one of the most interesting chapters in Minnesota's history. At the time of this sad tragedy there were scattered throughout the State various bands of Sioux Indians, a powerful and warlike nation. They included the Medawakontons (or Village of the Spirit Lake); Wapatoms. (or Village of the Leaves); Sissetons (or Village of the Marsh), and Wapakutas (or Leaf Shooters). These four tribes, numbering about six thousand and two hundred persons, comprised the entire annuity Sioux of Minnesota. All these Indians had from time to time, from the 19th of July, 1815, to the date of the massacre in 1862, received presents from the government, by virtue of various treaties of amity and friendship. From the time of the treaty of St. Louis in 1816, these tribes had remained friendly to the whites, and had by treaty stipulations parted with all the lands to which they claimed title in Iowa; all on the east side of the Mississippi River, and all on the Minnesota River in Minnesota, except certain reservations. One of these reservations lay upon both sides of the Minnesota ten miles on either side of that stream, from Hawk River on the north to Yellow Medicine River on the south side, thence westerly to the head of Big Stone Lake and Lake Traverse, a distance of about one hundred miles. Another of these reservations commenced at Little Rock River on the east and a line running due south from its mouth, and extending up the river westerly to the eastern line of the reserva-

tion first named, at the Hawk and Yellow Medicine rivers. The last also had a width of ten miles on each side of the Minnesota River.

Early in 1858 a scheme was devised by the authorities at Washington for the civilization of these annuity Indians. A civilization fund was provided, to be taken from their annuities and expended in improving the lands of such as should abandon their tribal relations and adopt the habits and modes of life of the whites. To all such, lands were assigned in severalty, eighty acres to the head of each family, on which should be erected the necessary farm buildings, and farming implements and cattle furnished him. At the time of the outbreak about one hundred and seventy-five Indians had taken advantage of the provisions of this treaty and become "farmer Indians." A great majority of the Indians, however, disliked the idea of taking any portion of their general fund to carry out the civilization scheme. Those who retained the blanket, called "blanket Indians," denounced the measure as a fraud, as it was slowly but surely destroying what was, to them, their God-given right to the chase. The result, in brief, of this civilization scheme was this: After the chase was over the "blanket Indians" would pitch their tents about the homes of the "farmer Indians" and proceed to eat them out of house and home, and when the ruin was complete, the "farmer" with his wife and children, driven by necessity, would again seek temporary subsistence in the chase. During their absence the "blanket Indians" would commit whatever destruc-

tion of fences or tenements their desires or necessities would suggest. In this way the annual process continued, so that when the "farmer Indian" returned to his desolate home in the spring to prepare again for a crop, he looked forward to no different results for the coming winter. It will thus be seen that the civilization scheme was an utter failure.

The treaty referred to, of 1858, had opened for settlement a vast frontier country of the most attractive character in the valley of the Minnesota River, and on the streams putting into the Minnesota on either side, such as Beaver Creek, Sacred Heart, Hawk and Chippewa rivers, and some other small streams, there were flourishing settlements of white families. Within this ceded tract, ten miles wide, were the scattered settlements of Birch Coolie, Patterson Rapids, and others as far up as the upper agency at Yellow Medicine, in Renville County. The county of Brown adjoined the reservation, and was at that time settled mostly by Germans. Here was also the flourishing town of New Ulm, and further on was a thriving settlement on the Big Cottonwood and Watonwan. Other counties, Blue Earth, Nicollet, Sibley, Meecker, McLeod, Kandiyohi, Monongalia and Murray, together with others somewhat removed from the direct attack of the Indians, as Wright, Stearns and Jackson, and even reaching on the north to Fort Abercrombie, thus extending from Iowa to the valley of the Red River of the North, were severally involved in the consequences of the warfare of 1862. This extended area had a population estimated at over fifty thousand.

Early in the fifties complaints began to be made by the Indians, and dissatisfaction began to be manifest. By the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, dated July 23, 1851, between the United States and the Sissetons and Wapaton, \$275,000 was to be paid their

chiefs, and a further sum of \$30,000 was to be expended for their benefit in Indian improvements. By the treaty of Mendota, dated August 5, 1851, the Medawakantons and Wapakutas were to receive the sum of \$200,000, to be paid to their chief, and a further sum of \$30,000. These several sums amounting in the aggregate to \$550,000, these Indians, to whom they were payable, claim they were never paid, except perhaps a small portion expended in improvements. This led to great dissatisfaction, of which the government was fully apprised. Several parties were at different times sent out by the Indian department of the government to investigate into the causes, but the rascality of the agents and officers who had defrauded the Indians had been carefully covered up, and as usual in such cases the guilty parties were exculpated. This was one of the leading and most important causes which led to the massacre of 1862.

Another cause of irritation among these annuity Sioux arose out of the Spirit Lake massacre of 1857—known as the Inkpadutah massacre. Inkpadutah was an outlaw of the Wapakuta band of Sioux Indians, and his acts were entirely disclaimed by the "annuity Sioux." He had committed murder in his own tribe some twenty years previous, and since had led a wandering and marauding life about the headwaters of the Des Moines River and westward to Dakota. Finally his outrages reached a climax, when early in 1857 with a few of his followers, he proceeded to murder every family in the little settlement about Spirit Lake, Iowa, except four women whom they bore away captives. From there they went to the Springfield settlement (on the present site of Jackson, Minn.), where they murdered seventeen people, making a total of forty seven persons killed. They then retreated westward. Shortly after the massacre at Springfield (now Jackson) a company of regular soldiers under Capt. Bee

was stationed at that place, and had the officer been a zealous or capable one might easily have overtaken and punished them. As stated the "annuity Sioux" disclaimed the acts of this outlaw; but for a time the government refused to pay the annuities until they should deliver up the murderers. In a short time, however, the government let the matter drop, and continued to pay the annuities as before. Some thought that this was a great error and that the Indians mistook it for a sign of weakness.

However that may be, as time went on the Indians became more and more insolent, and Little Crow, together with a few leaders among the annuity Sioux, from the time the government ceased its efforts to punish Inkpadutah, began to agitate and plan the great conspiracy to drive the whites from the State of Minnesota. Little Crow was one of the "farmer Indians," whose headquarters was a short distance above the Lower Agency, who is credited with being the leader in the outbreak against the whites.

The antecedent exciting causes of this massacre are numerous. The displaced agents and traders find the cause in the erroneous action of the government, resulting in their removal from office. The statesman and the philosopher may unite in tracing the cause to improper theories as to the mode of acquiring the right to Indian lands. The former may locate the evil in our system of treaties, and the latter in our theories of government. The philanthropist may find the cause in the absence of justice which we exhibit in all our intercourse with the Indian races. The poet and the lovers of romance in human character find the true cause, as they believe, in the total absence of all appreciation of the noble, generous, confiding traits peculiar to the native Indian. The Christian teacher finds apologies for acts of Indian atrocities in the deficient systems of mental and moral culture. Each of these

different classes are satisfied that the great massacre of August, 1862, had its origin in some way intimately connected with his favorite theory.

Maj. Thomas Galbraith, Sioux agent, says, in writing of the causes which led to the massacre: "The radical, moving cause of the outbreak is, I am satisfied, the ingrained and fixed hostility of the savage barbarian to reform and civilization. As in all barbarous communities in the history of the world the same people have, for the most part, resisted the encroachments of civilization upon their ancient customs, so it is in the case before us. Nor does it matter materially in what shape civilization makes its attack. Hostile, opposing forces meet in conflict, and a war of social elements is the result — civilization is aggressive, and barbarism stubbornly resistant. Sometimes, indeed, civilization has achieved a bloodless victory, but generally it has been otherwise. Christianity, itself, the true basis of civilization, has, in most instances, waded to success through seas of blood. . . . Having stated thus much, I state, as a settled fact in my mind, that the encroachments of Christianity, and its handmaid, civilization, upon the habits and customs of the Sioux Indians, is the cause of the late terrible Sioux outbreak. There were, it is true, many immediate inciting causes, which will be alluded to and stated hereafter, but they are subsidiary to, and developments of, or incident to, the great cause set forth. . . . But that the recent Sioux outbreak would have happened at any rate, as a result, a fair consequence of the cause here stated, I have no doubt.

"Now as to the existing or immediate causes of the outbreak: By my predecessor a new and radical system was inaugurated; practically, and in its inauguration, he was aided by the Christian missionaries and by the government. The treaties of 1858 were

ostensibly made to carry this new system into effect. The theory, in substance, was to break up the community system which obtained among the Sioux, weaken and destroy their tribal relations, and individualize them, by giving them each a separate home. . . . On the 1st day of June, A. D. 1861, when I entered upon the duties of my office, I found that the system had just been inaugurated. Some hundred families of the annuity Sioux had become novitiates, and their relatives and friends seemed to be favorably disposed to the new order of things. But I also found that, against these were arrayed over five thousand 'annuity Sioux,' besides at least three thousand Yanktonais, all inflamed by the most bitter, relentless and devilish hostility.

"I saw, to some extent, the difficulty of the situation, but I determined to continue, if in my power, the civilization system. To favor it, to aid and build it up by every fair means, I advised, encouraged, and assisted the farmer novitiates; in short I sustained the policy inaugurated by my predecessor, and sustained and recommended by the government. I soon discovered that the system could not be successful without a sufficient force to protect the 'farmer' from the hostility of the 'blanket' Indians.

"During my term, and up to the time of the outbreak, about 175 had their hair cut and had adopted the habits and customs of the white men.

"For a time, indeed, my hopes were strong that civilization would soon be in the ascendant. But the increase in the civilization party and their evident prosperity, only tended to exasperate the Indians of the 'ancient customs,' and to widen the breach. But while these are to be enumerated, it may be permitted me to hope that the radical cause will not be forgotten or overlooked; and I am bold to express this desire, because, ever since the outbreak, the public journals of the

country, religious and secular, have teemed with editorials by and communications from 'reliable individuals,' politicians, philanthropists, philosophers and hired 'penny a-liners,' mostly mistaken and sometimes willfully and grossly false, giving the cause of the Indian raid."

Maj. Galbraith enumerates a variety of other exciting causes of the massacre, which our limit will not allow us to insert in this volume. Among other causes, . . . that the United States was itself at war, and that Washington was taken by the negroes. . . . But none of these were, in his opinion, the cause of the outbreak.

The Major then adds:

"Grievances such as have been related, and numberless others akin to them, were spoken of, recited, and chanted at their councils, dances and feasts, to such an extent that, in their excitement, in June, 1862, a secret organization known as the 'Soldiers' Lodge' was founded by the young men and soldiers of the lower Sioux, with the object, as far as I was able to learn through spies and informers, of preventing the 'traders' from going to the pay-tables, as had been their custom. Since the outbreak I have become satisfied that the real object of this 'Lodge' was to adopt measures to 'clean out' all the white people at the end of the payment."

Whatever may have been the cause of the fearful and bloody tragedy, it is certain that the manner of the execution of the infernal deed was a deep-laid conspiracy, long cherished by Little Crow, taking form under the guise of the "Soldiers' Lodge," and matured in secret Indian councils. In all these secret movements Little Crow was the moving spirit.

Now the opportune moment seemed to have come. Only thirty soldiers were stationed at Fort Ridgely. Some thirty were all that Fort Ripley could muster, and at

Fort Abererombie, one company under Capt. Van Der Horck was all the whites could depend upon to repel any attack in that quarter. The whole effective force for the defense of the entire frontier, from Pembina to the Iowa line, did not exceed 200 men. The annuity money was daily expected, and no troops except about one hundred men at Yellow Medicine, had been detailed, as usual, to attend the anticipated payment. Here was a glittering prize to be paraded before the minds of the excited savages. The whites were weak; they were engaged in a terrible war among themselves; their attention was now directed toward the great struggle in the South. At such a time, offering so many chances for rapine and plunder, it would be easy to unite at least all the annuity Indians in one common movement. Little Crow knew full well that the Indians could easily be made to believe that now was a favorable time to make a grand attack upon the border settlements.

A memorable council convened at Little Crow's village, near the lower agency, on Sunday night, August 3, previous to the attack on Fort Ridgely, and precisely two weeks before the massacres at Acton. Little Crow was at this council, and he was not wanting in ability to meet the greatness of the occasion. The proceedings of this council, of course, were secret. The council matured the details of the conspiracy. It appears that the next day, August 4, a party of ninety-six Indians in war paint and fully armed, rode up to Fort Ridgely and requested permission to hold a dance and feast in the fort. They were allowed to hold the dance outside the fort, but Sergeant Jones, with singular foresight, mounted a howitzer charged with shell and canister-shot and guarded the entrance, having it pointed toward the Indians. After finishing the dance the red-skins left without making the attack, which had undoubtedly been medi-

tated. Only thirty soldiers occupied the post at Fort Ridgely, and this was deemed amply sufficient for times of peace.

On the same day a great many Indians were encamped about the Upper Agency. They were afraid they would not get their annuity money, which had not arrived as yet. They had been complaining bitterly of starvation, and on this day made an attack on the warehouse, carrying off a great deal of flour and other provisions. The matter, however, was finally adjusted, and the agent issued rations, promising to distribute their money as soon as it should arrive. None of the Indians, however, were punished for their attack on the supply house.

We now come to the massacre itself, the first blow of which fell upon the town of Acton, in Meeker County, about thirty-five miles northeast of the Lower Sioux Agency. On Sunday, August 17, 1862, six Sioux Indians brutally murdered a man named Jones, with his wife and a daughter, and a man named Webster and Howard Baker.

On the next day, Monday, the massacre at the Lower Agency occurred, where many were killed and fearfully mutilated. A few escaped and made their way to the eastern settlements. The Indians declared it to be their intention to kill or drive off all the whites to the east of the Mississippi River, and to spare none. All that day the work of plunder went on at the lower agency, and when the stores and dwellings had been emptied, they were fired. So complete was the surprise and so sudden and unexpected the terrible blow that not a single one of the host of savages was slain. In thirty minutes from the time the first gun was fired not a white person was left alive. All were either weltering in their gore or had fled in fear and terror from that place of death. It seems that hundreds of the Indians had gathered here and then dispersed

through the scattered settlements for their murderous work.

On the same morning—of August 18—the massacre began on the north side of the Minnesota River, from Birch Coolie to Beaver Creek and beyond, and the region was strewn with the mutilated bodies of the dead and dying men, women and children. So the terrible warfare continued, murdering and burning; none were allowed to escape who could possibly be discovered. The outbreak extended over a vast scope of country, and the Indians numbered well up into the thousands. The entire length of the Minnesota and its tributaries, and out into Dakota, together with all the western part of this State was the scene everywhere of a carnival of blood. The counties affected have already been named.

On the 18th of August the Indians attacked New Ulm, and after several battles and skirmishes were defeated. A few days later the whites evacuated the town and moved toward Mankato.

On the 18th of August the battle at Lower Agency Ferry was fought.

On the 20th, seeing they were foiled in their attack on New Ulm, they made a furious assault on Fort Ridgely. A number of whites were killed and wounded, but the Indians were defeated. The attack was renewed on the 22d and another severe battle occurred, which was ended by night coming on.

Numerous engagements were also fought in the northern part of the State.

Throughout all the Minnesota River country many women and children were taken prisoners. In the meantime companies had been raised and were everywhere following up the Indians and guarding the various posts at which the settlers had gathered. These various companies had also picked up a great many wounded found on the prairies, and also buried the dead. On the 1st of September,

Company A, Sixth Regiment Minnesota Volunteers, under Capt. H. P. Grant, fought the battle of Birch Coolie, a most terrible and bloody engagement. The noble little band of soldiers were relieved on September 3, by an advance movement of Col. Sibley's forces at Fort Ridgely. The signal defeat of Little Crow at this battle, in effect, ended the efforts of the Indians in subduing the whites on the border. After this battle all of the Indian forces under Little Crow began a retreat up the valley of the Minnesota toward Yellow Medicine; and on September 16, Col. Sibley, with his whole column, moved in pursuit of the fleeing foe, and on the 23d they came up with the Indians and defeated them in the battle of Wood Lake. This put an end to the hopes of Little Crow. On the same day as the battle of Wood Lake, the Wapeton band of Indians surrendered later and turned over to Col. Sibley all the captives—107 whites and 162 half-breeds. This place has since been known as "Camp Release."

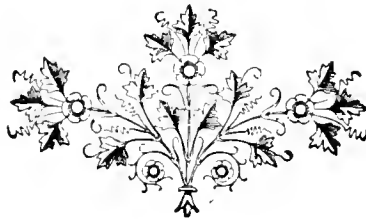
After the disaster at Wood Lake, Little Crow retreated in the direction of Big Stone Lake, with those who remained with him. The chief was never captured, but is said to have been killed at Scattered Lake in 1863. Col. Sibley continued to pursue the deserting Indians, and demanded the surrender of all bands. By the 8th of October, 1862, prisoners had come in and surrendered to the number of 2,000. Scouting parties were sent over various parts of the West, and, until all danger of further depredations was past, soldiers were stationed at all of the frontier posts and settlements.

A military commission was soon after inaugurated to try the parties charged with murder of white persons. On the 5th of November, 1862, 321 Indians and their allies were found guilty, and 303 were recommended for capital punishment, and the others for imprisonment. They were im-

mediately removed under a guard of 1,500 men to South Bend, on the Minnesota River, to await further orders from the government. The final decision of the President was rendered on the 17th of December, 1862, ordering that forty of these be hung on Friday, December 26. One of these died a short time before the day set, and one other, a half breed, had his sentence commuted to imprisonment for life just before the fatal

day. As to the other thirty-eight the sentence was executed at Mankato on the day set.

On the 16th of February, 1863, the treaties before that time existing between the United States and these "annuity Indians" were abrogated and annulled, and all lands and rights of occupancy, and all annuities and claims then existing in favor of said Indians, were declared forfeited. Thus ended the saddest chapter of Minnesota's history.



CHAPTER IV.

TERRITORIAL AND STATE OFFICERS.

TERRITORIAL OFFICERS.



THE first governor of the Territory of Minnesota was Alexander Ramsey, who served from June 1, 1849, to May 15, 1853. Willis A. Gorman succeeded him, and held the office until April 23, 1857. Samuel Medary was the next territorial governor, and held the office until the State officers were sworn in, May 24, 1858.

The first secretary of the Territory was Charles K. Smith, who served from June 1, 1849, until October 23, 1851, when Alexander Wilkin qualified and held the office until May 15, 1853. Joseph Travis Rosser was the next, and served until April 23, 1857. Charles L. Chase, the last territorial secretary, qualified on the date last named and served until succeeded by the newly chosen secretary of state, May 24, 1858.

The office of territorial treasurer was first filled by Calvin A. Tuttle, who served from November 3, 1849, to July 2, 1853. George W. Prescott came next and retained the position until February 24, 1854. Succeeding him Charles E. Leonard served until May 7, 1857, when George W. Armstrong was appointed and served until the State officers qualified, May 24, 1858.

J. E. McKusick was the first territorial auditor, qualifying November 3, 1849, and serving until November 30, 1852. A. Van Vorhees succeeded him and held the office until the 15th of May, 1853, when Socrates Nelson qualified. January 17, 1854, Julius Georgii took charge of the office and served until succeeded by the State auditor, May 24, 1858.

During the existence of the Territory of Minnesota, Lorenzo A. Babcock and then Lafayette Emmett were the only ones to hold the office of attorney general. The first named served from June 1, 1849, until May 15, 1853, and the latter from 1853 until May 24, 1858.

In territorial times there were no district judges, but the justices of the supreme court attended to all judicial matters now within the jurisdiction of the district bench. The first chief justice of the territorial supreme court was Aaron Goodrich, who served from June 1, 1849, to November 13, 1851, when Jerome Fuller was appointed and presided until December 16, 1852. Henry Z. Hayner was next appointed, but never presided at a term of court. William H. Welch was appointed April 7, 1853, and served until May 24, 1858.

David Cooper and Bradley B. Meeker were the first associate justices, and served from June 1, 1849, until April 7, 1853. Their successors were Andrew G. Chatfield and Moses G. Sherburne, who retained the positions until April, 1857, and were followed by R. R. Nelson and Charles E. Flandrau, who served until the State officers qualified.

The clerks of the territorial supreme court were: James K. Humphrey, Andrew J. Whitney and George W. Prescott, in the order named. The reporters were: William Hollinshead, Isaac Atwater, John B. Brisbin, M. E. Ames and Harvey Officer.

Henry H. Sibley was the first delegate from the Territory to Congress, serving from January 15, 1849, to March 4, 1853. Henry

M. Rice was the second, serving from December 5, 1853, to March 4, 1857, when he was succeeded by W. W. Kingsbury, who qualified December 7, 1857, and whose term expired May 11, 1858.

STATE OFFICERS.

The governors of the State of Minnesota, in their order have been as follows: Henry H. Sibley, from May 24, 1858, to January 2, 1860; Alexander Ramsey, to July 10, 1863; Henry A. Swift, to January 11, 1864; Stephen Miller, during 1864-5; William R. Marshall, during 1866-7-8-9; Horace Austin, during 1870-1-2-3; Cushman K. Davis, during 1874-5; John S. Pillsbury, during 1876-7-8-9-80-81; Lucius F. Hubbard, during 1882-3-4-5-6, and A. R. McGill, the present governor, who assumed the duties of the office January 5, 1887.

The lieutenant governors since the organization of the State have been as follows: William Holecomb, from May 24, 1858, to January 2, 1860; Ignatius Donnelly, to March 3, 1863; Henry A. Swift, to July 10, 1863; Charles D. Sherwood, during 1864-5; Thomas H. Armstrong, during 1866-7-8-9; William H. Yale, during 1870-1-2-3; Alphonzo Barto, during 1874-5; James B. Wakefield, during 1876-7-8-9; C. A. Gillman, during 1880-1-2-3-4-5-6, and A. E. Rice, who qualified January 4, 1887.

The office of secretary of State has been filled successively by the following gentlemen: Francis Baasen, from May 24, 1858, to January 2, 1860; James H. Baker, to November 17, 1862; David Blakely, to January 8, 1866; Henry C. Rogers, during the years 1866-7-8-9; Hans Mattson, during 1870-1; S. P. Jennison, during 1872-3-4-5; John S. Irgens, during 1876-7-8-9; Fred. Von Baumbach, during 1880-1-2-3-4-5-6, and Hans Mattson, during 1887-8.

The State treasurers have been as follows: George W. Armstrong, from May 24, 1858,

to January 2, 1860; Charles Scheffer, during 1860-1-2-3-4-5-6-7; Emil Munch, during 1868-9-70-1; William Seeger, from January 5, 1872, to February 7, 1873; Edwin W. Dyke, to January 7, 1876; William Pfaender, during 1876-7-8-9; Charles Kittelson, during 1880-1-2-3-4-5-6, and Joseph Bobleter, the present treasurer, who was elected for 1887-8.

The auditors of State have been as follows: W. F. Dunbar, from May 24, 1858, to January 1, 1861; Charles McIbrath to January 13, 1873; O. P. Whitecomb, to January 10, 1882, and W. W. Braden, who is the present incumbent of the office.

The office of attorney general has been filled as follows: Charles H. Berry, served from May 24, 1858, to January 2, 1860; Gordon E. Cole, served during 1860-1-2-3-4-5; William Colville, during 1866-7; F. R. E. Cornell, during 1868-9-70-1-2-3; George P. Wilson, during 1874-5-6-7-8-9; Charles M. Start, from January 10, 1880, to March 11, 1881; W. J. Hahn, to January 5, 1887, and Moses E. Clapp, the present attorney general.

The present board of railroad commissioners is made up of Horace Austin, John L. Gibbs and George L. Beeker. Those who have composed the board in the past were: A. J. Edgerton, W. R. Marshall, J. J. Randall, J. H. Baker and S. S. Murdock.

Edward D. Neill was the first superintendent of public instruction for Minnesota. He was appointed in March, 1860, and on the 1st of July, 1861, was succeeded by B. F. Crary. From 1862 to 1867 the secretary of State was *ex-officio* superintendent, but on April 1, 1867, M. H. Dunnell was appointed superintendent, and served until August, 1870, when he was succeeded by H. B. Wilson. April 3, 1875, David Burt was appointed superintendent, and retained the office until succeeded by the present incumbent, D. L. Kiehl, who was appointed September 1, 1881.

The office of insurance commissioner has been held in turn by Pennock Pusey, A. R. McGill and Charles Shandrew; the last named gentleman having been appointed January 6, 1887, is the present commissioner.

The commissioners of statistics have been as follows: J. A. Wheelock, Pennock Pusey, C. F. Solberg, J. B. Phillips, T. M. Metcalf, J. P. Jacobson, F. Sneedorff, Osear Malmros, A. F. Nordin, Victor Hjortsberg and Herman Stockenstrom.

The following is a list of the gentlemen who have filled the office of adjutant-general: Alex. C. Jones, W. H. Acker, John B. Sanborn, Osear Malmros, John Peller, H. P. Van Cleve, M. D. Flower, H. A. Castle, H. P. Van Cleve, A. C. Hawley, C. M. McCarthy and F. W. Seeley.

JUDICIARY.

The first chief justice of the supreme court of the State was Lafayette Emmett, who was sworn in May 24, 1858, and served until January 10, 1865. Thomas Wilson succeeded him and served until July 14, 1869, when he was succeeded by James Gilfillan.

Christopher G. Ripley was the next, holding the position from January 7, 1870, until April 7, 1874, when he was followed by S. J. R. McMillan, who served until March 10, 1875. At that time James Gilfillan became chief justice, and is the present incumbent.

The following statements will show the associate justices, together with the date of qualification of each: Charles E. Flandrau and Isaac Atwater served from May 24, 1858, to July 6, 1864; S. J. R. McMillan from July 6, 1864, to April 7, 1874; Thomas Wilson from July 6, 1864, to January 10, 1865; George B. Young from April 16, 1874, to January 11, 1875; F. R. E. Cornell from January 11, 1875, to May 23, 1881, and Greenleaf Clark from March 14, 1881, to January 12, 1882. The present associate justices are John M. Berry, who first qualified January 10, 1865; D. A. Dickinson, since June 27, 1881; William Mitchell, since March 14, 1881, and C. E. Vanderburgh, since January 12, 1882.

As to district courts, the State is now divided into thirteen districts.



CHAPTER V.

REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, AND THE CREATION OF COUNTIES.



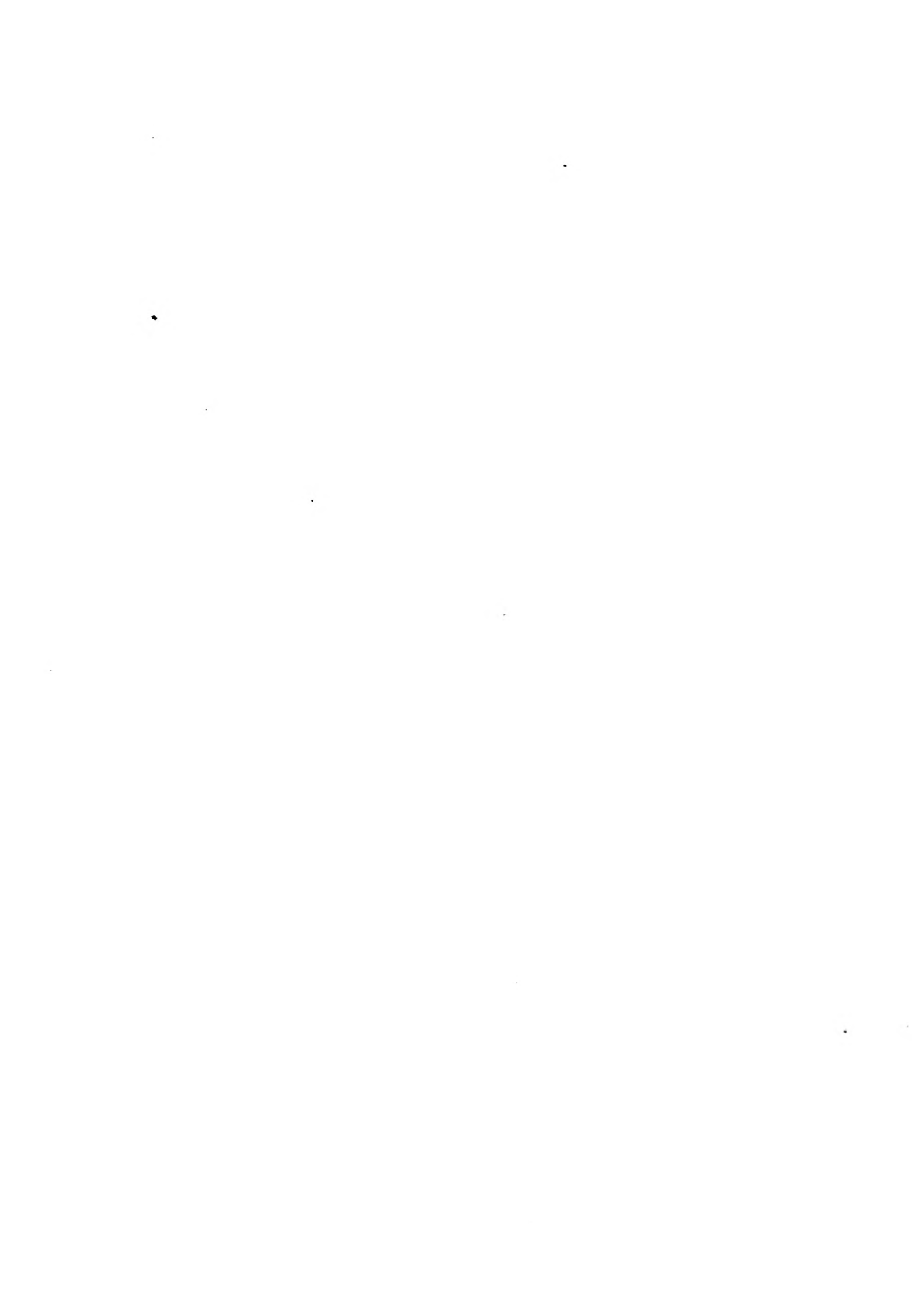
SENATORS. The first United States Senators from Minnesota were James Shields and Henry M. Rice, who took the oath of office May 11, 1858. The former was succeeded on March 4th, 1866, by Morton S. Wilkinson, who served the full term. Daniel S. Norton was sworn in to succeed Wilkinson, March 4, 1867, and died while in office, July 14, 1870. O. P. Stearns was appointed, and served out the few weeks left of the term. William Windom came next, and retained the office until March 12, 1881, when he was succeeded by A. J. Edgerton, who resigned, however, in October of the same year, and William Windom was again chosen, serving until succeeded by one of the present Senators, D. M. Sabin, March 4, 1883.

Henry M. Rice, who was mentioned as a colleague of James Shields, served as United States Senator from May 11, 1858, to March 4, 1863, when Alexander Ramsey succeeded him, and retained the position until March 4, 1875. S. J. R. McMillan became United States Senator on the day last named, and occupied the position for two full terms—twelve years—being succeeded March 4, 1887, by Cushman K. Davis, one of the present Senators.

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

The territorial delegates have already been

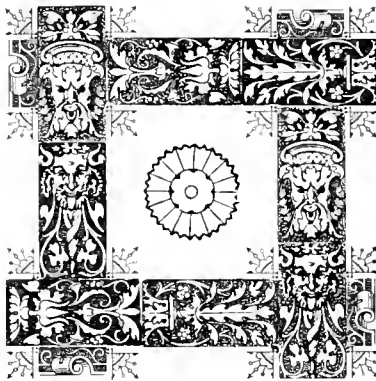
spoken of. When the State of Minnesota was organized, it was entitled to two representatives in the House of Representatives of the United States. This state of affairs continued until 1871, when a reapportionment was made, and the State was allowed three members of the House. At that time the State was divided into three congressional districts—No. 1, embracing the southern, No. 2 the central and No. 3 the northern portion of the State. In 1881 another apportionment was made, by which the State secured five Representatives. This is the present status of the representation. The State is divided into five congressional districts, as follows: The first district includes Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona and Wabasha counties; the second district includes Faribault, Blue Earth, Waseca, Watonwan, Martin, Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Brown, Nicollet, Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Sibley and Le Sueur counties; the third district embraces Goodhue, Rice, Swift, Dakota, Scott, Carver, McLeod, Meeker, Kandiyohi, Renville and Chippewa counties; the fourth district includes Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, Wright, Pine, Kanabec, Anoka, Chisago, Isanti and Sherburne counties, and the fifth district includes Mille Lacs, Benton, Morrison, Stearns, Pope, Douglas, Stevens, Big Stone, Traverse, Grant, Todd,





MEEKER COUNTY,
MINNESOTA.







BIOGRAPHICAL.







HON. WILLIAM H. GREENLEAF, a prominent lumber dealer of the village of Litchfield, is one of the early pioneers of Meeker county who has risen to prominence through his own unaided efforts. He is a native of Allegheny, now Livingston county, New York, born December 7, 1834, and is the son of William and Elmira (Sanford) Greenleaf, natives of the Empire State and Vermont, respectively. The Greenleaf family is of respectable antiquity in this country, the chain of ancestry having been traced back as follows: William Greenleaf, the father of our subject, was the son of Tilly Greenleaf and was born December 23, 1797. Tilly was the son of Israel Greenleaf, and born March 25, 1770. Israel was born March 28, 1732, and was the son of Dr. Daniel Greenleaf, who was born November 7, 1702, died July, 1795, and was the son of Rev. Daniel Greenleaf. The latter was the son of Stephen Greenleaf, Jr., and was born February 10, 1680, and died August 26, 1763, his father's birth having taken place August 15, 1652, and his death October 13, 1743. Stephen Greenleaf, Sr., was born in 1630, and was the son of Edmund Greenleaf, and died December 1, 1690. His father,

Edmund, was born in the parish of Brixham, Devonshire, England, about 1600, and came with his family in 1635 to this country and settled at Newbury, in the colony of Massachusetts Bay. He was the lineal descendant of an old French Huguenot family, who left their home in La Belle France on account of religious persecutions early in the sixteenth century, the name Greenleaf being a literal translation of their French name, Fugilvert.

The subject of this personal memoir, William H., when he was but eight years of age, removed with his parents to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, which in that year, 1843, was but a new country, where his father settled upon a farm. When he had attained the age of seventeen, William H. commenced attending school at the Fort Atkinson Academy, his earlier education having been derived from the common schools, and remained at that institution some two years, after which he acquired a knowledge of civil engineering. In 1856, during the Kansas troubles, he made a trip to that territory with a company raised by Prof. Daniels, for the assistance of the Free Soilers. He returned to Wisconsin where, in 1857, he was engaged as surveyor on the Wisconsin Central railroad. In the

spring of 1858 he came to Meeker county and located upon section 30, Ellsworth township, where he put up a saw mill and improved the water power. He also took up a homestead on section 25, in Greenleaf township, which township was named in his honor. A history of his business operations while in the village of Greenleaf is given in detail elsewhere in this volume. While a resident of that place he was awakened at four o'clock on the morning of August 18, 1862, and told the dreadful tidings of murder and rapine that heralded the terrible massacre of that eventful year, and as soon as possible took his wife and ten-months-old child to St. Paul for security, and then returned to help make a stand against the red fiends who were depopulating the border. He stopped at Hutchinson, where he went through the experience of border warfare with the people of that village and remained that fall. He then went to Minneapolis, where he made his home until March, 1864, and then returned to this county, where he has lived ever since. In the spring of 1872 he removed to Litchfield, and put up some of the first buildings in that town. In 1871 he entered into the general merchandise business in that "burg" in which he continued until 1876. In 1874 he was appointed receiver of the United States Land office at this place and continued in that office, having been reappointed in 1878, until 1879, when he resigned. In 1878 he purchased the lumber yard of M. J. Flynn, and in 1880 that of H. B. Brown, and consolidated the two, thus establishing his present business. In 1882 the present firm was formed by the admission of his son, Charles A., to a full partnership.

In the fall of 1870 Mr. Greenleaf was elected by the people of this district to represent them in the State Legislature, and served continuously for three sessions in that capacity. In 1882 he was sent to the State Senate and for four years was a member of

that august body, looking sharply after the interests of his constituents. He was united in marriage September 27, 1859, with Miss Cordelia J. DeLong, the daughter of Hiram and Maria DeLong, the latter a niece of the celebrated revolutionary general, Ethan Allen. Her father is still living at Greenleaf village at the ripe old age of eighty-nine years. The result of this marriage has been four children—Charles A., of whom a sketch is given elsewhere; Jessie A., now Mrs. H. S. Branham; and twins, Frankie and Fred, deceased.



NORRIS Y. TAYLOR, an enterprising, prosperous and reliable farmer of Ellsworth township, has his home upon section 17. He settled on this place on coming to the county in 1874, and has now a fine farm of 246 acres of excellent arable land for the most part, 110 of which is under a high state of tillage. He carries on general farming, but gives considerable attention to dairy interests, keeping about thirty head of cattle, mostly of Holstein strains.

Our subject is a native of Illinois, born in Vermilion county, October 8, 1850. He commenced life young, for when but sixteen years of age he hired out to work for ten dollars per month. His next move was to work for his board and go to school, with the set purpose of making up for the lack of earlier opportunity. In this way he acquired the elements of an excellent education, taking a course or more in the higher branches, in the schools at Perrysville, Ind. He now commenced farming in the neighborhood of Bismarck. In the spring of 1870, having had an attack of some lung disease, he came to Minnesota and was engaged in lumber yards at Stillwater, but a few months later he moved to St. Paul and was engaged as chairman by a party of Government surveyors. This kind of business recuperating his health and being

agreeable to him, he continued to follow it seven years in one capacity or another until he rose to be superintendent in charge of the party. The north shores of Lake Superior, the White Earth reservation, the Red River valley, and the Leach Lake reservation were all the scenes of his labors. In 1877 he gave up his wandering and came to Meeker county, where he had settled, or rather bought a farm and worked it between his surveying expeditions. Here he remained until 1880, when he accepted the superintendency of the "Nobles county farm," of George I. Seney, of New York, but the next year transferred his services to the executors of the Horace Thompson estate in the same capacity. For three years he managed one of their farms, and then came back here and has remained ever since.

Mr. Taylor was married May 3, 1881, to Miss Fina Shuart, a native of Geauga county, Ohio, and daughter of William and Mary Ann Shuart, and by this union there have been three children—George S., Wilford B., and Marion.

In his views Mr. Taylor is entirely free politically, and independent of party lines. He was elected to the office of town clerk in the spring of 1888, and still holds that office.



JAMES SHELLEY. Among the prominent pioneers of Darwin township, and well-to-do farmers, there is none that has more influence in the community in which he lives than the subject of this sketch. He has his residence upon section 26, on his fine farm of 500 acres, 120 of which are under a high state of cultivation, where he carries on agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Shelley is a native of Ireland, born in County Tipperary, in the parish of Loughmore, where his fathers and ancestors had

lived from time immemorial. In 1848, that eventful year in Irish history, he left his native land and disembarked at New York after a long voyage, and for over seven years was employed at Wilberham, Mass. At the expiration of that time he came West, and after one week spent in Wisconsin, settled in Meeker county. April 29, 1857, he took a claim by preëmption, the northeast quarter of section 22, Darwin township. At that time there were but eight or ten men settled here and the country was in its wild and primitive condition. After putting in his crop of potatoes, corn, etc., and working around some, he went to Minneapolis and fired on board the steamer H. M. Rice, then plying upon the river. Returning to his farm, he passed the winter here and made this his home until the Indian troubles of 1862. Before this he had been accustomed to trade with the Sioux and found them peacefully inclined, although they would steal whatever they could lay their hands on. When he heard of the outbreak he was harvesting, but at once went to Forest City, and the next morning started for Clearwater, where he went to work for Eugene Baldwin. Shortly after he came back and procured some of his things and returned to Clearwater. He was back and forth several times, and in the fall took some of his stock to Minneapolis, and then returned and passed the winter here. He then went to Minneapolis and remained nearly all the time, occasionally coming to his place to see about it, until the spring of 1865, when he came to stay and has lived on his place ever since.

Mr. Shelley was married in 1866 to Miss Mary Vaughan, in Minneapolis, and by this union there have been born four children—William, John, Daniel, and James, all of whom are still living. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shelley are members of the Roman Catholic Church and prompt in the fulfillment of their religious duties.

NC. MARTIN, ex-judge of probate of Meeker county, is one of the most prominent attorneys at Litchfield. He is a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he was born on the 20th of January, 1843. His parents were Samuel M. and Martha (McGrew) Martin; the father a native of Pennsylvania, but who had come to Ohio when young; the mother a native of Ohio. They both died when the subject of this sketch was six years old, and N. C. went to live with his grandmother, who was carrying on a farm. In 1864 she removed to Indiana and our subject remained on the farm, except the time he spent in the army, until he was twenty-eight years of age. On the 2nd of June, 1862, N. C. Martin enlisted in Company G, Eighty-sixth Ohio, and served during that year in West Virginia. He was then mustered out of that regiment, and enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on the 20th of June, 1863. He served in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. He never missed a day's service during his army life, and was finally mustered out as orderly sergeant on the 5th of March, 1864.

In 1870 Mr. Martin began reading law at Bowling Green, Clay county, Ind., with Hon. E. Miles, now of Denver, Colorado. In 1871 he was admitted to the bar and in the spring of 1872 he established the *Clay County Enterprise* at Knightsville, in Indiana, a republican paper which is still running,—the only republican paper in that county. Mr. Martin conducted that paper for one year, and a short time later he struck out for the West for the purpose of locating in Minnesota. After remaining a few days at St. Paul and Minneapolis he came to Litchfield, arriving August 20, 1873, and has since made that his home. While living at Knightsville, Indiana, he was married to Miss Clara S. Ward. Upon his arrival at Litchfield Mr. Martin first engaged in the

law and real estate business, but in 1876 he established the *Litchfield Independent* and ran that as a greenback paper, supporting Peter Cooper for the presidency. He continued in the newspaper business until June, 1877, when he sold out, and the same fall was elected to the office of judge of probate of Meeker county on the greenback ticket. He was three times re-elected, the last time his nomination being endorsed by all the parties. He served from January 1, 1878, until January 1, 1887, and in the fall of 1887 was unanimously renominated, but declined. Since that time Mr. Martin has given his attention wholly to the practice of law, also carrying on an extensive real estate and loan agency. He has always taken an active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of Litchfield. He was one of the principal workers in the original organization of the Frank Daggett Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and has taken an active interest in its progress. He held the office of commander of the post for four successive terms, a fact which speaks for itself, as the office is one which is usually held but one term. In 1879 Mr. Martin was a candidate for Attorney General on the greenback ticket and for a number of years took a very active interest in political matters. Mr. and Mrs. Martin have seven children, Myrtle, Daisy, Clara May, Belle, Emma, Nathan and an infant.



JOHAN M. MOUSLEY, one of the earliest settlers of Meeker county, and an honored and respected citizen of Ellsworth, has his residence upon section 22 of that town, where he first settled in 1858. He is a native of England, born in Manchester December 6, 1827, and is the son of Samuel and Nancy (Mason) Mousley, natives, also, of "Albion." The family came to Canada in 1851, and settled in Elgin county, where



W. H. Guerry

Samuel died of lung disease in 1864. He was born in 1792. His wife, who first saw the light in 1795, died in England in November, 1849. The father of our subject was a cotton dyer by trade, having learned the trade when a boy. He was an excellent citizen, a good Christian man and a kind neighbor. Both he and his estimable wife were members of the Church of England, or Episcopal Church. They were the parents of five children—James, Alfred, Jane, John and Alice.

The subject of this narrative continued to make his home beneath the parental roof until the spring of 1842, when, although but fourteen years of age, he crossed the briny deep to Canada, where he had an uncle living, with whom he made his home for some eight years. During this time he assisted in the work upon the farm and attended the common schools, receiving therefrom the elements of a fair education.

Most of this was obtained under difficulties, as hard and persistent work was the order of the day. He finally commenced to learn the blacksmith's trade with McPherson, Glasgow & Co., but after the expiration of his three years' apprenticeship returned to his uncle's, working for him in the summer. He then took up his trade in the employ of several parties, and continued thus employed until he came to this county, in 1858, as detailed above. After taking his claim of 160 acres of land, the next spring he went to St. Paul and went to work for one Frank Gilman in a foundry. With what he earned he purchased a yoke of oxen and the various tools he would need, and returned here and commenced the development of his farm, and has seen it grow from pristine wildness to its present condition. He has since that, once or twice, worked at his trade, but only for short periods.

Mr. Mousley was married in April, 1864, to Miss Catherine Doane, a native of Canada,

born in 1841, who died in January, 1872, leaving four children—James Alfred, Hattie Jane, Frank M., and Alice Ann. Hattie died in the spring of 1881, when some fifteen years old; and Alice died August 26, 1886. Mr. M. has held the offices of town supervisor, town clerk and school clerk for years.



PETER MARTENSON is engaged in farming on section 25, Litchfield township. He is a son of Marten and Annie Isaacson, and was born in Sweden, on the 27th of February, 1845. Peter was engaged in farming with his father in the old country until 1869, when he started for America. He came direct to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased a tract of railroad land on section 25, in Litchfield township. During the winter of 1871-2 he re-visited the fatherland, but the pleasure of his visit was marred by the death of his father on the very day that he arrived at the old home. In the spring of 1872, he was married to Ellen Larson, a daughter of Lars and Ellen Peterson, and in the following May he returned to the United States, and to his Meeker county home. Four children have been the fruits of their marriage, as follows: Louis, born October 14, 1872; John, born March 29, 1876; Henry, born September 6, 1879; and Annie, born April 2, 1882.

Like others in his neighborhood, Mr. Martenson has suffered from grasshoppers and hailstorms, but his industry and perseverance have enabled him to recover from these reverses and he is now in comfortable circumstances.



MICHAEL DELANEY, a prosperous and industrious farmer of Ellsworth township, residing upon section 16, came to Meeker county in 1877, and located on the place where his home now is. He had

purchased the land some time previous to this, but he has made nearly all, if not all, the improvements here, and he has now a magnificent property consisting of 342 acres lying in this and Greenleaf townships. He is giving a large share of his attention to stock-raising, principally to half and three-quarter-bred Durham, Holstein and Jersey cattle. His home is one of the most beautiful in the township, and attracts the attention of even the most casual observer.

Mr. Delaney is a native of Ireland, born in County Leitrim, July 28, 1828, and is the son of Bernard and Catherine (McWeeny) Delaney, both of whom died in that "ever verdant isle," the mother in 1863, the father in 1873, at the age of ninety years. Bernard Delaney was a farmer and followed that business as best he could in that oppressed land. He was the parent of but two children, Bernard and Michael.

The latter, the subject of this biography, was reared among the beautiful scenery of the West of Ireland, but on attaining manhood felt that he must seek in other countries the freedom from the Saxon's yoke that has oppressed that island for seven centuries, and accordingly, in 1852, emigrated to the United States, landing in New York. From there, after stopping a short time in New Haven, Conn., he went to the State of Virginia, where he was engaged in railroad construction for four years. His next move was to Minneapolis, where he arrived in 1856, and made his home until 1877, except a year spent in Kentucky and Tennessee. At the date last mentioned he moved to Meeker county.

Mr. Delaney was united in marriage in June, 1858, with Miss Mary Garvey, a native County Mayo, Ireland, who had come to the United States a short time before. The ceremony took place in St. Anthony, now Minneapolis. By this union they have had seven children, six of whom survive: Mary, who is a teacher in the St. Paul schools;

John, teaching in Swift County, this State; Kate, who is teaching the school in District 68, Litchfield township; Hannah, who is teaching in District 66, Ellsworth; Nellie and Anthony William.



HON. JAMES B. ATKINSON, one of the pioneers of Meeker county, as well as one of the most prominent citizens, is a native of Kingston, Canada, born November 13, 1822. His parents were both natives of Yorkshire, England, but came to America in 1821, landing in New York, from whence they proceeded to Canada, where James B. was born. About a year later they removed to Black Rock, N. Y., where they remained for about nine years. The father was a stone mason by trade, and during this time was contracting on canal bridges and other heavy work. Later, he purchased a large farm near Freeport, Penn., where he lived until the time of his death. The parents of James B. had four children, three of whom are still living—two in Minnesota and one in Kansas.

James B. Atkinson remained at home with his parents until eighteen years of age, attending common schools most of the time. At the age referred to he began learning the printer's trade at Freeport, following that at various places until he was twenty-two, when he returned home and rented a farm for twenty-one months. The first fall from this experiment, the hay crop cleared him \$600 above all expenses, including the rent for the fall time. The following winter, March 20, 1845, he was married to Miss Abbie Sholes, of Allegheny City, Penn., but remained on the farm until the following fall, when he moved into Freeport and opened a butcher shop. Five or six years later, he sold out and began his afterward extensive business of railroad contracting. His first contract was one for \$8,000 on the Allegheny

Valley road; next on the North-Western, now Pennsylvania, and from that to the Iron Mountain, on which he had a contract for over \$100,000. His next move was to return to Freeport, where he bought a stock of general merchandise and conducted that business for one year. He then came West in search of a location, and spent some time in travelling through the eastern part of Iowa. In the spring of 1856, he decided to come to Minneapolis, and, being pleased with the prospect there, he returned to New York for goods. He was taken sick and laid up for three months. For this reason he did not get back to Minneapolis until August of that year and the same fall came out to Rockford and took up a claim, where he remained thirty days. The town of Rockford had been laid out only that spring: game was abundant and the prospect generally fine. After returning to Minneapolis, where he remained some six weeks, he went East for his family. His household goods were packed and shipped West, but the goods never arrived, nor have they ever been seen or heard of since. Early in the year 1857, he made his first trip to Meeker county, driving through with a team, bringing a load of goods and working his way through the "Big Woods." Upon his arrival he located at Forest City. The county had just been organized and that country village, being the county seat, was the principal point within its limits, although there were neither business nor business houses there at that time. Mr. Atkinson, having brought the first goods to the county, went immediately to work getting up a building. He then returned to Minneapolis for the balance of his goods.

Having, like all others, taken up a claim, he placed his family upon it, and going back to St. Paul, proved up on it, paid for it, and returning with more goods, removed to the village, where he opened his store for business, about March 1, 1857. He, the follow-

ing fall, erected the hotel, which he ran in connection with his other businesses until 1879. The store was kept by him until 1865, when he disposed of it to his partner, he having taken Mark W. Piper in with him in 1862. During the winter of 1861-2 Mr. Atkinson made a trip to Pike's Peak, but came home, arriving at Forest City, August 1, just seventeen days previous to the Indian outbreak. At the time of the organization of the "Home Guards," at Forest City he was elected first lieutenant. The night previous to the attack upon the stockade, ammunition being short, he volunteered to go after a supply, and starting after night, alone, traveled through the "Big Woods," beset with savage enemies, but, although aware of his peril, would not quail or flinch. His undaunted courage carried him through safely, and procuring powder, lead, and soldiers to relieve the garrison, he returned. He had previous to this, in company with Geo. C. Whiteomb, been raising a company for the Sixth Minnesota Infantry, but the outbreak stopped proceedings. He then enlisted and served as private and scout, although favored by his superior officers to a degree unknown elsewhere, on account of his social position and certain promises made to him but not fulfilled, in Company D, Second Cavalry. He remained with them until the close of hostilities with the redskins, when he was given a commission to recruit men at St. Paul. After following this for a time he raised a company which was mustered into the service as Company H, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, with which he served as captain, being stationed chiefly at Chattanooga, until the close of the war.

Captain Atkinson has filled many offices of trust and honor in this community; he was the representative in the Legislature in 1857 and 1858, has filled the office of member of the board of county commissioners,

served as town supervisor for years, was sheriff for three years, town assessor for seventeen years, and occupied the position of justice of the peace for nearly a quarter of a century. He is the parent of eight children: Hannah Elizabeth, Mrs. J. W. McKean, of Indianapolis, Ind.; Charlotte M., Mrs. Henry Clinton, of Las Vegas, Cal.; Abigail A., now Mrs. E. H. Hult, living at Minneapolis; Frank, now Mrs. T. Richardson, of Forest City; Charles H., of the same place; Kate, Mrs. C. E. Barkam, of Dallas, Tex.; Jessie B., Mrs. Charles Boynton, of Forest City; and James B., Jr., at home.

ANDREW S. MATTSON, a prosperous farmer whose land adjoins the village of Litchfield, is a native of Sweden, born September 7, 1852. His parents were Swan and Margareta Mattson, who came to the United States with their family in 1858 and located in Carver county, Minn., where they were among the pioneers. A year or so after their settlement there, Mr. Mattson, the father died, and in 1859 Mrs. Mattson removed with her family to Meeker county and claimed eighty acres of Government land on Section 10, in Ness (now Litchfield) township. When the Indian outbreak began, she removed to St. Paul, and remained there until after the close of hostilities, when she returned to her land in Meeker county, erected a small house and commenced improvements. She made this her home until 1885. She was married to Nels M. Pearson in 1867, and is now a resident of Darwin township.

Andrew S., the subject of this sketch, lived with his mother until they moved to Darwin, when the mother conveyed the farm to him. Since that time he has added about \$4,150 in building improvements, and otherwise added to the value of the farm. He now has 115 acres of good land within eighty

rods of the incorporated limits of Litchfield village, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising.

HONORABLE EVEN EVENSON, the present representative of Meeker county in the Lower House of the State Legislature, resides on section 8, in Greenleaf township, and is one of the most prominent citizens of the county. He is a native of Norway, and was born on the 21st of November, 1844. His parents were Hans and Christine Evenson, who came to America in 1857, settling first in Scott county, Minn., where they remained one year, and then removed to Wright County, where they resided for two years, after which, in 1860, they settled in Meeker County, Minn., the father pre-empting a quarter of section 8 in the present township of Greenleaf. A full history of the father and other members of the family will be found in another department of this work. The family consisted of father, mother and five children, Even being the eldest son.

At the time of the Indian outbreak in 1862, Even was residing with his parents on the homestead. Although not yet eighteen years of age, he was a careful observer of events, and on the memorable 17th of August was in attendance on the war meeting at the old Ripley postoffice. That night he was one of the fearless little band of settlers who went to the Baker and Jones residences, and discovered the horrible butchery which the savages had committed so near their own doors. He remained with the squad that night and the following day, and, later in the same week, went with the family to Forest City, where he was doing guard duty when the Indians attacked the place in the night. A sentinel named Henry L. Smith was the first man to return the fire of the savages, and the second shot was fired by Even. During the following year, Even

worked in St. Paul and Anoka, and in the fall of 1863 he enlisted in Company I, Second Minnesota Cavalry. The regiment was assigned to duty on the frontier, and Evenson went with a detachment of his company as escort of Captain Fisk's immigrant train to the Idaho gold fields, and went as far as Fort Rice in Dakota. He remained with the command, doing frontier service until the fall of 1865, when he was mustered out. He returned to the old homestead, and has since remained there, with the exception of the summer of 1867, when he was employed near St. Paul.

In November, 1869, Mr. Evenson was married to Helen Danielson, a daughter of Nels and Randi Danielson, who were among the first settlers in Meeker county. She was born in Norway on the 28th of October, 1847. During the Indian outbreak she had a thrilling and dangerous adventure, she being one of the two women who were left in the thicket all night while the settlers were flying for their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Evenson have been blessed with seven children, the third born of whom, Robert E., is dead. The others are as follows: Henry Nicholas, born October 24, 1871; Carl Richard, born December 17, 1873; Robert B., born July 27, 1877; Elmer Emanuel, born August 13, 1879; Anna Bertha, born September 25, 1881; and Nels Oscar, born April 13, 1884. The family are members of the Ness Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Mr. Evenson's life has not only been a busy one, but an unusually useful one as well. Besides filling various township offices, he has filled the office of county commissioner for eight years, the last four years of which time he was honored with the chairmanship of that body. He made a careful and efficient member of the board, and during his service was recognized as second to none in point of ability or influence. In 1886 Mr. Evenson was elected to represent Meeker

county in the Lower House in the XXVth Legislature on the republican ticket, and he has proven well worthy the trust reposed in him, making a record satisfactory to his constituents and highly creditable to himself. His ability was recognized in the formation of the House Committees as he was placed upon the Committees on Education, Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institute, and on Roads, Bridges and Navigable Streams.

When the State Board of Trade was in existence Mr. Evenson was appointed by Judge Brown to represent the Twelfth Judicial District in that body, the most important work of which was the recommendation to the Legislature for the establishment of the State grain inspection system.

A portrait of Mr. Evenson will be found upon another page in this ALBUM.



WILLIAM HUKRIEDE, the genial proprietor of the Mansard House, the leading hotel of Eden Valley, is a native of Westphalia, Germany, born September 4, 1838. He was reared in that classic land, receiving in youth the education which is the birthright of the rising generation of his fatherland. He was there, in 1860, married to Miss Mary Christopher, a native of Westphalia, Germany, and daughter of Henry and Lizzie Christopher. In 1873, with his family, he emigrated to America, and purchasing a farm on section 23, in Manannah township, commenced life here. On this place he made his home until the fall of 1887, when, in connection with his son Henry, he came to Eden Valley and bought the Mansard House, and has continued at the head of its affairs ever since. Mr. Hukriede has a family of eight children, as follows: Fred, born May 28, 1861; Henry, whose sketch is given elsewhere in this volume; Reka, born October 6, 1865; William, born February 1, 1868; Ernest, born January 28,

1871; August, born April 15, 1873; Minnie, born March 1, 1876; and Annie, born November 14, 1878.



HENRY HUKRIEDE, the partner of his father in the proprietorship of the Mansard House and who is, also, engaged in operating a blacksmith's shop in Eden Valley, is a native of Westphalia, Germany, born January 5, 1863, and is the second son of William and Mary (Christopher) Hukriede. He came to the United States in 1873, with his parents, and remained upon their farm until the spring of 1882, when he went to Litchfield and there learned the blacksmith's trade. In the spring of 1886, he came to Eden Valley while the graders were still at work here and before the iron upon the railroad was laid and started a blacksmith's shop, and has followed that trade ever since. In 1887, in connection with his father, he bought the hotel and maintains connection therewith.



JOHANNES OLSEN, a well-to-do and respected farmer, residing on section 32, Acton township, is a native of Norway, born January 31, 1837, and a son of Ole and Sophia Johnson. He came to the United States in 1857, and first stopped at St. Paul, where he hired to a man, named Fred Erickson, who held a Government contract for furnishing hay. They cut the hay on the Minnesota River bottoms near Fort Snelling, and the ground was so wet that they were obliged to carry it on poles to higher land for stacking. After spending some time in this way, he, with six others, went to Howard Lake, Wright county, and selected claims. Two of the party remained during the winter to make the improvements necessary to hold the claims, while the others returned to St. Paul to earn and send provisions to their two comrades. The following spring Mr. Olsen returned to his claim, expecting to find a

house erected and other improvements, but as nothing had been done he went back to St. Paul to find work. He had a hard and discouraging time of it, but in the fall he secured a job on the railroad between St. Anthony and St. Cloud, and on the southeast side of the Minnesota River, above Mendota. This was a very wet season, and they were obliged to lay plank tracks in order to run their wheelbarrows. Returning then to St. Paul he did not succeed in finding employment until after Christmas when he got work cutting cord wood, which lasted until spring. His next move was to Point Douglas, where he hired to a farmer for six months at \$10 per month. At the expiration of that time he returned to St. Paul and worked at building flat boats, and in the spring went with them to St. Louis, where he was paid off. During the summer he worked at farming on Paint Creek Prairie, Allamakee county, Iowa, and split and cut rails during the winter. The following spring—April 14, 1860—he was married to Miss Mary Paulson, a daughter of Mathias and Mary Paulson. After his marriage he rented a farm for two years, but the first season the chinch bugs destroyed most of his crop. In 1864 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and took a homestead on section 32, Acton township, where he has since lived.

Mr. and Mrs. Olsen have been blessed with the following children—Mathias, born November 10, 1862, died July 15, 1885; Sophia Elizabeth, born October 12, 1864; Ole, born March 15, 1867; Paul Emanuel, born September 17, 1869; and Carl Johan, born February 16, 1877. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. In political matters Mr. Olsen affiliates with the republican party. Both of Mr. Olsen's parents died in Norway. His wife's parents are also deceased—the father, Mathias Paulson, died in Acton July 26, 1883; and the mother died September 19, 1880.

MARTIN HOUK, a well-known, successful and highly respected farmer, residing on section 36, Harvey township, was born in Owen county, Ind., on the 3d of November, 1844, and is a son of John and Evelin (Crouse) Houk. His parents still reside in his native State.

Martin, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in his native State, working on a farm and attending school, according to the facilities of that day. He was married in Indiana on the 23d of January, 1870, to Miss Mary F. Doll, and in 1874, with his wife and two children, started for the West, arriving in Meeker county, Minn., on the 15th of October, 1874. He first settled in Mannah township and remained there for one year, and then removed to Harvey township, settling on section 36, where he has since lived. He has three brothers living in Meeker county.

Mrs. Houk's parents reside in Harvey township, Meeker county.

Mr. and Mrs. Houk are the parents of seven children—five girls and two boys—all of whom are living. Their names are as follows: James F., Josephine, Alice M., Evelin, Henrietta, Jessie and Marcus R.



SIMON MAYER, residing on section 23, is an ex-Union soldier, and is one of the most prominent and successful farmers and stock-raisers in Union Grove. He is a son of Gregor and Mary (Winterholden) Mayer, and was born in Württemberg, Germany, on the 20th of October, 1834. His parents died when he was fifteen years old, and he was apprenticed to learn the turner's trade. When he was eighteen years old, in 1852, he came to the United States and for three years worked at his trade in New York city and in Paterson, N. J., after which he came to St. Paul, where he remained for two days, but as he could not find work, he left his

trunk at the hotel and walked to Stillwater, one Sunday night. He secured work on a raft and made three trips to St. Louis, thus spending one summer. He next worked on farms and spent one winter in the pineries; also worked for L. D. Bartlett, running a ferry from Lakeland to Hudson, for several summers. In the fall of 1861 he went to Fort Snelling and enlisted for three years in Company B, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went South the same fall. He participated in many skirmishes, but not in any pitched battle. When his three years were ended he re-enlisted at Little Rock, Ark. The Third was surrendered to General Forrest at Murfreesboro and was paroled and sent to Benton Barracks, Mo., and from there was sent to the relief of the settlers in Minnesota, and started for Forest City. Seventy-five men of the Third reported at Forest City. A history of their movements will be found in the chapter devoted to the Indian troubles. When they landed at Fort Snelling Governor Ramsey made them a speech and requested them to march for Forest City that night, which they did. From this campaign they went to Sibley Camp, Fort Ridgely, and joined Sibley in his expedition through the Northwest. Mr. Mayer participated in the bloody fight at Wood Lake. The Third Regiment left Sibley and joined Governor Marshall, and captured the Indians who were hung at Mankato. January 15, 1863, Mr. Mayer returned South and served until August, 1865, when he was mustered out at Fort Snelling.

He then went to Hudson, Wis., and was married to Ellen Moody, October 16, 1865. She was a daughter of Arnold and Olive Moody, and was born November 16, 1849. Mr. and Mrs. Mayer have been the parents of two children, as follows: William, born January 11, 1868; Della, born October 4, 1873.

Mr. Mayer is a republican in political mat-

ters, and has taken an active and prominent part in township affairs. He has held various township offices, having been chairman of the supervisors three years, school treasurer twenty-one years, road overseer, and in other minor positions. He is one of the best posted and most intelligent men in the township, and is a careful business man. He stands high, wherever he is known, for his integrity and uprightness, and is one of the leading citizens of his township.

Mr. Mayer now owns 500 acres of land, a good deal of which is under cultivation, and he has good building improvements.



MRS. ELIZABETH GARDNER of Dassel township, came to Meeker county in July, 1866, with her brother-in-law, Andrew Davidson, bringing with her her only child, Peter, who was then four years of age. She, at once, took up a homestead of eighty acres of land on section 14, Dassel township, where she has since made her home. She is the widow of Bradford Gardner.

The husband of our subject was a native of Pennsylvania, who, when a young man, came west to Wisconsin and settled, where he was united in marriage with Elizabeth McCalister, a native of Scotland, born in Whitehorn, Wigton Shair, 1836, who had come to America in 1855 and subsequently located at Caledonia, Wisconsin. After their marriage they lived in Sauk County, in the "Badger State," until November 20, 1863, when Mr. Gardner, being drafted, entered Company D, First Wisconsin Infantry as a recruit and served with that gallant regiment until the battle of Buzzard's Roost, in the Atlanta campaign, when he fell mortally wounded, and died in the hospital at Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 8, 1864. Filling an honored soldier's grave, his life offered up a sweet sacrifice upon the altar of

his country, his mission on earth was accomplished, and while the comrades regret his loss, they dare not murmur against the decree of the Most High, that snatched him from his loving widow and his boy.

Mrs. Gardner and her son remained at their home in Wisconsin until they came to Minnesota, grieving after the brave soldier who had laid down his life in defense of his country and who is enshrined in every patriot's breast.

Peter has always remained with his beloved mother. He was born in Sauk county, Wis., May 14, 1862, and was married December 24, 1885, to Miss Sarah Arrowood, a native of Minnesota, and daughter of G. D. and Louisa Arrowood, natives of North Carolina and Kentucky, who came to this town in 1865.



JOHAN CHRISTENSON, a highly respected and successful farmer residing on section 32, Union Grove township, was born in Sweden, on the 22d of August, 1828, and is a son of Christen and Betsy Eliason. His early life was spent in the land of his birth, where he acquired the habits of industry, economy and integrity which are characteristic of the people of his nationality. In 1868 he came to the United States with his family and came to Meeker county, Minn., where he took a homestead of eighty acres on section 6, Swede Grove township. Seven years later he moved to section 5, where he bought 280 acres of railroad land, and lived there until the spring of 1887, when he settled upon his present farm on section 32, Union Grove township, having purchased eighty acres there in 1886. He has divided the rest of his land among his children, giving them a start in the world.

Mr. Christenson was married on the 27th of December, 1850, to Miss Anna Pehrson, and their union has been blessed with ten



E. Evenson

children, as follows: Christopher, born October 3, 1852; Hannah, born February 5, 1855; Elias, born May 14, 1857; Ella, born May 27, 1859; Nels, born April 2, 1861, died August, 1861; Nels F., born June 28, 1862; Andrew, born September 28, 1864; Alfred, born May 12, 1866, died July 1, 1868; Alfred, born July 12, 1868, and Herman, born July 19, 1870.



DOCTOR V. P. KENNEDY, of Litchfield, besides being a pioneer, is one of the best known citizens in this part of the State. Doctor Kennedy was born in Butler county, Penn., on the 11th of July, 1824. When he was five years of age his parents removed to and became pioneers of Indiana, where the subject of this sketch remained until 1856. His younger days were spent upon a farm, but when twenty-one he entered the Asbury University at Greencastle, Ind., where he spent two years, and then went to Rockville, Ind., where he began the study of medicine. A year later he went to Louisville, Ky.; later to Chicago, and in 1851 finished his course and graduated from Rush Medical College. In 1875 he took an *ad-eundem* degree at the Bellevue Hospital College, New York.

Doctor Kennedy's parents were Martin and Elinor [Pellett] Kennedy. The father died when the Doctor was ten and the mother when he was six years of age. He was then thrown upon his own resources and for a time lived with an uncle: but when sixteen he left his uncle's roof and began the battle of life on his own account. In June, 1856, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and took the same claim which had been held by Dr. Frederick N. Ripley, which is mentioned at length elsewhere in this volume. Ripley had been frozen to death in March of that year. Dr. Kennedy at once began improvements in a light way, building a little cabin

on the place, but he lived in Cedar City, McLeod county, until the spring of 1857, when he settled on his claim. During the season of 1856 he had "broke" some land and raised a few potatoes, the Indians, however, getting the benefit of his labor. Doctor Kennedy remained on his claim until the fall of 1860, when he was elected to the State Legislature. He was reelected in the fall of 1861. In the spring of 1862 he entered the United States service as surgeon of the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and remained with his regiment until the 1st of May, 1865, when he was mustered out at Montgomery, Ala. The following summer was spent upon his farm, and in the fall he received the appointment of physician for the Chippewa Indians at Red Lake, and remained there from November, 1865, until March, 1867. He again returned to Meeker county, and bought what was known as the Cedar Mill and ran that until 1869, when he came to Litchfield and resumed the practice of his profession. In 1880 he went to Brown county D. T., and took a claim, but continued his practice at Litchfield until 1883, when he removed to Ordway, D. T., and engaged in the drug business, also becoming postmaster. In the fall of 1885 he was elected to the Dakota Senate and took an active interest in shaping Territorial legislation. In the spring of 1886 his family returned to Litchfield and for some time the Doctor was back and forth between the two points, but the latter place is now his home.

Doctor Kennedy was first married on the 19th day of July, 1849, to Miss Julia A. Rudisell, who died July 13, 1854. This union was blessed with two children, one of whom is now living, Julia A., wife of Nimrod Barriek, who lives at the Doctor's original claim in Meeker county. Dr. Kennedy was again married, on the 2d of July, 1860, to Caroline Rudisell, a sister of his first wife.

They have three children now living—Milford P., who lives on a farm in Dakota; Harry M. and Lewis H., who are attending university at Minneapolis.

Doctor Kennedy is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic. At the annual encampment in 1887 he was elected medical director for the department of Minnesota and served for one year. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined Golden Fleece Lodge in the fall of 1875. He is prominently identified with the State Medical Association and is recognized as one of the best educated and most experienced members of the medical profession in this part of the State. During late years, however, he has devoted his attention chiefly to his extensive farming interests, having 360 acres in this county all of which is improved; and 640 acres in Dakota, with 400 under cultivation.



CARL NELSON, the subject of the present biographical notice, is a respected and enterprising farmer and stock raiser, who resides on section 10, Danielson township. He is a son of Nels and Karen Madson, and was born in Denmark on the 20th of August, 1849. His early life was spent in his native land, where he remained until 1866, when he came to the United States with his parents, and settled in Steele county, Minn. A year later, in July, 1867, they removed to Meeker county, and the father took a homestead on section 8, in Danielson township, in which township there was only six settlers at that time. Here the father died in October, 1872, and the mother in April, 1885.

After his father's death, Carl went to St. Paul and worked at different kinds of employment for about two years, when he returned to the homestead and remained with his mother until the 4th of June, 1882, when

he was married to Miss Anna Marie Madson. She was born March 19, 1860, and is a daughter of Martin and Anna Marie Madson, who are residents of Danielson. By this marriage, Carl Nelson and wife have been the parents of two children—Minnie, born June 11, 1883, and Nels, born November 30, 1885. The family are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Nelson now has a valuable farm, of which he has considerable under cultivation, and has a comfortable home. He has the farm well stocked and devotes his energies to diversified farming and stock raising. By economy and industry he has placed himself in comfortable circumstances, and is justly rated as one of the leading citizens of his township. He has taken an active interest in township affairs, and has held various local offices, including those of supervisor and road overseer.



THE WELL-KNOWN and able editor of the *Litchfield News-Ledger*, W. D. JOUBERT, is a native of Fond du Lac county, Wis., born in September, 1852. His parents were Stephen and Elizabeth Joubert; the father of French descent, but born in Montreal, Canada, and the mother a native of New York. Stephen Joubert was a carpenter by trade. He was one of the pioneers of Hudson, Wis., but is now a resident of Traverse county, Minn.

W. D. Joubert had but little schooling advantages, until he was nine years of age, but from that time until he was fifteen, the most of his time was spent in school. When he was fifteen he began life on his own account and began learning the printer's trade with Daggett & Rose, at Wabasha, Minn. He remained with them for three years and then went to LaCrosse, Wis. Later we find him at Minneapolis, where, for several months, he worked on the *Minneapolis News*, then

edited by George K. Staw. From there, in April, 1872, with Frank Daggett, the man under whom he had learned his trade, he came to Litchfield, and started the *Litchfield Ledger*, which has since become the *News-Ledger*.

Mr. Joubert was married December 3, 1881, to Miss Ida Kline, of Kingston, Meeker county. They now have one child—Ethel, who is five years of age. Mr. Joubert is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined the Golden Fleece Lodge in 1873, and is quite active in promoting the interests of the organization. He is also a member of the fire company, and was one of the principal workers in getting that organization established. Besides these he is a member of the military company, and was one of the charter members of the dramatic association, which was organized in 1873. Mr. Joubert is a staunch republican in political faith, and is recognized as one of the ablest editorial writers on political questions in this part of the State.



JOHAN AUGUSTUS SAMPSON, who resides on section 4, Greenleaf township, is one of the leading farmers and stock raisers, and also one of the most prominent citizens in the southern part of Meeker county. He comes of a nationality, which, through their industry and frugality, makes the most substantial and valuable citizens of Minnesota. He was born in Sweden, on the 9th of August, 1849, and came to the United States in 1858 with his parents, John and Anna Hellena Sampson. After having resided one year and a half in Jamestown, N. Y., he, with his mother and youngest sister, joined his father and oldest sister, who had gone six months before, in Minnesota, in the fall of 1859, and took up their residence with the husband and father, on section 4, in the town of Greenleaf, Meeker county, where they

still reside. A full sketch of the parents will be found elsewhere in this volume.

John A., the subject of this biographical memoir, was reared on a farm, imbibing and acquiring from the necessities, the principles and habits of industry and economy which were so essentially a concomitant of pioneer life. As no district schools were yet in the neighborhood, he managed to attend a few months school a few miles from home, working at the same time in a private family for his board. Being fond of reading and general information, he enlarged his stock of knowledge in both the Swedish and English languages, and tried in all respects to be a self-made man. An opportunity offered itself to acquire a more substantial knowledge in the winter of 1864 and 1865, when he resolved to attend for a few months, the Ansary Academy, at East Union, Carver county, then superintended by his brother-in-law, Rev. Andrew Jackson.

On the 30th of August, 1874, he was joined in marriage to Anna Elizabeth Romwall. His wife was born in Sweden July 29, 1852, and came to America in 1864 with her parents, who are still living in Carver county, Minn. Their marriage has been blessed with five children, as follows: Freda (deceased), born July 2, 1875; Freda L. V., born June 11, 1877; Esther A., born June 3, 1879; Joshua Theodore, born July 14, 1881; Hannah N., born November 23, 1883; and Walter C. E., born June 30, 1887. The family are active and prominent members in the Beckville Lutheran church.

Mr. Sampson has taken an active interest in public matters, and is rated as one of the most substantial and prominent citizens of his township. In political matters he affiliates with the republican party, and has held many offices of local importance, including those of township supervisor, assessor, treasurer, etc. In financial matters, although, like others in his township, he has suffered

some reverses, he has withal been very successful. He has a large and valuable farm, a great proportion of which is under cultivation, and has it well stocked. His building improvements are among the finest in the township, making a home in which he may justly take a pride, and which is, in the enterprise it manifests, a credit to the county.

In another department of this work will be found a portrait of Mr. Sampson.



GEORGE W. HARDING, one of the leading citizens of Darwin township, and the present town clerk, is living on his fertile and highly-cultivated farm on section 21. He was born in Hardenburgh, Ind., October 3, 1852, and is the son of Mitchell and Mary A. Harding. He was reared and educated in the "Hoosier State" and remained a resident there until April 25, 1866, when he came to Meeker county, Minn., with his father, and settled in Darwin township, where he now makes his home.

Mitchell Harding, the father of our subject, was born in Genesee county, N. Y., March 14, 1808, and came West and settled in Indiana in 1836, one of the pioneers of that noble State. His father was a veteran of the conflict with Great Britain in 1812-1815, and died at Fort Erie during the war. Mitchell Harding makes his home with his son, George, having given up active business pursuits, as he is over eighty years old.

George Harding was united in marriage, April 5, 1874, with Miss Josie L. Smith, and by this union they are the parents of three children—Earl C., born March 1, 1875, died October 8, 1880; Jennie M., born May 11, 1878; and George W., born July 26, 1881.

Our subject is politically a republican, and has been called on several times by his fellow citizens to discharge official duties. He was elected chairman of the town board

of supervisors, and served in that capacity three terms. Town assessor and town clerk he has also been, and at present holds the two offices—clerk of the township and school district treasurer. Religiously, he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while his estimable wife holds communion with the Church of God, and both are sincere, earnest, Christian people.



SVENNING JOHNSON is a respected and successful farmer, who resides on section 21, Danielson township. Like a majority of the most thrifty and enterprising farmers of his township, Mr. Johnson is a native of Sweden, where he was born November 3, 1831. His early life was spent in his native land, but in 1869 he came to the United States, and first settled in Illinois, where he remained for two years, working for different farmers. At the end of that time, on April 24, 1871, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased forty acres of land on section 21, in Danielson township, where he has since lived. He has since bought 140 acres more, so that he now owns 180 acres, 100 of which are on section 21, and eighty on 29.

Mr. Johnson was married May 2, 1862, while still in Sweden, to Johanna Larson, and their union has been blessed with the following named children: Amanda, born April 18, 1863; Augusta, born September 9, 1864; Lewis, born August 28, 1867; August, born September 26, 1869; Hattie, born September 1, 1872, and Emel, born July 28, 1874. Amanda and Augusta are working in St. Paul. The son, Lewis, has general charge of the farm, as his father is now well along in years, and is spending the evening of his long and useful life, partially retired from the active participation in farm labor. The family are members of the Methodist church.

When Mr. Johnson came to the United

States he was a poor man, and it was only by the hardest labor and strictest economy that he secured a start and was able to support his family. He persevered, however, and is now in very good circumstances, having a comfortable home in which to spend the latter part of his life, and is possessed of a comfortable property.



JOHN YOUNGSTROM, a farmer, residing on section 28, Litchfield township, is one of the most intelligent and best-posted citizens in his portion of the county. He is a native of Sweden, born on the 1st of February, 1845, and is a son of Andrew and Christine Youngstrom. John grew to manhood at the home of his parents, and at an early age embarked in the mercantile business, continuing it until 1868, when he came to the United States. Shortly after his arrival he decided to locate in Meeker county, Minn., and accordingly purchased parts of sections 21, 28 and 29, in Litchfield township. His farm at that time was one of the largest operated by one man west of the "Big Woods," but after about ten years' trial, he became convinced that it was not quantity of land which was essential to success in farming, but sagacity and business tact in management. Accordingly, he unloaded a good portion of his huge farm, and has since been operating on the safe side. Although the grasshoppers, hailstorms and drouth have caused him serious backsets, entailing the loss of three crops in four years, he has managed to come out of it all in pretty good financial shape.

Mr. Youngstrom was married in 1871 to Mary C. Kjellander, a daughter of John Kjellander, and a native of Sweden, born in 1844. Four children have been born to them, viz.: John Oscar, Hilder Mary, Olga and Axel H. Although Mr. Youngstrom has never been caught in the maelstrom of polit-

ical office seeking, he has ever been a close student of political economy, and has lent a considerable amount of time and all his influence to the remedying of existing evils in governmental affairs, and is an unyielding foe to monopoly and all manner of oppression and harmful influences.



FRANK E. DAGGETT, deceased, was at one time one of the most prominent citizens of Meeker county, and during his residence at Litchfield, figured conspicuously in its history. He was a native of Vermont, but when quite young he came West to Fond du Lac, Wis., and in 1853, went to Hudson, in the same State. He learned the trade of a printer when still a boy, at Hudson, Wis., and Stillwater, Minn. At an early day he went to Kansas and Nebraska, and as a journalist, took an active part in the anti-slavery movements, being one of John Brown's most active associates, and expected fully to accompany Brown on the Harper's Ferry expedition; but he went home to visit his mother, and as the move took place earlier than was planned, he did not get back in time to participate in it. After that, he went to St. Paul and began working at his trade on the old *Pioneer*. From there he returned to Rutland county, Vt., and in 1860 was married. Before he started West again, war was declared, and he enlisted for three months in the First Vermont Regiment. At the expiration of his term of service, he came to Minnesota and enlisted in the Sixth Minnesota Infantry, and was ordered to the frontier to participate in the Indian warfare. After the close of the Indian troubles, he went before the examining board at St. Louis, and having passed the examination, was appointed lieutenant in the 117th United States Regiment [colored], and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. In the summer of 1864 he was taken sick and ordered to resign.

He then returned to Minnesota and worked on the *Pioneer* until 1866 when he went to Wabasha and purchased the *Wabasha Herald*. This he published until the fall of 1870, when he went to LaCrosse and bought an interest in the *Leader*, of that place, the firm becoming Taylor, Burns & Daggett. Through some mismanagement the firm became insolvent, and Mr. Daggett began work on the *Milwaukee Daily News* as a compositor. In the fall of 1871 he was given a position as city editor on the *Minneapolis News*, and remained there till April, 1872, when he resigned and came to Litchfield, and in company with W. D. Joubert, established the *Litchfield Ledger*. While in business here he was three times elected clerk of the Minnesota House of Representatives. He was a prominent and active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and at one time was Grand Commander of the Department of Minnesota. The post at Litchfield was named "Frank Daggett Post," in honor of him. Mr. Daggett's death occurred Saturday, October 14, 1876. He was then in his thirty-ninth year.



CHARLES A. STAPLES, a successful merchant of the village of Manannah, is a native of Waldo county, Me., born February 17, 1843, and is the seventh son of Jacob C., and Elizabeth (Small) Staples, both of whom were also natives of the Pine Tree State. The father of our subject was born March 6, 1801, and his mother March 24, 1805. Their marriage took place March 20, 1828, and they continued to make their home in their native State until October, 1854, when they came to Minnesota with their family of ten children, of whom our subject was one. They settled in Sauk Valley, six miles west of where St. Cloud is now located, but at that time there was not a house where the city now is located. They

remained in that vicinity until the time of their death, the mother October 17, 1874, the father, November 26, 1879. The latter's demise was caused by exposure, cold and exhaustion. He was then a man of seventy-eight years and having been to St. Cloud, upon a visit to a son who still resides there, and on returning missed his road and landed in the night on Maine Prairie, and being refused shelter by professed Christian people along the way, was out all night that cold November night, and died a few days later.

Charles A. remained at home with his parents until attaining his majority, during which time he learned the carpenter's trade of his father, also a good knowledge of farming which afterward he made a success. He came to Mecker county, and took up a homestead on section 5, Union Grove township, selecting his land in July, 1864. After filing papers for a homestead in August, he enlisted, September 3, 1864, in the Fourth Minnesota Infantry as a recruit, with which he served only about three months, and then being discharged for disability, he returned to his claim and commenced improving it, and made it his home until 1882, during which time he had added by purchase some 360 acres to his original homestead. He then sold his original homestead and went to Litchfield and entered into a partnership in company with his brothers, J. H. and N. P., under the firm name and style of Staples Brothers, who were then in the business of general merchandising. In the spring of 1883 he sold out and made a trip to Dakota, with the intention of dealing in hardware, lumber and farm machinery in Spink county, but returned and located at Manannah, and in November of that year put in a new stock of general merchandise and commenced his present business in company with his brother, J. H. Staples, and continued the business as Staples Brothers up to April 13, 1888, when he purchased his brother's interest and assumed

sole proprietorship. He left home empty-handed but by diligence and business tact natural to him, before he left Union Grove township, he had accumulated a fine farm of 240 acres of land and \$3,000 in cash. He was chairman of the board of town supervisors in that precinct, justice of the peace and town clerk for a number of years, and held some office of trust or responsibility in that town nearly all the time of his residence there. He was, also, active in all educational work and is now one of the trustees in the village of Manannah.

Mr. Staples was united in marriage in the year 1870, with Miss Sarah A. Hinds, a native of Columbia county, Wis., and a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Thomas) Hinds, who settled in Union Grove in 1864. By this union Mr. and Mrs. Staples became the parents of three children—Carrie Angelia, born January 4, 1871; Ancil Edmonds, born August 21, 1872; and Frances Ann, born January 1, 1882.



HON. ANDREW NELSON, one of the prominent and leading citizens of Meeker county, resides in the village of Litchfield. His sterling integrity in all his dealings with his fellow men, the honor and ability displayed in official positions and the spotless purity of his private life, have won for him the respect of the entire community. He is a native of Sweden, born December 29, 1829, in the Forsamling of Troninge Paapsbyb, No. 3, Hallandslane, which is about three-quarters of a Swedish mile (about five miles English) from Halmstadt.

The father of our subject, Nels Anderson, was born in 1773, and was a native of the same country and one of the wealthiest farmers of that locality. He had erected some very fine farm buildings, but lost them by fire, and this, and other misfortunes which

overtook him, reduced him in circumstances. He had been assaulted and nearly killed by a man who bore him enmity, and left for dead, with his brains almost oozing from his fractured skull, but being of a very strong constitution he recovered his physical strength, although his mental balance was considerably affected. He came to the United States in 1862, with his wife, Johanna (Anderson) Anderson, and came at once to St. Paul. He died there about 1867, after lying in bed for three years, having been crippled by being run over, and never recovered. His widow is now making her home with her son, Andrew Nelson, in Litchfield, and notwithstanding her eighty-eight years, she having been born in October, 1800, is in the enjoyment of nearly all her faculties, and in excellent health.

Andrew Nelson, on account of his father's misfortunes, received but a limited education, the present excellent school system of Sweden not having then been adopted; there were no public schools. He, on attaining maturer years, worked out at farm work until the spring of 1856, when, taking passage on a sailing vessel from the port of Gottenborg, emigrated to the new world, and, after a stormy voyage across the Atlantic ocean, arrived in New York harbor on the 3d of July, and was compelled to stay on ship-board all of the 4th. At night when the surrounding scenery was lit up by the brilliant lights of the fireworks, he and his fellow travelers thought the inhabitants of America must be crazy, for they had no idea of our celebrating that day. On landing, Mr. Nelson started for the West and located at Galesburg, Ill., where he remained two years, working at farm labor, and teaming, hauling wood for the railroad, etc. In July, 1858, he came to Minnesota and settled in Monongalia county, now a part of Kandiyohi county, where he took up 160 acres of land near Foot Lake. He commenced the im-

provement of the property and there made his home until the Indian outbreak in August, 1862.

There was living in the house with him, for he was at that time a single man, his brother-in-law, Swan Swanson, with the latter's wife and three children, Annie, Theodore and Emma. On the 21st of August they received the news of the massacre at Acton and the general uprising of the savages, and at once made preparations for flight. Mr. Nelson assisted Swanson to take off the hayrack from the running gear of the wagon and substitute the box, into which they loaded some of their household goods and the little family, and started for a place of safety, Mr. Nelson remaining to collect some forty head of cattle which they had. Night overtook him, and, starting in the darkness, he soon heard whispered voices near him and incautiously shouted, "Who's there?" and in an instant the rapid footsteps of his savage foes gave him the alarm as they rushed toward him. Favored by the night, he eluded them and made his way toward Foot's house. He saw the Indians enter the house, and he crept into the cornfield; but hearing them in his immediate neighborhood, the rustling of the leaves and the breaking of the stalks betraying their movements, he slipped out and sought security elsewhere. Arriving on the banks of Mud Lake, he jumped off of a high bank for the water below, but fell into a scrub oak, but a minute or two after dropped into the lake in mud and water to his armpits. After a short time spent there he scrambled out, and as the water in his boots made such a noise when he walked he pulled them off, and in doing so lost one and then threw the other away. He wandered all about the prairie all night in his bare feet, and at one time, having cast himself down beside a log by the side of the road, saw, dimly portrayed against the sky, the figures of several of his pursuers

pass within a few feet of him. As the morning dawned he heard the sound of musketry, and looked about him to find out his bearings, for he was still bewildered with his wanderings and did not know where he was, and, casting himself into the grass, made out that he was in the vicinity of Oscar Erickson's house, about two miles from his own place. This cabin was near the outlet of Eagle Lake, and contained four families, those of Foot, Carlson, Swanson and Erickson, who were making a brave defense and drove off the invaders. Young Carlson was killed, and Mr. Foot and Mr. Erickson severely wounded, but all escaped with their lives, except the former. Mr. Nelson, after waiting a short time within about sixty rods of the house, finally struck across the prairie for Diamond Lake. His lacerated feet, the flesh cut from them and bleeding at every step, hardly allowed him to make much speed, but on arriving at the house of Mr. Gates he found a number of the settlers ready to start, but calmly preparing their breakfast. Mr. Nelson's tidings of the nearness of the ruthless savages altered all this, and, abandoning the half-prepared meal, they quickly betook themselves to flight, he riding with them, for by this time the pain in his feet had become insupportable. Behind them, a few miles, they could see a train of fleeing settlers, who were attacked about two miles west of Swede Grove, but who beat off the savages by drawing up their wagons in a circle around a hole in the earth, corralling their animals and fighting it out with the Indians, losing two of their number, Lorenson and Bucklin. The band with whom the subject of this sketch was arrived at Forest City, and prepared to go on east beyond the Big Woods for safety. Mr. Nelson went with them as far as Kingston, where, through the kindness of Mr. Davidson, the miller, and his wife, he had his feet washed and the wounds dressed



Andrew Nelson

with tallow and linen rags by that gentleman, who loaned him a pair of Indian moccasins to wear. Borrowing a horse of Swan Munson, Mr. Nelson determined to return and seek his brother-in-law's family, but on the way thither met Lieut. J. B. Atkinson, of the Meeker county militia, who was ordered with his squad to take all the horses they could find to mount the command. Mr. Nelson was ordered to dismount, but he would not, and informed the officer that he could not have the horse as long as he (Mr. Nelson) was alive, whereupon the good-natured officer told him to come along with him, and Mr. Nelson joined the troop, enlisting as a private therein. This was in Captain Whitcomb's company. From this time out Mr. Nelson participated in every movement of the troop, being with every detail. The first time he was out with them they got as far as Peter Lund's farm, and found the Indians preparing a meal in a big iron kettle, which they had strung gypsy-fashion over a fire, they having killed one of the settler's hogs. Quite a skirmish occurred, and the Indians retreated to the woods to draw the squad into an ambush, but, their design being penetrated, our forces fell back to Forest City. At another time, as is detailed elsewhere, they were driven back by some three or four hundred savages, reinforcements to their foes being perceived all around the horizon, and threatening the total annihilation of the little band if they were surrounded. The next day they built the stockade at Forest City, and Mr. Nelson helped defend that place during the attack made on it on the morning of the 3d of September. A few days afterward the command moved to Hutchinson to escort their wounded, and as their horses were stolen the men had to walk. Ole Ingeman loaned Mr. Nelson a horse to ride, but the officer would not allow that, and our subject was compelled to hobble along as he best could, for

his feet were still in a horrible condition. He also took part in the expedition to Diamond and Eagle Lakes, where he acted as guide, and helped bury the dead bodies they found.

After the company was disbanded, Mr. Nelson went to St. Paul, and worked for the Government at Fort Snelling, building stables, etc., after which he was employed at various labor in that city, sawing wood and other work, the winter of 1862 and 1863. In the spring of 1863 he leased forty acres of land in Washington county, of John Forber, and put in a crop, and the next year purchased eighty acres of land in the same county. To this he added, little by little, until he owned some 200 acres, all of which he had under cultivation. In 1867 he sold out his property and purchased between 300 and 400 acres of land in Darwin township, this county, on section 19, near Nelson Lake, and moved on it in 1868, commencing to open up a farm. There he made his home until about 1871, when he sold it to his father-in-law, Ole Johanson; and purchasing a lot in Litchfield, put up a building, and in company with his brother, B. P. Nelson, opened a stock of general merchandise. Some years later he sold this business to Alexander Cairncross, since which time he has been variously employed, principally in looking after his large landed property, and farming a little.

Mr. Nelson was one of the original stockholders of the Meeker County Bank, and was its first president, and has always taken an active interest in the business life of the village. He was elected to the Sixteenth Legislature of this State, and served in the lower house during the session of 1874. In 1875 and 1876, he represented this district in the State senate. As chairman of the board of county commissioners of Meeker county, Mr. Nelson served this people during the years 1884, 1885 and 1886, with credit to himself

and honor to the judgment of the constituency that sent him there. He was village trustee of Litchfield in 1873, and is now a member of the city council, having been elected to serve through 1888 and 1889.

Mr. Nelson and Miss Ellen Johanson were united in marriage March 23, 1868. She is a daughter of Ole and Hannah Johanson, natives of Sweden, and was born in the latter country. She came to America with her parents in 1857, who, after a short stay in St. Paul, settled that year in what is now Litchfield township. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were the parents of but one child, who died when but nine days old.



JOHAN SAMPSON, a respected farmer and pioneer of Meeker county, whose home is on section 4, Greenleaf township, is a native of Sweden, born on the 28th of March, 1815, and a son of Peter and Catherine Samuelson. His early life was spent on the farm of his parents, employed at farming and carpenter work. In 1858 he came to the United States, having previous to this been married, and after living for one year in Jamestown, N. Y., he, with the oldest daughter, took up their westward march in April, 1859, and came to Meeker county, Minn. The trip from the Eastern States was made by way of railroad and steamboat as far as Carver, Minn., the rest of the family remaining in Jamestown until in the fall. He, together with Charles Allen and Swan Palm, made the journey from Carver on foot. The trip was one of severe hardship, as they found it almost impossible to get provisions. Mr. Sampson returned to Carver with an ox team for his baggage, and the roads were so bad that many times he was obliged to unload the wagon and carry its contents through the mire in his arms. Shortly after arriving in Meeker county he selected land in section 4, in Greenleaf, and

the following year (1860) erected a house, and has since continued to reside there, although extensive building and other improvements have been made, so that the farm of to-day makes a wonderful contrast with the rude cabin home of twenty-eight years ago.

Mr. Sampson's marriage took place on the 20th of June, 1842, when Anna Hellena, a daughter of Jonas Jonson, became his wife. She was born in Sweden November 18, 1822. Their marriage was blessed with three children, as follows—Christina, born October 20, 1845, died October 25, 1875; John Augustus, who is mentioned at length elsewhere in this volume, and Johanna Louisa, born January 19, 1852, died April 4, 1886.

At the time of the Indian outbreak the family were living on the farm and the father was doing carpenter work for the neighborhood. The news of the massacre at Acton, only a few miles distant, reached the family on the 17th of August, 1862, and after stopping a short time at the houses of neighbors they went to Forest City. After remaining there and at Kingston a short time, they spent several weeks at Clearwater and St. Paul and then went to Cottage Grove, Washington county, Minn., where they rented a farm and remained until the fall of 1864. They then returned to the homestead.

Mr. Sampson is now spending the evening of his life, partially retired from the cares of active business, and holds the respect and esteem of all who know him. Both he and his wife are members of the Beekville Swedish Lutheran church, and are exemplary Christian people.



DANIEL DANIELSON, a successful farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 6, Danielson township, and one of the most prominent citizens in that portion of the county, is a native of Norway, and

was born on December 14, 1840, his parents being Daniel and Ingber Aslagson. His early life was one of industry and economy, and he was thrown on his own resources when still a mere lad, having earned his own living ever since he was twelve years of age. When he was twenty years of age he left his native land, booking as a sailor on a native vessel for about nine months, then left it in England, and made one trip to the West Indies. In 1862 he left London on a vessel bound for China, and was shipwrecked about sixty miles off the coast of China. After this he remained in China about six months, acting as quartermaster on a steamer. He then went to Australia, where he remained for about five years, part of the time in New Zealand, digging gold; also working in Sidney, New South Wales, and a part of the time he sailed among the Friendly Isles. He left there in 1868, and after spending about three months at his native home in Norway, he sailed for the United States. Upon his arrival in this country, about July 4, he came direct to Meeker county, Minn., and bought eighty acres of railroad land, on section 5, in Danielson township. About nine months later he took a homestead on section 30, where he lived for seven years, when he sold that and purchased his present place on section 6. He has also sold his railroad land, so that he now owns 160 acres, a good deal of which is under a high state of cultivation. He has suffered some reverses through the loss of crops, particularly in 1876 and 1877 from grasshoppers, and in 1885 from hail.

In political matters, Mr. Danielson is a prohibitionist, and he has taken an active interest in public matters, having held various offices, including those of township clerk one year and assessor five years.

Mr. Danielson was married, April 20, 1868, in Norway, to Inger Peterson, who was born August 7, 1849. Their marriage has been

blessed with the following named children: Peter Chri, born April 23, 1869; Ine Dorothy, born April 16, 1871; Daniel Edward, born July 26, 1873; Hannah Julia, born August 12, 1875; Victor Emanuel, born December 9, 1877; Martin Julius, born December 16, 1878; and Inger Malinda, born March 27, 1885.



LEONARD ROMAN. The subject of this biographical notice, a resident of section 17, is one of the most prominent and successful farmers and stock raisers in Greenleaf township. He was born in Varmland, Sweden, on the 22d of April, 1845. His parents were born, and lived in the land of his birth until the time of their deaths. Leonard was reared on a farm and remained in his fatherland until 1869, when he sailed for the United States, and came direct to Meeker county, Minn., settling in Greenleaf township, where he has since lived. He now has 270 acres of land, a good share of which is under a high state of cultivation. He has been very successful in his farming operations, although he has met with the partial loss of several crops; but by careful management and hard labor he has accumulated a comfortable property. He has taken an active interest in public matters, and has held various offices of a local nature, including that of township assessor. In political affairs he affiliates with the prohibition party.

Mr. Roman was married on the 6th of July, 1876, to Emma E. Hagerstrom, and their marriage has been blessed with the following children—Axel L., born June 5, 1877; Benhart E., born March 9, 1879; Victor R., born June 19, 1880; Emma E., born June 4, 1883; and Arnold A., born January 18, 1885—all of whom are still living except Benhart E., who died August 28, 1879, and whose remains are interred in the Beckville cemetery. The family attend the

Mission church. Mrs. Roman's parents were also natives of Sweden. They came to Meeker county, Minn., in August, 1871, and are now living in Greenleaf township.



CHARLES A. LAUGHTON, one of the prominent business men of Litchfield, was born in Platteville, Grant county, Wis., March 20, 1851, and is the son of George R. and Mildred (Durley) Laughton. His father was born in Soho Square, London, Eng., June 27, 1820, and came to the United States in 1835, arriving in New York October 25. He came to Southport, now Kenosha, Wis., with L. G. Merrill and John Nichols, who brought some \$56,000 worth of goods to that place October 30, 1842. In December following, these parties sent him to Platteville, with a large stock of goods. He became a large land owner in that county and lived on a farm in the environs of Platteville until 1870, when he removed to that village, where he lives retired from business. He was married, May 1, 1844, to Miss Mildred Durley, who was born August 9, 1828, at Greenville, Bond county, Ill., who died January 8, 1864.

The elder Mr. Laughton owned and operated a splendidly equipped woolen factory upon his farm, and Charles A., who attended school in the summer months, during the winters worked in the mill, and there showed his mechanical ingenuity. In 1870 when the place was sold, Charles entered the Young Men's Academy, at Lake Forest, Ill., where he spent two years. He then entered into the mercantile trade at Platteville, with his brother, but finding the work too confining for his health, entered the employ of J. I. Case & Co., of Racine. The following spring of 1874, he commenced traveling in their interests, as an expert, over the United States and Canada, and has seen much of the world while doing so. He followed that line of work, in the

service of the same company, until September, 1881, when he came to Litchfield, as the resident agent for Case & Co.'s threshing machinery. In the spring of 1887, he built the machine shop where he does all kinds of repairing of machinery, especially engine work, which he carries on in connection with his other business.

November 10, 1887, C. A. Laughton was united in marriage with Miss Julia Gratiot, a native of Platteville, Wis., daughter of the late Lieut. Col. E. H. and Ellen (Hager) Gratiot, natives of St. Louis, Mo., and Baltimore, Md., and niece of the late Hon. E. B. Washburn. While Mr. and Mrs. Laughton are not among the older residents of the village, their genial dispositions and happy manners have won them a high place in social circles. Mr. Laughton is ranked among the leading business men of the place, and a bright future is evidently before him.



JACOB LENHARD, of Darwin township, is a native of the German Empire, born July 1, 1827. He was reared in that classic land and remained there until 1852, when bidding adieu to the beloved fatherland he crossed the ocean to the shores of free America, in search of the liberty of action and the chance of competency not afforded to him in the land of his birth. He settled near Buffalo, N. Y., where he remained some three months, after which he went to Canada, and worked on the construction of the railroad suspension bridge over the Niagara river. From there he proceeded west to Chicago, Ill., but less than a year later removed to Polk county, Wis., and there purchased a farm and settled down to the life of a Western farmer. He made that part of the "Badger State" his home for thirteen years and at the expiration of that time, in 1868, came to Meeker county, and settled in Darwin township. He was united in marriage, Septem-

ber 4, 1854, with Miss Dora Yerkes, who is the mother of seven children—Henry P., born June 22, 1855; John P., born January 9, 1857; William F., born December 9, 1858; Jacob A., born January 21, 1860; Mary M., born December 25, 1862; Conrad E., born March 24, 1865; and Anna D., born January 18, 1869. The sons are all well-to-do farmers of the township.

Mr. Lenhard and his family are members of the Lutheran church and respected and honored citizens.



NELS F. JOHNSON, is one of the well-to-do farmers of Swede Grove township. He is a son of John and Anna Christianson, and was born in Sweden, on the 28th of June, 1862. He came to the United States with his parents in 1868, and they came direct to Meeker county, Minn., settling in Swede Grove township, where Nels F. received a common-school education. He lived with his parents, working on the farm until 1887, when he purchased 160 acres of land on section 6, where he now lives, keeping "bachelor's hall" and tilling his farm. A sketch of his parents will be found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Johnson takes active interest in township matters. He was appointed school clerk to fill the unexpired term when that office became vacant through the removal of his father to another township. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church. In political matters he is a republican.



THE legal profession has a number of able and prominent representatives at Litchfield, among them being J. M. RUSSELL, county attorney of Meeker county. He is a native of Clay county, Ind., born on the 13th of February, 1852. His early life was spent upon a farm attending district school in the

winter, and thus continuing until he was sixteen years old, when he began teaching school in the winter, working on the farm during the summer. Two years later he purchased his brother's interest in the old homestead, his father having died when he was less than three years of age. After this he worked the farm during the summer, teaching during the winter months, until he was twenty-three years old, when he sold the stock and farm implements and for two years attended college at Westfield, Ill. From there, in the spring of 1877, he came to Meeker county, remaining here one year and teaching two terms of school. In the spring of 1878, returning to the old home in Indiana, he worked on the farm with his brother that season and taught school during the following winter.

On the 8th of April, 1879, Mr. Russell was married to Miss Julia E. Hays, of Clay county Ind., and the following day they started for Meeker county, Minn. For a year he taught school at Cedar Mills, and, on the 14th of September, 1880, he settled at Litchfield and entered the law office of N. C. Martin for the purpose of fitting himself for that profession, and was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1882. He spent the summer of 1881 upon a claim in Dakota. He sold this in 1883, and having taken a homestead in the same Territory, that spring, he spent the summer on that, and still owns the farm. After being admitted to the bar in the fall of 1882 he formed a law partnership with N. C. Martin under the firm name of Martin & Russell. This partnership was maintained until the 1st of January, 1887, when it was dissolved, and since that time Mr. Russell has devoted his attention exclusively to his profession, as before, but alone in business, and has built up a lucrative practice. In 1884 he was elected city attorney and held the office for three successive terms. In the fall of 1887 he

was elected county attorney on the republican and alliance tickets and assumed the duties of the office on the 1st of January, 1887. Mr. Russell is an active member of the Christian Church.



ANDREW DAVIDSON, is one of the pioneers of Dassel township, where he lives on section 14, and one of its leading and representative citizens. He is a native of Scotland, born in Wigtown Shair, March 28, 1833. Among the heaths and glens of his native land he was reared, and there made his home until his twenty-first year, and then determined to seek a new home in the wilds of America. Crossing the tempestuous Atlantic, he landed in New York, and for a short time made his home in Orleans county, N. Y., but then moved to Morristown, N. J., where he went into a hardware store, where he was employed for some time, and later commenced market gardening or "truck farming." In 1856 our subject came west, and for ten years followed farming in Columbia county, Wis., from whence he came to Meeker county in 1866. He drove the entire distance with an ox team, bringing his family with him, and on his arrival here took up as a homestead eighty acres of land on section 14. First setting foot in the county July 4, 1866, he has been for nearly twenty years a constant citizen, except the first winter, when he spent that season in McLeod county after partially building the house upon his place, where he worked to keep his family in the necessaries of life. During the first few years he did considerable hunting, getting at one time eighty-six deer in six weeks, and in taking the venison and furs to Minneapolis to market he added considerably to his revenue. As game became scarce, he took up teaming with a yoke of oxen, and transacted considerable

business at remunerative figures. Soon his farm demanded his sole attention, and by the exercise of labor and perseverance, together with the thrift and frugality with which his race are proverbially endowed, has succeeded in placing himself in comfortable circumstances, and lives surrounded by most of the comforts of life.

Mr. Davidson was married before he left "the land of heather," December 1, 1849, to Miss Grace McAllister, but left her in Scotland when he came to America in search of a home. Two years afterward she emigrated to the "land of the free," joining her husband, in Morristown, in 1856. They are the happy parents of four children—Janet, Peter, Margaret and Alexander. Janet is the wife of Barney Cox, a resident of Dassel; Peter, who is also married, lives in the town of Dassel; the other two still reside at home.

On the organization of the town in 1867, Mr. D. was elected one of the first justices of the peace, and for the past thirteen years has been chairman of the town board of supervisors.



DAVID B. HOAR. The subject of this biography, a prominent and successful farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 34, Union Grove township, justly bears the reputation of being one of the most solid and substantial citizens in the northern part of the county, and his many years of residence there have caused him to be well known to all the old settlers of that region.

Mr. Hoar was born in New Brunswick, Albert county, Canada, on May 8, 1822. His father was originally a tanner, but he lost his feet from the effects of a cold, mortification setting in, and amputation was necessary, and he then learned and worked at the tailor's trade for some time, after which he was engaged in the mercantile business. A few years later he built a vessel,

which he sailed for three years, and then sold out and engaged in farming. He died in 1878, and his wife in 1883.

David B. Hoar, our subject, spent his early days in aiding to care for his parents. In May, 1857, he came to Minnesota, and worked in a steam saw mill in Wright county until the spring of 1858, when he came to Meeker county, and rented a farm in what is now Union Grove township, which he worked and raised three crops on. The last year he bought the right and improvements on 160 acres of land on section 34, where he wintered. The next summer he worked for farmers in Wright county, and the same fall, on October 23, 1861, he was married to Miss Melissa Bryant, daughter of Ambrose and Narcissa Bryant. She was born in Kennebec county, Me., July 24, 1842, and came to Minnesota with her parents in the fall of 1855. At the age of nineteen she commenced teaching school, and taught one term before and one after marriage. She was teaching when the outbreak of the Indians occurred. As a full history of this matter is given in another department of this work, it is unnecessary in this connection to repeat it. On the Wednesday following the massacre at Acton, Mrs. Hoar was teaching, when a man came and notified her that the Indians were coming. She at once sent the children to their homes, and she rode home with the mail carrier. Mr. Hoar at once started to notify the Goodspeeds, Mrs. Goodspeed being a sister of Mrs. Hoar. They hitched up a yoke of oxen and a horse, and expected to take dinner at Mr. Hoar's, but they did not stop to eat it, as the Indians had got sight of him and were in hot pursuit. Mr. Hoar cocked his gun and backed up to the wagon, waiting till all were in, and they started, and before they were out of sight the Indians were plundering the house. The party drove to Manannah, where they were joined by

quite a crowd, and then proceeded to Forest City. Mrs. Hoar, Mrs. Learning and two children, Mrs. Helen Goodspeed and three children, and Miss Florinda J. Bryant, the four sisters, went to Monticello. Mr. Hoar remained during the summer and was on some of the most perilous expeditions, and had many narrow escapes. He spent the ensuing winter at his father-in-law's, after which he spent about three years in his native province. In 1866 he returned to Union Grove, and this has since been his home. He has one of the most desirable farms in the township, owning 320 acres, and has substantial improvements. All that he possesses is the result of his own management and industry, and he has accumulated a fine property, notwithstanding the fact that he has passed through enough hardships and dangers in early days, and loss of crops in later years, to have discouraged and disheartened the generality of mankind.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoar are the parents of the following children—Adelbert, born December 12, 1862; David Alonzo, born September 1, 1864; Elisabeth S., born August 11, 1866; Wesley J., born September 5, 1868; Winogene, born July 11, 1870; Irvine, born January 15, 1872; Forest, born April 26, 1873; A. Chesley, born March 23, 1875; Phebe A., born January 13, 1877; Narcissa, born December 30, 1878; and Ambrose, born October 24, 1880. Adelbert is mentioned elsewhere in this work. David Alonzo runs a stationary engine at Buffalo, Minn. The rest are at home.



RASMUS NELSON, the junior member of the firm of Birch & Nelson, Litchfield, is a native of Denmark, born February 11, 1844. His father was engaged in agricultural pursuits, and our subject was reared upon a farm, acquiring such education as the schools of his native land afforded

until he was some fourteen years of age, after which his time was devoted solely to labor. In 1869 he emigrated to the New World and upon landing in this country, came to Minnesota and purchased a farm on section 34, Acton township, and upon that tract of land made his home for some sixteen years. While a resident in that portion of the county he was very active in the discharge of his duties as a citizen, and was duly honored by the people with election to several important offices. He served three years as town supervisor, four years as county commissioner, and in a number of the minor ones, and on the school board.

In 1884 the subject of this sketch purchased the interest of Andrew Nelson in the clothing and gents' furnishing goods firm of Birch & Nelson, and has been actively engaged in mercantile pursuits in this line and place ever since. He is still the owner of some 400 acres of excellent farm land in the county, most of which is under cultivation. His house, which is a handsome one, is surrounded by a fine grove, and his place contains a thrifty orchard, and is generally considered one of the best farms in the county.

Mr. Nelson was united in marriage in Denmark, previous to his leaving his native land, with Miss Maren Peterson, a native of the same country, who died September 29, 1887. They were the parents of eight children—Nels P., Charles G., Annie, Carrie M., Gertie C., Walter W., Jennie and Arthur E.

HANS IVERSON resides on section 33, Acton township. The parents of the subject of this biography were Iver and Johanna Anderson, both of whom were born in Norway and lived in their native land until the time of their deaths. Hans Iverson was a native of the same country and was born on the 4th of May, 1846. He came to the United States in 1869, and

shortly after his arrival he proceeded to Dakota county, Minn., where he was employed by various farmers until during the year 1873, when he came to Meeker county and bought railroad land on section 33, in Acton township, where he still lives. He has a good farm of 130 acres of land with a good portion of it under cultivation, a comfortable house, and other farm buildings, and withal is in comfortable circumstances. This has all been the result of his own industry and economy, as he was a poor man when he came to this country. He has met with some reverses, especially during the year that the grasshoppers visited Meeker county, but as a whole his farming operations have been very successful.

Mr. Iverson was married in 1869 to Miss Ingeborg Pederson. She was born in Norway, on the 4th of April, 1848, and is a daughter of Iver and Martha Pederson. Her father died in Norway and her mother is now living in Pope county, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Iverson have been the parents of the following children—Martin, born March 14, 1870; Idan, born December 29, 1873; Olof, born July 7, 1875; Mina, born September 10, 1877; Hilda, born January 16, 1880; and Lydia, born July 23, 1882.

NIMROD BARRICK, a farmer of Ellsworth township, lives on section 33, where he carries on agricultural pursuits, and confines his operations to grain and cattle raising.

Mr. Barrick was born in Cedar county, Iowa, September 20, 1851, and is the son of Alpheus and Minerva (Porter) Barrick, natives of Virginia and Indiana respectively, who came to Meeker county in the spring of 1864, and settled in the town of Cedar Mills, where they still live. Mr. and Mrs. Alpheus Barrick were the parents of eight children—Isaac, Amos, Sarah, Scott, Nimrod, Nellie,



John A. Sampson

James and Ethan. Isaac, one of those "whose faith and truth on war's red touchstone rang true metal," enlisted in Company H, Third Minnesota Infantry, and after nearly three years' service, died from exposure. Ethan died at the age of two years.

The subject of our sketch spent a portion of his early life in Rice county, Minn., where his father followed his trade, blacksmithing, until war times, then enlisted in Company A, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving one year. During this time our subject attended district school, and in the fall of 1864 he, with the rest of his people, removed to Meeker county, Minn., and settled in Cedar Mills township, where he remained at home, assisting in the work and improving the place, until the fall of 1873, when he commenced life for himself and removed to the town of Ellsworth.

October 9, 1873, Mr. Barrick and Miss Julia Kennedy pledged their mutual vows at the marriage altar. The bride was a daughter of Dr. V. P., and Julia Ann (Rudisill) Kennedy, natives of Pennsylvania and Indiana respectively, and was herself born in Clay county, Ind. A history of her parents is given elsewhere in the pages of this ALBUM, to which the reader is referred. By this union Mr. and Mrs. Barrick have become the parents of three children, Roscoe, Vincent and Baby, and their home is lightened by the merry sound of childhood's laugh and song.

In the spring of 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Barrick moved to Brown county, D. T., but becoming dissatisfied there, returned to Meeker county in the fall of the same year.

Our subject is republican in his principles, and affiliates with that organization. In local politics he takes considerable interest although, in no way a professional politician or an office seeker. In 1882 he was honored

by the citizens of Ellsworth township, by having had bestowed upon him the office of town supervisor, and for four years filled that position. Several minor offices have, also, in him found a worthy and trusty administrator and he merits and receives the respect and esteem of the whole community.



HENRY MARTIN, a successful and enterprising farmer residing on section 9, Cedar Mills township, has been a resident of Meeker county, with the exception of one year, since 1873. He is a native of Monroe county, Wis., and was born October 8, 1855.

When Henry was seven years of age he removed to Kedron, Fillmore county, Minn., with a man named Hale, who had adopted him. He remained there until 1873, when he came to Meeker county, Minn., and located in what is now the town of Cosmos. After remaining there a year he went to Stevens county, Minn., where he also remained a year, and then returned to Meeker county. After his return he lived in Greenleaf township until the spring of 1884, when he purchased his present farm on section 9, Cedar Mills township. Since that time he has resided upon his farm and devoted his time to diversified farming and stock raising. He has a valuable farm of 160 acres, considerable of which is under cultivation, and is in very comfortable circumstances.

Mr. Martin was married on January 9, 1878, to Miss Alma R. Nevens. She is a native of Maine, born November 26, 1861, and is a daughter of Daniel and Eveline Nevens, who were among the earliest settlers of Greenleaf township. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are the parents of four children, as follows—Luman D., born January 28, 1880; Mary E., born May 28, 1882; Sarah A., born April 28, 1885; and Lettie G., born September 22, 1887, all of whom are now living.

JOHN HUNTER, SR. The subject of this sketch, who is one of the most prominent and respected farmers and stock raisers in the northern portion of the county, is a resident of section 18, Union Grove township. He comes of a race which make the best citizens in Minnesota's population, and a race which is proverbial for their integrity, industry, frugality, and genial and hospitable temperament, for it is an old and true saying that "no man goes hungry from a Scotchman's door."

Mr. Hunter was born in the county of Barrackshire, Scotland, on the 10th of April, 1826. His early life was spent in the land of his birth, where he received the training and education afforded by the facilities of those days, and imbibed the principles of honesty, industry and economy, which are characteristic of the Scotch people. Economy and industry were essential in those days to make a living, and the wage earnings of that day would now be considered a pittance. About the year 1849 he came to America and settled in Canada, where he remained for sixteen years. He then, in 1865, came to Meeker county, Minn., and located on section 18, in what is now Union Grove township, where he has since lived. At the time he came here there were only three settlers within the limits of the township, as all the earlier settlers had been driven off by the Indians and had not returned as yet. Mr. Hunter had a good deal to contend with during those early days and had to encounter difficulties and disadvantages to which most men would have surrendered. When he arrived here his earthly possessions consisted of one yoke of oxen and a cow, and for two years he had very little to eat, living a good share of the time on wheat boiled in milk. Flour was worth \$16 per barrel, and potatoes \$1.25 per bushel, and at one time he traded a two-year-old steer, even, for a 100-weight of flour. They were obliged to go to Cold Springs, a

distance of twenty-five miles, to mill and the trip usually took three days. No work could be found, and there was no money in the country, and at times it looked as though starvation stared them in the face, but during all the trials and hardships his courage and enterprise never forsook him and it has not been unrewarded, as he is now rated as one of the most solid and substantial citizens of the township in which he lives. He has a fine farm of 250 acres and a comfortable home.

Mr. Hunter was married on the 1st of April, 1849, to Agnes Brown Lee, and their union has been blessed with seven children, as follows—Mary, Jane, James (deceased), John, Charles, Charlotte, and George (deceased).

During the first year that Mr. Hunter and his family were here, they had neither team nor cow; they had to carry their house-logs out of the woods—Mr. Hunter carried one end and old Mr. Beaumont the other. The boys each had to hold forked sticks to reach to the log so as to help. When they got their oxen, they did all their hauling, summer and winter, on a sled. Deer and elk would often come into the dooryard, while bear was by no means an unfrequent visitor. On one occasion, they found by the tracks, that a bear had climbed upon the wood-house and from there to the roof of the cabin, which was covered with sod. In those days they were afraid that some night they might come down the lire chimney. Wolves were numerous, and in addition to this they were constantly on the lookout for Indians. These were some of the trials, experiences and hardships which the early settlers endured.



HUGH DOWLING, harness maker and dealer in horsemen's goods, Litchfield, is a native of Bath, Me., born Septem-

ber 29, 1848, and is the son of Edward and Lizzie (Hanlon) Dowling, natives of the Emerald Isle, who had settled in Maine shortly before the birth of Hugh. The father of our subject worked at ship-carpentering until 1850, in Bath, after which he came to Minnesota, and remained until 1855 in St. Paul. He then, in company with a Mr. Egan, removed to Dakota county, this State, and was one of the first settlers in the town of Egan. He took up a homestead there, and made it his home until 1866, when he sold out and came to Meeker county and bought a farm. He died here December 27, 1870.

Hugh Dowling resided at home on the farm until he had attained the age of twenty-five years, when he commenced to learn the harness-making trade. In 1879 he opened a shop of his own, which burned down March 4, 1885, with a loss of \$1,900, only part of which was covered by insurance. Recovering himself, our subject soon afterward opened his present place of business, where he carries in stock all kinds of harness, robes, blankets, trunks, etc.

Mr. Dowling and Miss Kate E. Dougherty were united in marriage January 14, 1880. The lady is a daughter of Thomas and Catherine (Ward) Dougherty, natives of County Donegal, Ireland, who were among the very earliest settlers in this county, coming here in July, 1856. Mrs. Dowling is a native of Will county, Ill.



JOB B. SHERMAN, a prominent resident of Litchfield, is a native of Erie county, N. Y., born in 1840. His parents were Joseph and Mercy (Willitt) Sherman; the father a native of Massachusetts who had settled in Erie county, N. Y., in 1823, and the mother a native of New York. They remained upon their old homestead in Erie county from the time of their settlement until the time of their deaths.

Job B. remained with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age, when he enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Sixteenth New York Infantry, serving two years and nine months. During this time he was in thirteen different battles, and was wounded twice—first at Port Hudson, La., by a minie ball entering his left cheek and coming out at the back of his neck; and again at Cedar Creek, Va., by a spent minie ball entering his left cheek. The first wound was serious, and unfitted him for duty for about six months, seven weeks of which time were spent in the hospital. After receiving his discharge from the army, Mr. Sherman returned to Erie county, N. Y., and engaged in farming, remaining there until 1885, when he settled at Litchfield. With the exception of one year spent in Kansas, Litchfield has been his home since that time. He followed his trade (carpentering) until the spring of 1887, when he was appointed policeman for the village, which position he still holds. Mr. Sherman was married on the 25th of December, 1865, to Miss Hannah E. Sole, of Erie county, N. Y., and they are the parents of two children—Grace D., who was born December 5, 1867; and Blanche H., born July 29, 1878. Mrs. Sherman is one of the most active members of the Woman's Relief Corps, No. 47, and is the present secretary of the corps. The family are members of the Episcopal church. Mr. Sherman is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and also the Odd Fellows.



OLE HALVERSON NESS is one of the most prominent old settlers of Meeker county. He was born in Hulingdal, Norway, October 6, 1824, and is a son of Halver Munson and Ingeber Ness. His father served for thirty-six years in the Norwegian army,

and Ole H. saw six years' service in the same army, with the rank of sergeant. In 1846 he was married to Margaret Christian, a daughter of Christian Knudson, who was born in 1821. One week after his marriage Mr. Ness embarked for America with his parents, and settled in Rock county, Wis. In 1856 he sold his farm there and came to Meeker county, Minn., his family being one of the three original families who settled in Litchfield township. The party came through by "prairie-schooner" conveyance, and were charmed with the delightful scenery of Minnesota in June. During the summer the family lived in "camp-life style" on the land where Ole H. had taken up his claim, and in the fall he completed one of the first cabins erected in the township, and moved into it.

After experiencing the hardships and trials incident to pioneer life, he had just begun to get a foothold in the wilderness, and was looking forward to the brighter days of civilization, when the outbreak of the Sioux Indians came. Bred in the school of the intrepid Norwegian soldiery, Mr. Ness did not for a moment quail or hesitate before the onslaught of the savage redskins, but sprang to the defense of his home and fireside. On the night of the shedding of the first blood, a few miles from his own door, he was one of the few who dared to go to the scene of the slaughter in the darkness, and who, after finding the bodies of the five slain persons, stood faithful watch until they were buried. Then O. H. Ness went home, and, although the whole populace seemed to be on wheels to get out of the way of the savages, he remained at home with his family until Saturday following the massacre at Acton, when he took them to Forest City. His horses being pressed into service, he spent a few days at Kingston and then returned to Forest City, and superintended the building of fortifications there. His family occupied apartments over the postoffice at the time of

the Indian attack, and he first discovered it while going out to change the guard, and had just time to arouse the people and get them into the fortress. After remaining at Forest City until the latter part of December, 1862, Mr. Ness removed his family to the farm and kept them there during the entire winter—the only case of the kind in the whole county. The Indians destroyed fully \$2,000 worth of property for him.

Mr. Ness' first marriage was blessed with eleven children, whose names are as follows—Sarah, Halver O., Christian, Margaret, Martin O., Lina, Caroline and Karl. Margaret is married to Abt Mattson, Lina to Paul P. Olson, and Caroline to George Beach. The first wife died in August, 1877.

Mr. Ness has retired from all active participation in business affairs, and is now pleasantly passing the evening of his life with his second wife. All his children have grown up about him, and are comfortably settled in life.



ONE of the most intelligent and enterprising farmers in the southern part of the county is L. M. JOHNSON, a resident of section 22, Greenleaf township. He is a native of Sweden, and was born on February 25, 1844. His parents were also natives of Sweden, where they are still living, his father following the vocation of a farmer.

L. M. Johnson, the subject of our sketch, was reared in early life on a farm, but later, while still in the old country, was employed at the milling business, and at the carpenter's trade. In 1867, he left the land of his birth and came to the United States, and after spending some three weeks in Chicago, he went to Marquette county, Mich., where he worked at the carpenter's trade. On May 8, 1869, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and settled upon a farm on section 17, in

Greenleaf township. In 1871 he entered a homestead of forty acres, where he now lives, on section 22, and moved onto it during the same season. He now has a splendid farm of 180 acres, a large portion of which is under cultivation, and his buildings, which are among the best in the township, reflect great credit upon his enterprise and good management. He has a large amount of stock and carries on diversified farming, together with stock raising. He has taken an active interest in public matters.

Mr. Johnson was married on July 4, 1867, to Sarah C. Olson. Her parents were born in Sweden, where her father died, and her mother is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been blessed with the following children—Johauna T., born June 24, 1869; Esther E., born October 6, 1870; Mary S., born July 11, 1873; John W., born October 8, 1874; Ida N., born August 9, 1876; Ruth J., born May 16, 1878; Joshua E., born August 24, 1881; and a pair of twins that died at the time of their birth, August 28, 1868. The family are members of the Church of God. Mr. Johnson has five brothers and two sisters living in this country.



VINCENT COOMBS. The subject of this sketch, a successful farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 11, Cedar Mills township, is one of the oldest settlers in the southern portion of the county. He is a native of Indiana, and was born on April 30, 1841.

He arrived in Meeker county, Minn., on the 7th of July, 1857, with his parents, Milton and Elizabeth Coombs, he being at the time only sixteen years of age. The father, Milton Coombs, took a claim in the town of Ellsworth, but only remained on it a few days; not being satisfied with the location, packed up his goods, preparatory to starting for Iowa. Upon arriving at Cedar City he

was persuaded to take a claim in Cedar Mills township, and he accordingly selected 160 acres of land on section 2. For some time they lived at Cedar City, working the farm in the meantime, however, and in 1859 they moved to the place. When the Indian outbreak occurred, they with others went to the "Point" in Cedar Lake, where they built fortifications, and later went to Hutchinson. In the spring of 1863, they, with George Nichols and family, returned to Cedar Mills—they being the first to return.

The family of Milton Coombs remained in Cedar Mills township until 1865, when they moved to the town of Greenleaf.

In the fall of 1869 the family moved to Delano and later to Minneapolis, and thence to Hinckley, where they now reside.

In the fall of 1862, Vincent Coombs enlisted in Captain Herrington's three months State Militia, and served during his term of enlistment. In the following spring he enlisted as a scout under General Sibley, and served with the Sibley expedition through the West. He was one of the scouts who picked up the son of Little Crow to the south of Devil's Lake. Mr. Coombs was in the Indian country during most of the time while the trouble lasted. He was one of the four men who went into the timber to look after Caleb Sanborn, and found his body where the Indians had killed him, near his own house. He was also one of the party that went from Hutchinson to recover the body of Daniel Cross, who was killed by the Indians north of Cedar Lake.

In the fall of 1864 Vincent Coombs sold the farm in Cedar Mills and took a homestead in Greenleaf township. In the spring of 1869 he was married to Miss Lydia A. Abbott, of Forest Prairie. Mrs. Coombs died on the 18th of November, 1878, leaving her husband five small children to care for, her last request being that her children be kept together, and it has been faithfully fulfilled.

Mr. Coombs was again married in the spring of 1883, when Sarah J. Jordan, of Cedar Mills, became his wife. Our subject resided in the town of Greenleaf until the spring of 1887, when he sold his place and purchased the Pitman farm, of a fraction over 332 acres, located on sections 2 and 11, Cedar Mills township. While in Greenleaf, Mr. Coombs held many offices of a local nature, and took an active and prominent part in politics, township matters and educational affairs. He is a member of the Masonic order, having joined Golden Fleece lodge, No. 89, A. F. & A. M., in 1872, and Rabboni chapter, No. 37, Royal Arch, in 1887. When the Grange movement started he was one of the leading members in the organization and was master of the Greenleaf lodge.

Mr. Coombs has now one of the best farms in the town of Cedar Mills, he and his wife together owning 412 acres of the finest land in this region. Mr. Coombs has good substantial buildings and a nice artificial grove, set out by Rev. J. M. Pitman about twenty years ago. In conversation with Mr. Coombs, he said: "I am my mother's best boy—being the only boy in ten children."



EP. PETERSON, attorney at law, of Litchfield, came to Meeker county in May, 1867, with his parents, Olof and Hedda F. Peterson. E. P. Peterson was born in Goodhue county, Minn., in June, 1855, and was therefore twelve years of age when he came here. His father took a homestead in Harvey township and remained until 1883, when he removed to Nicollet county, and later to Des Moines, Iowa, where he still lives.

E. P. Peterson remained at home attending school, and also spent one year in the State University, and when he had arrived at the age of nineteen he began teaching school,

and followed that profession for three years. Then, in company with his brother H. I., he bought the Litchfield *Independent*. In 1880, selling his interest in the paper to his brother, he began the study of law with Campbell & Spooner, of Litchfield, and about two years later was admitted to the bar. Since that time he has devoted his time exclusively to his profession, and has been very successful.



THOMAS F. PRICE, a prominent old settler of Meeker county, residing on section 18, Harvey township, is a native of Gilmanton, N. H., and was born on the 18th of August, 1838. His parents were Thomas and Ann E. Price. The father was born in Gilmanton, N. H., and remained there until the time of his death, February 14, 1849. The mother was a native of Medway, Mass., born August 26, 1809. She came West with her family in the fall of 1856, and for six months remained at Minneapolis, after which she settled at Kingston, in Meeker county, and made her home in this county, afterward, however, removing to Harvey township, until the time of her death January 10, 1877. She was formerly Ann E. Burlen from Medway, Mass., and was united in marriage to Thomas Price, of Gilmanton, N. H., October 30, 1836. After coming West she endured many hardships and privations, especially during the outbreak of the Indians in 1862, but still maintained great fortitude and courage through all—always cheerful and looking on the bright side, until the last, and, at sixty-seven years, passed away, after suffering acutely for over one year. She was a member of the Congregational church, with her husband. Her remains were buried at Manannah cemetery. There were five children in her family, four of whom—E. A., of Big Stone county, Minn., Thomas F., Harriet M., and Augusta A.—are still living.

One member of the family, a son, Wilnot Austin Price, died in Harvey, October 9, 1870, and was buried in the Manannah cemetery.

Thomas F. Price, the subject of our present sketch, spent most of his early life in his native town. He received the education afforded by the facilities of those days, and at an early age he learned the carpenter's trade, which he worked at more or less at Boston and other places. In 1856 he came West with his mother's family to Minneapolis, and six months later to Kingston. They were living there when the Indian outbreak occurred. They remained at Kingston during all of the trouble with the redskins, although nearly all of the settlers throughout the county went away for safety. In 1863 they removed to Harvey township, where Thomas F. has since lived. He has devoted his time to general farming and stock raising and owns a valuable farm.

In religious matters Mr. Price attends the Congregational church, and in his political views he affiliates with the republican party. He has taken considerable interest in township affairs, and has served more or less as justice of peace during the last few years. Mr. Price is a man of the strictest integrity, and is justly regarded as one of the leading citizens of the township in which he lives.

machine. He then purchased a farm of 152 acres on section 25, Acton township, where he has since lived, devoting his time to diversified farming and stock raising. He has been very successful, and now has a good lot of stock gathered about him. His farm is in a good location and he has a considerable portion of it under cultivation.

Mr. Sundahl was married in 1878 to Miss Christina Olson, who was born on the 12th of July, 1856. She was a daughter of Andrew Olson, who was killed by the Indians in September, 1862, a short distance from where Mr. Sundahl now lives. A full account of this matter is given elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Sundahl have had the following children born to them: Halver, born December 31, 1878; Andrew, born August 28, 1880; Matilda, born March 29, 1881; and Lura, born March 18, 1884. Mr. Sundahl takes an active interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of his township, and is one of its leading citizens. He is a republican in political matters.



A RELIABLE and enterprising citizen of Ellsworth township is N. D. MERRILL, living on section 32, where he is engaged in carrying on general farming and stock raising. He first came to Minnesota in 1855, and after a year spent in Minneapolis, settled in Buffalo, Wright county, where he made his home until the breaking out of the Civil War, when, imbued with the patriotism of an American citizen, Mr. Merrill enlisted in the Second Minnesota Battery, under the command of Captain Hotchkiss, on January 1, 1862, and on the 21st of April following, moved forward to the seat of war. The company was engaged for the first time at the capture of Corinth, and from that time on made a creditable record for itself in the conflicts of Perryville, Knob Gap, Stone River, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge and

G UNDER H. SUNDAHL is one of the leading farmers in the southeastern portion of Acton township. He is a son of Halver and Mary Sundahl, and was born in Norway, on the 28th of July, 1846. He remained in his native land until 1870, when he came to the United States, and first stopped in Iowa, where he worked at railroad work for three years. In 1873 he came to Litchfield, and for two years was employed by various farmers in the neighborhood, after which for two years he ran a ditching

others. When the war closed they were on detached duty in East Tennessee, where they were mustered out. His term of service over, Mr. Merrill returned to Minnesota, where he remained until 1867, when he removed to Montana, where he was engaged in mining for three years, returning to Wright county, this State, from whence he came to Meeker county, in 1876, and here has made his home ever since. He is a native of Maine, born in Dover, December 29, 1834, and is the son of True and Sally C. Merrill, both natives of Maine, the father having been born September 7, 1806, and the mother, July 25, 1805.

True and Sally C. Merrill were married October 11, 1827, and were the parents of the following children: E. W., born March 19, 1829; S. T., born May 25, 1831; Betsy A., born February 14, 1833; N. D., the subject of this sketch; Julia A., born February 2, 1837; Sarah E., born July 26, 1839; Charles L., born May 19, 1842, and Marinda A., born July 3, 1844.

N. D. Merrill, our subject, was married on July 21, 1870, to Mrs. Ireland, widow of Wesley Ireland. She was a native of Penobscot county, Me.; was married in 1860 to Mr. Ireland, who afterward died. She came to Minnesota in 1864 with her one child, Ellen M., and lived a widow until her marriage with Mr. Merrill. Her daughter, Ellen M. Ireland, was born November 1, 1861, and is now Mrs. A. G. Root, of Nebraska.



ALEB HULL, a prosperous and enlightened farmer of Dassel township, having his home on section 10, is a native of Herkimer county, N. Y., born in the town of Russia, September 26, 1824, and is the son of Benjamin and Betsey (Clapper) Hull, natives of Rhode Island and New York, respectively. Benjamin Hull removed to

Dodge county, Wis., in 1851, where he died in 1861; his wife some years later came to Meeker county, and died at Forest City in 1877.

The subject whose name heads this personal sketch, commenced at the age of thirteen years to learn the shoemaker's trade, and after devoting three years to it, went to St. Lawrence county, N. Y., whither his parents had removed, where he made his home for three years. Coming West, he spent the same period of time in Jefferson county, Wis., and then was engaged in the pineries of that State for six years. On his return, he built a house at Hustisford, Dodge county, Wis., but from there went to the Michigan pineries, where he spent some three years more, and then came back to Dodge county, where, December 1, 1855, he was united in marriage with Miss Eunice Frost. The next year of his life was passed in Watertown, Wis., after which he removed to Freeborn county, Minn., and purchased 160 acres of land on section 6, town of Freeman, where he settled. While there, he followed hunting and trapping to a great extent, and found it highly remunerative; so much so as to enable him to provide his family with many comforts that the other new settlers could not reach. While thus engaged, came the news of the Indian outbreak of 1862, and most of his neighbors fled panic-stricken, but he would not go. One day, while returning from his work in Iowa, he met a number of his neighbors who advised him not to go home, saying, with their selfish instincts uppermost, that by the time he got there, his family would be murdered and his home in flames, as the Indians were close behind; but, nobly responding to his duty, which called him to the defense of his family, he went on and found all peaceful at home, and the danger much magnified by their fears and abject terror. He remained in Freeborn county some nine years



R. S. Shields

and then sold out and came to Meeker county, arriving here July 7, 1867. He took up a homestead on section 10, where he now lives, but lived in Darwin until the spring of 1868, and then moved into a log cabin, where the family lived until he could get a house built, which stood where his present cottage now stands. This latter was erected in 1879, at a cost of \$1,000, and is handsome, neat and commodious, and he has a fine farm of 120 acres of excellent land.

Mr. and Mrs. Hull have had a family of six children, four of whom still survive—Augustus, living in Dakota, Ida E., Mrs. Charles Penny, of Dassel; Lillie B., and Mark W., at home. Mr. Hull has served in several official positions, chief among which was that of chairman of the town board of supervisors.



NELS CLEMENTS, of Litchfield, is the son of Nels and Betsy Clements, and was born in Meeker county May 14, 1860. His parents, natives of Sweden, came to Meeker county in 1857, and on the 20th of August settled in the town of Litchfield on a farm, where they lived until the death of the father, in 1870. During the time of the Indian outbreak Nels Clements removed for safety to Forest City, and manfully did his part toward the building of the stockade and its defense. Having been on friendly terms with the Indians, they did not destroy his house, but stole all the provisions and stock that were left on the place.

Nels remained at home upon the paternal farm until he was of age, on attaining which he went to Minneapolis, but returned during the following winter. The season of 1882 he spent in Montana, but, returning to this county in 1883, he located in Grove City, and went into the farm-machinery business. In 1884 he came to Litchfield and tended bar for S. A. Scarp, but in October, 1886,

opened the saloon he now runs. He was married April 30, 1886, to Miss Kate Menten, a native of Meeker county, Minn., and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Menten, natives of Germany. By this union there has been born one child—Mary, whose birth took place May 9, 1887.



NELS AKESON is one of the prominent and well-to-do citizens of Swede Grove township. Mr. Akeson is a son of Ake and Hannah Anderson, and was born in Sweden on the 9th of May, 1841. He came to the United States in 1868, and first settled at Stillwater, Minn., where he lived for about seven years, being employed part of the time in a saw mill, again at railroading and various other means of securing a living. In 1875 he came to Swede Grove township, and bought a farm on section 35, where he has since remained, carrying on general farming and stock raising. He has a comfortable home, having a neat frame house and a very fine barn 30x44 feet in size, and has gathered about him considerable stock. When he came to the United States he had only fifty cents in his pocket, but by industry and good management he has placed himself in comfortable circumstances, and to-day is one of the substantial farmers of his township.

Mr. Akeson married Anna, a daughter of Ole and Carrie Anderson. She was born January 17, 1851. They have had the following children: Hilma, born July 18, 1875; Mattie, born February 23, 1877; Carrie, born February 10, 1879; Ake, born April 24, 1881; Ella, born September 13, 1883; and Olof, born August 9, 1887. The family are members of the Swedish Lutheran church. Mr. Akeson has taken a prominent and active part in all public matters, and has held the office of township clerk since 1882. He is a republican in political faith.

HON. JOHN S. SHIELDS, the present state senator from Meeker county, is a resident of Darwin township, living upon his fine and extensive farm on section 34. He is a native of Ottawa, Canada, born November 8, 1839, and is of Irish ancestry, at least upon his father's side. He was reared and educated in the Dominion of his birth until 1859, when he came to the United States, and from June until the following fall remained mostly in the city of Minneapolis. During this time he came to Meeker county, and prospected, spending July 4, 1859, here, and the following August came here and made a settlement at Forest City, where he resided until that winter, when he located where he now lives. Previous to leaving his home, on the 24th of May, 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Kenney, and with his young wife came through the Big Woods to the new settlement. Mr. Shields furnished the labor toward making the first United States flag ever floated in Meeker county, J. B. Atkinson furnishing the cloth and Thomas Grayson the paint. He was appointed in 1860, by the State, to cut a road through the Big Woods, and did so about this time, and through it hauled the merchandise for a merchant at Forest City, which was the first load brought that way. Mr. Shields remained upon his farm until the sad times of the fall of 1862, but on the terrible Sabbath of the 17th of August, he heard the news of the Indian outbreak and went to Forest City to investigate. He returned and warned all within his reach. He took part in the inquest, and all the subsequent movements of the settlers as detailed elsewhere. He sent his wife and children to Clearwater, but he remained in Forest City and took part in all the marches, engagements, etc., of the Home Guards, although not mustered into the company. When the attack was made by the Indians on Forest City, Mr. Shields

was sleeping in the barn with the sixty horses of the Home Guards, and on the commencement of the firing untied his two horses and endeavored to get to the stockade, but one horse was shot, and with the other he got away. This was the only horse saved out of the lot. Many more incidents of his bravery could be given did not space forbid, but it is enough to say that he did his duty manfully.

He afterward went to Minneapolis, where he remained until 1865, but in the fall of that year returned to this county and to his farm where he now lives. He has occupied several responsible positions since coming here, including that of chairman of the town board, assessor, town clerk, and justice of the peace, and was elected to represent the county in the State Senate in 1886, on the Farmers' Alliance ticket, of which organization he is the present president. He is the father of the following six children: Isabella, born April 15, 1860, and died October 29, 1879; Ellen J., born December 19, 1864; William A., born August 20, 1868; Maggie E., born April 2, 1870; and Charles A., born October 2, 1872. On the 11th of December, 1874, the death angel invaded this little family circle and drew from their affectionate embrace the beloved wife and mother, leaving only her memory in their inner hearts, where it is forever enshrined. Mr. Shields is an attendant upon the services of the Episcopal church, and an upright, honorable gentleman.

In the fall of 1886, as above mentioned, Mr. Shields was elected to represent his district in the State Senate, took his seat at the opening of the Twenty fifth Legislature, and holds that office at the present writing. In the last session he was among the most active and influential members of that body, and ably represented his constituents in a session which was among the most important held in the history of the State. His influence

and ability were recognized in the formation of the senate committees, and none more zealously favored and aided anti-monopoly legislation. He has been identified with Minnesota matters for more than a quarter of a century and is well informed as to its history. An able parliamentarian, a clear-headed and careful business man, he has accumulated a comfortable fortune.



THE PRESENT register of deeds of Meeker county, N. A. VIREN, came to this section of the State in 1858, and in April of that year passed through to the extreme frontier of those days, and located in Kandiyohi county. He remained there until the 21st of August, 1862, when the dreadful massacre of the defenseless settlers by the red wards of our government struck terror into the hearts of all upon the borders, for their loved ones were in imminent danger. Mr. Viren joined the tide of fugitives for safety, and finally, after considerable travel, reached Forest City with his family. He took the latter on to Clearwater, where he left them, and returned to assist those who were less fortunate and to help make a stand against the diabolical red fiends, who, reeking with the blood of the innocents, thirsted for more lives to take. He did not join the home guards, but was active in many of the volunteer expeditions that went out to look up stock, etc., and was in Kandiyohi at the time of the attack on Forest City. After performing his part in the operations of that fall Mr. Viren removed to St. Paul, where he made his home until 1869, when he again turned westward, and located in Litchfield, where he opened a wagon shop, which business he continued in until assuming the duties of register of deeds, in January, 1871, to which he had been elected the previous fall. He remained in this office, being reelected

his own successor, until January, 1879. He during the next few years filled the positions of justice of the peace and town clerk, but at the regular election of November 4, 1884, the people of the county manifested a wish for him to resume the office of register of deeds, and he accordingly entered upon its well-known duties in January, 1885, where he has remained ever since.

Mr. Viren is a member of the Masonic fraternity, a charter member of Golden Fleece lodge, No. 89, and also connected with the A. O. U. W.



LANSING V. BROWN, the efficient station and express agent at Eden Valley came to that village November 15, 1886, to take charge of the Minneapolis & Pacific Railroad Company's business, and has remained there in that position ever since. He became the agent for the American Express Company in the fall of 1886, also.

Mr. Brown was born in the beautiful city of Watertown, Jefferson county, Wis., January 8, 1858, and is the son of Peter V. and Elizabeth (Johnson) Brown, both of whom were natives of New York. The father of our subject was one of the early settlers and pioneer merchants of Watertown, and is one of the stockholders of the Wisconsin National Bank of that place, where he still resides.

The subject of our sketch received his education in the excellent schools of his native city, and at the age of fifteen entered the office of the Northwestern Telegraph Company at that place, as manager, where he remained four years. He was then transferred to Eau Claire, Wis., but a short time after came to St. Paul and entered the office of the train dispatcher of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company, where he remained about one year. In May, 1878,

he became station agent at Darwin, Meeker county, in the employ of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad Company, and remained at that post four years.

The next two years he had charge of the station at Willmar, but in 1884 went to Western Montana, as traveling auditor of the Northern Pacific Railroad, which position he held for two years, and then accepted his present place. His upright dealing and straightforward, gentlemanly demeanor has won him hosts of friends, and his future looks bright.



JOHAN LINDGREN, who has charge of the Farmer's and Merchant's Co-operative Elevator at Litchfield, is a native of Sweden, born in 1854. He was brought to America when still less than four years of age by his step-father, his father having died when John was an infant.

Mr. Lindgren lived with his step-father, T. G. Cornelius, until he was thirteen years of age, when he began life for himself, working on a farm in Meeker county. In the spring of 1880 he went to Hallock, Kittson county, Minn., where he had charge of a large farm for four years, after which he returned to Litchfield, where he has since been connected with the grain trade. Mr. Lindgren was married in 1876 to Miss Matilda Olson, of Stevens county. They have four living children—Annie M., George J., Bertha E., and an infant.



FRED SWANSON. The subject of this biography, a prominent and respected farmer, residing on section 2, Greenleaf township, is a native of Sweden, born May 5, 1846. He remained in his native land until twenty-one years of age, when he came to the United States and settled in Marquette county, Mich. For six years he was

employed in the iron mines in that county, and then came to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased a farm on section 2, in Greenleaf township. By good management, industry and economy he has been very successful in his farming operations, notwithstanding the fact that he has met with the partial loss of crops in various years, and is to day in comfortable circumstances and justly rated as one of the substantial and "solid" citizens of his township. He has an excellent farm of 213 acres, about half of which is under cultivation, and has it well stocked. The place is a valuable one, and is located in the best farming district in Meeker county.

Mr. Swanson was married in 1869 to Miss Mary L. Walstrom. She was a native of Sweden, and had settled in Marquette county, Mich., in 1869, being twenty-three years old at that time. Her father died when she was yet a child, and her mother remained in Sweden until 1882, when she came to live with her daughter in Greenleaf. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson have been the parents of seven children, six of whom are still living. Their names are as follows—Clara J., born March 29, 1870; Carl J., born September 27, 1873; Helma M. (deceased), born October 14, 1875, died December 24, 1886; Ida E., born September 6, 1878; Esther M., born April 1, 1881; Hulda E., born June 1, 1885; and Sigfrid E., born December 4, 1886.



ADELBERT B. HOAR, a thrifty and enterprising young farmer residing on section 32, Union Grove township, is the eldest son of David B. and Melissa (Bryant) Hoar, and was born in Wright county, Minn., on the 12th of December, 1862. A full sketch of his parents will be found in another department of this work, as they were among the most prominent early settlers in the north-western part of the county.

The subject of our present sketch commenced life for himself when about twenty-one years of age, but remained at home for a year or so after that time. He received the education afforded by the public schools, and supplemented this by attending the Litchfield schools for some time. On the 4th of May, 1887, he was married to Miss Emma A. Caswell, a daughter of Nathan W., and Margaret (Robinson) Caswell. She was born at Brompton, Province of Quebec, Can., March 9, 1865.

Mr. Hoar purchased eighty acres of land on section 32, Union Grove township, in 1885, and that forms his present place. He has a comfortable residence, and substantial farm buildings and is getting in good shape for carrying on his farming and stock raising operations. In addition to this he owns a half interest in an improved steam thresher, and during the proper season devotes his attention to that business.



AMOS NELSON FOSEN, ex-county treasurer of Meeker county, and now a prominent farmer residing on section 31, Litchfield township, is a native of Norway, born on the 26th of September, 1837, and a son of Nels and Malline (Hovelsen) Gundersen. His father died in Norway in 1886 at the age of eighty-two years, and the mother is still a resident of his native land. In 1855 Amos sailed for the United States, and after spending one year in Wisconsin, he came to Meeker county, Minn., becoming one of the six original settlers of Litchfield township. He first took up a timber claim on section 25, in Acton township, but afterward settled on section 30, in Litchfield township, and retained property there until 1887, when he sold that and rented the Crowe farm on section 31, where he now lives. In 1861 he went to Fort Snelling to enlist for service in

the army, but before being sworn in he received a commission as a recruiting officer and started for home to raise men. He had to walk the entire distance and sleep out of doors at night, thereby contracting rheumatism, which unfitted him for service, and from which he has never fully recovered. At the time of the Indian outbreak in 1862 his farm was tenanted by Burger Anderson, and he only spent a portion of the time there. He was employed as a farm hand by Jones, and narrowly escaped being one of the party that was murdered on that fatal Sunday — August 17, 1862.

After the excitement attendant on the Indian troubles had somewhat subsided he returned to his farm. He was married, in 1869, to Rachel Hanson, a daughter of Christopher Hanson. They have had eight children, one of which died in infancy, and the rest are all living at home, as follows — Nels A., Mathilda Caroline, Laura Marie, Ragna Amelia, Agnes Rosilia, Hjalmar Arthur and Gunda Mabel. The family are active members of the Ness Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Fosen has always taken a commendable interest in all public matters and has held a great many local offices, besides which he held the office of county treasurer for three successive terms.



WILLIAM H. JOHNS, of the firm of Johns Brothers, dealers in hardware, at Litchfield, and one of the most prominent business men in Meeker county, is a native of Louisa, Lawrence county, Ky., the date of his birth being July 23, 1855. His parents were Daniel N. and Annie [Atkins] Johns. In 1864 the family removed to McLeod county, Minn., and purchased a farm upon which they lived for a number of years, but they are now residents of Glencoe, in the same county.

William H. remained with his parents until

twenty-one years of age, during which time he received the advantages of a common-school education in the district schools, and also attended the higher graded schools at Howard Lake and Hutchinson. Upon arriving at his majority he began life for himself, and for four or five years was engaged at teaching school and working on a farm. He then went to Groton, Dak., and in company with his brother, D. B. Johns, opened a hardware store under the firm name of Johns Brothers. They remained in trade at that place for about six years, when they sold out and opened their present business at Litchfield. Mr. Johns is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined Groton lodge No. 65, in 1886; and is also a member of an Odd Fellow's lodge at the same place.



EZRA B. COMSTOCK. Among the well known popular educators and school teachers of Meeker county, there is, perhaps, no better representative than Mr. Comstock, a resident of Ellsworth township, living in the village of Greenleaf. He is a native of Canada, having first seen the light October 8, 1838, in Brown county, in the province of Quebec, and is the son of Anson and Hannah (Constadt) Comstock, both of whom have passed to their reward in the land beyond the river of death.

Our subject received the benefits of a primary education in the district schools of his native county, and knowing the advantages to be derived from it, for two years was a student at Browne College, from which he was graduated in 1858. His studies for a time were in the direction of civil engineering but meeting with an accident to one of his limbs, which disqualified from the labors incident upon that profession, he gave it up and turned his attention to "teaching the young idea how to shoot." He com-

menced his life's labors as pedagogue in his native land. He came to the State of Minnesota in 1869, and for some four years presided over the studies of a large school. From there he came to Meeker county, locating, for the nonce in Cedar Mills township, where he remained, following his profession, for some four years, and then removed to his present residence, in Greenleaf.

May 21, 1861, Mr. Comstock was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Cook, a native also of the Dominion of Canada, with whom he had been to school in his youth. Her parents, both of whom were born in the same section of country, are both dead, the mother dying when Mrs. Comstock was but a child, and the father in June, 1867. By this union Mr. and Mrs. Comstock have one child—Myrtie M., who was born in Meeker county, this State, May 12, 1875.

In his political views, Mr. Comstock coincides with the republican party, although not blindly partisan. His judgment and own intelligence are what he mostly depends upon. He has held many of the more important township offices since coming here, and always with honor. He has been a constant resident since 1873, except that during the year 1879 when he was teaching in St. Paul, he has taken a deep interest in the advancement of educational matters, and to him is due a share of the progress made in this direction by Ellsworth township. Mr. Comstock at present holds a commission as notary public.



DANIEL AVERY CROSS, deceased, was one of the most prominent of those hardy pioneers who first located in the southern part of the county. He was born in Oneida county, N. Y., on the 6th of July, 1829. When he was five years old,

his parents removed to Indiana. His father died when he was ten years of age, and he was early thrown upon his own resources.

In 1857, accompanied by his family, which consisted of his wife and two children, and also a man named E. Dibbel, Mr. Cross came to Minnesota and took a claim on section 13, in what is now Cedar Mills township. They arrived in July, and Mr. Cross and family lived in their wagon on the bank of Cedar Lake until fall. That fall they built a house in Cedar City, McLeod county, as they were unable to procure the logs unless they built on the town site, a plan which was followed for the purpose of building up a village. Two years later they moved the house to the claim, and lived there until the Indian outbreak occurred. At the time the news of the massacre reached him, Mr. Cross moved his family to the "Point," in Cedar Lake; but a short time later moved them to Hutchinson. When the report came that the Indians were raiding and burning in Cedar Mills, volunteers were called to go on an expedition, and Mr. Cross was one of the first to offer his services. They followed the Indians until dark, and then spent the night at Mr. Cross' house. In the morning Mr. Cross, with five others, started to go to the house of Caleb Sanborn, who lived on the north side of Cedar Lake, to warn him of his danger if the Indians had not already killed him. While on their way they were surprised by the Indians, and Mr. Cross was shot and killed, while the others fled. Mr. Cross laid where he fell until the following day, when his remains were taken to Hutchinson, where they were interred on the 25th of September, 1862. His death was mourned by a wide circle of friends. He was a man possessed of the very best of qualities, and of the strictest integrity and honor.

Soon after the death of Mr. Cross, the widow returned to her former home in Indiana, where she remained for a year

and a half, when she returned to the farm on section 13, Cedar Mills township, where she has since lived. Mrs. Cross has two children, who are now living: Mary E., now Mrs. A. Jordan, of Greenleaf township; and Daniel Avery, who was born March 16, 1863, and still lives on the old homestead, where he carries on farming and stock raising.



JOHN SNELL, the leading furniture dealer of Litchfield, is a native of Verina Island, Sweden, born September 5, 1831, and is the son of Andrew and Katherine (Bergstadt) Snell. He was reared at home until he had attained the age of seventeen, when he commenced to learn the cabinet-maker's trade, and served an apprenticeship at that until he was twenty-one years old. He then determined to emigrate to the New World, the "promised land" of the poor of the old countries, and, accordingly set sail for New York. For eighteen months after landing there he was employed in John Olander's piano manufactory in the metropolis of America, after which time he removed to Galesburg, Ill., and for a year was engaged at his trade. Coming still farther west after a short time spent in St. Paul, he located in Carver, Carver county, Minn., in 1854. That village had just been laid out, and as an inducement to have so excellent a mechanic settle among them, Mr. Snell was given a lot in the village upon which to build. He put up a house there, and commenced making chairs, tables, etc., by hand, using one room in his house for a shop. Later on he erected a small mill that ran by water-power, which greatly facilitated his work, and remained, actively engaged in trade in that place until 1874, when he sold out his interests there and removed to Chicago. In the latter city he was engaged in carrying on the photographic business, he having acquired some

knowledge of that art while living in Carver. In 1877 he came to Litchfield and purchased his present business, to which he has added undertaking, and has been employed in that ever since. In 1879 he began the erection of his present handsome quarters, finishing it the next year. It is a fine brick building of some eighty feet front, and corresponding depth, and one of the handsomest in the village.

Mr. Snell was married while in New York, in 1852, to Miss Esther Peterson, who died May 13, 1864, in Carver, leaving two children—Clara A., born May 15, 1858, now the wife of William Murdock, a business man of Chicago; and Hilda E., born January 8, 1862, now Mrs. E. M. Warhamch, whose husband is a druggist in the same city. Mr. Snell was again married July 26, 1865, to Miss Ida Peterson, who has been the mother of three children, only one of whom is living—Alvin O., born March 17, 1867. Those deceased were Ida, born April 26, 1866, and died November 12, 1883; and Julian Paul, born May 5, 1870, and died July 13, 1872. Mrs. Snell was born August 17, 1830, and is a most estimable woman.



PETER JOHNSON is one of the leading farmers living in the southern part of Acton township, his residence being on section 33. Mr. Johnson is a son of Peter and Sarah Johnson, and was born in Norway on the 17th of October, 1834. He came to the United States in 1868, and for about a year was employed at Minneapolis in a brick yard and in different saw-mills. In 1869 he came to Meeker county and took a homestead of forty acres on the line between Acton and Danielson townships. After proving up on the homestead he removed his house to an adjoining eighty acres which he had purchased in the meantime. He still lives on the last named place.

Mr. Johnson was married in Norway to Miss Gurn Peterson, a daughter of Peter and Mary Henderson. By this marriage they have had the following named children—Sarah, born November 28, 1860; Mary, born September 5, 1862; John, born November 28, 1866; Catherine, born September 8, 1869; Peter, born November 12, 1872; Christian, born March 18, 1875; Matilda, born December 30, 1878; and Hannah, born October 15, 1881. Mary is now the wife of Theodore Christian Rue, a resident of Cosmos township, Meeker county; and Sarah is now the wife of Lewis Olson, who is a resident of Dakota Territory.



JOHAN BLOMBERG is a prominent farmer who resides on section 18, Acton township. He is a native of Sweden, born October 27, 1835, and is a son of Jones and Engriell Blomberg. In 1857 he came to the United States and settled in Chisago county, Minn., where for three years he was engaged at farming and lumbering. He then went to Olmstead county, where for two years he worked for different parties. Returning to Chisago county, he made that his home until 1864, when he went to Taylor's Falls and enlisted in Company D, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He served one year with his regiment, and after being honorably discharged he worked in Chicago, Goodhue and other counties until 1867, when he came to Meeker county and took a homestead claim in Acton township. For nearly a year after this he worked in the pineries, but in 1868 he settled on his homestead and has since lived there. He was a poor man when he came to the United States and was even obliged to borrow a portion of the money with which he paid his passage; but his perseverance, industry and economy have been rewarded, and he is now in comfortable



A. B. Penney

circumstances and getting along well. He owns 212 acres of land, 110 acres of which are under cultivation and he also has a great deal of stock. He has met with some reverses in his farming operations, especially during the grasshopper raids, when he lost all the wheat on eighty acres except sixty bushels. He says he saved some oats that year, but "there were more grasshopper legs than grain." Mr. Blomberg has taken an active interest in all public matters and has held many local offices, including the following: School clerk, ever since he came here; county commissioner, now serving his second term; was chairman of supervisors one term; town clerk two years; and was assessor four terms. He is the present secretary of the Insurance Company of Acton and Genesee, which includes twenty-five townships in Meeker and Kandiyohi counties. The company was organized in 1884 and now has a membership of about 600, and is carrying risks to the amount of about \$800,000.

Mr. Blomberg was married, by a justice in the town of Acton, in the house where the Indians killed the first whites in Meeker county, inaugurating the terrible outbreak of 1862. The marriage occurred on the 25th of September, 1869, with Miss Lena M. Peterson, who was born July 7, 1842. They have been blessed with the following children—Charles E., born May 26, 1870, died February 6, 1878; Anna Christina, born July 14, 1871; Emily Catharine, born June 30, 1873; Ida Victoria, born September 1, 1875; Victor Emanuel, born January 5, 1877; Alice Charlotte, born August 27, 1880, died March 21, 1881; Claus Edward, born February 4, 1882; Peter Eugene, born February 27, 1885; and Hattie Maria, born November 24, 1887.

JAMES MC CARNEY, a well-known and highly respected farmer, residing on section 4, Harvey township, comes of a

nationality, which through their natural thrift, enterprise and frugality, now form one of the most substantial and desirable elements in Minnesota's population.

Mr. McCarney was born in Ireland, and is a son of Patrick and Catherine (Brady) McCarney. He spent his early life in the land of his birth, and on March 1, 1846, he sailed for the United States, landing at New Orleans on the 7th of May, and proceeding from there to Galena, Ill. He remained there for five years, and then came to Minnesota and settled at St. Paul, where he spent about three years. His next move was to Dakota county, where he settled upon a farm in Burnsville township. There he was living when the civil war broke out, and in response to the President's call for men, he enlisted on December 24, 1862, in Company M, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers. He remained in the service until August 16, 1863, when he was discharged for disability, and returned to his farm in Burnsville, Dakota county, Minn. Three years later he came to Meeker county, Minn., and after spending the winter with his brother, Patrick, who was living in Manannah township, he settled on the farm where he still resides, on section 4, Harvey township. This was in the spring of 1867.

In May, 1850, Mr. McCarney was married to Miss Margary McGinkay. They are the parents of ten children, eight of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. McCarney are members of the Catholic church. In political matters, Mr. McCarney affiliates with the democratic party.

JAMES DEAREY, a leading and representative farmer of Darwin township, has his residence on section 10, where he carries on the pursuit of mixed agriculture. He was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, March 9, 1835, but when but eight years of age, in

1843, came to the United States with his parents, who were, also, natives of the Emerald Isle. The family remained in New York, where they at first located, about a year; and then removed to Philadelphia, Penn., where the subject of this narrative grew to manhood. October 15, 1855, he came to Minnesota, locating in Minneapolis, where he remained a year and then removed to Monticello, Wright county, where he made his home for the succeeding four years. In 1860 he came to Meeker county and made a settlement in Darwin township on the land where he now resides, and has been identified with the growth and development of that part of the county ever since.

At the time of the Indian outbreak he was living on his farm in Darwin, working south of the house, and the next day removed to Kingston, where he remained until after the attack on Forest City, when he returned to his farm. He in company with his father and brother-in-law, Timothy Dunn, cut loopholes in his cabin and determined to stand and make a strong defense if attacked. They had seven guns and plenty of ammunition, and felt confident of themselves. He remained here until December 1, 1863, when he enlisted in Company D, Second Minnesota Cavalry. After serving against the Indians in Montana, he was discharged December 2, 1865, and returned to his home.

Mr. Dearey was united in marriage, with Miss Hannah Roberts, who bore him two children—John E., and Mary A., both of whom are living. July 7, 1877, the death angel entered the little household and bore from the bereaved husband, his loved companion, and from her little ones their best friend, their mother.

Mr. Dearey is independent in his politics, and a most excellent citizen. He is a member of Frank Daggett Post, G. A. R., of Litchfield, and religiously is attached to the Roman Catholic Church.

GEORGE H. CHAPMAN, harness dealer, and one of Litchfield's substantial business men, is a native of Birmingham, England, born January 27, 1844, but came to the United States in July, 1856. His parents were John and Susan (Crump) Chapman. His father, John Chapman, first came to America in 1848, and later took up government land where Portage City now stands. He lived for a year or so at Fort Winnebago, Jeff Davis at that time being one of the commanding officers of the fort. On his first trip Mr. Chapman had brought with him one son and a daughter, and, after his first few years in the new world, he decided to locate at Mt. Morris, Waushara county, Wis. He accordingly sent for the balance of his family, who arrived in July, 1856, as stated. John Chapman was a tailor by trade, and he followed that in Wisconsin until the spring of 1857, when he again took up his westward march, and, taking with him a stock of goods, he started for Nebraska. He went by the way of St. Louis, and took a boat up the Missouri river, but the boat foundered and Mr. Chapman lost all he had. He remained in Nebraska about four years, when he returned to Berlin, Wis., where the family had been living in the meantime. His death occurred at Berlin in about the year 1866.

George H. Chapman remained with his father's family until he had reached the age of fifteen, when he began life on his own account, and began learning the harness-maker's trade at Berlin, Wis. He remained at that until November, 1861, when he enlisted in Company H, Eighteenth Wisconsin Infantry, for three years' service. A short time later he was transferred to Company C, Thirty-Eighth Wisconsin Infantry, and remained with that regiment until the close of the war. His first battle was that of Shiloh, in April, 1862, and he afterward participated in the battles of Corinth, Miss., in June,

1862; Cold Harbor, Va., in May, 1864; in front of Petersburg, June 16, 1864; Weldon Railroad, Va., in August, 1864; Pebel's farm, in September, 1864; again at Petersburg, during the winter of 1864-5; and was in the final charge on Sunday, April 2, 1865, being with the brigade that captured Ft. Mahone and followed Lee up the south side of the railroad. He was near Appomattox at the surrender of Lee. During all of his eventful and active service Mr. Chapman was neither wounded nor taken prisoner, and was only in the hospital for a few days. He was on guard at Washington during the trial of the conspirators against Lincoln, and saw the gallows where they were executed and the graves of the criminals. He was finally mustered out in August, 1865, and returned to the old home in Berlin, Wis. In 1867 he settled at Rochester, Minn., and a few years later removed to Wabasha, where he lived for a time, and then decided to come to Litchfield, Meeker county, and accordingly, in May, 1870, he opened the harness and saddlery business, which he has successfully carried on ever since. Mr. Chapman is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was one of the charter members of Frank Daggett Post, in which he has almost constantly held some office since its organization. He was also a charter member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Litchfield, and has held at different times all the offices in the gift of the local lodge. In political matters he is a staunch republican, and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln for President, while a soldier.

Mr. Chapman was married on the 2d of December, 1868, to Miss Ellen Agnew, of Preston, Fillmore Co., Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman are the parents of seven children, as follows—Emma Gleneora Susan, born September 23, 1870, died January 2, 1887; Leslie H., born July 14, 1872; Sybal May, born November 9, 1874, died March 24, 1881;

Bessie Pearl, born January 30, 1877; Lillian G., born September 14, 1879; George Walter, born February 22, 1884; and Willie Royal, born March 5, 1888.

Our subject and his estimable wife are devout and zealous members of the Episcopal Church, and exemplary Christian people.



JOHN PALM, the junior member of the firm of Cairncross & Palm, of Litchfield, is a native of Sweden, born on October 1, 1860. He remained in Sweden until 1870, when he came to America with his father's family, the father having the year before settled at Litchfield.

John Palm remained with his parents until thirteen or fourteen years of age, when he began to work as a painter, and followed that four summers, attending school during the winter months. In 1878 he entered the store of Cairncross & Johnson as clerk and remained with Mr. Cairncross after that gentleman had bought out his partner, and finally on the 1st of January, 1885, Mr. Palm was admitted to partnership, and the firm became Cairncross & Palm.

Mr. Palm is a shrewd and careful business man, and his manner of conducting the affairs of the firm have deservedly won them an extensive trade.



JOHN PAULSON is one of the old residents of Swede Grove township. He, like a majority of the citizens of his township, is a native of Sweden, and was born on the 14th of July, 1833. His parents' names were Paul and Ingra (Olson) Johnson.

John Paulson came to the United States in 1869, and came direct to Meeker county, Minn., and, purchasing eighty acres of land on section 28, Swede Grove township, he

began his life in the new world on the place where he still lives. He was married before leaving Sweden to Miss Betsey Nelson. Mrs. Paulson was the mother of six children, as follows—Ellen, born May 28, 1865, is married to John Anderberg, and now lives in Grove City; Hannah, born March 12, 1868; Anna, born August 8, 1869; Nels, born May 4, 1870, and died September 1, 1883; Lillie, born June 14, 1872, and died February 18, 1873; and Henry, born June 4, 1871. The mother of these children died on March 28, 1876.

Mr. Paulson's second marriage was with Miss Hannah Jeppeson, a daughter of Nels and Malinda Jeppeson. Her father died in Sweden, and her mother is now a resident of Meeker county. Mrs. Paulson has been the mother of the following children—Nels, born November 5, 1875; Oscar, born January 17, 1878, and died June 18, 1879; Edward, born November 22, 1879; Molly, born May 15, 1882; Ella, born June 24, 1884; and Lillie, born May 9, 1886. By thrift and economy Mr. Paulson has accumulated a comfortable home; he has a good farm, and has gathered considerable stock about him.



AUGUST T. KOERNER, real estate and loan agent, is one of Litchfield's most prominent citizens. He is a native of Germany, born July 7, 1843. He remained in his native country until fourteen years of age when he started for this country, practically alone, and made his way to Ste. Genevieve, Mo., where a sister was then living. Until the fall of 1860 he made his home with his sister, and then went to Vernon, Ind., for the purpose of learning the millers' business. He remained at his trade until April, 1861, when he enlisted for ninety days' service in Company H, Sixth Indiana Volunteers, being then three months short of eighteen years of age. After the term of enlistment expired

he reënlisted for three years in Company H, Twenty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. In the spring of 1864 he veteranized and served until the close of the war. His service covered a period of four years and three months, the time being spent in West Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Alabama. He was wounded in the left arm by a minie ball at the battle of Prairie Grove; was all through the siege of Vicksburg, and in all, participated in seventeen battles. After the close of the war he located at Troy, Ill., where he was employed at book-keeping for Throp & Co., merchant millers. During his residence at that point he made his first trip to Meeker county in August, 1865, and while here was married to Miss Katie McGannon, after which event he returned to Troy. In 1867 he again came to Meeker county, Minn., this time to stay, and settled upon a farm on section 2, Greenleaf township.

There he remained for two years, and then gave up the farm and made several trips to Illinois. In the spring of 1873 he again moved onto the farm, and, after losing three successive crops from grasshoppers and hail, gave it up and removed to Litchfield. For two years thereafter he was engaged at clerical work, and in 1877 was elected register of deeds of Meeker county. He was twice re-elected and therefore served three successive terms. During this time he opened a real estate office, and since the expiration of his term of office has devoted his whole attention to his real estate, loan and insurance business.

In 1877, in company with N. A. Viren and P. Ekstrom, Mr. Koerner opened the first set of abstract books in Meeker county. Mr. Koerner has taken an active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his home, and during his residence here has almost constantly held some public position of trust and responsibility. He was one of the charter members of the Frank Daggett Post of the

Grand Army of the Republic, and has taken a prominent part in its history. He is a Mason, being a member of Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89, Rabboni Chapter, No. 37, and Melita Commandery, No. 17, and has held various offices in each organization, filling all positions with credit to himself and honor to the fraternity. Mr. Koerner and wife, with their family, are members of the Christian church. Their family consists of three children — Mamie, Carney and Pauline — all of whom are living at home. They have lost three children by death.



SAMUEL COSSAIRT, the managing partner of the general merchandise firm of S. Cossairt & Co., and one of the most active, enterprising, energetic business men of Eden Valley, is a native of Vermilion county, Ill., born February 12, 1863, and is the son of Silas and Alvira (Swisher) Cossairt. In 1866 his parents and others of the family came to that part of Meeker county lying in the vicinity of Eden Valley, and settled here, the pioneers of this region, as there were no neighbors between them and Manannah or Forest City. The parents of our subject still live upon the original homestead.

Samuel was reared upon the parental farm and remained beneath his father's roof until he had attained the age of eighteen years, drawing his primary education from the district schools of the vicinity. In 1881 he commenced attendance at the Normal school at St. Cloud, Minn., where he remained about a year and a half, and for the succeeding three years was occupied in teaching school, in which he made quite a success. At the age of twenty-three he, in company with E. L. Parker, opened a store in the village of Litchfield. Three months later the firm started a branch at Eden Valley, of which

our subject took charge, and operated until March, 1888, when, having purchased the interest of his partner, a new firm was formed, consisting of Samuel Cossairt, his father, Silas, and brother G. B. Cossairt. They carry an extensive stock of all the various lines that go to make up an establishment of this kind and are doing an ample business.

In October, 1886, the subject of this memoir was appointed postmaster of Eden Lake, and when the office was changed to Eden Valley was reappointed and now holds that office.



CHARLES MANGUSON. This gentleman is a thrifty and respected farmer who resides on section 33, Litchfield township. He is a native of Sweden, born on the 3d of February, 1834, and a son of Magnus and Katrina Nelson. When he was seventeen years of age he enlisted in the Swedish Artillery and served about two years, when he received his discharge on account of an injury received in cannon practice. In 1857 he came to the United States and after living about three years in Chisago and Kandiyohi counties, he settled in Meeker county. In the spring of 1862, he was married to Mrs. Anna Colberg, widow of Nels Colberg (deceased), and they settled on a farm near Lake Harold, where he was living when the Indian outbreak began. Upon receiving the warning he started with his family for Forest City, but when they had arrived within two and a half miles of that place, darkness came on and a terrific rain storm set in. From necessity, therefore, he and his wife and their four children slept all night on the prairie in the beating and drenching rain. The next day they got to Forest City, and after remaining there and at Kingston for several days they went to Anoka and made that their home for two years. In the fall of 1864, Mr. Manguson moved back to

Meeker county and took up a homestead near the present site of Litchfield village, and after living there for six years traded the homestead for his present farm on section 33. In 1870 his first wife died. In 1872 he was married to Siso Swanson, who was born in Sweden November 29, 1831, and who came to the United States in 1871. By this marriage they have had four children—Johanna, William, Mathilda (deceased), and Mathilda.



JOHAN E. DIME, farmer, of Swede Grove township, is a native of Sweden, born November 13, 1842, and a son of Carl and Catharina (Born Janson) Anderson. He came to the United States in 1868, and first stopped at Ishpeming, Marquette county, Mich., where he worked in the iron mines until the spring of 1884, when he came to Swede Grove township, Meeker county, Minn., and purchased 160 acres of land on section 32, where he has since lived.

Mr. Dime was married on November 15, 1873, to Miss Johanna Johnson, and the couple have been blessed with the following named children—Erick Adolphus, who was born August 16, 1874; Samuel Edward, born October 17, 1876; Hannah Elizabeth, born July 31, 1880; Ernst W., born October 10, 1883 (died same day); and Oscar Emanuel, born February 18, 1886. Mr. Dime's sister is married to John J. Berg, a resident of Pope county, Minn. Mr. Dime has been very successful since coming to this country, as he was so poor when he left the old country that he was obliged to borrow money to pay his passage. He now has a good farm and a comfortable home, while in the way of stock he already has a good start.

While Mr. Dime was not here at the time of the Indian massacre, so as to have an experience in the war against them, nevertheless he has his adventures to relate from the

mines when his life was endangered, and he had some narrow escapes. One instance, when a part of the Lake Shore Iron Mining Company's mine caved in, filling up Mr. Dime's working place with 22,000 tons of rock, he had to run for his life, while the rocks rolled in after him. Another time he had a very narrow escape from a falling rock from the back of a tunnel where he kept his tools; he was engaged in looking over the tools, when a solid block, one and one-half tons in weight, fell down close to his side, touching his clothes, but not hurting him in the least. Another time his tender dropped the contents of a smoking pipe right in the hole on the naked powder, when he (Dime) was charging up for a blast, but God, the Almighty, led the fire so as not to come in contact with the powder, and no accident happened.

Still another time, God, who leads the fates of men, kept his hand between, when he went back after due time after blasting, to find out the cause of a missing hole. He stepped right up to the missed blast, touched the fuse with his hands, but suspecting something wrong went out of the pit, going well out of danger. The blast exploded, throwing the rocks after him, and he had great cause to thank God for his deliverance.



PATRICK F. ARMSTRONG, a well-known and substantial farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 28, Harvey township, is an old settler who has done his share toward the development of Meeker county's resources.


Mr. Armstrong is a native of Prince Edwards Island, Canada, and was born on the 16th of March, 1846. Before Patrick was a year old, his parents removed to the United States and settled in Will county, Ill., where they remained for ten years, and then came to

Meeker county, Minn., and settled in Harvey township, where our subject still resides. The parents, whose names were William and Teresa Armstrong, were both natives of Ireland. When they came to Meeker county the family consisted of the father and mother, four boys and two girls. The father and mother are now living in Mannanah township.

Patrick learned the cooper's trade and followed that for six years when he was a young man; he also followed railroad work for two years, but the balance of his life has been spent in tilling the soil. He was married December 2, 1879, to Miss Anna Corrigan, and they are the parents of four children, whose names are as follows: Michael, Thomas, Arthur and Patrick. Mrs. Armstrong's parents are also natives of Ireland; they are now living in Harvey township. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong are devout members and active supporters of the Catholic church. His political principles are democratic.

Like all the old settlers, their farming operations were interrupted and abandoned at the time of the Indian outbreak. At the time of the massacre at Aeton, in August, 1862, Patrick Armstrong was at Empire City, south of St. Paul. Hearing of the Indian depredations, he at once started for home to learn whether or not they had all been killed. He found them at Forest City, all well, and on their way to Minneapolis, so he went with them to that place. They lived in Minneapolis until 1866, when they returned to Harvey township, where Patrick F. Armstrong has since lived.



 CHARLES H. STROBECK, the present probate judge of Meeker county, is a native of West Parishville, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., born October 8, 1841, and is the son of Henry and Fannie M. (Willis)

Strobeck, natives of the Empire State and New Hampshire, respectively. The father was originally of Württemberg stock, and the mother's ancestors were among the Puritan pilgrims of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The father died at Litchfield, Meeker county, December 17, 1887, having come to this place the summer previous. The mother is still living with her son. The judge was reared and received his primary education in the county of his birth, assisting his father in the labors attendant upon farm life until he was some nineteen years of age. At that time he entered the St. Lawrence Academy, where he remained during the spring and fall terms from 1860 to 1863, teaching school during the winters. During the winter of 1863-4, he took the place of the professor in the mathematical department of the same academy, and filled the post creditably.

On leaving school, he entered the law office of Judge Henry L. Knowles, as a student and clerk, where he remained until October, 1865, when he was admitted to the bar in a class of fourteen, at a session of the Supreme Court of New York, at Canton, the county seat of St. Lawrence county. About the 1st of December, the same year, Mr. Strobeck came west to Chicago, and from there to Red Wing, Minn., where he located, and commenced the practice of law, and wrote fire insurance until coming to Litchfield. The latter branch of the business was carried on in partnership with W. C. Williston.

October 22, 1869, Mr. Strobeck came to Litchfield and made up his mind to locate in the place, then in embryo, as there was only a few buildings erected at that time. He put up an office, being the pioneer attorney of the city, and has remained in practice here ever since. The judge is a staunch republican but has had but little political aspirations. He has held several local offices in the government of the village and in educational matters, prominent among which was that of

prosecuting attorney. In the fall of 1886 he was elected to the responsible position of Probate judge, which he still holds.

On the 24th of February, 1873, Charles H. Strobeck and Miss Carrie E. Phelps were united in marriage. The lady is a native of Oakland county, Mich., and daughter of William and Carrie (James) Phelps, the latter natives of the Empire State. By this union there have been two children—Alice J. and Henry.

Judge Strobeck is a man of sterling integrity, and having a mind of his own, has strong feelings in regard to what he conceives to be right or wrong, and what is more, dares to maintain them.



PETER K. BROWN, who is one of the leading and influential farmers of Acton township, has had an eventful and varied life. He was a son of Knute and Eliza Brown and was born in Denmark on the 8th of October, 1834. When he had arrived at the age of twenty-four, thinking to benefit his financial condition he started for the gold fields of Australia, and after 101 days of sailing he landed at Melbourne, and was soon hard at work in the mines. He remained there for seven years, and endured much more hardship and suffering than falls to the lot of mankind generally. At one time he had neither money nor provisions, and after a siege of fasting, which nearly resulted in starvation, he was fortunate enough to find gold with which he purchased something to eat. He underwent many other experiences which were fully as trying, but still he persevered. At times, however, he would enjoy a run of luck, and at one time he had about \$2,000 in his possession, but he managed to leave with about \$500 in his pocket. He then returned to Denmark, stopping at London, England, for a few days

while on the way home. He then remained in Denmark for about two years, and on the 17th of April, 1868, he started for the United States and landed at New York, during the latter part of May. He proceeded at once to Kandiyohi county, Minn., where his brother, N. K. Brown was living. A year later he moved to the farm in Acton township on which he still lives, having purchased railroad land. As he had learned the carpenter's trade in the old country, he erected his own buildings, which are located on section 29. He has excellent improvements, and now owns 250 acres of land, a good share of which is under cultivation. Mr. Brown's mother is dead and his father lives with a brother, N. K. Brown, in Kandiyohi county. There are several other members of the family living in the United States, including R. K. Brown, of Acton; John K. Brown, of Danielson; and Karen, now Mrs. Paul Nelson, of Danielson; besides N. K. Brown, of Kandiyohi county.

Peter K. Brown has taken a prominent and active part in all public matters, and has held many offices of a local but at the same time important character, including those of town clerk two years, chairman of supervisors two years, assessor one year; and was elected justice of the peace but did not qualify.

Mr. Brown was married, during the year 1870, to Bertha Margrethe Madson, and they have been blessed with the following children—Mads Peter, born March 21, 1871; Albert Knuteson, born July 21, 1873; Johannes, born June 13, 1875; Elizze Marie, born April 30, 1877; and Nels Christian, born April 25, 1879.



LEWIS LARSON, of Litchfield, is a member of the firm of Nelson, Johnson & Larson, dealers in general merchandise. Mr. Larson was born in Sweden in 1842, and



W. J. Flynn

remained in the "Fatherland" until about twenty-seven years of age. His father died when Lewis was three and his mother when he was fifteen, so he was left to care for himself. He had up to that time attended school regularly and had attained a good education. When about twenty years old he entered a civil office, corresponding with the office of sheriff in this country, and he remained in this for six years. After this he went to Gottenberg and for a short time was engaged in business at that place but he finally sold out and came to America, locating in Wisconsin. At that time he could speak and understand very little English, and for one year he lived with an American family for the purpose of acquiring it, finally becoming very proficient. On the 31st of December, 1870, he arrived in Litchfield, and entered the store of Nelson Brothers as a clerk a short time later. In the summer of 1872 he went to Willmar and was there employed as a clerk in the store of Spicer & Larson for about three years and a half. Then, in company with H. Paulson, under the firm name of Paulson & Larson, they went into the general merchandise trade at Willmar. In 1880 Mr. Larson sold his interest to his partner and removed to Litchfield, and the present mercantile firm of Nelson, Johnson & Larson was formed. Mr. Larson is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89, in 1888.



A PROMINENT farmer and stock-raiser residing on section 11, Cedar Mills township, is R. A. WHEELER, a veteran of the late civil war, and one of the leading citizens in the southern part of the county.

Mr. Wheeler is a native of Bangor, Me., born on the 25th of May, 1844, and is a son of Isaac and Martha (Norcross) Wheeler. His parents were old settlers in Cedar Mills township, and their history will be found

in another department of this work. Reuben A. Wheeler, the subject of this sketch, remained with his parents (coming with them meanwhile to Wright county, Minn.) until October, 1861, when he enlisted in Company D, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He remained in the service until July, 1865, and probably saw more actual active war service than any ex-soldier who to-day resides in Meeker county. He participated in the first and second battles at Corinth, Iuka, Siege of Vicksburg, where he was wounded in the head by a piece of a shell, Altoona Pass, Savannah, Ga., and was with Sherman in his famous March to the Sea. He then, with Sherman's army, went to Washington and participated in the grand review. After receiving an honorable discharge from the service he came to Meeker county, Minn., arriving in July, 1865. He at once located on a soldier's homestead, which his father, Isaac Wheeler, had selected for him in 1863, which was located on section 11, Cedar Mills township, where he now lives. He at once began improving his place, and erected a log-cabin, covering it with a hay roof. Mr. Wheeler remained on his place most of the time until 1867, when he went to Green Lake, Kandiyohi county. Three years later he went to Montana, but a short time later he returned to his homestead in Cedar Mills township, where he has since lived. He devotes his attention to general farming and stock-raising, and is one of the most prominent and best-known citizens of the township in which he lives. He is a prominent member of the Frank Daggett Post, No. 35, Grand Army of the Republic, of Litchfield.

Mr. Wheeler was married on the 11th of November, 1866, to Miss Malvina Nichols, who was born in Racine county, Wis. Their marriage has been blessed with six children, as follows — Martha M., George R., Frank E., Harlan M., Ray M., and Mary P. The family are members of the Presbyterian church.

A WELL-KNOWN business man of Litchfield is A. C. Jounson, a member of the firm of Nelson, Johnson & Larson, general merchants. He is a native of Sweden, and was born in 1851.

When eleven years of age, he started with his grandparents and his uncle, B. P. Nelson, for America, intending to come direct to Meeker county, Minn., where Andrew, a brother of Mr. Nelson, was then living. They crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel, being ten weeks on the way, arriving at Boston about August 20, 1862. There they learned of the terrible outbreak of the Indians in this country, but continued on their journey, coming as far as St. Paul, where they decided to remain for a time. Mr. Johnson remained there until 1871, when he removed to Litchfield and entered the store of Nelson Brothers as a clerk, and remained with them until they sold out to Alex. Cairncross. He was then with the latter gentleman for about two years and a half. At the end of that time, he, in company with Stephen Cairncross, a brother clerk, bought out the establishment and went into business for themselves, under the firm name of Cairncross & Johnson. This firm continued in business for about two years and a half, when the stock was sold out. In 1880, the present firm of Nelson, Johnson & Larson was formed. The other members of the firm are B. P. Nelson and Lewis Larson, and the business they do is probably the largest done in the village, in their line. They carry a full stock of dry goods, groceries, etc., and cater to the tastes of everybody. They are among the brightest business men of the village, and are in splendid financial condition.



PROMINENT among the old settlers is A. M. CASWELL, who now resides in the village of Litchfield. He was born in Melbourne, Canada, October 2, 1833. His

father, Moody Caswell, was born in Vermont, and his mother, Hannah (Bishop) Caswell, in New Hampshire. They lived in Canada until he was past seventeen and then moved to Vermont, and from there to New Hampshire, and came to Minnesota in April, 1856. They came to Dunleath, Ill., by rail and thence up the Mississippi on the old steamer "War Eagle." There were about 700 passengers on board, generally in high spirits about the prospects in the Territory of Minnesota, where the land was rich and money plenty. They landed at St. Paul and then took the stage to St. Anthony. There was only a few houses there then and one sawmill; from there they came by steamboat up the river to Monticello, where they stopped until about the 1st of June, and then, hearing of the great chance for getting land on the big prairie in Meeker county, and as there was a party of immigrants came along, A. M. Caswell followed, and camped the first night alone in the woods about midway between Monticello and Kingston. The next morning he came up with Patch's company, and camped on the bank of Crow river. The water was high, and as there was no bridge, they had to make a raft of logs. After crossing the river the company scattered, hunting claims. Our subject traveled to Forest City and took dinner with Thomas Skinner, a whole-souled and public-spirited gentleman, always courteous and obliging to everybody, in whose death Meeker lost one of her best men. From there he started with two others to look for claims, and traveled over the level prairie of Harvey, but found it generally marked, as a party had been through there and marked claims for all their relatives, some which were yet in the old country, so he left that and went above the woods in the vicinity of Manannah, and there the claims were vacant, and he marked his claim—the first one marked in the township—and then returned to Mon-

ticello. He was boarding at a hotel, when a party came, who had been through to the big prairie, among the party being T. C. Jewett and Captain A. D. Pierce, an old sea captain from Cape Cod, Mass., who said he had been up above Forrest City and located a town site. He gave glowing accounts of the country and said there was only one claim marked there and that was just the one he wanted to build his town on, and he was going to have it. He also said that he camped on the highest hill there was near there, (which must have been Tower Hill) and fought mosquitoes all night, and he foresaw the great events of the near future; the network of railroads that would come to and through his town. He took out his book and read the name that he found on his claim, as he called it, and it happened to be Mr. Caswell's; he afterward tried to scare Mr. C. off, but failing to do it, he bought him off by paying fifty dollars and a watch. He afterward stated that the trade was like a horse-trade, and he was mighty sick of the horse. Mr. Caswell then made another claim where F. F. Phillips now lives, and his brother, Albert, came on and took one adjoining, and his father, mother and sisters came the next fall. His mother was afflicted with a rose cancer, and after having it cut out died within a year, being the first woman buried in Manannah grave-yard.

But the flush times of 1856 were followed by several years of dearth, or almost a famine. There was no money in the country and scarcely any provisions, and for two or three years a laboring man could get neither money, clothing nor provisions for his work. The only way to get money was to hunt or trap for fur, which was hard-earned money. So, getting tired out or starved out, at Manannah, his brother, Albert, and himself, and Ziba and Nathan Caswell started out for the gold mines at Pike's Peak, in Colorado, and were gone from the State most of

the time until after the Indian war. Our subject was at work in the mines in Colorado, and his brother and Ziba Caswell were in Nevada in the Washoe silver mines. They heard of the Indian war and started for home, and although they were two thousand miles apart when they started and neither party knew when the other was going to start, they met in Minneapolis and came home on the stage together.

The next spring A. M. Caswell was married to Vesta J. Britt, of the town of Harvey. They kept a hotel at Coon Creek one year, then sold out and went to Anoka, where they remained about three years. They then sold out and moved to Harvey township, where they lived until removing to Litchfield in 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Caswell have two children—one a young man, twenty-four years old, and a daughter about eight

In speaking of the "old times" Mr. Caswell says: "When I came to this county, there had never been a bushel of wheat, corn or potatoes raised here. Now nearly every acre of prairie and thousands of acres of brush and timber land are under cultivation, and thousands of reaping and threshing machines are kept busy, instead of the old down reaper that took four horses, two men and a boy to operate, the grain having to be raked off by hand, and much of it left scattered on the ground. We have a machine that three horses and one man manage easily and which leaves the grain tied up in neat bundles, leaving the field clean as if it had been gleaned by the gleaners of old times. But the young men that were vigorous and strong and active are now becoming old, bleached and gray; but there is another generation coming on to fill our places. I have faith and believe there is a bright future for Meeker county, and that it is bound to be one of the richest and best stock-producing counties in the Northwest."

ISAAC WHEELER, who was one of the most prominent early settlers in Cedar Mills township, is a native of Maine, and was born on June 19, 1817. He remained in his native State until 1861, when he came to Minnesota and located on a farm in Wright county. In April, 1863, he came to Meeker county, and selected 160 acres of land on section 9, Cedar Mills, and the following year moved on to it with his family. They were the first settlers west of Cedar Mills after the Indian outbreak, and were there one season entirely without neighbors. At the time they came here the soldiers were stationed at Pipe Lake, and they helped Mr. Wheeler cut the logs with which he erected his cabin. Mr. Wheeler remained on the farm until after his wife's death in 1876, when he sold his place to his sons, Frank and Newton Wheeler, and since that time has lived with his children, going back and forth between them.

After a long and useful career of toil and industry, he is now spending the evening of his life in a quiet and peaceful way, having to the fullest degree the confidence and respect of all who know him.



ANDREW J. NELSON, a well-to do and highly-respected farmer residing on section 22, Union Grove township, is a native of Sweden, where he was born on the 2d of December, 1852. His parents' names were Nels and Kersten Anderson. The mother died when he was only sixteen weeks old, and his father died when he was seventeen years of age.

Andrew J. spent his younger days in the land of his birth, when he acquired the same habits of industry and frugality which are characteristic of the race of which he springs. In 1880 he sailed for the United States, and making his way directly to Meeker county,

Minn., he rented a farm in Swede Grove township. He remained there for three years and then in February, 1884, he removed to the farm on section 22, Union Grove township, where he still lives. He owns 130 acres of land, a good share of which is cleared and under cultivation. He has considerable stock and comfortable buildings. When Mr. Nelson came to America his earthly possessions consisted of \$1,000 in money, but he lost a good share of that in the first two years through the failure of crops, but by good management and hard work he has recovered and is now in comfortable circumstances.

Mr. Nelson was married before leaving Sweden, in 1878, to Miss Ingrid Larson, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lars Nelson, and their union has been blessed with three children, as follows—Hilda, born in Sweden, January 19, 1879; Ida, born in Swede Grove township, October 18, 1880; and Anton, born in Union Grove township, July 30, 1884. Mrs. Nelson's mother died in 1868, and her father is now living with them.



JOHAN B. PENNOYER, a prominent resident of the village of Greenleaf, is a native of Sherbrook county, Lower Canada, born on the 12th of February, 1832. His parents, Truman and Priscilla H. Pennoyer, were natives of Vermont, and both were born in the year 1804. The mother died in 1886, but the father is still living, a respected resident of Ellsworth township, Meeker county. Truman Pennoyer's father was a Frenchman, and sailed the seas as a privateer during the revolutionary war, subsequently settling in Vermont. Truman spent a few years in Canada and then returned to Vermont. From the latter State he removed to St. Lawrence county, N. Y., taking the family by wagon through the timber over the Plattsburg and Ogdensburg pike, and

through the Chateaugay cedar swamp, to Potsdam, and remained there from 1836 to 1864. He was a cooper by trade, but a farmer by occupation.

Truman Pennoyer and wife were the parents of seven sons and six daughters. The three oldest died in infancy, and were buried at Compton Center, C. E. Three others died in infancy, and two sisters died after they were grown. Five of their children are still living—J. B. Pennoyer, O. A. Pennoyer, H. H. Pennoyer, Mrs. J. M. Howard, of Meeker county, Minn., and Mrs. H. F. Powers, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

John B. Pennoyer, the subject of this memoir, was reared on a farm, and upon reaching the age of twenty-four he left home and started West. He traveled over various portions of the West, but lived the greater part of the time in Whiteside and Jersey counties, Ill., until 1864, when he came to Meeker county, Minn., making the journey from Hastings on foot. He entered a homestead on section 35, in what is now Greenleaf township, and continued to reside there until August, 1885, when he rented his farm and started out in search of a locality that would benefit his health. After spending the fall and winter in Macoupin and Jersey counties, Ill., he went to Huntsville, Ala., and remained there until September 27, 1886, when he came back and took up his residence in the village of Greenleaf.

In the month of September following Mr. Pennoyer's first arrival in Meeker county, 1864, he went to Greene county, Ill., and was married to Mary F. Bilbruck, a daughter of John and Charlotte Bilbruck, who was born in Nottinghamshire, England, on the 7th of December, 1842. Five children have been born to them—Alice Naomi, born July 25, 1867, died May 8, 1870; Charlotte Augusta, born December 5, 1870; Francis Irene, born October 26, 1875, died April 3, 1879; Harmon Lee, born September 4, 1880; and

Florence Emma, born June 5, 1884. Mr. Pennoyer has taken an active interest in all public matters and has held various local offices. In political matters he affiliates with the republican party.

Having been identified with the growth and development of Meeker county during a residence of nearly a quarter of a century, he is well-known to all pioneers, and none is held in higher esteem. Through his untarnished and unblemished integrity his word is recognized as being as good as a bond, and he is held in the highest respect by all who know him. Hospitable, charitable, and enterprising, aiding whatever enterprise is calculated to benefit either town or county in which he has lived so long, he has justly earned the high reputation which he bears, of being one of the most desirable citizens of which any locality can boast.

We take pleasure in presenting a portrait of Mr. Pennoyer in another department of this work.



FRANK E. WHEELER. The subject of this sketch, a resident of section 9, is one of the leading citizens of Cedar Mills township, and is a son of Isaac Wheeler, who is mentioned above. He is a native of Garland, Maine, and was born on the 1st of January, 1851. His early life was spent in his native State, and in 1861 he came West with his father's family, and they settled in Wright county, Minnesota, as has been stated. In 1863 they settled in Meeker county, and Frank remained at home until the death of his mother in 1876, when the family was broken up and scattered. After this Frank taught school in this county and also in Wabash county, Indiana, following this profession for three years. In April, 1881, he settled upon the old homestead, and this has since been his home. He has a valuable farm of 180 acres, eighty

of which are already under cultivation, and all of it is in tillable condition. He has made substantial improvements on the place and it is conveniently arranged. He devotes his time and energies to general farming and stock raising, and is rated as one of the most successful and enterprising agriculturists in the township. He has taken an active and prominent part in township and educational affairs of late years, and has held various local offices, including those of supervisor, school clerk and others. He has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for fifteen years.

Mr. Wheeler was married at Ellsworth, March 19, 1879, to Miss Lucy Porter, of Ellsworth township, and they are the parents of four children, as follows: Mellen E., Ethel E., Ruth C. and Allen K. Mrs. Wheeler was born at Greenfield, Wis., July 9, 1856.



FRANK T. PETERSON, of Swede Grove township, is one of the most extensive stock raisers in Meeker county. He is a son of Peter O. and Christine (Hawkinson) Peterson. The parents were natives of Sweden, who came to the United States in 1854, and settled in Chisago county, Minn. The following is a list of their children—John W., born January 20, 1858; Frank T., born October 2, 1859; Mary C., born March 14, 1861; Christine E., born March 29, 1863; Oscar F., (deceased) born January 20, 1865; and Ida M., born May 21, 1867. Mary C. married Charles M. Ahlstrom, a resident of Harvey township. John W., for the past three years, has been engaged in railroad contracting, in company with a cousin, John G. Lundquist, who has been in the business for the last thirteen years. They are now building a road near Chicago. Frank T., Christine and Ida M. still live at home,

although the last named, at this writing, is in St. Peter, attending college. Frank T. & Co. carry on the extensive farming and stock raising business; they own 1,200 acres of land and have about the finest farm buildings in the western part of the county.

As has been stated, the father settled in Chisago county, Minn., in 1854. In 1868 the family removed to Swede Grove township, Meeker county, settling on section 36, where the father died on the 24th of November, 1886, and where the mother still lives. The farm is carried on jointly, being owned in thirds by Frank T. and John W. Peterson, and their cousin, John G. Lundquist, with Frank as manager. They devote special attention to raising blooded horses, cattle and hogs, and some of the finest stock in the State may be seen at their farm. They have on hand two stallions worthy of special notice: Sansonnet, imported by M. W. Dunham in 1887; French No. 8,811, American No. 6,991; also Simonneau, French No. 9,020, American No. 7,108. They have the following valuable mares, which were imported by M. W. Dunham: Poulotte, imported in 1886, French No. 6677, American No. 5614; Valentine, imported in 1884, French No. 2778, American No. 3663; Lilliane, imported in 1887, French No. 8554, American No. 7145; Bibi, imported in 1887, French No. 10248, American No. 7128. These magnificent animals were purchased at a cost of \$11,750. In addition to these they have many others of high grade which are a credit to the county.



EB. BENSON, cashier of the Meeker Bank of Litchfield, was born in St. Peter, Nicollet county, Minn., July 2, 1860, and is the son of Peter and Malena Benson, natives of Sweden, who were engaged in

agricultural pursuits in that section of the State, having settled there some time in the "Forties," among the pioneers of the State.

The subject of this memoir was reared upon the paternal farm, receiving his education in the district schools and remained at home until the fall of 1880, when he attended a course at the business college at Minneapolis. The following spring he came to Litchfield and entered the Meeker County Bank as book-keeper, and remained in that capacity until July 7, 1884, when he was made assistant cashier, and in March, 1885, was promoted to the post of cashier in the same monetary institution. He is one of the solid young business men of whom Litchfield can justly boast, and has a bright and prosperous future before him.

On the 24th of November, 1887, Mr. Benson led to the hymeneal altar Miss Pauline Fuller, one of Meeker county's fairest, brightest daughters. She was the child of George W. Fuller, the well known horticulturist and arboriculturist of Litchfield. The happiness of the young couple was, however, of but brief duration, the angel of death claiming the bride on the 9th of May, 1888, and after a brief honeymoon of about five months she passed to that land Elysian, whose portals we call death, leaving her husband's heart and home a desolate waste.



HANS EVENSON, a successful farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 8, Greenleaf township, and one of the most prominent old settlers in Meeker county, was born in Norway on September 6, 1815. He remained in his native land until the spring of 1852, when he came to the United States and settled in Rock county, Wis. On July 12, 1854, he returned to his native land and remained until 1857, when he returned to the United States, settling this time in

St. Paul, but three months later went to Scott county, Minn., where he spent the winter. His next move was to locate in Wright county, where he spent two years in the "Big Woods," and then, in the spring of 1860, he came to Meeker county, and took a claim on section 8, where he has since lived. His trip to this county was one of severe hardship, as he came on foot from Wright county, accompanied by his oldest son, Even. At that time there was only one house in sight—on Inger Hill, which was occupied by a man named Inger. They came in the winter or early spring, and bought a hand-sled, on which they drew their tools, etc., and went direct to the Ole Ness place, which was near Little Lake, in what is now Litchfield township. During that winter, he would start every morning for his place, and spent his time in getting out logs, so as to be ready to build in the spring; also during that time, he dug a well fifty feet deep for Ole Ness, and stoned it up. He remained about a month at that time, and then borrowed a sled and yoke of oxen from Ness and started to Wright county for his family. At the time he started, the ground was covered with snow, but it thawed before he got through, and he was compelled to construct a home-made wagon with which to get back, accomplishing it by hewing out four wheels and erecting a rude frame work. Upon his return, he staid two nights at the Ness place, and then left his family for several months at a bachelor's named Guner, while he was building a shanty on his place. About August he moved his family into the cabin. During that year he raised a few potatoes, but for the first five years following his settlement, he lost most of his crops through the blackbirds.

Thus matters were moving peaceably until that fatal August, 1862, when the terrible Indian outbreak began, and as Mr. Evenson was one of those who were here during the

most trying times, we will briefly review his experience. On the 17th of August, Even and one of his brothers were at Ness's and learned of the massacre at Acton. When they told their father, he could not realize that the matter was an actual fact, and after remaining quietly at home over night, he started the next day (Monday, the 18th,) for Ness's to learn the particulars. On the way he met a neighbor, named Butler, who begged him to hitch up and take his family to St. Paul, but Mr. Evenson refused and went on to the farm of Ole Ness. Learning that the Indians were really on the warpath, he sent his wife and two little children to Forest City, and he and the boys staid on the farm until the following Wednesday, putting up hay. On the day mentioned, his wife returned to the place, and told him that he must pack up and get to some place of safety, as the news had come in daily of the terrible murders which the Indians had committed. He accordingly was reluctantly prevailed upon to go to Forest City, where he at once learned that there was good ground for the terror which had seized every one. The following morning he started with his family for Kingston, where he remained two weeks, and then, as Capt. Whitecomb's "Home Guards" had been organized, they returned to Forest City. They were there when the Indians made the attack on that place, and Mr. Evenson and son, Even, were doing guard duty that night. Even was the second one to return the fire of the Indians. At the time, the family were sleeping in Atkinson's store, and when the attack came, at about one o'clock in the morning, they hastened inside the fortification. When the father got a chance to look around, he found that one of his sons—Andrew—was missing, and at once started out to find him, but seeing nothing of him, he returned and found that Andrew had safely got inside. The bullets were then flying thick and fast.

After the attack there followed a period when provisions got very scarce, and it was dangerous to go out to find eatables.

After a time the excitement somewhat subsided, but for two years they were always on the alert, not knowing what time the treacherous savages might renew their depredations. In the fall the family returned to the farm and during the winter they lived by trapping. Settlers soon began returning to their claims and his cabin was a regular tavern. Money was very scarce, and but few of the settlers had the pleasure of seeing any money that winter, to say nothing of owning any.

Now to return to Mr. Evenson's private history: Hans Evenson was married in the year 1842, to Christina F. Anderson, and they have been blessed with seven children, as follows—Bertha, born Sept. 22, 1842; Even, born Nov. 21, 1844, mentioned elsewhere at length; Andrew, born Oct. 30, 1847; Helena M., born Oct. 3, 1852; John F., born Feb. 3, 1856, died May 30, 1857, on board ship and was buried at sea in St. Lawrence Bay; John F., born Jan. 22, 1859; and a child born in 1861, which died at the time of birth. Mrs. Evenson, the wife and mother, died on the 19th of January, 1887. Mr. Evenson is a republican in politics as is the case with all his sons. He is a member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Evenson is now well along in years and is passing the evening of his life in a quiet way with his children. He has lived a life of usefulness and activity, a man of the strictest honor and integrity and one for whom every one who knows him entertains the kindest feelings and highest regard.

John F. Evenson, one of the sons who is mentioned above, with whom the father resides, was born in Wright county. He was married May 28, 1885, to Mary Johnson, and they have been blessed with two children—George H., born June 22, 1886;

and Christina F., born Feb. 20, 1888. Mr. Evenson carries on the farm and also devotes his attention extensively to stock raising. He is one of the leading and most successful agriculturists in the township.



JAMES NELSON HANSON is one of the successful farmers of Acton township. He was born in Denmark on the 20th of March, 1837. When he left his native land, in 1859, he was called upon by a government officer and told that he must return to Denmark a year later and serve his time in the army but after his arrival here he decided that he was better suited to stay here and so he "forgot to return." Upon landing in the New World he stopped for a short time at New Orleans and then went to Kaufman county, Tex., where he was employed at driving and marking cattle for an extensive stock-raiser until the fall of 1860. He then returned to New Orleans and worked for W. H. Willer, at gardening for one month for \$10; then he drove a mule team for the same party for \$20 per month. His next move was to St. Louis, but not liking the place he boarded a steamboat for St. Paul and from there made his way to Empire City, Dakota county, Minn. There he remained for six years, working on a farm for Mr. J. Haislet, after which in 1872, he settled in Acton township, where he still lives.

Mr. Hanson was married in 1862, to Miss Marthe Christianson, who was born in Norway on the 17th of February, 1843. They have been blessed with the following named children—Josephine, born January 9, 1863, died April 5, 1866; Mary Julia, born December 18, 1864; Josephine E., born August 24, 1866; Gemalinde Christine, born April 3, 1869; Hans Olaus, born September 25, 1870; Martin Julius, born August 16,

1872; Edwin Anton, born September 25, 1874, Adolph Ottoer, born June 26, 1876, died June 8, 1877; Adolph Ottoer, born April 8, 1878; Nettie Amanda, born July 3, 1880, died February 16, 1884; Henry Elvin, born August 21, 1882; and Nettie Amanda, born October 6, 1885. Mr. Hanson has taken an active interest in all public affairs and has held various offices of trust and importance, including those of school director, and clerk, road overseer, pound master and others. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Hanson was a poor man when he came to this country but has been very successful and has a comfortable home and a valuable farm of 120 acres.



CHARLES W. BUTTERFIELD, proprietor of the hotel and the oldest resident now living in the village of Greenleaf, was born in Washington county, Me., on the 8th of May, 1835. His parents, Francis and Eliza Butterfield, were of English descent, though natives of the "Pine Tree" State. The greater part of Charles' early life was spent on his father's farm and doing carpenter work, yet he was engaged at various times in the pineries. In 1854 he was married to Mary E. Beedy, who was born in Maine 1835. Three children were born to them—Wilmot B., who is mentioned elsewhere at length; Ida May, now Mrs. W. W. Johnson, of Litchfield; and Edwin B., a resident of Dickinson, Dakota. Mrs. Butterfield died in 1861, and in 1862 Mr. Butterfield was united in marriage with Mary A. Pinceo, who was also a native of Maine.

In 1865 Charles W. Butterfield, our subject, came West and settled in the village of Greenleaf, Meeker county, Minn., where he still lives. He purchased farm property in Ellsworth township, but his residence and business interests were in the village. For

one year he controlled the mail route from Minneapolis to Greenleaf via Watertown, and he at present has the route from Litchfield to Hutchinson. Mr. Butterfield is a Greenleaf man in the strongest sense of the term. He has staid by the village through all its vicissitudes, and to-day enjoys the distinction of being its oldest inhabitant in point of years of residence. He has held various township offices and is ever found identified with matters pertaining to the welfare of his adopted home. Mr. Butterfield's name appears frequently in the pages of this volume, as he has been prominently connected with the history of the village in which he resides. He is a member of the Golden Pledge lodge, No. 89, A. F. & A. M., of Litchfield.



PPETER BERGGREN, a respected and intelligent farmer residing on section 35, Union Grove township, is a son of Nels O. and Meta Berggren, and was born in Sweden on the 27th of July, 1860. His parents brought the family to the United States in 1868 and made their way directly to Meeker county, Minn. They first stopped at Grove City, and the father took a homestead near there, upon which they lived for five years, proving up on the place, but afterward lost it on a mortgage, having had bad luck with their crops. They then settled on another farm where they lived three years, but the grasshoppers came and destroyed their grain and they lost that farm. In March, 1879, they came to Union Grove township and the father purchased 200 acres of land on sections 35 and 36, where the family still reside. The father died there on the 4th of September, 1879, and the mother on the 2d of February, 1888. They were both honest and industrious people and were held in high respect by all who knew them. They had a family of

eleven children, six of whom are dead and five living. The living children are as follows: Peter, born July 27, 1860; Ole, born September 5, 1862; Andrew, born July 17, 1869; William, born February 8, 1871; and John, born July 16, 1875.

Peter has charge of the farm and is a successful and industrious young man, who is certain to succeed in his farming operations. The farm is well stocked, and is one of the most valuable in the township.



JOHNN FLYNN, the father of Michael J. and Daniel Flynn, was one of the pioneers of Meeker county, arriving here on the 8th of July, 1856, and took Government land on sections 22 and 23, in Forest City township. He was accompanied at that time by John Whalen and family, and several others. His family at that time consisted of himself and wife; Mary (now Mrs. Daniel Dougherty, of Harvey township); Michael J. and Daniel, now of Litchfield; and Elizabeth, now wife of Hon. W. M. Campbell, United States Marshal for Minnesota. Besides these, there were two hired men and a nephew of Mr. Flynn. The Flynn family started from Crown Point, Lake county, Ind., about the 12th of May, 1856, with the idea of finding a home in Iowa or Minnesota. Their outfit consisted of two covered wagons, with two yoke of oxen hitched to each; and they also had twenty-five head of cows, besides quite a lot young stock. When they reached Dubuque and learned of the magnificent country in this part of Minnesota, the father decided to investigate, and, in company with John Whalen, he started on a Mississippi river boat for St. Anthony, with the understanding that the family should meet him upon his return, at Rochester. The family accordingly proceeded with the teams and

stock, arriving at the appointed place four or five days before the return of the father. At that time there was only one house at Rochester—a little 14x20 feet log cabin, which served the purpose of store, hotel, saloon, etc. When the father returned he told them that he had looked over Meeker county and had decided to locate here. They then started north, crossing the river at Monticello on the 4th of July, having to swim the stock, finally arriving and taking up land in this county, as above stated. Mr. Flynn at once began improvements and remained upon the farm until the time of his death, in June, 1859. The family remained there until the time of the Indian outbreak, at which time the women folks went to Clearwater, where they remained a month or so. The boys remained here or returned immediately to get in their crop (for it was harvest time), and participate in the action against the Indians. Their house was not molested by the redskins, but served as a headquarters for all of the friends and neighbors south and west of them.

John Flynn was a native of County Waterford, Ireland, born in 1805, and was a gardener by profession in the old country. About the year 1836 he emigrated to America and lived for some time at Buffalo, N. Y., whence he removed to Chicago. In the latter city he married Miss Ann Lynch. From there he moved to Elgin, Ill., where he settled on a farm. He afterward made several removals previous to coming here, and was at one time engaged in contracting on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, in Indiana, just before starting for this locality.



NELS ELOFSON is one of the pioneers of Swede Grove township. He is a son of Elofson and Bertha Anderson, and was born in Sweden on the 14th of June,

1834. He came to the United States with his mother in 1857, coming to Meeker county, Minn., direct, and filed a claim on land on section 33. He later sold that place and now owns 240 acres on sections 26 and 27, where he now lives. On the 31st of August, 1861, he was married to Miss Ellen Eckbom, a daughter of Andrew and Anna Eckbom, who was born in Sweden August 20, 1841. Their union has been blessed with the following children—Edward N., born October 9, 1862; Andrew N., born March 21, 1864; William, born April 11, 1866; Betsy, born May 16, 1868; Anna, born December 26, 1869; Alice Bertha, born January 18, 1876, and Fred, born November 18, 1880. Edward is in business at Grove City; Andrew N. is foreman in a store at Paynesville; and Betsy is a dressmaker at Litchfield. The other children are at home. Mr. Elofson learned the carpenter's trade before he left his native land. The first work he did in the United States was in that line, finishing a house for a Mr. Yates in the fall of 1857. Being unable to speak English, Mr. Elofson was made to understand what was wanted by signs, and when the job was finished he received his pay in flour, and was perfectly satisfied.

The following spring he had hard work to find employment, but finally about six miles below St. Paul, he got a job of digging a cellar, laying the wall and foundation—his first mason work—and building the house. After finishing this he went to Carver and took charge of a widow's farm for about a year and a half, when he again returned to his claim, but soon went back to Carver and for a few months was engaged in a furniture shop. After his marriage he returned to his claim and his mother, his brother, Peter, and sister, Betsy, lived with him.

Mr. Elofson took an active part in the Indian warfare and was present through all the Indian troubles. On the 17th of August,

1862, a meeting of some of the settlers was held at Mr. Elofson's house for the purpose of raising three men to fill a draft, which had been made on the town of Swede Grove. At about ten o'clock in the morning his neighbor Monson's children came and informed them that the Indians were about and they were afraid to stay there. Upon learning this Mr. Monson and Swan Nelson went over to see what was the trouble and met the Indians, who were mounted, on the way. One of the red skins reached down and caught Nelson by the whiskers and pointed to the east, but he did not understand what they meant. They soon arrived at Elofson's and the latter found that he was acquainted with several of the party. The Indians would not talk English but stated that they were on their way to the "Big Woods" for the purpose of killing some Chippewas, that had been killing the whites. They then rode off and soon met an aunt of Mr. Elofson's and frightened her by brandishing their knives, but offered no violence. After the murder of the Jones and Baker families the news of the outbreak spread very rapidly, and in the evening Mr. Elofson and Nels Hanson went to the scene of the murder where others had gathered before their arrival. There they learned the details of the affair and were told to come back the next morning and help bury the dead, which they did. While they were there nine Indians came in sight and several shots were exchanged, but no one was hurt. Mr. Elofson then returned to his home and helped to start his own and all neighboring families for Lake Ripley (now Litchfield); while he with a couple of others awaited developments. On the 22d they saw Indians at a distance in pursuit of whites and decided that it was time for them to go to some place of safety. Mr. Elofson learned that his family had gone from Lake Ripley to Forest City, then Clearwater, and then St. Paul, and knowing they were safe he returned to

Forest City and participated in the organization of the "Home Guards." Mr. Elofson was also at Forest City at the time it was attacked by the Indians, and took an active part in the defense. Mr. Elofson remained at Forest City until October, when, he in company with others, started out in search of stock and found considerable of it. All of the houses in Grove City had been burned except two. Not having heard from his wife and child since the beginning of the outbreak, and not knowing where they were, he went to St. Paul to look them up. There he met a friend who informed him that they had gone to his wife's parents at Carver, whither he went, and remained until the following spring. He then worked at carpenter work until August, when he removed to Anoka. In February, 1864, he rented the farm where Litchfield is now located, and remained there until fall, when he bought a house at Forest City, and lived there until the following spring, then returned to his farm, and has since made this his home. In January, 1870, he went to Sweden, and returned the following June, bringing 300 emigrants with him; he was the first postmaster in Swede Grove township and held the office for seven years. From 1872 to 1876 he was in the agricultural implement business. He also spent about five months in the employ of the map publishing house of Warner & Foote. Mr. Elofson is a democrat in political matters, and has taken an active interest in all matters of a public nature. He has held various offices, including those of coroner, chairman of supervisors, school clerk, etc.



TIMOTHY DUNN, one of the earliest settlers of Meeker county, made a pre-emption claim on a part of section 3, Darwin township, in July, 1856, and upon that same piece of land makes his home at the present.

He was a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, who had come to the free shores of America in 1847, landing at New York. After a few days spent in the metropolis of the western world, he went up the Hudson river to Rondout, New York, but a few weeks later came westward and settled at Milwaukee, Wis., where he labored for five years. About that time the gold excitement in California was at its height, and Mr. Dunn, then a young and vigorous man, started for that land of the sunset and passed three years of his life in that part of our country.

Returning to the "States," as it was termed in those days, Mr. Dunn then came to Meeker county, as stated above. He was one of the first settlers of Darwin township, and, it is believed, plowed the first furrow in that part of the county. His boy, Edmund, who died in 1862, was the first death in the township. The first season that Mr. Dunn was here he planted some potatoes, but says that the grasshoppers took them about as fast as they showed above the ground.

In August, 1862, Mr. Dunn was assisting in stacking grain at the Widow Powers' place, when he heard of the cowardly murders at Acton and the first news of the Indian outbreak. Leaving at once, he found, on reaching his own place, that a notice was fastened upon the door of his cabin, warning him of his danger, and that the Indians were up for mischief. He accordingly went to Forest City, and from there to Kingston, where he remained some three weeks. Going on, finally, to Minneapolis, he there remained until October following, when he returned to his farm. He found everything destroyed here, and had to commence forthwith to rebuild his place as from the very beginning.

Mr. Dunn was married July 4, 1861, to Miss Mary A. Deavey, who became the mother of nine children, all of whom are

dead but two. The family are devotedly attached to the Roman Catholic Church, and fulfill their proper duties. In politics Mr. Dunn is a steady, warm-hearted democrat, and a good citizen.



SOPHIA C. PRATT is postmistress at Greenleaf village, and also carries an extensive stock of general merchandise. She is a native of Otsego county, N. Y. After receiving a thorough education, attending school in New York and Canada, she began teaching school and followed that profession for some time in Canada. On the 17th of September, 1859, she came to Meeker county, Minn., with her sister, Eliza, the father having arrived here on the 6th of June, 1859, they being among the early settlers, and she resumed her vocation as a teacher in her new home. She was one of the first teachers in the county, having held one term at the house of Mr. Cross, at Cedar Mills, as early as 1860. She was paid by subscription and "boarded round." When the Indian outbreak occurred she was teaching school at Greenleaf village. At an early day Miss Pratt clerked for W. H. Greenleaf. On November 30, 1886, Miss Pratt was appointed postmistress at Greenleaf village, the office having become vacant through the resignation of her brother Ira, and since that time she has retained the position to the entire satisfaction of all the patrons of the office. Miss Pratt's connection with the business interests of Greenleaf has been an active one, and she is prominently identified with the history of the southern part of the county.



DANIEL FLYNN, of Litchfield, is a son of John Flynn, who has already been mentioned in this department. Daniel is a native of Elgin, Ill., born May 18, 1843,

and came to Meeker county, with his parents, in 1856, when still a boy. He remained principally with the family until 1873. During the Indian troubles the family was taken to Clearwater, but Daniel, with others, remained to fight the redskins. In 1873, he rented out the old homestead and came to Litchfield. The following year, in company with his brother, Michael J., he engaged in the lumber trade and in the winter of 1875-6, they took up agricultural implements. Later they sold out their lumber business to W. H. Greenleaf. In 1879 the firm purchased the Butler elevator, and since that time have carried on a very extensive business in grain and farm machinery. During the season of 1887 they handled over 175,000 bushels of wheat alone. In 1884 Mr. Flinn was elected sheriff of Meeker county, and held the office for three years. He has filled various other offices and was for several years one of the village aldermen, and has always taken an active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his town or county.

Mr. Flynn was united in marriage, December 25, 1874, with Miss Mary A. McNamara, a native of Jefferson City, Mo. By this union there have been born a family of eight children, whose names are respectively—John Arthur, Daniel, Thomas, Michael, Francis, Louise, Mary and Elizabeth.



OLE AMUNDSON, a pioneer of Meeker county, who is now a resident of section 29, Litchfield township, is a native of Norway, born April 9, 1823, and a son of Amund and Bertha Christophdatter Olson, both of whom are dead. Ole came to America in 1855, and after living for two years in Rock county, Wis., came to Meeker county, Minn., arriving here in July, 1857. He first selected a timber claim on section 25, Acton

township, and he and Nels Danielson and Amos Nelson Fosen proved up on their land together and then divided it, he retaining one forty-acre tract in the timber, and three forties on section 29, in what is now Litchfield township. After the close of the war he took an eighty-acre homestead, and five years later built the house on section 29, where he now lives.


On the 10th of October, 1860, he was married to Oline Marie Syvertsdatter, who was born in Norway on the 5th of February, 1832, and who died on the 27th of August, 1883. She bore him seven children—Albert, born July 30, 1861; Betse, born January 4, 1863; Syvert, born October 20, 1864, died October 6, 1865; Syvert, born March 21, 1866; Johanne Marie, born August 9, 1869; Carl, born September 3, 1871; and Olaven, born October 3, 1873.

At the time of the Indian outbreak Mr. Amundson was living on his original claim. He received the news of the beginning of the massacre from Mrs. Baker, widow of one of the murdered men, and another woman, who came to his house on Sunday, August 17, 1862. After assisting in the burial of the victims, he removed his family to Forest City, and assisted in building the stockade, living in the meanwhile in a house just outside of it. When the town was so suddenly attacked by the Indians, he lost no time in getting his family into the fort for refuge. When the danger seemed to have passed, he and several others went to Ever Jackson's place to cradle wheat, taking with them Mrs. Ever Jackson and Mrs. Helena Danielson, to keep house for them. They cradled wheat on one Saturday, and on Sunday went out and found the cattle, which had strayed off, and drove them into the yards. That night they noticed that the dogs were in a state of alarm all night, and it became evident that Indians were prowling around. The next morning Andrew

Olson and Nels Danielson went over to the corrals to salt the cattle, while Mr. Amundson and Burger Anderson were engaged in grinding their cradles. Presently they heard five shots fired, and taking the two women with them, started to run for their lives. Finding that the women could not hold out, they secreted them in a thicket and then went on to Forest City. The next morning they returned with a squad of men and found the women still safely hid, but Olson had been killed and scalped. They buried him on the spot, but his remains were subsequently interred in the Ness cemetery.

In the spring, after the outbreak, Mr. Amundson moved his family back to his farm. He has met with three disasters since, having his crops destroyed once by a hailstorm, and twice by the grasshoppers; but his untiring energy has enabled him to overcome all, and he now has a splendid farm of over 200 acres. His family are members of the Ness Norwegian Lutheran church, and he is sexton of the cemetery. It may be of interest to state in this connection, that the State monument over the first five massacre victims is located in this burial ground.



 **RIN B. VOSE**, the present township clerk of Union Grove township, is an enterprising and respected farmer residing on section 22. Mr. Vose was born in Waldo county, Maine, on January 28, 1840, and is a son of Edwin and Nancy J. (Custis) Vose. His mother died when he was eight years old, and for two years he lived with Daniel Heriman, near Frankfort, Maine. He then went to Montville and lived with Samuel Dodge for four years, after which for eighteen months he worked for Ames Sprawl. He then went to Boston, Mass., where he was apprenticed to George Robinson, to

learn the carpenter's trade, remaining with him three years. He then worked at his trade for two years, when he had a serious fall while working on an ice house at Linfield, Mass., which laid him up for six months. When he had recovered sufficiently from his injuries he found employment driving the horse cars between Chelsea and Boston, which he followed for a year and a half. He then enlisted in Company H, Fiftieth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, for nine months' service, and was mustered in on the 29th of September, 1862. After the expiration of his term of service he was mustered out on the 24th of August, 1863. He then went back to the horse cars, and served as conductor on the line between Roxbury and Boston for two years and a half. At the end of that time he came to Minnesota, and for one summer stopped at St. Joseph, Stearns county. In the fall of 1866 he came to Meeker county, and took a homestead on section 22, Union Grove township, and soon afterward spent two and a half months in the pineries. He then settled on his homestead, building a log cabin, but two months later took his family to St. Joseph, Stearns county, and remained there four months. He then settled again upon his homestead and has since lived here, with the exception of one year spent in California.

Mr. Vose was married on the 11th of September, 1864, to Miss Sarah F. Merrill, a daughter of John and Mary (Wilson) Merrill, who was born April 2, 1848. Their marriage has been blessed with one child—Bessie Lynn Vose, who was born September 17, 1881. Mrs. Vose lost one brother, Charles F., in the first battle of Bull Run. She has three sisters living in Minnesota, and one in Maine, besides one brother in Maine and one in Ohio. Mr. Vose lost one brother, Edwin, in the battle at Petersburg.

Mr. Vose has taken an active interest in public affairs, and has been closely identified

with official business of the township. He has held various offices, including the following: supervisor, one year; constable, eight years; school clerk ten years, and town clerk since 1884.



JAMES PETER BERG, of Acton township, is a native of Denmark, and was born on the 29th of December, 1844. His parents were Hans Peter and Mary Berg; the father died in Denmark in 1870 and the mother is still living in his native land. James Peter came to the United States in 1865, and first stopped at Chicago, where he was employed in a lumber yard for several weeks. He then went to Dakota county, Minn., where he remained until the spring of 1867, and then settled in Acton township, Meeker county, having previous to this time taken a homestead on section 34, in that township, where he still lives. He was a poor man when he came to America, in fact was almost penniless, but by thrift and economy he has accumulated a fine property. He now has 172 acres of land and a great deal of it is under a high state of cultivation. He has excellent farm buildings, an abundance of farm machinery, and has considerable valuable stock gathered about him.

Mr. Berg was married on the 23d of October, 1869, to Miss Helena Sophia Maria Thompson, a native of Denmark, born April 10, 1850. She came to Meeker county, in 1869, with Nels K. Brown and worked for different parties until her marriage. Her parents came to the United States in 1877 and are now living in Big Stone county, Minn. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Berg has been blessed with the following named children: Hansina Maria, born October 12, 1870; Thomas, born March 27, 1873; Karoline, born June 13, 1875; Jennie Sophia, born February 13, 1878; Hans Peter, born

June 15, 1880; Dagnar Anneta, born February 13, 1883; and Rose Marinda, born August 15, 1885. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. In political matters, Mr. Berg acts independent of party lines or party ties.



REUBEN S. HERSHEY, proprietor of the "Fairview Stock and Dairy Farm," in Greenleaf township, is a lineal descendant of the Swiss Mennonites of that name who first settled in Lancaster county, Pa., in 1719. Reuben Hershey was born in Lancaster county, and was reared on the farm with his parents, Martin and Elizabeth Hershey. After reaching manhood he was engaged for a time in the forwarding and commission business, and in 1872 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and bought his present farm property in Greenleaf township. In 1873 he purchased the James H. Morris interest in the Litchfield flouring mills, retaining the interest about three years, remodeling the mill and giving it a reputation second to none in this part of the State. After his retirement from the milling business, he began devoting all his time, energy and talents to the stock and dairy business and the improvement of his beautiful farm home. The farm consists of about 1,000 acres, but a goodly portion is tenanted, Mr. Hershey's attention being for the most part given to his stock and dairy interests. He operates a dairy on the place, the butter of which always commands an advance in price over the best creamery butter generally on the market. Mr. Hershey has in the past suffered some heavy losses through grasshopper ravages and hailstorms, yet he has taken but few backward steps, and to-day "Fairview" is justly regarded as one of the most beautiful and most valuable farms in this portion of Minnesota.



Peter Johnson

JOHN ESBJORNSSON is one of the most prominent lumber merchants, and is also one of the first settlers of Litchfield. He arrived at Litchfield on the 28th of June, 1869, coming as far as Smith Lake, then the end of the railroad, on a train, and walking from there to Litchfield. At that time the site of the village only contained one blacksmith shop, and the site of the present depot was covered with a wheatfield.

In August, 1869, in company with C. Peterson, he engaged in the lumber trade, starting the first lumber yard in the village. The following winter the firm was dissolved, and Mr. Esbjornsson engaged in the wheat trade. This he followed until the fall of 1887. In 1876 he bought out S. W. Leavitt's lumber yard, and has since continued in that business, handling sash, doors, blinds and everything pertaining to that line of trade. Mr. Esbjornsson has taken an active interest in public matters, has been elected alderman a number of times, and at present is the mayor of the village, having been elected to that position in the spring of 1888.

Mr. Esbjornsson is a native of Sweden, where he was born January 30, 1845. His younger days were spent upon a farm, and his earlier education was that afforded by common schools, but when he was twenty-two he took a course in an agricultural college. Shortly after this he decided to come to America, and from that time until his emigration, in 1869, he devoted his time to educating himself in the English language. He was married in 1879 to Miss Eureka A. Rosenquist, of Meeker county.



JOHN A. QUICK, one of the energetic citizens of Collinwood township, is engaged in carrying on farming operations on lot 5, section 20. He is the son of Elijah and Phœbe (Clark) Quick, and was born

in Grayson county, Ky., August 24, 1838, but when he was about a year old his parents emigrated to Perry county, Ind., where they died. Our subject worked at home on his father's farm, and his educational facilities were extremely limited. He obtained but five months' attendance upon a subscription school, but diligent study and an extended course of reading have given him an excellent education, which is altogether self-acquired. On attaining his majority he went back to Kentucky, and for several years was employed in various laborious businesses. He finally returned to Indiana and rented a piece of land and put in a crop. While here, June 29, 1862, he was wedded to Miss Margaret Waggoner, who was born in Frankfort, Germany, February 27, 1841, and daughter of William and Elizabeth (Haydener) Waggoner. He then purchased the homestead of his mother, and carried on farming until December, 1863, when he enlisted in Company L, Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry, and participated in the engagements at Huntsville, Murfreesboro, Franklin, Nashville and Mobile, and in many of the raids, skirmishes and expeditions. For over thirty-seven days they were in the saddle constantly on one raid, and they had several of them. He was mustered out of service, as blacksmith, in December, 1865, and for a short time after followed that trade in Indiana. He then sold out and came to Minnesota, settling in McLeod county in 1866, where he lived two years and then came to Meeker county. He has held various township offices, and also that of notary public and county coroner. He taught school somewhat after coming here, and holds two teacher's certificates now. He is a zealous Methodist in religion, a licensed exhorter and has held the office of church steward and class-leader for several years. He is the parent of the following children—Lucy Jane, who was born October 2, 1863,

but died July 4, 1864; Mary Magdalene, born September 25, 1867, now Mrs. Herbert Quick, of Fort Ripley, Morrison county, this State, her marriage having taken place November 18, 1886, and she is the mother of one child, Ernest Clyde, born March 18, 1888; Andrew Jackson, born March 31, 1869, died January 4, 1873; Rebecca Jane, born August 14, 1871, died the following October 20; Sarah Elizabeth, born February 24, 1876; Phoebe Catherine, born August 5, 1878; and Ellie Josephine, born July 16, 1881.

Mr. Quick has the reputation of making the best syrup manufactured in Meeker and McLeod counties. He began the manufacture of cane syrup in 1884 and has continued it ever since. He has one of Cook's improved evaporators and other necessary machinery, and with his skill and management his products in this line are second to none manufactured in the State. In the fall of 1884 he made over 600 gallons, 12 pounds to the gallon; in the fall of 1885, 1,600 gallons, weighing from 12 to 13 pounds to the gallon; and in the fall of 1886 about 1,200 gallons of the same weight. In the fall of 1887 he only manufactured about 600 gallons, as his work was delayed on account of sickness.



PATRICK CASEY. Prominent among the old pioneers of Meeker county that still remain here is the gentleman whose name heads this personal memoir. He is a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, and was born in March, 1816, being baptized on the 12th of that month. He was reared in the Emerald Isle and there made his home until the sad and eventful year of 1848, when, with a laudable desire to better his condition, he came to this country, landing at the port of New York on the 22d of January, 1849. After a short stay in the metropolis he removed to Allegheny county, Pa., where he

remained some six years, and where he was married July 8, 1851, to Miss Hamorah McRaith. Leaving the "Keystone State" in the spring of 1856, he came west to Manitowoc, Wis., and from there by way of Chicago, to Dubuque, Iowa, and from there by steamboat to St. Paul. There he met Captain Hayden, with his corps of surveyors, William and Michael O'Brien and Patrick Condon, and the whole party, in the month of May started in a bee line for Meeker county. With them was one ox team, the wagon being loaded with four barrels of flour belonging to Hayden. On the 1st of June, the little party struck the Big Woods and for sixteen days they struggled through the thirty-five miles that lay between them and their destination, reaching Kingston on the 16th of June, 1856. Two days later Mr. Casey took his claim on section 33, Darwin township, where he now lives, and which has been his home ever since, except during the Indian troubles.

Putting up a cabin for himself and assisting the others to do the same, he paid Captain Hayden thirty-five dollars plow up an acre of ground for him, so that he could hold the claim. He then returned to Pennsylvania, where he had left his family, but hearing that his claim had been "jumped," he returned to his land and found that Captain Hayden's brother-in-law had laid claim to the land, but no one was occupying it at the time. He took up his residence in his humble cabin to guard the place, but found no trouble. He and Patrick Condon "hatched" in Condon's shanty, where they had plenty of provisions, and spent that winter. In the spring Mr. Casey sent for his family, and waited in St. Paul for them. On their arrival he brought his wife and three children to this county, they arriving here May 9, 1857. That year he raised but a few potatoes, and in 1858 he bought a few bushels of wheat, which he sowed and had to

thrash with a flail. From the bushel and a half which he sowed upon the acre of ground which he broke, he harvested over forty bushels.

On the evening of the 18th of August, 1862, our subject heard of the Indian outbreak that had commenced that day, and immediately took his family to Forest City, and two days later to Clearwater, stopping several times on his way, and from the last place sent the family on to Minneapolis, and returned to look after the stock. He found all in good shape but one steer, and gathering them together, drove off some twenty-seven head, leaving six cows with John Peiffer to keep for him. Going to Minneapolis, he did not return here until the spring of 1865, when he again took up his abode on his farm. He got about \$300 from the State to indemnify him for his losses, which helped give him a new start.

Mr. and Mrs. Casey are the parents of twelve children, of whom the following is the record—Bridget, born April 16, 1853; Mary, whose birth took place August 31, 1854; Patrick, born April 18, 1856; Daniel, born April 3, 1858; John, born March 24, 1861; Edmund, born December 24, 1862; Margaret, born August 20, 1865; Thomas, born January 20, 1867; Ellen, born February 3, 1869; Hannorah, born June 27, 1870; Joanna, born May 14, 1872; and James, born February 9, 1874.

The family are devout members of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Casey is in politics a democrat, and has held the offices of chairman of the town board and town treasurer.

NILS DANIELSON, deceased, was a respected citizen and an old settler in the western part of the county. The township of Danielson was so named in honor of him. He came to this country

with his parents in 1855, and first settled in Rock county, Wis. They moved from there to Meeker county, Minn., in 1857, in company with Kittel Haraddson, Ole Amundson and Gilbert Zackson. They first settled in the town of Acton and in 1863, Nils Danielson took his homestead on section 2, town of Danielson, and was the first settler in the township and the town was afterward named in honor of him. Nils Danielson died in 1869. The widow and six children survive him, all living in this county. There are four boys and two girls; the eldest, Helen, is married to E. Evenson, of the town of Greenleaf; the next oldest, Mary, is married to Ole K. Nilson, of the town of Danielson. Then comes D. N. Danielson, who is mentioned elsewhere. The next oldest is Henry, who is married and lives in the town of Cedar Mills. The next is Hans, who is a single man and lives with Daniel. The youngest, Anthony, also single and lives on the old homestead with his mother.

As will be seen the family were here at the time of the Indian outbreak. The father took an active part in the whole of it; was one of the band who went on the night of the 17th of August to Acton, where Jones, Baker and the others were murdered. Nils Danielson started out in company with Andrew Olson, to their respective farms, on the morning when Olson was shot by the Indians, and the two were only about fifty rods apart when Olson fell.

JETER JOHNSON. Among the citizens of Meeker county who owe their present adequate fortunes entirely to their own ability and labor there is probably none more widely or more favorably known than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He is a resident of the village of Dassel, where he has large interests, prominent among which are his loan and real estate business, the lumber

yard, his connection with the woolen mill, and greatest of all, the Tile Stove Manufactory, the product of which is destined to supersede, to some extent in this country, the old, unsightly iron stoves of the present.

Mr. Johnson is a native of Sweden, born December 13, 1840, and the son of Maria and John Olson, of Collingwood township. When a young man he learned the tailor's trade and followed that avocation in his native land until 1864. Perceiving the impossibility of acquiring any start in life in that country he determined to seek in the New World the fortune denied him at home, and accordingly crossed the stormy Atlantic, and coming directly west worked at his trade in Chicago, Ill., Memphis, Tenn., and St. Paul, Minn., remaining in the latter city until 1867. Leaving there, that year, he traveled on foot to see the country, and on his arrival in Collingwood township, this county, took up a homestead on section 12, and commenced its improvement. He lived upon this place, engaged in the avocation of a farmer until 1878, when he sold out and removed to Dassel, and opened his loan and real estate office. From this time on he has been identified with the growth and development of the town and county, and has grown in wealth and influence with them and to-day is one of the leading spirits in all enterprises that advance the interests or property of Dassel.

Mr. Johnson, while a resident of St. Paul, was united in marriage with Miss Johanna Swanson, a native of Sweden. The ceremony which united them took place May 28, 1868, in the German Lutheran church, then on Ninth street.

No one citizen has been more prominently identified with the growth and development of the eastern part of Meeker county than has Mr. Johnson, and every enterprise calculated to benefit either town or county has always received his hearty aid and encour-

agement. He is a man of the strictest honor and integrity, and justly merits the high esteem in which he is held. He takes an active interest in political matters, being a staunch republican, and is one of the leaders of that party in the locality in which he lives, and as such is well known throughout this part of the State. Mr. Johnson was one of the delegates from this congressional district in 1888 to the national convention at Chicago. A portrait of him will be found elsewhere in this ALBUM.



GROVE CITY can boast of as fine a class of business men as any town of its size in Minnesota, and prominent among them is C. C. RERRAN, the subject of this sketch. He, like many of the citizens of the State, is a native of Norway, born March 21, 1849, and the son of Clement and Anna Reitan. Reared in his native land, he there received the elements of his education, and remained there until 1870, when, at the age of twenty-one, he crossed the ocean to the New World to hew out his own fortune, bringing with him the honesty of purpose, the perseverance and the thrift so common to his countrymen. He came direct to Minnesota on his arrival on Columbia's shore, and locating in Rice county, near Northfield, worked for a farmer there for some four years. He then went to Minneapolis, and for nearly as long a period was employed as a clerk in the grocery store of A. C. Haugen. A trip to his native land at the close of that engagement followed; and while there he was united in marriage July 10, 1877, with Miss Karen Kinseth, the sister of Mrs. A. C. Haugen, the cashier of the Scandia bank of Minneapolis. She was born September 19, 1852. He, with his young wife, returned to this country, arriving in Minneapolis on the 13th of August, 1879. Resuming his old place with Mr.

Haugen, he remained until November following, when he came to Grove City and opened a general merchandise store in connection with Mr. Haugen. This partnership lasted three years, and then he purchased the interest of his partner. Two years later John Christensen became a member of the firm, and the business is still carried on by them. Their building is a very fine one and well filled with a well assorted stock of goods. The firm built an elevator of 50,000 bushels capacity, which they also operated for two years, after which they sold it to the Northwestern Elevator Co. In 1885 Mr. Reitan made another trip to Europe for his health, during which he visited England, France, Belgium, Germany, Norway and Sweden. His parents came to the United States in 1887, and now make their home with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Reitan are the parents of five children, of whom the following is the record—Conrad Ulfred C., born June 17, 1879; Louis, born April 17, 1881; Gustaf Arthur, born July 19, 1883; Ludwig Christian, born June 30, 1885; and Beatha Susanna, born October 20, 1886.



PPETER KEILTY, a highly respected farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 28, Forest Prairie township, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 20th of September, 1847, and is the son of William and Bridget Keilty, who were natives of Ireland. The family were among the earliest settlers in the township, the father having cut his own road to his homestead on section 34, which he took in 1864. The parents lived here for many years, then went to Kansas, but returned, and are now living in the township.

Peter Keilty spent his school days, receiving a good education, in Kentucky and Illinois, his parents having removed to the latter

State in 1863. They remained there for several years, one of which was spent in the city of Chicago, and they then went to Berrien county, Mich., where they remained until coming to Meeker county, Minn., in 1866. The most of the life of our subject has been devoted to farming, although there have been some exceptions. For two years he was on the Northern Pacific Railroad as a cook, and he also spent some time in lumbering. He also for some time was in Colorado.

Mr. Keilty was married at Forest City on the 7th of January, 1883, to Miss Gertrude Thissen, a native of Minnesota and a daughter of Peter Thissen, a farmer of Forest Prairie township. Their marriage has been blessed with two children, named Josie and Bernard.

In political matters Mr. Keilty affiliates with the republican party. The family are members of the Catholic Church. He has a comfortable home and good farm, and devotes his time and attention to stock-raising and to diversified farming.



LEANDER L. WAKEFIELD. One of the first pioneers of Meeker county, and one who has always been identified with its interests, is the gentleman named above, who first made his appearance here in November, 1856, and settled upon section 18, Forest City township. He is now a resident of the village of Forest City, the old county seat, whose glory has departed since the inception of Litchfield.

Mr. Wakefield is a native of the town of Gardiner, Kennebec county, Me., born October 22, 1833.

He received his education, and was reared in the "Old Pine Tree State," and as he grew to manhood engaged in lumbering in that locality, and followed that business until some twenty-three years of age, when he came to Minnesota, and Meeker county.

He adopted farming on coming here, which has been his chief occupation ever since. He has filled several of the town offices, the chief ones being those of supervisor and constable. He is always interested in educational matters, being for several years a member of the school board.

Our subject has been twice married, the first time to Miss Lois Sturtevant, also a native of Maine, who died August 26, 1876, leaving seven children—William Edwin, who married Miss Addie Peters, and is living in Forest City; Theron A., who married Miss Flora Taylor, and lives in Litchfield; Sarah R., Mrs. Seth Burdick, living in Forest City; Mary E., John R., Luella L., and Leander L. April 15, 1878, Mr. Wakefield contracted a second matrimonial alliance, with Mrs. Ruth E. Smith, a native of the State of Maine.

During the Indian outbreak Mr. Wakefield had quite an experience. He and William Marble had engaged to take a quantity of flour from Forest City to the Yellow Medicine Agency, and when within half a mile of the Minnesota river and eight miles below the agency, camped for the night, sleeping under their wagons.

About two o'clock in the morning they were awakened by two Frenchmen who had fortunately escaped the murderous Sioux at the agency and on account of the dense fog had lost their way. From the Frenchman's limited knowledge of the English language they were unable to learn the particulars, and determined to investigate the matter. They yoked the oxen, intending to proceed to the ferry, then in charge of a Mr. Brown. When on their way to the ferry their attention was attracted by two horsemen, riding at a rapid rate. On noticing the teams the horsemen turned out of their course, accosted Mr. Wakefield and Mr. Marble, saying, "Turn back, if you want to save your scalps; the Indians are killing the whites at sight, at

the agency." After giving this information they continued their flight to the lower agency. Within an hour they were captured by the Indians.

Providentially, one of the men, Mr. Blair, escaped through the mercy of some friendly Indians. The fate of the other was unknown. Obeying the order given, Mr. Wakefield and Mr. Marble turned back, down to a ravine, unloaded their flour and started toward Forest City, traveling the distance of seventy miles in twenty-four hours. Finding his house deserted, his family having gone away for safety, he proceeded to the village. After caring for his family, he rolled himself in his blanket and slept for nearly forty-eight hours. He then was employed by Judson A. Stanton to take the merchandise out of his store to Minneapolis, and then joined his family.



NELSON J. MARCH is a native of Ackworth, Sullivan county, N. H., and was born in 1828. He is a son of George and Hannah (Nelson) March, the former of whom was born in Londonderry, N. H., and the latter in Georgetown, Mass. They were married in 1808 and a year later settled in Ackworth, where they spent the balance of their days, Mr. March dying about the first of the year 1832, and his widow in 1850.

Nelson J. remained at home with his parents until he was about sixteen years of age, at which time he went to Boston, where he spent some six years. From there he removed to New York city, where he made his home until 1852, in which year he emigrated to Illinois, where he was in the employ of a railroad company, and had his headquarters in the cities of Springfield and Bloomington. In August, 1855, with a view to the betterment of his financial condition, he came to Minnesota, and followed the trade of carpenter at St. Paul. In the summer

of 1861, and through the following fall and winter, the subject of our sketch was engaged in recruiting men to fill various Minnesota regiments, at the front and in the process of organization, and continued in this employment until July, 1862, when he was appointed deputy provost marshal of the second district, and served in that capacity until released from duty in July, 1865. Mr. March then engaged in the market gardening business on some seven acres of ground in St. Paul, and remained in that city until 1867, when, having purchased a tract of 160 acres of wild land in the town of Cedar Mills, this county, he came here and broke a part of it, and got it ready for seeding. In the fall he returned to St. Paul, where he spent part of the winter in getting ready for removal. In January, 1868, Mr. March moved his household goods and belongings to this farm where he made his home until 1874, when having been elected to the office of sheriff of the county he removed to Litchfield, on taking up the duties of that position. He was re-elected at the expiration of his term of office, and served, in all, four years, in a very satisfactory manner. About 1876, our subject disposed of his farm in Cedar Mills, but shortly after invested in 240 acres on section 30 of the same town, which he owned until 1885. In 1880, however, he took up a tree claim in Spink county, Dak., and bought lots in the village of Mellette. In 1885 he purchased 80 acres on section 1, Litchfield township, which he now cultivates. In 1862 Mr. March married Miss Mary J. Morrison, who was born in Bradford, N. H., in 1842, and is the daughter of Moses and Mary (Cressey) Morrison, representatives of two of the oldest families of the "Old Granite State." Her parents settled at St. Anthony, Minn., in 1855, but a year later removed to St. Cloud, where Mr. March and Miss Morrison were married. By this marriage there have been born five children—Frank M., born October

22, 1863; Nelson D., born February 26, 1866; George K., July 26, 1868; Charles H., October 20, 1870; and Mary N., July 1, 1874. Mr. March is a member of the city council of Litchfield, and of Frank Daggett Post, No. 35, G. A. R., and of the Masonic fraternity, having joined the latter order in St. Paul in 1857.

Mr. March has been a prominent and active public man wherever he has lived. In the spring of 1858 he was appointed assessor of the third ward in the city of St. Paul; in the spring of 1859 was appointed market master for one year by the common council of St. Paul; in June, 1862, was appointed enrolling agent of Dakota county, Minn., by Governor Ramsey. These positions all came to him unsolicited, as was also the case with his appointment as provost marshal. Mr. March was engaged at "enrolling" in Dakota county when he first learned of the Indian outbreak.



JOHNS DUCKERING. Among the older residents of the county, and reliable, trusted citizens, may be found the subject of this sketch, who is a resident of section 22, Ellsworth township, where he settled July 5, 1865, and where he is devoting a large share of his attention to the rearing of Norman and English Shire horses, high-bred Durham and Shorthorn cattle, and also sheep. He has some imported stock of the very best strains, that represent a large outlay of cash capital. Of late years the celebrated Cotswold sheep have been his favorite, although formerly doing much with the fine-wool or Merinos. He sold, during the year 1886, of his surplus stock some \$1,500 worth. His English Shire horse is claimed to be as fine a one as there is in the State, and, with one exception, the only one in the county. He has now some 348 acres of excellent land, a large share of which is under tillage.

Mr. Duckering was born in Apley, Lincolnshire, England, September 11, 1819, hence is nearly the same age as Queen Victoria. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Semper) Duckering, the former a native of Horsington and the latter of Bucknell, England. The great-grandfather of our subject was born in Denmark and died in England, and all of the ancestors on his father's side died in the same house, and lie in the same cemetery. John Duckering, the father of our subject, was a whig in politics, and a Christian member of the Church of England. He was the parent of but three children—Mary, Elizabeth and John. The two girls are still residents of "Old Albion," living in the city of Lincoln. John Duckering came to the United States alone in 1842, and first located in Troy, Walworth county, Wis., after a short stay in Milwaukee. He remained there several years, and then removed to Dodge county, in the same State, and there made his home for the term of seven years. While there he was united in marriage with Miss Maria Bean, October 22, 1846. She is the daughter of John K. and Maria Bean, who had a family of eight children—Louisa, William, Betsey, Charley, Elizabeth, Maria, John, and one that died in infancy. Mrs. D. is a native of Clinton county, N. Y., and is the mother of twelve children, four of whom are dead. Those living are—Mary E., Charles H., John, Adam, Duane H., Maria L., Flora B., William C. and Warren W. Those deceased are—Dora, born in 1861, died September 13, 1886, the wife of James Lemon; Frederick V., born March 29, 1859, died February 25, 1864; and William and Willis, twins, born in 1865, who died in infancy.



ONE OF THE LEADING and most prominent farmers in Meeker county, is H. J. LASHER, a resident of section 4, Cedar

Mills township. He was born in Switzerland on the 22d of August, 1832. When he was six months old his parents came to the United States and settled in Philadelphia, where they died when the subject of this sketch was eight years old. H. J. then went to Jersey City, where he remained until he was eleven years of age. From there he went to Dryden, N. Y., and was adopted by Albert Phillips, with whom he remained until he was fifteen years of age. At that time he went to Homer, N. Y., and learned the tinner's and coppersmith's trade, serving until twenty-one. He followed this business for years afterward in various cities throughout New York.

While at Marathon, N. Y., on May 15, 1854, he was married to Catherine J. Topping, of Dryden, N. Y. They remained there until 1859, when they came to Meeker county, Minn., and located on section 12, Cedar Mills township, having an interest in a claim taken by his wife's father, Mr. Topping. He also claimed land on section 4, and in 1861 moved on to the latter claim. For a time they lived in an Indian tepee, then in the stable, and finally when their house was ready for occupancy they moved into it December 31, 1861. There they were living when the Indian outbreak began. As a full history of this matter is given in another department, it will only be necessary to briefly refer to Mr. Lasher's personal movements during those trying times. On Monday morning, August 18, 1862, he learned of the massacre at Acton, and sent his family to section 12, where his wife's brother-in-law, D. B. Peck, lived, while he started to notify the settlers in Greenleaf. He found them all gone and he made his way down to Peck's. The same day his family returned to his farm and he remained to help Peck harvest. Thursday he was notified of firing near his farm and went to Cedar Mills to get some one to accompany him for his family,



H. J. Koster

but no one would venture, so he went alone. On reaching the farm he met some twenty parties who had started from Forest City to bury those killed at Acton, but they had been chasing Indians into Kandiyohi county and had made their way back this far in the night. Mrs. Lasher got supper and breakfast for them and they then started for Forest City. The family returned to Cedar Mills, and Peck, with his team, hauled 1,600 pounds of flour and other provisions from the farm to the same place. When they got there they found some eight or ten families gathered from the surrounding country, all bent on fleeing for safety, but after some talk it was decided to build fortifications and remain. While they were talking, Dr. Earl, from Beaver Falls, Renville county, came up and stated that all were killed in his neighborhood except a very few, and that his three boys were wandering on the prairie somewhere southwest of them. Mr. Lasher and L. S. Weymouth started out and soon found and brought in the boys. They had met three Indians on the prairie who had passed through Greenleaf and Cedar, and had given them food and traded guns with them. These Indians they recognized as Little Crows. When Lasher and Weymouth got back, however, all the rest had fled. They were soon overtaken and brought back. Mr. Lasher was appointed captain, and they decided to fortify "the Point" in Cedar Lake and remain there until the trouble was over. Weymouth and Lasher stood guard at the crossing by the mill. On Wednesday a party of thirty or forty refugees from Yellow Medicine county came up, accompanied by the friendly Indian, "Other Day." With them was a Mr. Garvey, who had been wounded, and who died the following day at Mr. Lasher's house. Thursday all the new-comers left for a safer place, and a few days later the "Point" was evacuated, and all the settlers

went to Hutchinson, through the advice of "Other Day," Mr. Lasher and several others returned to the farm to care for the grain, Mrs. Lasher, Miss C. Jewett and Mrs. Geo. Wills accompanying them to do the cooking. While there Strouts' company came through from Minneapolis on their way to Acton, and the next morning were surprised by the Indians, and routed and returned to Hutchinson. The others also went back except Mr. Lasher and Frank Jewett, who remained upon a hill till they saw the Indians passing east and west, when they also started for Hutchinson, and met a party in search of them. The following day the Indians made the attack on Hutchinson. The next day Lasher and Weymouth returned to Cedar Mills and set loose all the stock. They found the mill running, it having been started by the Indians, who had stolen all the flour. They returned to Hutchinson, and the next day Mr. Lasher organized a company, went back and repaired the mill and ground some flour for the settlers, who were sadly in need of it. Shortly after this a portion of the Third Minnesota Regiment, under command of Major Welch, came through, and Mr. Lasher joined them as a scout, and remained in the service with Gen. H. H. Sibley for three years and a half, participating in all its expeditions and battles, being in the engagements at Wood Lake and Lac qui Parle, etc. At the latter place they captured a number of Indians, thirteen of whom were afterward hung at Mankato.

During this time, Mr. Lasher's family had returned to the old home in New York. In the fall of 1864 they returned to Hutchinson, and in the following summer again settled on the farm. In 1869 Mr. Lasher removed to Litchfield, where he followed his trade until 1881, when they again settled upon the farm, and have since remained there. While in Litchfield Mr. Lasher took an active interest in band matters, and was leader of that

organization for six years. He has now a valuable farm of 400 acres, with good improvements and has it well stocked.

Mr. and Mrs. Lasher are members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Lasher has always taken an active interest in church matters. He was one of the prime movers in securing the organization of the church in this township. He had charge of the erection of the building, and besides devoting much time, he personally became responsible for \$200 to complete the edifice. He was also chosen superintendent of the first Sunday school organized in the township in 1860, and when they removed to their farm on section 4, they organized a Sunday school there.

Mr. and Mrs. Lasher have been the parents of eight children. Only four of them are living, as follows—Hulda C., now Mrs. H. P. Pfaff of Greenleaf; Albert P., Sarah A. and Daniel B. The last three are still at home.



PPETER N. HANSON, a young and enterprising farmer of Cosmos township, has his home upon section 2, where he has 160 acres of land, as well as another quarter on section 9, making his farm to consist of 320 acres. He is the son of Hans H. and Mary Hanson, natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1863. His father with his family came to Meeker county in 1865, and located in Greenleaf township. In the spring of 1867, he came to Cosmos and put up the claim shanty of Daniel Hoyt, the first settler in the town, and later the same year took up a claim for himself on section 10. The same fall he removed with his wife and children to this place, and they were the first family in the township. They lived in a "dugout" that winter, but erected a house in the spring. Mr. Hanson resided on this farm until 1883, when he removed to Dakota,

where he now lives. He raised the first crop in the town, having some fifteen acres in wheat the summer of 1868.

Peter N. remained with his parents until his marriage December 13, 1876, with Miss Mary Olson, the daughter of Marten and Kari Olson, who was born in Norway. He then struck out for himself and bought a farm on section 2, and on this spot has lived ever since.

Although a young man in years, Mr. Hanson has a shrewd head on him, and this being appreciated by the community, they have elected him to the office of town supervisor, which office he now holds; he has also been road supervisor.



JOHAN GIBNEY, an enterprising and successful farmer residing on section 27, Manannah township, is one of the most intelligent and one of the best read and posted men in the county, and a man of a great deal of natural as well as acquired ability. He is a self-educated man, but a thorough course of reading on scientific, theological and other subjects has made him a ripe scholar, and because of his attainments he is one of the most prominent citizens in the northern part of the county.

Mr. Gibney was born in County West Meath, Ireland, on the 22d of June, 1819, and is a son of Timothy and Mary E. (Carney) Gibney. His early life was spent in the land of his birth, but in 1836 he came to the new world, landing at New York, and settled in the county of Madison, in New York State. In 1838 he removed to Canada, and remained there until 1865, when he came to Meeker county, Minn., and settled in Manannah township, where he has since lived.

In 1848 Mr. Gibney was married to Miss Anna Heaney, and their union has been blessed with ten children, five girls and five boys, whose names are as follows—Timothy,

Mary, James, Owen, Katie, Ann, Patrick, Christopher and Eliza, all of whom are living. The family are members of the Catholic Church.

During twenty-two years of his life, Mr. Gibney followed railroading, but the balance of the time he has been farming. In political matters he is an independent voter, and acts regardless of the dictation of party or creed. He has taken an active interest in his township affairs, and has held several local offices, one of which was that of township assessor.



JAMES A. KLINE, who has been engaged so successfully in carrying on farming and stock-raising on his fine farm on section 22, Kingston township, is a native of Amsterdam, Montgomery county, N. Y., born December 17, 1813. He remained in the place of his nativity until some twenty-two years of age, when he emigrated to the wilds of Michigan, settling in Genesee county, where he was engaged in farming and lumbering. From there about 1855, he removed to Winnebago county, Ill., where he made his home until 1867, when he came to Meeker county, and settled where he now lives. He received in his youth the elements of a good common-school education and by a diligent use of it has well-informed himself on all general subjects. While a resident of Michigan he went to Tuolumne county, Cal., where he engaged in mining for two years and then returned home. Most of his life has been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, but having succeeded in achieving an easy competence, he is spending his declining years in the enjoyment of home.

Our subject is the son of Adam and Elizabeth (Cryslor) Kline, both of whom were natives of the Empire State, and who emigrated to Michigan in 1838, where the father

died at the age of fifty-two years. His wife, the mother of our subject, died after attaining some eighty-three years. They had a family of twelve children—William A., born August 21, 1810, died April 15, 1840; A. C., born May 31, 1812; James A., born December 17, 1813; John, born January 24, 1851; Joseph, born August 20, 1823; George, born November 10, 1827; Sarah Jane, born March 23, 1830; Henry, born May 15, 1832, enlisted in the Eighth Michigan Infantry, and was killed July 12, 1864; Maria, born April 28, 1819, died August 1, 1822; Margaret, born November 17, 1822, died August 8, 1823; and Elizabeth J., born January, 1826, died November 8, 1826.

James A. Kline was first married on the 11th of October, 1840, in Michigan, to Mary Ann Perry. They had one son, who is living—George P. Kline, a resident of Dakota.

Mr. Kline's second marriage occurred December 12, 1848, when he was wedded to Mrs. Ann Talbott, *née* Shimin, who was born in England, a daughter of John and Ann (Corris) Shimin. The date of her birth was November 21, 1815. A sketch of the Shimin family is given elsewhere in this ALBUM. By this union Mr. and Mrs. Kline have had two children—Anna, wife of Mr. Hiram Ramsey, and James E., a farmer of this township, who married Miss Emma Baker. Mrs. Kline by her former marriage had two children—Henry T., killed in the army November 25, 1863, at Lookout Mountain, a member of the Seventy-Fourth Illinois Infantry, and William, born January 18, 1846, married in 1868 to Miss Amelia Boom.



SWAN AUGUST SCARP, of Litchfield, is a native of Sweden, born August 20, 1845, and emigrated to the United States when he was about twenty-seven years of age. On landing he came direct to this village,

where he remained until the following spring, when he moved to a farm near that place, where he spent the next two years. Returning to Litchfield he erected his residence, and entered the employ of S. Ahnquist, in the saloon business and remained with him some six years and a half, at the expiration of which time he entered into the same line of business for himself and continues to carry on the saloon. In 1887 he erected one of the finest residences in the village, at a cost of over \$5,000, superintending its erection himself.

Mr. Scarp, November 16, 1873, was united in marriage with Miss Sophia Johnson, a native of Sweden, and daughter of John and Ingra (Parson) Johnson, who became the mother of four children—Annie C., Julia L., Francis E., and Jennie. Mr. S. is a member of the Order of United Workmen.

J. P. Scarp, a native of Sweden, was one of Litchfield's earliest business men, coming here in 1871, and engaging in sale of agricultural implements. He continued in that line of trade until 1882, when he made a visit to the land of his birth to see the old home and his parents, and on the voyage back, the vessel upon which he sailed was wrecked and he was drowned in the Baltic Sea. He carried a policy of insurance in the Redwing company, which provided partially for his family, who still are residents of the village, and this, with his other estate, places them far above any necessity. He was a charter member of the Workmen's Lodge in Litchfield, the insurance from which was also \$2,000. He was a man who possessed the respect and esteem of the whole community, and was widely known as everybody's friend. His cruel death was a sad blow to his bereaved family, who still mourn his loss.



GEORGE BECKER, a successful and prominent farmer and stock-raiser, who resides on section 23, Greenleaf town-

ship, has the distinction of being one of the oldest settlers of Minnesota, who now resides in Meeker county. He is connected with a family that has given a number of pioneers and prominent public men to the State.

Mr. Becker was born in Schoharie county, N. Y., September 30, 1842. When he was three years old his parents settled in Michigan, and remained there until 1855, when they came to Minnesota, and located near the present site of St. Cloud, in Stearns county. They made part of the journey by railroad, a portion by steamboat and the latter part by team. They arrived at their destination in May, 1855, and were among the very first settlers in that county. The government survey had not yet been made; the old "Territorial Road" was opened that far, but that was the terminus so far as settlement was concerned. The father made arrangements, in 1854, to claim the land which afterward became the original plat of St. Cloud, but, through the duplicity of one in whom he had placed confidence, he was cheated out of it. There they lived through the most trying times in the history of the State, and there our subject, George, grew to manhood.

His father, Harmon Becker, was born in 1797, and for years was a hotel-keeper in Schoharie county, N. Y. He was married to Margaret M. Efner, and they reared a family of eight children—five boys and three girls. Harmon Becker was a man of prominence and ability, and in the prime of his life had a great deal of influence in the locality where he lived. He took a great interest in stock-raising, and imported the first thorough-bred stallion of Duroc blood ever brought to the United States. In slavery days he was a slave-owner, but at the time of the abolition movement he gave his slaves their freedom, and presented them with a forty-acre farm on which to live, notwithstanding their protestations that they

preferred to continue their old relation of master and servant. In 1846 Harmon Becker removed to Washtenaw county, Mich., settling near Ann Arbor. While in that State he erected a large hotel, and later, sold it for \$8,000 to a man named Grovener, but lost it; and besides this, lost another \$8,000 by becoming surety for another party and baving to pay it. After this he followed farming until 1854, when he came to Minnesota to see the country, and, being pleased with it, he made arrangements to locate the land on which the city of St. Cloud is now located. J. L. Wilson was sent for a compass to survey the site, and, immediately upon his return, he ran out the lines, and built a shanty of tamarac rails and slept on the place that night. The next day, when search was made for him, there he was, in the first house on the site, and he, accordingly, claimed the land. Harmon Becker then returned to Michigan, and, the following year, settled in Stearns county, as stated above. He lived there until the time of his death, in January, 1857, aged sixty-six years. The widow, Margaret M., was very sickly at the time of leaving Michigan. She gained strength, however, and recovered, living until January, 1886, when her death occurred at Litchfield. She was eighty years of age. She was a woman of rare personal courage, which stood her in good need during the Indian outbreak. Both Mr. and Mrs. Harmon Becker were members of the Presbyterian church, and exemplary Christian people.

Times were very hard during their first few years' settlement in Stearns county, as all pioneers will realize, and at times it seemed as though starvation stared them in the face. But with that indomitable perseverance and hope for the future which is of necessity a characteristic of the pioneer, they lived through it all. Just as times began to look a little brighter the Indian outbreak

occurred, but they stood their ground and lived at or near St. Cloud during all the excitement. Shortly after this, George joined the Sully expedition, and followed the movements of that brigade, acting as sutler's clerk. Upon his return he remained at St. Cloud until 1865, when he went to the Pacific coast, by way of New York city, and as his journeys, hardships and adventures form an interesting narrative, we will briefly review them in this connection. He shipped from the metropolis on the steamer "Golden Rule" for Central America. They crossed the Isthmus by way of the Nicaragua river and lake, their steamer striking a rock and sinking, but the passengers continued their journey on other crafts. The river was so low that a part of the way they were conveyed in small boats, manned by the natives. George Becker finally reached the Pacific ocean and shipped for San Francisco. The second day out they learned from a passing vessel the news of the death of Abraham Lincoln, and the flags were placed at half-mast during the rest of the voyage, and upon their arrival at the metropolis of California, they found the city a solid mass of emblems of mourning in honor of the martyred president. The trip from New York to this point had consumed forty-five days, and George at once sailed for the city of Victoria, Vancouver's Island, and, in a small boat crossed Puget sound to Whatcom county. There he remained for three years, following lumbering, and then returned to St. Cloud, Stearns county, Minn., on which trip he experienced many dangers and hardships. He first shipped on the steamer "California" for San Francisco. When within thirty-five miles of the harbor of the latter place they encountered one of the worst storms ever known on the Pacific and they were driven 500 miles to sea by the gale. The cabin was partly filled with water by the waves rolling over the vessel and the stateroom doors were

broken in by the force of the water. When the vessel pitched and rolled, those in the lower berths were carried to the floor by the water. Some were crying, some were praying, some swearing, and others, as the saying goes, "were throwing up Jonah." After three days the storm subsided, but the waves were mountain high and it was not until the fifth day that they reached San Francisco. Their vessel had been given up for lost and reported wrecked with about eighty others that shared this fate. George Becker then shipped for Panama and on this voyage the vessel he was in took fire. When the alarm was given it created a terrible panic and for a time it looked as though all were lost, but the engine, with a capacity of 320-horse power was attached to the hose, and the flames were extinguished. Four days later, the vessel ran out of fuel, and the masts, yardarms, deck, cattle pens, bacon, resin and all other loose material was used for fuel, to get ashore at Saline Bay, twelve miles from San Juan del Sur. There they anchored and sent boats to San Juan for coal, while the passengers and crew went ashore in small boats, to cut mahogany wood, securing about forty cords by the time the coal arrived. That night the crew mutinied, and those who refused to do their duty, were brought to time by being tied to the masts. Upon his arrival at Panama, George Becker crossed the Isthmus on the railroad, the trains being queer affairs and running only at the rate of five miles an hour, making no stops. Our subject then shipped on the Atlantic for New York. When two days out, the vessel was wrecked or disabled by the cylinder head being blown out, and for twenty-four hours they were left at the mercy of the sea. They were then taken in tow by another steamer and piloted to the Gulf Stream, off the coast of Cuba, and were then left to drift in to Savannah, Ga. By this time, George Becker had had enough

of that kind of life, as for the last three days out, the cabin passengers had nothing to eat but rice, crust coffee and hard tack. Accordingly, he purchased another ticket for New York by rail, through the Southern States. This was shortly after the war, and General Sherman had left Georgia a hard looking country. Provisions were very scarce, and the conductors were obliged to telegraph ahead for supplies for the passengers. Mr. Becker stopped off at several points, including Richmond, Washington and New York, and finally arrived at St. Cloud on February 14, 1868. He remained there, following the vocation of a policeman and various other lines of business until June, 1871, when he returned to the Pacific coast by way of the Central Pacific Railroad, proceeding from San Francisco to Puget Sound. He remained there until the winter of 1876, when he came to Litchfield, Meeker county, Minn. In 1878 he settled on the farm where he now lives, on section 23, Greenleaf township. He has one of the largest farms in the township, and one of the most valuable in the county, and has justly earned the reputation which he bears, of being one of the most desirable citizens, and from his extensive travels and wide association with business, is one of the most intelligent and best-posted men in the county.

On July 18, 1885, Mr. Becker was married to Sophia Vanberg, and they are the parents of two children—William H., born April 28, 1886, and Lillie M., born August 18, 1887, both of whom are living. Mr. Becker is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He and his wife attend the Presbyterian Church.

We take pleasure in presenting a portrait of Mr. Becker on another page in this ALBUM.



JOHN MARTIN, an intelligent, thrifty and enterprising farmer, residing on section 5, Harvey township, was born in County

Cavan, Ireland, in May, 1824. His parents, who were Hugh and Elizabeth Martin, were natives of the same county. The father died in Ireland in 1830. The mother came to the United States in 1851, and lived in Pennsylvania until the time of her death, in 1876.

John Martin, the subject of our sketch, grew to manhood in his native land, acquiring the same habits of enterprise, industry and frugality which are so characteristic of his race. In 1848 he left Ireland and came to the United States, landing at New York city on the 23d of May, and two days later he went to Bucks county, Pa., where he remained for four years. At the expiration of that time he went to Schuylkill county, Pa., and remained there from the year 1852 until 1877. While in that State he was employed in mining coal for twenty-seven years. In 1877 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and located on a farm on section 5, in Harvey township, where he has since lived. Since his residence here he has been engaged in farming and stock-raising, and now has a valuable farm of 160 acres, a good share of which is under cultivation.

Mr. Martin was married on the 25th of July, 1852, to Mary Farrelly, and their marriage has been blessed with the following-named children: Ellen, born August 22, 1853, died January 25, 1855; Hugh, born October 31, 1855, died October 12, 1857; Joseph, born September 28, 1857; Bridget and Lizzie, born November 17, 1859; John, born November 3, 1861; Mary, born September 18, 1863, died December 17, 1863; Thomas, born January 30, 1870, died same day. Mrs. Martin's parents were both natives of Ireland, where they lived until the time of their death.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin are both active and exemplary members of the Catholic Church. In political matters Mr. Martin affiliates with the democratic party.

NELS EKBOM is one of the prominent farmers of Swede Grove township. He was born in Sweden on the 16th of December, 1849, and came to the United States in 1857, with his parents, Anna and Andrew Ekbon. They settled in Carver county, Minn., where Nels worked part of the time for his father, and the balance of the time for other farmers. In 1865 they came to Meeker county, and from Nels Swanson they rented a farm, on which the village of Litchfield is now located. A year later they removed to Swede Grove township, and took a homestead on section 34, where Nels has since lived. He has been industrious, and the results prove that he is an excellent manager, as he has accumulated a fine property. He now has 120 acres of land, with fine buildings located on the edge of a beautiful grove. He has a goodly lot of stock, and all the necessary farm machinery.

Mr. Ekbon was married on the 16th of July, 1870, to Miss Betsey Nelson, a daughter of Nels and Ellen Peterson, and the couple have had the following children—Anna (deceased), born July 5, 1871, died September 15, 1871; Oscar, born July 22, 1873; Eugene, born August 15, 1875; Ellmer, born November 3, 1878; Anna, born May 8, 1882; and Joseph, born October 8, 1883. Mrs. Ekbon's father is dead and her mother is living in Sweden. Mr. Ekbon's mother is dead, and his father resides with a brother, Simon. Nels Ekbon and wife are members of the Baptist Church, in which he is a deacon. Mr. Ekbon is a prohibitionist in political matters, and takes an active interest in township matters. He has held various local offices, including those of side-supervisor and road overseer.

Mr. Ekbon is a man of the strictest integrity, and is held in high esteem by all. He has been superintendent of the Sunday school for over fifteen years.

WILLIAM S. COX, one of the leading merchants of the village of Dassel, is the junior partner in the hardware firm of Gallagher & Cox, who succeeded Bartholomew & Co. in 1888. He is, although a man young in years, one of the influential citizens and largely interested in the growth and prosperity of his home village. He is a native of Bakersville, N. C., born in 1853, and is the son of S. D. and Mary (Wright) Cox, natives of Virginia and North Carolina respectively. The father of our subject owned property in Knoxville, Tenn., and when William was but four years of age, the family removed to that place, where they resided until 1860, at which date they returned to Bakersville, N. C., where the parents still live.

The subject of this personal memoir remained with the family until 1870, at which time he returned to Knoxville, but a short time subsequent, removed to Broadhead, Ky., where he was engaged in mercantile pursuits for about a year and then, after a short stay in Little Rock, Ark., removed to Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, where he made his home until 1878, when he came to Meeker county, and settled on a farm on section 4, Collinwood township. He was engaged in railroad work while there until 1881, when he purchased a farm on section 33, Dassel township, where he followed a farming life until 1885. He moved into the village in January, 1886, and for a year was a member of the firm of Johnson & Cox, dealers in agricultural implements, and remained in this connection until January, 1887. At that time, having been elected city marshal, he entered upon the duties of the office, but in August following resigned and entered the employ of the Minnesota & Dakota Elevator Co., with whom he remained until the formation of the present firm.

Mr. Cox is a man of family, having been

married, April 11, 1878, to Miss Ala E. Wright, a native of Minnesota. They are the parents of four children, of whom the following is a record—Custer, born August 24, 1879; Agnes, whose birth took place November 15, 1880; Soery, born August 15, 1882, and died March 6, 1883; Sampson, the date of whose birth was February 2, 1884; and Maud, who was born December 25, 1887.



ISRAEL J. ANDERSON, a farmer, residing on section 19, and one of the leading citizens of Union Grove township, is a native of Norway, born on the 4th of February, 1851, and is a son of Andrew and Karen Jacobson. His boyhood days were spent in his native land, and in 1868, in company with his mother and step-father, he came to the United States, and they settled first in Racine county, Wis. When Israel started out to earn his own way in the world, he went to the southern part of Minnesota, and for three years he worked in different localities. During this time he married his first wife, her name being, before marriage, Miss Jensine Hendrickson, born on the 21st of June, 1854, a daughter of Hendrick and Maren Olson. She died, leaving three children, whose names were—Hilda, born on the 25th of December, 1873; Albert, born on the 17th of June, 1875, and Martin, born on the 28th of March, 1877.

Some time later Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Anna Jacobson, a daughter of Adrean Jacobson and wife. She was born on the 20th of August, 1861. This marriage has been blessed with four children, as follows—Jensine Nettie, born on the 7th of October, 1880; Adolph B., born on the 24th of February, 1883; Ida, born on the 7th of February, 1885, died on the 17th of July, 1887; and Anna, born on the 1st of March, 1887, died on the 9th of March, 1887.



Geo Becker

Mr. Anderson comes of a nationality, which through their enterprise, thrift, industry and frugality, make the most valuable citizens included in Minnesota's population, and following the habits characteristic of his race, he has accumulated a fine property. He now owns 250 acres of land located on sections 4, 19 and 30, Union Grove township, and has comfortable building improvements located on sections 19 and 30. He has taken an active interest in township matters, and has held various local offices, including those of supervisor and school clerk. In political matters he is a prohibitionist. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.



OLE NELSON LINDELL, one of the leading, enterprising merchants of the village of Grove City, is a native of Sweden, born March 9, 1844, and made his home in the land of his birth until after his marriage which took place Nov. 7, 1867, on which day he wedded Miss Ella Nelson. In 1869, the young couple decided to leave their home beneath the frowning rocks and rocking pines of Norway, and seek in the new world that easier road to competence that America affords. On their arrival they came at once to Minnesota, and Mr. Lindell bought a homestead claim in Swede Grove township, of O. Levander. This was in the southeast quarter of section 26, and constituted the south half, and upon this farm he lived some eight years. In 1871 he bought sixty acres more; his father's family emigrated to this country. Renting his place to an individual for six years, Mr. Lindell removed to the village of Grove City, and engaged in the furniture business and gave some attention to his trade, which was that of a carpenter. A year's trial satisfied him that the venture would be a judicious one, he added a full and complete stock of hardware and

has now as large an assortment in both lines as is needed by the necessities of the trade. In the cellar of his store building he carries all kinds of heavy hardware; on the first floor shelf and fancy hardware, and the second story is packed with furniture of every description.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindell are the parents of four children, three on earth and one in Heaven. Their records are as follows—Mary Christine, who was born Nov. 27, 1871; Mina Albertma, born in September, 1880; Otto, born Dec. 23, 1885, and died March 25, 1886; Otto Anton, born Feb. 19, 1887.

Mr. Lindell in politics affiliates with the Democratic party and usually supports the candidates of that organization. He has held the position of village trustee for two years, and in March, 1888, was elected president of the village trustees, and is looked upon as a representative citizen. Mrs. Lindell is a consistent member of the Swedish Lutheran Church.

In 1884 our subject became a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, was elected financier and served for two years and was then chosen master workman of the lodge.



E KIMBALL, who was for many years closely connected with the business life of the country, and one of its leading mill owners, although now retired from the active pursuits of trade or manufacture, still keeps up his interests in whatsoever is for the benefit of the community. He is a native of the State of Maine, having been born in Oxford county, Jan. 4, 1832, and is the son of Asa and Esther A. (Walker) Kimball, both of whom were natives of the "Pine Tree State." His mother was a daughter of the celebrated Col. Dexter Walker, whose history is too well known to be repeated in this connection.

The subject of this memoir was reared in Androscoggin county, Me., and received a fair business education. From his boyhood he has always had a taste for study, and is to-day a ripe scholar. On reaching the years of manhood he embarked in mercantile business, which he carried on successfully for some thirteen years in his native State and then came to Minnesota, locating at Forest City in the fall of 1867. The same year, the firm of Hines, Kimball & Beedy built the large flouring mill at that place, and the same time opened a store in the village. This business arrangement continued until 1873, when Mr. Hines retired from the firm, the company having erected the Manannah flour mill on the Crow River, some ten miles above Forest City. This last Mr. Hines took and operated for several years, the business at Forest City being continued by Kimball & Beedy until 1882, when Mr. Kimball retired from the business on account of ill-health, paying all his attention to the improvement of his place, one of the handsomest in Forest City township, and to bee keeping, in which he is pre-eminently successful.

Mr. Kimball was united in marriage, February 7, 1854, with Miss Phoebe Manwell and they are the parents of two children: Georgiana, the wife of Dr. W. E. Chapman, of Litchfield, and Edna Cecil, at home. Both Mr. K. and his estimable wife, are members of the Baptist Church. He is a republican in politics, and is filling the offices of justice of the peace and coroner, and is a pension and real estate agent. He has held the office of justice for over fifteen years.



DOCTOR F. E. BISSELL, one of the most prominent physicians and surgeons in this part of the State, settled at Litchfield in 1871, and began the practice of his profession in Meeker county. Doctor

Bissell is a native of Wisconsin, and was the first male child born in Washington county, of that State—his birth having occurred on December 27, 1845. His parents were Cyrus and Amanda (Case) Bissell, both of whom were natives of Connecticut; but they had settled in Washington county, Wis., in June, 1845, and were therefore among the oldest settlers of that region. The Doctor was raised upon a farm, but at an early age entered a drug store, and remained at that business for five years. When he was eighteen he enlisted in the United States Navy, and served on the U. S. Gunboat "Lexington," on the Mississippi river, and was in a number of minor engagements. The Doctor served as surgeon's steward, and was finally mustered out of service on June 9, 1865. He then went to Cleveland, Ohio, and the following winter entered the Charity Hospital College, from which he graduated in the spring of 1869. He first began practice in Clinton Junction, Wis., and remained there until coming to Litchfield in 1871. He has since pursued his practice here, and has attained a wide reputation as well as a profitable business. It should be stated, however, that since his settlement here, he has been absent eleven months. In the spring of 1878 he removed to Cold Springs, Stearns county, and opened a drug store. In the fall of that year he was elected to the legislature on the republican ticket. In the spring of the following year, he returned to Litchfield, where he has since lived.

Dr. Bissell was married on June 19, 1875, to Miss Addie F. Simons, of New York. They have two children—Emily S., who was born in November, 1875, and Frank S., who was born in October, 1878. The family are prominent members of the Episcopal Church.

Dr. Bissell has always taken an active interest in all public and political matters, and takes a prominent part in the affairs of that party. In 1880 he was elected a mem-

ber of the council, and in the spring of 1886 he was elected mayor of the city. The Doctor is the oldest practitioner now following the profession of medicine at Litchfield, and has a large practice. He is a member of the State Medical Association, and is president of the Pension Examining Board. He is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic; was a charter member and one of the first officers of E. Branham Post, which was organized in 1873, and was one of the charter members of Frank Daggett Post, No. 35. He was elected surgeon of the latter Post at its first meeting, and still holds that position. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, being identified with Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89, A. F. and A. M., and Rabboni Chapter, No. 37, R. A. M.



WILLIAM H. MILLER, the owner of a finely cultivated farm of eighty acres of land on section 8, Kingston township, came to Meeker county in August, 1865. He was born in Bath, Steuben county, N. Y., January 2, 1814, and is the son of David and Anna Maria (Bennett) Miller, natives of the "Empire State," where his father died. In 1838 the mother of our subject came to Beaver Dam, Wis., where she is now living, having passed her ninetieth birthday. Her second husband was Andrew Sears, who died in 1855.

Our subject received a common-school education in his native State, and, as he grew to manhood, engaged in the milling business and farming with his uncle, Sheldon Sears, spending some thirty years in various kinds of mills. He moved to Wisconsin with his mother, and, when the tocsin of war sounded, enlisted, November 5, 1861, in the Eighth Battery, Wisconsin Light Artillery, and veteranized in the same battery in February, 1864. He was an active participant in a number of

engagements, among which were the battles of Stone River, Perryville, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain and Murfreesboro. He was discharged at the close of the war, August 10, 1865, at Milwaukee, and came direct to Meeker county, arriving here the last day of that month.

Mr. Miller was married in 1834 to Miss Ellenor Gregory, from whom he was shortly afterward divorced. He was subsequently married to Miss Clarissa Nodine, and two children were born to them—Susan M. and Charles S. Miller. After this Mr. Miller removed to Wisconsin, and a short time later to Chicago, Ill. In 1852 his second wife died while on a visit to Portage City, Wis.

Mr. Miller was united in marriage December 26, 1855, with Miss Susan Sanders, a native of Steuben county, N. Y., born November 14, 1837, and daughter of David and Susan (Wakelield) Sanders, both of whom are deceased, the mother in 1852, and the father in 1882. Her father died in Portage county, Wis., whither he had removed many years before. By this union Mr. and Mrs. Miller are the parents of nine children—Eugene, born May 20, 1859; Edwin, born April 20, 1867; Emma, born July 22, 1868; Jennie V., born July 2, 1870; and Bertram D., born October 3, 1878. These are all living. Those deceased are—Etta R., born August 25, 1856, died in infancy; Nellie M., born June 9, 1861, died May 25, 1875; Alice B., wife of Wilford Downing, died November 8, 1883; and Jessie, born May 25, 1874, died November 1, 1884.



AMONG the most prominent newspaper men in Meeker county should be classed H. I. PETERSON, editor and proprietor of the Litchfield *Independent*. He is a native of Goodhue county, Minn., born at Red Wing, on the 14th of February, 1857. He

was raised upon a farm, attending district schools during the winter months until he had reached the age of fifteen, and in the mean time coming with his parents to Meeker county, Minn., in 1867. When he had reached the age mentioned he entered the office of the Meeker county *News* as an apprentice to learn the printing business, and remained there for about two years. After that time he was engaged chiefly at his trade as a compositor until 1876 when he bought a half interest in the Litchfield *Independent*, of which he is now sole proprietor.

Mr. Peterson was married in 1881 to Miss Jessie Doll, of Meeker county. They have three children — Edward Leroy, Florence Edith, and Bessie Frances. Mr. Peterson takes an active interest in all matters which tend to advance the interests of either town or county; is a capable writer, and his paper is deservedly influential and popular.



JAMES H. MORRIS, one of the most prominent citizens, as well as one of the most extensive farmers and stock-raisers in Meeker county, is a resident of section 22, Litchfield township. He is a native of Fort Niagara, N. Y., was born on the 26th of September, 1845, and is a son of Colonel Thompson and Martha B. (Upham) Morris. His father was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fourth United States Infantry, was a prominent and influential man of his times, and died on the 14th of February, 1870. James H. Morris' great grandparents came from Wales in 1715, and located near Philadelphia. His grandfather, James C. Morris, emigrated to Ohio in 1814; he had seen service in the Tripolitan war, and was one of those captured on the frigate *Philadelphian*, and held prisoner for two years by the Bashaw of Tripoli.

James H. Morris, the subject of this sketch, began life for himself when about sixteen

years of age, by clerking for Col. J. D. Bingham, chief quartermaster of the Seventeenth corps, but was taken sick in front of Vicksburg, and returned home. After recuperating he began clerking for Capt. H. B. Goodrich, A. Q. M., and continued until March, 1864, when he enlisted in the 137th Ohio Infantry. In the following June he was promoted to second lieutenant in the Tenth New York Artillery, and served in the front of Petersburg and Richmond during the summer of 1864, and in the campaign of Shenandoah Valley, Va., in the fall of 1864. During the winter of 1865 he was in the front of Petersburg and Richmond, on the Bermuda front; and after the collapse of the Confederacy, was on duty in Petersburg, on the staff of post-commandant Col. George C. Kibble, of the Sixth New York Artillery. He was finally mustered out of the service on the 30th of June, 1865, at Sackett's Harbor, New York. After the close of the war he went West, and finally located in Minneapolis. In March, 1869, he removed to Dassel, Meeker county, where he erected a saw mill and built the first store. In December, 1873, he removed to Litchfield and engaged in the milling and mercantile business. His name is closely identified with the growth and development of Litchfield, and he figures prominently in the business history of the county seat. On the 1st of April, 1875, he was appointed postmaster of that place, and retained the office until the 30th of June, 1887. He now resides on his magnificent farm of several hundred acres, on the western shore of Lake Ripley, and devotes his attention to his extensive farming and stock-raising interests. Mr. Morris has taken a prominent and active interest in all public matters. He was first lieutenant of Company H, First Regiment Minnesota National Guards, from its organization until March 1, 1888; is a member of Golden Fleece Lodge No. 89, A. F. & A. M., and was its master for a

number of years; a member of Rabboni Chapter, No. 39, and is the present eminent commander of Mileta Commandery No. 17, Knights Templar. He is also a prominent member of Frank Daggett post, G. A. R.

Mr. Morris was married at Minneapolis on the 13th of July, 1870, to Miss Florence J. Williams. She is a daughter of John G. and Jane S. Williams. Her father died in July, 1880, and her mother is now living in Minneapolis. Mrs. Williams, her mother, has five children who are now living, as follows; Florence J., now Mrs. Morris, of Litchfield; Lou B., now Mrs. James E. Upham, of Litchfield; J. C. Williams, Marcia A. and Sallie E., of Minneapolis.

Mr. Morris has one brother and one sister — Charles A. and Maria L., both of whom are unmarried and are living in Minneapolis.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Morris has been blessed with the following named children — Mattie F., Louise J., James C., Thompson C. and Richard W. (twins), and Harbron W., all of whom are living except Thompson C., who died at the age of seven months.

We take pleasure in presenting a portrait of Mr. Morris on another page in this ALBUM.



MENUS O'KEEFFE, a well known, successful and highly-respected farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 6, Manannah township, is one of the most prominent citizens of the northern part of the county, and is one whose enterprise and thrift are evidenced by the fact that the building improvements, which have been erected on his farm, are a credit to the neighborhood in which he lives.

Mr. O'Keefe was born in County Cork, Ireland, on the 1st of November, 1830, and is a son of Menus and Charlotte (Fillpot) O'Keefe. He remained in the land of his birth until January, 1853, when he sailed for

the New World, landing in New York city April 12, 1853. They had a hard voyage, and for a time he lost hope of ever seeing the United States, from hunger and starvation, as the vessel sprung a leak; but finally landed in safety. Our subject worked at gardening for six months, at 100th street, Bloomingdale road, N. Y., and from there went to Manhattanville, and drove an express wagon between that point and Fulton street, from September until the following March, 1854, being without mitts or overcoat. Speaking of it he says: "I felt comfortable, as my Irish blood was warm and young at that time." In April, 1854, he went to work as hostler and groom in a hotel on the Bloomingdale road, N. Y., and remained for five years. In 1859 he began work in the Central Park, N. Y., which he continued for five years, and then started for the "Great West," and the headwaters of the "mighty Mississippi." He landed at Minneapolis, and for two years was employed on the Manitoba railroad at Cedar Lake, and also at brick-making. In the fall of 1866 he came to Meeker county, driving through by team, and located on section 6, Manannah township, where he still lives. He is comfortably fixed, as the saying goes, in this world's goods, and has a very pleasant home, a good wife and an intelligent family. He owns 240 acres of land, a goodly portion of which is under cultivation, and also does considerable in the stock-raising line. In political matters he is a democrat.

Mr. O'Keefe was married in July, 1856, to Julia McLoney, and they have been the parents of nine children, as follows—William, Menus, Mary, Sharlotte, John, Elizabeth, Julia, Margaret and James. All the children are living, except William, Mary and Sharlotte, who died and were buried in New York city. Both Mr. and Mrs. O'Keefe are zealous and prominent members of the Catholic Church.

Mr. O'Keefe's parents died in Meeker county. Mrs. O'Keefe's parents were natives of Ireland, and are still residents of County Cork, in their native land.



THOMAS H. BOGAR, who came to Minnesota in the spring of 1866, was born November 10, 1810, in Juniata county, Penn., on the banks of that beautiful river known in poetry as the "Blue Juniata," where his childhood years were spent. He was brought up as a miller, that being his father's occupation. When a mere lad the family moved to Hawkins county, Tenn., where he assisted his father in running a large flouring mill. On leaving the mill he learned the saddler's trade; and at the age of twenty-one he went to Russell county, Va., and commenced business at Lebanon, the county seat. Here he met and married Sallie T., daughter of Garland and Martitia (Thurston) Hurt; of this union were born eleven children,—six sons and five daughters, nine of whom reached the years of maturity. In the year of 1837 he removed from Russell to Tazewell county, locating at Thompson's Gap. Intending to go to Oregon by way of the overland route—the only way at that time—he turned a considerable part of his means into extra good horses and wagons. But before he succeeded in closing up his business the great financial crisis came. Embarrassed by his own debts, and that of a friend for whom he was surety, he succeeded in meeting his own liabilities, but saw his property sold at public auction to satisfy creditors of the man for whom he had indorsed. He was broke. When the worst of the crash was over—being sued, he sued no one—he collected what he could of his outstanding notes and accounts, and bought a small farm (100 acres) located in Thompson Valley. Here he endeavored with indifferent success to dig a living out of the ground. After

five years' residence on the farm he sold out and removed to Piketon, Pike county, Ky. Here he worked at his trade, employing only two assistants, holding at the same time the office of postmaster, to which he was appointed soon after his arrival in the village. In 1851 he removed to John's Creek valley same county, and leasing land, engaged in raising grain and stock, in which pursuit he was fairly successful until the breaking out of the civil war, when his property was again lost in various ways. In politics he was a democrat; in religion a Methodist. He was beloved by all, especially by the young, who liked to congregate at the house of the kind and genial man. He was at one time a slave holder, the property coming from his wife's estate; but he always thought the system a curse.

In the stormy days of secession, he took the field as a campaign speaker; being well read in history, more especially the history of his own country, his opponent, a young man of the legal profession, soon learned that the quiet farmer, who knew how to grind wheat, make a saddle, or lead a meeting, also knew how to make a speech. On one occasion, after the speeches had been delivered, a man walked up to Mr. Bogar and struck him over the head with a cane. The blow stunned him, but recovering himself, Mr. Bogar walked away, got on his horse and went to the next precinct, telling people that the blow was their best argument.

On the breaking out of the war he enlisted in the fourteenth Regiment, U. S. Infantry, serving about three months, principally as a scout, and was then discharged for disability. Mr. Bogar's sons, like himself, were strong Union men. Joseph, the oldest, cast one of the two Lincoln votes in Pike county, Ky., Moses H., the second son, enlisted in the same regiment as the father, and at the same time. John G., the third son, only a lad, later enlisted in the Thirty-Ninth Kentucky.

In 1866, Mr. Bogar came to Minnesota bringing most of his family with him, and located on section 2, Collinwood, where he lived until the time of his death, November 1, 1868. The widow still lives on the homestead, and Mrs. C. A. Pauley, her daughter, has lived with her most of the time.



ANDREW W. EKLUND is one of the leading and most successful farmers and stock-raisers in Danielson township, being a resident of section 5, in that subdivision of Meeker county. He comes from the same sturdy race which forms such a large element in Meeker county's population, having been born in Sweden on the 31st of March, 1846, being a son of John and Bertha Olson. He remained in his native land until 1869, when he came to the United States, and, shortly after his arrival, he settled in Michigan, where he was employed in the iron mines and where he remained about seven years. At the expiration of that time, thinking that he could better his condition, financially and otherwise, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased a farm on section 5, in Danielson township, where he has since lived. He now has a splendid farm of 160 acres, upon which he has put excellent improvements, having erected a fine house, barn and other farm buildings. Mr. Eklund is in very comfortable circumstances, and he owes all he has to his own efforts and industry, as he was almost penniless when he came to the United States, his sister having advanced him the money with which to pay his fare. Since coming to Meeker county he has lost several crops through the grasshoppers, but, considering everything, he has been very successful and is now in comfortable circumstances. In political matters Mr. Eklund affiliates with the democratic party. He

takes a commendable interest in educational matters, and has held the office of school treasurer for eight years.

Mr. Eklund was married on the 24th of June, 1870, to Miss Sophia Larson, a daughter of Lars and Bertha Olson, who was born on the 18th of December, 1849. Their marriage has been blessed with three children, as follows—Ama Sophia, born May 4, 1871; Mary Josephina, born April 28, 1873; and Charles William, born July 23, 1882.



CHARLES A. GREENLEAF, the junior member of the firm of W. H. Greenleaf & Son, lumber dealers of Litchfield, is, in the opinion of his fellow townsmen, one of the most promising young business men of the village. He was born in Meeker county, Minn., Oct. 27, 1861, and is the son of Hon. William H. Greenleaf, one of the most influential and leading citizens of the county. In his younger days, Charles received his primary education in the primitive log cabin school houses of the period, around whose rugged walls fond memories throw the glamour of boyhood's halcyon days. After the family removed to Litchfield, our subject commenced a more advanced course of schooling, finishing with a course in the excellent high school of Litchfield, and was graduated with the first class to finish in that institution. He at once assumed a position in his father's place of business and continued in his employ until attaining his majority in 1882, when he entered into the present firm. He is also engaged in the real estate business, owning and controlling an addition to the city of Minneapolis, in connection with H. S. Branham; and also an addition to the village of Litchfield, in company with others.

January 18, 1887, Mr. Greenleaf was united in marriage with Miss Hattie D.

Campbell, a native of Manchester, Conn., but reared in Hartford, the same State. Mr. Greenleaf is a careful business man and occupies a prominent place in the estimation of his fellow citizens. He is at the present a member of the village council, representing the first ward.



CARL SCHULTZ, a prominent old settler of Meeker county, residing on section 23, in Harvey township, was born in the western part of Prussia, on the 24th of May, 1830. He remained in his native land during his boyhood days, and until the 1st of April, 1854, when he sailed for America, landing in the city of New York on the 17th of May. Two days later he went to Chicago, and remained near that city, working in a lime-kiln for about two months. Chicago was then only a small village. From there he went to the pineries of Northern Michigan, and remained there until 1855, when he returned to Chicago. In October, 1856, he started for Meeker county, Minn., landing at Forest City on the 1st of November, 1856, and remained there until the 10th of the following May. He then went to Minneapolis and worked during the summer on a farm near by, for R. P. Russell. The following winter he worked near Forest City, getting out fence rails. In the meantime, on the 1st of November, 1856, he had taken a preëmption on section 23, Harvey township, and during the summer of 1858 he put in some crops and worked on the place, remaining upon it until the spring of 1862, when he went to Minneapolis, where he worked at the mason's trade until the following October. He then returned to Harvey, remained about a month and went to Fort Snelling, where, on the 10th of December, 1863, he enlisted in Company D, Second Minnesota Cavalry. He served in the Northwest, was with the Sully

expedition and remained in the service until the 1st of September, 1865, when he was discharged on account of sickness, and returned to Harvey township, where his brother Rudolph was living. He remained with his brother during the winter, until he was able to walk again, and then went to Minneapolis and spent the summer working on the Russell farm. The ensuing winter was spent in Harvey, and the following summer he was engaged at mason work at Minneapolis. Then, in the fall of 1867, he returned to Harvey and has since made this his home.

On the 17th of November, 1867, he was married to Miss Minna Theile, and the fruits of their union have been five children, all of whom are still living, as follows—Lousa, Ida, Clara, Minnie and Carl. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz are active members of the Lutheran Church and devout Christians. Mr. Schultz has taken an active interest in all matters calculated to benefit his township, and is one of the most substantial and highly respected citizens of the county.

It may be of interest to state that Mr. Shultz's farm-house was used as headquarters by the Indians when the attack was made on Forest City in 1862.



MARCELLUS GREENWOOD, one of the "brave boys in blue," now living in Forest Prairie township, on section 26, came to the county in 1881, and bought eighty acres of land of Michael Flynn, where he now lives. He was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, August 25, 1832, and is the son of Carlos and Rosa Ann (Duquet) Greenwood, natives of Canada, who emigrated to New York in 1830, where they made their home until 1866. The mother died in the Empire State, after which the father of our subject removed to Sibley



James H Morris

county, Minn. Marcellus was married, October 12, 1853, to Miss Rosanna Gesmer, who is also a native of St. Lawrence county, N. Y., and by this union there has been born a family of twelve children — Libby, Mary, Allen, Frank, Emma, Louisa, Sophia, Edward, Stephen, Jerome, Rosa and Maggie. All the children are married except the last five. In his political views Mr. Greenwood coincides with the republican party. His family are zealous members of the Roman Catholic church.

During the late civil war, December 28, 1863, our subject enlisted in Company M, Eighteenth New York Cavalry, and served with that gallant regiment, being transferred to Company I, until May 31, 1866, when he was mustered out of service at Victoria, Texas, and returned to his home. His service was chiefly performed in Virginia, the regiment being attached to the Army of the Potomac.



AUGUST DAVIDSON, a farmer on section 18, Acton township, is one of the pioneers of Minnesota, having settled within its boundaries while it was yet a territory. Mr. Davidson is a son of David and Kate Nelson, and was born in Sweden on the 1st of June, 1838. He came to the United States in 1854, and came direct to Chisago county, Minnesota. He remained there a few weeks and then went to Wisconsin, where, for two years, he was employed by one man in farming, after which he worked another year for a neighbor. He then went to the pineries and was employed at lumbering and "on the drive" until the fall of 1864, when he enlisted in Company D, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. They were sent South for service and participated in several skirmishes but not in any pitched battle. After a year's service, the war closed and being honorably discharged he returned to the pineries of Wis-

consin, where he worked until the spring of 1868. During that spring he came to Meeker county, Minn., and bought land in Acton township. He at once began farming, and has since made this his home. He has been very successful and now owns 270 acres of land, and has it improved with substantial farm buildings. He does a general farming and stock-raising business.

Mr. Davidson was married on the 25th of June, 1868, to Matilda Anderson, and their union has been blessed with the following named children — Levi, born May 20, 1869; George, born November 11, 1875; Clara, born June 9, 1882; and Arthur, born November 28, 1884. The family are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church. In political matters Mr. Davidson affiliates with the republican party. The parents of Mr. Davidson still reside in Sweden, their native land, while those of Mrs. Davidson are residents of Meeker county.



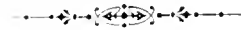
JOHN J. SUNDQUIST, the photographic artist and notion and clothing dealer of Dassel, is a fair representative of the class of self-made men who have "climbed the ladder rung by rung" to an easy competence. Born among the wild and picturesque scenery of Sweden, April 28, 1846, the son of John and Keser Johnson, his boyhood and youth were passed in his native land. His father served in the Swedish National Guards, and remained in that kingdom until his death.

The subject of our narrative, when about twenty-three years of age, feeling the impossibility of raising himself financially above the estate in which he was born in that country, determined to seek his fortune in the newer countries across the sea, and embarking, landed upon the shores of America, and made his way to Pepin county, Wis. On his arrival there, with but fifty cents in his pocket, he was taken down sick, and felt that

the fortune of the poor emigrant was at a very low ebb. As soon as he recovered, he started for Minnesota, and on reaching the river, opposite Lake City, had but twenty-five cents to his name. Something to eat cost fifteen of this, and ten cents to cross the river, landed him in Minnesota totally penniless and friendless, and the prospect looked dark to him indeed. Instead of sitting down to grieve about it, however, he found work with a farmer near Rochester, with whom he remained until fall. In the spring of 1870 he commenced work on the river division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, grading, and was soon made foreman of a gang of men. The following spring he went to Scott county, this State, when he commenced contracting for grading on the Hastings & Dakota railroad, and worked hard until the fall, when he went to St. Paul and there bought a boarding house and saloon which he only ran a short time. About the last of 1871, he removed to Carver county, and took some more contracts for grading, and there remained until the stoppage of work in 1872. Purchasing some land in connection with others, he platted and established the village of Norwood, where he made his home until 1885, following railroad construction during the summer months, and photography in the winters. The restless activity that ever prompted him to better his condition, induced him in the spring of 1885, to sell out his interests in Norwood, and remove to Dassel village, where he purchased ten acres of ground adjoining the town site, where he put up his residence. Later the same season, he purchased some town lots and put up the brick store building which he now occupies, laying out in these improvements about \$4,500. In the summer of 1886, Mr. Sundquist put in a stock of drugs, but a few months later disposed of them and opened a stock of notions, to which he added afterwards, clothing and

boots and shoes. In connection with this business he carries on the photographic art gallery, the second story being fitted up for that business.

Mr. Sandquist was married in October, 1871, to Miss Anna Swenson, a native of Sweden. Since becoming a citizen of Dassel, Mr. Sundquist has taken a deep interest in all matters relating to his adopted home, and the people, believing that a man who has been so successful in his own affairs, would be so in the public's, elected him to the position of member of the village board of trustees in 1888.



B P. NELSON, one of the most prominent and successful business men in the county, is a member of the firm of Nelson, Johnson & Larson, dealers in general merchandise at Litchfield. Mr. Nelson is a native of Sweden, born on the 29th of October, 1840, and is a son of Nels and Johanna Anderson. His early life was spent in the land of his birth, but in 1862, with his parents, he embarked for America, and after a voyage of eleven weeks they landed on the shores of the new world and proceeded to St. Paul. It had been their intention to settle on Foot Lake, in Kandiyohi county, Minn., but, learning of the Indian outbreak, their plans were changed, and shortly afterward B. P. Nelson, our subject, went to Galesburg, Knox county, Ill., where he remained from October, 1862, until the following May. We next find him in Chicago, where he remained for six months at work in a brickyard. The following winter was spent in the pineries of Michigan, after which he settled at St. Paul, Minn., and for two years and a half worked in an agricultural warehouse for Bigelow, Murdock & Co. After leaving there, for about a year he was at various places, principally in Meeker county, and in Cottage Grove, and then went to Nicollet county, and started a store

at New Sweden. Two years and a half later he sold his business to his brother-in-law, John Burke, and came to Litchfield, arriving here during the year 1871. Upon his arrival he, with his brother, Andrew Nelson, engaged in the general mercantile business, and continued in it for three years, when the business was sold to A. Cairncross. After this our subject was engaged in farming and buying grain until 1880, when the present firm of Nelson, Johnson & Larson was formed, and he has since devoted his time to the interests of the firm.

Mr. Nelson was married on the 31st of May, 1878, to Emily E. Johnson, and they are the parents of four children, one of whom died in infancy, and the other three—Archie E., Clara E. and Bertram C.—are living.

Mr. Nelson has taken a prominent and active interest in all matters of a public nature, and he has been closely identified with the growth and development of business enterprises of Litchfield. He has been one of the directors of the Meeker County Bank ever since its organization.



ANDREW CARLSON, a successful farmer residing on section 17, Greenleaf township, was born in Sweden, on the 17th of February, 1825. His parents were both natives of the same country, and lived there until the time of their deaths. Andrew learned the carpenter's trade, and worked at that and other vocations in his native land until 1869, when he sailed for America. Shortly after his arrival he went to Michigan, where he was employed chiefly at mining, and remained until 1874, when he came to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased the farm in Greenleaf township, where he has since lived. He has a well-cultivated farm of 120 acres, and devotes his attention to general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Carlson

was married, in 1856, to Maria C. Olson, a native of Sweden. She bore him two children, and died in Sweden on the 23d of February, 1868. The children were Andrew G. and Alfred G. Anderson. Andrew was born in 1860, and died in infancy.

Alfred G. Anderson, the second child, was born in Sweden, on the 21st of December, 1863, and came to America when still a lad, with his father, with whom he still lives. Alfred was married, on the 4th of July, 1885, to Augusta E. Hagerstrom, and the couple have had one child—Elmer T., born May 12, 1886.

The father and son are both intelligent, progressive citizens. They are prohibitionists in political matters. The family are members of the Swedish Baptist Church.



AUGUST SWANSON, a progressive and successful farmer and stock-raiser residing on section 17, Cedar Mills township, is a native of Sweden, where he was born on the 15th of June, 1844. His early life was spent in his native land, where he remained until he had reached the age of twenty-four, and then came to the United States. Upon his arrival he went to Marquette County, Mich., where he secured work in the iron mines. He remained there for about five years, and then started West, and on March 13, 1874, in company with his brother, Fred Swanson, he arrived in Meeker county, Minn., and together they purchased the farm which had been originally taken by J. V. Branham, in the northern part of Greenleaf township. August lived there with his brother until 1876, when he sold his interest in the place. After that he worked in that township for two years, and in 1878 he purchased the farm on section 17, Cedar Mills township, where he still resides, erecting the house in which he lives, in 1880. He has a

valuable farm of 200 acres, a good share of which is under cultivation, and has substantial and comfortable building improvements. He devotes his attention extensively to stock-raising in connection with his farming, and by his integrity, industry and enterprise he has gained the reputation of being one of the most substantial and most highly respected citizens of the township.

Mr. Swanson was married, November 24, 1879, to Mrs. Christina Erickson, a native of Sweden, who was born October 7, 1832.

JOHAN C. KRUGER, a prominent and representative citizen of Ellsworth township, living on section 8, came to this county May 27, 1862, and settled on section 8 of the same town, where he remained until the Indian outbreak that fall. At that time he went to Forest City, Kingston, and Clearwater, but soon came back and remained that winter in Forest City. In the spring he moved to a farm in that vicinity, and from there after one season spent in Greenleaf township, came to his present residence, where he took up eighty acres under the homestead law, to which he has added some 300 acres, and now has an excellent farm.

Mr. Kruger was born in the northern part of Germany, May 1, 1815, and is the son of Charles D. Kruger, who was the parent of five children—four besides our subject—William, Herman, Charles and Mary, the latter the widow of John Putzer, of Greenleaf.

Mr. Kruger remained in the "fatherland" until 1851, when he sought in free America the chance for achieving a competency denied in the land of his birth, so down-trodden is it by military despotism. He located in Illinois, where he remained until coming to Minnesota. Before leaving his native country, October 20, 1846, he was united in mar-

riage with Miss Mary Long, a native of the same Empire, a daughter of Fred Long. She was born March 20, 1824. By this union there have been born five children, as follows—Charles, Ferdinand, Mary, Minnie and Lizzie. In his political faith Mr. Kruger strongly clings to the republican doctrines, and supports the candidates of that party.

FRANK McINTYRE, a well-to-do and prosperous farmer of Manannah township, has his beautiful home upon section 26, and is surrounded by his magnificent estate of 440 acres of as fine land as any in the county. He is a native of County Cavan, Ireland, born May 12, 1832, and is the son of James and Mary (Clark) McIntyre. He remained in the land of his birth until nineteen years of age, when perceiving the impossibility of getting ahead in that landlord-ridden land, he emigrated to the New World, landing in New York city, staying there a year; in the fall of 1852, came West, and located in Joliet, Ill., where he was employed in the stone quarries until 1865, a good share of the time as foreman. In the meantime, however, he spent four months in Cuba, laying the first street-car tracks in Havana.

In June, 1863, Mr. McIntyre made a trip to Mecker county with the intention of taking up a homestead. Part of the way was made on foot, notwithstanding the warnings and expostulations of the parties along the line of his march, as there was a fresh Indian scare that summer growing out of the killing of Captain Cady. Arriving at Forest City, the water was too high to cross, so on the advice of F. McCusker, he decided to take a homestead on section 26. This was the first claim made north of the Crow river. He returned to St. Cloud, and filed his entry on the homestead, and returned to Joliet, where he staid until 1865. In July of that

year he brought his family by team as far as LaCrosse and then he returned to Joliet to finish some work. The family continued their journey from LaCrosse in company with his wife's brothers and father, and upon arriving here the wife stayed with the McCusker family — (her brother-in-law). A cabin was commenced on McIntyre's claim, which was the first house erected in the township north of the Crow river. October 18 the cabin was raised — those who helped being James and Peter McIntyre, Owen Quinn, Peter McMahon, Fergus McCusker, Edward Murphy, Michael and James McNulty and possibly a few others. Mrs. McIntyre cooked their dinner under an oak tree. On the 22d of November Mr. McIntyre arrived and at once began finishing the cabin, but it was not finished with doors, etc., until the 29th of December. In the meantime, however, they decided to occupy the cabin, so he waded the river and brought over his wife and they accordingly "moved in." One of their first mishaps was the loss of their only pan of bread dough which their dog made a meal of, and Mr. McIntyre had to go hungry until his wife went to McCusker's for more provisions. During the following winter, 1865-6, he completed his stable, finishing it about dark New Year's day. His horses refused to go into it for the first time in the dark, so he was obliged to blanket them and let them stand outside till daylight. A storm came up which made it severe for the dumb animals, but they could not be forced into their new quarters until light gave them confidence. As he was the first settler on that side of the Crow river, he was often cut off from neighbors by high water. He at once went to work to develop the place, and from this humble beginning, by incessant labor, natural business tact, and commendable frugality, has built up his present fortune. Mr. McIntyre devotes considerable attention to stock, having now a fine herd of about sixty head

of cattle, besides horses. His building improvements are among the finest in the township, being surrounded by a fine natural grove.

The subject of this sketch was married August 20, 1856, to Miss Mary McNulty, a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, who is the mother of four children as follows— Mary, born May 9, 1857; James P., born March 9, 1859; Charles F., born December 6, 1862; and Rosa A., born August 25, 1864.

The first Catholic services in the township were held in the log cabin referred to above, by Father Anthony, of the Benedictine Order. This was on the 3d of August, 1866, when Michael McNulty, the father of Mrs. McIntyre, died.



WILLIAM H. SEGAR, a prominent and influential agriculturist of Darwin township, is a representative of the thrifty, progressive and enterprising New England people, who have pushed their way through every obstacle, in every clime and every land, and have carried with them everywhere the civilization and progress of their forefathers, as well as that of the present age.

Mr. Segar was born in Massachusetts, July 7, 1832, and is the son of Charles H. and Ursula (Taylor) Segar, both of whom have passed to their reward beyond the grave. In his New England home our subject was reared, and there received the education which is the birthright of every citizen of that portion of our great Republic. In January, 1854, he left the barren soil of the "Old Bay State," and came to the fertile West, settling in Jackson county, Iowa. Two years later, finding that part of the State too hilly for him, he removed to Jones county, the same State, where he remained some two or three years. Monroe county was the next scene of his labors, but in 1868 he re-

moved to the Missouri slope of Iowa, and settled in Monona county, where he remained until about 1870, when he came to Meeker county. He at first settled on section 4, in Darwin township, but four years later moved to Kingston, and after spending some time in the various villages in the county, returned to Darwin and located on section 6, where he now lives.

August 5, 1858, Mr. Segar was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Lewis, a native of Vermont, and daughter of Moses and Julia Lewis. By this union there have been eleven children, as follows—Charles D., Endora, Lulu M., Anna, Frank E., Harry S., Ernest E., Emmett E., Bessie P., Freddie and Samuel G. The four first named were born in Monroe county, Iowa; Frank in Monona county, same State, and the rest in Meeker county, Minn.

In political matters Mr. Segar affiliates with the prohibition party, his views coinciding with the principles of that organization.



ANDREW O. LAWSON, senior member of the general merchandise firm of A. O. Lawson & Co., one of the leading merchants of Grove City, was born in Sweden, November 3, 1855, and is the son of Lasse and Christina Ostradson. In 1872 he crossed the ocean in search of fortune and happiness, and for a time was engaged in taking care of and driving the carriage horses of a business man in Minneapolis. During the summer of that year he came to Acton township and worked in the harvest fields of this locality, and spent the following winter here in attending school. In the spring he returned to Minneapolis, where he was variously employed for some two years. Returning to Meeker county he entered the employ of Peter E. Hanson, with whom he remained five years. In the spring of 1881, in com-

pany with O. H. Peterson, he started in the grocery trade in Grove City, but sold out to his partner in the fall, and made a trip to the home of his boyhood, and returning in the spring he again engaged with P. E. Hanson in the real estate business, where he remained some two years. About that time the present firm of A. O. Lawson & Co. was formed between him and T. G. Forster, since which time they have been engaged in this line.

Mr. Lawson was united in marriage, October 16, 1884, with Miss Betsey Larson, the daughter of Ole Larson, of this county, and they have been the parents of two children—Cora, born September 7, 1885; and Josephine, whose birth occurred February 25, 1887.

In his political views Mr. Lawson is entirely independent of party lines, preferring to cast his ballot for the best men or the best measures, irrespective of political platforms or dictates.



ALEx CAIRNCROSS, the head of the firm of Cairncross & Palm, of Litchfield, is a native of Scotland. When he was about twenty-five years of age he came to America with his parents, and the latter purchased a farm in Sibley county, Minn. Alex Cairncross followed steamboat building, together with carpentering, for some years; later he settled at St. Paul, and was for some time engineer in the International Hotel in that city. In about the year 1870 he came to Meeker county and opened a general store at Darwin, where he remained until 1874, when he came to Litchfield and bought out the business of the Nelson Bros. Three years afterward he sold his interests here and returned to his native land, and later spent some time in traveling through the East. He then returned to Litchfield, and again entered the mercantile trade. In 1885 John Palm became a partner with Mr. Cairncross

in this business. In 1882 Mr. Cairncross opened a boot and shoe store, the only exclusive boot and shoe store in the village. He has always taken an active interest in all matters calculated to aid in the development of his village or county, and has a large interest in the woolen mills and also in the creamery. He is president of the Meeker County Bank, in which he is a stockholder, and he is otherwise heavily interested in property here.



DANIEL JACKMAN. The gentleman of whom this article is written, a leading agriculturist of Cosmos township, is one of the early settlers of 1867. In that year he came here and took up a homestead upon section 26. He returned to Minneapolis the following spring, but immediately returned here, and has made this his home ever since.

Mr. Jackman is a native of Kennebec county, Me., born April 5, 1822, and is the son of Eben and Hannah (Hutchinson) Jackman, both of whom were also natives of the "Pine Tree State." Both of his grandfathers served in the continental army during the struggle for independence, and after their term of service had expired, settled in Maine, and there died. Eben Jackman, who was a farmer, also lived and died in the same locality. For a number of years after reaching his eighteenth year, our subject was engaged in the pineries of Maine and Canada, taking charge of the lumber camps, etc. In 1858 he came to Minneapolis, and went into the logging business towards the headwaters of the Mississippi, and remained there for seven years. In 1865 he gave up the lumbering business and renting a farm near Minneapolis, remained there three years engaged in farming. He then came to Meeker county, as above mentioned. On his return May 4, 1868, he brought his family, and putting up

his house, made a permanent settlement. In 1877 he made a trip to the Black Hills, and spent the season in gold mining, but returned in the fall.

Mr. Jackman is the oldest resident settler, all the others having passed from this world or moved to other localities. On his arrival here, until he could get up his house, he lived in a tent, and cooked at an open fire. When the township was organized, the first election was held at the house of our subject. He was elected the first chairman of the board of supervisors and served as such some three years.

Mr. Jackman and Annette K. Page were united in marriage February 15, 1852. The lady is a native of Bangor, Me. By this union there have been born four children—Frank P., Elra P., Lettie G. and Mabel M. Frank is the proprietor of the American house at Hector, and the rest are at home.



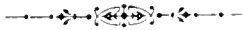
ROBERT N. DAMUTH, one of the intelligent and thorough-going agriculturists of the town of Kingston, having his home on section 22, where he located on coming to the county in 1868, is a native of the State of New York. He was born in Jefferson county February 8, 1820, and is the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Weaver) Damuth. He is of Holland Dutch ancestry, his grandfather coming from that country and settling where the city of Utica now stands, erecting his log cabin there, the first building on the town plat.

Our subject was reared in that part of the country, receiving his education in the excellent district schools provided by the Empire State for the rising generation, and assisted his father in the labors of the farm until he had attained his majority. At that time he commenced life for himself, finding employment on the Erie Canal, where he remained

some ten years or more, after which he removed to Marquette county, Wis., and settled on a farm, where he made his home for four years. From that place he removed to Columbia county, in the same State, but a few years later came to Minnesota, and settled in Dakota county, whence, in 1868, he came to Meeker county.

August 30, 1843, Mr. Damuth and Miss Emily Eliza Stone were united in marriage. His life companion is a native of Oswego county, N. Y., born January 23, 1827, and the daughter of Philo and Eliza L. (Scott) Stone, natives of Rhode Island and Connecticut respectively. By this union there have been born a family of ten children—Madison, Myron W., Ellen E., Edwin S., Emily E., Margaret, Eliza, Carrie A., Addie M. and Robert N., Jr. The death angel has taken all but the last two named, and there are many vacant chairs around the domestic hearth.

In his politics Mr. Damuth is a democrat, but has had no political aspirations. He has always taken a great interest in educational matters.



JOSEPH HUBBARD, postmaster at Crow River, ex-county commissioner, and one of the most successful and prominent farmers and stock-raisers of Meeker county, is a resident of section 33, Union Grove township.

Mr. Hubbard is a son of Joseph and Merriam (Brown) Hubbard, and was born on the 27th of May, 1820. He commenced life for himself when about nineteen years of age, first working in a cotton factory at Three Rivers, Mass., remaining there until he was twenty-seven years of age. He then traveled through the country canvassing for newspapers until 1854, when he came to Minnesota, and pre-empted 160 acres of land in Scott county. He lived there for twelve years and then sold out and settled at

Shakopee, where he remained for four years engaged at teaming. In 1869 he came to Meeker county and purchased a farm of 240 acres in Union Grove township, and has since made this his home. Besides his residence he has a small store building in which he keeps quite a large assortment of goods for the accommodation of the neighborhood and also the postoffice. In connection with his general merchandise he also handles a limited line of agricultural implements, plows, etc. He has one of the most valuable farms in the township, and it is well arranged for diversified farming and stock-raising, which he carries on. Mr. Hubbard has taken an active interest in public matters, and no man in the northern portion of the county is more prominently identified with the official history of the county than is he. For the past twenty-five years he has held the office of justice of the peace, both here and at his former place of residence. For six years he was a member of the board of county commissioners, and during that time was one of the most influential members of that body. During the war he was deputy provost marshal.

Mr. Hubbard was married in April, 1842, at Northfield, Mass., to Gratia Field, a daughter of Oliver and Rhoda Field. She died in October, 1864, leaving three children, as follows—Emma, born Jan. 21, 1844; Edward J., born Feb. 1, 1847; and Crissa, born in December, 1857, died in January, 1864. Emma married Abner S. Marshall, and they live in Union Grove; they have five children—Joseph B., Mabel C., Lewis C., Frank F., and Anna H. Edward J. married Fidelia Nichols, and they live in McPherson county, Dak.; they have four children—George A., Charles E., Addie L., and Linna L.

Mr. Hubbard's second marriage occurred in April, 1866, when he was wedded to Mrs. Mianda McKinney, formerly Miss Hidden. By her marriage with Frederick McKinney



Joseph Hubbard

she had had five children, as follows—William O., George F., Fannie, Edwin A., and Ever-son R. Fannie and William are dead. Mrs. Mianda Hubbard died in June, 1870. Mr. Hubbard's present wife was the widow of Samuel McCoy, formerly Miss Elisabeth Haseltine. They have two adopted children—Ida and Oliver.

In 1876 the First Universalist Church of Crow river was organized, and Mr. Hubbard was chosen deacon, he having been for years a believer in that faith.

Politically Mr. Hubbard has been a republican ever since the birth of that party, and has cast his ballot for every republican nominee for president up to date.

He has always been a constant reader and patron of republican literature. Believing that the boys of to-day will be the men of to-morrow he has liberally supplied his own family with the best of literature, which has been almost a circulating library in his neighborhood.



FREDERICK ADAMS, one of the hard-working agriculturists of Collinwood township, living upon section 1, is a native of Hampshire, England, born September 7, 1839, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Marsh) Adams. His parents were of the class of sturdy yeomen of Albion that have made that island so famous in history, and were born, like their forefathers, in that Empire. From the time he was about seven years old, our subject was employed in farm-labor until leaving his native land. May 29, 1860, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Forder, who was born, also, in Hampshire December 9, 1838. She is the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Bowen) Forder. Her father, a native of same country, was born May 17, 1804, came to America in April, 1871, and died November 31, 1881. Her mother died in England, in 1858.

Mr. Adams, appreciating the improbability of his acquiring a competency in his native land, determined to seek his fortune in the United States, the land of the free, and accordingly, on the 6th of April, 1871, bidding adieu to "White-cliffed Albion," he sailed for America, and after a pleasant and easy voyage, landed at New York, April 17, 1871. On the 21st of the same month, he reached the home of William Forder, in Indiana. He remained in that State, employed in a saw mill and on a farm, until the following spring, when he came to Collinwood township, this county, where, April 6, 1872, he purchased forty acres of railroad land on section 1, upon which he moved and has since made his home. He now has an excellent farm of 120 acres in this and section 11, about fifty-five acres of which has been cleared of the primeval forest that covered it. The first year he was here, he was in absolute penury, having but little provisions and often suffering for the want of the necessaries of life. But energy and diligence will accomplish much, and he has, assisted only by his devoted wife and children, succeeded in turning the point that leads to competency and fortune.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams' marital life has been blessed by the advent of four children, as follows—William, whose birth took place March 31, 1861; Elizabeth, born October 26, 1865; Mary Ann, whose birth dates from December 5, 1867; and George Henry, born August 22, 1871. In his political views Mr. Adams coincides with the republican party, and has held the office of road overseer of his district for over ten years.



A PROMINENT business man of Meeker county is D. ELMQUIST, watchmaker and jeweler, of Litchfield, who is a native of Sweden, born in 1848. His parents were

John Magnus Elmquist and Christena Johnson, both of whom are now deceased. Mr. Elmquist commenced in early manhood to learn the jeweler's trade, at which he has become so proficient. In 1869 he came to Minneapolis, Minn., but a short time later went to Wisconsin, where he worked at his trade with his brother, P. J. Elmquist, with whom he remained as journeyman until 1872. He then returned to Minneapolis and went into business with this brother, and remained there four years; then after that he located at Litchfield, opening a jewelry store as a branch of their Minneapolis store, but later on bought out his brother's interest, and still continues in that business, carrying a full and complete stock of everything in that line. Mr. Elmquist was one of the charter members of Litchfield lodge, No. 50, A. O. U. W., and is also an active member of the Litchfield fire department.

Mr. Elmquist was married, February 22, 1876, to Miss Ida M. Hultgren, of Minneapolis, and they have been blessed with five children, four of whom are still living. The names of the survivors are as follows—Emily Christine, Minnie, Charles J. and John Arthur. Mr. and Mrs. Elmquist are prominent and zealous members of the Swedish Lutheran Church at Litchfield, and exemplary Christian people.



RICHARD ELLIOTT, an active citizen of Dassel, and the proprietor of the G. A. R. House, is one of the veterans of the late civil war—

“Whose faith and truth

On war's red touchstone rang true metal.”

He is a native of Bakersville, Vt., born in 1839, and is the son of William E. and Miranda (Harvey) Elliott.

When Richard was only a year old, his parents moved to St. Lawrence county, N. Y., and, amid the wild scenery of that

section, our subject was reared until he was sixteen years old. About that time the family, tired of the stony soil of the East, came with the “star of empire” and settled in the town of Ossian, Winneshiek county, Iowa, among the earliest settlers of that county. On the 13th of December, 1861, Richard Elliott enlisted in Company C, Thirteenth United States Infantry, and served until December 12, 1864, when he received his discharge at Nashville, Tenn. He participated in some nine pitched battles, prominent among which were the siege of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and Mission Ridge. He was fortunate enough to escape without a wound or scratch, or ever having been in hospital after leaving their barracks. On his discharge, he returned to his home in Iowa, but shortly after removed to Fillmore county, this State, whither his father had preceded him. In 1869 he moved to Stevens county, and took up a homestead, where he remained until 1876, suffering two years from grasshoppers, which devoured his crops, and two years from drouth, which burned them up. These circumstances embarrassed him financially, and he traded the farm off for an interest in the steam saw-mill at Dassel, to which place he removed with his family. Two years later he sold his mill interests and erected the hotel, which, for a time, he leased. In 1881 he took charge of it himself, and has run it ever since. In connection, he is considerably engaged in buying and shipping hoop-poles and cordwood.

Mr. Elliott was united in marriage with Miss Sallie L. Huntley, October 8, 1868, in Fillmore county, Minn. The lady is a native of Beaver Dam, Wis., and is the mother of four children—Mertie, now Mrs. L. Whittaker, of Cokato; James D., Jasper, and Thoren. Mr. Elliott is quite prominent in G. A. R. circles; was a charter member and is the present officer of the guard of Collax Post, No. 133, of the village of Dassel.

ANDREW ELOFSON, one of the leading citizens of Swede Grove township, is a son of Elofson and Bertha Anderson. He was born in Sweden, on the 18th of July, 1840. His father died in Sweden, in 1855, and in 1857, with his mother, Andrew came to the United States. He settled in Swede Grove township, Meeker county, Minn., in 1857, and this has since been his home. The mother and three sons were among the first settlers in the township. Andrew has a well-tilled and valuable farm on section 29, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising, and has accumulated a fair competency. Mr. Elofson's mother died in Swede Grove, in 1871.

Andrew Elofson was married, on the 31st of December, 1870, to Miss Sine Peterson, a daughter of Hans and Betsy Peterson, residents of Swede Grove township. Mr. and Mrs. Elofson have been blessed with the following named children—Matilda, born April 13, 1873; Elmerth, born September 20, 1875; Morris, born October 4, 1877; Mabel, born November 1, 1881, and Alma, born August 27, 1886. Mr. Elofson has taken a prominent part in all matters pertaining to the western portion of the county, and has taken an active interest in all the township and official matters. He has been township assessor for the past eighteen years; has been pathmaster a number of terms; chairman of the supervisors several terms, and has also, at various times, held the offices of town clerk, school clerk, school treasurer and school director. He can certainly be justly termed one of the leading and representative farmers of Meeker county.



PETER J. CONNOLLE, a thrifty and enterprising young man who is engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 16, Harvey township, is a native of Pennsylvania, and was born on the 16th of April,

1865. His parents were Peter and Bridget Connole. The father, Peter, was a native of Ireland, born November 1, 1830. When still young he came to the United States and settled in Hollidaysburgh, Blair county, Pa. The family remained there until 1872, when they removed to Meeker county, Minn., and settled in Harvey township, where they were living at the time of the death of the father, August 22, 1877. His death was the result of a runaway. He had rented a farm in Kandiyohi county, and was on his way from home to the farm when the sad accident occurred, and it was supposed that the wagon ran over him. When found he was still living, but so seriously injured that he died within eight hours. His death was a sad blow to the family, as he was beloved by them and respected by all who knew him. His widow, who was also a native of Ireland, is still living in this township. They had a family of nine children, who are still living, six boys and three girls. Their names are as follows—Thomas W., John C., Mary A., Peter J., Katie E., Lillie B., Rodger, Patrick and Martin F.

Peter J. Connole, the subject of this sketch, has followed farming most of his life. He received a common-school education, and imbibed the same principles of frugality and industry which are characteristic of the race from which he springs. He is a good manager and has been very successful in his farming operations. In religion he is a Catholic, and in political matters he supports the democratic principles.



DAVID SHEPHERD, an active, prominent and enterprising farmer, residing on section 29, Greenleaf township, was born in Scotland on the 2d of April, 1844. He can trace his genealogy back through four generations, William Shepherd being the name of his great-great-grandfather,

then James in the next degree. His grandfather, William Shepherd, was born in Scotland about the year 1756. His father was born in the same country, and still lives there, being now about seventy-one years of age. He (David's father) was married in 1840 to Margaret Ayer, and they were the parents of two children—David, our subject, and James, who is now living in New Zealand.

David Shepherd, of whom we write, left his native land in 1869 and settled in Canada, where he remained about one year, and then removed to St. Paul, Minn. After three months' residence there he went to Hastings and remained a like period, then went to Minneapolis. Here he left his family and went to Colorado and Nevada, and after a sojourn in that region of some fourteen months returned to Minneapolis. On the 27th of April, 1879, he arrived in Meeker county, Minn., and purchased of Anna McGraw a farm on section 29, Greenleaf township, where he has since lived. He now has a valuable farm, which consists of about 300 acres of land, his buildings being located on the line between sections 29 and 32. It is a most desirable place, containing some forty acres of timber, and he has it well stocked. He devotes his time to diversified farming and stock-raising, and well deserves the standing which he maintains of being one of the most solid and influential farmers in the township. In political matters Mr. Shepherd is a republican, and has taken an active interest in affairs of that nature, having held various local offices which his fellow-citizens have desired him to fill. He is the present chairman of the township supervisors, and the fact that he is the present treasurer of school district No. 34 is evidence of the well-known fact that he takes a commendable interest in educational matters.

On the 5th of June, 1869, Mr. Shepherd was married to Elizabeth Thompson, who

was a native of Scotland. Their union has been blessed with the following children, all of whom are still living: D. K., born January 7, 1872; Christina A., born April 28, 1874; and Maggie S., born March 31, 1879.



JAMES LAWTON, one of the pioneers of Forest Prairie township, came to Meeker county in 1867, and took up a homestead on section 32, where he now resides, carrying on general farming. He was born in Hadley, Saratoga county, N. Y., March 19, 1825, and is the son of David and Thankful (Parmeter) Lawton, the latter a native of White Hall, N. Y., and the former of Dennison, Vt. During the childhood of our subject his father's house was destroyed by fire, and with it the records of the family, so they are lost. In January, 1856, the mother of our subject died in Lafayette, McKean county, Penn., and the father's decease occurred in 1858.

James Lawton passed his school days in Wayne and Morgan counties, N. Y., with his brothers and sisters, whose names were—Amos, Ruth, Pollie, Lucy, David, Huldah, Hester, Daniel and Jonathan. In 1846 he removed with his parents to Warren county Penn., where they lived some six or seven years, he being engaged in farming and in lumbering. In 1856 he came west and settled in Shelby county, Ill., where he remained until August 11, 1862, when, leaving wife and family, he enlisted at the call of patriotism, in the One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and participated in all the skirmishes and battles in which his regiment was engaged, the principal one being that of Chickamunga. He was discharged August 14, 1864, on account of disability, and returned home. He then came to Meeker county to look over the country, and went back to Illinois, where he remained two years longer, and then came here and settled.

Mr. Lawton was married March 25, 1859, to Miss Mary M. Vermillion, a native of Shelby county, Ill., where she was married, and daughter of James and Jane (Fletcher) Vermillion. Her birth took place December 26, 1842. By this union there has been born one son—David E., whose birth took place July 26, 1882. Mr. Lawton is a staunch republican in political faith, and has held various local offices. He is a prominent and zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and class leader of the congregation at Forest City.



CLARK L. ANGELL, photographer, is one of the pioneers of Minnesota, as well as one of the first settlers at Litchfield, after the village was platted. He was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., in May, 1838, and is the son of Nicholas and Aseneth Angell. His parents were both natives of Vermont, but were removed by their families to New York in their childhood. His father was enrolled among the brave defenders of his country, during the last war with Great Britain in 1812–1815, and it is within the recollections of his mother viewing the battle upon Lake Champlain, as they lived at or near Plattsburgh. After their marriage the parents of our subject removed to Jefferson county in the same State, where the elder Mr. Angell died, at the age of sixty-one. His widow came to Minnesota, where she died at the advanced age of eighty-eight.

Clark L. was reared in the Empire State, but at the age of eighteen years commenced life for himself, starting for the West in the fall of 1855, stopping first at Danlieth, Ill., which was then the terminus of the railroad. From there he took a boat up the Mississippi river to St. Paul, and the following spring, of 1856, he claimed government land near Rockford, Minn., that being previous to the laying out of the village. He re-

mained there, improving his claim, until the war broke out, when, in the fall of 1861, in response to the first call for men, he enlisted in Company A, Third Minnesota Infantry. He spent a year in the army, serving in Tennessee and Kentucky, and was finally discharged on account of sickness, and soon returned to Minnesota. He then learned photography, and spent most of his time on the road, until the fall of 1869, when he settled in Litchfield and opened the art gallery, which he still conducts. He at once erected a house and brought his family here in the spring of 1870. Litchfield has since been his home, and he now has one of the finest and most complete galleries in this part of the State. Mr. Angell is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was one of the charter members of the first post organized at Litchfield. He also a member of the Masonic fraternity, having been one of the charter members of Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89.



MOSSES H. BOGAR, who is one of the self-made men of Collinwood township, lives on section 2. He is a son of Thomas H. Bogar, who is mentioned at length elsewhere in this volume, to whose sketch the reader is also referred for much of the personal history of the gentleman whose name heads this article.


Moses H. Bogar was born in Tazewell county, Va., November 28, 1842. When about seven years of age he removed with his parents to Pike county, Ky., where he was reared to agricultural pursuits. At the breaking out of the civil war, he enlisted, October 25, 1864, in Company H, Fourteenth Kentucky U. S. Infantry, and went into active service, participating in the battles of Ganley, Middle Creek, and Half Mountain, Kentucky; Hagar Gap, Koeler Pole,

Virginia; and Tazewell, Tenn., Altona, Cupp's Farm, and Atlanta, Ga., Jonesboro, and various other battles of the campaign. He served successively under the following generals: Nelson, Garfield, White, Beard, Morgan, Cooper, Haskel, Scholfield, Sherman, and, lastly, Thomas.


Our subject came to Minnesota with his father in 1866, and settled on section 2, Collinwood. On the 1st of March, 1869, he was married to Mrs. Mary C. (Graves) Livingston. She died in May, 1882, leaving six children, as follows—Lizzie May, born February 18, 1870; Edward G., born July 18, 1871; Cynthia C., born September 9, 1873; Joseph O., born February 28, 1876; Moses H., born February 2, 1878; and John P., born February 1, 1880.

On the 13th of December, 1883, Mr. Bogar married Caroline, a daughter of Volney and Lura (Farrington) Gay, who was born July 21, 1857. This marriage has been blessed with two children—Geneva Blanche and Ruth Lillian.

Mr. Bogar's house was destroyed by fire, with most of its contents, April 1, 1888. In political matters our subject is an opponent of monopoly and is a prohibitionist. He has held several local offices with honor.

 **O**LAF B. JORGENSEN, the efficient and trustworthy harness maker of the village of Grove City, is a native of Norway, born February 26, 1868, and is the son of Ove E. and Bertha Jorgenson. He was reared in that rugged but picturesque land, amid its bold mountains and velvety valleys, until about sixteen years of age, coming to America in 1884. Coming directly to the State of Minnesota, after a few days spent at Willmar, our subject went to Kirkhoven, and worked at the harness maker's trade with his brother Oscar, and remained there some five

months. He then returned to Willmar and worked for an uncle, Martin Jorgenson, at the same trade, for about two months, at the close of which time he came to Grove City, and for nearly two years followed his trade with A. H. Lind. In March, 1887, he quit work here and went to St. Paul and worked for W. H. Konants & Bro., with whom he only staid until October 1st, when he returned to Grove City and bought out Mr. Lind, and commenced business for himself. He has always a full and complete stock of all kinds of goods in his line, and being an excellent workman, honest and true, and of pleasant manners, he has a large and increasing business. He commenced to learn his trade in Norway with his father, who is a harness maker, as is the only brother he has in this country, who now lives at Benson.

 **J**AMES H. SHIMIN, a farmer of Kingston township, residing upon section 26, where he has a nice place, is a native of Albany, the capital of the State of New York, born January 1, 1830, and is the son of John and Ann (Corros) Shimin, both of whom first saw the light in the Isle of Man, a dependency of the British Empire, located in the Irish Sea. His parents came to America in 1829, and settled in Albany, where they resided many years and where the father died. In 1844 the mother removed to Michigan and made her home there until 1867, when she came to Minnesota and located in Hennepin county, where she died at the age of eighty-four years. She was a devout Christian and a member of the Episcopal church.

The subject of this memoir was reared upon a farm, and has always followed the occupation of a farmer. Commencing life on his own account in New York State at the age of eighteen years, he essayed agriculture in the Empire State, but later re-

moved to Michigan, where he lived until he came to Hennepin county, Minn., where he made his home until December, 1876, when he came to Meeker county, arriving here the 18th of that month.

Mr. Shimin was married in January, 1861, to Miss Mary Ann Thomas, a native of Richmond county, Ind., and daughter of Robert Thomas, of that State. She came to Hennepin county, this State, where she was united in marriage to our subject, and there died December 21, 1863, leaving one child—Edgar T., born December 5, 1863. Mr. Shimin again contracted a matrimonial alliance, August 14, 1887, with Miss Maggie Francis, a resident of Kingston township, a native of Meeker county, this State, and daughter of A. J. and B. Francis.

In his politics Mr. Shimin is a republican and is the present treasurer of school district No. 33. During the great civil war our subject, with commendable patriotism, enlisted February 18, 1864, in Company B, Sixth Minnesota Infantry, and served until the close of the war with that gallant regiment, receiving his discharge August 19, 1865. His record while carrying a musket is that of a loyal and gallant soldier and one "prompt to every duty's call."



M. BECKSTRAND is a well-known and highly respected farmer, who resides on section 10, Greenleaf township. He has one of the finest farms in the county, and his farm buildings are a credit to the township in which he lives. His place consists of 207 acres of land, a good portion of which is under cultivation, and, as he has it well stocked, he devotes his time to general farming and stock-raising.

Mr. Beckstrand is a native of Sweden, and was born on the 1st of December, 1849. He remained in his native land until the fall of 1869, when he came to the United States,

and made his way directly to Greenleaf township, Meeker county, Minn., where his uncle, John Sampson, was then living. This township has been his home ever since. In 1881 Mr. Beckstrand sent for his parents, who were still living in the land of his birth, and they then came to this country, and are now living in Cedar Mills township with one of their sons.

In 1875 the subject of our sketch was married to Bengta Nelson, and their marriage was blessed with one child, a girl named Emma G., who was born in September, 1878, and who died March 11, 1879, and was buried in the Beckville Cemetery. Mrs. Beckstrand's parents were natives of Sweden; her father died there, and her mother is still living in the Fatherland. Mr. and Mrs. Beckstrand are members of the Swedish Lutheran church. Mr. B. has taken an active interest in public affairs, and has for two years been a member of the board of supervisors of the township.



SAMUEL A. HEARD. Among the prominent figures in the history of Litchfield, of which he is a resident, is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, who was the pioneer merchant of the place. He was born in Newport, Canada, September 6, 1831, and is the son of Samuel and Sophronia M. (Williams) Heard, both of whom were natives of the same province. He was reared upon a farm and remained with his parents until his twenty-third year, when he came to the United States, and, after a short time spent in Illinois and Wisconsin, in the spring of 1856 came to Minnesota, and settled in Wright county, where he located on a farm of 160 acres, which he took up on government land, a few miles south of Clearwater. The first summer was employed in looking after the interests of the Clearwater Town

Site Company, and the following winter in teaching school a short distance from the village. Next spring, in company with a Mr. Chase, he bought out the mercantile establishment of Gibbs & Whitney, of Clearwater, and remained in that business for over a year, when, the firm being dissolved, Mr. Heard built another store, and again entered into trade, and followed it until 1861. He had been appointed deputy post-master in 1857, and had charge of the mails until 1861, when, his health failing, he gave up his business altogether, and spent the following year in Maine and Canada, returning to Clearwater in the spring of 1862, where he passed some time, and later went to Cold Springs, where he rebuilt the flour-mill, which had been destroyed by fire. After gravitating between this State and his native home for some years, in 1869 he came to Litchfield, and, in company with C. D. Ward, opened the first store in the embryo village. After continuing in the mercantile trade, both with his partner and alone, until 1880, Mr. Heard then sold out and retired from trade. He has large real-estate interests in the village still, and stock in the woolen-mills and other enterprises in Litchfield, and finds in their conservation and improvement sufficient employment. In 1878 he was elected a member of the village council, and in 1879 as mayor of the place, and served with great credit to himself. He has always been deeply imbued with religious ideas, and has always lent a helping hand in all church matters. He had charge of the erection of the first church edifice in the village, the Presbyterian, and was chairman of the building committee.


Mr. Heard was united in marriage, October 1, 1871, with Miss N. H. Bowen, a native of Chenango county, N. Y., and daughter of Luther and Martha (Hatch) Bowen, both of whom are natives of Connecticut, and both of whom were among the first settlers of that region, settling there in 1785. Mr.

Heard is a prominent member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and is one of the Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of this State.

During the civil war Mr. Heard was appointed ensign of Company A, Nineteenth Regiment, M. V. M. He assisted in raising a company for service in 1861, and was to have gone with them, but poor health induced the doctor to order his remaining at home, much to his regret.

Mr. Heard has always been prominently identified with the best interests of the village. He was a charter member and is the master workman of the Litchfield Lodge of Ancient Order of United Workmen.



 CHARLES H. ATKINSON, a young and enterprising farmer of Forest City township, is a native of Pennsylvania, born May 7, 1855, and is the son of Hon. James B. Atkinson, one of the pioneers of Meeker county, a sketch of whom is given in the pages of this ALBUM. Charles came to this county with his father's family in 1857, and here resided until about eighteen years of age, when he went to Minneapolis to read up in the higher branches of studies, in the Union School. Returning from there he entered the office of Hon. A. C. Smith, with whom he read law, but finally abandoned that and settled down upon a farm, where he now lives. He has been the incumbent of several township offices, first filling that of assessor for some two years; and then that of justice of the peace for a like term, and now is the present chairman of the town board of supervisors.

Mr. Atkinson and Miss Ida Mitchell plighted their mutual vows at the marriage altar, June 27, 1882. The lady is the daughter of David Mitchell, one of the oldest settlers of this county, and whose memoir can

be found in this volume. By this union there have been born two children—Stella Elizabeth and Charles Herbert. Mr. Atkinson, following the traditions of the family, is a staunch democrat, politically.



JOHAN E. ZACKRISON, a respected farmer, residing on section 17, Cedar Mills township, has been a resident of Meeker county since 1875. He is a native of Sweden, and was born January 4, 1847. His early life was spent in the land of his birth, where he remained until he was twenty-one years of age, when he came to the United States and settled in Marquette county, Mich. While there he was employed in iron mining, contract drilling and various other lines of work. After he had been there five years he rented a farm and engaged in the milk and dairy business. Two years later, in the spring of 1875, he sold out his interests there and came to Meeker county, Minn. Upon his arrival he purchased a farm of 316 acres in the town of Greenleaf, and remained on that for three years. He met with a number of serious reverses. The first year he had a very fair crop; the second year he did not raise over five bushels to the acre; and the third year he lost all his grain on account of the grasshopper depredations. These misfortunes proved a severe setback to him and resulted in the loss of his farm, upon which he had paid \$1,500 in cash. During the summer of 1878 he remained in Greenleaf township, working for various parties, and in the fall of the same year he purchased the farm on section 17, Cedar Mills township, upon which he still resides. He now owns 160 acres of land, a good share of which is under cultivation, and devotes his time and energies to raising stock and doing general farming. His enterprise, industry and economy have again placed him in comfortable circumstances, notwith-

standing the severe reverses and misfortunes through which he has passed, and he now ranks as one of the substantial and leading farmers of his township.

Mr. Zackrison was married on June 19, 1869, at Negaunee, Mich., to Miss Caroline Swanson, who is also a native of Sweden. She was born on September 18, 1837. Their marriage has been blessed with four children, as follows—Hulda J., born June 12, 1874; Annie S., born September 3, 1876; Ella M., born November 18, 1878, and Oscar E., born May 13, 1881.



JAMES GRANT, an industrious and energetic agriculturist of Collinwood township, was born in the parish of Cromdal, Scotland, August 1, 1807, and is the son of Donald and Catherine (Grant) Grant, natives of the same country.

Like many of the boys of that land, he at an early age commenced working both at home and elsewhere, and made his home in the "land of heather" until 1835, when, with a wish to better his condition, he came to the United States, landing in New York. He remained in that city from August 18 to the 25th of the following April, employing himself at whatever he could find to do. From there he went to Maysville, Ky., but after a year's experience there gardening and portering, he removed to Louisville and worked in a store. At Millstown, Ky., he was next employed, as engineer of a large distillery, where he remained some five years. At the expiration of that time he went to Madison, Ind., and there rented a farm and lived four years. While at that place he was married, January 7, 1841, to Miss Elizabeth McMillen, a native of Jefferson county Ind., the daughter of Robert McMillen, and who died in 1845. From Madison he removed to Winooski, in the same State, where he dwelt for about twenty years. He was married there, to

Miss Rebecca Fifer, June 3, 1847. By this union there has been born a family of nine children, as follows—George, James, William, John, Sarah, Belle, Ann Catherine, Jane and Mary. Mr. Grant came to Meeker county on the 16th of October, 1866, and built a house on land that he supposed to be his, but two years later, finding his error, moved to his own place, on section 26, where he now lives. He has 120 acres, well improved.



JOHN P. FALK, one of the leading farmers of Acton township, is a native of Schleswig, a province of Denmark, which the Germans took in 1864. He was born on the 17th of February, 1833, and came to the United States in 1876, and after stopping for about two months on Two Rivers, in Morrison county, Minn., walked from there to Acton township, a distance of eighty-two miles, in two days. One difficulty he encountered was in finding a place to stay all night, as he had \$1,200 on his person, and feared robbery; but after considerable trouble, he found a place at German's where he was hospitably treated. In Denmark he had owned a small farm, which he had sold before leaving the old country, and upon his arrival in Acton he purchased eighty acres on section 32, with no improvements, paying \$1,000 for it. He has added forty acres to the farm since, and now has a comfortable home and a valuable farm. He has substantial farm buildings, and his barn is the most conveniently arranged in the township, it being so built that he can water his stock without taking them out of their stalls, and it is so warm that water does not freeze in it during the most severe weather.

Mr. Falk was married, on the 27th of March, 1857, to Sophia Christianson, who was born on the 21st of September, 1830. They have had the following children—John,

born January 28, 1858, died when about five months old; Lamine, born September 12, 1859, married Martin Hineck, and lives in Minneapolis; and Peter John, born December 2, 1861. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Falk has taken a prominent part in public affairs. He was one of the founders of the insurance company which was organized in Acton and Genesee townships, and has been treasurer of the company since its organization. He has devoted a great deal of time and money to the interests of the association, and deserves much credit for his zeal. He has also been church treasurer for a number of years, and has spared neither labor nor money when the good of the cause demanded his aid. In political matters he is a democrat, and has held various offices of trust, including that of supervisor for two years.



NELSON TURNER. The great Empire State has furnished her full quota toward the upbuilding of the extensive Northwest, and no more enterprising people come from anywhere than from that noble Commonwealth. Among this class may be found the subject of this sketch, who was born in Livingston county, N. Y., March 5, 1831, and is the son of Clement and Elmira (Bosley) Turner, natives of Connecticut and New York respectively. The mother died in the latter State while a young woman, and the father of our subject emigrated to the State of Wisconsin in 1846, and to Fayette county, Iowa, in 1870, and died in the latter place in 1875. The old gentleman was a farmer, a democrat, and the father of two boys, George and Nelson.

The latter passed the halcyon days of childhood in attending school in his native State, and at the age of sixteen years commenced life for his own benefit, hiring out

his services to various farmers. While a resident of the Empire State, he was united in marriage, December 18, 1856, with Miss Mary Rumsey, a native of the same Commonwealth, born June 1, 1840, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Rumsey, now residents of Kingston. By this marriage there have been born some five children:—Eva, Emma, Ella, Etta, and Guy Ernest. Eva married Michael Caylor; Emma is the wife of Frank McConville, a merchant of Forest City; Ella is Mrs. Abbott Tompers, of Kingston.

Mr. Turner came to Meeker county in 1868, and located, where he now lives, on section 34, Kingston township. He is a man who takes deep interest in the educational work in the county, and has served for three years as director of school district No. 41. One of the most highly respected citizens of the county, he may well be classed among its representative citizens.



ANDREW SULLIVAN. Prominent among the old settlers of Forest City where he makes his home, upon section 36, is the subject of this biographical memoir. He is a native of County Kerry, Ireland, born in October, 1822. He remained in the beloved land of his birth until thirty years of age, but growing tired of the oppressed condition of his country, he determined to seek in the New World the freedom he could not find under British rule or misrule. June 22, 1852, he embarked at Liverpool, England, whither he had gone for that purpose, and, after an ocean voyage, landed at Boston, where he remained some three years. From there he moved to Indiana, but in the spring of 1857 came to Meeker county, and settled on section 25, Forest City township. Some fifteen or sixteen years later he removed to his present place. He has a fine farm of some 276 acres, much of which is under the plow.

He has been accustomed to farm work from his youth up, and of course thoroughly understands his calling in all respects, and his place shows it.

Mr. Sullivan was united in marriage January 8, 1857, with Miss Bridget Flynn, a native of Ireland, who had come to the United States with friends in 1852. The wedding ceremony was performed in the city of Chicago, where Mr. Sullivan was employed at the time. By this union there have been born five children—John, Margaret, Ellen, Mary and Catherine. The last two mentioned are school-teachers, and all, being still single, are living with their parents, except Mary and Catherine, whose duties carry them to other places, although their home is beneath the parental roof.

Mr. Sullivan is one of the leading agriculturists and stock-raisers of Forest City, and keeps up a herd of some thirty-five or forty head of good horned cattle and some nine or ten horses, the latter of which are part Norman blood. In his political faith he may be classed among the democrats. He and his estimable family are members of the Roman Catholic Church, attending services at Forest City.



JOHAN M. JOHNSON, the leading hardware merchant of the village of Dassel, was born in the Kingdom of Sweden in 1846, and is the son of John and Gatrud Johnson. He received his education in his native land, and remained there until the year 1864, which found him crossing the stormy Atlantic to a new home in the United States. He came direct to Minnesota on landing on these shores, and took up his residence in Carver county, where he lived for a period of two years. From there he removed to Minneapolis, of which city he was a citizen until 1871, when he took up a homestead in Cokato township, Wright county, to which he moved.

Two years' residence satisfied him, and selling out he purchased a farm in the same county, where he lived four years, and then disposed of that and removed to the village of Dassel, where he purchased an interest in the blacksmith shop of Erick Renquist, that being his trade, and remained in partnership with him until two years later, when he bought out Mr. Renquist. Alone he then carried on the business until 1882, at which date, in company with L. W. Leighton, he established the second hardware store in the village. The firm, thus formed, continued until January 1, 1887, when our subject purchased his partner's interest, and for more than a year was alone in the concern. March 15, 1888, he admitted to a partnership John Osterman, and the present firm of J. M. Johnson & Co. was formed.

Mr. Johnson, although not partisan in his views, has decided opinions upon political questions, and particularly in all local matters. His excellent business tact and sterling uprightness have drawn upon him the attention of the community, and he was duly elected to a position upon the board of village trustees in 1882, and was again chosen to fill that office in March, 1888. As a business man he is active and enterprising, and he has a financial interest in both the woolen mill and the foundry, both institutions of great value to the community.

Mr. Johnson was united in marriage January 27, 1870, while living in Wright county, with Miss Mary Clarquist, a native of Sweden, and daughter of Lewis and Christine Clarquist, the latter of whom were early settlers on section 14, Dassel township. Mrs. Johnson has a fine millinery establishment in the village, which she instituted in 1884.



ANOTHER prominent citizen of Meeker county is G. W. FULLER, of Litchfield, a native of Broome county, N. Y., born

September 24, 1824. He is the son of Ira and Sallie (Barnes) Fuller, both of whom were born in the State of Connecticut, the former April 17, 1793, and the latter January 12, 1795. His father and mother were married at Lisle, Broome county, N. Y., September 14, 1814, and in 1833 removed to Trumbull county, Ohio, where they made their home until the death of Mr. Fuller, Sr., on his seventy-fourth birthday; his wife survived him until March 25, 1877.

The subject of our narrative remained with his parents until he was about fifteen years of age, when he commenced life by teaching for one term. He then entered the postoffice at Warren, and was there employed during the great presidential campaign of 1840, between W. H. Harrison and Martin Van Buren. He remained in that position for about a year, and then attended the Farmington Academy for a time. He then entered what is now Dennison University where he remained over five years, graduating from there in 1847. He taught school for two terms subsequent to this and then entered the university, taking charge of the Baptist church at Birmingham, in the Buckeye State, where he remained some three years. The next three years were passed in the service of the Lord at Ashtabula, Ohio, after which he occupied the pulpit of the Baptist church at Meadville, Penn., for a like period. Having been sent by the Baptist Home Missionary Society to Chatfield, this State, he came to Minnesota in 1858, and remained in the last mentioned city some seven years, a faithful watchman upon the walls of Zion. From there he removed to Lake City, and during his labors in that place, extending over a period of seven years, missed but two Sabbaths' exercise of his beloved calling. His health becoming impaired, he came to Litchfield in 1872, and purchasing twenty-five acres of land, established his present nursery business.

Mr. Fuller has three times been married, his present wife being Miss S. S. Garfield, a second cousin of our late lamented, martyred president, James A. Garfield. He is the parent of nine children, five of whom are living. The record of these is Isabel, Mrs. Dr. Canney, of San Francisco, Cal.; Minnie E., whose husband, L. Swift, is business manager of the Minneapolis *Evening Journal*; Annie, deceased wife of J. Q. A. Braden, who died October 25, 1879, at Santa Cruz, California; George Garfield, who is book-keeper for the Washburn Mill company, Minneapolis; Pauline, the lately deceased wife of E. B. Benson, the cashier of the Meeker County Bank, who died May 19, 1888; and Jewel and Lillian, living at home.



MARION BOYER, a veteran of the late war, is engaged in carrying on both the meat-market and dray business in the village of Dassel, where he located in 1881. He is a native of Mercer county, Ohio, born January 1, 1840, and is the son of Louis and Nancy A. (Bowersock) Boyer, both of whom were also natives of the "Buckeye State." The parents of our subject, in 1855, removed with their family to Crawford, now Vernon county, Wis., where they remained upon a farm until the death of the father, in 1857. Later the mother came to Hastings, in this State, and died at St. Paul in 1887.

Marion, in 1860, at the age of twenty, was united in marriage with Miss Esther Buckmaster, with whom he lived upon a farm until the spring of 1862 when the angel of death invaded his household and snatched away his wife from his embrace. He then gave up farming, and, August 6, 1862, enlisted in Company D, Thirty-First Wisconsin Infantry, and served with that well-known regiment until the close of the war. The first battle in which he participated was that of

Peach Tree Creek, in the Atlanta campaign, and throughout the engagements around the last-named city, and at the capture of that place. Mr. Boyer was always present with regiment, which did excellent service. When Sherman cut himself off from his base of supplies and commenced his memorable march to the sea, the Thirty-First Wisconsin was a part of his columns, and our subject marched with his company. During the battle of Bentonville, N. C., when the confederate general, Joseph Johnston, had turned the flank and surrounded our forces, the regiment, with others, faced about and charged the enemy, during which Mr. Boyer received a bullet and fell to the ground. Lying upon the ground, propped upon his elbow, he essayed to open the cartridge-boxes of his fallen comrades, and, in spite of his wound, passed the ammunition to his companions, and while doing so was again hit in the neighborhood of the spine, which disabled him entirely. His gallant comrades, outnumbered, were forced to retire, leaving him, as they supposed, dead upon the field, and the rebel line charged over him. Some time elapsed, and, coming to, he managed to crawl to a tree, but, on pulling himself erect, found he could not stand, so crawled on all fours toward the lines of his regiment, about half a mile away, and when his comrades saw him they came forth and carried him in and placed him in an ambulance. Four or five days later he moved along with the regiment, and in a month resumed duty. He participated in all the hardships of that famous march, and wound up with the grand review at Washington, after which he received his discharge, June 20, 1865, at Louisville, Ky., and returned to Wisconsin. In the spring of 1866 he came to Minnesota, and settled in Dakota county, but in 1873 removed to Bird Island, and from there, the next spring, to Elk River, where he remained until coming here.

Mr. Boyer, November 28, 1872, again entered the marriage state, being united on that day with Miss Annie Sheldon, a native of Elk River, Minn., and daughter of Henry H. and Cynthia Sheldon. Her parents settled in Sherburne county, at Elk River, in May, 1856, and were among the earliest settlers of that section. By this marriage Mr. and Mrs. Boyer have two children—Clara E. and Louis.

Mr. Boyer was quite prominent in the organization of Colfax Post, No. 133, G. A. R., at this village, and was the first officer of the day. He was a member of the post at Elk River before coming here. He has been an officer in the Good Templars order, and is prominent in the prohibition movement.



JOHAN MURRAY, who is numbered among the most extensive farmers and stock-raisers of Meeker county, is one of the pioneers of 1857. During that year he made his first appearance here, and immediately took up a claim of 160 acres upon section 36, Forest City township, where he now resides. To his original farm he has added from time to time, until he has now one of the finest properties in the county, extending into the three townships of Dassel, Darwin and Forest City, embracing something like 800 acres.

Mr. Murray is a native of that "Gem of the Sea," Ireland, and was born in the year 1838. At the age of fourteen years, he left his native home and came alone to the United States. Arriving in New York, the young emigrant, after a few months spent in the metropolis, came out West, and spent the next five years in the city of Chicago. From there he came to this county by way of Minneapolis, and on his arrival, settled, and has ever since made this his home. During the Indian outbreak of 1862, he took

his family to a place of safety, but soon returned to help in the defense of his home. He has always been engaged in agriculture, and still follows that avocation.

Mr. Murray was married in March, 1857, to Miss Margaret Flynn, a native of the Emerald Isle, born in 1835. By this union there have been born a family of nine children, whose names are as follows—John, Michael, Thomas, William, James, Daniel, Catharine, Ellen and Margaret. John, the only one not single, married Miss Lizzie Hughes, and is a farmer.

In his political views Mr. Murray coincides with the democratic party, and accepts their doctrines and principles. In religion he is a zealous Roman Catholic, and socially is a genial hospitable gentleman, like all the Celtic race, and one whom it is a pleasure to meet.



JOSEPH VOSSEN, the merchant of Watkins, came to that village in 1882, and opened a stock of general merchandise, in company with A. D. Spaulding, in a building 22x40, which they erected for the purpose. After carrying on the business for about six months, the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Vossen purchasing Mr. Spaulding's interest. Since that time he continued to operate the business alone.

Mr. Vossen was born in the Rhine Provinces of the German Empire, on the 17th of April, 1849, and is the son of Christian and Nella (Koenigs) Vossen. He passed his early years and received his education 'neath the genial skies and amid the vine-clad hills of his native land, but on attaining his thirteenth year commenced work for himself. In 1864 he came to the United States with his parents, landing at New York after a voyage of fifty-four days. They settled in Carver county, where they remained about four years, and then came to

Meeker county and settled in Forest Prairie township, among the first to locate there, where the parents still make their home.

Mr. Vossen, of whom we write, was united in marriage with Miss Anna Weinman January 29, 1877, at Burton, Carver county. She is the daughter of John W. Weinman, a farmer of that county. By this union there have been born a family of three children—Joseph, Nellie and John.

Mr. Vossen is entirely independent of party lines in discharge of his elective franchise. He has, however, held the post of town supervisor for eight or nine years. He is a member of the Roman Catholic Church.



J P. NYGREN, a prominent citizen and a successful farmer, residing on section 9, Greenleaf township, was born in Sweden on the 24th of June, 1822. He was raised on a farm, learning the habits of industry and economy, which are a characteristic of the people of his nationality. In June, 1854, he was married at Kroneburg, Sweden, to Anna F. Petterson. He remained in his native land until 1868, when he came to the United States, and after making short stops at New York City, Rockford, Ill., and Watertown, Minn., he finally arrived in Meeker county in October, 1868, locating at once in Greenleaf township. He has as good a farm as any in the township, has it well stocked and has fine farm buildings.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Nygren, has been blessed with the following children—John P., born October 2, 1855; Matilda C., born January 22, 1857; Carl A., born in November, 1858; Christina M., born December 15, 1860, and Charles O., born December 24, 1862; all of whom are still living except John P., who died October 14, 1877, in Greenleaf township; and Carl A., who died in Sweden when only fifteen months old.

Matilda C. is now the wife of W. H. Wilkins, and resides in St. Cloud; Christina is now in Litchfield; and the son Charles O., is still at home and carries on the business. Charles has a thorough knowledge of farm work, and has the reputation of being one of the most thorough and successful agriculturists in the township.

J. P. Nygren is a republican in politics, and in religious matters he and his wife are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church. Mrs. Nygren is a native of the same country as her husband, having been born in Sweden on the 18th of July, 1828.



DAVID GORMAN, who carries on a livery, feed and sale stable at Litchfield, is a native of Canada West, born in 1855, and is the son of John and Bridget (Tuberty) Gorman, natives of Ireland, who came to America in 1840. He remained in his native country until he was thirteen years of age, when his parents removed to Minnesota and settled at Monticello, Wright county. David made his home with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, his time being spent upon a farm, attending common school as opportunity offered. On reaching his majority he went to the Black Hills, and for a year remained there following mining, after which he returned to Minnesota and engaged in the liquor trade at Monticello. In 1880 he was employed at bridge building on the Manitoba railroad, and later took charge of the Howard House at Litchfield, in company with Richard Knights, and ran that a year, but at the expiration of that time sold out to his partner, purchasing at the same time the livery business of Knights & McCarger, at Litchfield, and has conducted it ever since.

Mr. Gorman was married on the 3d of May, 1882, to Miss Belle Knights, a native of Canada, but a resident of Meeker county at

the time. Their union has been blessed by the advent of two children—Herbert Francis, born August 30, 1883, and Hattie Marie, born February 12, 1888.



THOMAS RYCKMAN, a well-known and highly respected old settler, and one of the most successful and prominent stock-raisers and farmers in the northern part of Meeker county, resides on section 14, Union Grove township.

Mr. Ryckman was born in Upper Canada, on November 2, 1834, and is a son of Munson and Fidella (Ganford) Ryckman. He remained on his father's farm, attending school during the winter months and working on the farm during the summer, until he was about twenty-two years of age, when he started to make his own way in the world. In 1857 he came to Stillwater, Minn., and remained there for about three months, working some at harvesting, but putting in the most of his time looking for a suitable location. In September, 1877, he came to Meeker county and pre-empted land on section 28, in what is now Manannah township. He was married on the 11th of February, 1862, to Miss Harriet Maybee, a daughter of Charles and Harriet (Smith) Maybee. They were living on their farm when the Indian outbreak occurred. As a full history of that matter is given in another department of this work it is unnecessary to repeat it here. Mr. Ryckman took a prominent part in the moves of those times, and was on some of the most perilous and dangerous expeditions that were made. Upon hearing the news of the massacre at Acton, August 17, 1862, with the others they went to Forest City, and a day or two later, Mrs. Ryckman went to St. Paul, while Mr. Ryckman remained to look after his stock, and was back and forth between Forest City and his claim. Besides many other perilous trips he made, he was

with a party of eleven that went to Caswell's farm, and four of the party were killed, William Maybee, a brother of Mrs. Ryckman, being among the slain.

After the close of hostilities they returned to their farm, and in 1865 they sold the Manannah farm and moved to their present place on section 14, Union Grove township. He now owns 550 acres of land, one of the most valuable farms in the county, and his buildings are by far the best in the township, being a credit to himself and also to the neighborhood. The residence alone cost \$3,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryckman are the parents of the following children—Ella Jane, born April 13, 1863; John Nelson, born October 31, 1865; Cora Edna, born April 20, 1871; and Roy Franklin, born June 27, 1882.

Mr. Ryckman has four brothers in Oregon—Tobias, James, John and Deseum, and four sisters in Canada—Abigail, Sarah, Harriet and Ellen. His parents both died in Canada. The parents of Mrs. Ryckman reside in Litchfield. She has two sisters—Adelia, wife of James A. Lee of Litchfield, and Augusta Jane, wife of Wallace Smith, of Fair Haven, Stearns county, Minn.

Mr. Ryckman has taken an active interest in township and educational matters, and has held various offices of this nature. He is one of the leading and most influential citizens of his town.



PETER J. MALMQUIST, one of the blacksmiths at Grove City, is among the most respected citizens of the county. He is a native of Sweden, born July 13, 1833, and the son of Johannes and Ingrid Martins Olander. He came to the United States during the year 1871, and after a stormy passage, across the briny deep, came directly to this county. He remained here about a month

and then went to Chippewa county, this State, where he took up a claim with a soldier's warrant. As he had paid for this before he got it he was obliged to make many trips to Litchfield before he could lay his hands on it, but has finally accomplished it. His claim, which was the west half of the northeast quarter of section 26, Leenthrop township, Chippewa county, was a fine piece of land, and on it he made his home for some four years, and then sold out and came to Grove City and put up his smithy, where he has carried on business ever since.

Mr. Malinquist and Miss Petronella Elizabeth Pearson were united in the holy bonds of matrimony December 26, 1860, and are the parents of three children, two of whom are living. Their record is as follows—Charles E. F., born May 26, 1864, died in March, 1866; Charles E. F., born December 1, 1867, and is now a clerk in the office of Dudley & Nelson's elevator, at Grove City; and Ernest H. E., born May 31, 1869, at home attending school.



JOHN TEBERG. Among the Swedish element which makes up so large a share of the population of Meeker county, and whose habits of industry and thrift, brought from their native land, that so soon raise them to competency, is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He is living on section 32, in the town of Darwin, where he has a fine and extensive farm of 400 acres, 250 of which are under excellent cultivation, and upon which he has some forty two head of horses and cattle.

Mr. Teberg was born in Sweden November 5, 1839, and is the son of Carl and Celia Teberg, natives of the same kingdom. He remained in the land of his birth until 1870, when, with a view to better his condition beyond what is possible in the mother

country, he emigrated to the United States. On his arrival in this country he came at once to Meeker county, and with his family settled in what is now Litchfield township. After remaining there for about five years he removed to Darwin, and took up his residence where he now lives, on section 32. He has passed most of his life in farm pursuits, his parents being farmers in Sweden, where they both died.

On the 1st of July, 1866, in Sweden, Mr. Teberg was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Peterson, the daughter of Peter Larson and Elsie Larson Peterson. Her parents came to America in 1865, and settled in Litchfield township. By this marriage Mr. Teberg is the parent of two children, namely John, born September 11, 1866; and Martin, born October 15, 1869.

In his political views Mr. Teberg is with the republican party, although not a politician by any means.



LEWIS A. PIER, pastor of the Christian church at Litchfield, and editor and proprietor of the *Saturday Review*, is a native of Vermont, and was born on the 7th of October, 1855. His parents were R. A. and Lucy B. (Damon) Pier, both natives of the same State. The father, who was a farmer, came to Dodge county, Wis., in 1856, in the interest of a large real estate owner East, for the purpose of opening up the lands in that part of Wisconsin belonging to his principal. He remained there until 1863, when he settled in Dodge county, Minn., and bought a farm. In 1869 he was elected treasurer of that county and located at Mantorville. At the expiration of his term of office he purchased the *Mantorville Express*, in connection with his son, but soon disposed of his interest to the latter. He is still a resident of Mantorville.

Lewis A. Pier remained with his parents

until twenty-one years of age. He enjoyed the advantages of the common schools until he was sixteen years of age, when he entered the office of the *Mantorville Express* to learn the printer's trade. In 1874 he became sole editor and proprietor of the paper and conducted it until 1876, when he sold out and went to Indianapolis, Ind., and entered Butler University, from which he graduated in 1882. Previous to this, however, he had become pastor of one of the Christian churches of that city, of which he remained in charge until 1883. He then took charge of a church at Union City, Ind., remaining until the spring of 1884, when he settled at Litchfield, Minn., and took charge of the Christian church at that place. In July, of the same year, he established the *Review*, which he still conducts. Mr. Pier was married on the 31st of August, 1881, to Miss Clarinda C. Harriman, of Frankfort, Ind., who is also a graduate of Butler University.



CHRISTIAN HALVORSEN, one of the thrifty farmers of Cosmos township, residing upon section 22, is a native of the Kingdom of Norway, born in November, 1844. He was reared in the land of his birth and made it his home until he was some twenty-five years of age, when he crossed the ocean to America. He resided for one year in Wisconsin and then came to Meeker county, arriving at Litchfield in the first passenger train run into that village. In 1870 Mr. Halvorsen bought the claim of O. K. Nelson to the place he now lives on, and the next year filed on it as homestead, he having declared his intention of becoming an American citizen.

During that summer he broke up some five acres of land and then took a trip elsewhere, returning the following winter, and in 1871 was married to Miss Annie Hanson. They

have a family of eight children — Minnie, Helen, Henry, Carl, Alma, Clara, Lena and Lawrence. Mr. Halvorsen is among the rising men of the township.



TIBBITTS J. SOULE, superintendent of schools of Meeker county, is a native of Erie county, N. Y., born February 3, 1847. His parents were Stephen W. and Ruth (Munger) Soule, both natives of the Empire State. His father followed the profession of school teaching from the time he was eighteen until he was sixty-seven years of age, his last term having been taught in Meeker county in the winter of 1886-7. He had come West on a visit and was prevailed upon to take a school for the winter term, and the following spring returned to his Eastern home.

Tibbitts J. remained with his parents until sixteen years of age, having up to that time attended school most of the time. At that age he enlisted in Company D, Second New York Mounted Rifles, was mustered in January 27, 1864, and served in the Army of the Potomac until the close of the war. During his service he was in thirteen pitched battles; was wounded twice while in the trenches in front of Petersburg; at Bellefield raid he had his shin bone shattered by a mimie ball, and as he says "had he entered the hospital would have worn a wooden leg to-day"; but he remained with the "boys" and was soon on duty again. After receiving his discharge, on the 23d of August, 1865, he returned to his home in Erie county, N. Y., but shortly afterward took a trip through Kansas and Indian Territory, remaining West for some two years. After this he went back to New York and followed the profession of a school teacher until 1879, with the exception of two years, during which he was agent for A. S. Barnes & Co.'s school books through Western New York. In 1879 he came to Meeker

county, Minn., and rented a 1,200-acre farm, for one year. Being a stranger to that business, he met with considerable loss; but, with hopes for better success in the future, he stuck to the business, and a year or so later he purchased a farm in Greenleaf township. This place he sold in 1885. In the fall of 1886 he was elected superintendent of schools of Meeker county, which position he still holds, filling the office with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. Mr. Soule is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is the present junior vice-commander of Frank Daggett Post, No. 35, at Litchfield. He is also a member of the Masonic order, having joined Phoenix lodge, No. 262, of Gowand, N. Y., while in that State, and has since retained his membership with them. Politically, Mr. Soule is a democrat. He was an active supporter of Grover Cleveland when he was a candidate for sheriff of Erie county, N. Y., in 1869, there being in that campaign only two successful candidates on the democratic ticket, Grover Cleveland, for sheriff, and Stephen W. Soule (Tibbitts J.'s father), for school commissioner.

Mr. Soule was married in 1873 to Miss Maria Anthony, of Boston, Erie county N. Y., and they have been blessed with four children, as follows—Charlie M., born May 14, 1875; Helen M., born November 13, 1879; Ruth M., born January 29, 1886; and Louisa M., born September 4, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Soule are active members of the Episcopal Church.



PETER ELOFSON is one of the old settlers of Swede Grove township. He was born in Sweden on the 27th of March, 1845, and is a son of Elofson and Bertha Anderson. In 1857, in company with his mother and brothers—Nels and Andrew—he came to the United States, and they settled in Swede Grove township, this

county. In 1862 they were driven away by the Indians and went to Forest City, and later to Anoka, and he remained with them until the following spring, when he began working out at different lines of business. Three years later he returned to Swede Grove township and took a homestead on section 30, remaining there until 1878, when he sold out and bought forty acres on section 20, on which there was a small house. He lived there for two years, and, in the meantime, built on land which had been included in his mother's homestead. He also purchased more land, and now has a farm of 160 acres, a good share of which is under cultivation. He has considerable stock and is in comfortable circumstances.

Mr. Elofson was married on the 5th of February, 1870, to Miss Emma Nelson, a daughter of Nils and Ingra Pehrson. They have had the following children—Betsy, born December 12, 1870; Anna, born May 18, 1872; Henry, born January 15, 1874; Edward, born August 19, 1875; and William, born July 12, 1878. Mr. Elofson is a republican in political matters and takes an active interest in all matters affecting his township. He has been road overseer for the past five or six years, and has been school treasurer for six years.



JOHN HALLGREN, a farmer and stock raiser residing on section 17, Greenleaf township, is one of those hospitable and open-hearted farmers whom it is a pleasure to meet and who reflect credit on the community in which they live. He is a native of Gothland, Sweden, and was born on the 1st of November, 1839. He left his native land in 1867 for the United States, and settled in Michigan. While there he was married on the 6th of November, 1873, to Mary S. Swanson, and their union has been blessed with three children, as follows—John A., born December

6, 1874; Emma C., born August 11, 1877; and John E., born May 10, 1884. All of these are living except John A., who died on the 2d of February, 1881, and was buried at Ishpeming, Mich. Mr. Hallgren remained in Michigan until 1885, when he removed to Minnesota and purchased the farm in Greenleaf township where he now lives. He has a valuable farm, a comfortable home and is in comfortable circumstances financially.

While in Michigan Mr. Hallgren followed his profession as an engineer and had the misfortune to lose his hearing, or at least to greatly impair it, while fixing the whistle on his engine, it being one of the largest in that State. The ice had formed about the pipe and he went up with an axe to knock it off. When the ice dropped it struck the lever which blew off the whistle, and the roar was so tremendous that it impaired his hearing as stated.

RAY F. CASE, the popular young druggist of the village of Dassel, is a native of Waupun, Dodge county, Wis., born February 12, 1855, and is the son of Royal T. and Almira (Fay) Case. He came to this county in 1873, with his parents, who settled at Bonniwell's Mill, where they made their home until their deaths, the mother in 1879, the father in 1886. At the time of the settlement of the family, Ray came to Dassel and entered the drug store of Charles A. Morris, the pioneer druggist, with whom he remained until that gentleman sold out to Dr. McCullom, with whom he continued. Jonas Rudberg, the successor of McCullom, appreciating the merits of the young man, kept him in his employ, and Ray was still in the position of confidential clerk when Mr. Rudberg died. After that event, Mr. Case and Mrs. Rudberg formed a co-partnership to carry on the business, Mr. Case purchasing a half interest therein, and being managing

partner. Close attention to business and commendable economy enabled him, on the re-marriage of his associate in trade, in 1886, to purchase her interest, since which time he has carried on the business alone. He carries a full line of drugs, paints, oils, wall paper, fancy goods, tobaccos, cigars, etc., and is doing a handsome business.

Ray F. Case and Miss Ella G. Stocking, pledged their mutual faith at the marriage altar, September 8, 1882. The lady is a native of McLeod county, Minn., and a daughter of E. W. and Jennie Stocking, of Hutchinson. Mrs. Case, when an infant, was an inmate of the stockade at Hutchinson, during the attack upon that place by the Sioux Indians in the fall of 1862.

ELIAS CARLSON, an enterprising and respected farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 30, Harvey township, is the present chairman of the board of supervisors of the township. He has taken an active part and interest in public affairs and is a leading citizen of his township. He is a native of Sweden and was born on the 5th of December, 1837. His parents were natives of the same country and his father was a farmer. Both of his parents died in the land of their birth.

The early life of Elias Carlson was spent in his native land, but in 1857 he came to the United States and made his way to Minnesota, settling at Taylor's Falls, Chisago county. He remained there until August 20, 1864, when he came to Meeker county, Minn., and located in Harvey township, where he has since lived. He owns a valuable farm of 800 acres of land, a good share of which is under cultivation. He devotes his time to general farming and stock-raising and now has over fifty head of cattle on his place. He has been very successful in his

farming operations and owes all his present prosperity to his own efforts and industry, as he was a poor man when he came here, as was the case with about all of the pioneers of Meeker county. He has splendid improvements on the place and fine buildings.

Mr. Carlson was married on the 14th of November, 1861, to Mary G. Ahlstrom, and they have been the parents of fourteen children, one of whom, Frank, is married. Mrs. Carlson is also a native of Sweden. Mr. Carlson has spent the most of his time at farming, although he learned the wagon-maker's trade and followed that for a number of years.



FARNSWORTH R. HILL, one of Meeker county's most successful farmers and stock-raisers, and one of the large land owners, is a resident of Forest City township, his home being upon section 33. He has a magnificent farm of 711 acres of fine land, embracing a large portion of sections 33 and 34, Forest City, and section 4, Darwin, much of which is under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Hill gives a large share of his attention to the raising of graded Holstein and Durham cattle and graded Norman horses. His herd numbers now some 150 head, and he is extensively engaged in the manufacture of "gilt-edge" butter, which he ships to Minneapolis for sale.

The subject of this personal history was born in Cumberland county, Me., February 20, 1842, and is the son of Reuben and Miriam C. Hill. He was reared in the State of his birth, and there received the elements of a most excellent common-school education. In his earlier days he followed lumbering and farming in the "Old Pine Tree State," and afterwards commenced lumbering operations in Minnesota. He was also engaged in the butchering business for some five years, all in the State of Minnesota. In the fall of

1877 he came to Meeker county, with L. D. Hill, and both settled in the town of Litchfield, but in about a year our subject removed to his present place of abode, where he has since lived.

He was united in marriage March 25, 1872, with Miss Etta Sanborn, a native of Cumberland county, Me., who died July 30, 1881, leaving two children—Emma L. and Charley R., both of whom are at home with their father. December 11, 1882, Mr. Hill contracted a second matrimonial alliance, with Miss Anna L. Peifer, a native of Meeker county, Minn., who is the mother of two children—Farnsworth L. and Winnie M. Hill.

Mr. Hill is one of the honored and respected citizens of the township, and has served the people in the responsible position of supervisor for some time, and is always interested in the public affairs of the county. He is a republican politically.



ANDREW LEE. The subject of this biographical notice is a respected farmer, who resides on section 15, Greenleaf township, where he has a valuable farm, a comfortable home, and building improvements which reflect much credit upon his enterprise and thrift.

He comes of the same nationality which has made so many sturdy and substantial citizens of Minnesota, having been born in Sweden on the 31st of August, 1847. His parents were natives of the same country, his father having been born there in 1809, and died in the land of his birth in 1862, while his mother is now a resident of Meeker county. Andrew left his native land in 1872 for America, and settled in Chautauqua county, N. Y., and two years later, in 1874, again took up his westward march and settled in Minneapolis, Minn. Three years

later, in 1876, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased a farm of eighty acres in Greenleaf township, where he has since lived. Since that time he has purchased an additional forty, and also ten in Ellsworth, which makes his present farm 130 acres, a good share of which is under cultivation. He devotes his time to general farming and stock-raising, and has a good number of head of cattle on the farm.

In 1875 Mr. Lee was married to Miss Mary Anderson. Her parents were natives of Sweden; her mother died there when she was only seven years old, and her father now lives in Meeker county. Mr. and Mrs. Lee have been the parents of seven children, all of whom are living. Their names are as follows—Frank E., born June 4, 1877; Ernest V., born February 13, 1879; Alex. T., born December 30, 1880; Hjalmar E., born October 23, 1882; Hilma V., born May 27, 1884; Carl E., born December 30, 1885, and Polly O., born June 20, 1887.



HON. CHARLES E. CUTTS, one of the pioneers of Meeker county, who has always been prominently identified with its progress and development, and who has held some of the most exalted offices in the gift of the people of this portion of the State, is the subject of this biographical history. He came to Forest City, where he located, in 1856, and is still a resident upon the land where he first settled, on section 22.

Mr. Cutts first saw the light at Orwell, Addison county, Vt., on the 2d of August, 1835, and is the son of Lorain and Emeline (Murray) Cutts, both of whom were natives of the "Green Mountain State." He received his primary education in the district schools of his native State, and in 1853 spent one year at the academy at Fort Plain, Montgomery county, N. Y., after which he remained

at home until 1856, when he came West and settled in Minnesota, as mentioned above. He found, on his arrival here, a beautiful land, that far surpassed anything the other side of the Big Woods, and determined to stay and help develop the country. But a few settlers were here at the time, this being but a short time before an almost unknown land. Brought up as he was upon the rocky soil of New England he was more than pleased with the aspect of the new land, for

"Here no stony ground provokes the wrath of the farmer; Smoothly the plough-share runs through the soil as a keel through the water."

He at once took up his claim and settled down to the hard life of a Western pioneer upon the border. For a while he kept bachelor's hall, but April 17, 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Betsey Larson, a native of Sweden, who had come to the United States the previous year. He has always followed farming, except in 1859, when he held the office of county treasurer. In 1871, Mr. Cutts was elected State Senator from this district and represented the people of Meeker county in the Senate chamber through the sessions of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies.

Mr. and Mrs. Cutts are the parents of the following children—Alice, Mrs. J. W. Wright of Litchfield; Rollin E., a student at the State University; Willie E., Custer and Garfield. In politics our subject is an unswerving republican, and is quite active in all local campaigns. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.



RUDOLPH SCHWARZ, the village blacksmith of Manannah, came to Meeker county on 1883, and commenced his work on the spot where he now has his smithy. He is a native of Mecklenburg, Germany, born on the 14th of September, 1853. At the age of fifteen he became ap-

prenticed to learn the blacksmith's trade, and served some three years, and then pursued that calling as journeyman, beneath his native skies until 1882, when, with the commendable ambition to better his fortune, he emigrated to America. For a short time he remained in Milwaukee, Wis., after his arrival in this country, and afterward removed to Duluth. In 1883 he came to Manannah, as above mentioned.

Mr. Schwarz was married September 21, 1886, to Miss Addie Shepherd, a native of Meeker county, Minn., and daughter of Charles and Adaline (Hartman) Shepherd. Mr. Schwarz is the son of Christian S. Schwarz and wife, who still live in their native land, Mecklenburg, Germany.



WILLIAM HAMILTON, an ex-Union soldier, and one of the most intelligent and prominent citizens in the northern part of Meeker county, is a resident of section 36, Forest Prairie township, where he has lived since about the year 1870.

Mr. Hamilton was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, on the 17th of March, 1833, and is a son of Thomas and Belle Hamilton. The mother died in Ireland, when William was six years of age, and in 1841, the father brought the family to America, and settled in Bellview, Eden county, Mich., where he lived until the time of his death, in 1880. At the time of his death the father was about eighty years of age. He was an educated man and a school teacher for many years; clerk in the Presbyterian Church, of which he was an exemplary member, and otherwise was prominent in the locality in which he lived.

William Hamilton, the subject of this sketch, began life for himself when about twenty years old. He came to Minnesota in 1858, and remained at St. Paul and Minne-

apolis until 1861, when, on the 26th of August, he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went into service, his regiment being assigned to the Fourteenth Army Corps. He saw very active service, participating in the battles of Chickamauga, Hoover's Gap, Mill Spring, Berryville, besides many skirmishes. In one of these battles he lost the use of his left arm. He finally was honorably discharged at St. Paul, in August, 1864, and returned to Michigan.

Mr. Hamilton was married at St. Anthony, now East Minneapolis, in September, 1864, to Miss Martha J. Dayton, a native of Pennsylvania. They have five living children—Thomas C., Minna B., Earl, Katie and Olive G. Minna B. is now married to A. J. Lynn, a resident of Kingston township.

In political matters Mr. Hamilton is a republican, and in religious matters the family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



DANIEL N. DANIELSON, a prominent farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 1, Danielson township, is a son of Nils Danielson, the earliest settler in the township, and after whom it was named. Daniel N., the subject of this sketch, was born in Norway on the 15th of August, 1853. In 1855 his parents brought him to the United States, and they settled on Rock Prairie, Wis., and after remaining there for two years they came to Meeker county, Minn., and bought eighty acres of Government land on section 25 in Acton township. In 1863, the father, Nils Danielson, took a homestead on section 2, Danielson township, and moved his family upon it, thus becoming the first settler within the limits of that township, and it afterward was named in honor of the family. The father lived there until the time of his death, July 10, 1870, and his widow still lives on the old

homestead with her son, A. N. Danielson. There are six of the children still living, as follows—A. N., Daniel N., Hans, Henry, Helen, wife of Hon. Even Evenson, and Mary, wife of Ole Nelson of Danielson.

Daniel N. Danielson, the subject of this biography, came to the United States with his parents, and lived under the parental roof until 1878, when he erected a house on a farm which he had become possessed of on section 1, Danielson township. For some time he kept bachelor's hall and worked his farm, and was then, for two years, employed at car repairing at Fergus Falls, Barnesville and Glyndon. On the 17th of June, 1887, he was married to Miss Betsy Hartz, and their union has been blessed with one child, named Nils Oskar, born March 30, 1888. Mrs. Danielson was born February 6, 1869, and is a daughter of Ole and Johanna Hartz, who are now residents of Acton.



A WELL KNOWN old settler in the southern part of Meeker county, is J. M. PITMAN, a resident of section 14, Cedar Mills township.

Mr. Pitman is a native of Belknap county, N. H., born on the 26th of May, 1819, and is a son of Ebenezer Pitman. He received a thorough education in his younger days, both preparatory and collegiate, and was graduated from Dartmouth College, an educational institution of high rank, in 1841. He began teaching while still a boy, and remained in his native State until 1853, when he came West and located in Wisconsin. He first taught school in that State, on Sand Prairie, near Beloit, and the following spring went to Menomonie, where he remained, following his profession, for six years, the greater portion of the time, being a teacher in a private school at that place. In 1860 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and took

a pre-emption claim of 172 acres on section 2, Cedar Mills township. During that year he put in a crop covering an acre or so of land, and erected a log house on his claim. He remained steadily upon the land until the time of the Indian outbreak when he, as did all the rest, left for safety. He helped to fortify "the Point" in Cedar Lake, when the settlers gathered there. Later he went to Hutchinson, and when the "Hutchinson Guards" was organized at that place he joined them, and took charge of the commissary department. After the outbreak, Mr. Pitman occupied his time with teaching in the winter and farming in the summer, until about 1870, after which he devoted his attention entirely to the farm until 1887, when he sold out and has since retired from participation in the cares of business. During the early days of this country Mr. Pitman preached occasionally to the people on Sunday, and on the 22d of September, 1867, assisted in organizing a Baptist Church in Greenleaf, one of the early religious organizations effected in the southern part of the county. He has always taken an interest in all matters relating to the welfare of the township. When the organization of the township was effected in 1870, he was elected chairman of the supervisors, and retained the office for five successive years, and he was again elected to the same position in 1885.



S O. LINDGREN, one of the active, enterprising business men of the village of Dassel, is a member of the firm of Thompson & Lindgren, general merchants. He was born in Sweden, July 13, 1857, and is the son of Olaf and Anna Lindgren, natives of the same kingdom. He came to this country in 1879, and came to Meeker county direct, and during the summer of that year worked on a farm near Litchfield. In



Geo S. Bellamy

November he removed to the village of Dassel, and attended school until spring, when he entered the store of August Sallberg, as clerk, with whom he remained some two years. He, at the expiration of his engagement, went to Minneapolis and engaged in business for a time. In the summer of 1883 he returned to Dassel and formed a partnership with John Thompson, and the following September opened a stock of general merchandise in a building that they had erected. They have continued in that line of trade ever since, and are now doing a large and increasing trade, their fair dealing and uprightness in all business matters winning them hosts of friends.

Mr. Lindgren has taken great interest in all local politics, and was elected one of the village trustees in 1884. In 1885 he was chosen to fill the position of recorder, and has been re-elected his own successor ever since, and now fills that office. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having been made a Mason by Cakato Lodge, No. 134, in 1884.

The marriage of Mr. Lindgren and Miss Mary Peterson took place in August, 1885.



GEORGE S. BELKNAP is one of the most prominent citizens of Swede Grove township. He is a son of Stephen and Elizabeth Belknap, and was born on the 28th of March, 1828, in the village of Bloomingburgh, N. Y., eighty-four miles from New York city. Mr. Belknap traces his ancestry back through some of the most notable families in American history. He is a grandson of Lieut. William Belknap, who entered the service of his country in Col. Henry Beekman Livingston's Fourth Regiment, and continued in the service until the conclusion of the war. He was an original member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, formed by the officers of the American army of the rev-

olution at the cantonment on the banks of the Hudson river in May, 1783. Gen. George Washington was elected president-general of the society, and held that honor until the day of his death. The officers of the American army having generally been taken from the citizens of America possessing high veneration for the character of that illustrious Roman, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus, who was found following the plough when the statesmen of his country sought him as the only one capable of leading their armies to victory, and clothed him with absolute power, and who, having achieved the salvation of his country, laid aside that power and gladly returned to his plough and the obscurity of domestic life, they thought they could with propriety denominate themselves the Society of the Cincinnati.

The original design or idea seems to have been of an institution bearing resemblance to a military order. The subject of this sketch was elected a member of this organization July 4, 1861.

George S. Belknap received an academical education, then went to New York City and learned the tailor's trade, at which he became an expert, and was promoted to the position of draughtsman, at a salary of \$2,500 per year. During the war he was inspector of army supplies and equipage in the quartermaster's department, under Deputy Quartermaster-General, Colonel Vinton, which position he held until the close of hostilities, and then reëngaging in his former business with his old-time employer. In 1877 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and settled upon the farm where he now resides, on section 6, Swede Grove township, having previously taken the farm on a mortgage. A short time later he rented the farm and stock for a term of five years, and returned to New York, but a short time later was obliged to return, as his tenant proved a very poor manager.

Mr. Belknap was married, on the 23d of

February, 1851, to Ellen Craft, by whom he had five children, as follows—Mary Alice, born July 21, 1853; Lydia S., born March 18, 1861 (died in 1884); Cora Ellen, born September 9, 1863; Jessie, born February 15, 1866, and Ida Elizabeth, born June 25, 1858. Ida E. married Alexander T. Caraccioli, a salesman in a wholesale music store in New York City; Cora E. married Horton Parsons, born in this State, who has charge of a railroad station in Dakota; and Jessie married Lewis Handlin, railroad station agent at Hancock, Minn. They have all been school teachers. Mr. Belknap's second marriage occurred on the 16th of August, 1874, when he wedded Sarah J. Mead, a daughter of Daniel and Eleanor Mead. Her first husband, Martin A. Mosier, was killed in the rebellion; her father was a soldier in the war of 1812. Her mother is still alive, a resident of New York State. Mr. Belknap's people are all dead except one brother, who is a bookkeeper in Newberg, N. Y. Mr. Belknap is one of the best posted and educated men in the county. In political matters he is a republican.



COL. JACOB M. HOWARD, owner of the Howard House, and other property in the village of Litchfield, including his beautiful residence, Lake Side, on the shores of the lovely Lake Ripley, received his military title for services rendered in the Union army during the late war. He came to Meeker county in 1867, and purchased a farm in the town of Greenleaf, where he remained until 1872, when he removed to Litchfield and erected the first independent elevator on the line of this railroad. He was engaged in the dual occupation of buying and shipping grain and carrying on his farm until 1879, when he sold the latter. In 1880, he erected the Howard House at an outlay

of some \$19,000, which he has always leased. In 1886 he purchased forty-five acres of land on the banks of Lake Ripley and erected his family mansion, one of the most beautiful in this section of the State. In 1887 he retired from the grain trade, and contents himself with looking after his other interests and affairs.

Colonel Howard is a native of Detroit, Mich., born July 16, 1842, and is the son of Hon. Jacob M. and Catherine (Shaw) Howard. The father of our subject was a lawyer by profession, a native of Vermont, who had settled in Detroit in 1836, and for twelve years was one of the United States Senators from Michigan. Mrs. Catherine Howard, the mother of the Colonel, was a native of Massachusetts.

The subject of this personal history received his primary education in the schools of his native city, and at the age of sixteen entered Union College, at Schenectady, N. Y., where he passed some three years. In the spring of 1862 he enlisted as a private in Company F, Twenty-fourth Michigan Infantry, but for gallant and meritorious conduct was rapidly promoted from rank to rank, until he became the assistant Adjutant General at the headquarters of the Twenty-third Army Corps, then under command of Major-General Hartsuff, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In this position he served until the close of the war, after which he went into the wholesale grocery business in Chicago, but two years later, his health failing, he gave up that line of trade and came to Meeker county, as above stated.

The Colonel, who is active and enterprising, is always foremost in any movement that is likely to accrue to the benefit of the community. He was one of the principal organizers of the Woolen Mill Company, and was the first president of the board of directors. He is a stockholder in the Creamery Association, and vice-president of the company. He

was elected mayor of the city of Litchfield in 1885, and served one term, but has but little political aspiration. The Colonel is an influential member of Frank Daggett Post, No. 35, and of the Litchfield Dramatic Association, of which he was one of the originators.

Col. J. M. Howard and Miss Emma Penoyer were united in marriage in October, 1868. The lady is a native of New York State, and is the daughter of Truman Penoyer, of Meeker county.



PAUL M. PAULSON, a resident of section 32, Acton township, was one of the noble "Boys in Blue," who enlisted from Meeker county during the civil war. Mr. Paulson was born in Norway on the 18th of February, 1838, and is a son of Mathias and Mary Paulson, both natives of the same country. In 1857 they removed to Canada, where Paul remained until the spring of 1860, when he settled at St. Paul, Minn. There he remained at work until fall, when he was joined by his parents, and they all came to Acton township, Meeker county, and the father selected a homestead. Paul remained with his parents most of the time, working for different farmers during the summer months, until the 7th of June, 1862, when he enlisted in company E, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went into service. He remained with his company until June, 1863, when he was taken sick and was transferred to the invalid corps. He was finally discharged on the 7th of June, 1865, and returned to the home of his parents.

On the 14th of September, 1865, he was married to Miss Amelia Peterson, the ceremony being performed in St. Paul. His wife was a native of Sweden, born October 6, 1843, and was a daughter of Andrew and Sophia Peterson. After their marriage the couple

lived with Mr. Paulson's parents until the following spring, when Paul moved upon a homestead which he had taken on section 32, Acton township, where he still lives. He now owns a fraction over 134 acres of land, a good share of which is undercultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Paulson have had nine children, as follows—Mary, born July 10, 1866; Mathias, born August 11, 1868, died November 11, 1870; Matilda, born February 12, 1871; Edward, born June 27, 1873; Carrie, born October 9, 1875; Emma, born March 5, 1878; Eda, born August 10, 1880; Leonora, born December 13, 1882; and Arnold, born May 22, 1885. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, of which they are active supporters. Mr. Paulson takes an active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his township and is one of its leading citizens. In political matters he supports the republican party.



AUGUST JORDEN, a farmer who at present resides on section 18, in Greenleaf township, but who expects in a short time to remove to Cosmos, is a native of Sweden, and was born on the 29th of June, 1861. He left his native land in 1880 for America, and upon his arrival first settled in Minneapolis, Minn., where he remained for about two years and a half. At the expiration of that time he settled at Litchfield, in Meeker county, and remained there until 1883, when he purchased the place where he now resides, on section 18, Greenleaf township.

The parents of Mr. Jordan were also natives of Sweden. They remained in the land of their birth until 1882, when they came to the United States, and now live with August. August, the subject of this sketch, is a single man. In religious matters he attends the Lutheran Church, and in politics he is a re-

publican. He is a good manager, industrious and frugal, and is getting a good start in his farming operations.



JACOB C. INMAN, residing on section 29, Manannah township, a highly respected and thrifty agriculturist, is a native of Butler county, Iowa, and was born on the 20th of February, 1858. His parents were Americans, and they were among the first settlers in that county. Their names were John and Catharine (Ulery) Inman.

Jacob spent his early life in his native county, and in June, 1869, came to Meeker county, Minn., with his parents and they settled on section 20, Manannah township. There Jacob remained for eight years and then removed to section 29, and six years later he settled on his present farm in the same section. He has eighty acres of land and has been very successful in his farming operations, also carrying on stock-raising to a limited extent.

On the 11th of November, 1884, Mr. Inman was married to Miss Susan Porter, and their marriage has been blessed with two children, the names of whom are Elsie and Malinda. The children are both living.

Mr. Inman's mother is still living in Meeker county, as is also the mother of his wife.

In political matters Mr. Inman affiliates with the democratic party.



TCARLOSS JEWETT, one of the oldest living settlers of Meeker county, and one of its most historical characters, was born at Wardsboro, Vt., June 9, 1827, and is the son of Thomas and Sylvia (Haradon) Jewett. His father was born on the same farm May 1, 1794, and died in

May, 1873; the mother, whose birth took place at Norton, Mass., November 25, 1799, died March 2, 1877. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Thomas Jewett, was a sergeant in the Continental Army under Washington, and the maternal grandfather followed Gen. Israel Putnam across Charleston Neck after the battle of Bunker Hill, and afterwards helped fortify Dorchester Heights, which caused the evacuation of Boston. The latter, Isaac H. Haradon, lost his father at the massacre of Fort William Henry, and married Miss Annie Stone.

The parents of the subject of this sketch moved to Steuben county, N. Y., in early life, and were married there. They removed back to Vermont after the birth of their second child, but in 1829 emigrated again to Steuben county, N. Y., where they eventually died. Carloss was reared and educated in the district schools of that section, and, being of a studious mind, absorbed much information, spending his evenings in mathematical studies at the family fireside. At the age of eighteen he commenced teaching school, but the next three years attended the academies at Addison and Genoa. He then worked at civil engineering on the New York Central railroad until 1851, when he went to the Isthmus and ran the preliminary survey for the Panama Railroad, spending one year there, and participated in the capture of San Loren Castle. Returning to his home, he was engaged in various railroad and telegraph works, until 1856, when he came to Minnesota. He arrived at Forest City June 20, 1856, with but \$16.19 in his pocket, and June 27 took a claim on section 31, Forest City township. He was appointed sheriff in the summer of 1857, and was afterwards elected to the same office. He took a part in the Indian troubles in 1862, as detailed elsewhere, and with his wife kept house the farthest west of all the settlers. The next year he spent on the "abandoned

lands" of Louisiana, where he raised cotton. He then made his home on his farm until April, 1887, when he moved to Litchfield, and in May, 1888, took a tree-claim on land adjoining the village. He has held the office of register of deeds of this county and various town offices.

The Colonel was married November 10, 1859, to Miss Annie, daughter of Pomeroy and Harriet (Buell) Warren, who was born in Wyoming county, N. Y., May 13, 1833. She has recently parted from her husband through the machinations of her friends, as have six out of eight of her sisters. They had no children, but have raised several orphans. Among these is Emma Jewett, the famous equestrienne, who was born in Chautauqua county, October 3, 1860, and is the daughter of Charles Peterson, a Scandinavian, who was killed in the army. After his death his family came to Minnesota, and in 1870 the Colonel adopted the little girl. She learned to ride on the farm and gave her first exhibition in public at Minneapolis, in 1880. She is now living in Syracuse, N. Y.



DOCTOR J. H. KAUFFMAN, the leading representative of the medical fraternity located at the village of Dassel, is a native of Newburgh, Cumberland county, Pa., born October 29, 1859, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Wilkins) Kauffman, both of whom are also natives of the "Old Keystone State." The father of our subject has been for many years in the drug business at Newburgh, and is still carrying on that business. The Doctor received his education in his native town, and, as he grew older, was taken into the store by his father, where he grew to be a proficient clerk. On attaining his majority his father gave him a co-partnership, and the firm name was changed to Kauffman & Son. In the fall of 1881

our subject matriculated at Jefferson Medical College, at Philadelphia, and remained there throughout the terms of 1881 and 1882. He then entered the New York University, from which he was graduated in March, 1884. Returning to Newburgh, he opened an office in his native town, in connection with the drug business, an interest in which he still retained, but in 1887 sold out there with the intention of removing to Dakota, but, on his arrival in Minneapolis changed his mind and came to Dassel, and commenced practice in January of that year. He has gained the confidence and esteem of the people of the village by his honorable principles and excellent judgment, and the surrounding country have a deep regard for his general success, and his practice has already assumed good proportions and is on the increase. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having been made a Mason in Big Spring Lodge, No. 361, at Newville, Pa.



JOHAN W. BENTON. Among the settlers of 1867 may be classed Mr. Benton, of Kingston township, who makes his home on his fine farm on section 10, where he carries on general farming.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Oswego county, N. Y., born August 15, 1836, and is the son of John W. and Welthy (Widgar) Benton, natives of the Empire State and England, respectively. About the year 1836, the father of our subject removed to Pennsylvania, where John W., Jr., was brought up. His mother remained in York State, and our subject never saw her again, although he heard of her as being alive in the fall of 1887. His father died of consumption about 1840. He was a carpenter by trade. After his death, our subject went to live with his grandparents, with whom he remained until he was eight years old, at

which early age he may be said to have commenced the battle of life for himself. He passed his time for the next nine years in working at farm work and in going to school, after which for several summers he was employed upon the Pennsylvania Canal. Thinking in the great West there was a better show for him, he came in this direction, and locating in Wisconsin, went to work for a man by the name of Winchester, of Winnebago county. He made his home in that part of the country until 1861, part of the time engaged in the lumber business, but upon the 8th of September, of that year, he enlisted as sergeant in Company C, Fourteenth Wisconsin Infantry, and passed with that regiment, through the "baptism of fire," at Shiloh, in April, 1862. He was discharged September 10, 1862, on account of injuries received in the field, but February 13, 1865, he re-enlisted in the Eighth Wisconsin Infantry, from which he was discharged September 5th, following. After being mustered out, Mr. Benton settled in Fond du Lac county, in the Badger State, where he remained until he came to Meeker county.

The subject of our personal narrative was married December 25, 1861, to Miss Julia Pratt, a native of Cortland county, N. Y., and daughter of Joshua and Ann (Rumsey) Pratt. Her parents, who were natives of Connecticut and New York, respectively, moved from New York when Mrs. Benton was but five years of age, to Illinois, from there to Wisconsin, and finally to Minnesota, where the father died in 1883. Her mother died three years previously in Wisconsin. Mrs. Benton, whose birth took place July 3, 1844, was reared and educated in Fond du Lac county, Wis.

By this marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Benton are the parents of six children—Manan U. S.; Ida May, Mrs. Joseph Manson, residing in Washington Territory; Ella J., wife of

George Walter, now living in Mille Lacs county, this State; Roy E., Stella R., and Wealthy Aurelia. Mr. Benton is a republican in his politics.



JAMES W. POLK, an old settler and respected farmer residing on section 18, Forest Prairie township, was born in Bullitt county, Ky., October 14, 1809, and is a son of Edward and Margaret (Brown) Polk. His father and mother were the parents of a large family of children.

The subject of this sketch spent his school days in his native county, receiving a good education, and at one time began the study of medicine. In 1830 he went to Louisville, Ky., and there learned the cooper's trade, which he afterward followed for about forty years. From 1841 until 1846 he conducted his shop in Chicago, and then engaged in the dairy business near the same city. In 1857 he came to Minnesota and located in Jordan, where he remained about two years, and then went to Henderson, where he was engaged in the coopering business, and remained until October, 1866, when he came to Meeker county, and located on his present place in Forest Prairie township. He has a good-sized farm, and devotes his attention chiefly to general farming, although in the past he has given considerable attention to stock raising. Mr. Polk is a democrat in politics, and is one of the leading citizens of the township in which he lives. He is a member of the Church of God, in which he has been a deacon for thirteen years or more.

Mr. Polk was first married on the 3d of January, 1831, to Miss Eliza Chastine. She gave birth to one child, Charles Wesley, and died when the child was three days old. The child died in infancy.

Mr. Polk was again married in 1836, at

Darwin, Ill., to Mary Carr, who died in 1838. Two children blessed this union—Nancy Caroline and James R.

In 1841 our subject was married to Miss Zillah Brinton, with whom he lived for forty-two years. She died on the 3d of July, 1883, and was buried in Forest Prairie township. Her age at the time of her death was seventy-five years.

On the 14th of November, 1884, Mr. Polk was married to Mrs. Mary C. Irwin, of Indiana, his present wife. By her former marriage she had two daughters, both of whom married, and each became a Mrs. Rowley.

His third wife, Zillah, had one son that married Mr. Polk's daughter, Nancy C., and they had six children, all of whom lived but one. Their father being a soldier, their mother as well as themselves were left to Mr. Polk's care; so that in his later years he raised five children.



JON. JONATHAN BURNETT SALISBURY, the present county surveyor, was born in the State of New York, in 1824, and is the son of Dr. Gideon and Phoebe (Burnett) Salisbury. His father died when he was a mere infant, and he was brought up under a mother's care. When he was about two years old she moved to New Jersey, but later settled at Brooklyn, N. Y. His mother died in 1850.

The subject of our sketch, in 1845, having studied thoroughly in the mathematical line, and mastering the profession of surveyor, went to Ohio, where, the following spring, he enlisted in the First Ohio Regiment of Volunteers, and served his one year's term of service in the Mexican war, with the little column under General Zachary Taylor. He was discharged at New Orleans, in the spring of 1847, but returned to Mexico, in the quar-

termaster's department, and was at the City of Mexico when the war closed. He returned to Ohio, where he made his residence until the spring of 1850, when he removed to Iowa, where he lived for six years, engaged in public surveys in various parts of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. While running township lines through what is now Meeker county, in the summer of 1855, he was so much pleased with the country that he staked a claim stake, on sections 18 and 19, in what is now Kingston township. At that time there were no other people, except those of surveying parties, within the limits of the county. Returning to his home in Scott county, Iowa, in October, of that year, he there passed the winter, but in the spring of 1856, he started for his new-found Eden with his family, which consisted of his wife, Margaret L. (Weymer) Salisbury, and one child, Frank L. They were accompanied by his father-in-law, Jacob Weymer, Sr., his wife and two sons—Jacob Jr. and Joseph. Mr. Salisbury had brought all his goods with him, and the trip consumed about one month. To one large, wide tracked wagon were hitched four yoke of oxen, and to another wagon a team of horses was attached. A good share of the time was spent in getting through the "big woods," there being no other road than a trail, and a good deal of chopping was necessary. This trail was cut so that one team could barely get through, and is the same that for years was known as the "Old Territorial Road." The party, however, finally reached the claim, and their first work was to get up a little cabin, the remains of which still mark the spot. This was one of the very first houses erected in the county. Here they settled and here he carried on farming for years. At the time of the Indian outbreak, he left the farm and went to Kingston which he helped to fortify. For two weeks the family occupied a house, and then all the refugees who had gathered

there spent their nights in the grist mill, which was being used as a fort. Mr. Salisbury remained at Kingston for about one month, when his family returned to the old home in Iowa, and he enlisted in the "Mounted Rangers," or First Minnesota Cavalry, and served through the Indian troubles on the borders, one year. He then enlisted in Hatch's Independent Battalion of Minnesota Cavalry for three years or during the war, and served on the frontier. Upon being honorably discharged in the spring of 1866, he again returned to his farm and cultivated it until June, 1875, when he removed to Litchfield, where he has since lived. In 1868 he was elected to represent his district in the Legislature, and made a creditable record. In 1870 he was elected county surveyor, and has either held that office or been deputy most of the time since. Mr. Salisbury is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic and takes an active interest in all its affairs. He and his wife have a family of eight children.



ANDREW EVENSON, an enterprising farmer residing on section 7, Greenleaf township, is a son of Hans and Christine Evenson, and a native of Norway, born October 30, 1847. A full sketch of his parents, who were prominent old settlers of Meeker county, will be found elsewhere in this volume. Andrew came to the United States with his parents in 1857, and they first settled in Scott county, Minn., and remained there and in Wright county for three years, and at the expiration of that time located in Meeker county. The father took a claim on section 8, in what is now Greenleaf township, where Andrew spent his youth, in the same industrious and frugal manner common to the youth of his nationality. He was with the family through all the horrors of

the Indian outbreak, and shared the dangers and privations of those terrible times with the hardiest of men.

In 1876 he was married to Matilda Bjorhus, a daughter of Ole K. and Mary Bjorhus. She was born in Norway, September 23, 1854, and came to the United States in 1871. Five children have blessed their union—Hans O., born March 22, 1877; Martha C., born August 6, 1878; Frederick E., born April 4, 1881; Petra Anette, born November 25, 1883, and Olga M., born January 25, 1886. Mr. Evenson is at present (1888) chairman of the board of township supervisors, and is also a member of the board of directors of the Farmers' and Merchants' Coöperative Elevator Association. He has taken an active interest in all public matters, and is to-day one of the leading citizens of his township. He has a valuable farm where he devotes his attention to general farming and stock-raising, in which he has been very successful, as he has accumulated a comfortable property through his own industry and careful management. In his younger days Mr. Evenson had but slight educational advantages, only having the privilege of attending school twenty-three days. His natural ability and self-educational efforts, however, have not been in vain, and he has thoroughly mastered the English language, and acquired a varied and general fund of useful knowledge.




JAMES P. DAVIS, an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist of Dassel township, is the son of Stephen and Mary (Patterson) Davis, and was born in Wayne county, Ohio, March 14, 1836. His parents were very early settlers in that portion of the "Buckeye" State, but removed to Meigs county in 1841, also then a new county, and made their home there until 1855, when

they came to Minnesota and settled at the village of Caledonia, Houston county, where the father carried on his trade and bought government land. He remained there until 1859, when during the excitement about Pike's Peak, he started for that country, but soon changed his mind and settled in Jo Daviess county, Ill., where he died in 1871. The mother died in Ida county, Iowa, in 1882.

The subject of our sketch remained with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age, and followed various employments until his marriage, April 10, 1859, with Miss Rachel Russell, a native of Indiana. After his marriage he remained in Houston county until the fall of 1860, when, in company with Isaac Russell, Sr., and John Russell, he came to Meeker county, and followed hunting and exploring the county through that winter, and in the following autumn went to Illinois with the intention of enlisting in the United States army, but was rejected, and having disposed of his property in this State, remained in the "Sucker State" until 1866. He then came to Meeker county and took up a claim early in July, on section 10, of Dassel township. He commenced to improve his place, working at the same time on the railroad. The next fall he worked in the Forest City grist mill. He did not neglect his farm, but got it in shape for next year's crop. In 1868 he helped clear the present site of the village, chopping cord-wood, etc., and thus, while developing his farm, provided for the wants of his family until 1872, since which time he has devoted the most of his time to his calling. In 1876 he bought a threshing machine in company with George Brower, with the accompanying steam engine, and in 1879 became the sole owner of the outfit, and carries on that business in connection with his farm. The latter consists of 160 acres of land on section 10, and besides this he is the half owner of 160 acres more on section 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are the parents of ten children—Stephen W., born December 29, 1859; Reuben B., born December 15, 1861; Mary J., born January 17, 1864; Wealthy M., born May 24, 1866; William E., born October 25, 1868; Isaac A., born December 25, 1870, died April 5, 1880; James H., born June 11, 1873; Emma B., born March 6, 1876; Annie Z., born November 2, 1878, and John E., born January 8, 1882. Stephen is married and lives in Dakota; Reuben, also married, makes his home on section 16, this town; Mary J. (Mrs. C. G. Walker) lives at Kingston, and Wealthy (Mrs. W. H. Branham), resides in Litchfield.



 CHARLES SHEPHERD, an ex Union soldier, and one of the most intelligent, prominent and successful farmers in the northern part of the county, was born in Belgium, in the year 1826. His parents were John and Catharine (Shepelle) Shepherd, the father being a native of England and the mother a native of Belgium. When Charles was eight or ten years of age the family removed from Belgium to England, and six years later they came to the United States and located in Massachusetts, where the parents died. Charles remained in Massachusetts until he had arrived at about the age of twenty-one, when he went to Rhode Island, but nine or ten months later he returned to Ballardvale, Mass. Two years later he started West, and for ten years lived in Wisconsin. While there, on the 27th of February, 1865, he enlisted in Company A, Fifty-first Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into the service. He remained with his regiment until the 22d of August, 1865, when he was honorably discharged and returned to Wisconsin. In 1866 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and located on a farm on section 20,

Manannah township. He now has a valuable farm of 220 acres of land and is in comfortable circumstances.

Mr. Shepherd was first married, when a young man, to Julia Higgins, who died. By this marriage he had three children.

On the 14th of August, 1857, he was married to Miss Adaline Hartman, who was born in Germany April 2, 1857. This marriage has been blessed with twelve children.



ALEXANDER L. GORDON, an intelligent and industrious farmer living upon section 10, Collinwood township, is a native of Westchester county, N. Y., born August 1, 1850, and is the son of William and Jane (Ferguson) Gordon, who had come to America from the land of their birth, Scotland, some time previous. The family removed in the boyhood of our subject to Ford du Lac county, Wis., where he remained until eighteen years of age. At that time he commenced life for himself as brakeman on the railroad, which he followed for two years. The following summer he was in the employ of the Government, driving team, on the line between the United States and Manitoba. From that time on, for several years, he was engaged in several occupations, all of them, however, attended by hard labor, sometimes in the pineries, and sometimes in the harvest field, until his marriage.

This happy event took place March 21, 1878, at which time he wedded Miss Martha DeLong, the daughter of Madison and Elizabeth (Lansford) DeLong, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this ALBUM. Mrs. Gordon was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, March 10, 1858, and came to Meeker county with her parents in 1866.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Gordon settled down to farm life on section 10, where

he now lives and where he has some sixty acres of land mostly under cultivation. He has held several of the town offices, chief among which is that of chairman of the board of supervisors, which he occupied for seven years. He is the parent of four children—Elizabeth Jane, born April 2, 1879; William, born December 15, 1880; Elma, born March 11, 1883; and Grace, born January 1, 1886.



ELI BORING, an ex-Union soldier, is a farmer who resides on section 10, Forest Prairie township. He is a native of Clinton county, Ohio, born May 22, 1836, and is a son of Absalom and Isabelle (Williams) Boring. His father and mother were natives of Baltimore county, Md., and Harrison county, Va., respectively. They are both dead. The father died in Indiana, at the age of eighty-one years, April 28, 1888. He was a farmer; had settled in Indiana in 1836, and was one of the pioneers of that State. The mother was born in 1809 and died February 5, 1863. They were the parents of eleven children, eight boys and three girls, the names of whom were as follows—Thomas William, Lafayette, Eli, John A., Elizabeth, Sarah, Jesse E., Henry, Harrison, William and Eliza.

Eli Boring, the subject of this sketch, remained at home during his boyhood and school days. On the 20th of February, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, Eighth Indiana Cavalry, and went into the service. He saw active service and participated in numerous battles, engagements and skirmishes. He was shot in the side at the battle of Campbellton, Ga., and remained in the hospital for several weeks. On the 10th of September, 1864, he was taken prisoner and was held for some three months, after which he was in the hospital at Annapolis, Md., for three weeks,

and, after a short furlough, returned to his regiment. He was finally mustered out July 20, 1865, near Raleigh, N. C., and returned to his home in Indiana. In the fall of 1868 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and located in Forest Prairie township. In 1882 he went to Minneapolis and engaged in the milling business, but spent his winters at Imbering, continuing this for three years, and then returned to Forest Prairie and settled where he now resides.

Mr. Boring was married on the 2d of November, 1886, to Miss Victoria Spaulding, a daughter of Danville Spaulding, an old and respected citizen of Forest Prairie township. They were married at Litchfield by N. C. Martin.

Our subject is a man of the strictest integrity, and is respected by all who know him. In political matters he affiliates with the republican party.

CHARLES M. AHLSTROM. The subject of this sketch is an enterprising and successful farmer and stock-raiser, who resides on section 31, Harvey township. He is a native of Chisago county, Minn., where he was born on the 8th of August, 1859, and he is a son of Andrew M. and Carrie Ahlstrom. In 1864 he removed, with his parents, to Meeker county, and the family settled on section 30, where Charles M. still resides. His parents were both natives of Sweden. They came to the United States in 1854. They are both still living.

The subject of our sketch, Charles, grew to manhood in Meeker county, attending school as opportunity offered, and assisting his father on the farm. On the 27th of May, 1882, he was married to Mary Peterson, of Swede Grove township. Their marriage has been blessed with three children, whose names are Stacie, Carl M. and Clarence A.,

the last named being an infant. Mr. and Mrs. Ahlstrom are exemplary members and active supporters of the Lutheran Church.

In political matters Mr. Ahlstrom is a republican. He now owns 160 acres of land, and has a good start and good prospects for future success.



AALEXANDER D. ROSS, the present postmaster of Litchfield, was born in Upper Canada, July 25, 1845, and is the son of Alexander and Frances Bassett (Conners) Ross, the former a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and the latter of Bangor, County Down, Ireland. His parents came to America, settling in Canada, prior to his birth, and there, in the town of Southampton, where the father was engaged in mercantile trade, our subject received his early education, and there grew to manhood. In 1866, he removed with his parents to Chicago, Ill., where he commenced work with the American Express Company, with whom he remained until 1872, when he came to Minnesota. He located first at St. Cloud, but one year later removed to Litchfield, where, in August, 1873, he took charge of a grain elevator, now the M. and D. which he has superintended ever since. In July, 1887, he took charge of the postoffice of the village, having been appointed to that position a short time previously. He is a thorough democrat politically, and believes that in its principles lies the true germ of civil liberty. He is a member of the present council of Litchfield, and holds a high place in the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

Mr. Ross united in marriage, June 11, 1872, with Miss Elizabeth M. Becker, a native of New York, and daughter of Herman and Margaret Becker. By this union there has been born two children, who bear the names of Carrie and George. Mr. Ross is a member of Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 86, A. F.

and A. M., Rabboni Chapter, No. 39, R. A. M.; Melita Commandery, No. 17, K. T., and with his estimable wife holds communion with the Presbyterian Church.



JOHAN SMITH, a resident of Darwin township, lives on section 15, where he carries on general farming and stock raising. He is a native of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, born in 1839. He was reared among the vine-clad hills of the land of his birth until he was nineteen years of age, when he came to America, and that year, 1858, settled near Aurora, Ill., where he made his home until eight years later, when he removed to Minnesota and located on the farm in Darwin township where he now lives. Like so many of his countrymen who seek to find in America the fortune and freedom they lack in their native land, Mr. Smith was a poor man when he came to this country, but by the perseverance in his work and the natural thrift that seems to be inherent in the average German, he has accumulated a fair share of this world's goods.

Mr. Smith was first married in 1865, to Miss Anna Peiffer, who became the mother of seven children, all of whom are living at the present but one. Their names are—John, Peter, Michael, Anna, Frank and William. Mrs. Anna Smith died in February, 1881, and Mr. Smith was married the second time. The bride on this occasion was Miss Maggie Kanzler, and the wedding occurred in November, 1883. By this last marriage there have been born three children, only two of whom, however, are now living—Emma and Nicholas.

Both Mr. Smith and his wife are members of the Roman Catholic Church and good Christian people. Politically Mr. Smith is what may be termed an independent, not being bound to party.

LUTHER W. LEIGHTON, the junior member of the firm of Osterlund & Leighton, general merchants of the village of Dassel, came to that place in the fall of 1872, and in the spring of 1874 opened the first wagon shop, in which he continued to carry on the business until 1881. Closing out, then, his interests in that mechanical trade, he entered into the hardware business in company with J. M. Johnson, and continued in that line until January 1, 1887, when, after selling his interest to his partner, he entered into the new copartnership, the firm named above.

Mr. Leighton, who is a native of Penobscot county, Me., born March 25, 1850, and the son of Stillman W. and Thressa E. Leighton, received his education in his native State. He left that portion of our great Republic in 1872, and came directly to this part, as above stated.




ANDREW GUNDERSON, a carpenter and farmer who resides on section 15, Danielson township, was born in Norway on the 16th of August, 1836, and is a son of Gunder and Anna Ingebretson. His early life was spent in his native land, where he worked at various occupations and also learned the carpenter's trade. He remained in the land of his birth until 1870, when he came to the United States and came direct to Minneapolis, Minn., where he remained for six years employed at carpenter work. He was so poor at that time that he was obliged to leave his family in the old country, and had to borrow the money with which he paid his fare. During the first three years he was here he earned enough money to send for his family, which required five tickets at \$61 each. His oldest son came some two years before the balance of the family. The father, with the aid of his son, during this time, erected a comfortable house for himself at Minneapolis.

On the 4th of November, 1876, he moved his family to Meeker county, Minn., and settled on a farm in Cosmos township, but after getting his family settled he returned to Minneapolis and worked at his trade for two years, after which he returned and moved to the farm which he purchased on section 15, Danielson township, where he has since lived. Since that time he has continued to work at his trade most of his time while his family carried on the farm. He now has one of the most valuable farms in the township, consisting of 280 acres, upon which he has placed fine building improvements.

Mr. Gunderson was married before he left Norway to Miss Bertha Olson, a daughter of Ole and Anna Peterson, who was born August 20, 1830. Their marriage has been blessed with nine children, as follows—Gilbert, born February 17, 1857; Nettie, born May 4, 1858; William, born January 15, 1860; Anna, born January 10, 1862; August, born September 6, 1863; Beathe, born August 9, 1864, died in 1867; Maria, born March 21, 1868; Beathe, born December 10, 1870; and Albert, born June 2, 1875. All were born in Norway except Albert, who was born in Minneapolis. Nettie married Ole Blaken, a merchant in Grafton, D. T., and they have three children. William married Anna Amundson, and is a farmer in Danielson township. Anna married Knute Johnson, a railroad section boss at Minneapolis. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Mr. Gunderson has taken an active interest in public matters and has held the office of township supervisor for four years. In political matters he affiliates with the democratic party.



 **OLE NELSON**, one of the leading agriculturists of Acton, is a native of Norway, born February 16, 1842, and is the son

of Nels and Mary Nelson, and came to the United States in 1866, first stopping in Red Wing, Minn., where he was engaged in tailoring for one year. The next two years were passed by him in the same employment in Minneapolis, but growing tired of working for other parties after two years, and being anxious to better his financial condition, he removed to Acton, this county, and took a homestead on section 8, where he now lives. He has a fine farm of 200 acres of excellent arable land, all of which he has made by his own energy and perseverance.

Mr. Nelson was married in Norway, to Miss Martha J. Farrisdatter Haabetsbroen. They are the parents of the following children—Thorwald E., born October 4, 1864; Nikoline Marie, born September 28, 1868, died May 19, 1879; Nels, born January 5, 1870; Severin, born April 6, 1872; Odin, born January 6, 1874; Mina, born February 16, 1877; Martin, born March 6, 1880; Jens H., born December 30, 1881; and Marius, born May 15, 1883.

Thorwald is attending the academy at Minneapolis, and Nels, the high school at Litchfield. The other children are at home with their parents. Mr. Nelson has occupied the office of road overseer for two or three terms, and that of school director for several years. He had learned the tailoring trade in his far away native land, but since his coming here he has devoted his attention solely to agricultural pursuits, and has met with abundant success in this calling. He devotes a large share of his labors to stock raising.



JAMES H. THOMS, a resident of Union Grove township, is one of the successful farmers and stock-raisers in the northern part of the county.

The subject of our sketch is the son of James and Lucy (Brown) Thoms, and was

born in the town of Sebec, Me. While he was quite young his parents removed to Kilmornac, Me., where his father engaged in farming and lumbering, but finding it a hard place to make a living in, he moved to Bangor, Me. When James H. was fourteen years of age he learned the carpenter's trade, and remained at home until he was twenty; then, with some acquaintances, he left for the West, stopping in Wisconsin a short time. He came to Minnesota in the fall of 1849. It was then a territory, St. Paul and St. Anthony being small villages at that time, and Minneapolis was not even started. Hauling supplies to the Indians was the main business done outside the villages.

Mr. Thoms engaged for four years in hauling supplies from St. Paul to Fort Ripley, and any other points where the Indians were to be paid their annuities.

Some of the log hotels, or stopping places, had squaw landladies, and others were kept by bachelors. Mr. Thoms left the road and worked at his trade for two years, and finally took up a claim in Eden Prairie township, sixteen miles south of Minneapolis, in Hennepin county.

On August 12, 1855, he married Miss Annette F. Hamblet, of Eden Prairie, a young lady, nineteen years of age. He remained on his farm a few years, then moved to Chanhassen, Carver county, where he stayed but a short time, then moved to Castle Rock, Dakota county, where he stayed a few years, engaged in farming. Then, hearing of the many virtues of Meeker county, he removed to Union Grove township in the fall of 1867, and took up a homestead on section 20. Five years later, he sold that place and bought a farm of 160 acres, on section 25 and 36, where he has since lived.

The farm is one of the most valuable in the township, and the building improvements are a credit to the neighborhood in which they are located.

Mr. and Mrs. Thoms have been blessed with nine children, seven of whom are now living, two girls and five boys—Frank, the eldest, is married, and lives at Newark, D. T., where he is, in company with a partner, running a grain elevator. E. L. and D. C. Thoms, the two next oldest, own a roller flour mill at Ashby, Grant county, Minn. The fourth son, Ben. H., is a graduate from Curtiss' Business College, Minneapolis, and is in Minnesota at the present time. One daughter is a stenographer, and the other is a seamstress; both reside in Minneapolis at present. Earl W., the youngest, remains at home with his parents. In politics, Mr. Thoms is a strong democrat. He came to the county comparatively a poor man, but is now well fixed as to this world's goods, and is rated as one of the most solid and substantial citizens of the county. He is truly a pioneer in the State, and also of the county.



DANIEL F. SMITH. Among the quiet, sober, and industrious German citizens of Meeker county, who have left their beautiful fatherland to seek upon the Western Continent the freedom from conscription and military despotism denied them in their own country, there is no more prominent individual than the gentleman here presented, who is a resident upon section 16, Ellsworth township. He is a native of Germany, and is the son of Henry and Dora Smith. His parents were also born in that classic land, although of French ancestry.

Our subject was reared beneath his native skies, and there received the education common to the youth of that land, and there, having attained the years of manhood, September 12, 1857, he was united in marriage with Miss Fredericka Sinnerman. In 1862 the young couple left their home amid the hills and valleys of Germany, and crossed

the ocean to seek a newer home in free America. They settled near the town of Nunda, McHenry county, Ill., where they lived until the fall of 1875, when they came to Meeker county and settled where they now live, and where Mr. Smith has a fine farm of 180 acres of excellent land, on sections 15 and 16, and on which he has erected an excellent residence, commodious barn and neat granary. While a resident of Nunda he showed his enterprise by subscribing to the institution of the pickling and preserving works of that place, in which he owned several shares of stock; and since coming to this county he has ever been foremost in anything that seemed to be for the benefit of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the parents of eight children—Mary (Mrs. Joseph Barth, who was married September 12, 1878, the anniversary of her parents' wedding), William, Frederick, George, Emma (now Mrs. Ludwig Martens), Clara, Bertie, and Mimmie. William is also married, and follows the trade of moulder in Minneapolis.

Mr. Smith is a republican, politically, and has held the offices of town supervisor, and of school director and justice of the peace, and is a representative man. He and his family belong to the Lutheran Church.



CHARLES H. DART, the enterprising and energetic flour and feed dealer of Litchfield, was born in Forest City, Meeker county, Minn., February 5, 1862, and is the son of Wait H. and Calista (Willis) Dart. His father is one of the oldest settlers of the county, having come here in April, 1856, and the following July took up a claim two miles east of the prospective village of Forest City, upon which he settled, his family consisting of his wife and one child, coming here in November. He raised one crop upon his

farm, and then removed to this village. He was at that place during the tragic scenes of the Indian outbreak, and was an active participant in most of the stirring events of that unhappy epoch. He entered into the mercantile business in Forest City about the time of the arrival of the soldiers, and from 1863 to 1865 had charge of the postoffice. In 1869 he removed to the town of Greenleaf, where he took up a homestead, upon which he remained until 1871, and then came to Litchfield, where he has resided ever since.

Charles remained at home, enjoying the opportunities for schooling afforded him during the winters, and working in the summer months at whatever he could turn his hand to. At the age of eighteen, with a commendable enterprise, he initiated the business which he now follows, and is making it a success. He is ranked high among the rising young business men of the village, and is rapidly and surely extending his operations.

On Christmas day, December 25, 1883, C. H. Dart and Miss Nellie Lockwood, also a native of this county, were united in the bonds of wedlock. They are the parents of one child—Ray.



PETER LUND, a resident of section 17, Greenleaf township, is one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers in the southern portion of the county. He was born in Sweden, on the 15th of August, 1846. His younger days were spent in his native land, and in 1872 he came to the United States, and located in Minneapolis, where he remained for eight years. He was at work in the Buell, Nutten & Co. flouring mill in 1878, when the terrible mill explosion occurred, in which eighteen were killed and others seriously injured. His escape at that time was almost miraculous. He was attending to the machinery, and a few moments before

the disaster he was talking with a fellow-employee, named Peter Hogberg. The latter suggested getting some water, but Mr. Lund told him to attend to the machinery and he would get the water. Accordingly, Mr. Lund took the pail and started, having to go about 200 feet. He had just stepped outside of the door, when he noticed a queer smoke coming from the suction pipe of the Washburn A mill, which stood about 100 feet from the mill in which he worked. He had only gone about 100 feet when the first explosion occurred, and he was thrown to the ground. He scrambled to his feet and tried to run, when the next explosion took place, and he was again thrown down. On his hands and knees he crawled under a box car, and the debris was falling thick around him. A few moments later he ran to where the mill had been, to rescue Hogberg, but he found the mill leveled to the ground, and nothing was ever found of his companion except a few pieces of bones and a knife blade. Out of all the men who worked in the three mills, he, and one other, were the only ones who escaped unhurt.

On March 27, 1881, Mr. Lund came to Meeker county, and settled in Greenleaf township, where he still lives. He has a valuable farm of 210 acres of land, and has splendid farm buildings. Mr. Lund was married January 1, 1875, to Anna Anderson, and they have had seven children, all of whom are living, as follows—Charley A., born March 5, 1876; Alma H., born November 29, 1877; Levi V., born January 23, 1880; Mimmie V., born May 5, 1882; Edward E., born November 12, 1883; Oscar T., born September 27, 1885, and Amanda V., born January 27, 1888. The family are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church.

The parents of Mr. Lund were natives of Sweden. They came to America a number of years ago, and are now residents of Meeker county.

JOHAN H. REMICK, one of the prominent residents of the village of Dassel, and a leading pioneer of the county of McLeod, was born in Painesville, Ohio, August 26, 1830. His father died when he was quite young, and the family was broken up, and for a time he was an inmate of the household of his grandfather. When about thirteen he commenced life by hiring out at whatever he could find to do, and at sixteen began to learn the blacksmith's trade. In the spring of 1863 he determined to seek a new home in the growing West and carve out his own fortune, and came to Minnesota and settled at Hutchinson, McLeod county, in May of that year. Returning to Ohio the next fall, he, in company with S. A. Bunting, purchased a drove of fifteen horses, which were shipped by boat to Milwaukee, from which port they drove to this country, selling what they could on the way. Closing out the balance on his arrival at Hutchinson, he returned to the "Buckeye State" for his family, and returned the same fall and took up a homestead of 160 acres of land on section 29, Hutchinson township, McLeod county, and commenced its improvement. There he remained, quietly engaged in agricultural pursuits, until 1877, and by diligence and industry had increased his farm to 300 acres. He sold this place and personal property, about 1879, for \$4,700. In 1877 he came to Dassel, this county, and commenced running the Dassel House, and continued to cater to the wants of the traveling public until 1882. During the summer of that year he engaged in his old trade of blacksmith, but on the 1st of January, 1883, went into the saloon business in the village, with J. S. Larson. The February following their place was destroyed by fire, with a loss of \$2,500, only part of which was insured. In company with J. S. Larson and William Gallagher, he then commenced the erection of a new hotel, the new Dassel House, the

old one having been burned. On the completion of this hotel, which is of brick and cost some \$4,500, he again opened a saloon, and remained in that business until 1886, when he closed it out, and since that time has given his attention to the cultivation of a farm which he bought in 1881. This contains some forty acres, and adjoins the town site. He is also engaged in the letting of livery rigs.

Among the leading prohibitionists of the county, there is none who is better known than Mr. Remick, who, being thoroughly acquainted with the traffic in liquor, knows its evil, and is quite active in the movement looking to its suppression.



CHRISTIAN BADEN. Among the thrifty, prosperous German citizens of Meeker county, who helped so materially toward its development and progress, until it now stands one of the brightest jewels in the crown of the noble State of Minnesota, is the worthy gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He was born in that part of the German empire known as Trier, June 18, 1839, and there grew to manhood. He is the son of John and Mary Baden, who had a family of five children.

Our subject received the education so common to the youth of the fatherland, and at the age of sixteen commenced an apprenticeship to the trade of blacksmith. He came to the United States in search of a home in this free land, in 1867, and located at Belle Plaine, Scott county, Minn., where he opened a blacksmith shop and followed his trade for one year. In 1868 he came to this county and bought out the interest of Albert Taylor, in the blacksmith shop in Forest City, and has been engaged at this trade ever since. He is also the owner of a fine farm of 250 acres of land in the same township, part

of which he leases to other parties and part cultivates himself. His success since he came here is entirely due to his energy, perseverance and thrift, as he is the sole architect of his own fortunes.

Mr. Baden was married before leaving his native land, April 14, 1865, to Miss Mary Schmidt, who was the daughter of Michael and Susan Schmidt, and one of a family of eight children. On the 4th of May, Mrs. Baden, who was a devout Catholic and an estimable woman, was called away by death, leaving ten children—William, Nicholas, Frank, John, Joseph, Susan, Catherine, Anna, Rosa and Mary. Susan married Eugene Schuler, March 2, 1886, and lives in Dakota.



HARRISON FULLER, one of the old settlers of Collinwood township, has his home on section 4. He is a native of Russell county, Va., and there made his residence until he was ten years of age, then emigrated to Tazwell county, settling in what afterward became a part of Buchanan county. Most of this time was spent on a farm with his parents. In 1862 he was conscripted into the Confederate army, and served some eighteen months. Having been made lieutenant, and detailed for recruiting service, he absented himself without leave, and passing the lines, came to Minnesota. He arrived at Hutchinson, McLeod county, May 14, 1864, and spent the summer in digging ginseng, and the next winter in hunting and trapping. The following year he moved to the place where he now lives, but did little toward its improvement for some three years. The hard frost of August 19, 1866, destroying the little crops he and the other settlers had in, he had considerable difficulty in getting along, so, with others, he went to Wright county and chopped wood all the following

winter. Many of his neighbors were sadly pinched with hunger at that time. One day he walked to Kingston for provisions, but failed to get them, and on returning, found that the family had eaten up everything in the house, and he was forced to go supperless to bed. The next day he was more fortunate, getting some flour at Greenleaf. Most of the settlers lived through the winter on what game they could kill, and in the spring on ramps or leeks, elm bark and other herbage. One family, to his knowledge, lived on game, ramps or leeks, and herbage that winter and spring. In 1873, after an absence of a year in Virginia, he commenced to develop his farm properly, and by diligence has succeeded in accumulating a nice property. He was married March 7, 1861, to Miss Smyth, who was born in Tazewell county, Va., April 26, 1845, and is the daughter of Samuel M. and Mary (Justice) Smyth, natives of Kentucky. By this union there has been ten children, as follows—Ashville, born November 7, 1862, and married, March 27, 1884, to Mrs. Clarinda (Goble) West; Mary F., born September 29, 1865, married Solomon Scalf in January, 1883; Priey J., born May 19, 1868, married, March 7, 1885, to Armstrong Sellard; Elijah S., born March 15, 1871; James A., born March 20, 1873; Roxelena, born May 24, 1875; Ida A., born May 26, 1877; Vashti, born May 2, 1880; Lucretia, born November 5, 1882; and Maggie, born June 30, 1886.



PATRICK MCKARNEY, an ex-Union soldier, and a prominent and successful farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 8, Manannah township, was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, in 1832, and is a son of Patrick and Catherine (Brady) McKarney. His early life was spent in the land of his birth, receiving the schooling in industry and frugality which was given to

the youth of his nationality in that day. In 1849 he came to the United States, landing in New Orleans, where he remained about one month and then went to St. Louis, Mo. Two months later he went to Rock Island, Ill., and spent the winter, and after this was employed on the Mississippi river, at whatever he could find to do, until the 15th of August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company B, Ninetieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went into the service. His regiment was assigned to severe duty, and he remained in active service until the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge on the 6th of June, 1865. After leaving the service he came to Minnesota, and settled in Dakota county, where he remained until the following April, 1866, and then came to Meeker county, and settled on section 8, Manannah township, where he still lives. He has a farm of 150 acres of land, a good share of which is under cultivation, and devotes his attention to general farming and stock raising.

Mr. McKarney was married on the 4th of April, 1869, to Miss Mary O'Keeffe, and they have been blessed with the following children—Charlotte, born July 15, 1870; Catherine, born May 26, 1872; James, born January 8, 1874; Peter, born May 16, 1876; and Menus, born January 16, 1878; all of whom are still living.

Mrs. McKarney's parents were natives of Ireland. They came to America, and both died in Meeker county. Mr. McKarney is a republican in political matters, and in religious affairs both he and his wife are exemplary members and active supporters of the Catholic Church.



FRANK W. MINTON, the present genial proprietor of the Howard House, at Litchfield, is the son of William L. and Louisa C. (Hull) Minton, and was

born in Brocton, Chautauqua county, N. Y., May 7, 1854. His mother was a descendant of one of the pioneer families of the Mohawk Valley.

Frank remained in his native town until he was fifteen years of age, and then came to Rice county, Minn., where he lived with an uncle for a time. He removed from there to Chicago, whither his parents had gone, and entering the office of the Pullman Palace Car Co., remained there employed for seven years. Taking charge of a palace car running between St. Louis and Minneapolis at the end of that time, he continued in that species of employment for two years and a half, but his health having become somewhat impaired he left the road. He entered the law office of Perkins & Whipple, of Northfield, Minn., where he remained some eighteen months. He then went on the road as traveling salesman for the Champion Reaper Co., and was with that corporation for the succeeding two years, after which he came to Litchfield, and assumed the charge of the Howard House, as landlord, May 1, 1884.

Frank W. Minton and Miss Mattie Knight were united in the bonds of marriage, May 20, 1884. The lady is a native of Canada, but at the time of her marriage a resident of Meeker county.



ROBERT B. RALSTON. The subject of this biography, one of Meeker county's most prominent and wealthy farmers and stock-raisers, is a resident of section 14, Harvey township. He was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada East, on the 28th day of August, 1826, and is a son of Andrew and Jane Ralston. His parents were natives of Scotland, but both died in Canada; the father January 10, 1888, and the mother August 21, 1884.

Robert B. left his native province in April,

1849, and went to Waterbury, Vt., where he secured employment on the Vermont Central railroad, and remained until the latter part of the following December, when he returned to Canada and remained until the spring of 1850. At that time he went to St. Johnsbury, Vt., where he drove a team on railroad work, and in August, 1850, went to Cambridge, N. Y., and worked about there until the following summer of 1851. He next spent a few months at Bedford, Ind., and then went to Cincinnati, O., where he remained for four years, being employed at teaming most of the time; after that was at work on the Cincinnati & St. Louis railroad. In 1855 he went still further west, and spent one winter at Oskaloosa, Iowa, and then settled at Minneapolis, Minn. That place, which was then a mere village, remained his home until the fall of 1861, although, during this time, in 1859, he had come west to Meeker county and purchased the southwest quarter of section 11, in what is now Harvey township. In that fall he came here and put in his time in caring for a few calves which he had purchased, and also did a good deal of trapping in various parts of this county. He was living here when the Indian outbreak occurred. He heard the news of the massacre at Acton on Sunday evening, while with his brother John. They at once went to moulding bullets and getting their guns in shape, after which they went to bed, and the following morning continued their harvesting. At noon they went to Forest City, and learned the serious condition of affairs. They then returned to look for a neighbor, Hutchins, and his wife, and met them, and also Joachin Schultz, so all turned and went to Forest City. There they remained all through the Indian trouble. The following spring Mr. Ralston returned to his claim and put in his crops, and while at work could distinctly see the soldiers on patrol between his place and Forest City. This has since been his home.

He has one of the most valuable farms in the county, and carries on general farming and stock-raising extensively.

On the 11th of June, 1867, Mr. Ralston was married to Miss Melissa Piekle, and their union has been blessed with three children, as follows—Marcia, born August 22, 1868; Elsie V., born November 4, 1872; Arthur D., born April 13, 1882, all of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Ralston attend, and Mrs. R. is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Ralston's parents are still living in Canada; her father is a native of Canada, and her mother a native of Vermont.

In political matters Mr. Ralston affiliates with the democratic party. He has taken an active interest in everything calculated to develop the county's resources, and is rated as one of the most solid and substantial citizens of Meeker county.



WILLIAM MURPHY, a member of the firm of Murphy Bros., general merchandise dealers at the village of Kingston, commenced business here in January, 1886, in company with T. Owen, with whom he remained in partnership until the 1st of January, 1888, when Mr. Owen sold out to T. J. Murphy, the brother of our subject, and the present firm was formed.

Mr. Murphy is a native of Rutland county, Vt., born November 3, 1860, and came to Minnesota with his parents in May, 1862. He is a son of Michael and Catherine (Clifford) Murphy, a history of whom is given elsewhere in this ALBUM. He was reared and received the elements of his education in the district schools of Meeker county, and finished with a thorough course at the University, at St. John's, Minn., from which he was graduated in 1882. He taught the Kingston village school the winter term of 1883-4, and

later settled in the village and entered upon his present enterprise, which is the only store therein. He has held the office of justice of the peace for two years, and that of clerk of the township for quite a time. He was appointed postmaster in September, 1886, which position he holds at present. Mr. Murphy and Miss Ellen Whalen were married February 20, 1887. The lady is a native of Meeker county and daughter of John Whalen, one of the oldest pioneers whose sketch is to be found in the pages of this volume.



JAMES McCUE, blacksmith, at Greenleaf village, Meeker county, is a native of Ireland, born on the 10th of May, 1837. When he was but one year old, his parents, Timothy and Margaret McCue, emigrated to the United States and settled near Buffalo, N. Y. Mrs. McCue died soon afterward, and when James was ten years of age he was placed in a store at Hamilton, Ontario, where he remained until he reached his seventeenth year, at which time he was apprenticed to a blacksmith near Hamilton. Three years later, in 1857, he came to Minnesota, and located in Northfield, Rice county. In the fall of 1858 he went to California, where he remained about four years, engaged at mining and blacksmithing. Then, leaving there, he spent two or three years in Nevada and Montana, during the great mining excitement, and at the expiration of that time he returned to the States. After a trip to Southern Kansas, he returned to Minnesota and settled in Renville county. In 1877 he left his family at Hutchinson and went to the Black Hills, D. T. After making several trips home, he finally, in 1879, returned to Renville county, and continued to live there until 1884, when he came to the village of Greenleaf, and established his present business. Being thoroughly skilled at his trade, he com-

mands a good patronage. In 1886 he made a trip to Huntsville, Ala., but returned without giving the matter of locating there much thought.

Mr. McCue was married at the village of Greenleaf in 1873, to Miss Mary Kaler, a daughter of Christian and Almira Kaler, of Greenleaf township. Six children have been the fruit of this union, as follows—John E., born March 20, 1875; Stella A., born April 9, 1877; Alford O., born August 21, 1879; Ellie May, born March 29, 1881; Margaret Myra, born March 13, 1883; Annie Ethel, born March 19, 1885.



MICHAEL F. LENHARDT, a respected and enterprising farmer, who resides on section 1, Litchfield, was born in Saxon-Meiningen, Germany, on the 30th of October, 1827, and is a son of Michael and Margaret Lenhardt. He remained with his parents in his native land until 1853, when he came to America, landing in New Orleans shortly after the great yellow-fever scourge had abated. He located in St. Louis and remained there for two years, then went to Kansas, but, not being favorably impressed with the outlook there, he returned to St. Louis, and, the following year (1856), he came to Meeker county, Minn., and took a claim on section 11, Litchfield township, where the village of Litchfield now stands. The following year he gave up that place and took a claim on section 1, in the same township, where he still lives. In 1859 he was married to Rebecca Louhan, a native of Kentucky, and two children were born to them, one of whom is deceased, and the other—Minne—is the wife of Frank Maetzold, of Litchfield. In 1863 Mrs. Lenhardt, the wife, and youngest child, died. In 1872 Mr. Lenhardt made a visit to his native land, and while there was united in mar-

riage with Margaret Peipus, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Peipus. Four children were the result of this union—Rieke (deceased), Anna, August, and Bertha.

At the time of the Indian outbreak, in 1862, Mr. Lenhardt was operating his farm in a quiet way. He did not become much alarmed at first, but soon felt the gravity of the situation, and, on Wednesday following the massacre at Acton, he started with his family for Clearwater. The road *en route* was literally alive with people and stock, and the woods were full of panic-stricken beings. After remaining in Clearwater a short time, he concluded the matter was more a scare than anything else, and went back to his farm. He was not long in discovering, however, that the people were not terrorized without cause, and, therefore, took his family to Forest City for safety, arriving there just before the Indians made the attack on the fort. After spending about one month at Forest City, Mr. Lenhardt went back to his farm for the winter, and the following year put in his crops and has since made that his home. He devotes his entire attention to farming and stock raising, and has a most pleasantly situated and comfortable home. He is one of the most highly respected old settlers and substantial citizens of the county.



HANS M. AKESSON, a resident of Swede Grove township, is a son of Mons and Siselja Akesson. He was born in Sweden on the 8th of March, 1856, and remained in his native land until 1881, when he came to the United States, and, after spending two months in Wisconsin, pushed on westward and located in Swede Grove township, Meeker county, Minn. On the 24th of November, 1882 he was married to Miss Anna Olena Erickson the only daughter of Gertram and Martha Erickson. The father of Anna died in Amer-

ica, and the mother, Martha, came to the United States in 1857, and in 1860 was married to Christian Erickson, who died on the 26th of March, 1882. Mrs. Erickson had two children — Halvor Michelson, who was born February 11, 1846, who lives on section 32, Swede Grove township, and Anna Olena, now Mrs. Hans Akesson, who was born March 18, 1864. Hans M. Akesson and his family live with his wife's mother and cultivate the farm. Mrs. Erickson is an old settler in the township and was here all through the "pioneer days." When the Indian trouble began she fled for her life with the others who were living here at that time. She fled in the night for Forest City for protection, and at one time came very near losing her life, when Indian bullets were flying as thick as hail. As a full history of those Indian times is given in another chapter of this work it is unnecessary to repeat it here.

Mr. and Mrs. Akesson have been blessed with three children, whose names and ages are as follows — Martin Clarence, born May 6, 1883; Gottfried Casper, born November 29, 1884; and Helmer Eugene, who was born on the 5th of November, 1886.



ANOTHER PIONEER of Meeker county is F. V. DeCOSTER, ex-judge of probate, and one of Litchfield's most prominent merchants. Mr. DeCoster was born in Buckfield, Me., on the 19th of November, 1838. His parents were Varanes and Louisa (Thompson) DeCoster, both natives of the same State. F. V. remained at home until seventeen, working on a farm and attending school and at fifteen began teaching school. When seventeen he went to the city of Boston and worked in a store for about a year, when he started west and brought up at Dunkirk, N. Y. A short time later he pushed on West to St. Anthony, Minn., and remained

there until the spring of 1858, when he located in the village of Kingston, Meeker county, and was there engaged in carpentering, teaching and in carrying on the fur trade, remaining at this most of the time until the war broke out. He thus became personally acquainted with the famous Little Crow, the head of the massacre movement in 1862, and also with the chief Shakopee, buying fur and venison at various times of both these notables. In 1859-60 Mr. DeCoster left Kingston for a trip through the south, going to St. Louis, then to Cmeinnati, and then Natchez, Miss., where he had charge of the boats on the levee for a time. From there he went to New Orleans; then Mobile; and then to Montgomery, Ala., on the same boat that carried a lot of Southern planters who were on their way to attend a secession convention. After spending a short time at Savannah, Ga., Mr. DeCoster, returned to the North, and finally drifted to his old home in Buckfield, Maine, where he remained some two weeks, and then returned to Kingston, Minn. Shortly after the war broke out, on the 25th of September, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went to Fort Abercrombie. In the spring of 1862, his company was assigned to the Army of the West in Tennessee. On the 1st of January, 1863, he was made orderly sergeant of Company A, First Battalion Cavalry, Mississippi Marine Brigade, and on the 8th of July, in the same year, he was placed in command of Company D, as Captain and served until August 29, 1864. The business of the brigade was to keep the Mississippi river clear of Rebel forces who fired on transports, one of the most dangerous assignments in the service. The full brigade was carried on boats, and consisted of eight marine fleet boats, with five rams, one regiment of infantry, battalion of cavalry and battery besides the rams. During this time Mr. DeCoster had two horses shot from un-

der him, and in one engagement when they were surprised by 800 of the enemy in the canebrake the company had seventy horses shot out of 170. The night previous to this action they learned that the boat "Bostona" had been burned by the Rebels at Austin, Miss. The brigade was then 100 miles off but they started in haste and arrived at that point at four o'clock the following morning. Mr. DeCoster was ordered to take ten men and go into the country in search of the Rebels. When four miles out they came in sight of five of the Rebels and captured them. When about to return to the command the major of the brigade came up and they were ordered to push on, which they did, and when they had proceeded but a short distance they were met by the 800 rebels, and all hands of the Union men came near losing their lives. It is worthy of mention that their flag-ship, The Autocrat, was the second one at Vicksburg. Mr. DeCoster continued in service on the river, participating in numerous engagements, until the 27th of August, 1864, when he was mustered out, being made supernumerary by the consolidation of the brigade. After the close of the war he remained at St. Louis for some four months and then returned to Minnesota and engaged in the general mercantile trade at Kingston. This he conducted until 1868 when he sold out and became interested in a flouring mill and remained in that until the spring of 1871, being justice of the peace most of the time and otherwise taking a prominent and active interest in public affairs. In the spring of 1871 he removed to Litchfield and again embarked in the general merchandise trade. This he continued until about 1879, when he changed his line and handled musical instruments, sewing machines and notions. In 1887 he went into the jewelry business and now handles a line which includes jewelry, musical instruments, etc. In 1872 he was elected judge of pro-

bate and served one term, and since that time has been court commissioner most of the time. He has also taken an active interest in educational matters and has held various offices on the school board. He has also been a member of the council and taken an active interest in all public matters at Litchfield. Mr. DeCoster is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined the Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89, when it was located at Forest City, and has always maintained his membership. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was one of the charter members of the first post organized at Litchfield, and joined the present post soon after it was organized, and is identified with the "Survivors of the Mississippi River Ram Fleet and Marine Brigade." He is a member of the dramatic association, and was its manager for some two years.

Mr. DeCoster was married in the spring of 1871 to Miss Mary E. Campbell, of North Manchester, Conn. They have one child—Esther L., who was born on the 4th of January, 1875. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. DeCoster has been superintendent of the Sunday-school of that church constantly since 1871.



JOHAN MCINTEE, at present a resident of section 8, Manannah township, and a leading citizen of that neighborhood, was born in Ontario, Canada, on the 15th of August, 1852, and is a son of Nicholas and Margaret (Clark) McIntee. His early life was spent in his native Dominion, but in 1878 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and settled in Manannah township, where he still lives. He has a farm of 160 acres, with a good share of it under cultivation, and devotes his attention to general farming and stock raising. He has been very successful and through his frugality and industry is now in very comfortable circumstances.

Mr. McIntee was married on the 1st of June, 1880, to Mary A. Stewart, and their marriage has been blessed with three children, named—William J., Mary, and Margaret, all of whom are living and at home. The family are members of the Catholic Church. In political matters Mr. McIntee's principles are independent of party, and he votes for the man rather than for creed.

Mr. McIntee's parents were born in Ireland, and both of them died in Canada. The father of Mrs. McIntee was a native of Scotland, and died in Canada; her mother was a native of Ireland, and now lives in Meeker county.



HENRY J. BOYNTON, an energetic and prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Forest City township, lives upon section 16, where he settled in 1865. He is engaged, to a large extent, in the raising of cattle, and for a man of his years is extremely active and business like, for he was born May 18, 1820. Lincolnville, Penobscot county, Maine, was the home of his parents, Jeremiah and Sarah (Higgins) Boynton, at the time of his birth. His father was born in Kennebec county, that State, and his mother at Lincolnville. The former died in 1876, the latter in 1868.

The subject of this narrative was reared in his native State, and until he was eleven years of age, attended school at Bradley, Penobscot county. At the age of thirteen he commenced life, lumbering upon the rivers of Maine, and followed that business until he had reached the age of forty-five years. With a view to change his mode of life he then removed westward and settled in Meeker county, where he has since made his home. He has been connected with several of the town offices since his coming here, and merits and receives the warmest esteem and respect of all who know him.

Upon the 9th of August, 1841, Mr. Boynton and Miss Ruth Eaton, pledged their mutual vows at the marriage altar. The lady is a native of Nova Scotia, and daughter of Guy and Lydia (Rockwell) Eaton, natives of Nova Scotia, who had moved to the above province some time before the birth of their daughter. By this union Mr. and Mrs. Boynton have a family of nine children, as follows: Mary Ann, wife of Andrew Gilchrist; Albert, in Minneapolis; Lewyn, who married Miss Lizzie Abbott, and is living in Eden Valley; Louisa, Mrs. Wm. Peters; Charles; Eldora, the wife of Rollin Thorp, of Wright county; Lizzie, who married Rev. L. L. Tower, and is living at Princeton, this State; Alonzo, residing at home; and Effie, Mrs. D. Lounsberry, of Mannah township.

Mr. Boynton is a life-long democrat, casting his first vote for the candidate of that party in 1841. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he has occupied the position of steward and class leader in that denomination for some time, and was quite prominently identified with the building up of the congregation at Forest City.



ONE OF THE enterprising farmers of Kingston township is H. V. RUMSEY, who lives on section 8, township 120, range 29 west, where he also carries on stock raising. He is a native of Cortland county, N. Y., born April 27, 1848, and is the son of L. H. and Mary A. (Vincent) Rumsey, who came to Minnesota, in 1868, from Wisconsin, where they had been living for years, and settled in Kingston, where they still live. Our subject was one of two children born to his parents, his sister being the wife of Nelson Turner, of whom a sketch is given elsewhere in this ALBUM.

The subject of this memoir spent his school days in Fond du Lac county, Wis., and, until attaining his majority, assisted his father in the labor of carrying on the farm. He came with the family to this county, and, after coming of age, engaged in agricultural pursuits upon his own account, taking up a homestead, where he now lives, and to which he has added until he now owns 180 acres of fine land. He was married, New Year's day, 1873, to Miss Anna M. Kline, a native of Michigan, born in Flint, Genesee county, October 18, 1849, and daughter of James A. and Ann (Shimin) Kline. She was reared and educated in Winnebago county, Ill., whither her parents had moved at an early day, and came to this county with the family. A biography of her father appears in the pages of this volume.

By their union Mr. and Mrs. Runsey are the parents of one child—Elton K., born October 26, 1878. Mr. Runsey is a democrat in his political views, and usually supports the candidates and measures of that organization. He is the present treasurer of school district No. 74, and has held that office since it was organized.



JOHN HURLEY, one of the pioneers of Meeker county, and one of its representative men, is a resident of Ellsworth township, and is engaged in carrying on his farm on section 8. He came here in 1858, and took up his claim where he now lives, and there remained until the Indian troubles of 1862. During those fearful, tragic days he left here and went to Fremont and Clearwater, and from thence back to Kingston, and from there, finally, to what is now Darwin, where he remained some two years. He then returned to his farm, where he has ever since made his home. His original

claim consisted of some 160 acres, but he now has nearly double that number of acres, and his farm is brought to a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Hurley is a native of that "bright gem of the sea," Ireland, born in County Cork in the year 1825, and is the son of Dennis and Mary (Driscoll) Hurley, both of whom were, also, natives of the Emerald Isle. Dennis Hurley died in his native land in 1847, and his widow came to the United States in 1864 or 1865, and after a stay in New York and Pittsburg, came to Minneapolis, and from thence to this county, where she died September 29, 1872. They were the parents of seven children, one of whom died in infancy.

Mr. Hurley, of whom we write, was united in marriage in February, 1854, with Miss Ellen White, who was born in Ireland in May, 1819, and who came to America with her parents in 1844, and settled in Pittsburg, Pa. She died in March, 1887, having been the mother of four children—Mary, Ellen, Ann and John. Mary died in Pennsylvania in 1857, at the age of two years; John died October 15, 1857, of typhoid fever, the others are at home with their father.

In his political views Mr. Hurley is entirely independent of party lines, and non-partisan in the discharge of his elective franchise. He has held the office of director of his school district, and takes great interest in all educational work. As a progressive, enterprising man he is the peer of any in the town.



ERICK W. NELSON, a young and enterprising farmer of Dassel township, is also engaged, in company with N. J. Lind, in carrying on the saloon business in the village of that name. He is a native of Sweden, born among its beautiful scenes

October 14, 1856, and is the son of Peter and Mary Nelson. He came to America, when but twelve years of age, in company with his parents, who took up railroad land and settled on section 35, Dassel township, in 1868, where the father of our subject made his home until overtaken by death in 1883.

Erick remained with his parents upon the family homestead until their death, and then came to the village, of Dassel, and was employed as a clerk in a store until May, 1886, when he embarked in the saloon business, as above mentioned. He is carrying on a farm of sixty acres, a portion of the parental estate, and has made quite a success in life for a young man. Self-reliant, without obstrusiveness, and straight forward in his dealings, he is bound to succeed in life, and his business tact will insure his financial elevation.



JOHN PETERSON, better known as B. W. Peterson, one of the leading farmers of Collinwood township, and one of its most enterprising citizens, is a native of Sweden, born October 18, 1825, and is the son of Peter Johnson and his wife, Jennie (Matson) Johnson. He was reared and educated in his native land, and was an inmate of his father's house until he had attained the age of thirty-eight. December 25, 1850, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Olson, and for three years thereafter made his home with the old folks. Purchasing a timber farm, he then took up his residence upon it, and made it his home until 1867, clearing off the timber and cultivating its soil, when he sold out and emigrated to the new world in search of a home in the land of the free. Coming to Minnesota on landing, he at first settled in Carver county, but two years after removed to this county and purchased eighty acres of land on section 36, Collinwood town-

ship, where he now lives. All of the improvements upon his place are the result of his own energy and diligence, and are a credit to his industry.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are the parents of six children, of whom the following is the record—Jennie, born March 17, 1852, married Paul Anderson, and lives in Wright county; Olof, born January 24, 1860, married Miss Betsy Larsen, and resides in this township; Martha, born August 24, 1854, and is the wife of B. N. Peterson, of Cokato, this State; John, born September 6, 1862; Peter, who was born in 1857 and died in 1859; and Peter, born in 1865 and died in 1877. Although a poor man when he came here, Mr. Peterson has, by the exercise of excellent judgment and hard work, placed himself in a condition of comparative comfort.



ANDREW LARSON, who resides on section 16, Litchfield township, is one of the most extensive farmers and stock-raisers in Meeker county. He was born in Sweden on the 31st of October, 1843, but left his native land with his parents, John and Celia Larson, and came to America in 1857. The family came direct to Meeker county, Minn., and settled on section 9, Litchfield township. Andrew remained with his parents about one year thereafter, and then voluntarily threw himself on his own resources, and began the struggle of life alone, working as a farm hand at small monthly wages. When the Indian outbreak came he was yet a mere boy, but entered into the contest for the protection of life and property with the spirit of a veteran. On that fatal Sunday, August 17, 1862, he was at a gathering of citizens of the neighborhood at the old Ripley post-office, where they were discussing the matter of securing substitutes to go into the army, when the news came of the killing of five

persons at Acton. The next day he went over to the scene with the party raised for the rescue and protection of the people in that neighborhood. Andrew was detailed, along with Andrew Ingerman to go to lakes Lillian and Elizabeth and extend the alarm to the settlers thereabouts. At first the settlers were loth to believe the story, and were with difficulty induced to flee for their lives. Andrew remained with the garrison at Forest City until the 15th of September, when he was sworn into the State service with the rest of the original company. After returning from the campaign with this company he enlisted in Company C, Mounted Rangers of the United States service, for one year, and did duty on the frontier during the time, protecting settlers, and witnessed many evidences of Indian atrocity and brutality that were blood-curdling and heart-rending in the extreme, and also participated in several engagements with the red skins. In the fall of 1863 he was honorably discharged from this service, and in August, 1864, enlisted in Company B, Eleventh Minnesota Infantry, and remained in the service until the close of the war. The regiment was first assigned to the Second Army Corps, but was subsequently ordered to Nashville to assist General Thomas in resisting Hood's great Tennessee raid. The regiment was engaged in the battle of Nashville, and afterward did patrol duty on the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad. On the 26th of June, 1865, Mr. Larson was mustered out of service, and on returning home took an eighty-acre homestead and at once began improving it.

In 1868 Andrew Larson was married to Anna Larson, daughter of Peter Larson, whose farm adjoined the homestead belonging to Andrew's father. Anna Larson was born on the 6th of January, 1849. Their marriage has been blessed with four children, all of whom are living at home. Their names are Alice E., Edward A., Charlotte

M., and Harry J. Mr. Larson has taken a commendable interest in public matters, and has held various offices of a local character; he has held the office of constable for about sixteen years, doing duty in some of the most trying times in the history of the county. His industry and careful management have enabled him to acquire a good share of this world's goods, and he is now well off. He owns a farm of over a thousand acres, most of which is under cultivation.



FON. MICHAEL J. FLYNN. Among the honored citizens of the village of Litchfield there are very few that hold the place in the esteem and respect of the community to the degree that Mr. Flynn does. Closely connected with the business and social life of the place, an honored and representative pioneer citizen of Meeker county, and the talented and worthy recipient of legislative laurels bestowed by this people, he occupies a prominent place in its annals.

Mr. Flynn is a native of Kane county, Ill., born August 15, 1840, and is the son of John and Ann (Lynch) Flynn, natives of Ireland. His parents came to America about 1836, and were married at Chicago, Ill. From there they moved to Kane county, Ill., where they resided many years. In 1856, he came to Meeker county with his parents who settled in Forest City township. In 1859 the father died and Michael, although but nineteen years of age, took upon himself the management of the farm and the support of the family, but being endowed with a strong will and excellent judgment, felt competent to grapple with the responsibilities of the situation. During the dreadful days of the Indian massacre in 1862, he found his hands full in endeavoring to protect his charge, and the stock, from the red tiends who were wasting the border with

tomahawk, rifle and torch. His home duties prevented his joining "Whitcomb's Irregulars," but when the occasion offered he was not backward in volunteering to assist in helping those more exposed than themselves, and incurred many perils in the discharge of his duty. On one occasion, when out with a party who left the stockade at Forest City on one of their many errands of mercy, the little band was assaulted by a host of the ruthless, red-handed, murdering Sioux, and forced to flee for their lives. This was the famous expedition that was driven back by over 300 Indians to the fortifications they had erected, with the loss of one horse and wagon that had stuck fast in the mud of a slough. In November, 1863, Mr. Flynn's domestic arrangements permitting his absence, he enlisted in Company D, Second Minnesota Cavalry, and joined General Sully's column on the Missouri river, and participated with the regiment in all the engagements upon the frontier, the regiment having been assigned for that duty on account of being cavalry. He remained in the service until November or December, 1865, when, being honorably discharged, he returned to the farm, where he made his home, engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1870, when he came to Litchfield and took charge of the lumber yard belonging to Chauncey Butler. Three years he remained in that position, but in 1873 purchased the lumber yard of J. H. Morris, which he carried on alone until 1874, when his brother Daniel joined him and the present firm was formed. They added the sale of agricultural implements to their business, a branch which they still pursue, having disposed of their lumber interests in 1878, but still carry everything in the way of farm machinery. In 1880 the brothers purchased the Butler elevator and do about the heaviest grain trade in Litchfield, handling about 175,000 bushels of wheat per annum. In addition to his mercantile

engagements, Mr. Flynn has a farm of 480 acres of fine land in Harvey township, where he carries on, quite extensively, the raising of stock.

Our subject has always held a prominent place in the official history of Meeker county, and taken a deep interest in the welfare of its people. In 1867 he served upon the board of county commissioners, and, appreciating his worth in 1884, he was elected to the State Legislature and served in the House during the session of the Twenty-fourth Assembly. When the city of Litchfield came under its new charter in 1887, he was chosen its first mayor. He has large interests in the woolen mill, and is the president of the board of directors of the same; is a member of the Frank Daggett Post, G. A. R.; of Father Mathew's Total Abstinence Society, and a leading and influential member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Flynn and Miss Frances Campbell were united in marriage February 8, 1869. The lady is a native of Kane county, Ill., and sister of Hon. William M. Campbell, the United States Marshal of this district. By this union there have been born six children—John, who is a student at the college at Notre Dame, Ind.; Louise, Elizabeth, Mary, Frances and Edward William.



ALFRED J. JOHNSON, a successful farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 16, Danielson township, is one of the most prominent citizens of the township in which he lives. He is a son of Isaac and Hannah Ogren, and was born in Sweden, on the 23d of September, 1853. He came to the United States with his parents, in 1870, and the family made their way directly to Meeker county, Minn., where they settled upon a forty-acre homestead on section 20, in Danielson township. Alfred made his home

with his parents, working, in the mean time, for different parties, until 1880, when he purchased a portion of his present farm. Times were very hard during the early days of their settlement here, and money was scarce, an incident of which is the fact that at one time, when they wanted to mail a letter, it took all the money that three of them had to buy a three-cent stamp. Alfred did a good deal of trapping in those days, and in the fall, after frost set in, he walked to Forest City bare-footed, and carried 500 rat skins. With the proceeds he purchased a pair of shoes, some sugar, coffee, etc., and felt quite rich when he arrived home with seventy-five cents in his pocket. The loss of crops in 1877, from the depredations of the grasshoppers, made times still harder, as they only saved forty-five bushels, after planting 100. A laughable incident is told of the days when Alfred devoted a good deal of his time to trapping. He had a partner, and one day they set a trap in the side of a hill for the purpose of catching whatever might come along. The next day the partner went to discover and bring in whatever might have found its way to the hole. He crawled into the aperture, and was just about to pull the trap out when a skunk, which had got fast, opened hostilities with most excellent aim at his face. The partner beat a hasty retreat, while the fun of the joke was all on Alfred's part.

Alfred J. Johnson was married on the 7th of December, 1881, to Esther Holmgren, a daughter of John and Mary Holmgren, who was born October 16, 1862. They have been blessed with the following children—Gustaf Edward, born September 24, 1883; Edith Evolina, born June 25, 1885; and Walter William, born September 30, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Methodist Church. Mr. Johnson now has a splendid farm of 260 acres, a good share of which is under cultivation, and he devotes his time to general farming and stock-raising. In addi-

tion to his farming operations, he has for the last fourteen years run a horse-power thresher, and during the last two years has run a steam thresher. In political matters he is a republican, and he has taken an active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his township. He has held various offices of a local nature, among which are the following: justice of the peace, six years; supervisor, two years, and school clerk, one year.

Mrs. Johnson's parents are living in Acton. Alfred's parents reside on section 20, Danielson township. He has two half-brothers living in Meeker county—Andrew, who keeps a hotel at Litchfield, and John, a resident of Danielson.



CHARLES McALOON, a respected and well-to-do farmer, residing on section 2, Harvey township, is a native of Ireland, and was born in 1835. His father died in his native land, and in 1853 he started for America with his mother, arriving at Boston on the 19th of May. He went direct to Lowell, Mass., where he was employed in the factories for fourteen years. At the end of that time he started for Meeker county, Minn., and upon his arrival, after stopping for one night at Forest City, he settled in Manannah township, where he lived for about six months. He then took a homestead in what is now Forest Prairie township, and lived there until May, 1874, when he again settled in Manannah township. On the 4th of October, 1885, he settled on section 2, in Harvey township, where he still lives. He has a valuable farm, a large, comfortable residence and other substantial farm improvements. Mr. McAloon's mother died while he was living at Lowell, Mass.

On the 1st of October, 1871, our subject was married to Miss Mary McQuade, and their union has been blessed with nine chil-

dren, as follows—John F., born July 2, 1872, died July 26, 1873, and buried in Forest City cemetery; Charles H., born December 7, 1873; an infant, born July 6, 1874, died at birth; Matthew E., born November 6, 1876; Rosella, born November 11, 1878; Mary C., born October 30, 1880; Alice A., born September 18, 1882; Hannah E., born May 15, 1884; Catharine A., born October 12, 1886, died February 10, 1887, and buried in Manannah cemetery. Mrs. McAloon's parents were both natives of Ireland. Her mother died in her native land, and the father is now living in Swift county, Minn.

Mr. McAloon and wife are exemplary and active members of the Catholic Church. In political affairs Mr. McAloon does not follow the arbitrary dictation of any party, but acts in an independent manner. He owes all his prosperity to his own industry and frugality, as he started in the world without a dollar, but the same habits of thrift, economy and energy which characterize the natives of the Emerald Isle, have been successful in his case, and he is now well off in this world's goods. He owns 400 acres of land, a good share of which is under cultivation, and he has the place well stocked.



BERSVEND S. THORP is one of the many thrifty and substantial farmers of Acton township. He was born in Norway on the 18th of January, 1841, and is the son of Severt and Brynnil Thorp. He came to the United States in 1866, and settled first in Goodhue county, Minn., where he remained for a short time at work for different parties; then went to Minneapolis and drifted around from one business to another, and from place to place, until 1868, when he came to Meeker county and took a homestead of eighty acres on section 8, in Acton township, where he has since lived. He has added to his home-

stead, and now has a farm of 270 acres, well stocked and improved, and has fine farm buildings. Mr. Thorp was a poor man when he came to America, but the industry and economy, so characteristic of his countrymen, have been successful in his case, and he is now well off.

Mr. Thorp was married in July, 1869, at Acton, to Miss Bereth Malvig. They have had the following children—Ole, born August 23, 1870, died same day; Regine, born December 9, 1871, died March 11, 1877; Severt, born August 17, 1873, died in October, 1877; Severt, born August 5, 1874; Pauline, born December 18, 1876, died same day; Bertha, born April 12, 1879, died in September, 1879; and Olena, born January 31, 1884. In political matters, Mr. Thorp is a republican, and in religious affairs the family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Thorp devotes his attention to diversified farming and stock-raising. He has met with some reverses, but nothing of a very serious character, except during the grasshopper raids, when he lost about half his crops.



FRANK NELSON, one of the representative young farmers of Cosmos township, has his home upon section 16, where he now owns some 200 acres of fine land. This place, or, rather, 160 acres of it, he purchased in 1886, it being school land. To it he has since added forty acres more, and has some 115 acres of it under cultivation. His dwelling, etc., which he erected in 1887, are of an excellent character, and the whole place manifests the thrift and care of its owner.

Mr. Nelson, who is the son of Swan and Louisa Nelson, was born in Goodhue county March 2, 1864, and came to Meeker county with his parents on the 26th of September, 1876. The family located in the town of

Litchfield, where our subject remained until coming here. June 10, 1887, he and Miss Mary Peterson were united in marriage, and took up the duties of life upon their farm.

Our subject has always manifested considerable interest in all town and educational matters, and since coming here has been intrusted with the office of clerk of school district No. 81.



JOHN CARNEY, the able representative of the hardware trade at Eden Valley, came to that village in the fall of 1886, and the next spring established his present business. In addition to the usual lines handled, he gives a share of his attention to farm machinery and pumps.

Mr. Carney is a native of Rutland county, Vt., born February 17, 1856, and a son of Jeremiah and Catherine (McConnell) Carney, natives of Ireland and Vermont, respectively. When our subject was only about four years of age his parents removed to Rice county, Minn., where they settled on a farm. In the spring of 1878 they moved to Chippewa county and took a homestead and timber claim, where they still live. In Rice county John Carney grew up, receiving his education in the district schools of the vicinity. He made his home with his parents, and learned the blacksmith's trade. In 1886 he came to Eden Valley and opened a smithy, but the next spring commenced dealing in hardware, which business he still follows.



MILTON GORTON. Foremost among the old pioneers of Meeker county, who yet remain here, is the gentleman who is the subject of this memoir. Coming here in 1857, the second year of the county's existence, he has, more or less, been identified

with its history, ever since. He is a resident of the town of Forest City, on his farm on section 29 and 30, which he preempted on his arrival in this locality.

Mr. Gorton was born in the county of Steuben, N. Y., May 22, 1822, and is the son of Silas and Betsey (Spring) Gorton, both of whom were natives of the "Empire State." He was one of a family of nine children born to his parents, the others being—Horatio, Betsey, Jane, Stephen D., Elmira, Hiram, William and Milo. Milo, a member of a New York Regiment, was killed at the battle of Resaca, Ga.

Our subject is the grandson of Peleg Gorton, one of the six proprietors of Painted Post, N. Y., and was reared in that vicinity, and there received the elements of a common school education. On the 3d of July, 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Harriett C. Marks, a native of New York State, also.

At the time of the Indian outbreak, Mr. Gorton's wife and he took refuge in Forest City, and upon the memorable morning of the 23d of August, when nearly everybody had fled from the county, Milton Gorton was one of the little band of heroes who remained to make a stand at Forest City, in defense of their homes, as detailed in the history of the massacre in this volume. Mr. Gorton lost heavily by these troubles, the Sioux burning his house and its contents, and destroying everything else that they could about the place. He has, however, fully recovered from the setback, and is one of the large land owners and prosperous farmers of the county, owning over a full section of some of the best land in the town of Forest City.

Mr. Gorton, having no children of his own, adopted Ida A. Ferguson, when she was but five years of age. She was born April 17, 1873, and is the daughter of George Ferguson.

Our subject is a staunch republican in his political views, but has had but little desire for political preferment, although he has, at times, been induced to accept several town offices.



JOHN BIRCH, of the firm of Birch & Nelson, Litchfield, is a native of Sweden, born August 21, 1846, and is the son of Andrew and Martha (Johnson) Birch. He remained in his native land until 1868, when, with a natural wish to better his financial condition, he bade adieu to the old world and sought in America a new home. He had served a long apprenticeship in the land of his birth, to the trade of tailor, and on landing on these shores, worked at journey work in that trade in the city of St. Paul, whither he had come, until 1880, when he removed to Litchfield, and in company with Andrew Nelson, founded the business now represented by Mr. Birch and Rasmus Nelson, trading under the firm name of Birch & Nelson, in the clothing and gents' furnishing goods line. Mr. Birch is a member of the I. O. O. F., having joined that order while in St. Paul.

Mr. Birch was married January 4, 1873, to Miss Sarah Johnson, a daughter of Olaf Johnson, of this county, and a native of Sweden. They have three children—Amanda Elizabeth, Ella Hannah and Horace John.



PETER SANGREEN, a hard-working and industrious farmer, living on section 9, Collinwood township, was born in Sweden in 1856, and is the son of Andrew Peter and Eve Anderson. When he was about sixteen years of age he left his native shores and emigrated to America, and located in St. Louis county, Minn. For three years there

he was employed in railroad work, and then came to Collinwood, where his parents had come, that year, 1876, and took up his home beneath their roof. One year later he rented a farm, upon which he carried on the avocation of a farmer, and then purchased forty acres of land where he now lives. The neat improvements in the way of house, granary, stable, etc., have all been erected by himself, and he is in a fair way to achieve success in life through energy, industry and frugality. He has held the office of town clerk five years; chairman of the board of supervisors one year; side supervisor two years, and the responsible position of county commissioner for two years, and always with credit to himself and honor to the judgment of those who placed him in those capacities.

Mr. Sangreen was united in marriage March 6, 1880, with Miss Caroline Dohlman, a native of Sweden, born August 5, 1858, and daughter of Olaf and Caroline Dohlman.



JOHN S. LARSON, a prominent citizen of Dassel village, is engaged in the retail liquor business. Born in Vaermlan, Sweden, March 24, 1857, he is the son of John and Mary Larson, natives of Sweden. He came to Meeker county with his parents in 1870, when he was about twelve years of age. The family settled upon a farm in section 30, Dassel township, where his parents still live.

John remained at home, assisting his father in the labors incident to farm life, until 1874, when he entered the employ of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad, at St. Paul, with whom he remained for a couple of years. In 1879 he returned to this county and settled at the village of Dassel, where he entered the service of Andrew Linquist, as bartender, and fulfilled the duties of that position until 1882. In the latter year he

entered into a proprietorship with John Thomas, in the same line, but shortly after J. H. Remick, having bought out Mr. Thomas, the firm of Remick & Larson was formed. In February, 1883, their place of business was destroyed by fire, and our subject lost his entire stock of clothes, except those he had on and considerable of his stock in trade. At once, in company with J. H. Remick and Thomas Gallagher, he commenced the erection of the Dassel house, but before its completion Mr. Larson sold out his interest in the hotel, only reserving the saloon part, where he now carries on the business.

Mr. Larson was married, in 1883, to Miss Emma J. Bunting, who was called away by death May 31, 1885, leaving without a mother's love and care, their little girl, Ella May.



OLA NELSON, a thrifty and successful farmer, who resides on section 36, Litchfield township, is a native of Sweden, born October 9, 1848. His father, Nels Swanson, was born in Sweden in 1822, and died in Meeker county in 1875, having settled here in 1872. Ola's mother, Hannah Swanson, was born in 1819, came to America in 1871, and died in 1884.

Ola Nelson came to the United States in 1866, and in 1869 he located on section 36, Litchfield township, Meeker county, Minn., where he has since lived. During that time he has continually followed farming, and has been reasonably successful, notwithstanding the reverses which he has met, including the destruction of his crop two seasons by grasshoppers and hail, and the burning of his residence, with all its contents, March 2, 1873.

In 1878 Mr. Nelson was married to Ellen Hawkinson, a daughter of Hogan Peterson. Their marriage has been blessed with four

children—Amanda, Mary, Alice and Anna. Mr. Nelson has a valuable farm and devotes his attention to stock raising and general farming.



WILLIAM ROACH, an enterprising, industrious and energetic farmer of Forest Prairie township, living upon section 4, is the son of Michael J. and Sarah J. (Wynn) Roach, a sketch of whom is given elsewhere in the pages of this volume. William was born in Cass county, Indiana, July 1, 1848, and received his earlier schooling in that locality. In 1866 he came to this county with his parents and passed his time between that and his majority in attending school and in assisting his father to carry on the farm. About the year 1871 he commenced the battle of life for himself, engaging in agricultural pursuits upon the place where he now resides, and where he has met with merited success.

Mr. Roach was united in marriage February 26, 1871, with Miss Matilda Kisinger. The lady is a native of Fulton county, Ind., and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kisinger. Her mother is among those who have gone to their rest in the land of the blest; but her father is still living. By this marriage Mr. and Mrs. Roach have a family of eight children—Matilda, Emma, Henry, Rosa, Nettie, William, Monroe, all living at home, and George and John deceased.

Mr. Roach is a democrat politically, and has served in some of the local offices in this township. He is a veteran of the late war, enlisting in 1862 in the Twenty-first Indiana Heavy Artillery, but was honorably discharged from the service, after a short term, and returned to his home.

In regard to his pioneer life here, Mr. Roach writes—"When I first came to this county, in 1867, I got my living by hunting

and trapping. In 1871 I threw down the gun and trap and went to farming. About the first money I earned I carried a bushel of potatoes from Forest City for William M. Abbott."



JOHN OLSON, a steady, thrifty farmer of Kingston township, came to Meeker county in 1868, and took a homestead of eighty acres of land on section 34, where he now lives. He was born in Sweden, November 8, 1830. In 1865 he determined to seek in the new world his fortune, and emigrated thither, landing at New York, but came at once West and was engaged at various kinds of labor in St. Paul, Stillwater and in the pinery, until he came to this county. He is the son of Ole and Anna Flink, the former of whom was always a farmer. Our subject was one of a family of ten children, but he is the only survivor.

Mr. Olson was married to Miss Sabina Olson, by Rev. John L. Fasig, and they are the parents of six children—Selina, born November 5, 1870; Obenius, born August 31, 1872; Alva Josia, born August 24, 1874; Johan Adolph, born May 23, 1876; Hilma, born March 26, 1878, and Caleb Sethur, born September 30, 1881. This was Mr. Olson's second marriage, he having wedded Miss Josephine Peterson, at Stockholm, Sweden, but she died after about eighteen months' time. Mr. Olson and his family are zealous members of the Missionary Church at Kingston. In politics he is a republican.



MICHAEL LOVETT, deceased, was at one time a prominent citizen of Manannah township. He was a native of County Cavan, Ireland, and came to the United States about the year 1848, and

located in the city of Boston, Mass. Two years later he went to the State of New York, where he also lived for about two years, after which he removed to Canada. That Dominion was his home for about eighteen years, and then, in 1870, he came with his family to Meeker county, Minn., and located on a farm in what is now Manannah township, where he remained until the time of his death, on the 29th of April, 1879. He was married to Miss Bridget Fanley, who still survives him. They had a family of nine children, five girls and four boys, whose names were as follows—Bridget, Alice, Peter, Catherine, Mary, Ann, John, Michael and James. All of the children are still living, except Mary and Alice. The widow still carries on the place, which consists of eighty acres of land. She is a member of the Catholic Church, and holds the respect of all who know her.

James Lovett, a son of Michael, who owns forty acres of land in the township of Manannah, was born in Canada on the 13th of November, 1865, and still resides with his mother. He is also a member of the Catholic Church, and in political matters he acts independently of party creed, and votes for the man rather than party.



ALBERT VITZTHUM VON ECKSTAEDT, of Litchfield, was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1845, and is the son of Frederic and Louisa (Manns) von Eckstaedt. His father was a captain in the army of Prussia, and served in the wars of Napoleon. Later in his life he was the occupant of an important position in the custom house of that State, and died in his native land in 1854. He was of the aristocratic class, as the "von" before his name plainly shows.

Albert, at the age of thirteen, was sent to the military school at Berlin, where he re-

mained some three years, and at the age of sixteen received a commission as lieutenant in the Second Pomeranian Lancers, and served in the army for four years. In 1865 he left the fatherland and came to America, where he traveled for a couple of years, most of the time on the Pacific slope. In 1878 he came to Litchfield, and for two years was in the employ of John Rodange, and at the expiration of that time entered into partnership with the same gentleman in the saloon business. In 1882 the subject of this memoir opened his present place of business on Sibley avenue.

Albert V. von Eckstaedt has always taken great interest in military affairs, especially in the militia, and was largely instrumental in the organization of Company H, First Regiment M. N. G., of this place, and also helped organize the bucket brigade of the fire department. He is a valued citizen and much respected member of the community.

Our subject was married November 11, 1881, to Miss Lizzie Mittwer, a native of Prussia, Germany, and daughter of Martin and Busche (Radise) Mittwer. By this union there have been born two children—Adelia and Theresa.

PROMINENT among the farmers of Swede Grove township, is N. L. NELSON, who has a good farm and comfortable home on section 33. He was born in Sweden on the 25th of February, 1845, his parents being Lewis and Johanna Nelson. N. L. Nelson came to the United States with his father in 1871. He came direct to Swede Grove township, and worked for several farmers in that part of the county for seven years, when he bought a farm on section 22 and lived there for nine years. He then sold that and bought his present place on section 33.

Mr. Nelson was married on the 24th of March, 1868, to Emily Anderson, and they have had the following children—Ole, who was born January 28, 1869; Albert, born May 24, 1874; and Lewis, born May 16, 1877. When Mr. Nelson came to this country he was a poor man, but by industry and economy he has acquired a competency and a comfortable home. He now has 155 acres of land and has a good lot of stock gathered about him. He is a republican in political matters and ranks as one of the leading farmers of his township.



MADISON DELONG, a prominent member of the farming community of Collinwood township, has his home upon section 4, where he owns and cultivates nearly his entire farm of 163 acres. His house, which is a neat and tasty cottage, is surrounded with all the necessary conveniences and comforts for carrying on his business, and is a home in the true sense of the word. Mr. Delong was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, June 1, 1836, and is the son of Francis and Nancy (Gillilan) Delong, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. He remained beneath the parental roof until his marriage, March 5, 1857, on which date he led to the nuptial altar Miss Elizabeth Lunsford, a native of Augusta county, Va., and daughter of Reuben and Nancy Lunsford. He then commenced work at a smelting furnace where he was engaged until 1866, when he came to Carver county, Minn., but one year later removed to Scott county. While variously engaged there he came to this county and took up a claim on section 34, Dassel, on the site of the present village of that name, where he resided, keeping "bach" that winter. He returned to Scott county where his family were, and in coming back to his claim found that it had jumped by Parker Simons,

a railroad man. A law-suit ensued, which was carried up to the Secretary of the Interior, and finally Mr. DeLong's title to the claim was canceled. The claimant then compromised with our subject, who removed to Collinwood township, and settled where he now lives. He was a poor man when he came to this country, and his law-suit and loss of his claim still further set him back, but by his energy and industry he has been the architect of his present excellent financial condition. Mr. DeLong has held the office of town supervisor for some eight years, and that of assessor for four, and holds the latter position now.

Mr. and Mrs. DeLong have a family of eight children, as follows—Martha, born March 10, 1858, married Alexander S. Gordon, March 21, 1877; Nancy C., born August 7, 1859, married William Compton, July 31, 1887; Rachel, born July 17, 1861, married Lemuel L. Sison, December 25, 1878; Edmund, born May 13, 1863; Lewis, born March 19, 1866; Napoleon, born August 16, 1869; Francis, born April 10, 1873; and William, whose birth took place April 23, 1876.



VIRGIL H. HARRIS, the popular druggist of Litchfield, is the descendant of one of the colonial families of Virginia, and was born in Hanover, Licking county, Ohio, May 14, 1840.

John Harris, the great-grandfather of our subject, was a native of Hanover county, Va., where he remained until his death. His sons drifted to North Carolina, where they became prominent men, and were prime movers in the movement for Independence passed at Charlotte, Mecklenburgh county, N. C., May 20, 1775, antedating the Declaration of Independence of the Continental Congress over one year, and furnishing many of the ideas

for that celebrated document. Subsequently they removed to South Carolina, and settled on the Santee river, from which place Ephraim Harris, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, in company with Daniel Boone, who was a warm friend of his, made a trip into the wilderness that is now the State of Ohio. After prospecting over that territory, Mr. Harris, about 1820, took up a homestead on the Licking river, in what is now Licking county, and there made a settlement. The old homestead now forms a part of the site of the busy city of Newark. Ephraim Harris remained upon this place for about twenty years, when he removed to the town of Hanover, in the same county, near his son Daniel's farm, and there made his home until he was killed in breaking a pair of colts, in his ninety-eighth year.

Daniel Harris, the father of the subject of this memoir, who was a tanner as well as a farmer, remained upon the farm which he had purchased in Licking county until about 1848, when he sold out and removed to Dayton, Ohio, where he followed his trade for about a year, when he died, leaving a wife and five children to mourn their loss. The children bore the names of Virgil H., Emma E., Cynthia A., Louis E., and David M.

The mother of Virgil was formerly Miss Martha Dowling. Her father was a native of Ireland, who had left the land of his birth on account of some trouble with a landlord, which culminated in Mr. Dowling pulling him off of his horse and beating him. This, in that oppressed land, was a terrible offense, so he emigrated to this country, and settled in Juniata county, Penn., where the future Mrs. Harris was born. When her brothers moved to Ohio, she went with them, walking the whole distance, some 700 miles, driving their cattle all the way. Later she married Mr. Harris, and after his death returned to Licking county, from whence, two years later, she removed to Marion county, in the

same State, where her people had settled. Subsequently she married John Baker, and made her home in Ohio until 1883, when they removed to Indiana, where she died in 1887.

Virgil remained with his mother after his father's death until about 1852, when, being but twelve years of age, he went to Macon county, Ill., where for four years he was engaged in herding some 4,000 head of sheep. In the fall of 1859 he returned to Ohio, and cast his first presidential vote for Lincoln in 1860. In May, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He participated, with his gallant regiment, in some twenty-eight engagements, the principal of which were Perryville, Green River Bridge, Bowling Green, Crab Orchard, Loudonville, Knoxville, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Allatoona, Spring Hill, Franklin, Nashville, Fort Fisher and others. He received his discharge as orderly sergeant, June 28, 1865, and on returning home attended college for a year and a half at Indianapolis, Ind., and Ashland, Ohio. He was married, December 25, 1868, to Miss Lizzie Hill, a native of Marion county, Ohio, and daughter of John and Catherine Hill, who were among the pioneer families of the Buckeye State. For two years after that Mr. Harris followed farming in Marion county, Ohio, whither he had moved. In December, 1870, in company with George Lyon, he came to this part of the State, and, determining to settle at Litchfield, brought his family here in January, 1871, when the place was but in embryo. In company with S. Y. Gordon he started a meat market and remained in that two years, and then opened a drug store, which business he has followed ever since.

In politics Mr. Harris is a republican and has filled many offices in village and county. He was one of the first justices of the peace

of the village of Litchfield, and has, since then, been alderman, recorder, mayor and county commissioner, and is now serving as chairman of that board, having been a member of it for five years. He is a member of Frank Daggett Post, G. A. R., holding the third rank in the department of Minnesota, and belongs to the A. O. U. W.



LEWIS OSTERLUND, of the mercantile firm of Osterlund & Leighton, prominent dealers in general merchandise, in Dassel village, came to Meeker county in the year 1881. In March, 1882, he entered the postoffice in this place as clerk, under Louis Rudberg, postmaster, with whom he remained until January 1, 1883, when he was himself appointed postmaster. He occupied this official position until May 1, 1887, after which the present firm was formed and the store opened under their auspices. He is a native of Sweden, born October 17, 1853, and remained a resident of his native land until he had attained the age of twenty-seven years, but on the 23d of May, 1881, embarked for the promised land, the home of the poor man beneath the folds of our starry banner, and upon setting foot upon the free soil of America, came to Meeker county as mentioned above. After a short time he went to Minneapolis, but five months later returned to Dassel where he now lives.



ERIC P. EKLUND, one of the blacksmiths of the village of Grove City, is a native of Sweden, born July 3, 1836, and is the son of Peter and Lisa Krantz. Having acquired the blacksmith's trade in his youth and early manhood, he worked at that calling in his native land until he was about twenty-five years of age, when he went to Russia and purchased a smithy, and for

three years labored among the Muscovites at his calling. While there Mr. Eklund was united in marriage with Miss Julia Paulina Elizabeth Kruger, the ceremony taking place October 13, 1863. The lady, a daughter of Henry and Louisa Kruger, was born in Russia, July 25, 1843. The same year Mr. Eklund returned to Sweden, where he worked at his trade for two years more and then emigrated to the United States in search of a fortune more consonant with his ideas than was to be found in the Old World. He remained in New York for some ten months, where he found ample employment at the forge, but at the end of that time came west and located at St. Paul, where he remained employed as usual until 1868, in which year he came to Meeker county and took a homestead in section 14, Swede Grove township, on which he made his home for five years. During this time he erected a blacksmith shop in the village of Grove City, where he now carries on his trade. Three years later he built his fine residence in the same block as his smithy, where he now lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Eklund have been the parents of thirteen children, as follows—Leontina Louisa, born November 7, 1864, died January 8, 1877; Engelbert, born September 27, 1866; Amanda Julia, born April 8, 1868; Alga Matilda, born December 4, 1869; Gottlieb Waldimar, born September 22, 1871; Otilia Valeria, born September 3, 1873; Ida Almira, born August 15, 1875, died December 29, 1880; Elida Paulina, born September 25, 1876, died January 16, 1881; Leonhard Eric and Leontina Elizabeth, twins, born October 27, 1879; the first of whom died February 22, 1881; Arthur Eric, born June 20, 1881; Hilger Conrad Anton, born June 11, 1883; and Henry Oscar Edwin, whose birth took place October 26, 1885. Amanda J. is married, and with her husband, Nels S. Strand, is engaged in running a boarding-house and dining-room at Helena, Mont.

ALBERT H. DELONG. The subject of this sketch is a resident of section 25, Greenleaf township, and is one of the most prominent and respected old settlers in Meeker county. He is a native of St. Lawrence county, N. Y., born April 12, 1842, and his parents, Hiram and Maria Delong, were natives of Grand Isle, Lake Champlain. The mother died in the village of Greenleaf in 1870, while the father, who was born in 1799, is still living, making his home with Albert H. The family emigrated from New York to Wisconsin when Albert was seven years of age. His time was divided between school and work on his father's farm, and at the age of seventeen he came to Meeker county, Minn. After entering and paying for a claim in what is now Ellsworth township, he leased the flouring mill on the outlet of Cedar Lake, known as Cedar Mill, and there he was engaged when the Indian outbreak began. A few days previous to the massacre at Acton, Mr. Delong, while at the agency, met an old Indian known as Charley Minnetonka, whose friendship he had gained by various acts of kindness. He had always worn citizen's clothes but was then robed in a bright red blanket. He acted strangely and took occasion to inform Mr. Delong, *sub rosa*, that there was going to be "a big fight." Little or no attention was paid to the old fellow's warning, for it was thought he had reference to some fight in project between the Indians. When the news of the massacre reached the mills, on the morning of August 18, 1862, Mr. Delong and Vincent Coombs started out to learn whether or not there was any truth in the reports. Learning nothing definite, they went on to Acton and found the people assembled there preparing to bury the bodies of the five who were slain. When the Indians came upon the scene, Albert joined the party which chased them to the Kandiyohi woods. Having a keen sense of the duties of a scout, he was made


useful in that capacity many times during the terrible weeks and months that followed. At Hutchinson he was enrolled with a company of volunteers as a scout, and for six weeks never missed a day in the saddle, riding sometimes as much as forty miles a day. When the detail of the Ninth Minnesota Regiment was sent to Forest City he joined them as a scout, and was riding in advance, and was first to discover the redskins in ambush at the time of the battle near Acton. The Indians were crawling in a wheat field and the glimmer of a bright gun was discovered by Mr. Delong, who rode back and informed the captain. When the Indians saw they were discovered they rose and fired a volley at the whites, and then commenced surrounding them. In this battle three men were killed and twenty-one wounded out of a total of forty-nine in the command. Although left behind by the command, and once almost completely surrounded by Indians, he escaped unhurt. In the summer of 1863 he was with the Sibley expedition as a scout, and in the fall of the same year again put his mill in operation. Two years later he bought an interest in the Greenleaf saw-mill, which he retained about three years, and then purchased an interest in the Greenleaf flouring mill, he and his partner subsequently buying the old Cedar Mill. Matters became seriously complicated with the firm, and the outcome was a complete collapse. Albert then went to the Black Hills and spent the summer; and the following year went out and remained nearly two years, when he returned to Meeker county and purchased the fine farm where he at present makes his home, on section 25, Greenleaf township.

He has been twice married, his first wife, Cecilia Nichols Delong, to whom he was married in 1863, bore him one child, Francis, born September 21, 1867. His first wife died in 1869, and in 1871 Mr. Delong was married to Mary Post, daughter of Abram and Sarah

Post, of Greenleaf. She was born September 10, 1852, in the State of New York.

Mr. Delong has taken an active interest in the affairs calculated to benefit either his town or county, and is rated as one of the most prominent citizens in the south half of Meeker county. He is a member of Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89, A. F. and A. M.



 CHARLES SMITH. Among the influential citizens of Cosmos township, is the gentleman whose name heads this article. He has been prominently identified with the growth and development of Minnesota since 1855, although he did not come to Meeker county until 1879. He is the son of Alexander and Henrietta (Sutphin) Smith, and was born in Upper Stillwater, Maine, on the 19th of July, 1835. When he was only two years of age his parents removed to the State of New York, and settled at Plattsburgh, Clinton county, where they remained until taken from this world by death.

The subject of this memoir resided beneath the parental roof until attaining his nineteenth year, when he came to Minnesota, coming from Chicago with a team. In that year, 1854, there was but one building in either St. Anthony or Minneapolis, except the public edifices. He remained in St. Paul some six months, and then returned to New York, but in the following fall returned to this State. He made his home in Minneapolis until the year 1860, when he removed to Aitkin county, where he engaged in lumbering. He was a resident of that county when it was organized, and was appointed by Governor Pillsbury as one of the organizing commissioners, and filled that office by election for some thirteen years.

In the spring of 1861, when traitorous hands essayed to rend the Union in twain, Mr. Smith enlisted in Company D, First

Minnesota, and with that noble regiment, whose name brings up so many gallant deeds, participated in the first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. He was there wounded by a ball in the right shoulder, and was laid up for some seven months, but on recovery re-enlisted in his old regiment, and stood with them in the awful flood of fire, that so nearly annihilated them, at Antietam, and in the battle of Mill Spring.

After his discharge Mr. Smith came back to Minnesota, and in 1879 removed to this county and purchased a farm on section 22, where he now lives, in Cosmos township. Of his fine place of 200 acres, some 125 are under cultivation.



DOCTOR WILL E. CHAPMAN, while not among the old practitioners of the county, has, by close attention to the duties of his profession and a remarkable success in grappling with the dread destroyer, death, taken a prominent position among the medical fraternity of this county, and ranks high in the estimation of the community.

Dr. Chapman is a native of Hill, Merrimack county, N. H., born February 9, 1857, and is the son of John W. and Charlotte (Taplin) Chapman, natives of New Hampshire and New York respectively. Our subject received his primary education and was reared among the hills and valleys of the "Granite State," upon the paternal acres. At the age of fifteen years he entered a drug store, where he remained about two years. Having then attained a sufficient age, he matriculated at the medical department of the Vermont State University, at Burlington, Vt., and after a rigid course of study was graduated from that celebrated institution of learning, in July, 1879. The next year he located at North Branch, Chisago county, Minn., where he was engaged in the practice of his chosen

profession for about two years. In 1882 he came to Meeker county, and opened an office in Forest City, but, after two years' labor in that field removed to Litchfield, and, commencing practice here, has rapidly grown into favor with the people of the city and the surrounding country. His pleasant manners in the sick-room, his love for his calling and his rare judgment in diagnosis are fast gaining him friends and patrons, and by careful study to keep abreast of the times he merits the warmest encomiums.

The Doctor assumed the duties of matrimony December 24, 1883, while a resident of Forest City, on which day he led to the hymeneal altar Miss Georgie Kimball, a native of New Hampshire and a daughter of Edwin and Phebe (Manwell) Kimball.



PHILIP DECK, deceased, who fell by the deadly rifle of the ruthless Sioux during the tragic days of the Indian massacre in 1862, was born in France May 24, 1825. He learned the trade of baker in his native land, and there made his home until his twenty-first year, when he came to America and settled at Lyons, Wayne county, N. Y. He remained there until 1854, at which date he removed to Sault Ste. Marie, and was the foreman on the ship canal then in course of construction there. He staid there until that work was finished and then went to New York, but in the spring of 1856 came West, to Milwaukee, Wis., where he made his home until July, 1860, when he came to Meeker county, arriving here the 5th of that month. He purchased 160 acres of land, which was partially improved, on section 29, Manannah township, of William Wilcox, taking everything on the place, house, furniture, stock, crop in the field, etc. He then returned to Milwaukee for his family, who arrived at St. Paul after numerous mishaps and troubles, and

there made a stay of a day, and from there to their place, where they located the same fall.

Mr. Deck remained upon this farm until the time of the Indian outbreak. The news of the murders in Acton reached the house about 11 o'clock in the forenoon of Monday, August 18th. Mrs. Deck was sick in bed, and Mr. Deck was away from home helping a neighbor harvest. Mrs. Ryckman brought the news, and took Mrs. Deck and her family to Silas Maybee's, where they were left while the men were sent for. The women soon saw some Indians approaching, and were terribly scared, but the savages did not come to the house. Mr. Deck rejoined his family that night, and remained there until morning. The next night they spent at the house of N. C. Caswell, but learning that the outbreak was general, the entire body of settlers removed to Forest City. Friday Mr. Deck took his family to Kingston, where he remained until the following Monday, when, provisions running short, he returned to Forest City, with the intention of trying to get to his farm for clothing, provisions, etc. In company with Wilmot Maybee and others, they started, and met with the fate told in the history of the Indian massacre in this volume. Shot in the very dooryard of Carlos Caswell's house, Mr. Deck was found some ten or twelve rods from where his wagon had stood, lying on his face, with eight bullet holes in his back, and it is supposed that, not being hit at the first fire, he jumped to the ground and ran that distance before he was shot. The home guard turned out the second day after and buried the dead, all except Wilmot Maybee, whose body was not found until three months after. Deck, Howe and Page were buried in one grave in Manannah cemetery, where, owing to the exertions and liberality of Mrs. Deck, there is erected a fine and appropriate monument to mark the place where rests the remains of her murdered husband and his companions.

Mrs. Deck remained at Forest City until the following fall and then returned to Wayne county, N. Y., with her family of five children, where she remained until April 22, 1879. On that date she returned to this county, having all these years had a hard struggle to keep her little family and pay the taxes on her farm. Almost everything upon the latter was destroyed by the savage marauders, the loss amounting to some \$1,100, which Mrs. Deck did not receive from the State until nearly twelve years after, owing to the carelessness of those intrusted with her business.

Mr. and Mrs. Deck were united in marriage April 23, 1849, at Lyons, N. Y. The lady, whose maiden name was Miss Salome Shimpf, was born at Salza, France, November 21, 1830, and came to the United States in 1840. They were the parents of five children, as follows—Philopena, born December 4, 1850, now married and living in New York; Magdalena, born May 18, 1852, also married and living in the same place; Josephine, born March 11, 1856, married, making her home in the Empire State; Franklin, in this county; and Marie Louise, born December 22, 1860, died December 9, 1862.

FRANKLIN DECK, who was born August 2, 1858, in Humboldt, Milwaukee, Wis., came back to Meeker county with his mother in 1879, and purchasing eighty acres on section 28, Manannah, carries on agricultural pursuits on it and upon the family homestead, and with him the widowed mother makes her home.



PETER D. RINGSTROM, the landlord of the Grove City House, is a native of Sweden, born March 17, 1844, and is the son of Nels and Ingra Ringstrom. His parents were farmers in that country, and he was reared to agricultural pursuits and re-

ceived the elements of a fair education. He remained at home until some twenty-seven years old, when, bidding adieu to the parental roof and all whom it sheltered, he crossed the ocean to a home in America. On landing, he came direct to Atwater, this State, arriving at that place May 24, 1871. Entering the employ of Pabrs Pabson he was engaged in farm work that summer and on the railroad during the fall and winter. Going to Breckenridge he was employed as hotel clerk and bartender for about six months, after which he worked on the railroad in the neighborhood of Alexandria, where he remained until October 3, 1872. He then made his home for a short time with Peter Christoferson, with whom he always remained when out of employment, while waiting for money due him from his Breckenridge employer, intending to go back to Sweden, but falling in love with Mr. Christoferson's daughter Joanna, he gave up the prospective trip and married the young lady. The young couple moved on her homestead claim and Mr. Ringstrom commenced farming and continued to follow this avocation until 1885, when he rented the farm and sold agricultural machinery. They made their home upon their place, however, until March 28, 1888, when, renting the Grove City House, he removed with his family to the village, and is now running the hotel. March 31, 1888, he was elected chief of the police of the village and fills that position.

Mrs. Ringstrom is a native of Sweden, born April 8, 1844, and came to the United States with her parents in 1864. She was at the time of her marriage with the subject of this sketch, the widow of Charles Johnson, who died in Illinois on their road to Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Ringstrom are the parents of four children—Nels Peter, born April 8, 1876; Carl Oscar, born October 17, 1878; Alice, born April 10, 1883; and Sarah, born April 20, 1887.

MICHAEL FINNEGAN, one of the most prominent and successful farmers and stock-raisers in Meeker county, is a resident of section 28, Harvey township. He has one of the most valuable farms in the county, and his building and other improvements are a credit to the township in which he lives.

Mr. Finnegan was born in Ireland, on the 2d of December, 1852. When he was less than two years of age, his parents came to the United States, and for several years they moved about considerably, the father following the trade of blacksmithing. In 1857, the father, Patrick Finnegan, came to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased a farm in Harvey township, and lived on the farm carrying on his farming operations, and at the same time working at his trade. He was living on the farm with the family at the time of the Indian outbreak. The same day as the massacre at Acton, a neighbor brought them the news of the killing, and they went to Forest City with the rest to decide what course to pursue, returning to the farm the next day. The following day they went to Clearwater, where they remained until the fall of 1862. During the winter they lived at Elk River, and then settled at Minneapolis, where they remained until the ensuing fall. During that winter the father worked on the Omaha railroad, and the family lived at Fort Snelling, and in the spring they returned to Minneapolis. In July, 1865, they returned to their farm in Harvey township, where the family have since lived. The father died in Harvey May 23, 1885, and was buried at Litchfield. In his death the county lost a worthy and substantial citizen, and a respected old settler. His widow still lives in Harvey.

Michael Finnegan, the subject of this sketch, is an active member of the Catholic Church. In political matters he affiliates with the democratic party. He has been very successful in his farming operations, and

has the reputation of being one of the best business men in the township. In connection with diversified farming, he carries on stock-raising extensively, for which the farm is conveniently arranged.



HARRY H. HINES, an intelligent and trusted citizen of the village of Dassel, the superintendent and manager of the Minnesota and Dakota elevator, is a native of Colchester, Chittenden county, Vt., born in August, 1848, and is the son of Benjamin and Emily (Rolfe) Hines. His paternal grandfather, William Hines, was one of the earliest settlers of the town of Colchester, as was the maternal grandfather of our subject, Jacob Rolfe, and these two gentlemen and one other owned, at one time, nearly the entire town. William Hines lived and died among the verdant hills of the "Green Mountain State," where he settled, and on his death the homestead descended to his son Benjamin, the father of our subject, who, besides managing three good farms in that portion of the country, was engaged in mercantile pursuits. Jacob Rolfe, the grandfather of Harry, mentioned above, was a colonel in command of the "Green Mountain Boys" during the last conflict with Great Britain, 1812-15, and was a gallant and able soldier, and our subject recollects his telling of war experiences, in his younger days.

Harry H. Hines came to Meeker county in 1868, and settled in what is now Litchfield township, on section 34, where he followed agricultural pursuits for some ten years, after which he removed, after selling his property, to the village of Darwin, where he purchased wheat and other grain for the Davidson Elevator Company. In August, 1886, he came to Dassel and assumed charge of the elevator where he is now located. He has, since first coming here, taken a lively interest in all

educational and political affairs, and is now serving as one of the school directors of the village. In his political affiliations he is in thorough accord with the republican party, and supports the candidates of that organization. He is a member of the Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89, A. F. & A. M., having been made a Mason at Litchfield in 1882. Mr. Hines was united in marriage with Miss Maggie Harding, October 10, 1870. His life companion is a native of Jennings county, Ind., and a daughter of Mitchell and Mary Ann (Reeves) Harding. By this marriage there have been six children—Maud, Grace, Bessie, Benjamin, Blanche and the baby.



THE PRESENT county treasurer of Meeker county, N. W. HAWKINSON, an old settler of the village of Litchfield, is a native of Skone, Sweden, and was born in 1837. He remained in his native country until he was thirty-two years of age. His father died when he was about fourteen years of age, and shortly after this he began learning the cabinet-maker's trade, at which he spent an apprenticeship of three years and then followed as a trade for four years. He then learned the carpenter's trade, and followed that until he was twenty eight, when he entered the mercantile business and remained in that until 1869, when he sold out and came to Minnesota, coming direct to Meeker county. For a time he stayed at Forest City, following the carpenter's trade, but in November of the same year he went to California, and followed his trade there for about one year, working up and down the Pacific coast. At the end of that time he returned to Sweden, going by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York. He remained in his native land until the following June, 1871, and then came again to Meeker county, Minn., locating at Litchfield, where he has

since lived. For a number of years he followed his trade, but in the fall of 1883 he was elected to the office of county treasurer, and, being re-elected in the fall of 1886, he is the present incumbent of that office. He is a careful and painstaking official, and has filled the office with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public. Mr. Hawkinson is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89; Rabboni Chapter, No. 37; and Melita Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templar, and has held various offices in these organizations. He is also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and was one of the charter members of the organization at Litchfield, of which he is the present financier.

Mr. Hawkinson was married in 1862 to Miss Nellie Hanson, of Sweden, and they were blessed with three children—Andrew, Ellen and Annie. The wife and mother died shortly after their removal to the United States. Mr. Hawkinson was again married, in 1873, to Annie Katharena Anderson. They have one child—Harry. All of the children are still at home, except Andrew and Ellen, who are now residents of Minneapolis.

GEORGE PAULSON, a farmer of Acton township, has probably the most famous and historic piece of land in Minnesota. He owns the place where the Jones and Baker families were killed by the Indians on the 17th of August, 1862—the spot where the first blood was shed in the memorable Indian massacre of 1862. Mr. Paulson is a native of Norway, and was born on the 3d of March, 1855, his parents being George and Anna Paulson. The family came to the United States in 1868, and after stopping for one year in Iowa, they came to Meeker county, Minn., and took a homestead on sec-

tion 33, in Acton township. In 1877 they went to Dakota, where George Paulson, Jr., took a homestead, and remained until 1886, when he sold out and returned to Minnesota, and purchased the farm in Acton township, where he still lives. He has a valuable farm and devotes his attention to general farming and stock raising. The farm is often visited by sight-seers, who wish to look upon the old cabin and the site which has become famous in Minnesota's history. The subject of this sketch was married at Litchfield, January 25, 1875, to Miss Christina Kittelson, who was born in Wisconsin March 3, 1854, and their union has been blessed with the following-named children—Clara Josephine, who was born April 28, 1877, died a few months later; Carl Johan, born June 29, 1878; Ella, born September 27, 1880; James Christian, born October 18, 1883; Anna Josephine, born March 13, 1884; and Cora, born December 30, 1887. Mr. Paulson's parents still reside in Dakota.

CHARLES H. DUCKERING, one of the most prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Cosmos township, resides upon section 30, where he cultivates about 150 acres of his magnificent 400-acre tract. He is a native of Beaver Dam, Wis., born on the 25th of September, 1849, and is the son of John and Maria (Bean) Duckering, who were natives of England and New York, respectively. In 1863, when our subject was about sixteen years of age, he came with his parents to Meeker county and settled with them in Ellsworth township. He remained beneath the parental roof until 1871, when he came to Cosmos and took up a homestead on section 30, and breaking some twenty-five acres and putting up a house, made a permanent settlement. In 1877 he leased his farm and made a trip to Washington Territory,

and prolonged his stay there until the beginning of 1880, at which time he returned to this county and has lived on his farm ever since. He is largely engaged in stock-raising, but still has some 1,500 bushels of grain as the result of his labors each year. In 1876 and 1877, he lost about all his crop through the incursions of the grasshoppers, and the outlook being poor he went to the West, as before mentioned.

Mr. Duckering has been called upon several times to fill the responsible office of town supervisor, and has been chairman of that board for four consecutive years. He has filled several of the minor offices, as well as been director of district No. 53. He still holds the last-named position.

July 18, 1880, Mr. Duckering was united in marriage with Miss Sarah I. Dean, a native of Bartholomew county, Ind., and daughter of John and Eliza (Roberts) Dean, residents of Hutchinson, McLeod county. By this union there have been three children—John S., born May 27, 1881; Daisy, born May 9, 1883; and Edna, born May 15, 1885.



ANDREW J. ANDERSON, the senior partner in the firm of Anderson & Hanson, hardware dealers in the village of Litchfield, is a native of Norway, born in 1843. When he was about a year old he was brought by his parents to the United States, they settling in Waukesha county, Wis., where they were among the very earliest settlers. They remained in that place until 1850, when they removed to Winnebago county in the same State, and in 1866 to this county.

Andrew remained at home with his parents until 1864, when he enlisted in Company H, Fifth Wisconsin Infantry, and served in that noble regiment until the close of the war.

He participated in several of the engagements of the bloody campaign that closed the war, particularly in the immortal charge on the lines at Petersburg, Va., April 1 and 2, 1865. After receiving his discharge Mr. Anderson returned to Wisconsin, but in 1866 came to Meeker county, where he took up a homestead in the town of Harvey. He was engaged in farming until 1876, at which time he removed to Litchfield and entered into the sale of farm machinery and implements. He made quite a success in this business, and in May, 1886, in copartnership with Nels C. G. Hanson, he opened the hardware establishment where he now carries on business, and in conjunction with which they still make a specialty of the sale of agricultural machinery. Mr. Anderson is a prominent member of Frank Daggett Post, No. 35, G. A. R., of Litchfield, and takes great interest in the order.



FRANK J. CHEVRE, the owner and manager of the pioneer elevator at the village of Darwin, is a native of Chautauqua county, N. Y., born November 6, 1859, and is the son of Henry J. and Jeanette (Fievre) Chevre, who are of French ancestry. His father came to Minnesota in 1867, and died in August, 1874, and his remains lie buried in Scott county, this State.

The subject of this sketch left the Empire State with his parents in 1867, and settled with them at Chaska, Carver county, where he received his primary education. At the age of thirteen he removed to Minneapolis to attend school and remained until in his nineteenth year, in study and the pursuits of knowledge. For a year thereafter he was engaged in keeping books, but at the end of that time he came to Dassel and commenced to learn the miller's trade, and finally took charge of the Washington flour mill of that

place which he ran successfully until the spring of 1887, at which time he removed to the village of Darwin and erected the elevator where he now carries on business. He is an unmarried man, his mother living with him, and one of the most reliable, trustworthy citizens of town, and, for so young a man, possesses a large share of the respect and esteem of the whole community. In his political views he is in accord with the principles formulated by the republican party, and supports, with energy, the candidates and platforms of that organization. As a business man, he is active, enterprising and upright, and socially, genial and companionable, and bids fair to achieve a high position in life.



HENRY CLAY, the popular postmaster of the village of Dassel, is the son of Caleb and Zilpah (Akers) Clay, and first saw the light January 4, 1842, in Lawrence county, Ky. His father was a native of Virginia, and his mother of Tennessee, who had married in Pike county, Ky., and later moved northward to Lawrence county. Some time after the birth of our subject they removed to Wayne county, W. Va., where they made their home until the spring of 1866, at which time they came to Minnesota and settled in McLeod county. A year later they made their appearance in Collinwood township, this county, but in the spring of 1868 settled on section 28, in what is now Dassel township, where they resided until called to "cross the dark river, Death," the mother in 1875, the father in 1877.

Henry remained beneath the paternal roof until September 5, 1861, when he was united in marriage with Miss Martha Bartrum, a native of Boyd county, Ky., after which he with his young wife settled on a farm in Wayne county, W. Va. On the 24th of

June, 1863, Henry enlisted in Company B, Forty-fifth Kentucky Mounted Infantry, and served in the Union army. They were employed in the pursuit of Morgan when on his famous raid, and Mr. Clay, with the balance of the command, was in the saddle for twenty-six days and nights, only stopping long enough to feed their horses and cook their coffee. The little sleep they got was found in the saddle. They were in two engagements, Mt. Sterling and Cynthiana, at the last named totally scattering and demoralizing the rebels, and the command for several days were engaged in picking up stragglers. Among them were a cousin and an old school mate, the former with his arm broken. Out of Mr. Clay's family he was the only loyal one, all his brothers except one being in the Confederate army. He received his discharge December 24, 1864, and the next spring came to Minnesota, and after remaining in Glencoe some eighteen months removed to Meeker county and took up a claim on section 32, in what is now Dassel township. This being all timber his crops for a year or so were quite limited, but as the land was cleared they grew more extensive. He remained upon the farm until 1870 or 1871, and then entered the employ of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad Company, building snow fences, although his family resided on the farm. In December, 1887, he removed his family to the village of Dassel, and on the 1st of May, 1887, took possession of the post-office, he having been appointed to that position.

Mr. Clay is an active and influential member of Colfax Post, No. 133, G. A. R., and was one of the signers for a charter for that society. Mr. and Mrs. Clay are the parents of seven children, whose names are as follows — Rufus E., Ida M., John F., Emily E., Walter Scott and Walter McClellan, twins, and Clifford H.

TAYLOR JOHNSON, a leading Scandinavian farmer of Collinwood township, living on section 9, was born in Sweden June 10, 1832, and is the son of John and Christina Johnson. At the age of eleven years he commenced to learn the tailor's trade, and followed that line of business in his native land until 1858, when, with a natural desire to better his condition in life, he crossed the ocean to America. He settled in Carver county, this State, putting in his time on a twenty-acre tract that he purchased there, and in working for his neighbors, until August 20, 1862, when he enlisted in Company H, Ninth Minnesota Infantry. The next day he heard of the Indian outbreak, and took his family to an island in Clearwater Lake, where many others had fled for safety, where they camped without shelter from the rain. Three days later Mrs. Johnson went home to their little cabin in the brush, with her four children, her husband going with his regiment to Glencoe. He remained in that locality until spring, and then participated in the Sibley expedition, and was present at the hanging of the thirty-eight Indians at Mankato. In October, 1863, he, with the regiment, was ordered South, and met the enemy at Guntown, Miss. They also were engaged in the siege and capture of Mobile. Our subject was mustered out of service in October, 1865, and returned to his home. While he was absent in the army, his wife was laid up by sickness brought on by exposure, and for the last week of her illness she and her little ones were without food or fire, although it was cold winter weather. An old man hobbled over on crutches, finally, to find what had become of them, and helped them out of their distress by sawing up some wood and sending in some provisions.

In the spring of 1866 Mr. Johnson removed to Minneapolis, where he was employed in lumber yards, etc., until the spring of 1869,

when he came to Collinwood township and settled where he now lives. He was married November 1, 1855, to Christina Louisa Anderson, a native of Sweden, born June 12, 1835, and daughter of Andrew and Katrina Anderson. They have had eleven children, namely—Hulda, born December 14, 1856, died January 11, 1873; Frank Victor, born January 1, 1859; Abbie, born October 9, 1860; Clara, born August 3, 1862; Godfrey, born April 30, 1866, and died September 10, 1866; August, born July 24, 1867; Josephine, born October 22, 1869; Ida, born December 25, 1871, and died September 16, 1878; Alice, born April 14, 1874; Hulda, born July 9, 1876, and died April 24, 1880; and Nathaniel, born March 26, 1878.

Mr. Johnson is a zealous member of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a republican of the strict type, and is an influential citizen. His estimable wife is beloved by all with whom she comes in contact, and her home-loving tastes are abundantly testified to by the multitude of choice plants and flowering shrubs that adorn and beautify her home, and make winter lovely with summer's perfumes and verdure.



DAVID ANDERSON. The subject of this sketch is one of the leading and well-to-do farmers of Acton township, being a resident of section 7 in that subdivision of Meeker county. He is a native of Sweden, born February 14, 1829, and a son of Andreas and Christina Anderson. In 1861 he came to the United States, and for one summer he worked in Illinois; then he settled at Clearwater, Wright county, Minn., where he rented a farm and remained for three years. At the expiration of that time he went to Idaho to seek his fortune in the gold fields, and, being very successful there, he remained three years. In 1868 he came to Meeker

county, Minn., and bought 240 acres of railroad land in Acton township, where he now lives. Three years later he returned to the gold fields of Idaho, and engaged in mining and the hotel business, in company with his brother, Solomon, and, while in the midst of their prosperity, making money very rapidly, their mining camp broke up, many of their boarders being left penniless, and from these and kindred causes they lost about \$13,000. David, thereupon, sold his property there, returned to his farm in Acton, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, which business he has since continued. He has a valuable farm, good improvements, and a good deal of stock. He has met with some slight reverses, especially during the grasshopper raids, but, withal, has been very successful, and his enterprise and good management have earned for him a competency. In political matters, he is republican, and in religion, he is a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church.

Mr. Anderson was married in Sweden, in 1852, to Miss Petronella Sammelslatter, a native of the same land. The fruits of their union have been one child, Solomon, who was born on the 24th of December, 1853. Solomon is unmarried and still lives with his parents.

NELS CHARLES G. HANSON was born May 14, 1857, at Hamburg, Germany while his parents, Bengt and Elna Hanson, were on their way from their native land, Sweden, to America, and is a twin brother of C. J. G. Hanson. His parents settled on a farm in what is now Litchfield township, in 1857, where our subject grew to manhood.

Charles remained with his parents until 1879, at which time he entered the employ of the St. Paul & Duluth Railroad Company, with whom he remained but one winter, and

then worked for a time for the St. Paul Harvester Works, traveling through the country as an expert in their business. One year later he transferred his services to the McCormick Harvester Company, and traveled through the Southern States, and followed the harvest season north again. In 1886 he was engaged in farming on section 27, Litchfield township. In the spring of 1887, in company with A. J. Anderson, he opened their present hardware and agricultural depot at Litchfield.

Mr. Hanson and Miss Clara L. Ahlstrom were united in marriage June 30, 1887. The lady is the daughter of A. M. and Christine Ahlstrom, who were among the earliest pioneers that broke the way for civilization into the wilds of Chisago county, Minn.



CORNELIUS MCGRAW, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser residing on section 33, Greenleaf township, is one of the oldest settlers residing in that portion of the county. He came to Meeker county in 1860 with his parents, who were Michael and Winnefred McGraw, and the father selected 160 acres of land on section 26, in Greenleaf township. At that time the family consisted of the parents, six boys and two girls, and four of the boys are still living here. Accompanying the party were Patrick Manley and family, M. Hanley and family, M. Ryan and family, Lewis Maher and family, and a Mr. Carrigan and family, all of whom settled in Greenleaf. The party arrived in July, and Michael McGraw at once put up a cabin and began improvements. He remained on the farm, except during the Indian troubles, until the time of his death, which occurred in March, 1878. His widow is still living on the old farm.

Cornelius McGraw, the subject of this biography, remained with his parents until

the time of the Indian outbreak. After they heard of the killing of Jones and Baker, he went to G. C. Whitecomb's to learn the particulars, and returned that night. The following day the whole settlement gathered at Whitecomb's, and remained there for two days, when all hands started for Forest City, driving their stock with them. The following day Cornelius returned to his father's house and found that the Indians had been there, but had not burned it. After Whitecomb had returned from St. Paul with guns and ammunition, Cornelius enlisted in the company which was organized, and served in it until it was disbanded. In the spring of 1863 he joined the Independent Battalion Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry, and served on the frontier until the war closed. He then returned to Greenleaf and worked at various things until 1869 when he purchased 160 acres of wild land on section 27, and at once began improvements. He lived upon that for about ten years, when he sold it and bought his present place on section 33, where he now has 235 acres, well improved with excellent buildings. He devotes his attention largely to stock-raising, and his able management has placed him among the most prominent stock-raisers and general farmers of the county.

He has taken an active interest in educational matters, and has held various offices in his district. In political matters he does not hold himself bound to any party, but acts independently.

Mr. McGraw made a gallant and creditable record during Indian times. When the Indians made the attack on Forest City, he was asleep, and, not until the bullets were flying thick and Indians yelling all around was he aroused. He started up to find that he was left alone with a single companion. They each grasped a box of ammunition and fire arms, a heavy load, and started for the stockade, arriving in safety amidst the yells

and bullets of the foe. For three years and a half he was in service, fighting the redskins whenever an opportunity presented, and never flinched when duty called. He began fighting Indians when only sixteen, and his bravery equaled that of the hardiest of men. He was one of the nine who remained in Forest City in those trying times, when there was scarcely a white man in the county beside themselves.



GEORGE MAYNARD. The subject of this sketch is one of the residents of Kingston township at present, although one of the first settlers in the town of Dassel, where he located in May, 1866. He made his home in that part of the county for about twenty years and then removed to his present place, which is located upon section 32. He is one of the "woods" farmers and stock-raisers of the town, and one of its representative citizens.

Mr. Maynard was born in Floyd county, Ky., on the 27th of August, 1852, and is the son of Rev. William and Sarah (Parsons) Maynard. His father was, also, born upon "the dark and bloody ground," and was ordained a minister in 1860, and first preached the gospel in Floyd county, in his native State. He came to Meeker county in 1866, settling in Dassel, where he cast the first vote after its organization, and where he has continued to fulfill his duties as watchman upon the walls of Zion, since coming here. He is still a resident of Dassel.

George Maynard was but thirteen years of age when his parents came here, and was reared the balance of his days in this county, together with his brothers and sisters. These latter were Susan, Nancy, Oma, Charity, Maggie, James N. and Robert G. Finishing the education began in Kentucky, after coming here, Mr. Maynard grew to manhood upon his father's farm.

March 5, 1875, George Maynard and Miss Margaret Sanson were united in marriage. The lady is a native of West Virginia, born in 1859, and daughter of Riley and Sarah Sanson, who were natives of the same State, but residents of this county now. By this union there have been born a family of five children—Sarah, William R., Minerva J., Margaret A. and James M. Mr. Maynard is a member of the Seventh Day Advent Church. In his politics he affiliates with the republican party.



JOHN OGREN, a wealthy, successful and prominent farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 20, Danielson township, comes of the same thrifty and enterprising nationality which forms such a large element in the best class of citizens in Minnesota's population. Industrious, economical and enterprising, his characteristics are the natural result of the general training given to the youth of his nationality. Having come here a poor man and accumulated a comfortable property he is a self-made man, and his present easy circumstances is entirely due to his own industry and efforts.

Mr. Ogren is a son of Andrew and Hannah Anderson, and was born in Sweden on the 17th March, 1838. His early life was spent in his native land, where he remained until 1869, when he came to the United States and proceeded to Stillwater, Minn., where he remained for four months, being employed for two weeks on the river, and the balance of the time working for farmers. At the expiration of that time, October 1, 1869, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and took a homestead on section 20, in Danielson township, where he still lives. He now owns 520 acres of land upon which he has placed excellent building improvements. The farm is among the most valuable in the township,

as a good share of it is under cultivation. He has it well stocked. When Mr. Ogren took his homestead he had only \$10 left after buying one cow and a yoke of oxen.

Mr. Ogren was married on the 4th of January, 1868, to Carrie Larson, a daughter of Lewis and Bertha Larson, who was born February 13, 1837. Their marriage has been blessed with six children, as follows—Andrew, born December 1, 1868, died March 17, 1870; Josephine, born July 19, 1870; Hilda Christine, born November 1, 1872; William, born April 11, 1874; Anna Carolina, born March 31, 1876; and Alfred, born July 8, 1879. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In political matters Mr. Ogren is a republican, and he has taken an active interest in matters affecting the welfare of his township as an organization. He has held various local offices, including those of school treasurer one year, and road overseer three years.



ADOLPH MAASS, an enterprising, intelligent and successful farmer residing on section 3, Litchfield township, was born in Brandenburg, Germany, on the 14th of July, 1840, and is a son of John and Maria (Evert) Maas. The parents are both dead, having died in their native land. Adolph grew to manhood in his native land, receiving a common-school education, and working most of the time on a farm. He acquired the same habits of frugality and industry that characterizes his race and makes them the most desirable citizens which Minnesota has received from the Old World. In 1869 Adolph came to the United States and settled in St. Louis county, Mo., where he remained for two years and then went to Tennessee. A year later he went back to Missouri, and after a year's residence there he

came to Minnesota, and after remaining for a few months in Goodhue county, returned to Missouri. The following summer of 1875, he again came to Minnesota, and after remaining for two winters in Scott county, in 1878 he came to Meeker county, and settled in Litchfield township, where he has since lived. He has a valuable farm within easy reach of the county seat, and there devotes his attention to general farming and stock-raising.

Mr. Maass was married on the 17th of November, 1877, to Miss Augusta Arndt, and their union has been blessed with two children, Frederick and Adolph, both of whom are still living and at home. Mrs. Maass is also a native of Germany. She came to the United States in 1868 with her parents and they settled in Scott county, Minn., where the father and mother are still living. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Maass took place in that county.

In political matters Mr. Maass does not follow the dictates of any party, but acts independently and votes for the man rather than creed. Both Mr. and Mrs. Maass are active members of the Lutheran Church, and are exemplary Christian people.



LUKE RAILS, one of the industrious, energetic and able farmers of Manannah township, came to Meeker county in the fall of 1866, with two other men, Silas and John Cossairt, and took up a homestead claim in the spring of 1867. As an instance of his foresight he said to his companions, although they had no neighbors for miles, nothing between them and Manannah or Forest City, that inside of twenty years there would be a railroad through here, meaning by their farms or near them, and that he would buy a railroad "forty," on section 3, whether he took up a homestead or not, which he accord-

ingly did, and in 1886 the Minneapolis and Pacific Railroad came to the neighborhood. Soon after neighbors became more plentiful and the vicinity settled up.

Mr. Rails is a native of Vermillion county, Ill., born April 27, 1840, and is the son of James and Sarah (Wiles) Rails. He was reared in that portion of the great "Prairie State," and early in life was initiated into the mysteries of agriculture and hard work. Attaining the years of manhood, with a natural desire for a home of his own and the joys of the family hearth, he was united in marriage, March 10, 1864, with Miss Eliza A. Cossairt, a native, also, of Vermillion county, and the daughter of Samuel and Rachel (Venible) Cossairt. Shortly after this happy event he removed to Ford county, Ill., but in September, 1866, started from there with teams, for Stearns county, Minn. In their party were Samuel Cossairt and family, Mr. Rails and wife, and two young men. On their arrival they settled here, as mentioned above. Mr. Rails has now a farm of 200 acres of land, and has made good improvements on the place. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian Church at Eden Valley and zealous workers in the vineyard of our Lord.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Rails consists of four children—William H., born April 26, 1865; Samuel F., born April 1, 1871; Leslie E., born July 28, 1874; Edith V., born July 23, 1879.



MRS. MARY BELFOY (*née* McGannon), a resident of Litchfield, is a native of Jennings county, Ind., born July 8, 1843, and is the daughter of John and Mary (Carney) McGannon, natives of Virginia and Kentucky, respectively. She was united in marriage, June 11, 1862, with John Blackwell.

John Blackwell was born in Gloucestershire, England, January 4, 1832, and came to Meeker county April 15, 1857, and settled in Acton, where he was one of the pioneers. He was a mason by trade, but found but little to do at that calling in the new country, so worked on his farm in summer and taught school in the winter seasons, being the first to teach in Litchfield township. After his marriage he went onto his farm to live, and while there was interrupted by the news of the Indian outbreak. On the eventful night of August 17, 1862, he organized a posse to go to the houses of Jones and Baker to assist the wounded, if any, and was the first to enter the Baker cabin, where with a steady hand he struck a light, a perilous proceeding under the circumstances, as he made himself a mark for any lurking foe. He it was that found the little child at Jones' house and gave him into the hands of one of the men who accompanied him. Some time after this he went to Anoka with his young wife and there remained until 1865, when he returned to this county and opened a store in the township of Ripley, now Litchfield. In the fall of that year he was elected to the office of register of deeds and removed to Forest City. Shortly after assuming the duties of that position, James M. Harvey, the clerk of the district court, died, and that office was also conferred upon Mr. Blackwell, and a short time after he was also made school examiner, thus holding three offices at one and the same time. From this time on he was an occupant of some of the county offices until his death, which took place May 24, 1875, while he was judge of probate. He left five children—Minnie, wife of F. P. Olney, of Litchfield; Mary J., Mrs. Charles Downey, of Minneapolis; Addie, George, and John at home, and Mattie, deceased. On the 7th day of January, 1881, Mrs. Blackwell was again married, this time to Frank Belfoy.

Frank Belfoy was a lawyer by profession,

and a native of Prescott, Province of Ontario, Canada, born November 1, 1827. He came to Forest City in 1868 and there established the pioneer journal of Meeker county, *The News*, which he edited in connection with his legal practice. In 1869 he removed to Litchfield and in 1874 he sold the subscription books and good-will of *The News* to Daggett & Joubert, who consolidated with *The Ledger*, and Mr. Belfoy devoted his sole attention to his profession. In 1876 Mr. Belfoy purchased an interest in the *News-Ledger* with Mr. Joubert, and assumed the greater share of the editorial labor, which he continued until July 16, 1881, when he was called to "that land elysian, whose portals we call death." His widow is still a resident of the village of Litchfield. By her last union there was born one child, Frank, living at home with his surviving parent.



GUSTOF BERGQUIST, an energetic and thrifty Swedish farmer of Collinwood township, resides upon section 10, where he owns some eighty acres of land. His home is pleasantly located, and is surrounded by his excellent outbuildings. His stock, to which he gives considerable attention, is of good strains, and the place evinces the prosperity and care of the proprietor. He was born in Sweden August 2, 1831, and is the son of John and Eva Katrina Magnusson. He made his home in his native land until he was about forty years of age, when, realizing the fact that it was almost impossible in that section of the world for a man to achieve a competence, determined to seek in America a new home. Accordingly, in 1871, he sailed from there, and on landing in the United States, went at once to Duluth, where he was employed three years in a saw-mill. From there he removed to Thomson, this State, where he ran a lath mill in summer

and worked in the pineries during the winter, for two years. In 1876 he came to Collinwood township, this county, where he purchased the farm where he now lives, and settled down to an agricultural life. He has prospered according to his merits since coming here, and richly deserves the esteem and respect in which he is held by the people of the community. He has held the office of town treasurer for some three or four years, and being a strict member of the Lutheran Church, has acted as deacon and treasurer of that organization for some time.

Mr. Bergquist was married May 5, 1860, to Miss Anna Louisa Peterson, also a native of Sweden, and daughter of Peter and Katrina Carlson. By this union there has been born a family of eight children, of whom the following is a record—Axel Edward was born December 25, 1861; John Siegfried was born November 2, 1864; Jennie Augusta's birth took place November 4, 1867; France Augustus was born March 19, 1871, and died August 19, 1872; Anna Olize was born July 1, 1873, and died April 19, 1885; Walter Emanuel was born April 23, 1879; Carl Otto, born July 10, 1882; and August William was born March 24, 1885. Axel E. married Miss Hulda Swanson, and lives on section 15, Collinwood; and Jennie A., now Mrs. Theodore Premous, and is a resident of Dassel.



OLE JOHNSON RENOS, is a respected and thrifty farmer of Acton township, Meeker county, Minn. He is a son of John and Betsy Renos, and was born in Norway in 1825. The greater part of his life was spent in his native land, and he was married there, in October, 1860, to Miss Mary Gunderson. They came to the United States in 1872, and for two years after their arrival they lived in Minneapolis. At the expiration of that time they came to Acton town-

ship and purchased 120 acres of railroad land on section 19, where they still live, and where they now have a comfortable home in which to spend their declining years. Mr. and Mrs. Renos have but one child, a daughter, Betsy, who was born on the 27th of November, 1865.

Betsy Renos was married on the 13th of March, 1882, to John Jacob Oestadt, and they are living with her parents. They have been blessed with one child, Mina Helen, who was born on the 27th of November, 1885. The family are all members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.



HENRY McCANN. The subject of this biographical sketch is a successful and enterprising farmer and stock-raiser, who resides on section 9, Harvey township. He is a native of Lowell, Mass., and was born on the 1st of April, 1859. His parents, who were natives of Ireland, were Thomas and Alice (McLaughlin) McCann.

On the 1st of May, 1867, quite a party of settlers left Lowell, Mass., bent upon finding homes in Minnesota, the McCann family being among the number. They finally arrived at Clearwater, and from there, with teams, they made their way across the country to Forest City. Thomas McCann, the father of our subject, located on section 10, in Harvey township, where he remained for seven years, and then removed to Mananah township, where he still resides.

Henry McCann remained at home until he had arrived at the age of twenty-one years, when he began making his own way in the world. With the exception of one winter spent in the pineries, his home has been in Harvey township, constantly, since that time. He now has a valuable farm of 120 acres, and a comfortable home. A good share of his place is under a high state of

cultivation, and, in connection with his general farming operations, he carries on stock-raising to a considerable extent. In political matters he votes the democratic ticket, and is regarded as one of the leading citizens of the township in which he resides.

Our subject was married on the 24th of November, 1884, to Miss Katie A. Mitchell, and they have been the parents of two children, as follows—Miss Alice, born March 1, 1886; and Harry, born March 15, 1888. Both Mr. and Mrs. McCann are devout and active members of the Catholic Church. The marriage of our subject and his lady took place at East Minneapolis, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Father O'Reilly, of St. Anthony church.



DANIEL McLANE. The subject of the following biography is one of the finest representatives of a class of foreign-born citizens, who have brought the thrift and energy, which was their only heritage in their native land, to this country, with its great possibilities, and are accomplishing the best results in their application under the influence of American institutions.

Mr. McLane is a native of County Antrim, Ireland, born October 9, 1854, and is the son of Patrick and Marian (Close) McLane. He was reared in the Emerald Isle and remained in the land of his birth until 1879, when, with a natural wish to better his fortune, he crossed the stormy bosom of the Atlantic, landing at New York City. From there he proceeded to Chicago, but, a few months later, in 1880, came to Litchfield and opened the wholesale and retail grocery store now under the proprietorship of W. H. Dart, building the store building in the summer of 1881. He remained in this line of trade until 1887, when, being desirous of a change in his business, he sold out to Mr. Dart, as he had the previous

year entered into a copartnership with L. D. Crowe, in the agricultural implement business. Devoting his abundant energies to this line of trade Mr. McLane is rapidly and surely acquiring a prominent place among the business men of this section of the State, and has the warmest respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens.



PETER J. LUND, one of the pioneers of Meeker county, and the first settler in Acton township, still has his residence on the southeast quarter of section 4, where he first located in 1857.

Mr. Lund is a native of Skone, Sweden, born October 2, 1821, and came to this country in 1852. After short stays in Knoxville and Moline, Ill., he located in Chisago county, this State, where he remained until coming here. During the Indian troubles he suffered much loss of property, the savages burning his houses, stealing his horses and running off his stock. He heard of the outrage and left his house in a hurry with his family to Forest City, and leaving them in safety returned to his place with six or seven neighbors, for he had considerable provisions, etc., in his house, which he had accumulated to sell to such of his neighbors as needed them. They approached the house cautiously, seeing everywhere the evidences of the Indians having been about, and did not dare to light a candle or even a match. The house had been broken open and Mr. Lund, entering, could see by the dim light that the drawers and trunks had been forced and their clothing stolen. He went up stairs and dropped two sacks of flour to the friends below, and, taking a trunk that was still intact, left. These depredations he lays to the Home Guards, as the Indians had not been there yet, but at the time he did not know it. After loading these things on a

sled, they got a yoke of the neighbors' oxen which they hitched to it, and drove out on the prairie, where the others had congregated with their teams. All being afraid, he volunteered to lead, but confesses that he lay pretty close to the sled and kept his eyes wide open for Indians. They got through safely to Forest City, although the savages shortly afterwards burned his house and destroyed all the property they could. During the attack on the stockade at Forest City, on the morning of the 4th of September, Mr. Lund says that an opening existed in the line of fortification on the north side, and that while he and another man held poles and planks across the opening, Hamlet Stevens, now the banker at Litchfield, calmly nailed them fast, although the bullets were singing round their heads pretty freely, and also says that Mr. Stevens built the first house in Grove City, while he boarded with Mr. Lund.

Mr. Lund has now a fine farm of 350 acres of land, although he was a poor man when he came here. He was married, in May, 1850, in Sweden, to Miss Ellen Nelson, who is the mother of seven children—Anna, deceased; Ingra, Sarah, Joanna, Amy, and Nels, deceased.

LOUIS MARTENSON, a respected farmer, residing on section 25, Litchfield township, is a son of Marten and Pernella Larsen, and was born in Sweden on the 6th of September, 1844. He lived with his parents in the old country until 1872, when he came to the United States with Peter Martenson and Peter Olson, and the party settled in Meeker county, Minn.

In 1879 Louis Martenson was married to Anna Johnson. She was born in Sweden February 10, 1859, and came to America with her parents, Jonas and Lovisa Johnson,

in 1869. Her father died in 1870, and her mother lives with Louis and his wife. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Martenson, as follows—Emma Lovise, born May 28, 1880; Axel Albert, born October 15, 1882; Oscar Louander, born February 14, 1885; and Marten Edward, born August 14, 1887. Mr. Martenson devotes his entire time to farming and stock-raising and is very successful. His good management, economy and enterprise have not been without their reward, and he is now in comfortable circumstances and has a pleasant home. He has also met with some serious reverses in the way of loss of crops. In 1887 his crops were almost wholly destroyed by the terrific hail-storm which swept over this portion of the county.

REV. HUGH MCDEVITT, resident priest of the Catholic Church at Manannah, is a native of County Donegal, Ireland, born on the 3d of February, 1843, and is the son of Winifrede O'Flaherty and William McDevitt. He received his education in the Missionary College of All Hallows, Dublin; promoted to the order of priesthood on the 27th of June, 1865, and served for some years as a missionary in the diocese of Sydney, N. S. W. Returning to Ireland, with the permission of his superiors he came to America, and became affiliated with the Diocese of St. Paul many years ago. He is now under the jurisdiction of Bishop Ireland. Prior to his coming to Manannah, he served in the missions of Chatfield, Pine Island and Bell Creek, with excellent results. On the removal of Father King to St. Stephen's church, he was requested by the bishop to succeed Father King, and came to Litchfield on the 1st of May, 1885. Manannah was then united to Litchfield, services being held every alternate Sunday. Seeing the neces-

sity of Mamannah having a resident priest, he mentioned the matter to the bishop, who gave him every encouragement in his undertaking. He immediately began the erection of the pastoral residence, at a cost of \$2,000. The congregation was rejoiced that a priest was to reside with them; all subscribed nobly, and cooperated with their priest in providing every requisite. He is a priest strict in all church matters, kind, but firm in what he considers his duty both to church and people. We wish him God-speed in all his undertakings and best endeavors for the welfare and good of his congregation, and to cultivate the portion of his Master's vineyard entrusted to his care with Heaven's choicest flowers.



JOHAN W. KNIGHT, dealer in tubular well machinery, wood pumps, rubber goods and engine extras, and one of the prominent businessmen of Litchfield, is an old settler in Meeker county. Mr. Knight is a native of Barnilville, R. I., born on the 18th of August, 1841. His parents were William and Abigail (Olney) Knight, both natives of Massachusetts, whose forefathers on both sides were among the first settlers of that region, and the mother's brother, Wilson Olney, was an Indian agent in Massachusetts many years ago.

The subject of this sketch was one of a family of six children, as follows—William Henry, of Swanzey, N. H., where he has been steadily employed in a bucket factory for thirty years; Abigail, now Mrs. C. C. Carpenter, of Graceville, Minn.; John W.; Lizzie G., now Mrs. Fitch, of Swanzey, N. H.; Mary, now Mrs. White, of Keene, N. H.; Dutte S., of Hinsdale, N. H., an overseer in a large blanket factory; and Hattie N., now a Mrs. White, of Keene, N. H.

John W. Knight remained with his parents

working on a farm and attending school when opportunity offered until he was eighteen years of age, when he purchased his "time" of his father and began life on his own account. He worked in factories and at whatever he found profitable until March 3, 1861, when he enlisted in Company K, Second New Hampshire Infantry for three years service. He was mustered in at Concord, N. H., on the 4th of April and his regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. The first actual service was at the siege of Yorktown, Va., under Gen. G. B. McClellan. From there they went to Williamsburg with the division under General Hooker, and there Mr. Knight was seriously wounded by the concussion of a shell; a comrade to his right having his head taken off, and one to his left having a leg amputated by the same shell. Mr. Knight was taken to the Williamsburg hospital and a short time later to the Yorktown hospital, and there remained until the latter place was evacuated. He was finally mustered out and discharged for disability July 31, 1863, at Concord, N. H.

On the 27th of August, 1863, he was married by Rev. S. S. Dudley to Miss Abbie P. Fletcher, a native of Acworth, N. H., born March 18, 1845. A short time later they went to Winchendon, Mass., where Mr. Knight was engaged in the sewing machine factory of Goodspeed & Weyman, for about one year, when he went to Marlborough, N. H. A short time later he went to Bellows Falls, Vt., and remained there until May, 1866, when he came to Meeker county, Minn. He selected a homestead on section 28, in Forest City township, and commenced improving his land, erecting the kind of a cabin customary with the early settlers. His family arrived in October of the same year. Mr. Knight remained on his farm for seven years, when he sold out and removed to Litchfield, where for a year he followed carpentering and draying. In 1873 he went



R. D. Grindall

into the pump business which he has followed constantly since. In 1886, in company with his son, Wilmer W., he opened a shop in Paynesville, Stearns county, which his son now conducts. Mr. and Mrs. Knight are the parents of five living children—Wilmer W., born in New Hampshire, November 28, 1864, now in Paynesville, Minn.; Almon E. and Almira E., born in Forest City, April 21, 1869; Elsie V., born in Forest City, October 23, 1873; Ernest A., died at the age of fourteen months; and Inez O., born at Litchfield, May 31, 1879. The family are members of the Christian Church.



ADAM BROWER, an enterprising and progressive farmer of Kingston township, living on section 16, is a native of Jennings county, Ind., born June 29, 1840, and is the son of Adam and Jeannette (McMurthey) Brower. His father, who was the son of Peter Brower, a native of Holland, who had settled in this country some time before, was born in Gloucester county, N. J., April 13, 1802, and moved with his parents to Claremont county, Ohio, in 1816, where he was married October 12, 1824, and there carried on brickmaking and farming. He was one of the representative men of that portion of the State, and on moving, in 1838, to Jennings county, Ind., carried his popularity with him. He was soon elected to the magistrate's bench, upon which he served some thirteen years, and his decisions were such that but one was ever appealed from.

"Ripe in wisdom was he, but patient and simple and childlike." He connected himself with the Methodist Church in 1825, and was licensed to preach in 1845. His voice was ever heard against slavery and intemperance, and his walk and conversation were in consonance with his teaching. He is still living in his Indiana home, having raised a

family of thirteen children, of whom the following is the record—James, moved to Harrison county, Mo., in 1853, and represented his district twice in the legislature; Sarah, living in Rush county, Ind.; Almeda, whose home is still in Jennings county; George and Adam, living in Minnesota; Margaret, in Jefferson county, Ind.; Jennette, in Marion county; Lemuel, in Hendricks county; and John. The latter, a brave and gallant soldier, died of starvation and exposure in one of the loathsome prison pens of the rebels during the late war.

The subject of this sketch enlisted, also, in April, 1861, in the Sixth Indiana Infantry, and, after serving his three months with that regiment, re-enlisted, September 14, in Company H, Twenty Seventh Indiana Infantry, and with that famous band of heroes participated in many of the bloodiest battles of the war, among which were Winchester, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, in the east, and, after they were transferred to the Cumberland, Resaca and Altoona. He was wounded in the latter conflict, and was laid up in the hospital for a few weeks. He was mustered out, at Indianapolis, September 14, 1865. He was taken prisoner by the rebels at the battle of Winchester, May 25, 1862, and kept by them until September 20th, following, when he was exchanged and resumed duty.

In February, 1867, our subject came to Meeker county, and purchased the place where he now lives. For the first three years of his residence here he was engaged in brickmaking in the village, but at the expiration of that time took up farming. Two seasons since that he has been in the same business, and a part of the time in the sawmill at Dassel.

Mr. Brower was married, October 4, 1869, to Miss Flora E. DeCoster, a native of Massachusetts, and daughter of Albert DeCoster, of Massachusetts. By this union there have been born four children, namely—Adam M.,

whose birth took place August 3, 1870; Claude D., born September 28, 1871; Daisy, born December 12, 1874; and Frederick G., born January 6, 1883.

Mr. Brower is a republican in politics, and is the clerk of the school district in which he lives.



JOHAN RALSTON, one of the most successful, prominent and leading farmers and stock-raisers in Meeker county, is a resident of section 25, Harvey township. He was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, of Scotch parents, on the 2d of March, 1837, and his early days were spent in his native Province, where he received the education afforded by the facilities of those days and he received the same training as to industry and frugality that is characteristic of the people of that nationality.

In March, 1858, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and spent one month in what is now Harvey township. At the expiration of that time he went to Minneapolis and spent the summer, returning to Meeker county in the winter, working at stone masonry most of the time during this period. Five years later he again returned to Minneapolis, where he remained three years, and since that time he has made his home in Harvey township. He has one of the most valuable and best improved farms in the county, and his successful and able business management is abundantly evidenced by his present standing, as he is rated as one of the most solid and substantial citizens in the northern part of Meeker county. He carries on diversified farming, together with stock-raising, extensively, and his place is well arranged for his work.

Mr. Ralston was married, on March 18, 1869, to Miss Sarah L. Wilkinson, of the Province of Quebec, and they have been parents of two children—John E., deceased,

and Jane E., who is still at home. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Ralston does not take an active part in political matters, at least so far as office seeking is concerned, and in those matters he does not follow the arbitrary dictation of party, but acts in an independent manner.



HONORABLE LOUIS RUDBERG, one of Dassel's respected and honored deceased citizens, who was identified with its early development, was a native of Sweden, and came to Meeker county in 1866 and took a homestead. He was at that time a young unmarried man, and did not remain upon the farms steadily, but when the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad was being built through the county in 1869, he entered their employ as carpenter, he having learned that trade. He remained with them until 1872, at which date he came to Dassel village and entered into the mercantile business, and remained in that line until his death, which occurred in January, 1884. While a resident here, in 1876, he was elected a member of the Minnesota State Legislature, and served one term with credit.




PPETER PETERSON, a farmer of Acton township, belongs to a family that has a number of representatives scattered through the Northwest. A sister is now Mrs. Laurits Frogner, of Atwater; one of his brothers, Frederick Peterson, also lives in Atwater, where he works in an elevator; and another brother, Nels, is inspector in an elevator at Fisher's Landing, Dak.

Peter Peterson, the subject of this biography, was born in Denmark on the 21st of August, 1839, and is a son of Peter and Anna Peterson. He came to the United States in 1873, and at once settled in Acton township,

Meeker county, Minn. He then purchased eighty acres on section 31, but has since bought an additional eighty, so that his farm now consists of 160 acres, a large share of which is under a high state of cultivation. His place is improved with substantial and comfortable farm buildings, and he has it well stocked with horses and cattle. In addition to his farming operations he has a feed mill on his place, which he operates for the convenience of himself and neighbors.

Mr. Peterson was married, in 1863, to Anna, a daughter of Peter and Anna Christina Peterson. The following is a record of the births and deaths of the children that have been born to them—Mary, born December 21, 1863, died June 15, 1866; Mary Christina, born September 6, 1866, died in June, 1871; Peter, born August 1, 1868, died in October, 1869; Rasmus, born November 16, 1872, died in May, 1874; Mary, born August 10, 1875, died in August 1878; Anna P., born December 16, 1876; Marius, born January 27, 1878, died in August, 1878; Peter and Gogen (twins), born March 11, 1881, both died early in 1882. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Peterson is a republican in political matters, and has taken an active interest in all matters which affect the township's welfare. It is well worthy of notice in this connection that Mr. Peterson is an old soldier, having served ten months in the regular army before leaving Denmark.



 **OLE KITTLESON**, a prominent old settler who resides on section 31, Litchfield township, is a native of Norway, born in 1844, and a son of Kittle and Carrie Haroldsen. In 1846 he came to the United States with his parents and they settled in Rock county, Wis., where they remained until 1857, and then removed to Meeker

county, Minn., and the family settled on section 30, Litchfield township. Ole Kittleson was only a boy of eighteen years of age at the time the outbreak of the Indians began, but the duties of a man devolved upon him. He assisted in the burial of the first five victims, and was one of the pursuing party that chased the redskins who came upon the ground while the inquest was being held. When the danger seemed to have passed, he and his father and brothers returned to their unfinished harvesting, but the news of the bloody massacres and murders that followed, drove them to Forest City for refuge. The family spent the following winter of 1862-63, on the old Gitchell place, near Kingston, but Ole stayed a portion of the time on the old claim, sleeping in the house alone. In 1863 they gathered together what stock there was left and did a little farming.

Ole Kittleson finally purchased a farm adjoining that of his father's and went to farming on his own account. He has been very successful and now has a valuable farm, upon which he devotes his time, carrying on diversified farming and stock-raising. In 1869 he was married to Sarah Halverson Ness, a daughter of Ole Halverson Ness. Their marriage has been blessed with eight children, seven of whom are living — Carrie, Christian, Olavus, Mary, Henry, George and Ida. At the time of the grasshopper plague in 1877, Mr. Kittleson lost about all his crops, having sown seventy bushels and only raised five.

Mr. Kittleson has taken an active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his township, and is justly regarded as one of the solid and substantial citizens of the county. He has held various township offices and has been school director of his district for over twenty years. The family are members of the Ness Norwegian Lutheran Church.

HENDERSON M. ANGIER, of Litchfield, is a native of Chenango county, N. Y., born October 24, 1835, and is the son of Roland and Mary (Marsh) Angier. Both of his parents were natives of Massachusetts who had come to the Empire State in youth, and were married there. Shortly after the birth of H. M. the couple removed to Porter county, Ind., where they resided until 1859, when they came to Meeker county, and settled in Greenleaf township, where they died, the father in 1867, the mother in 1873.

Henderson M. remained with his parents until August, 1855, when he was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Crosby, a native of Schenectady county, N. Y., and the young people remained in Indiana until the spring of 1859, when they came to Meeker county, arriving here June 19th, of that year. The next year they settled upon section 10, Greenleaf, on which they lived until June, 1862, when they removed to Litchfield township, Mr. Angier taking up a homestead on section 12, and commencing to get out the timber for a house, when his operations were interrupted by the Indian outbreak. The night before that event he was at Forest City, attending a war meeting, but, on hearing the news, decided to remain and help defend this portion of the country against the savages, and accordingly went to Forest City and took charge of the crew who were getting out the timbers for the stockade. He was on many of the expeditions, which issued forth from that place to look up the missing and bury the dead settlers, and did valiant service at the fort during the night of the attack on Forest City. He was one of the volunteers who went out to rescue the party in the old house in the timber, and collect the loose stock the next morning, and stood next to Olson when the latter was wounded, and helped assist him and William Branham, who was also wounded, back to the stockade.

Mr. Angier remained in Forest City until the spring of 1863, when he went to Illinois for his family, whither he had sent them for safety, and returned to Forest City in 1865, stopping for some time in Clearwater on his return. In 1866 he returned to his farm and finished building his house, begun four years before. There he remained until 1873, when he removed to Union Grove, but one year later removed to the village of Litchfield, where he now lives. In the spring of 1878 he was elected city marshal, and has held that office and that of deputy sheriff, ever since. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the A. O. U. W., and was the Grand Representative to the State lodge of the latter for two years. He is also an active temperance man and worker.



CARL JOHN GOTTFRIED HANSON, is an enterprising farmer who is located on section 26, in Litchfield township. He is a son of Bengt and Elma Hanson, and was born in the city of Hamburg, Germany, while the family were *en route* from Sweden to the United States, and is a twin brother of Nels C. G. Hanson, a merchant in Litchfield. His father, Bengt Hanson, is one of the most prosperous farmers in this part of the county, and noticed at length elsewhere in this volume. Carl was reared on his father's farm, receiving good educational advantages in the Litchfield schools. During the summer of 1886 he erected a house on that portion of the original Hanson farm located on sections 26 and 27, and embarked in the business of farming on his own account. On the 4th of November of the same year, he was united in marriage with Emma C. Lindberg. She is a daughter of Hans and Carrie Lindberg, and was born in Sweden October 31, 1867. They have one child—Eily—a bright little babe, which was born to them on the 29th of July, 1887.

Mr. Hanson attends closely to his business of farming and stock raising, and justly ranks as one of the most substantial young farmers of the county. He is a member of Golden Fleece Lodge No. 89, A. F. & A. M., of Litchfield.



JAMES H. MCKENNEY, one of the active, enterprising business men of the village of Dassel, is a native of Limerick, York county, Me., born March 26, 1843, and is the son of Henry and Nancy (Jaek) McKinney, both of whom, as well as the grandparents of our subject, were natives of the same State.

When the subject of this memoir was some ten years of age the angel of death invaded the household and bore away the loving mother, and the family circle was broken. Young McKenney remained in his native town until his nineteenth year, receiving the elements of a good education, finishing the last three years at the academy, and laying the broad foundation upon which he has built his present fortune, and in 1862 removed to Charleston, Mass., where he was engaged as clerk in a wholesale and retail grocery store. On the 29th of September, 1865, he left that city by the sea for Minnesota, and for the next year or more, followed teaching at Anoka. In the spring of 1867 he removed to Anderson, Ind., at which point he entered into the saw-mill and lumber-business and continued in that line until 1874, when the mill was burned down, involving a loss to him of some \$7,000. The next spring he returned to Anoka and taught the same school which he had taught in 1865. He remained in that place until 1877, when he removed to Wright county, and one year later to Meeker county. He was engaged in school teaching near Spring Lake and at Beaver

Dam until the fall of 1878, when he came to Dassel, and for two years filled the position of principal of the village schools. In the fall of 1880, Mr. McKenney bought an interest in the Dassel elevator, and took charge of the business, and since that time, has acquired by purchase almost all the shares in the same, and now has full control of it. The elevator has a capacity of 45,000 bushels, and his business reached the shipment of 65,000 bushels of wheat during the year 1887.

Mr. McKenney was united in marriage, in Anderson, Ind., December 26, 1868, with Miss Lydia J. Isley, who died December 17, 1870, leaving one child, which died in infancy December 25, 1881. Mr. McKenney again entered the married state, wedding Miss Emma E. Wolsey, a native of Stockbridge, Wis., who has become the mother of two children—Henry B., and Gertrude A.



LUKE D. CROWE, the junior partner in the firm of McLane & Crowe, agricultural implement dealers, Litchfield, is a fair specimen of the representative class of citizens of Meeker county, who, by their native ability, are fast taking rank among the best business men of this section of the State.

He is a native of County Galway, Ireland, born in 1853, and is the son of George J. and Jane Crowe, with whom he came to Meeker county in 1870. His father purchased a farm in the town of Litchfield, and settled down to the quiet pursuits of agriculture. Luke D., whose home training was under the tender influences of his mother's care, grew to manhood and helped his father in the manifold cares devolving upon the industrious farmer, until he attained the age of twenty-five years. About that time our subject removed to Traverse county, Minn., where he filed a homestead and tree claim, and made his residence there for six years. Re-

turning to his home, upon the farm of his father, in this county, he remained one season, and in 1886 came to the city of Litchfield, and, in company with Daniel McLane, opened a warehouse for the sale of agricultural implements, and is now in the full tide of the success that invariably awaits honest and unremitting attention to business and straightforward dealing.



LARS P. SORENSON, one of the most successful and enterprising stock-raisers and general farmers in Meeker county, resides on section 17, Danielson township, where he located in 1876. He is a son of Soren and Mary Christianson, and was born in Denmark on the 1st of May, 1852. His early life was one of toil and hardship, as he has relied upon his own exertions ever since he arrived at the age of fourteen years. As he grew to manhood he spent three years in the regular army of Denmark. His parents were also natives of Denmark, who remained in the land of their birth until their deaths. In 1876, Lars P., in company with his brother John, came to the United States, and made his way directly to Meeker county, Minn., and together they purchased 240 acres on section 17, in Danielson township. He has since purchased his brother's interest. He has erected farm buildings which are a credit to the township, and plainly evidence his thrift and enterprise. He has a substantial story-and-a-half house, 18 x 24 feet in size, with an addition 10 x 18 feet, and his barn is 32 x 72 feet in dimensions with twenty-foot posts, besides which he has a good granary, machinery sheds and other farm buildings. He devotes his time to diversified farming, and in company with A. Nelson, is raising pure-bred Holstein cattle. Mr. Sorenson has taken an interest in the affairs of his township, and has held the office of township treasurer for two years.

In 1879, Mr. Sorenson was married to Miss Johanna Datha Jacobson, and their union has been blessed with three children—Soren Christen, born June 3, 1880; Andrew, born April 12, 1882; and Martin Jorgen, born April 13, 1888. Mrs. Sorenson is a daughter of Andrew and Sarah Jacobson. She was born on the 19th of December, 1852, and came to the United States with her parents in July, 1872.



RALPH D. GRINDALL, one of the most successful and prominent stock-raisers and general farmers in the southern portion of Meeker county, is a resident of section 8, Cedar Mills township. He is a native of Hancock county, Me., and was born on the 20th of November, 1827. His parents were Elijah W. and Caroline B. (Higgins) Grindall, both of whom were natives of Maine. His grandfather, on his father's side, was a native of the Isle of Wight, who settled at the town of Penobscot at an early day; and when the English came to build their forts at Castine, he was pressed into the English service, and worked upon the fort during the summer of 1812 receiving compensation at the rate of eight cents per day. Ralph's grandfather Higgins, was a native of Nova Scotia, who at an early day settled on Bartlett's Island, where the mother of our subject, Caroline B. Higgins, was born February 21, 1806.

Elijah W. Grindall, the father of our subject, was born Sept. 2, 1804. He married Miss Higgins on the 4th of January, 1827, and remained in his native State—Maine—until 1854, when he came to Minnesota, and opened up a farm near St. Anthony. He remained there until the time of his death, June 28, 1872, and his widow still resides in Minneapolis.

Ralph D. Grindall remained with his parents until he was nineteen years of age.

and then bought "his time" of his father, and for the two years immediately following he was employed at whatever he could find to do, a portion of the time working for his father. He then followed teaming and in 1851 had the misfortune to lose by fire five horses, wagons, harness, etc. In August, 1852, he was married to Miss Sophrona L. Howard, a native of Maine. Mr. Grindall remained at Bangor, in his native State, until 1854, when he went to Kansas and spent a few months, helping to erect the first mill that was built on the present site of Lawrence. In the fall of the same year he came to St. Anthony, Minn., but only stayed a short time and then went to Chicago where, during the following winter (1854-55) he had general charge of transfer work and collecting bills for the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Railroad. In the spring of 1855 he engaged in farming near Dubuque, Iowa, and the following fall again came to St. Anthony, Minn. He put up the first slaughter house in Minneapolis for Allan Hammond, after which he followed butchering at Fort Snelling for Pettijohn & Steele. In the spring of 1856 he engaged in the same business at St. Anthony and remained there until the spring of 1861. In 1856 he had purchased forty acres of land near Minneapolis. [It is now in the heart of the city.] In the spring of 1861 he put in a crop on this land, and then went to work with a government surveying party in the western part of the State, running township lines, and remained at this work until the following fall. He then returned to St. Anthony, and on the 6th of May, 1862, he had the misfortune to lose his house by fire, and with it the accumulations of ten years' hard labor. He built another house during the summer and also carried on his farm. When the Indian outbreak occurred in August, 1862, he enlisted in Northrup's Cavalry, and spent some time at Fort Ridgely, and then

he returned to St. Anthony and engaged in farming. During the winter of 1867-68 he followed teaming from Minneapolis to Meeker county, making nine trips, and during the following winter he followed the same business from Greenleaf to Clearwater and from Hutchinson to Carver. In the spring of 1868 Mr. Grindall came to his present farm in Cedar Mills township, having purchased 360 acres of his farm in 1862, and commenced to improve it. He has met with some reverses, especially during 1876 and 1877 when his crops were destroyed by the grasshoppers. Upon the whole, however, he has been very successful in his farming operations. He has a splendid farm of 440 acres of land and carries on general farming and stock-raising, devoting especial attention to breeding thorough-bred Short-horn stock. Among the fine animals which Mr. Grindall has recently added to his herd are the following: "Roan Duchess of Oxford Stb.," from one of the oldest tribes on record; "Oxford Wild Eyes 2d," another animal of pure breeding; and a Short-horn bull, "Duke of Minneapolis." All of these magnificent animals are registered, pure bred and have splendid pedigrees.

Since his settlement here Mr. Grindall has taken an active interest in public affairs and figures prominently in the official history of the township. He has held about all the various township offices and is now township treasurer. He has taken a prominent part in educational matters and aided in securing the erection of the first school-house in the township.

Mr. and Mrs. Grindall are the parents of six living children, as follows—Wilbur E., born May 16, 1858; Emma M., born May 7, 1860; Fanny G., born September 19, 1862; Mortimer C., born January 29, 1865; Edwin W., born October 29, 1867; and Eva C., born August 16, 1869. The three following named children are deceased—George

Edward, born October 8, 1853; Louisa, born May 4, 1856; and Ernest R., born September 19, 1862.

We take pleasure in presenting a portrait of Mr. Grindall in another department of this volume.



ROY M. CASE, one of the young and enterprising agriculturists of Collinwood township, makes his home upon his farm on section 21. He is a native of Waupun, Dodge county, Wis., born March 25, 1853, and is the son of Royal T. and Almira F. (Batcheller) Case, natives of the State of Vermont. His father was a farmer and upon the farm our subject was reared. When he was about eight years old his parents removed to this State and located at Plainview, where they purchased a farm, and there made their home until the spring of 1869. During that year they moved to the neighborhood of Hutchinson, where they lived until coming to this county in 1873. They settled in Collinwood on section 27, where the mother died October 29, 1877, and the father February 14, 1886.

The subject of our sketch was an inmate of his father's house until his marriage with Miss Catherine Ann Grant, on October 17, 1882. The lady is the daughter of James and Rebecca Grant, and was born in Jennings county, Ind., December 18, 1862, and is a most accomplished musician, as are most of the family. When Mr. Case was married he had but little of this world's goods, but purchasing a farm of fifty acres upon section 21, on time, and by diligence and industry has reclaimed it from its original state of wildness and cleared it of debt. He is a finished musician, and has traveled, giving lessons and selling instruments. His estimable wife has largely contributed toward their success in life by her industry and economy.

HONORABLE O. M. LINNELL, of Acton township, is one of the most prominent citizens of Meeker county. He was born near Wexiö, in Sweden, on the 21st of April, 1840, and is a son of Magnus Jonason and Lisa O. (Falk) Linnell. With his parents he came to the United States in 1852, and they settled on Lake Chisago, in Chisago county, Minn., the same year. O. M. Linnell, being the oldest in the family, had to work very hard in the summer time to help his father clear off a farm in the heavy timber and had to work out for others to earn money for clothing. Most of the year 1857 was put in at and around the city of Superior, Wis., when the noted hard times in Minnesota set in, of 1857, 1858 and 1859, when it was next to an impossibility to get a dollar in money. The winter of 1859 and 1860 our subject spent near St. Joe, Ia., cutting cordwood, where money was paid for labor. He was there offered the charge of a cordwood landing, with three large wood barges and twelve negroes, but could not stand it to hear the abuse of the Southerners toward the Northern men, nor see the abuse of the slaves; so in April he went back to his home in Minnesota, where he remained with his parents part of the time, and to earn money for the family worked on the St. Croix river during the summers, on the logs, driving, or on the booms. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in at Fort Snelling, just at the time the Sioux Indians' noted massacre broke out in the town of Acton, where Mr. Linnell now lives. Company C, of the Seventh Minnesota Infantry, was sent on foot, marching to Fort Ripley without having time to wait for uniforms. They received bright, shining Springfield rifles, but not a single cartridge. It looked, as the boys used to express it, "kind of funny to meet the savage Indians without powder or lead, meeting citizens by the hun-



W. Linnell

dreds fleeing from their homes for their lives." From Fort Ripley the company was ordered to the Chippewa Agency to guard the government stores. There they were soon surrounded by 500 Indian warriors, and as the company had only a few rounds of ammunition the position for a time was a dangerous one. They were kept in this shape for four days, when the Indians learned that the Sioux were defeated at Wood Lake, and were then very glad to make a treaty. Had the Indians known the condition of the soldiers and made an attack, Company C would have been annihilated. After the treaty was perfected the company was sent back to Ripley, where they built large barracks, and with other companies expected to camp over winter, but in the latter part of November they received orders to report at Fort Snelling, to go South. The company got a few days' furlough to go home to visit friends, and during this time the governor of Minnesota got permission to keep what soldiers were in the State for fear of a new outbreak of the Indians in the spring, and Company C was sent to Mankato to guard the Indian prisoners. This company afterward carried out the final execution of the thirty-eight Indians who were hanged there. The last military duty Mr. Linnell did was on December 17, 1862, when he was detailed to help ferry the government teams across the Minnesota River, and was taken sick with a disease of the lungs. He was under the doctor's care for eleven months. He has never fully recovered from this sickness. He was honorably discharged from the service for disability, at Fort Snelling, on the 4th of August, 1863, and returned to his home, and from 1864 to 1876 was farming, lumbering and dealing in rafting materials. In 1876 he came to Mecker and settled in Acton township, where he now lives. He now has a good farm of 520 acres of land, with excellent machinery and a good stock of horses

and cattle. All of his property has been accumulated since his army service.

Mr. Linnell has taken an active and prominent part in public matters ever since he attained his manhood, and he has held some town or county office each year since he has been old enough, with the exception of the first year in Mecker county. Since coming here he has held the offices of county commissioner, school treasurer for nine years, and is at the present time. He is the present town clerk. In 1880 he was elected to represent this district in the legislature, and was re-elected in 1882. The sessions in which he served were three of the most important ever held in the history of the State, particularly in settling at fifty cents on the dollar the "Eight-Million-Dollar State Railroad Bonds," which had been a stain on the glorious banner of our North Star State. Mr. Linnell had always advocated a settlement of the bonds to redeem the honor of the State. In 1883 he was chairman of the standing committee of agriculture and manufactures, and, as usual, a member of several different committees.

Mr. Linnell strongly supported temperance legislation, and a reduction of interest on money. He served with honor to himself and credit to the district.

Mr. Linnell was married on the 24th of June, 1884, to Carolina Sophia Anderson, a daughter of C. M. and Kaisa Anderson. She was a native of Småland, Sweden, born November 11, 1839. Mr. and Mrs. Linnell have been blessed with the following named children — Luther A., Medora E., Emely L., Herbert M., William Sabin, Mary A., Albert T. and Annette E. The daughter Medora is now a teacher in the graded schools at Grove City. Mr. Linnell has all his life been a worthy member of the Lutheran Evangelical Church, and is now one of its trustees and treasurer. He is a man of the strictest honor and integrity, and his word is recognized as

being as good as his bond, wherever he is known. He is well read and well posted on all public topics and justly holds the confidence and esteem of all who know him.



JOHN WHALEN, one of the first pioneers that broke the way for progress and civilization into the wilds of Meeker county, came here with a party of his countrymen, and made a settlement upon section 24, of Forest City township, where he now lives.

He is a native of Ireland, born in County Waterford, in the year 1824. He made his home in the "Emerald Isle" until 1846, when he crossed the ocean in search of a home in America. He landed at Montreal, Canada, reaching that place by way of the St. Lawrence River, and from there by way of Montpelier, Vt., he drifted to Boston and Lowell, Mass. After some time spent in those places, he turned his steps toward New York and New Jersey, and finally to Philadelphia, seeking employment wherever it offered, for he was of an industrious disposition, and had his living to provide for. Making up his mind that in the great West there was a greater chance for him, he accordingly came to Indiana, where he passed some six years and a half in farming, having adopted that calling. In the spring of 1856, a party consisting of the Whalens, the Flynns, the Fitzgeralds and others left Crown Point, Ind., for California, but reaching Dubuque, Iowa, heard of this country, and determined to investigate it. John Whalen and John Flynn pushed on ahead of the others, and on reaching Meeker county, and being pleased with it, returned for the train containing their families and friends, meeting them at Rochester, this State. They at once headed for this country, and crossed the county line on the 9th of July, that year, and made their

settlement. Mr. Whalen located upon the place where he now lives, the others elsewhere, as related in their memoirs. Mr. Whalen has added to his place from time to time, until he is now the owner of 714 acres, and is classed among the wealthiest farmers in the county. In 1856 he was married to Miss Mary Flynn, and they are the parents of five children—Thomas, James, Ellen, Mary and John.

Politically, Mr. Whalen is a democrat of the Andrew Jackson type, and religiously is a devout member of the Roman Catholic Church.



JOSEPH PLUMADORE, one of the active, thorough-going agriculturists of Kingston township, living upon section 15, came to Meeker county in 1870, and settled at the village of Litchfield, where he plied his craft of carpenter. A few years later he removed to Mimeoapolis, where he followed the same avocation for about two years, when he returned here and took up his present homestead, knowing that "here lands may be had for the asking, and forests of timber with a few blows of the axe are hewn and framed into houses." Although the place was covered with the primeval forest, still, by extreme energy and perseverance, he has succeeded in clearing it and developing a fine farm of eighty acres in extent.

The subject of this memoir is a native of New York, born May 11, 1836, and is the son of William and Mary (Laurie) Plumadore. His father was a native of *la belle France*, and was engaged in all kinds of speculating and barter and sale. After attending school, our subject took up his handicraft, in which he served a full apprenticeship, and followed regularly until settling down to agricultural pursuits. He was united in marriage, September 11, 1873, with Miss Mary Apfield, a

native of Germany, whose parents had crossed the ocean with her in her infancy, and settled in Scott county, where she was reared and educated. By this union Mr. and Mrs. Plumadore are the parents of an only daughter—Edith, born April 22, 1875.

In his political views Mr. Plumadore coincides with the principles formulated in the platforms of the republican party, and has always been an adherent of that organization. His sterling integrity and honorable dealing has won him hosts of friends in the community, and his name is synonymous with easy good nature and genial hospitality.



NILS MARTENSON, one of the most highly respected and prominent farmers in the western part of Meeker county, resides on section 4, Swede Grove township. He was born in Sweden on the 10th of November, 1848, and is a son of Marten and Alice (Olson) Anderson. Nils was reared in his native land, but in 1868, when twenty years old, he came alone to America, landing in Quebec, making his way on to St. Paul, Minn., and one day later came to Litchfield, in Meeker county. He worked two weeks for Ole Ingerman, four for Andrew Nelson, and then went to Cutt's Grove, where he was sick for six weeks. Upon his recovery he went to St. Paul, and one month later to Louisiana, where he remained six months. He then returned to Minnesota, working for six months at St. Paul and Cutt's Grove in Washington county. After this he worked for six months in Louisiana, and then went to St. Paul to meet his parents who had just arrived from Sweden, and together they came to Meeker county and settled on the land where Nils now resides. This was in 1871. He is now in comfortable circumstances, all of which is the result of his own enterprise, industry and good management.

He owns one of the most valuable farms in the township, comprising 320 acres, a good share of which is under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Martenson was married on the 11th of August, 1873, to Ellen Trulson, whose parents still reside in Meeker county. Mr. and Mrs. Martenson have been the parents of eight children, the three oldest of whom are dead. The names of those living are Judet M., Ruth, Samuel, Rhoda, and Lydia. The family are members of the Baptist Church and are exemplary Christian people. In political matters Mr. Martenson affiliates with the republican party.

The parents of Mr. Martenson were natives of Sweden. Both of his parents died in this county.



PATRICK ENRIGHT, one of the most prominent and enterprising farmers and stock-raisers in the northern part of the county, resides on section 18, Manannah township. He was born in County Limerick, Ireland, March 25, 1834, and is a son of John and Eliza (Blake) Enright. He left his native land in 1847 with his parents, and settled in Canada, where his parents remained until the time of their death. Our subject remained in Canada until 1874, when he came to Meeker county, Minn., and settled on section 18, Manannah township, where he still lives. He is now in comfortable circumstances, and is one of the largest land owners in the township, having 400 acres of land. A good share of his place is under cultivation, and in connection with diversified farming he devotes considerable attention to raising stock. In political matters Mr. Enright affiliates with the democratic party, and has taken an active interest in public matters. He has been prominently identified with the official history of the township, and has held

various local offices, including that of township supervisor, which office he has held for six terms.

Mr. Enright was married in December, 1855, to Miss Mary Fitzpatrick, and their marriage has been blessed with nine children, as follows—Patrick, Mary, Eliza, James, William, Catherine, Michael, Marguaret and John, all of whom are still living. Mrs. Enright's parents were natives of Ireland. The mother died in Canada and the father in Meeker county.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Enright are exemplary members and active supporters of the Catholic Church.



WILLIAM GRONO is the proprietor of the marble works at Litchfield, the first and only establishment of the kind ever started at the county seat. Mr. Grono was born at Pontiac, Oakland county, Mich., October 4, 1860, and is the son of William and Minnie (Zelhime) Grono. Both of his parents were natives of Prussia, who had settled in Michigan in 1856. In 1872 they settled at Worthington, Minn., taking up government land in Nobles county, on which the parents still reside. William Grono, Jr., remained with his parents until he was fifteen years of age when he went to Owatonna, Minn., and learned the marble cutter's trade. He remained in that city until 1883, when he went to Montevideo, and in company with J. R. Seaman, engaged in the marble trade. A year later he sold his interest to his partner and came to Litchfield, and on the first of March, 1885, established the marble works of which he is still proprietor. He carries on an extensive business.

Mr. Grono was married on the 10th of October, 1884, to Miss Rosa Maw, of Steele county, Minn. They have one child—Maudie May, born January 25, 1886.

HALVER O. HALVERSEN, one of Acton township's representative farmers, is one of the best known citizens in the western part of Meeker county. He is a native of Wisconsin, born on the 26th of October, 1850. His parents were Henry and Margarete Halversen, both natives of Norway. They came to the United States in 1846, and settled in Wisconsin, where they engaged at farming, and remained until 1856, then came to Meeker county, Minn., and settled upon a farm, which the father purchased in Litchfield township. In 1883 they sold this, and the father purchased a farm in Acton township, which he still owns. At this writing the father is visiting in Washington Territory.

H. O. Halversen, the subject of this sketch, was brought up on a farm. Upon attaining his manhood he was married to Mrs. Hattie Olson, in 1873, widow of Gutrom Olson, who died in 1867. By her first marriage his wife had one child, Gurine, who was born December 5, 1867, and died July 21, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Halversen have been blessed with the following children—Mattie A., born May 13, 1875; Henry C., born February 27, 1877, and died July 22, 1882; and Ida O., born January 10, 1879, and died July 19, 1882 (these three children died of diphtheria, and were buried on the same day); and the following children, who are living—Mattie A., born May 13, 1875; Ole L., born August 22, 1881; and Ida Gurine Henrietta, born December 29, 1883. Mr. Halversen has been very successful in his farming operations, and is well-off in this "world's goods." He has in all 291 acres of land, and lives on the northwest quarter of section 24, where he has a neat and comfortable residence, and splendid barn, and other farm buildings. In addition to his farming and stock-raising interests, he runs a steam thresher during the threshing season. At the time of the Indian outbreak, although Mr. Halversen was but a

lad of twelve, he has a distinct recollection of the events during that trying time. His parents fled with the family from their Litchfield farm, and went to Forest City for safety. A year later, however, Halver returned with his father and helped put in the crops. This matter receives full attention in the chapter relating to the massacre. In religion Mr. Halversen and family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, and in political matters, Mr. Halversen is a republican.



GEORGE DICKSON, for many years a banker in Scotland and India, retired in broken health in 1872, on a life pension of five thousand dollars per annum. After recruiting his health for over two years in England, he traveled through the United States and Canada, during 1874 and 1875, and in 1880 purchased from Col. W. S. King, the property of "Oakwood," in Danielson township, Meeker county, Minn.

This is one of the best equipped farms in the State of Minnesota, the buildings being of a very superior description and well finished. It contains 150 acres of well matured timber, skirting "Lake Dickson," two miles long, by one and three-quarters of a mile in breadth. The soil is remarkably good, gently rolling throughout; is well watered, and is subdivided by over eight miles of substantial fencing.

The herd of short horn cattle usually numbers from 130 to 180 head, and has been graded up to a high state of perfection. The interior accommodation, with numerous box stalls for wintering 130 head of cattle and eighteen horses, is very complete.

The loft of the cattle barn, 195 by 40 feet, with two large wings, has a capacity of 200 tons of hay; and the stable, 80 by 40 feet, a capacity of 100 tons.

Over 500 acres are under cultivation; two separate holdings, each of 160 acres, have hitherto been let to tenants, and the main farm, usually held by a tenant "on shares" is under a regular cereal rotation, and has ample provision of natural and cultivated grasses, orchard and blue grass, red clover and timothy.

A school house and postoffice have recently been established here. Otherwise considerable improvements in building, draining and fencing have been effected on the property since 1880. So that it is now one of the most valuable and desirable among Minnesota's "Bonanza farms."



ERICK BYLUND is a prominent old settler who resides on section 6, Litchfield township. He was born in Sweden on the 16th of February, 1824, and is a son of John E. and Anna Bylund. His early life was one of incessant toil and bitter hardship, and during four years of the earlier period of his life, from 1837 to 1840, he lived on nothing but fish and bread made from pine bark. In 1850 he came to the United States and after living one winter in Illinois he came to Minnesota, settling at Taylor's Falls, Chisago county. There were but very few settlers in the Territory of Minnesota at that time and none away from the east territorial line. Erick worked for several years in the pineries striving to get money enough together to transport his father and brother from the old world to the new. In 1863 he came to Meeker county and located on section 6, in Litchfield township, where he still lives. During that summer he helped build a fort near his farm and his own and four other families occupied it for several weeks during the Indian scare.

In 1857 Mr. Bylund was married to Catherine Nordin, a native of Sweden, who bore

him two children — John, born December 7, 1858, died when four years of age; and Nels, born June 12, 1860. Nels has always followed farming with his father, and now has charge of the farm. Mrs. Bylund died on the 18th of May, 1884, and Mr. Bylund and son, Nels, have since lived on the old homestead, which is beautifully situated in the northwestern part of the township. The farm is well located and well improved.



GEORGE NEUBAUER, an intelligent, respected and prominent farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 9, Forest Prairie township, was born in Baiern, Germany, on the 7th of April, 1832, and is a son of George and Catherine (Martin) Neubauer. His father and mother were the parents of eleven children, some of whom, however, died in infancy.

George Neubauer, the subject of this sketch, spent his boyhood days in his native land, attending school regularly until he was twelve years old, and for six years thereafter, attended a school held every Sunday. He remained at home with his parents until he was twenty years of age, when, in 1852, he, in company with his brothers and sisters, John, Michael, Mary and Barbara, came to the United States. They landed in New York and then went to Jersey City, where they remained two years, George being at work in a cement factory. In 1854 they removed to Silver Creek, Penn., and lived there until 1879, when George came to Minnesota.

In 1881, George Neubauer came to Meeker county and located on section 22, Forest Prairie township. Two years later he settled upon the place on section 9, where he still resides. He has a valuable farm of eighty acres and devotes his attention to general farming and stock-raising.

Our subject was married before leaving his

native land, on the 15th of August, 1852, to Miss Elizabeth Schreivogel. They have eight children living, six boys and two girls, as follows—John, Michael, Mary, Joseph, Lawrence, Lizzie, George and Daniel.

In political matters, Mr. Neubauer is a democrat. The family are respected members of the Catholic Church.



AMBROSE T. DORMAN. Another pioneer family of Meeker county is the Dormans, some of whom have passed away, some have removed from the county, but there are a few here still. One of them, and a prominent one, is the gentleman whose name heads this article.

Ambrose Dorman was born in Harrington, Washington county, Me., May 29, 1836, and was there reared to manhood. He received the elements of the excellent education which is the privilege of every citizen of New England, in the schools of his native town. In 1858, with a view to the betterment of his fortunes, he came to Minnesota and settled in Meeker county, where he now resides.

Nathaniel Dorman, the father of the subject of this memoir, came to Meeker county in 1857, with the first settlers of the township, and took up a claim. The old gentleman, although some eighty-four years of age, still survives, a monument to the regularity of the lives of the former generation, whose habits have preserved them to a ripe old age. Mrs. Nathaniel Dorman died in 1870, and her remains are buried in the Kingston cemetery. They were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living—John F., Phoebe S., Ambrose T., Harry Y., Samuel A., Ellen E. and Leonard L.

Ambrose T. Dorman made a trip to California in 1863, and remained in that Eldorado, engaged in mining, for some three years, and then returned to Meeker county.

He is somewhat of an adventurous disposition, having followed the sea for some five years in his youth, and spent one year in Maine, one in Wisconsin, and one in the Minnesota pineries. April 18, 1869, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah J. Goble, a native of Kentucky, born July 27, 1847, and the daughter of William and Edith (Phelps) Goble. Her father died here in June, 1876, and his body lies at rest in the cemetery of Kingston; her mother is still living. The latter is a native of Virginia, where she grew to the years of womanhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Dorman have an interesting family of five children, whose names are as follows—Willie A., Edith V., Silva Jane, Martha Ann, and John P. Mr. Dorman is a staunch adherent to the principles of Jeffersonian democracy in his politics, and is a worthy and public spirited citizen of the county.



JOHAN HILL. The subject of this biography, a resident of section 28, Manannah township, is one of the most intelligent, leading and successful farmers and stock-raisers in the northern part of the county. He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1829, and is a son of Francis and Mary (Campbell) Hill. His early life was spent in his native land, where he acquired the habits of industry, perseverance and frugality, which are so characteristic of the race from which he springs. In 1851 he came to the United States, landing in Boston and proceeded to Lowell, Mass., where he remained for eleven years, working in a cotton factory. He then went to San Francisco, Cal., where he lived for five years, engaged at firing on an engine. He then returned to Lowell, Mass., and sixteen months later he came to Meeker county, Minn. From Clearwater he came by stage to Forest City, and the next day he arrived

at the house of Owen Quinn, in Manannah township. A few days later he purchased the farm on section 28, where he still resides. He has 240 acres of land, and devotes his attention to farming and stock raising.

Mr. Hill was married on the 21st of February, 1855, to Hannah McAloon. Their marriage has been blessed with three children, whose names were Francis, John and Charles H. John is the only child living, the other two having died, and are buried in Lowell, Mass. Mr. and Mrs. Hill are exemplary members and active supporters of the Catholic Church.

In political matters Mr. Hill affiliates with the democratic party.



CHARLES A. GILMAN, a prominent and energetic farmer of Cosmos township, has his beautiful home upon sections 20 and 29, where his fine farm of 240 acres is situated. He came to this locality in 1877, and for about a year lived on section 26, and then three years on 33. In 1881 he took up his present homestead. One hundred acres of his land is well cultivated and the improvements are of a high class.

Mr. Gilman was born at Sangerville, Piscataquis county, Me., August 25, 1846, and is the son of Jonathan C. Gilman and wife, natives of Gilmanton, N. H. His parents removed to Maine in 1826, and located at Sangerville and made their home there until 1850, when they moved to Dexter, Penobscot county, where they still live. Charles remained at home until he was about twelve years of age, when he commenced working for other parties, and was thus employed until 1863. About that time the government, needing more men to suppress the rebellion, had just issued a new call for volunteers, and in September, 1863, our subject enlisted in Company E, Second Maine Cav-

ally, and served with the Nineteenth Army Corps in all its campaigns and marches. He was discharged at the close of hostilities, at Augusta, Me., September 11, 1865, and going to Dead river, Franklin county, that State, bought a farm, upon which he settled, and where he made his home until 1872, when, selling out, he came to Minneapolis and went into the lumber business. He came to Meeker county from there in 1877.

Mr. Gilman was married, October 27, 1865, to Miss Angelina S. Fisher, a native of Parkman, Piscataquis county, Me., and daughter of A. J. and Laura A. (Sargent) Fisher. They have a family of two children—George F. and Charles A. Mr. Gilman is a member of Frank Daggett Post, No. 35, G. A. R., and has served the town as justice of the peace from 1883 until the present time.



HENRY E. DANIELSON, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser, who resides on section 31, Cedar Mills township, is a native of Meeker county, and is a member of one of the most prominent pioneer families in the county. He was born in Acton township, Meeker county, Minn., on the 25th of April, 1858, and is a son of Nels and Randi Danielson, after whom the township of Danielson was named. A full history of his parents will be found elsewhere in this work. Henry was the fifth in a family of six children. He remained at home with his father's family until 1881, when he struck out for himself to earn his own way in the world. He first went to Atwater, where he remained for some three months, and then went to Minneapolis, where he spent one winter in Archibald's Business College. The following spring he entered the employ of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Company as car repairer, and remained in that position until May, 1884. During the fol-

lowing season he was engaged at carpenter work and various other lines of employment. In the spring of 1885 he located on section 31, Cedar Mills township, where he still lives. He has a valuable farm of 160 acres, a good share of which is under cultivation, has comfortable buildings, and is in good circumstances. He devotes his attention to general farming and stock-raising, and by his enterprise and industry he now ranks with the leading and most substantial citizens of the township.

Mr. Danielson was married while in Glyndon, on the 25th of June, 1883, to Miss Mary Eller, and one child has been born to them—Daniel D., born February 27, 1886. Mrs. Danielson was born at Baern, Germany, on the 10th of January, 1864. Her parents' names were Johan and Maria Eller.



JOHN KONSBRICK, of the city of Litchfield, is a native of the duchy of Luxemburg, Germany, born in the year 1839. He was reared in the land of his birth, among its picturesque and vine clad hills, and remained there until he had reached the age of one and twenty. He then emigrated to the shores of the new world to better his fortunes, and on arrival in this country settled at Aurora, Ill., where he lived for some two years, and at the expiration of that time came to Minnesota. For two years he was employed in farming in Dakota county, after which he spent a couple of years more at Bellevue, Jackson county, Iowa. From the latter place he returned to Dakota county, this State, and after a trip to the Territory of Dakota he came to Litchfield, and for three years was in the employ of John Rodange, a fellow countryman and an acquaintance of his boyhood. In 1883 our subject started for himself in the retail liquor business, but some two years later his



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place was destroyed by fire by which he lost some \$700 over the insurance. He, instead of being discouraged, at once commenced to put up a new building. It was erected at a total cost of something like \$4,500, and is a credit to the town. Mr. Kongsbrick is one of the leading saloon men of the town and a square business man.



OLE NIELSON KASTETT, a respected farmer who resides on section 23, Danielson township, is a son of Niels and Marie (Olson) Kastett, and was born in Norway, on the 15th of July, 1840. He came to the united States in 1861, and first settled in Houston county, Minn., where he remained one summer, and then went to Iowa, where he stayed for two years at work for farmers. In December, 1863, he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Cavalry, and was mustered in early in the following January. He served on the frontier, participating in two engagements with the Indians in the Bad Lands of Dakota, and was finally mustered out at Fort Snelling, in December, 1865. He then returned to Houston county, Minn., and remained there until the spring of 1866, when he came to what is now Cosmos township, Meeker county, then a part of Lincoln county. He was the first man to take a team and a plow into that township, and did the first breaking there. He also erected the first house. He remained there for five years, and then lived in Danielson township for five years, after which he spent two years in Cosmos, and then settled on the place where he now lives. In 1878 he sold his Cosmos farm, and now owns a place of ninety acres on section 23, Danielson township. He has taken an active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the township, and has held various local offices, including that of chairman of the township supervisors for two or three years.

Our subject was married on the 22d of January, 1870, to Mary N. Nelson, who is mentioned at length hereafter. They are the parents of the following children—Nellie Amelia, born October 25, 1870; Regina Marie, born August 19, 1872; Nels Oliver, born July 28, 1874; George Henry Nechall, born August 8, 1876; Carl Theodore, born July 19, 1879; Helen Matilda, born April 30, 1882; Ragnhild Mary Agnes, born July 16, 1884; and Daniel Anton, born January 26, 1887.

Mary N. Nelson, the wife of Ole Nielson Kastett, is a daughter of Nels and Ragnhild Danielson, the first settlers in Danielson township, and was born in Norway, on the 16th of October, 1849. She came to the United States in 1855 with her parents, and after stopping for two years in Wisconsin, in 1857 they came to Meeker county, Minn., where they have since lived. When the Indian outbreak began, the family with the majority of the other settlers, hastily went to Forest City, and a short time later to Kingston, it being stated that the string of teams extended in procession from one place to the other. They remained at Kingston but a short time, and then went back to Forest City and moved into a house near the river, there being another family to occupy it with them. Mr. Danielson, the father, was helping to complete the fort in the afternoon before the attack was made on Forest City, and, beginning to fear that an attack would be made, he directed the women to take the children and go to the hotel, which they did. He and three other men remained. In the night the house was set on fire, and upon looking out, they could see hundreds of Indians. They succeeded in escaping, however, unhurt. The Danielsons remained but a few days after the attack, and then returned to their farm, but before taking the family back, the father and the daughter, Helen, had gathered some of the grain. The follow-

ing winter Mr. Danielson took fifty head of cattle to winter, and as he had hay in Kandiyohi county, he took them there and also took his daughters Helen and Mary to aid in caring for them. The father was unable to clothe the girls properly, and as they could not keep up enough fire to keep even water next to the stove from freezing, both the girls froze their feet badly, and the father contracted rheumatism from which he afterward died. This will illustrate some of the hardships which the early settlers were compelled to endure. The daughter, Mary, remained at home until her marriage. Having been among the oldest settlers of the county, she has witnessed the county grow from nothing to its present prosperous and thickly settled condition.



WILLIAM H. WILCOX, ex county commissioner, a resident of Swede Grove township, is one of the most prominent citizens in the northern part of the county. He is a native of Ohio, born on the 22d of May, 1835, and was the son of Horace and Polly Wilcox. His father was extensively engaged in the dairy business.

William H. remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age and then began life for himself, working first in a cheese factory for a year, and then starting for the West. He worked about St. Paul and Minneapolis until 1857, when he bought a squatter's claim to 160 acres of land in Manannah township in Meeker county, paying fifty dollars for it. He secured government title with a soldier's land warrant, which cost him \$130. He then sold the land to a Mr. Deck for \$750 in gold, and bought 160 acres on sections 2 and 3, in Swede Grove township, where he has since lived with the exception of the summer of 1858, when he worked at St. Paul. He returned to his

place in the fall, accompanied by Mr. Ryckman, who had a claim adjoining, and they "baehed it" together during the following winter. When the Indian outbreak occurred he had a family on the place keeping house and his brother was living with him. On the same day as the killing of Jones and Baker, eleven Indians camped near his claim, and upon learning of the killing Mr. Wilcox accused the eleven of doing it, but they denied this, claiming they were "good Indians," and left without doing any mischief. Mr. Wilcox supposed the matter amounted to nothing more than a drunken row, but soon learned that it was to be a general outbreak. He therefore loaded sixteen women and children together with a few trunks onto a wagon and sent the outfit to Forest City in charge of his brother. He remained at home until nearly night and then took his gun and went out on the prairie to see if there were any Indians about. At a neighbor's he learned that the Indians were murdering and burning everything as they went, and were scouring the country for whites, and he was prevailed upon to go with them to Forest City. The following morning he started back for his farm against the advice of his friends, but feeling that he could not stay there and let his hogs and cattle, which were shut up, starve. Upon approaching the house he saw that the kitchen was open and expected every moment to see the head of an Indian poked out and feel the lead from a rifle. He was relieved, however, by finding the house empty, but the stove was still warm, as the Indians had been cooking there and had demolished things generally, and stolen whatever they could carry off, cutting open a feather bed to get a sack to hold their booty. After this, he remained alone most of the time caring for his grain and stock, until he joined the "Home Guards," a company organized at Forest City, for protection against the Indians.

Mr. Wilcox was married on the 9th of November, 1867, to Miss Ellen Peterson. She was a native of Sweden, born December 29, 1850, and is a daughter of Hans and Betsy (Ostrad) Peterson. She was six years old when she came to America. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox have been blessed with the following children — Lillie, born November 12, 1868; Sarah, born November 22, 1870; Horace, born July 22, 1873, and Nellie, born February 21, 1877. Mr. Wilcox has taken a very prominent part in all matters of a public nature. He was the principal factor in the organization of the Swede Grove township in 1869; was county commissioner for three years; township clerk in Manannah three years; town clerk in Swede Grove three years; chairman of the supervisors for two years, and has held many other offices of responsibility. Mr. Wilcox owned the first cheese factory in operation in Meeker county, having established it in 1864, and one year sold \$1,600 worth of cheese. His house was one of the first frame buildings erected in the northwestern part of the county, having been built in 1865. It is a story and a half building, 20x28 feet in size with an addition 16x24 feet. He also has substantial farm buildings, including two spacious barns, a granary, and other buildings. His many years of residence here have made him well known among all the old settlers, and he is held in high regard wherever he is known.

A portrait of Mr. Wilcox is presented in another department of this album.



JAMES QUIGLEY, one of the old residents of Forest City township, came to Meeker county about the year 1866, and settled in Forest Prairie, where he made his home for some five years. At the expiration of that period he removed to Kingston, from whence, some five years later, he came to

Forest City, and located upon 160 acres of land on section 20, which he owns, and where he now lives. He is a native of Canada. He left that province in 1866, and came to Minnesota, where he has since lived.

Mr. Quigley was married in 1872, at Forest City, and by this union there has been born one child—Mary Ann. In his politics Mr. Quigley is a democrat, but has given but little attention to such matters. He is a respected and esteemed citizen, and one of the older residents of the county, who is looked up to as such.



ANDREW P. NELSON, a member of the firm of Dudley & Nelson, grain-dealers, and owners of the elevator that bears their name, is one of the representative citizens of Grove City, where he has lived for more than eighteen years.

The subject of this personal narrative was born in Sweden April 28, 1844, and is the son of N. P. and Sarah Nelson. He made his home in the land of his birth until 1867, when embarking he crossed the ocean to the new world, to better his condition in life. He landed at New York, October 7, of that year, and from there came to Minnesota, and after staying a short time in New London, Kandiyohi county, went from there to St. Cloud, and on to Watab, where he found employment in a saw-mill, with Asa Libby. He remained there until fall, when he went into the pineries, and there was engaged until the following April, when he returned to Watab, and went to school for about six weeks, but from there went to Minneapolis and was employed in the brickyard of Woodward & Co., he having worked at that business in the old country. In the following October he commenced track-laying for the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, and

continued with them until November 17, 1869, when he received orders to take his crew of men to Swede Grove, and stopped that night about two miles and a half from the place, with Eric Bylund. He then reached his destination and secured board for himself and crew with Peter J. Lund, and went to work to put in the side-track, etc. He remained here that winter, and in the spring moved into a little house that Olaf Levander built about that time. Mr. Nelson had charge of the railroad men here until January 1, 1878, when he entered into the general merchandise business with Mr. Peterson, under the firm name of Peterson, Nelson & Co. They also handled lumber in connection with their other business, Mr. Nelson having been in the latter line while in the railroad company's employ. Mr. Peterson dying a few months later the firm name changed to that of Dudley & Nelson. They carried on the business, besides a store in Minneapolis for three years, when Mr. Nelson sold out to his partner, and in company with Isaac Cooper, went into the lumber, grain and cattle business, but two years later, going out of the firm resumed his old place with Mr. Dudley, and the firm thus formed, Dudley & Nelson, are the prominent grain dealers of the village.

November 29, 1873, Mr. Nelson married Miss Anna, daughter of Peter J. and Elma Lund, who died December 3, 1874, when her son, Adolph, was but eleven days old. The grandparents took care of the child until July, 1878, when Mr. Nelson was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Lund, a sister of his first wife, who assumed charge of the little orphan. She has been the mother of four children, three of whom are dead, and one, Anna, born August 3, 1881, is living.

Mr. Nelson has filled the office of school director, and is the present village treasurer.

TIMOTHY GIBNEY, the subject of this biographical notice, is an enterprising and thorough farmer who resides on section 27, in Manannah township. He was born in Upper Canada on the 22d of November, 1849, and is the son of John and Anna (Heaney) Gibney, his parents being natives of Ireland. His early life was spent in his native Dominion and in 1865 he came with his parents to the United States and they made their way directly to Meeker county, Minn., settling in Manannah township, where they still reside. Timothy has 120 acres of land and has been very successful in his farming operations. In connection with his diversified farming interests, he carries on stock raising in a limited way.

The subject of our sketch was married on the 4th of February, 1883, to Miss Mary E. McCaffery, and their marriage has been blessed with three children whose names are James T., Elizabeth, and Patrick, all of whom are still living and at home. Mrs. Gibney's parents were both natives of Ireland, who came to America at an early day and died in Upper Canada. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gibney are exemplary members and active supporters of the Catholic Church.

Mr. Gibney is a Democrat in political matters and has taken an active interest in township affairs, having held various local offices.



RICHARD WELCH, deputy auditor of Meeker county, is a native of Cayuga county, N. Y., born June 5, 1859, and is the son of Richard and Bridget (McDonald) Welch. His parents were married in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1853, and shortly after removed to Cayuga county, where they still make their home.

The subject of this memoir remained at home upon a farm until he had attained his

majority, but in his twenty-first year came to Minnesota and located in Meeker county. For a period of five years after coming here, he was engaged in teaching school, but in the spring of 1885 he went to Buffalo county, Dak., and there took up a homestead of 160 acres of land. That territory had been thrown open to settlers by a proclamation of President Arthur, but the present administration seeing fit to annul and make void this action of its predecessor, Mr. Welch, in company with many others was forced to abandon his claim. He then returned to Litchfield where he has made his home ever since. He was appointed to the office of deputy auditor of Meeker county in 1886, and is still engaged in the duties of that position. He is a young man in years, but has already won for himself an enviable reputation for steadiness and upright principles, and will, no doubt, occupy more important and responsible positions in the future, as he well deserves.



HALSTEN ANDERSON. The subject of this biographical sketch is a farmer residing on section 1, Danielson township. He is a son of Andrew and Carrie Harolson, and was born in Norway on the 17th of November, 1848. His early life was spent on a farm in the land of his birth and he remained there until 1870, when he came to the United States. He went first to Dane county, Wis., where he stayed about three years, being engaged at work for various farmers. At the end of that time, March 15, 1873, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and worked for farmers in the neighborhood of Grove City until June, 1876, and at that time purchased forty acres of land on section 1, in Danielson township, where he still lives. He has since bought an additional eighty adjoining his original farm, so that his place now consists

of 120 acres. He has a good share of it under cultivation, and divides his time between general farming and stock raising. He was a poor man when he came to America, and had to borrow the money with which to pay his fare, but by industry and frugality he has accumulated a comfortable property.

Mr. Anderson married Miss Ingeborg Michelson. Her parents were Michael and Anna Anderson, who were born in Norway, and lived there until the time of their deaths. The parents of Halsten were also natives of Norway, where his father died and his mother still lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Halsten Anderson have been the parents of the following named children—Andrew, born May 3, 1873, died May 15, 1887; Anna Clara, born September 3, 1875; Markus, born January 27, 1879, died April 27, 1879; Mattis, born October 15, 1881; and Ida, born May 8, 1883. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.



BUEL J. HAWKINS. The subject of this sketch, a successful farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 21, Cedar Mills township, while not an old settler here, is one of the most intelligent, prominent and influential citizens in the southern part of the county. He is a native of Litchfield, Conn., born July 8, 1826, and is a son of Amos and Minerva Hawkins, both of whom were natives of the same State. In 1835 the family emigrated to Ashtabula county, Ohio, where they were among the pioneer settlers. The father died at Conneaut, Ohio, in April, 1883, and the mother at Conneaut, Ohio, in 1850.

In 1859 Buel J. started with a team and wagon for the then "far western" Kansas, and after a dreary overland journey, lasting some six weeks, he arrived in what is now

Crawford county, that State. He purchased government land and remained on that for about twelve years, dividing his time between farming and teaching school, until the fall of 1871, when he returned East and settled in Kane county, Ill., upon a farm which he had purchased. Five or six years later he rented his place and removed to the town of Hampshire, Ill., where he engaged in the loan, real estate and insurance business. He took an active interest in all public matters there and became one of the most prominent residents in that locality. He was president of the Kane county Bible Association, and secretary of the Kane County Sunday-school Association, for many years, and also took an active interest in educational matters. In the fall of 1885 Mr. Hawkins purchased a farm on section 21, Cedar Mills township, Meeker county, Minn., and moved onto it in the spring of 1886. Since that time he has devoted his time to general farming and stock-raising. He has a valuable farm of 300 acres, a good share of which is under cultivation. Since coming here he has taken active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the township. The first year he was here he was elected treasurer of the school board, and in 1887 he was elected justice of the peace.

Mr. Hawkins was first married at Springfield, Pa., in the spring of 1850, to Miss Mary A. Custard. She died in 1861 at Fort Scott, Kan., leaving three sons, as follows—Charles, now at Garnet, Kan.; Herbert, now near Moscow, Idaho; and Rufus, now at Denver, Col. Mr. Hawkins was again married October 14, 1862, to Miss Susan R. Welch, a native of Ohio. This marriage has been blessed with two children, who are now living—Areta, now Mrs. F. O. Holtgren, of DeKalb county, Ill.; and Jennie, who is still with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins are prominent and active members of the Methodist Church.

JOHN RUDBERG. One of the leading merchants of Dassel, and a man who is in the truest sense of the word self-made, having hewn out his own ample competence with his own hands, is the gentleman of whom this sketch is written. He is a native of Sweden, born May 27, 1836, and made his home in that rugged, but picturesque land until he was about thirty years of age. Emigrating to the new world in 1866, he came by way of Minneapolis, that fall, to the town of Dassel and took up a homestead in section 26, and returned to the "Flour City" to spend the winter. The following spring he purchased at high prices a wagon and an ox-team, together with plough and and other tools for agriculture, and started for his land in Meeker county about the middle of June. The season was very wet, and he and John Erickson, who accompanied him, were some three weeks upon their way. In crossing the "Beaver Dam," which is now dry and under cultivation, Mr. Rudberg had to stand up in the wagon and hold the sack of flour they had with them up out of the water, while his friend piloted the team across the dam. On their arrival at their claims, for Erickson had a homestead on section 24, they at once commenced the erection of their cabins, clearing their land, for it was all timber-covered, and getting in a crop. By the fall of 1868, by hard and persistent labor, Mr. Rudberg had commenced to conquer nature and could show considerable wheat and plenty of vegetables that he had raised that season. In August of the latter year he was joined by his family, who had just come from Sweden in a sailing vessel, and had spent some fourteen weeks on their way from their native land to this country.

In 1871, in connection with Michel Hendrixson, he purchased a threshing machine, which for lack of horses was driven by oxen. As this was one of the two machines in this part of the country at that time, they had a

large amount of business during the season. They continued this business together until September, 1872, when Mr. Hendrixson accidentally stepped into the cylinder of the machine while it was in motion, and his leg being torn off below the knee, he bled to death before a doctor could be procured. This took place at Hendrixson's own farm. From that time on until 1875 Mr. Rudberg carried on threshing by himself in connection with his farm interests, but at the date mentioned removed to the village of Dassel, and in company with his brothers, purchased interests in the business of Charles Morris, the pioneer general merchandise store of that place. Morris & Rudberg Bros. remained in trade until 1881, when selling out, our subject, in company with his brother Louis, bought the Dassel lumber yard, and established at the same time the furniture business. Louis Rudberg died in January, 1884, and John operated the entire business from that time on, and is still engaged in those lines.

Mr. Rudberg was united in marriage, in Sweden, with Miss Mary Johnson, a native of that country.

PETER GROTTÉ, of Acton township, has charge of the farm which originally belonged to Robinson Jones, who was murdered by the Indians in 1862. Peter Grotte, who carries on farming and stock-raising on this historic piece of land, is a son of Halda and Carrie Grotte, and was born in Norway, on the 17th of December, 1856. The family came to the United States in 1868, pushed on to the Northwest, and after a stay of a few weeks in Minneapolis, they came to Meeker county, and the father purchased a farm of forty acres on Long Lake. A year later this place was sold, and the father bought a farm on section 6, in Acton

township, where they lived for eleven years. At the expiration of that time one of the sons, Peter Peterson (Grotte), purchased the farm, and the father then bought the Jones place, on section 21, in the same township, where the family still live. The father died on the 6th of July, 1883, and since that time Peter Grotte, the subject of this sketch, has had charge of the farm and carried on the business. The farm is a valuable one, consisting of 160 acres of land, a good share of which is under cultivation.

The parents of Peter Grotte, Halda and Carrie Grotte, had a family of five children, whose names and ages were as follows—Mary, born March 13, 1848; Peter H. Peterson (Grotte), born November 17, 1852; Peter Grotte, born December 17, 1856; John, born December 20, 1860; Ingre, born April 2, 1863, died May 18, of the same year. The family are active members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

HENRY AMES, one of the large land-owners and prominent citizens of Darwin township, has his home upon section 6. He is largely interested in the manufacture of brick and tile, commencing that line of business in the autumn of 1882, by buying the Butler brick yard. In the following spring, having purchased the place where he now lives, he removed the yard to its present location. This line of manufacture has been an eminent success in his hands from the very start. He has made upon this place over 8,000,000 brick alone from the clay that covered an acre and a half, and has an abundance of material left. In the fall of 1887 Mr. Ames took some two or three tons of the clay to the Chicago Exposition to test it, and tried it on all the different brick-making machines exhibited, and on his return burned the brick so made, and found that he could make his choice of the

machines, such was the fine quality of his material. He accordingly purchased the Kell & Son brick and tile machine, with a capacity of making 40,000 per day, and will start making brick and tile in the spring of 1888. He gives employment to twenty-four men and from six to eight teams for nearly the whole year. Having some 420 acres of land, Mr. Ames devotes a share of his attention to stock interests, principally in the way of Norman-Percheron horses and short-horn Durham cattle.

Henry Ames was born in Oswego, N. Y., May 4, 1846, and is the son of Harlow and Adeline Ames. He was reared in that part of the Empire State, and received his education in the excellent schools of that commonwealth. In 1863, when but seventeen years of age, he enlisted in the United States navy, at the Brooklyn navy-yard, and served throughout the war, on the flag-ship "Lancaster," and spent much of the time in the Pacific Ocean, the China Sea, and the Sea of Okhotsk, that vessel cruising there to protect American commerce from the depredations of rebel privateers.

In 1867, after spending some time at his boyhood's home, our subject came West, and located at Fort Dodge, Webster county, Iowa, where he took up the mason's trade, and remained about ten months, and then came to this county and settled in what is now Dassel township, then Swan Lake, and there made a stay of two years. While there he erected the first frame house in the township of Dassel. In the spring of 1870 Mr. Ames removed to the young village of Litchfield, and for about two years was engaged at his trade, and then moved to Minneapolis, where he followed the same line of work till fall. He went into the pineries then, and engaged in lumbering that season, returning at its close to the "Twin Cities."

Returning to Oswego, N. Y., in October, 1872, he was there united in marriage, Octo-

ber 10, with Miss Lottie Killan, and the same day started for his home in Dassel. Spending the next winter in the saw-mill, in the spring he resumed the mason's trade, in partnership with C. L. Todd, but in the fall commenced to carry on business by himself, and continued in that line until the fall of 1882, when he purchased his present place and embarked in the brick-making business.

Mr. and Mrs. Ames are the parents of three children — Gordon, born August 10, 1874; Allan, born May 13, 1878, died January 25, 1879; and Bessie, born December 3, 1881. In his political views Mr. Ames coincides with the democratic party, and supports the candidates of that organization.



SAMUEL C. VINCENT, of Kingston township, came to Meeker county in 1869, and settled where he now lives, on section 4, where he is engaged in general farming. He was born in Cortland county, N. Y., May 12, 1816, and is the son of Isaac and Mary (McMullen) Vincent, native, also, of the Empire State, both of whom died there.

The subject of our sketch was one of a family of thirteen children, born to his parents. His brothers and sisters were—Abram, John, Sherwood, Charles, Cornelius, Charlotte, Mercy, Hannah, Sallie, Pollie, Betsey, and Mary. Our subject was reared in the Empire State and there received his schooling, and made it his home until 1869, when he came here, and has since that time been identified with the growth and progress of this county. His early days were spent in the school room and in assisting his father in the labors upon their farm in the town of Truxton, but upon attaining his majority he commenced lumbering and farming, which he followed for some seven years. He was united in marriage, June 22, 1845, with Miss Emily Stewart, a native of Connecticut, born



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November 29, 1820, and daughter of John and Susannah (Stone) Stewart, both of whom emigrated from "the land of steady habits" to New York, in an early day, when Mrs. Vincent was but four years of age. She was one of a family of eleven children, the others being—Curtis P., Frederick A., Charles G., John W., Noble J., David P., Mathew J., Fannie, Cornelia and Mary A. This marriage took place in the county of Chemung, where he occupied official position at the time. By this union there were born to them four children—Sarah Jane, wife of Tobias Patton, of Kingston; Orlo J., who married Miss Matilda Martin; Charles S., whose wife was Miss Flora Tolls, both of whom live in the same town; and Jennie, who is the wife of Charles Murch, living in Todd county. Mr. Vincent is a zealous member of the Methodist Church, a class leader, and quite prominent in Sunday-school work, and an excellent, exemplary Christian gentleman.



JAMES PATTERSON, one of the influential farmers of Collinwood township, having his home on section 10, was born in Augusta county, Va., August 13, 1838, and is the son of John and Susan (Cameron) Patterson, both of whom are natives of the same locality. His parents were farmers, and he resided with them, assisting in the labors attendant upon that avocation, until he was about nineteen years of age, at which time he moved into Lawrence county, Ohio, where he was employed for about eleven years in the Ironton iron furnaces. From there he emigrated to Tennessee, but, after two years spent in the smelting-works of that region, he came to Minnesota and settled in Dassel township, this county, from which locality he removed to his present farm.

While a resident of Ironton, Ohio, in April, 1861, Mr. Patterson enlisted in Company G,

Second Loyal Virginia Cavalry, and proceeded to Parkersburg, W. Va., the rendezvous for organization. He served with his gallant regiment for three years, and participated in many skirmishes and on many a hotly contested field, both in the Shenandoah Valley and around Richmond and Petersburg. He was wounded in the battle of Mill Spring, N. C., and was discharged from the United States service June 30, 1865.

Mr. Patterson was united in marriage, in January, 1868, with Miss Lucy Lunsford, a native of West Virginia, and daughter of Reuben and Nancy Lunsford. By this union there have been born a family of eleven children, as follows—Alice, born February 14, 1869; Samuel, born October 13, 1870; Christiana, born April 13, 1872; Mary Jane, born September 12, 1873; William, born March 16, 1875; Rachel, born January 29, 1876; Lucinda Catherine, born November 20, 1879; Elizabeth, born February 17, 1882; Napoleon, born January 8, 1885; and James, born December 19, 1887.



HENRY R. WILLIAMS, a prominent and intelligent farmer residing on section 26, Forest Prairie township, was the third settler to locate east of Clearwater Lake, within the limits of Forest Prairie township, having settled there in the fall of 1867. Mr. Williams was born in Saratoga county, N. Y., on the 24th of July, 1826, and is a son of Lewis and Martha Williams. Their parents were among the earliest settlers at what is now Albany, N. Y. Lewis Williams, the father, followed lumbering in his early days, but the most of his life was devoted to farming. He and his wife were exemplary citizens and were members of the Methodist Church. They had a family of six children, three boys and three girls, all of whom remained in New York State except Henry R.

The names of the children were Thomas, Henry R., Morgan, Betsie, Rebecca, and Catherine.

Our subject, Henry R. Williams, grew to manhood in his native county, receiving a common school education and aiding his father on the farm, and remained in his native State until 1867, when he came to Meeker county, and settled in Forest Prairie township, where he has since lived, as above stated. He owns a farm of eighty acres and in connection with general farming he carries on a limited stock raising business. Since his residence here he has taken an active interest in public matters, and has been prominently identified with the official history of his township, having held various local offices. In political matters he affiliates with the republican party.

Mr. Williams was married on the 27th of September, 1847, to Miss Rachel Caroline Rouse, a daughter of Grattan and Caroline Rouse, and a native of New York State. Her parents were natives of the Empire State, and were the parents of five children, one boy and four girls, as follows—Lida, Elizabeth, Sarah, Richard and Rachel. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been the parents of nine children, one of whom, Sarah Jane, is dead. Those living are Henry C., Richard R., Solomon, Franklin, Elizabeth, Josephine, Martha, and Anna E. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are zealous members and active supporters of the Methodist Church.



DAVID MITCHELL. One of the oldest of the pioneers of Meeker county, and one of its leading farmers, is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He came here about July 1, 1856, and took a claim on the land where he now lives, on section 15, Forest City township. On the 160 acres upon which he originally settled he has made

all of the improvements, which are of a superior class.

David Mitchell first saw the light in Troy, Waldo county, Me., October 25, 1832, and is the son of David and Sarah (Thompson) Mitchell. He was reared in the "Pine Tree State," receiving his education at Bradley, Penobscot county, in the district schools of that village. At the age of sixteen years he adopted a seafaring life, and spent four years in the coasting trade and the West India traffic. Abandoning the vicissitudes of the sea, he engaged in milling on the noble Penobscot river, which he followed for about two years, after which he removed to Minnesota, and settled in Meeker county, as above mentioned.

Mr. Mitchell was here during the tragic scenes of the Indian outbreak and massacre, and was at work on the stockade on the day the Indians made the attack on Forest City. After remaining until after the attack upon the stockade, he removed to Clearwater, where he remained some eighteen months. This and some few months' absence in Colorado, constitute all the time spent by him out of this county since first settling here. He is one of few of the pioneers of Meeker county that have not been swept off by the scythe of Time, and has always occupied a prominent place in the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens. Although a republican in principles, and constant in the discharge of his duties as a citizen, he has had no political aspirations, and has never filled any other office than that of school director, which he held for seven or eight years.

Mr. Mitchell was united in marriage, March 16, 1851, with Miss Belmda Anderson, a native of Montville, Waldo county, Me., who died May 3, 1884, after a brief illness. She was the mother of seven children—Viola M., Mrs. Charles Boone, of Brown county, Dak.; George H., who married Miss Emma Spaulding, and is living at Forest

City; Ida, Mrs. Charles H. Atkinson, of Forest City; Edith, Mrs. Rice Gordon, living at the same place; Oscar T. and Oro T., twins, now in Dakota; and Grace, living at home. All the children were born in this county, with the exception of the two eldest.



OTTO DERSCH, one of Grove City's live business men, is engaged in the sale of farm machinery, and in running the meat market and feed store. He is the son of Otto and Elizabeth Dersch, natives of Germany, and was born in Germany while his parents were coming in search of fortune to America. The date of his advent was February 19, 1850.

The parents settled in Washington county, Minnesota, on reaching the United States, where the young Otto received his education in the district schools, until old enough to learn a trade, and there his parents died. He commenced life by learning the blacksmith trade with William Post, with whom he remained two years and nine months, after which he worked nine months in the Monitor Plow Works at Minneapolis. Entering the machine shops of the St. Paul & Duluth Railroad, Mr. Dersch followed his trade for two years more, after which he ran a locomotive engine for nearly a year. At the expiration of that engagement he came to Afton township, Washington county, and for eighteen months worked at the smith's trade for Getchell & Co., in their saw-mill. After that he followed his business on his own account in various places, doing a little farming at times in connection with his craft. Coming then to this county, after farming for a while he removed to Grove City, and, putting up a dwelling and a smithy, followed the trade for three years, during which time he was the partner of Hoyer Mickelson in the saw-mill. At the

close of the third year he sold his interest in the mill, rented his shop, and established his present business, he having for some time back handled agricultural implements. Since then he has added the other branches of the business and is one of the leading business men of the village. He has held the office of city marshal and been a member of the village council, and is in his politics a staunch republican.

Mr. Dersch has been twice married, the first time to Miss Louisa Brauer, November 18, 1873. She was the daughter of John and Louisa Brauer, and a resident of Washington county. She died July 2, 1880, leaving three children—Josephine, born June 24, 1874; William, born May 6, 1876, and Hubert, born January 29, 1879. His second marriage occurred January 16, 1881, at which time he wedded Miss Maria Muhly, daughter of Henry and Maria Muhly, who has borne him three children—Arthur, whose birth took place April 23, 1883; Lydia, born January 4, 1886, and Adeline, born February 17, 1888.



CHRISTIAN L. HANSON, a successful and enterprising farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 4, Danielson, is one of the pioneers of the township in which he lives. He is a son of Hans and Anna (Arnson) Christianson, and was born on the 7th of November, 1833. His mother died in 1838, and his father, who was born in 1802, married Hannah Nelson in 1839; the father died January 28, 1878. Christian remained on the farm with his father in Denmark until he was twenty-four years of age, when he went to Nakskov, Denmark, a city of about 5,000 population, where he rented property and engaged in the business of brewing malt-beer, and also keeping a restaurant. In addition to this he rented a small farm adjoining the city, and followed

these combined lines of business for eight years, when he sold out. On the 7th of November, 1860, he was married to Miss Gena Hanson, a daughter of Hans C. and Christianna Hanson, who was born December 15, 1833.

On March 28, 1866, Mr. Hanson, with his family, started for the United States, and, when they were about half way across the ocean, cholera broke out on board the ship, and about 300 persons died, Mr. Hanson losing two of his children and a hired man, from the dread disease. When the vessel got near New York they were quarantined, and were not allowed to land, until the 28th of May. Upon landing, a man who could talk the Dane language, approached Mr. Hanson, and stated, that he would attend to shipping their goods to Minnesota. The goods were never heard of afterward, and it was a very severe loss to Mr. Hanson, as he had an abundance of household goods. He afterward corresponded with the consuls from Norway and Denmark, but to no avail. From New York the family proceeded to Faribault, Minn., where Mr. Hanson left them, while he traveled about in search of a suitable location. Finally, on the 6th of July, he settled upon a homestead on section 4, in Danielson township, Meeker county, Minn., where he has since lived. He erected the second frame house in the township, hauling his shingles and flooring from St. Cloud. He now owns one of the finest farms in the township, and has splendid building improvements, besides a beautiful grove of four acres of his own planting. Mr. Hanson has taken an active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the township, and has held a great many local offices of importance, including those of school director, township supervisor, treasurer, road overseer, etc. He has always filled every position, to which his fellow-citizens have called him, with credit to himself and satisfaction to all

concerned. In political matters, he does not follow the dictates of any party, but acts in an independent manner.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hanson has been blessed with the following named children—Matilda S. (who died April 21, 1866, on board ship) was born May 5, 1862; Francena D., born August 1, 1863; Arnt Peter (who also died on board ship, April 19, 1866), born February 5, 1865; Arnt P. H., born November 13, 1866, died June 16, 1868 (the first death in the township); Arnold P. E., born December 1, 1868; Tilda Celia, born July 31, 1871; William M., born May 24, 1873; and Levi Benjamin, born April 27, 1875.



AUGUST SALLBERG, one of the most enterprising and energetic merchants and business men of Dassel, is a native of Sweden, born in the parish of Norungo, Vestagothlund, January 13, 1845. He was reared upon a farm in his native land until he was some eighteen years of age, and after that followed railroading in the old country, but emigrated to America in 1869, and came directly to Minnesota and for a time worked on the railroad. Later on, he commenced doing contract work which he followed until 1871, at which time he entered a clothing store in St. Cloud, as salesman. He followed the profession of clerk there for over a year, and then went to St. Paul and traveled for a wholesale clothing house of that city, through northern Iowa and Minnesota. With them he remained five years, and then for three years represented a Chicago clothing firm upon the road. In October, 1880, he purchased the general stock of merchandise of Rudberg Bros., and soon after moved to Dassel and took charge of the business. In February, 1883, the building in which he was, was destroyed by fire, and

he immediately put up the handsome brick building where he is now located, which is 26x120 feet in size, two stories high, and erected at a cost of \$10,000. He moved into this fine edifice September 5, following the fire. For a number of years he was largely interested in the Dassel elevator, and at another time owned and carried on a large farm in the neighborhood, but has abandoned all outside speculations, confining himself wholly to his mercantile business.

Mr. Sallberg has been twice married. The first time, December 15, 1875, he was united with Miss Jennie Kline, of St. Paul, who died January 22, 1885, leaving two children—Arthur Julian and Emil Robert. May 3, 1886, Mr. Sallberg wedded Mrs. Joanna Rudberg, the widow of Jonas Rudberg, a history of whom appears elsewhere. By this marriage they have one child—Jennie I.

Mr. Sallberg is a Christian gentleman, an active member of the Lutheran Church, and an admirable citizen and receives the highest meed of respect from all.



PPETER E. HANSEN, of Litchfield, a pioneer of Meeker county, and one of the most prominent citizens in this part of the State, is a native of Sweden, born on the 12th of June, 1845. His parents were Hans and Betsy Peterson, both natives of the same country. They came to America in company with about 150 others of the same nationality, and landed in New York on the 4th of July, 1857. From there they pursued their journey westward to Minnesota, coming by way of Danleith, Ill., then the terminus of the railway lines, and Dubuque, Iowa. They stopped for about one month at Carver, Minn., where a full outfit of oxen, wagons and other supplies was purchased, and came on, stopping briefly at Glencoe, Hutchinson

and Greenleaf, and finally arrived at Larson's Grove, in what is now Litchfield township, Meeker county, Minn. There they remained about two weeks, and the men made exploring trips in search of land. The bulk of the original party that left the old country settled in various other counties in the Northwest, while about fifty found homes in Meeker county, mostly in Swede Grove township. Among the number who were members of the party who found homes in Meeker county, were the following—Bengt Hansen, J. Larson, Nels Larson, Hogan Peterson, Andrew Peterson, Nels Hansen, Ole Nelson, Peter Larson, Andrew Larson, Nils Clemens, Nils Elofson, Andrew Elofson, Peter Elofson, Nils H. Peterson and Peter H. Peterson.

Hans Peterson, the father of Peter E. Hansen, found land that suited him, and took a preëmption on section 29, in Swede Grove township, where he began improvements, and where the family lived in quiet, contentment and prosperity until the terrible massacre of 1862. Something of the disadvantage under which these Swedish pioneers labored may be understood when it is stated that not a man in the colony could speak English, and they were totally ignorant of American customs or manners. The Hansen family, or rather Hans Peterson's family, moved onto their claim on the 3d of August, 1857, and their first move was to put up a shed, which was constructed of poles laid from tree to tree, thereby making a framework. Instead of covering this with hay and matting it down, so as to shed water, the father directed that it be covered with brush. Of course, whenever it rained, the family would be drenched and nearly drowned out. When this occurred the father would direct the boys to put on more brush, and it would accordingly be piled on, but to no avail, however. A little later a stable was built, with the framework arranged like a pyramid, into

which the family was moved, and which did very well for a time. The most of the trading, both as to lumber and provisions, at that time, was done in St. Paul or Minneapolis, as the trading post at Forest City was then a small affair, as one old settler puts it, "the whole stock of goods could be loaded on a wheelbarrow." An old second-hand stove had been purchased by Mr. Peterson, but he had been unable to secure but one length of pipe, so after a little perplexing study, a hollow log was substituted and thus the proper length of pipe was secured. When this got dry and well-seasoned, however, it took fire, thereby creating much excitement and leaving them in the same predicament as before. This was remedied, however, and matters again ran smooth. As cold weather approached, in the fall of 1857, a cellar was dug about forty feet square, but as no framework could be secured, planks were laid over the top, and it was covered with gravel and earth. Then the question arose as to how the "dug out" should be lighted, and finally a little framework was constructed overhead in which were set panes of glass. This did very well for a time, but when snow came and covered it up, the dogs, which the family kept, fell through the window. When it rained the water soaked right through, as the roof was flat, and it was necessary to keep all the clothes and perishable goods in barrels to prevent them from being ruined. A short time later, however, they put in plank, and otherwise improved the condition of things, and thus they occupied the "cellar" for about three years, or until in 1860, when they procured lumber from a saw-mill which had been started in what is now Acton township, and with this they completed a house, into which they moved and lived for about two years, in peace and prosperity.

During this time there were but few, if any, new settlers. There were many Indians roving through the country, and in camp

near the cabins of the settlers, and the pioneers were constantly trading back and forth with them. They were always friendly, but occasionally a little troublesome, on account of their begging, and especially their stealing propensities, yet as a rule, if the right course was followed, stolen goods could generally be recovered. Peter Hansen was associated with the Indians a great deal. He was an inveterate hunter in those days, and became noted as a dead shot, and for that matter he has maintained his reputation and skill in that line to the present day. His relations with the Indians were always pleasant and friendly until the time of the outbreak.

On the morning of the memorable Sunday that inaugurated the carnival of bloodshed—the 17th day of August, 1862—a band of fourteen Indians passed the Peterson claim on their way to the Manannah woods, and it was supposed, from subsequent developments, that they went to murder a man against whom they had a grudge. Failing, however, to find him, they returned, stopping at Hogan Peterson's, where they learned of the Jones and Baker massacre, and passed near the scene of that slaughter, exchanged a few shots with some settlers who had gathered there, and then made their way south-westerly to the Minnesota River.

The news of the Jones and Baker murders spread among the settlers like wildfire, notwithstanding the fact that the country was so sparsely settled. On Monday the word came to get together and prepare for defense or flight, and at Hansen's a few things were piled into the wagon, the oxen hitched up, and they went to a postoffice on section 33, Swede Grove township, where about one hundred families had gathered; but the fear had seized all, and they at once proceeded to the shores of Lake Ripley, where they camped on the night of the 18th of August. Very few slept that night, as every new arrival reported horrible murders and savage

atrocities committed by the Indians. The next morning they went to Forest City, where the families were left. P. E. Hansen and his father, accompanied by several others, then started out to go back to the farm for provisions. When out a short distance they met the remnant of a fleeing party, several of whom had been killed and mutilated, and then they realized that an Indian outbreak had really been inaugurated, and that the previous killing was not an isolated or single case, but was merely the beginning of a terrible warfare on the part of the Indians to drive the whites from what they considered their hunting grounds. The party at once returned to Forest City, and a fort was at once built. Provisions were scarce, and it was some time before any one ventured out in search of any. Peter Hansen, however, with his gun, managed to keep his father's and several other families, supplied with wild game. About a week later a party of eight or ten started out for the purpose of burying dead and picking up wounded. They got as far as Peter Loen's, on section 5, Swede Grove township, fifteen miles from Forest City, where they exchanged several shots with Indians, no one being hurt, and then turned and came back. The next day the "company of forty-one" was organized, P. E. Hansen, being among the number. After the return of this expedition to Forest City, they went to work and completed the fort, but not a family moved into it on that night, all sleeping in the huts they had been occupying. During the night the Indians made an attack, and every one scrambled for the fort immediately after the first volley, some in undress uniform, while others were covered with blankets and bed quilts. The Indians withdrew the following morning. After this, for a week or two, every one stayed pretty close to the fort. Provisions were very scarce; flour was meted


out to the various families in equal parts, and was worth almost its weight in gold. About two weeks after the attack the Hansens started one evening for the farm for the purpose of getting provisions. They fastened their oxen, upon reaching the farm, and loaded the wagon with provisions, after which, as the father thought there was no danger, they went into the bed-room and laid down in order to get some rest. Just as they were about to fall asleep, they were aroused by a frightful crash in the outer room. In an instant they were wide awake, and as visions of painted, blood-thirsty savages flashed through their brains their hair stood on end. A moment later they heard the welcome "meow" of a cat, and the attack was explained, much to their relief. The cat, in its attempt to gain admittance, had broken through the window. They then returned to Forest City, where their provisions were divided with their friends, and therefore the supply did not last over a week. In the meantime those coming in brought terrible reports of Indian ravages. Notwithstanding this fact, the father, Hans Peterson, decided to again go to the farm. He yoked the oxen, and, taking an old double-barreled shot gun, started. He found the cattle about the house and salted them, thinking their presence was a pretty safe indication that there were no Indians about, as they would stampede at sight or smell of a "redskin." He lit a lamp in the house and went to work in earnest, and had loaded the wagon nearly full, when suddenly he heard the cattle running and bellowing. He dashed out and found the cattle on the run, and a few moments later he heard the Indians yelling about the cabin. He kept on in his northeast course, and laid all the next day in the Manannah woods, and at night made his way back to Forest City. There he told the story, and for two weeks no further attempt was made

by them to reach the farm. At the end of that time, Peter Hansen, accompanied by several others, again visited the farm by night, and found the house burned to the ground, and while there were startled by hearing the Indians yelling in the distance. They at once took the back track and arrived in Forest City before day-break, having tramped over thirty miles during the night. No further trips were made until in November, when matters had quieted down somewhat. They then found the cattle all right, but the Indians had smashed every thing in the wagon and feasted on the sheep, evidently having camped near by for some time. The family remained at Forest City for about three years, and then, in 1865, the "Indian war" having closed, they returned to Swede Grove township and settled upon a homestead, which the father had taken on section 20. The old folks still live upon the place.

We now take up the personal history of Peter E. Hansen. He remained at home until the 19th of June, 1867, when he was married to Rachel Halverson. The ceremony was performed at Forest City by Squire James B. Atkinson, and the event was heartily celebrated by a large attendance of friends. Their union has been blessed with four children, as follows—Nellie O., born February 3, 1871; Harry A., born February 8, 1873; Jennie F., born August 16, 1875; and Lillie May, born February 5, 1886. Mr. Hansen has been successful beyond the lot of most men, and is now among the largest land-owners in the State. He is owner, either alone or jointly with a partner, of 78,000 acres of land, situated in Meeker, Renville, Kandiyohi, Stearns, Douglas, Pope Grant, Otter Tail and Wright counties, and besides has large landed interests in the city of Minneapolis and several villages. He is one of the directors and also vice president of the Meeker County Bank, and holds stock in

a number of local enterprises. In 1880 he was appointed as agent of the Manitoba Railway Company to handle their lands, and now has charge of the railroad lands in Meeker, Carver, Wright, and Renville counties, and part of Stearns county. He is also loan agent for the Kelly Brothers, of Minneapolis. Mr. Hansen is recognized as one of the shrewdest and best business men in this part of the State. He has acquired immense property interests, and has always taken an active interest in all matters calculated to benefit the locality in which he lives. Mr. Hansen resides on section 18, Litchfield township, although he carries on business in the village; and his residence and farm improvements are among the finest to be found anywhere in the State.



 ORRIN WHITNEY. Among the old settlers of Meeker county, who are still spared to this world, there is none more worthy of mention in a work of this character than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He came to this county in March, 1857, with his brother, A. P. Whitney, S. B. Hutchins and others, and settled at Kingston, where he still lives. He helped build the mill put up by Whitney, Averill & Hutchins, in 1857 and 1858, which was the first grist-mill in the county, and from the day of his first location here has always been identified with the onward progress and development of this region.

The subject of this biography was born in Somerset county, Me., August 18, 1815, and is the son of William and Olive (Parlin) Whitney, who were natives of Connecticut and Massachusetts, respectively. He was reared in Penobscot county, in the "Pine Tree State," and there received the elements of his education. On attaining his majority, he commenced farming in his native State.



Orvin Whitney



Rebecca L. Whitney

He came to Minnesota in 1857, and as he had a knowledge of mill-wrighting, having worked at that business a few years, he helped put up the Hennepin Island Mill, the first grist-mill at Minneapolis. In 1857 he came to this county as above mentioned, and has been a resident nearly ever since. On his arrival in Meeker county, Mr. Whitney pre-empted 160 acres of land on section 21, where he now lives. In 1861 he went to California, where he remained until December, 1864, when he returned to this place, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation and finely improved until it is as desirable a piece of property as any in the county.

Mr. Whitney and Miss Rebecca Carvill were united in the bonds of marriage, March 10, 1879. His life companion and helpmeet, who is a lady of rare accomplishments and intelligence, is a native of Lewiston, Androscoggin county, Me., born December 23, 1827, and is the daughter of Sewell and Tama (Higgins) Carvill, she being the sixth child in their family of thirteen. Of them there are seven, besides her, still surviving — Submit, Mary, Milton, Jefferson, Wesley, Alonzo and Alphonso. The latter was a physician, who came to Kingston in 1867, and made his home here for several years; Jefferson resides in Dassel township, this county; most of the rest still live in New England. Mrs. Whitney having received considerable schooling, learned the trade of coat-making, at which she worked some thirty years. In the spring of 1848 she went to Boston, and in that city followed her trade twenty-nine years, boarding at one place fourteen years. She has in the course of a busy life, with characteristic thrift, accumulated a nice property, owning as she does the East Kingston Mill, which cost her \$7,000.

Mr. Whitney is a greenbacker in his politics and a supporter of the Grange movement. Both he and his estimable wife are held in high esteem wherever known, and their many

years of residence has made them respected and well-known throughout nearly the whole county.

In another department of this ALBUM will be found portraits of both Mr. and Mrs. Whitney.



EDWIN F. PROCTOR. Among the leading citizens of the village of Dassel there is none more prominent than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He is the son of William and Rhoda (Snow) Proctor, both of whom were natives of Vermont, who had gone with their parents into the wilds of St. Lawrence county, N. Y., the former at the age of twelve years, and the latter at the age of seven. There they attained the years of manhood and womanhood, and were married, and made their home. At the time of the Mexican war, William Proctor, being impelled by the ardor that dwells in each patriot's breast, enlisted in Company D, Ninth United States Infantry, and was wounded in one of the battles at the gates of the city of Mexico, in 1847, and died shortly after in the general hospital in that "City of the Montezumas." Mrs. Proctor is now making her home with her son, Edwin F.

The subject of our present sketch was born at Massena, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., in 1840, and made his home in his native town until 1855, when he took Horace Greeley's advice and moved westward, settling at Madison, Wis., where he found employment in a brickyard. In that city he remained until the fall of 1860, when he removed to Marshall, Wis., and attended school that winter. While peacefully pursuing his studies, in the eventful spring of 1861, the tocsin of war rang out, and thousands of hurrying feet pressed on to the front of battle in defence of their country, and in res-


ponse to the call of the General Government for troops to suppress the unholy rebellion. Mr. Proctor, with the spirit of his noble sire, came forward at once, and enlisted in Company A, Third Wisconsin Infantry, on the 1st of April, 1861, for three-months service, but was not mustered in under this enlistment. On the 18th of April, he enlisted for three years or during the war; and on the 21st of December, 1863, he re-enlisted, in Tennessee, as a veteran for three years more, making, until his discharge, a term of service of four years and four months. In the three-months term he had been corporal, but in the spring of 1862 he was made duty sergeant, and in 1864 orderly sergeant. In April, 1865, he was duly commissioned second lieutenant for gallant and meritorious conduct, and in July following, received the rank of first lieutenant. During the first part of his term of service, he served with his regiment with the Armies of the Potomac and of the Shenandoah, and participated in the engagements at Bolivar Heights, Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorville and Beverly Ford. The command (Twelfth Corps) to which he was then attached, was transferred with the Seventh Corps to the Western Army, and under General Sherman, he was present with his regiment, in the thickest of the conflicts that raged around Atlanta, and was actively engaged there, and in the subsequent March to the Sea, under that matchless General, and in the engagements that marked its progress. He participated in fourteen general engagements in all, and was slightly wounded in two battles—Chancellorville and Antietam. He took part in the grand review at Washington, in June, 1865, after which he received his discharge and came home, Cincinnatus like, laying the sword down for the plow handle. He came to Minnesota, and took up a homestead on section 4, of the town of Dassel, in the month of May, 1869. Upon this place he remained

engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1885, when he traded a portion of his estate for his village property, and sold the balance, and is now living a retired life, being unable physically to longer carry on agricultural labor. His exposure while in the army, brought on rheumatism, from which he has never recovered, and for which he now draws a small pension, \$12 per month, from the government.

Mr. Proctor and Miss Emeline P. Frost were united in marriage January 18, 1864, while he was home on his veteran furlough. The lady is a native of Delaware county, Ohio, and is the daughter of Alva and Permillia Frost. Her parents came to Ohio in 1816, and settled in Delaware county. July 7, 1847, they removed to Dodge county, Wis., where they lived until the death of Mr. Frost, June 29, 1867. His wife came to Minnesota in 1874, and died in this county April 6, 1883.

Mr. and Mrs. Proctor are the parents of four children—Justin T., Elwin Z., Della D., and Elward J. Elwin died July 19, 1881, the rest are living. Mr. Proctor was one of the charter members of Colfax Post No. 133, G. A. R., Department of Minnesota, and its first commander, and is now the quartermaster of that post.



 THO. H. CAMPBELL. Prominent among the influential, leading citizens of Manannah township, and of Meeker county, is Mr. Campbell, of whom this narrative is written. He came to the village of Kingston in the year 1866, and entered into the general merchandise trade in connection with Whiting Bros., a Clearwater firm. One year later he purchased the interest of his partners, and for two years pursued the business alone. At the end of that time he removed to the new village of Litchfield, and,

purchasing the Lake Ripley House, ran the hotel for two years, after which, disposing of all property in that place, he removed to Manannah, and purchased an interest with N. C. Hines in the flour and grist mill. In 1877 he became the sole proprietor, since which time he has added many improvements. In 1880 he put in steam engine and boilers, so that he can run either by steam or water. During 1887 the mill was remodeled, and full sets of rolls placed in it, and it now ranks as one of the best in this part of the State.

O. H. Campbell was born in Hartford, Conn., August 1, 1844, and is the son of James and Esther (Griswold) Campbell. The father was a native of Vermont, and had removed to Connecticut, where he became an insurance agent. The mother, who was a representative of the noted Griswold family, was a native of Connecticut.

The subject of our sketch, at the age of seventeen, entered an insurance office in his native city, where he remained until September, 1862, when he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-Second Connecticut Infantry, and served in the Army of the Potomac for some ten months, when he was discharged. During this time the regiment had participated in the siege of Suffolk, Va., the capture of Forts Huger and Mifflin, where it was under fire for two days. This was while it was a part of the Twenty-Second Army Corps and in Abercrombie's Division. It was then sent to West Point, and, under General Gordon, made the advance on Richmond and the noted Blackberry road. On its return, its time being out, it was ordered home and discharged.

On his discharge, after another year spent in the insurance business in Hartford, he came out West, and, after one year spent at Clearwater, came to Meeker county. He was married April 24, 1867, at Clearwater, to Miss Isa Creath, a native of Washington

county, Me., and daughter of John and Margaret (Miers) Creath. By this union there have been born four children, namely—Arthur, born March 8, 1868; Ernest, born November 9, 1869; Marian, born May 16, 1876; and Harry, born August 4, 1879.

Mr. Campbell has been prominently identified with the official life of the county, having served as chairman of the board of town supervisors, as justice of the peace, and in the fall of 1887 was only defeated by a small majority for the office of State senator.




GEORGE W. CLARK, one of the "brave boys in blue," makes his home in Collinwood township, on section 22, and is a valued citizen. He is a native of Henry county, Iowa, born December 29, 1843, and is the son of John A. and Sarah (Butler) Clark, whose birthplace was in Ohio. When about four years of age his parents removed to Jo Daviess county, Ill., where the father was employed in lead-mining until 1852. In April of that year they moved to St. Paul, and for two years the father of our subject was employed in a lumber mill. From there they migrated to Henderson, Sibley county, and in that place made their home, John Clark being engaged in transporting supplies for Indian Agent Brown until his death, which occurred August 18, 1857.

The subject of this memoir commenced work, on the death of his father, in the office of the *Henderson Democrat*, to learn the printer's trade. While peacefully following the art he had chosen, he heeded the call of his country, then in the throes of civil war, and enlisted in Company I, Eighth Minnesota Infantry, in August, 1862, and participated in the expedition under General Sully. In the fall of 1864, he was sent South to help suppress the rebellion, and the regiment be-

came a part of the famous 23d Army Corps under General Scofield, and was present at many of the conflicts that terminated the war. He received an honorable discharge in 1865, and returned home, but shortly removed to Meeker county, and made a settlement in Ellsworth township. He made his home there for two years and then purchased 200 acres of land on the section where he now lives, in Collinwood.

Mr. Clark was married December 15, 1876, to Miss Sarah Grant, a native of Indiana, born in Jennings county, August 31, 1856. By this union there has been born six children, of whom the following is the record—Willis was born June 2, 1878; James was born August 16, 1880; Arthur, born July 7, 1879, and died August 20, following; George R., born April 14, 1882; Clara J., born February 20, 1885; and Ida F., was born December 7, 1887.




 W. HAWKINSON, of Grove City. A large proportion of the citizens of Meeker county are of foreign birth, and are men who have brought with them to their new home in America the habits of industry and thrift so common in their own country, and with the chances afforded in the United States, have risen by their own efforts to an easy competence. Among these is Mr. Hawkinson, who was born at the home of his parents, William and Ellen Hawkinson, in Sweden, November 16, 1840. He was reared to manhood in the land of his birth, and there, April 24, 1866, he was united in marriage with Miss Hannah Nelson. Three years later, leaving his family, he came across the stormy Atlantic in search of a home in the free land of America, and coming at once to Minnesota, located at Cottage Grove, about fifteen miles from St. Paul, where he was engaged in wagon-making until December, 1869, and then came to

Litchfield, then a new village, just started, where he was employed in wagon-making and in carpentering until 1870, when, feeling assured of the future, he returned to the old country for his family, with whom he arrived in Litchfield May 15, 1871. He followed his trade until the succeeding November, when he removed to Swede Grove township, where he built him a house on his farm, and lived there for two years, renting the land and working at carpentering. He then commenced farming himself, and at odd times pursued his trade, and in this manner put in his time for five years more. During this time he had erected, for C. E. Lundberg, an elevator of 60,000 bushels capacity, which, when he had finished, he took charge of for the owner, and operated for seven years. The most of this time he made his home upon his farm, driving in and out each morning and evening. By this time he had acquired some 280 acres of land, but in 1881 he built a house in the village and managed his farm by hired help. In the fall of 1886 he gave up running the elevator, and engaged in the business of selling lumber, farm machinery, wagons, buggies, paints, oils, etc., in company with B. Bresden.

Mr. and Mrs. Hawkinson are the parents of five children—Andrew, Nels, Alfred, Elmer and Minnie. The eldest, Andrew, is a graduate of the Northwestern College at Minneapolis. In politics Mr. Hawkinson is a staunch adherent to the principles of the republican party.



 FREDERICK SPATH, living on section 10, Dassel township, is one of the leading farmers of that section of the county. He is a native of Württemberg, Germany, born February 11, 1825, and the son of William and Catherine Spath, both of whom are also natives of the German Empire.

Frederick, at the age of sixteen years left the fatherland for America, and on his arrival in Philadelphia, Pa., commenced learning the blacksmith trade in that city. He remained there until 1856, at which date he came to Minnesota, and settled in Hennepin county, and opened a blacksmith shop, about seven miles north of Minneapolis. About a year later he removed to Anoka county, among the earliest pioneers of that section, and pre-empted a farm in the town of Bethel. There he made his home until 1864. During the Indian outbreak of 1862, much excitement was felt in that county and most of the settlers left the town. Mrs. Spath kept her children dressed and ready to start at a moment's warning for three days and nights, while waiting for news of the appearance of the savages, who never came. The trouble died out and people soon came back to their homes, there as elsewhere. In 1864 Mr. Spath came to Kingston, this county, where he opened a blacksmith shop, and continued to follow that calling for two years in that place. In 1866 he removed to the town of Dassel, then known as Swan Lake, and took a homestead of eighty acres of land in section 10, where his family lived nine years. He worked for a while on the construction of the railroad, and on the laying out of the village of Dassel opened a smithy in that place. His family moved into the latter in 1875, where they all remained until 1881, when he sold out his interests and returned to the farm, which is now increased to 120 acres, more than half of it under a high state of cultivation, and upon which he has erected some fine buildings. On the organization of the town in 1867, he was appointed one of the town supervisors, and the following year was chairman of the board. He was, also, one of the first village trustees and held that office for three years consecutively.

Mr. Spath was married in the city of Philadelphia, September 10, 1849, to Miss

Catherine Phipps, a native of Philadelphia. By this union there have been born six children, namely—William, living in Dakota; Katie, Mrs. John Banker, of the village of Dassel; Frank P., who is carrying on the blacksmith trade in the same village; Susan, Mrs. M. Penny, of Dassel township; Fred P. and Sarah, at home.



SILAS W. LEAVITT, one of the leading citizens of the village of Litchfield, is a native of Gilmanton, N. H., born in 1848, and is a son of Joseph S. and Hannah (Cotton) Leavitt. He remained at home with his parents until he had attained the age of seventeen years, when he enlisted in August, 1863, in Company A, Fifteenth New Hampshire Infantry, and with that gallant regiment served one year. He participated in the siege and capture of Port Hudson, and was discharged with the regiment in October, 1864. For the two years following he was compelled to suffer much from a disease of the eyes contracted while in the service. Becoming able to use his eyes he went to Dover, in the same State, where he remained a year. From there he moved to Boston, and for three years was engaged in clerical labor in that city. Following the advice of Horace Greeley, he then came West, and for some time was prospecting through the country. After looking the State over, Mr. Leavitt decided to locate in Meeker county, and, in 1868, purchased a farm in the town of Greenleaf, where he made his home until the fall of 1871, when, being elected to the office of clerk of the district court, he removed to the village of Litchfield. For twelve successive years he filled that responsible position with the utmost credit, and declined a fourth re-election. During most of this time he was also engaged in the lumber business in Litchfield. Mr. Leavitt was

elected president of the board of education of the village, in September, 1880, and still fills that office. On the organization of Company H, First Regiment, Minnesota National Guards, in February, 1883, he was elected captain, and has served his full term of five years, but at the solicitation of the company still remains in command. At the close of his time he tendered his resignation, but the company unanimously rejected it, and as a testimony of their appreciation of his services they presented him with a very handsome gold watch and chain. On the formation of the creamery association, Mr. Leavitt was elected secretary and general manager of that institution, and has charge of that business at the present.

Our subject was married in August, 1866, to Miss Mary D. Chapman, a native of Worcester, Mass., and by this union there has been born two children—Grace W., and Marian H.



ALBERT HUTCHINS, a young and enterprising farmer, of Collinwood township, was born in Yancy county, N. C., the 27th of May, 1849, and is the son of Jacob and Nancy (Buchanan) Hutchins. His father was born in Berks county, N. C., June 19, 1814, and is the son of Wright and Margaret Hutchins. The mother was born in the same county April 19, 1814. Jacob Hutchins remained in the county of his birth until he was about thirty years old, engaged in farming, but, in the spring of 1844, moved to West Virginia, and there made his home until 1864, at which date he came to Collinwood and settled on a homestead on section 8. In 1879 he gave the place to his son, with whom he lives. He was married in 1835 to Miss Nancy Buchanan, by whom he had fourteen children, namely—Anna, Louisa, Sarah, Mary, Thomas, Margaret, Elizabeth,

William, Albert, John, George, Oliver, Jennie, and Cynthia.

Albert was married September 12, 1880, to Miss Theresa Erfurth, who was born in Ohio, May 9, 1859, and is the daughter of Edward and Johanna Erfurth. They are the parents of three children, all of whom are dead. They were Arthur, born August 5, 1881, died May 18, 1887; Michael, born September 15, 1883, and died May 12, 1887; and Milton, born May 8, 1885, and died May 18, 1887. Albert has made his home with his parents all his life, and for fifteen years has been the main support of his family. His mother died August 19, 1884. Jacob Hutchins built the first house in the township, and was the first school treasurer. The farm contains about 116 acres of fine land, of which eighty are under cultivation. The improvements are of a very fair character, and the whole place evinces that the young farmer understands his business and is in a prosperous condition.



AMBROSE WALL, the present auditor of Meeker county, is a native of Cayuga county, N. Y., born December 7, 1852, and is the son of Michael and Alice (Dee) Wall. He was reared in the county of his birth, and received his primary education in the common schools of that district, which was supplemented by two terms passed at Port Byron Academy. His occupation during all this time was farming, he assisting his father, for a time, and afterward working for other parties as opportunity served.

In the fall of 1879, Mr. Wall came to Minnesota and located in Stearns county, where he taught school that winter, but the following spring came to Meeker county and purchased a farm on section 26, Manannah township. Here he commenced the avocation of western farmer, for which his train-

ing in the Empire State had so well fitted him. He made that place his home, carry-on the tillage of the soil in the summer, and "teaching the young idea how to shoot" in the various district schools of the county during the winter months. On the initiation of the Farmers' Alliance movement in 1885, he adopted their views and principles, believing them to be for the best interests of the working classes, and a step in the direction of personal liberty and enfranchisement.

In the fall of 1886, Mr. Wall was nominated for the office of auditor on the alliance and democratic tickets, and carried off the honors of the campaign with a handsome majority. He is the present secretary of the Meeker County Farmers' Alliance, is independent of party lines, in political faith being of decidedly anti-monopolistic tendency, and is a bright and intelligent leader in the new movement, looking to the elevation of the agriculturists and laboring classes.



JOHAN CHRISTENSEN, one of the prominent merchants of Grove City, and a member of the firm of Reitan & Christensen, general merchandise dealers, is a native of Norway, and the son of Halder and Karen Marie (Heögh) Christensen. The date of his birth was January 31, 1834. He remained in the land of his nativity, where he secured his education, until November 2, 1867, when he made his appearance in Meeker county, having emigrated from his boyhood's home in search of fortune and a competence. With him came his brother, Carl, who was born January 26, 1837.

Carl Christensen married September 17, 1870, Miss Ellen Olava Grönseth, who became the mother of five children—Halder, born July 1, 1871; Otto G., born May 15, 1873; Andrew Christian, born June 6, 1875; William Martin, born October 22, 1877; and

Carl John Henry, born March 2, 1880. Carl followed farming after coming to this country, until December 22, 1879, when he died, since which time John Christensen has taken care of his bereaved family.

John Christensen was totally unacquainted with farm work when he came here, but helped his brother for some time on the latter's place, but its monotony tiring him, in 1870 he entered the store of Mr. Brown, in Litchfield, as a clerk, with whom he stayed over a year. He then kept a boarding house for the men who were working on the railroad construction. In about 1872 he purchased a farm, adjoining that of his brother, and from that year, until 1875, he was with his brother, they working the farms together. At the expiration of that time he came to Grove City, and was a clerk in the store of W. W. Hobbs, until the death of that gentleman in December, 1876, after which he entered the store of H. O. Peterson, and stayed with that gentleman until April, 1877, when our subject went to the Black Hills, where he remained until the following fall, returning to Grove City in September. Again entering the employ of H. O. Peterson, as clerk in his store, he there continued, both with him and with the succeeding firm of Peterson, Dudley & Nelson, until May, 1882, when he became a clerk in the store of C. C. Reitan, and October 1, 1883, became a partner with that gentleman, and the present firm formed.



JAMES LANG, one of the old settlers of Manannah township, and the merchant, postmaster and hotel proprietor of the village of Manannah, is a son of James and Margaret (Leech) Lang, natives of Scotland, who were married in that land of heather and emigrated to the United States about 1822, settling in Vermont. About a year later

they removed to Canada where they both died, the father in 1886, the mother in 1847.

The subject of our sketch was born in La-Prairie county, Canada, December 20, 1838, and remained at home with his parents until 1857, when at the age of eighteen years he came to the "States" with his brother Robert, who had been here the year previous, and settled in this county, where he lived, on section 18, Harvey township, for some years. He went to work putting up a cabin, and breaking up the prairie sod with a yoke of oxen. In the fall of 1857 he built a house upon the site of the village, in company with Robert Lang and S. Dickinson, and for two years lived there during the winter months, and upon his farm in the summer. From that time on he made his home upon the homestead until the Indian outbreak in 1862. On that eventful Sunday, Mr. Lang and several other parties started for Forest City with the intention of enlisting, but hearing of the murders in Acton, they suspended action, waiting more definite news. Hearing that some Indians had been seen going toward Manannah, they returned speedily, he remaining until the following Wednesday, when all the settlers left, as it was unsafe to remain. At Kingston he heard of the organization of Captain Whitcomb's company of Home Guards, and with others came and enlisted in that company. With them he participated in all the movements as detailed in the chapter devoted to the massacre in this volume. He it was, who was riding with Mr. Britt, when their horses were stuck in the slough. As he got out of the slough, he was some eighty rods behind the party, and he had to run for his life. When he saw that the teams had gone on and left him, he laid down to pull off his shoes, and the Indians thinking they had killed him, stopped to get the horse. Starting to run, three savages pursued him on

their ponies, but the wagon waited for him, and it is said that the Sioux ponies did not gain on him in his race for life.

Mr. Lang remained with this company until it was disbanded and during that winter followed trapping and hunting. In March, 1863, he enlisted in Company C, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and served in the West with them until their discharge in the fall of 1863. In August, 1864, Mr. Lang again enlisted, this time in the Second United States Sharpshooters, which were attached to Colonel Berdan's famous regiment, and joined the Army of the Potomac, in front of Petersburg, Va., and were assigned to the Third Division of the noble Second Corps. He was under fire for the first time in this company at the second battle of Hatcher's Run, and served until the close of the war.

On receiving his discharge and pay about which there was some trouble owing to "red tape," our subject returned to Meeker county, where he has made his home ever since. He was married, March 29, 1870, to Miss Juliet Murray, a native of Waukesha county, Wis., and daughter of John Murray, of that place. By this union there have been born a family of four children—Lily M., Mary J. and James A., all living, and Lizzie, deceased.

In the spring of 1875 Mr. Lang, in company with A. P. Grey, bought out the store of Hines & Campbell, and for four years ran it in partnership, but since that time has been carrying it on alone. He was appointed postmaster in 1881, and still holds that office. He has served some six years on the school board, and is regarded as one of the leading citizens and representative men of the county. No man has been more prominently identified with the development of the northern part of the county or figures more conspicuously in its history, and both he and his estimable wife merit and receive the highest esteem of all. Through his many years' residence here



James Lang



Mrs James Lang

Mr. Lang has become well-known to nearly all the old settlers of Meeker county. He is a man of the strictest honor and integrity, and his word is recognized as being as good as a bond.

Elsewhere in this volume will be found portraits of both Mr. Lang and his wife.



HARLOW F. AMES came to Dassel township, with his brother Henry, in January, 1868, and settled on the farm his father had bought, where he remained until his parents came, in the following spring. He is a native of Oswego county, N. Y., born June 4, 1850, and is the son of Harlow and Adeline (Mitchell) Ames. In 1872 he commenced the mason's trade, at which he has worked for a portion of the time ever since. He has now a fine farm of 100 acres of land in Dassel township, on section 23, where he carries on agriculture. He was united in marriage, December 31, 1873, with Miss Florence Carr, a native of Washington county, Ind., and daughter of Elisha and Isabel (Denny) Carr. By this union there have been born three children—Leroy, Edith and Josie.

Harlow Ames, who is ranked among the most substantial citizens of Dassel township, is the father of the subject of the above sketch. He is a native of Delaware county, Conn., born July 8, 1804, and is the son of Leonard and Minerva (Peck) Ames. His parents removed to Oswego county, N. Y., and settled near the town of Mexico, at an early day, among the pioneers of that region, where they made their home until they passed to their "chamber in the silent realms of death." They were consistent members of the Methodist Church, and the first religious services in that district were held in a sheep-pen, a log shanty on the farm of the elder Mr. Ames, which had been fitted up for the purpose.

Harlow remained at home until about fif-

teen years of age, at which time he commenced to learn the tanner's and the shoemaker's trades, which avocations he followed until above thirty years of age. He then purchased a farm in Oswego county, and remained upon it over thirty years, and then sold out and moved into the village of Mexico, but after a residence of two years, being tired of an inactive life, came to Minnesota in search of a home. Previous to leaving New York he met Edwin Ayres and C. L. Richardson, who had settled in Meeker county in 1856, and taken up claims on section 14, in Dassel township, from which they had been driven by the Indians. He purchased from them their farm, which contained some 509 acres, with the additions which he made to it, and returned to New York, and sent his two sons out to occupy it. The following spring he followed with his family, and put up the first frame dwelling in the town. He has resided here ever since, and now has one of the finest farms in this part of the county.

Mr. Ames was united in marriage, August 10, 1834, with Miss Martha Hubbard, who died in 1844, leaving four children—Horace, now in Washington Territory; Charlotte, Mrs. Isaac Russell, of Dassel; Edward, a resident of Washington Territory; and Julia, the wife of W. M. Abbott, of Forest Prairie, this county. Mr. Ames, November 21, 1845, again contracted a matrimonial alliance, this time with Miss Adeline Mitchell, who is the mother of two children—Henry and Harlow F. The former is engaged in the manufacture of brick near Litchfield, and the latter's sketch is given above.



CHARLES H. BIGELOW, the enterprising dealer in confectionery, books, stationery, and fancy goods in the village of Litchfield, is the son of Harvey and Maria (Van Buskirk) Bigelow, and was born at Rush, Monroe county, N. Y., October 5,

1853. His parents were both natives of the Empire State, although his paternal grandfather came originally from Connecticut, and was one of a noted and historic family there.

The subject of this sketch was reared amid the familiar scenes of his childhood and received his education in the excellent schools of his native state. At the age of fifteen he commenced to learn the carriage and wagon making trade, and after finishing that took up carpentering which he followed for some two years. In February, 1876, he went to Louisville, Ky., where he entered the employ of B. F. Avery & Sons, one of the large plow manufacturing concerns of this country. He remained with this firm until 1878, when he came to Litchfield, and after looking around a little commenced farming in the town of Greenleaf, on a farm which he rented of his wife's father. In January, 1880, he came back to the village of Litchfield, and initiated his present business. He has always filled an important place in the community and receives the respect and esteem of all. In November, 1883, he became deputy auditor, and fulfilled the duties of that office until April, 1887. In 1886 he was village recorder, in 1887 chief of the fire department, and is the present first lieutenant of the local militia company. In his political views he coincides with the republican party, and, religiously, is a member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he is one of the trustees. He is a member of Golden Fleece Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Rabboni Chapter, R. A. M., of Melita Commandery, K. T., and of Fidelity Chapter, Eastern Star.

Mr. Bigelow was united in marriage, September 28, 1876, with Miss Frances K. Wiard, a native of Livingston county, N. Y., and daughter of Edward and Charlotte Wiard. By this union there are three children—Harvey Edward, Frederick, and Lydia Alice.

PHRAIM A. BRIGGS. Prominent among the successful business men of Meeker county, men who have by their own ability and tact, acquired an ample fortune, stands the subject of this memoir. His life has been a busy one, and he has not lost his opportunities. He is a native of New York, having first seen the light of day at Coeymans, Albany county, February 14, 1837, and is the son of A. N. and Maria (Andrews) Briggs. He was reared amid the familiar scenes of his childhood, and received the rudiments of his education in the common schools of Charlotteville, Schoharie county. Approaching the years of manhood, our subject commenced the study of law with Ira Harris, of Albany, with whom he remained some two years, and with S. T. Higgins one year. He then attended a course of lectures at the Law School at Albany, N. Y., under the tuition of such men as Ira Harris, Amasa J. Parker and Amos Dean. He was admitted to the bar in 1859, and commenced the practice of his profession at Albany, N. Y.

While peacefully pursuing the quiet rounds of his profession and duties, traitors in arms inaugurated civil war by threatening the life of our Nation, and on the call of the president for 75,000 three-months' soldiers, Mr. Briggs with a noble patriotism, leaving everything, enlisted in the Tenth New York Infantry, and proceeded to the front. The three-months' term of his service having expired, he re-enlisted in the Forty-third New York Infantry, of which he was commissioned second lieutenant. He was soon detailed for service in the Signal Corps, and, after instruction at Georgetown, was ordered to report to General N. B. Banks, then commanding in the Shenandoah Valley, and served there through the year 1862. Receiving his commission in the United States Signal Corps, he was then attached to the headquarters of the Twenty-third Army

Corps, with whom he remained until the close of the war, although later he was under the immediate command of General J. M. Schofield. Our subject participated in the Atlanta campaign, and in the sanguinary contests at Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., and was present at the junction of the forces of Sherman and Schofield, at Goldsboro. He was mustered out at the close of hostilities, and returned to his home.

Mr. Briggs was married, November 16, 1866, to Miss Helen F. Hale, a native of Aroostook county, Me., and has resided, ever since, in Meeker county, at the village of Kingston. He engaged in the mercantile business, but after eight months sold out and returned to New York. Three months later he came back and took up a homestead on section 34, Kingston township. He then purchased the store of F. V. DeCoster, and continued the mercantile business until 1875, since which time he has been chiefly employed dealing in real estate.

Mr. and Mrs. Briggs have a family of four children, three of whom are living. Their names are Albert N., Maria T., and Connie. The one deceased bore the name of Thomas A. The subject of whom this is written, was postmaster of Kingston from 1874 until 1886; has filled the offices of justice of the peace and town treasurer, and is a strong adherent to the principles formulated by the republican party. He is a member of Frank Daggett Post, G. A. R.



SOREN NELSON. The subject of this personal history is one of the most prominent and wealthy farmers and stock-raisers in Danielson township, his residence being located on section 4 in that civil subdivision of Meeker county. Mr. Nelson is a son of Nels and Mary Peterson, and was born in Denmark, on the 16th of April, 1834.

His early life was spent in his native land, where he received the same lessons of industry and economy which are characteristic of the people of his nationality. From necessity, in early youth, he imbibed these principles, and they have benefited him all through life. In telling of the way his folks lived in the old country, he says that there were seven children in the family, besides the parents, and that his father worked for twelve cents per day, and supported the family. For some time the father was out of work, and the mother supported the entire family by spinning, earning only three cents per day. Bread, and, in the summer, onions and occasionally potatoes, were their only food. It was through such hardships as these that Soren spent his early days. In 1863 he came to America, and upon landing in New York, he had just \$1.50, and \$1 of this he paid for his first day's board. The next day he borrowed \$20 of a friend and went to Chicago, where he worked at butchering and in a lumber-yard. In the fall he went to Lookout Mountain, in the employ of the government. On the 28th of March, 1865, he was discharged, and returned to Chicago, where he remained until in the following December, when he went to Texas, and was there employed by the government, at Galveston. From there he went to Peoria, Ill., and spent some time in looking for land, and then returned to Chicago. On the 1st of April, 1866, he came to Minnesota, and bought a quarter section of land in Dodge county, which he sold three months later, and again started west, and spent some time in looking for a location. In 1866 he purchased a farm near Grove City, in Swede Grove township, this county, and made that his home for ten years. In 1876 he removed to where he now lives, on section 4, Danielson township. He now owns a farm of 200 acres on section 4, besides still owning his farm of eighty acres in Swede Grove. He has good buildings,

and his farm is one of the most valuable in the township. He has met with a number of serious reverses, but by his perseverance, enterprise and industry, he has overcome them all, and is now rated as one of the solid and substantial citizens of the county. In 1877 he lost his crop by the grasshopper depredations. In 1872 his buildings were destroyed by a tornado, he and his wife being seriously injured and rendered insensible when the house was blown over. They both recovered, however.

In political matters Mr. Nelson is a democrat.

On the 13th of May, 1867, Soren Nelson was married to Miss Mary Johnson, a daughter of Peter and Anna Johnson. Their marriage has been blessed with three children, as follows—Nels P., born August 12, 1870; William, born September 22, 1872; and Charles, born February 21, 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Danish Lutheran Church. Both of them hold the utmost respect and confidence of all their neighbors and acquaintances.



JEREMIAH LEAMING, one of the most prominent and successful farmers in Union Grove township, is a resident of section 34. He is a son of George and Juliette Leaming, and is a native of Laramie township, Tippecanoe county, Ind. He left the parental roof when seventeen years old and apprenticed himself to learn the cabinet-maker's trade, remaining as an apprentice for three years, after which he worked as a journeyman for a year. He then came to St. Anthony, and for two years worked at his trade, after which, for a year, he was employed in a sash and door factory. At the expiration of that time, in company with J. W. Bassett, he opened a wagon, carriage and plow fac-

tory, and also ran a blacksmith shop in connection. He continued this business until 1857, when he sold out to his partner, and went to Monticello, in Wright county, where he had charge of a lumber yard for Charles King for nearly two years. In the spring of 1859 he came to Meeker county and bought a claim on section 34, in what is now Union Grove township, of a man named Judson Pearson. This is the farm where he still lives, and it has been his home ever since with the exception of four years during the Indian troubles, a history of which is given elsewhere. When they first heard the news of the massacre at Acton the family went to Forest City, and two days later to Monticello, in Wright county. The family remained there while Mr. Leaming worked at different places as millwright, farm hand, and whatever else turned up. Upon the close of hostilities the family returned to the farm, where they have since lived. Mr. Leaming has a splendid farm of 200 acres, a good share of which is under cultivation, and he devotes his attention to farming and stock-raising.

Mr. Leaming, in some respects has been very unfortunate, and has had to surmount difficulties and misfortunes which would discourage most mankind. He was a heavy loser on account of the redskins, and also by the white men after the trouble was over. The Indians destroyed his grain and his residence was burned during his absence. It was hard to accumulate anything. Wheat was only thirty-five cents a bushel, eggs five cents a dozen, and butter five cents a pound. When the Indians drove him away he was almost penniless, and he was not much better off when he returned. In 1877 the grasshoppers took about all of his crops, and another year he lost nearly all his grain by hail. Notwithstanding the disadvantages with which he had to contend, his energy and enterprise have never flagged, and his

present comfortable circumstances attest to this fact.

Our subject has taken an active interest in township matters and has been closely identified with the official history of the town. He has held numerous local offices, including the following: Assessor, thirteen or fourteen years; supervisor, one year; school treasurer, three years; and justice of the peace, six years.

On the 31st of March, 1857, Mr. Leaming was married to Phebe W. Bryant, a daughter of Ambrose and Narcissa (Merrill) Bryant, and their marriage has been blessed with the following children—George A., born March 4, 1859; Ella J., born December 6, 1860; Curtis M., born January 22, 1866; Juliette, born February 26, 1868; and Clara B., born September 4, 1869. George A. is married to Annie A. Barrie, and lives on section 35. Ella J. married J. B. Tuttle, and they reside on section 20, Union Grove.

Mrs. Leaming was born in Kennebec county, Me. Her father was a blacksmith when a young man, but for a great many years before he left his native State was engaged in the mercantile business. In 1855 he came to Wright county, Minn., and engaged in farming, but has now retired and resides at Buffalo, Minn.

Mr. Leaming's father was a farmer. For a number of years he operated a pottery in connection with his farming operations, but later sold that and devoted his entire attention to farming until the time of his death, in 1880. Mr. Leaming's mother now lives in Jasper county, Mo.

Mr. Leaming became a Mason when twenty-two years of age, joining, at St. Anthony's, Cataract Lodge, No. 2, A. F. & A. M. He is a man of the strictest integrity, and no one stands higher, or more fully holds the respect of the community, than he. A portrait of Mr. Leaming will be found elsewhere in this volume.

JOHN W. JOHNSON, one of Litchfield's most enterprising dealers in farm machinery, is a native of Skone, Sweden, born October 24, 1849, and is the son of Ole and Hannah (Ingeman) Johnson, also natives of Sweden. When he was but nine years of age, in 1857, he came to Meeker county with his parents, who were among the very first settlers in Litchfield township, and remained an inmate of the paternal home until he was about twenty years old. In his boyhood days John became quite an expert hunter and trapper, shooting his first deer when but eleven years of age. The next winter he and his father captured a full grown buck, which he succeeded in fully taming. One winter the profits on the furs he got brought about \$500.

When he had nearly reached his majority, he commenced railroad work on the grade through this county, from Smith Lake to a point three miles west of where Litchfield now stands, as foreman of a gang of men. In 1869 he went to California, and remained on the Pacific slope, in that beautiful land of the sunset, for a year, after which he returned to his paternal home and rested for a short time. He then entered the employ of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and remained with them one season. His next venture was in having charge of the "Bonanza farm," of George L. Becker, of St. Paul, now Railroad Commissioner, in Stevens county, for two years. Returning to Meeker county, Mr. Johnson then purchased a farm of 400 acres of land in the town of Darwin, 300 acres of which is under cultivation and has good buildings upon it. He lived there until 1886, when, leasing the place, he removed to Litchfield and entered upon his present business. He is one of the original members of the Swedish Temperance Association, and one of its most active members. Mr. Johnson was elected a member of the village council, on the prohibition ticket, in April,

1888, after a hard contest, and now occupies that position.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage, March 29, 1874, with Miss Annie Pehrson, also a native of Sweden, born January 14, 1854, and daughter of Peter Wilson and Bengta (Wilson) Pehrson, who were born in Sweden, but came to the United States in 1868.



EDWARD H. MURPHY, a leading farmer of Manannah township, living on section 34, is a native of Carriek-on-Sur, County Tipperary, Ireland, born July 5, 1830. He remained a resident of his down-trodden and oppressed native land until 1848, when he bade farewell to the Emerald Isle and crossed the sea to America. The first year he spent in Vermont, but with the beginning of the year 1849 he went to the coast and shipped on a United States hydrographic surveying cutter, but not being pleased with his treatment left them at Boston. He followed railroading for a while in the East, but later coming West to Chillicothe, Ohio, he there carried on the butcher business for four years. The next six years were spent as foreman of a hemp warehouse. About the year 1854, he went to Louisiana, Mo., where he remained until the breaking out of the Rebellion. In the spring of 1861 Mr. Murphy enlisted in Company D, Henderson's Brigade, Missouri Infantry, for three months. At the expiration of that time he re-enlisted in Company D, First Missouri Infantry, a six-months' regiment, and participated in the siege and battle of Springfield, Mo. After this he enlisted in the First Missouri Infantry for three years, or the war. He was then detailed for secret service or espionage, and in that capacity penetrated the rebel lines and traveled throughout their country, often amid their armies, and always incurring the

greatest danger, for death by hanging is the mildest penalty awarded a detected spy. Mr. Murphy was frequently arrested on suspicion, and had many narrow escapes. A history of his adventures would prove interesting reading and would fill a volume. He was brought by the discharge of his duty into close contact with nearly all the general officers in the Western Army. The war over, he was discharged from the service with strong recommendations from most of the commanders of the Armies of the Tennessee, Cumberland and Ohio.

He was strongly persuaded by the mayor and others to remain in St. Louis as detective, but desiring to settle upon a farm, in 1865 came to Meeker county and took up a homestead, where he now lives.

Our subject was married in Chillicothe, Ohio, May 10, 1852, to Miss Margaret Kinsella, a native of County Waterford, Ireland, who is the mother of two children—James, living at Montevideo, and Edward, at home.



GEORGE B. WALLER, Jr., the engineer of the roller flouring mill, at Litchfield, is a native of Franklin, Morgan county, Ill., born August 29, 1854, and is the son of George B. and Mary S. (Chestnut) Waller.

Honorable George B. Waller, Sr., the father of our subject, was born in King and Queen county, Va., in 1804, and remained in that State until 1815, when he removed with his parents to Lexington, Ky., where he grew to manhood. He acquired a great proficiency in the machinist's trade, which he had adopted in his youth, and was an able engineer. In 1833 he removed to Alton, Ill., and, during that year made a trip, as engineer of the boat Utility, to Fort Snelling. In 1836 he removed to Morgan county, Ill., where he followed his trade as machinist,

and, while there, was united in marriage with Miss Mary S Chestnut. He occupied a prominent position in that part of our country, representing his district in the lower house of the Illinois Legislature, for one term. In 1867 he removed with his family to Minneapolis, where he resided for two years, and came to where Litchfield now stands in June, 1869. He had previously purchased the northeast quarter of section 11, in Litchfield township, knowing that a town would be located in this vicinity, and, upon the railroad coming here, deeded an undivided one-half interest in 150 acres of his land to the railroad company to plat a town upon, and upon which a part of the original town-site was laid out in July, 1869. He shipped a house, which had been gotten out in Minneapolis, to this point as soon as the trains were running, and put up one of the first houses in the village, and moved his family here in November. Here he made his home until his death, which occurred July 18, 1878. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and a devout Christian, and said, while on his dying bed, that he had never uttered an oath in his life. He left, to mourn his loss, his widow and three sons and one daughter. The latter are as follows—John, now grain inspector, at Minneapolis; Lizzie, Mrs. H. M. Miller, of Waverly, Ill.; Henry, of Litchfield, and George B., Jr., the subject of this sketch. The mother of the family, after residing here until 1884, returned to Morgan county, Ill., where she now lives.

George B., Jr., made his home with his parents until after his father's death, and the removal of his mother from this place. At the age of eighteen years he commenced his apprenticeship to the calling of engineer, which he now follows; and on the 1st of January, 1888, took charge of the engine of Shaw & Ehler's Roller Flouring Mill. He is

a member of Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89, A. F. & A. M.

The marriage of George B. Waller, Jr., and Miss Etta Dowman, of Dassel, took place November 15, 1886.



JOHN JOHNSON, one of the most active and enterprising young business men of the village of Dassel, is engaged in the sale of agricultural machinery. He is Swedish by birth, and was born in 1853. His parents, Daniel and Bratta Johnson were natives, also, of Sweden, and came to the United States in 1871, with the natural desire to better their condition in life. The family settled on section 2, Collinwood township, where they purchased land of the railroad company. Shortly after they got settled in their new home, and the affairs of the farm began to go along swimmingly, the subject of this sketch left the parental roof and found employment with the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, and followed that line of business with varied success, off and on, for a period covering some six or seven years. Growing tired at last of that life Mr. Johnson finally abandoned it, and locating in the rising village of Dassel, the second important place in the county, entered into the farm implement business which he still carries on. In connection with this he is, also, the approved agent for sewing machines, and has a wide reputation in the vicinity for his honorable dealing.

Mr. Johnson was united in marriage, in September, 1876, with Miss Alice Forder, daughter of William and Mary Forder, of Collinwood. By this marriage there have been born three children—William R., Benjamin F. and John E.

Mr. Johnson has always manifested considerable interest in the discharge of his duties

as a citizen, and, being elected town clerk in 1882, was re-elected by an approving constituency for several terms, serving five consecutive years. He is a member of the Cokato Lodge, No. 134, A. F. & A. M.



MRS. MARTHA BOWEN, late of Litchfield, was a descendant of the Puritans, who preferred the wilds of America, its privations, toil and dangers, with freedom to worship God, to comfort and luxury in a land where tyrants ruled. The progenitors of Mrs. Bowen were driven by religious persecution from England, and fled to Holland. As soon as practicable they returned to England, having decided to leave the Old World and its strife for the New World across the Atlantic wave. They sailed for Plymouth, Mass., in the vessel following the Mayflower. Mrs. Martha Bowen, daughter of Timothy and Ruth Wells Hatch, was born in Kent, Conn., December 14, 1783. The father of Mrs. Bowen was a brave soldier in the Revolutionary War. He loved God and freedom, and proved the soundness of his principles by warring against despotism.

As a specimen of the zeal of the family in the cause of liberty—when it was impossible to obtain sufficient firearms for the soldiers, the grandfather, Styles Wells, made a large number of iron flails and sent them to our defenseless soldiers, bidding them, in God's name, use them bravely against the foes of our country. When the war was ended and peace declared, Timothy Hatch, father of Mrs. Bowen, left his home in Connecticut to build up a new home in the almost pathless wilds of New York. One hundred and five years ago there might have been seen in the wilderness of New York a father and his daughter with her wee babe, wending their way on horseback, then the only safe method of traveling in the unsettled country. That

father was accompanying his daughter to her husband and the new home prepared for her in "the West"—Central New York! The babe became Mrs. Bowen, the subject of this sketch. In Duaneburg our pioneer soldier lived until eight children surrounded the festal board. By frugality and industry, sufficient means had been accumulated to gratify the wish of the ambitious members of the family for a change. To Chemango county, N. Y., to the region afterward named Sherburne, the father removed. In this town, now noticeable for its beautiful homes, its fine residences and its costly public edifices, one could hardly imagine that not long ago bands of wild Indians roved at will; that the thick woodland almost shut out the light of the noonday sun and the light of the stars by night.

In a home where God was honored by parents and children, a home of much mature refinement and intellectual culture, in the sunshine of worldly prosperity, Martha Hatch was reared and grew into womanhood. In the eighteenth year of her age she married Luther Bowen, a gentleman from Litchfield, Conn., whose intelligence, integrity and zeal in every good work made him a fit companion for the noble maiden. Mr. Bowen was for thirty years a merchant and engaged in various avocations which would have absorbed the time and strength of a man less philanthropic and religious; but in the whirl of busy life he found time to assist in laying well the foundations of the society in which his family moved. Nor were his efforts bounded by his own town; with the ever ready help of his wife, assistance was often rendered to poor, but promising young men and women to gain an education. The poor, friendless and suffering never called in vain upon his family for help. Six orphans at one time shared the fireside with the eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Bowen. Rare was the year when needy ones were not sheltered



John Rodenigo

beneath the roof-tree. The ability to do good was, by the blessing of God, enlarged and continued down to the death of the honored husband. In all the sad changes and bereavements of her life, Mrs. Bowen manifested a fortitude founded upon a holy confidence in God. The purity and simplicity of her life was not changed by circumstances, only, as she drew nearer her final home, she seemed purified from earthly dross. In May, 1871, Mrs. Bowen came to Litchfield in company with her son, M. D. Bowen, to make this town her home. Her extreme age did not lessen her interest in passing events. Her memory down to the last days of her life was unimpaired. For seventy-five years Mrs. Bowen was a member of the church, where she was characterized by her energy and liberal zeal. She died in Litchfield, January 19, 1876, in the ninety-third year of her age. Her long pilgrimage is ended; her crown is won.



MICHAEL MURPHY. One of the large land owners and prosperous farmers of Kingston township, is the above gentleman, who lives upon section 28, where his house is surrounded by his fine farm of 640 acres. Mr. Murphy is a native of County Kerry, Ireland, born January 6, 1835, and was reared among the beautiful scenery of that part of the lovely island, until about nineteen years of age, when he came to America, landing at Quebec, Canada. From there he made his way to Rutland, Vt., where he spent eight years, in the stone and marble works, and from there came to Meeker county in May, 1862, in company with Daniel Byrnes, and has been a resident ever since.

Our subject was married, January 7, 1860, to Miss Catherine Clifford, who became the mother of eleven children, as follows—

William, Timothy, Morris, Julia, John, Ellen, Norah, Michael (died August 30, 1871), Joseph, Charles, and Dennis. William is the only one married, the rest are living at home.

In politics Mr. Murphy is a democrat, and having the cause of education at heart, has served for nine years as clerk of school district No. 1. He is giving a large share of his attention to stock and also to grain raising.



OLA JOHNSON, a respected farmer of Darwin township, residing on section 19, is a native of Sweden, born September 10, 1827, and is a son of John and Cecelia Johnson. He was reared among the wild native scenery of the land of his birth, and there grew to manhood. In 1849 he married Haannah Ingerman, daughter of Andrew and Ellen Ingerman, and in 1858, taking his wife and five children he bade adieu to the fatherland and sailed for America. He landed at New York July 1, 1858, but did not remain there, coming direct to Meeker county, Minn., arriving in Litchfield township in the month of August. He at once took up a claim of 160 acres of land in section 14, on the site of the present city of Litchfield. Here he built a house and commenced to develop his farm. Soon came the Indian troubles of 1862. He was warned, on the night of August 17th, that the redskins were out engaged in butchering the peaceful and defenseless settlers, and the next day, after helping bury the murdered people in Acton, and assisting in the inquest, he took his family to St. Paul, he and his eldest son then returning to their home. Still fearing the redskins, the settlers were compelled to throw up a fortification around Mr. Johnson's house. Some ten families were here at the time, all of the men working on the fortification. This

was built of logs and rails and banked up inside with dirt and surrounded by a deep ditch. When the trouble was about over, Mr. Johnson, after losing everything he had went to St. Paul, where his family made their home for some eighteen months. After peace had once more settled upon the border, he brought his family back and has made this county his home ever since, except one year spent in the "Golden State." Mr. Johnson and his estimable wife are the parents of thirteen children, all of whom are living but one. They are—John, who married Anna Peterson, and is living in Litchfield; Ellen, the wife of Hon. Andrew Nelson, of Litchfield; Andrew married Miss Josie Viren, and lives near his father; Sarah, Mrs. John Birch, living in Litchfield; Mary, who married Henry Wilson, is a resident of Portland, Ore.; Elizabeth, who is living at home with her parents; Emily, the wife of B. Peter Nelson, of Litchfield; Edward S., who owns the adjoining farm to his father's but lives at home; Abram B., living in Portland, Ore.; Josephine, Nathan and Willie S., at home with their parents, and Annie, who died in 1869.

In 1869 Mr. Johnson sold his farm, and with his family removed to California, but one year later returned to Meeker county and purchased his present place, which contains 440 acres.



MARK CATES. Foremost among the band of rugged pioneers that dared to penetrate through the "Big Woods" and to plant beyond their shade the banner of civilization, was the gentleman whose name heads this article. He came to Meeker county in 1856, and upon the filing of his claim in April of that year, went back to Maine, where he was married, and returned and settled upon his land that same year.

This property, which he still possesses, and where he now lives is located upon section 20, Kingston township.

Mr. Cates is a native of Washington county, Me., born December 22, 1827, and is the son of Mark and Mary (Parmer) Cates. He was reared among his native hills and there secured the education which is the lot of every New England boy, and was employed at agricultural pursuits in that locality until 1855. In the fall of that year, leaving the old settlements, he pushed out into the great West, then for the most part an unknown land, and reached Minnesota in the spring of 1856, as related above.

On his return to Maine for his bride he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Cates, a native of the "Pine Tree State," and the daughter of Asa and Maria (Parmer) Cates, the father a ship carpenter by trade. The lady comes of a race of hardy mariners that so abound in the ports of that iron-bound coast, two of her brothers being captains in the merchant marine to-day, while a third brother died while upon a voyage. By their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Cates have been the parents of ten children—Willie H., Charles P., Hilman L., Mary A., now Mrs. Warren Sautsbury; A. V., Lizzie, deceased September 6, 1877; Frank, who died September 5, 1877; Frederick; Jennie; and Maud, who died March 30, 1886.

In his politics Mr. Cates affiliates with the republican party, believing that in its principles lies the surest guarantees for our national prosperity.



JONAS RUDBERG, one of the former prominent citizens of the village of Dassel, but now deceased, was a native of the far-away kingdom of Sweden, who came to Meeker county in 1869, and located in Dassel on a farm, with his brother John, now one

of the influential citizens of the county. In 1872 Jonas entered the village and went into trade, and remained at the head of the drug business of Dassel until February, 1885, when, starting to visit his native land, died at Philadelphia, on his way to Sweden. His family are still residents of the village.



JOHAN RODANGE, one of the enterprising and progressive business men of Litchfield, is a native of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, born among its vine clad hills, and near the classic waters of the beautiful river Rhine, February 25, 1839. He remained beneath the roof of his parents, John and Mary (Leonard) Rodange, spending his time in acquiring an education in the schools and under private tutors until he had attained his sixteenth year, at which time he entered a linen factory, where he passed some three years. The succeeding twelve months were spent as book-keeper in the office of the same establishment, after which he entered the employ of a large government and railroad contractor as clerk, with whom he remained three years. Mr. Rodange, after serving nearly three years more as book-keeper and traveling salesman for a woolen mill, determined to seek in the New World the field for his efforts toward a competency, and accordingly, in 1864, crossed the ocean, landing in New York, from whence he proceeded direct to Chicago. From there he went into the Wisconsin pineries, spending some time at various occupations until 1866, when he took charge of a general merchandise store as head clerk, where he remained for a time, and then removed to Aurora, Ill. After a year passed in that city, he went to Cascade, Dubuque county, Iowa, where he operated a brewery for a year or two, and then took up farming. One year's experience of that mode of life having convinced

him that it did not suit him, he sold out and removed back to Aurora, where he went into a wholesale liquor store. There he remained for five years, when his wife's health failing, he came to Litchfield, Minn., arriving there in the fall of 1876. He commenced in the saloon business, and remained in that line until 1882, when he sold out and established the Litchfield Bottling Works, where he is engaged in the manufacture of all kinds of carbonate beverages. Mr. Rodange was also engaged in the wholesale disposal of Milwaukee beer until 1887, which he carried on in connection with his other business.

Mr. Rodange was very active in the promotion of the woolen mill company and the erection of the factory, and was one of the first directors and first treasurer and secretary of the association. In 1888 he was made general manager, and holds that office and that of secretary at the present writing. He is largely interested in real estate in Litchfield and its environs, owning one of the finest residences in the city, besides other property and 200 acres of fine farm land.

Our subject was united in marriage May 9, 1867, with Miss Margaret Nickels, a native of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, and daughter of Peter and Susana (Michaelis) Nickels, of Aurora, Ill. By this marriage there have been born a family of seven children—Peter, who is a clerk in Stevens & Co.'s Bank; Susie, John, Eddie, Henry, Mary and Louisa.

Mr. Rodange has been prominently identified with the growth and development of Litchfield's business interests, and stands high in the estimation of all. He is a shrewd and careful business man, of the strictest integrity, and is a true representative of the best business element in this part of the State. A good portrait of Mr. Rodange will be found in another department of this ALBUM.

CHARLES MAGNUS GUMAEILIUS, a prominent farmer of Litchfield township, was born in Stockholm, Sweden, July 14, 1820. His father, Carl M. Gumaelius, was for many years a captain in the Swedish army, and died in 1832. Charles spent his boyhood on his father's farm, and was educated at Strangnes High School, continuing his studies for several years afterward, and laying up a goodly store of useful knowledge. In 1855 he was married to Anna Forsberg, daughter of Charles Forsberg, who was for many years an officer of court in the royal palace at Stockholm. Mr. and Mrs. Gumaelius are the parents of three children, all of whom have grown to manhood and live on the home farm, near Litchfield—Charles Magnus, born July 23, 1856; Axle, born February 4, 1859; and Henning, born July 25, 1862. The family came to America in 1873, and settled in Meeker county, and have continued to reside here ever since, engaged in farming and stock raising.



EL. GRINDALL, deceased, formerly one of the leading agriculturists of Cosmos township, had his home on section 26. He came to this county in 1870, and filed a homestead claim upon this piece of land, containing 160 acres, upon which he did some breaking, erected a house, moved his family into it and made it his home until his death. He was born in Penobscot, Me., in 1816, and there received his education and there grew to manhood. He followed farming and lumbering for many years in the State of his nativity and until coming West. When he was about twenty-two years of age he was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Orcutt, also a native of the State of Maine, who still survives him, making her home with her son Hiram. Mr. Grindall departed this life October 17, 1887, leaving, to mourn their loss,

his bereaved widow and five children. Mr. Grindall was always connected with every movement looking to the benefit of the community, and was one of the truly good and Christian men that are so beneficial, both in example and precept. He was respected by all who knew him.

HIRAM GRINDALL, the youngest son of E. L. and Caroline (Orcutt) Grindall, is living upon the homestead where his father settled in 1870. He was born in Penobscot, Me., in 1863, and since his birth has always been with his parents. Since attaining his majority he has taken charge of the farm, and by diligence, industry and business ability, has brought a portion of it to a high state of cultivation. The balance, which is woodland and pasture, has its uses, and the improvements are excellent.



HAROLD KITTELSON, of Acton township, is one of the pioneers of Meeker county. He was born in Norway, on the 8th of February, 1840, and came to the United States in 1846, with his parents, Kittel and Carrie Haroldson. They settled upon a farm in Rock county, Wis., where they remained until 1857, when they removed to Meeker county, Minn. Harold remained with his parents until 1864, when he moved onto a farm of 149 acres on section 24, Acton township, which he purchased of his father for \$300. He has since bought additional land, until he now has 319 acres in all, a good share of which is under cultivation. In 1874 he erected a story-and-a-half residence, 24x32 feet in size, and in 1886 built an addition 18x20 feet in dimensions. In 1884 he built a large barn, with a basement, and besides these, has other substantial farm buildings. On the 25th of July, 1863, he was married to Miss Martha Paulson. She is a daughter of Mathias and Mary Paulson, and was born in

Norway July 18, 1835. Her father, Mathias Paulson, with his family, five in number, were included in the first party of emigrants that ever started for America from Selboe, South Thronhjems, Arnt, Norway, May 18, 1857, and landed in Quebec, Canada. The family traveled partly by railroad and the balance of the way with team, to Berry, Compton county, Canada East, where they settled June 22, 1857. In the spring of 1860 Martha came with her brother Paul to St. Paul, Minn., and in the fall of 1861 she came to Meeker county, where her parents had settled in the fall of 1860.

Mr. and Mrs. Kittelson's marriage has been blessed with the following children—Carrie, born April 3, 1864; Carl, born August 26, 1866; Mathias, born December 1, 1869; John, born May 31, 1873, died in September, 1874; Hannah M., born February 1, 1877; and Nellie Christina, born March 12, 1879. Mr. Kittelson was living with his parents when the Indian outbreak of 1862 began, and he was one of the first settlers to see Jones after that unfortunate pioneer was murdered. He was also present when Jones and the other victims were buried, and with his team hauled from Litchfield the first base of the monument which now marks their last resting-place. Mrs. Kittelson was also here during that eventful period, and was at work in the family of A. C. Smith at the time the attack was made on Forest City. Smith came in that night while she was clearing off the supper dishes, and stated that he believed an attack would be made that night, directing her to go at once to the stockade. She desired, however, to stay until she had finished her work, but Smith explained that she could finish the work in the morning if she was alive. She therefore threw a quilt over her head for a shawl, and went to the stockade, and, not realizing the approaching danger, went peacefully to sleep. The same night

the attack was made, and for a time all thought that the Day of Judgment had come. In the morning she found that Smith's advice had saved her life, as the Indians had, in the meantime, been to the vacated house and stolen all they could carry off, and set it on fire, but the blaze had died out before much damage was done. A full account of the Indian troubles is given elsewhere in this volume, so it is unnecessary to go further in detail in this connection.



HAMLET STEVENS, the senior partner in the banking firm of Stevens & Co., is one of the oldest settlers in Meeker county, and has watched its growth from a state of wilderness to its present prosperous condition. He was born in West Hawkesbury, Canada, August 16, 1830, and is the son of Samuel and Annie (Whitcomb) Stevens, both of whom were natives of Vermont. In his early manhood the elder Mr. Stevens went to Canada, where he was engaged for many years following his trade, which was milling, and was there married, and there made his home until he passed to the silent chambers of the dead.

The subject of this memoir was reared and educated in the county of his nativity, and as he reached maturer years, learned the carpentering trade, and worked at that and millwrighting until coming here. At the age of twenty-six, in October, 1856, he left his Canadian home, and following the tide of emigration which was flowing westward, and as the bulk of the people were coming to Minnesota, he, too, came to the "North Star State." He remained that winter at Hastings, where he was employed at his trade, working on the hotel building, but in the spring of 1857 came to Meeker county, where he has ever since made his home, and has been identified with its history. In the summer of 1863 he was appointed to fill the

office of register of deeds, left vacant by the death of Thomas Skimmer, and was elected to the same office at the expiration of the term. In the autumn of 1871 he was a candidate for the position of county treasurer, elected and served therein until the spring of 1873. Having been chosen county auditor by the people, in the spring of 1875, he entered upon the discharge of the duties of that office and remained there until the spring of 1879. The fact that a democrat of his pronounced type held any office in a republican county, is a fair criterion of the estimation in which he has always been held by the greater part of the community. In June, 1888, he was in attendance upon the Democratic National Convention, at St. Louis, as one of the alternates from this district.

Mr. Stevens, during the tragic days of the Indian troubles of 1862, joined the Meeker County Guards, and was, at once, elected second lieutenant of the company, and served with them, as detailed elsewhere, until it was disbanded. It has been justly said by the older residents that to him is due the credit, in a large measure, of finishing the stockade the day it was done, and which was so necessary before the dawn of the next morning. On the dispersion of Captain Whitecomb's company Mr. Stevens enlisted in the United States' service and went to Fort Snelling, but was rejected on examination, as unfit for the purposes of war, and then returned to Forest City, and there resided until the removal of the county seat to Litchfield, when he came hither himself. After the expiration of his term as treasurer Mr. Stevens made a trip through New Mexico and Colorado, and some time after his return to Litchfield started the banking business, in company with H. S. Bramham, which still is continued by them. Mr. Stevens is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, being the scribe or secretary of all three branches, and is one of the vestrymen of the Episcopal church.

NATHAN C. CASWELL, one of the earliest pioneers of the county, is still a resident of Manannah township, where he settled in 1856, on section 31. He is a native of Brompton, Sherbrooke county, Canada, born August 28, 1835, and is the son of Carlos and Anna (Wakefield) Caswell, the former a native of Guildhall, Vt., born March 11, 1798, and was the son of Nathan Caswell, one of the Revolutionary heroes from the "Green Mountain State." Carlos Caswell went to Canada when a child, and made it his home until 1855. He wedded Miss Anna Wakefield, a native of Vermont, born April 8, 1801. He came to Meeker county in 1856, and here made his home until August 31, 1871, when he passed to his reward.

Nathan C. Caswell, whose younger days were passed among the scenes of his birth, came to the State in 1855, locating at Monticello. November 15th of that year he, with others, started and made a trip through this county, as detailed in another chapter. In the summer of 1856 he, with others, came here and permanently located, and from that date have been prominently identified with the town and county's interests. He started for Pike's Peak, at the time of the excitement, with others, but in Nebraska, learning the state of affairs, he returned part of the way, stopping at Nebraska City, Neb., where he was engaged in teaming for an army contractor. He returned, after a while, to his home, and has since lived here. He is one of the prominent citizens of the county, has worthily filled several important offices, and is at present one of the board of county commissioners. At one time in his life, in 1859, he filled the position of fireman on a lower Mississippi river steamboat to the satisfaction of his employers, and has ever since given the strongest proofs of his loyalty to the interests committed to his charge.

July 27, 1861, Nathan C. Caswell was united

in marriage with Miss Mary A. Welch, a native of New Brunswick, and daughter of John Welch, of Stearns county, now deceased. By this marriage there have been born two children—Seth C., born at Monticello, Wright county, November 19, 1863, who married Lillian M., daughter of Nathan W. Caswell, born at Brompton, Canada, September 1, 1866. Their marriage took place November 27, 1884, and they have one child—Gertrude Emma, born October 1, 1886. The other child of N. C. Caswell was Mark J., who was born February 26, 1872, and died February 20, 1881.

Nathan C. Caswell, our subject, is one of the most prominent citizens in the northern portion of the county. He has always taken an active and leading part in all public and educational affairs, and no citizen has been more closely identified with the official history of the county and township in which he lives than the subject of this article.



JOHAN MATTSON, the gentleman owning and operating the flouring mill at Kingston, came to that part of the county, October 4, 1882, and purchased of J. H. Thompson, of Minneapolis, the mill built by Whitney & Hutchins. It was then equipped with three runs of buhrs, but he has added two sets of rolls and centrifugals combined, and other improved machinery, making it as good as any mill in the county.

Mr. Mattson is a native of Sweden, born near the city of Gottenborg, October 4, 1832, and is the son of M. Mattson and Helena Mattson, both of whom died in their native land, the father in 1834, and the mother in 1862. He was reared and educated in that land and there grew to manhood. At the age of twenty-two, in 1854, he started for America, and after a voyage of fifty days on the Atlantic, landed in Boston on the 4th

of October. A short time later he came west to Chicago, and while crossing the lake suffered the horrors of shipwreck, and, the vessel drifting into the harbor of Racine, Wis., our subject landed and sought employment, and forty miles from that point he was employed in chopping wood for three months. In April, 1855, he went to Chicago, and the following May went to Rockford, Ill., where he remained until the spring of 1856, and then came to Red Wing, Minn. During that summer he was employed at rafting on the Mississippi river, but later in the same season was taken sick and quit work. Upon his recovery he took a homestead in Goodhue county, near Red Wing, which he sold in the summer of 1857, and in the fall went to Cannon Falls, Goodhue county, and began learning the miller's trade with R. C. Knox & Co. He remained with them until February, 1865, when he enlisted in Company B, First Minnesota Infantry, and served until the close of the war. Returning then to Minnesota, he again resumed his milling business, and was employed at the following points: W. K. Rodgers & Co., Cannon Falls, Minn.; in 1868 for Archibald, Wilcox & Co., Oxford, Minn.; from 1869 to 1873 for R. Gregg & Co., Cannon Falls, Minn.; during 1873 and 1874 he was engaged in the general mercantile trade; in 1875 again engaged in milling for Nelson, Swanson & Co., Bell Creek, Minn.; in 1877 for C. N. Wilcox, of Oxford Mills, Minn.; in 1878 for W. S. Turner, at Star Prairie, Wis.; in 1879 for Mr. Munch, near Taylor's Falls, Minn.; in 1880 for C. N. Wilcox, Oxford Mills, Minn.; and in 1881 and 1882 for Thompson, Smith & Co., at Cannon Falls, Goodhue county. In the latter year—1882—he came to Meeker county, as stated.

Mr. Mattson was married June 29, 1861, to Miss Sophia Johnson, a native of Sweden, born March 29, 1844, and daughter of

Charles and Hannah Johnson. She had come to America with her parents in 1853, landing at Boston, and after two years' residence in Indiana, and two years in Iowa, came to Cannon Falls, this State, where the parents died, the mother in 1867, the father in 1884. Mr. Mattson is the father of eight children — Ella, now Mrs. M. T. Gunderson; Amanda C., Agnes M., and Ida E., and four deceased. Mr. Mattson is a member of the Lutheran Church. He votes with the republican party.



PPETER J. MITCHELL, the subject of this sketch, has a valuable farm, with fine building improvements, located on section 9, Harvey township.

He is a native of Blair county, Pa., born September 14, 1859, and is a son of Stephen and Ann Mitchell. Stephen P. Mitchell was born in Ireland in about 1830, and came to the United States in 1848, settling in Blair county, Pa. In 1852 he was married to Miss Anna Morgan, and they were the parents of nine children, as follows—John, Anna, Peter, Mary, Katie, Patrick, Rody, Delia B. and Ella. The father followed railroading and mining in Pennsylvania, until 1875, when he came with his family to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased 120 acres of land in Harvey township, and engaged in farming, remaining there until the time of his death, August 18, 1877. His widow, who was a native of County Galway, Ireland, is still living on the old homestead.

Peter J. Mitchell, the subject of this sketch, learned the carpenter's trade while still a boy, and followed that to some extent, but the most of his life has been spent in farming. Since his father's death he has taken charge of the homestead, and also has 200 acres in the township. He is a successful farmer, and also devotes considerable

attention to stock-raising. In political matters he affiliates with the democratic party, and is one of the leading members of that organization in the township. He has taken an active interest in public matters, and has held the office of township clerk since 1881, discharging the duties of the office in a manner creditable to himself and satisfactory to all concerned. Through his connection with township matters and official affairs he has justly earned the reputation which he has of being one of the most careful and thorough business men in the township.



ISRRAEL MILLER, proprietor of the Litchfield feed mill, is one of the brave veterans of our late civil war, "whose faith and truth on war's red touchstone rang true metal." He is a native of Fort Wayne, Ind., and first saw the light of day beneath the roof of his parents, John F. and Julia A. (Coffman) Miller, on the 10th day of July, 1839. In 1834, when John F. Miller settled at Fort Wayne, it was but an insignificant village, containing about a hundred people. He became a land owner in that vicinity, and prospered as the country developed, and made it his home until his death, which occurred in 1860.

The subject of this memoir remained at home with his parents, peacefully following the pursuit of agriculture until the tocsin of war with wild clamor filled the land, and the government called for the men of our country to sustain it. Israel enlisted in 1863 as a wagon master, thinking that the duties called forth in that position were best suited to his capacities, and received the charge of a train of some twenty-five wagons. He remained in this branch of the service some eight or ten months, and on the 15th of February, 1865, enlisted in Company G., One Hundred and Fifty-second Indiana Infantry,

and served with that gallant regiment until his discharge at Charleston, W. Va., August 30, 1865. During this time the body of men to which he was attached, were a portion of the army under Gen. W. S. Hancock, whose post of duty was in the Shenandeah and Kanawha valleys.

On receiving his discharge, Mr. Miller engaged in railroad work, which he followed for several years. In 1876 he became the general manager of a stave and head mill at Fort Wayne, but a year later he entered into business in the milling and chair factory line, with A. C. and D. S. Beaver, but a short time thereafter sold out and removed to Grundy county, Tenn., where he engaged in the same species of business. Five years later, on his way to the Red River country, he stopped at Litchfield, and was so struck with its appearance that he has never gone any further north. The next summer he placed a steamboat upon the pellucid waters of Lake Ripley, for excursion purposes, which was quite a success. He, the same fall, erected the feed mill he is now operating, and is still the owner of some 700 acres of timber and coal lands in Tennessee, and an undivided half-interest in 600 more.

The marriage that united the destinies of Israel Miller and Miss Harriet M. Beck was solemnized upon the 4th day of March, 1860. The lady was a native of Allen county, Ind., and the daughter of Richard and Sarah Beck. On the 16th of May, 1866, Mrs. Miller passed to "that land Elysian, whose portals we call death," having been the mother of three children, of whom the following is the record — Frank M., the eldest, is a resident of Ontario, Cal.; Laura B. married M. Milburn, and is a resident of Indian Territory; and William H., still lives at home with his surviving parent. Mr. Miller, July 24, 1868, again entered into the married state, being united with Miss Susie C. Totten, who is the mother of three children, two of whom are still

living — Susie and Jennie. The name of the one deceased was Julian, who died October 23, 1879. Again death entered the home of Mr. Miller and snatched from husband and mourning children the wife and mother, her death taking place November 22, 1876. After two years passed in single blessedness, May 1, 1878, Mr. Miller again essayed the matrimonial yoke, this time wedding Miss Florence M. Palm, who became the mother of three children — Mary E., Arthur G. and John. The latter died in infancy, June 1, 1880.



PPETER P. ORNBERG, is one of the leading farmers of Swede Grove township. He is a native of Sweden, born on the 17th of September, 1853, and is a son of Ole P. and Hannah Ornberg. He came to the United States in 1870, and came direct to Swede Grove township, Meeker county, Minn. He worked for different farmers in this neighborhood until some time in 1877, when he purchased 105 acres of land on section 29, Swede Grove township, and began farming on his own account. He has since bought eighty acres on sections 19 and 20, making 185 acres, which he owns at the present time, his buildings being located on section 29, on the north bank of Peterson Lake. When Mr. Ornberg came to this country he was not worth a dollar in this world's goods, but by thrift and industry he has accumulated a comfortable property. He has good and comfortable buildings, a full supply of the necessary farm machinery, a number of horses and quite a herd of cattle and hogs.

Mr. Ornberg was married on the 26th of May, 1874, to Miss Anna Peterson, a daughter of Hans and Betsy Peterson. They have been blessed with four children, as follows — Clans, born June 9, 1875; Ella, born September 27, 1877; Andrew, born December 23, 1879; and Ury, born July 2, 1886. Mr.

Ornberg takes an active interest in all matters of a public nature, and has held several local offices. He was school director of his district for six years.



NELS LARSON, a prominent farmer, residing on section 8, in Litchfield township, is one of the pioneers of the county, and a survivor of the Indian massacre of 1862. He was born in Sweden December 19, 1839, and is a son of John and Cola Peterson Larson. He left Sweden in 1857, when seventeen years of age, with his parents and three brothers, Andrew, Peter E. and Louis, coming by way of Hamburg to the United States, and being eight weeks *en route*. They came direct to Minnesota by way of Chicago and Prairie du Chien, and, after some little time spent in prospecting, they finally settled in Meeker county, locating first on section 9, of what is now Litchfield township, but subsequently took up a homestead on section 8. Nels entered a homestead of eighty acres adjoining his father's land, and shortly afterward purchased 120 acres of the government. He was married in 1859 to Anna Hugeman, and their union has been blessed with seven children, two of whom—Isaac and Lina—are dead. Of the other children, the eldest, Albert A., married Anna Kjellberg, and lives near Litchfield; while Emanuel, Emma Maria, Edward and Isaac John are still with their parents on the homestead.

Mr. Larson's early life being one of industry and frugality, he soon began accumulating property, and had just got a good foothold, or start in life, when the Indian outbreak came, and the fruits of nearly all his toil were swept away. When first warned of the terrible ravages that had been commenced, he took his family to his father's

house for safety, and the next day moved them on, as others did, to Forest City. After personally looking the ground over, he concluded the danger was over, and moved his family into a house outside the fortifications. A day or two afterward the family were terrified by a fresh attack of the Indians, and they rushed into the fort for refuge, under heavy firing. The Indians took a span of colts and a yoke of oxen which he had not time to secure. Mr. Larson borrowed a horse the next day, and went over to his farm, where he found his house a smoldering mass of ruins. He concluded to make the best of the situation, and proceeded to look after his cattle, which were in the timber and had not been molested by the redskins. While thus engaged, he discovered four Indians coming upon him, and, mounting his horse, he fled, taking a course across a marsh on his farm. He succeeded in crossing it without trouble, but the savages mired their horses in it, thus enabling him to make good his escape. After taking his wife and children—one of whom, Emma M., was only two weeks old—to St. Paul, for safekeeping for the winter, he bought a team and a third interest in a thrashing-machine on credit, and once more began life's labor anew. During the year 1863 he worked on his farm as best he could, his family being sheltered in the fortress at Forest City and Litchfield. The Indians in the meantime kept infesting the country as bands of marauders, running off stock and committing other depredations, and Mr. Larson slept in the stable where his horses were, during the entire summer. That winter he stayed on his father's place, and in the spring of 1864 built and moved into a cabin, where several of his neighbors' families, who had learned to look to him for protection, came and shared the shelter of his roof. Mr. Larson's industry and enterprise have enabled him to overcome those reverses of fortune, and he now has a splendid farm

of 665 acres, including considerable timber. He has held the office of township supervisor a number of years, and is justly regarded as one of the "solid" men of the county.



MONS A. BROWN came to Meeker county, Minn., in the first part of September, 1869, and settled where Litchfield is now located. At that time there was no depot nor passenger trains, only a construction train now and then, upon which all freight and passengers had to be transported. At that time there was Old Sol's so-called hotel, Brown's blacksmith shop, Truls Nelson had just commenced a small dwelling, and H. B. Johnson had some lumber on the place, while Messrs. Heard & Ward had also commenced a one-story building. In the latter part of September he received 1,200 feet of lumber from Minneapolis, and built a board shed, or shanty, in the rear of lot 14, corner of Second street and the alley. The board shanty was 12x16, with shingle roof. About the 8th of October he opened up a tin-shop and stock of hardware—the first hardware store and tin-shop Litchfield had—in a small way as it was. In November of that year he had an addition built to this shed, of 16x16, one and a half stories, with windows, sealed inside with flooring, where he moved his work-bench and hardware, and used the shed for stoves and warehouse. In 1870 he erected the frame building on lot 13, on Sibley avenue, which he occupied until 1882, and which still stands on the old site, and is now occupied by P. W. Johnson as a hardware store. In October of that year he moved his family to Litchfield, and moved in over the hardware store. The family consisted of his three children and Mrs. A. Brown, his mother, and Miss Susan Johnson, as the governess. In 1882, after selling out his hard-

ware business to Mr. Johnson, he engaged in the brick business for four years, on part of section 6, town of Darwin, and then abandoned the business. In 1884 he opened up a retail business in Grove City, of a general line, such as dry goods, groceries, clothing, hats, caps and notions. Mr. Brown has only held local offices; has been twice town treasurer. He served as first town clerk, when Litchfield was part of the incorporated town of Ness, and after being changed to town of Litchfield. He also served one year as president of the village council, and two years later as trustee on the village council.

M. A. Brown was born in Norway. His father emigrated to this country in 1850, where he landed in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Brown lived in Chicago for about fourteen years, where he was married, and where his children were born. In 1865 he moved to Water Valley, Miss., where he came from when he settled in Litchfield, Minn. Mr. Brown has been always on the side of enterprise, and has fully identified himself with all the material progress of the village and the county. He has erected several good buildings in the village, which are a credit to himself and an ornament to the place.



JOHAN QUINLAN, who is engaged in general farming on section 11, Darwin township, is a native of Fond du Lac county, Wis., born November 12, 1859, and is the son of Jeremiah and Sarah Quinlan, both of whom were natives of the Emerald Isle, and are now residents of the same township. John Quinlan remained in the Badger State until he was some twenty years of age, but in 1879 he left that portion of our country and came to Meeker county, and, taking up his residence where he now lives, has made this his home ever since.

March 28, 1882, he was united in marriage

with Margaret Doyle, who died April 14, 1888, leaving the following children to mourn their loss—Jeremiah R., born April 21, 1883; Margaret C., born September 4, 1885; and John M., born March 21, 1888.

Mr. Quinlan has followed farming most of his life, and understands that business thoroughly. In his religion he is a devout Roman Catholic, and cheerfully fulfills his duties. In politics he is entirely independent, not being bound by party lines.



PLAF PETERSON is one of the industrious foreign immigrants who have brought the thrift and economy so necessary in their native land to the fertile soil of the new world and are accumulating a comfortable competence. He is the son of John and Mary (Olson) Peterson, born in Sweden, January 24, 1860. When he was seven years of age he was brought to America by his parents, who settled in Carver county. The family afterward came to this county and settled in Collinwood township. He remained an inmate of the parental home until 1886, when he moved to his farm on section 36, where he has eighty acres of fine land, forty of which is under cultivation. He learned the carpenter's trade in his early manhood and has followed that business a part of the time ever since, and also works at masonry and plastering. He has a neat and tasty residence and comfortable out-buildings. Mr. Peterson was united in marriage, August 4, 1883, with Miss Betsy Larson, and by this union there has been born two children—Mary, born June 25, 1884; and John Imer, born March 9, 1886. Although a young man, he is rapidly coming the front and bids fair to achieve success. He is of an ingenious turn of mind and has made some excellent specimens of cabinet work which are very creditable.

ALFRED RODGERS, one of the "brave boys in blue" during the late civil war, who is engaged in farming in Forest Prairie township, on section 18, where he owns some eighty acres of land, is a native of Adams, Jefferson county, N. Y., born March 18, 1830. He is the son of Stephen and Sarah (Williams) Rodgers.

The father of our subject was a man of mark in the community in which he lived. He was the father of seven children by his first wife, of whom Alfred was one, the others being—Evaline, Hiram, Wesley, Clark, Harriet, and Manfred. The latter died, while in the army; and Clark's decease occurred in Goodhue county, this State. The mother of our subject died in the Empire State, and after her death Stephen Rodgers married Mrs. Spencer, by whom he had four children—Sarah, Martin, Eliza, and Orilla. In 1856, or 1857, Stephen removed to Wisconsin with his family, where he resided until his death, which occurred about 1877.

The subject of this personal history learned the carpenter's trade in youth, and followed it for some ten years in his native State, and, since coming here, has worked at it more or less. He was married July 4, 1853, to Miss Marietta Spicer, a native of New York, who died in 1858. She was the mother of one child—Dalton, who died in childhood. Mr. Rodgers' second marriage was with Miss Euphemia Scribner, who became the mother of three children—Manfred, Eliza and Eva.

In April, 1861, Mr. Rodgers enlisted in Company G, Thirty-fifth New York Infantry, and participated in many of the most bloody battles fought by the Armies of the Potomac and Shenandoah, among which may be mentioned those of the first and second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and White Sulphur Springs. He was finally mustered out and discharged, and returned to New York. He came to Meeker county

in 1869, and took up a homestead on section 8, in Forest Prairie, but later moved to his present locality. He is independent in political matters, and a representative man of the section of the county in which he lives.



JOSEPH LAWRENCE WAKEFIELD, dealer in dry goods and general furnishing goods, is one of Litchfield's most prominent merchants. He is a native of Providence, R. I., and was born in 1854. His parents, William and Harriet S. (Belcher) Wakefield, were both born and raised in the same State, and his grandfather, Joseph Belcher, belonged to the famous "Horse Marine Guards" in early times in New England. He was later a hardware merchant, which business is still carried on by his sons, and was the first person to introduce throughout the United States horse shoe nails made by machinery, contracting for and handling the entire production. Joseph Lawrence's father, William Wakefield, was connected with the banking business in Providence, but in 1856, with his family he went to St. Paul, Minn., for the purpose of settling up the estate of a deceased brother, and, becoming settled there, he has since made that his home.

J. L. Wakefield remained with his parents until nineteen years of age, when he went to Red Wing and attended school, and afterward entered Ripon College, at Ripon, Wis. In the fall of 1877 he went to Chicago and was employed as salesman in the dry goods establishment of A. T. Stewart & Co., until the spring of 1880. He was then employed by Auerbaueh, Finck, Culbertson & Co., at St. Paul, until November, 1883, when he came to Litchfield and opened the store which he still conducts. He carries an extensive and a complete stock of everything pertaining to his line and does a large busi-

ness. He has taken an active interest in all public matters and is the present city recorder. Mr. Wakefield was married in October, 1882, to Miss Carrie A. McConnell, of LeRoy, Minn. They have one child—Henry Lawrence.



BENGT HANSON, one of the most prominent old settlers in Meeker county, is a resident of Litchfield township, his extensive farm adjoining the village plat. Mr. Hanson was born in Sweden on the 6th of August, 1825. He was married in October, 1853, to Miss Elna Larson, a daughter of John and Lissa Larson. Her parents both died in Meeker county, the father in September, 1867, and the mother in February, 1887. Mr. Hanson's parents both died in Sweden.

On the 6th of May, 1857, Bengt Hanson and family left their native land for America, but were detained at Hamburg, Germany, for twenty days. They finally arrived in New York on the 3d of July, and proceeded to Dunkirk, then to Toledo and on to Chicago. There was no depot as yet at the latter place, and his goods were dumped on the ground, while the family were obliged to walk two or three miles through the mud to the other railroad. They took the line to Prairie du Chien, and, as there were no passenger cars, they rode to the latter point in box cars, and from there they took a boat up the river to Carver, Minn. At that place Bengt Hanson bought a span of horses and wagon, and leaving his family behind, he made a prospecting tour through several adjoining counties, but did not find a place to suit him. He then brought his family to Meeker county, and purchased 130 acres of land. He has since continually added to his place, until he now owns 500 acres of valuable land. He is recognized as one of the most solid and substantial

farmers in the county, and his integrity and straightforward dealing, have won him a reputation which have made his word as good as a bond.

Mr. Hanson, with the other pioneers, suffered a considerable loss and backset on account of the Indian outbreak. The redskins stole several horses and other loose stock and destroyed most of his grain.

He has always taken a commendable interest in public matters and has been prominently identified with the official history of the township in which he lives, having held the office of supervisor for over twenty years.

Mrs. Hanson died on the 5th of April, 1877, aged forty-one years. She was a true and sincere Christian lady, and was held in high esteem. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson were blessed with the following children—Emma, born in Sweden, December 10, 1854; Carl J. G. and Nels C. G. (twins), born in Hamburg, Germany, May 14, 1857; Alfred Emanuel, born June 30, 1859, died December 15, 1862; Caroline, born September 4, 1862; Esther, born April 4, 1865; Alfred Emanuel, born November 14, 1869; Edla Victoria, born May 30, 1874. Emma married Olaf H. Peterson, and resides in Litchfield township. Nels C. G. and Carl J. G. are mentioned elsewhere at length. Caroline married Andrew Johnson, a resident of Litchfield township.



MA RTIN J. PAULSON, one of the leading citizens of Meeker county, and for a number of years a resident of Grove City, is the son of Johnson and Emma (Olson) Paulson, and was born in Sweden on the 6th of November, 1851. He came to America with his parents in 1870, and on their arrival at Grove City found only two buildings in that place, the depot

and a store. He was poor and a foreigner who could not speak the language, but he buckled to his life work, and now reaps the reward. He did whatever he could find at hand for a couple of years, but learning the house-painting trade with A. Lofstrom, he followed that for about seven years. In 1879 Mr. Paulson purchased the Swede Grove House, the pioneer hotel of the village, opened in 1874 by L. A. Olson, and changed the name to Grove City House, and was the landlord of it until the spring of 1888, when he removed to Lake Koronis where he now lives. He has, by his own industry and thrift, raised himself, unaided, from his penniless condition into comparative affluence. He owns the fine hotel property and a good farm in Stearns county. He has also grown in influence in the community and has held the office of member of the council since 1882; is the present village recorder; and being the candidate upon the democratic ticket for member of the legislature, in the fall of 1886, was only defeated by the union of the three other parties, and then only by a small majority.

November 12, 1884, Mr. Paulson was united in marriage with Miss Siney Peterson, daughter of Andrew and Anna (Eskelson) Peterson-Clase. Both of Mr. Paulson's parents died in this county, his mother in 1887, and his father in 1886. His wife's father resides with them, but her mother died here about the time of the Indian troubles.



MILLER C. WOOD, a respected citizen and a successful farmer and stock-raiser residing on section 20, Mannah township, was born in Logan county, Ky., on the 4th of August, 1818, and is a son of Miller and Melinda (Campbell) Wood. He left his native State with his parents in 1832

and settled in Illinois, being among the earliest settlers of that region. He remained there for many years, but in 1864 came to Nicollet county, Minn., and settled, remaining one year. At the expiration of that time he came to Meeker county, and located on a farm in Union Grove township. In 1879 he removed to Manannah township and settled on section 20, where he has since continued to reside. He has eighty acres of land, and, in connection with a light general farming business, he devotes considerable attention to raising stock.

Mr. Wood was married in 1842, to Minerva Deatherage. She bore him seven children, and died in 1853.

In the year 1855 he was again married, Miss Lucinda S. Rogers becoming his wife. Thirteen children were born to them, ten of whom are still living. In political matters Mr. Wood affiliates with the democratic party.



HIRAM S. BRANHAM, the junior member of the banking firm of Stevens & Co., is a native of Johnson county, Ind., and was born January 30, 1856. His parents, Jesse V. and Mary (Stark) Branham, were natives of Johnson county, Ind., and came to Meeker county in 1857, and located in what is now Litchfield township.

Hiram was reared upon a farm until he was about twelve years of age, since which time he has, until the formation of the present firm, been employed in some capacity in some of the county offices. He commenced in 1868, with his father, Jesse V. Branham, Jr., who was serving then as auditor, and later on was with his present partner, Hamlet Stevens, in the same office, having been appointed his deputy, and remained in that position for some eight years. The banking firm was established by them in 1881, and

they are now doing a large business, real estate and farm loans being a specialty. Mr. Branham, who is recognized in the community as one of its ablest and brainiest business men, by his long and faithful service in the auditor's office, became thoroughly posted in regard to the lands of the county, and this, together with his intuitive and sure judgment in all land matters make him an extremely safe guide in all real estate transactions.

Mr. Branham and Miss Jessie A. Greenleaf, the latter the daughter of Hon. W. H. Greenleaf, were united in marriage December 27, 1882. They are the parents of one child—Charles Greenleaf Branham, born December 26, 1884.



JOHN VOGEL, one of the prosperous and intelligent farmers of Dassel township, is a native of Germany, born in 1843. He was reared amid the scenes of his youth until he was about twenty-one years of age, when, starting out to seek his fortune, he turned his steps toward the west, to the land of the free, on this side of the ocean, whither he soon after arrived. For about two years he was engaged in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, but that work not being congenial to his taste, he came to Minnesota and for a time remained in the city of St. Paul. He then went to Howard Lake, and was in the employ of the railroad until 1877, when he gave that up, and with his family settled on the farm on section 20, Dassel township, where he now lives. The first year they lived here there was no floor to their house, and they suffered considerable privation in every respect. Much of his time was taken up in working for others in order to provide for his family, so that the development of his own farm was somewhat retarded, but the native thrift and economy of his race, and

steady perseverance and undeviating diligence, in time met with a signal reward, and he has now one of the best farms in the town. It contains 120 acres, and is highly cultivated and cared for.

Mr. Vogel was married in St. Paul, October 23, 1865, to Miss Emily Zeigler, a native of Germany, who came to this country the August preceding. They are the parents of eleven children, as follows—Edwin, born December 7, 1867; Martin, born March 19, 1869; Adelia, born February 22, 1877; Louisa, born July 23, 1873; Albert, born March 3, 1875; Julia, born December 22, 1876; Emily, born November 26, 1878; Mary, born March 31, 1881; Hattie, born March 8, 1883; John, born April 1, 1885; and Mabel, born June 6, 1887.



HALVER O. NESS, an enterprising farmer of Litchfield township, is a son of Ole Halverson and Mary Ness, and was born in Rock county, Wis., February 20, 1850. When he was but six years of age his parents removed to Meeker county, and settled on section 29, of what is now Litchfield township, where his entire life has been spent in the same industrious and upright manner that characterized the lives of his worthy ancestors. In 1877 he was married to Carrie M. Karn, who was born in Alama-kee county, Iowa, March 25, 1855. Her parents, Helga and Hellen Ness, came to America in 1844, and are still residents of Iowa. Two children have been born to Halver and Carrie Ness—Mary, born June 1, 1878; and Hellen, born April 5, 1879. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Grove City. When the Indian outbreak came in 1862, Halver was but twelve years old, yet the work of a man devolved upon him, and he remembers many incidents of the memorable reign of terror.

SILAS H. CASWELL, one of the pioneers of Union Grove township, is the son of Carlos and Anna Caswell, who were natives of Vermont. He was born at Brompton, Quebec, Canada, October 22, 1827, and was reared upon a farm until his nineteenth year. For a few years he was sawyer in a sawmill, commencing life on his own account when twenty-four years old. August 9, 1853, he was married to Miss Fannie R. McCrea, the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth P. McCrea, who was born March 4, 1832, at Castle Fin, Ireland, of Scottish parents. She had resided in the land of her birth until eighteen years of age, coming to Canada in 1850.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Caswell came to the United States, November 3, 1854, arriving in St. Anthony, Minn., with but \$2.50 in their possession. The following February they removed to Monticello, Wright county, where he took up a claim and made his home until his removal to Union Grove township, this county, in 1857. While at St. Anthony, he was engaged in carpentering, and helped finish the first brick building erected in Minneapolis. In 1856 he came here, as detailed elsewhere, and, going back, sold out and moved his family here, as above mentioned.

He preëmpted some 160 acres of land on sections 23 and 24, in the town of Union Grove, where he lived at the time of the Indian outbreak in 1862, a history of which is given in detail elsewhere in this volume. Like all of the rest of the settlers here, that fall he and his family left, for safer quarters, and made their home on a farm in Wright county for two years. In 1864 he returned to Union Grove, where he made his home until 1876, during which time he had filled several local offices. At that date he removed to Stevens county where he lived for three years, afterward moving back to Union Grove, where he has a fine farm,

besides owning a quarter section in Brown county, Dakota, having some 380 acres in all. Mr. and Mrs. Caswell are the parents of five children — Miranda F. E., born June 26, 1854, Brompton, Quebec, Canada; Edwin H., born April 22, 1857, Monticello, Minn.; Addie J., born February 13, 1862, Union Grove, Minn.; Oscar C., born October 29, 1866; and Ernest F., born August 2, 1869, same place. The eldest, now Mrs. J. H. Murray, of Marshall county, Dak., is the mother of three children—Lura E., born April 7, 1876; Pearl C., deceased, born in 1878; and Berna D., born in January, 1887. Addie, Mrs. A. Matteson, of Castle, Mont., has two children living—Bertha G., born December, 16, 1879; and Earl L., March 31, 1884; she had three more, now deceased.



D M. WANVIG, a resident of section 36, Acton township, is one of the most prominent citizens of Meeker county. He is a native of Norway, born June 20, 1831, and a son of Olaavis and Johanna Wanyig. His father followed the business of a general merchant in Norway until the time of his death. In 1861 D. M. Wanyig came to the New World, and settled in Quebec, Canada, where he engaged in farming and was also an interpreter for the Grand Trunk Company in their emigration business. In 1868 he settled in St. Paul, having in the meantime begun railroading, which he followed for a number of years. In the spring of 1870 he removed to Litchfield, being then engaged in railroad contracting, and in superintending the laying of tracks. In March, 1873, he purchased a farm on section 36, Acton township, and moved his family upon it. This has since been his home, with the exception of the years from 1881 to 1885, inclusive, when he was a resident of Litchfield, and where he still owns a magnificent residence.

When Mr. Wanyig purchased his farm there was but fifty-two acres broke. He has added to the place until he now has 320 acres in all, 160 of which is under cultivation, and it is one of the most valuable farms in the county. Mr. Wanyig devotes his attention to general farming and stock-raising, the latter particularly. Mr. Wanyig was married in Norway, in 1852, to Marie Louisa Enebo, and they were blessed with four children, as follows — Augusta, born March 31, 1853; John Olof, born December 1, 1854; George Martin, born February 16, 1856, and Marcus, born February 8, 1858. His first wife died in Norway, on the 16th of February, 1858. After coming to Canada, Mr. Wanyig was married again, this time to Elizabeth Dudy. Three children have blessed this union — Daniel, Matilda and Adolph.

Mr. Wanyig has been prominently identified with railroad building in the Northwest. When he began his railroad work the present Manitoba line was known as the St. Paul & Pacific, and he had a \$16,000 contract on that line. He built the Winona Road from Marshall west to Chaska, now Watertown; also built the track on the line from Morris west to Breckenridge; and the track from Barnesville to twenty-eight miles north of Crookston. When he settled at Litchfield the terminus of the line was at Benson. In political matters Mr. Wanyig is a republican, and is one of the leading members of that party in the county. From 1874 until 1883, he was, under the republican administration, railway postal clerk from St. Paul to St. Vincent, his home during this time, however, being in Meeker county. It is worthy of mention that the Indian battle which is mentioned at length in the historical department of this work was fought on section 35, of Acton township, on land now owned by Mr. Wanyig. One of the victims was buried there, but the remains were afterward taken up and re-interred at Hutchinson.

SAMUEL A. DORMAN, a prominent and respected old settler residing on section 17, Kingston township, dates his residence in Meeker county the year 1857, and is therefore one of the best known citizens in the eastern part of the county. Mr. Dorman is a native of Washington county, Me., born on the 24th of January, 1843. His early life was spent in attending school in his native State, and in 1857, with his parents, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and they located on section 17, Kingston township, where he still resides. His mother is dead and his father is still living. They were here all through the Indian outbreak and all through the most trying times in the history of the county. Mr. Dorman, the subject of our sketch, was married in December, 1873, to Miss Martha Gable, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of David Gable and wife. Her mother is dead and her father is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Dorman are the parents of four children—named, Jesse, Elmer, Mattie and Ada—two girls and two boys.

Mr. Dorman has taken an active interest in public matters, and has been prominently identified with the official history of the township, having held various local offices. In political matters he is a democrat. During his early manhood Mr. Dorman followed wagon-making to some extent, but the principal portion of his life has been devoted to farming, and he is now engaged in diversified farming and stock-raising.



JASPER WRIGHT, an enterprising farmer of Collinwood township, living on section 4, was born in Yancey county, N. C., January 4, 1837, and is the son of Jonathan and Mary (Bailey) Wright, both of whom were natives of the "same State." When he was a boy of six or seven years old, his parents removed to Russell county, Va.,

where he was reared to manhood. He remained at home until his marriage, after which he started for himself on one of his father's farms, where he remained until July 19, 1861, when he enlisted in Company H, Fiftieth Virginia Infantry, and served until he was wounded and captured. On being paroled he returned to his home, where he remained until 1865, when he removed to Lawrence county, Ohio, but the following October, came to Collinwood township, this county. He took up a claim of 81 acres, on section 4, where he now lives. His entire wealth, when he got here, was \$33, his gun, a spider, and a dinner kettle, and his wife, and two children. He invested three dollars in provisions, and the balance of his money in a cow, and settled down to frontier life. His brother, Waitsdel, and his family were with him, and, as the brother was sick, he was the only support of both families, and kept them going in venison brought down by his gun. For three years their only meat was of this variety. He is now well fixed, however, and enjoys life in a more comfortable fashion.

Mr. Wright was married January 6, 1858, to Miss Elizabeth Taylor, who was born in Russell county, Va., August 26, 1840, and is the daughter of William and Dycia Taylor. They have had a family of five children.



PECKSTROM. Prominent among the leading citizens of Dassel village is ex-sheriff Ekstrom, of whom this sketch is written. His life, which began in Sweden, January 20, 1845, has been a diversified one, his early years having been passed as a seaman upon the boisterous waters of the North Atlantic, and the more placid Pacific Ocean, and in which profession he rose to the position of mate. Growing tired of the monotony of sea life he came to New York in

1867, and in company with R. and G. Kalling, came directly through to Meeker county by way of St. Paul. During the winter of that year he followed hunting and trapping with the other two men, and in August, 1867, the three purchased 1100 acres of land, all of which they afterwards sold except 300 acres which Mr. Ekstrom kept for his own use, and on which he carried on farming. This was on section 3, town of Greenleaf, and upon it he took up agricultural pursuits, and remained there until 1874, when he sold out, and removing to Litchfield, entered into partnership with A. T. Koerner, in the real estate business, under the firm name of Ekstrom & Koerner. He remained in this until 1881. Having been elected sheriff of the county in 1877 he assumed the duties of that office and held it for six years, having been twice re-elected. After the termination of his official career he entered upon the handling of grain at Morton, where he remained until 1886 when he came to Dassel where he is engaged in the real estate business with Peter Johnson, although he still lives at the county seat.

Mr. Ekstrom was married in 1872 to Miss Helen Sauvror, a native of Sweden, and they are the parents of four children.



THEODORE EHLERS, of the firm of Shaw & Ehlers, millers and grain dealers, Litchfield, is a native of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, born December 10, 1837, and is the son of Christian and Amelia Ehlers. He received his education in his native land, and there acquired some knowledge of the milling business. He came to the United States in January, 1854, while yet a young man, and followed the profession of a miller, through various parts of Wisconsin, until 1863, when he located in the city of Minneapolis. There he was employed in the

old Cataract mill, which was the first and, at that time, the only merchant mill in the Flour City. After two years spent as miller in that establishment, Mr. Ehlers started the Arctic, now St. Anthony mill, which he operated for about a year. The next two succeeding years were spent by him in the same line of business at Chaska, this State, after which he returned to Minneapolis, where he entered the Washburn flour mill, now known as "B" mill. He started the Zenith and the Galaxy mills, and several others, and made his home there until 1877. At that time he came here, and in company with Mr. Shaw, purchased the Litchfield flouring mill, and established the present business. Shortly after its purchase the new proprietors remodeled the mill, and changed it to the roller system, and improved it throughout, making it first-class in every respect. In 1882 the firm erected their elevator. They are also engaged in the flour and feed business in Litchfield.

Mr. Ehlers is one of the active members of the Masonic fraternity, having been made a Mason in Hennepin Lodge, No. 4. He is a member of Rabboni Chapter, No. 39, and Melita Commandery, No. 17, of this place, and he and his wife both belong to Fidelity Chapter, Eastern Star degree, of which Mrs. Ehlers, formerly Miss Emma E. Elkins, is the present secretary.



MA RTIN O. NESS, is a well-known farmer and stock-raiser, who resides on section 32, Litchfield township. He is a son of Ole Halverson and Mary Ness, and was among the first white children born in Meeker county, having first seen the light on the old Ness homestead February 11, 1858. His father and mother were natives of Norway, and among the first settlers of Meeker county, and Martin was reared on

the farm with them. In 1881 he purchased the Gunder-Olson farm, and commenced the business of farming on his own account. In 1883 he moved the old homestead house onto his place, and "batched" it there until September 13, 1884, when he was married to Hannah Peterson, who was born in Norway, June 23, 1859. She is the daughter of Peter and Tisa Peterson Schonhovel. Martin Ness and wife have two children—Oscar Peter, born October 18, 1885; Charles Randolph, born January 31, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Ness are both members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Grove City.

CARL O. NESS, of Litchfield township, is another sturdy young farmer, who was born Meeker county, the date of his birth being July 12, 1865, and his parents being Ole Halverson and Mary Ness. He is of that hardy Norse stock that make successful farmers and substantial citizens. He owns a quarter section of land adjoining the farms of his brothers Martin and Halver, and devotes his entire attention to farming and stock-raising, making his home with Martin. He is a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Litchfield.



PATRICK McCaffrey, one of the most prominent and well-to-do farmers and stock-raisers in the northern portion of the county, resides on section 22, Manannah township. He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, on the 8th of March, 1822, and is a son of Patrick and Ellen (McCarran) McCaffrey. He grew to manhood in his native land, acquiring the same habits of industry and frugality which are characteristic of the race from which he springs. His parents died in the land of his birth, and in 1844 he started for America, landing in Boston, and went direct to Lowell, Mass., where he settled. He remained there until May, 1865,

when he came West to Meeker county, Minn., and took a claim in Harvey township, where T. W. Dougherty now lives. He dug a cellar, got ready to build, and made some other improvements, after which he and his wife returned to Lowell, Mass., for the rest of the family and goods. During their absence a party jumped their claim, and Mr. McCaffrey lost his homestead. The family remained in Massachusetts one year, and then returned to Meeker county, Minn., and Mr. McCaffrey took a claim and built a house on section 30, in what is now Harvey township. After living there for one year they were burned out and lost all they had. When this misfortune overtook them they returned to Lowell, Mass., and remained there until 1876, when they again settled in Meeker county, locating on section 22, Manannah township, where they still reside. Mr. McCaffrey has a valuable farm of 200 acres, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising.

In 1842 Mr. McCaffrey was married to Elizabeth Quinn, and they have been blessed with nine children, as follows—Patrick, Rose Ann, Owen, James, Thomas, Mary J., John, Mary E. and Charles II., all of whom are living except Patrick, Mary J. and Charles II. The family are members of the Catholic Church.

Mrs. McCaffrey's parents were natives of Ireland. The father died in his native land, and the mother in Lowell, Mass.



CHARLES F. SPAULDING, a respected and prominent old settler residing on section 22, Forest Prairie, and a successful farmer and stock-raiser, is a native of Oxford county, Me., born on the 14th of April, 1850, and is a son of Benjamin F. Spaulding. His parents are still living in Forest Prairie township, in which they were among the earliest settlers.

While Charles was still young his parents removed to Scott county, and in 1866, they removed to Meeker county. When our subject was only fifteen years of age, in February, 1865, he enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and went into the service, and joined his company at Chattanooga, Tenn. He remained in the service until July 29, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Prairie du Chien, Wis. He then returned to Scott county, Minn., and the following year the family settled in Forest Prairie township, where they have since lived. Our subject owns 240 acres of land in all, and devotes his attention to general farming and stock-raising. He has been engaged in farming most of the time since attaining his majority, although for four years following 1880, he carried the mail from Litchfield to Forest City.

Charles F. Spaulding was married on the 1st of February, 1874, to Miss Josephine Vossen, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Christian Vossen, a respected resident of Forest Prairie township. Mr. and Mrs. Spaulding have been the parents of five children, as follows—Joseph, Frank, Charles, Lydia and Julia.

In political matters Mr. Spaulding is a republican. He has taken an active interest in township and educational matters, and has been prominently identified with the official history of the town.

LM. OLSON, a respected and influential farmer, who lives on section 21, Greenleaf township, was born in Sweden, on the 11th of February, 1839. His father died in Sweden, and he was brought up on a farm, learning the same habits of economy and industry which characterize a majority of that nationality. In 1867 he sailed for the United States and settled at Rock Island,

Ill. He remained there until 1873, when he removed to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased the farm in Greenleaf township where he now lives. He has been very successful in his farming operations, notwithstanding he has met with several reverses in losing or getting poor crops, but his industry has not been without its reward and he is now in comfortable circumstances. He now has 100 acres of land, substantial buildings and a good lot of stock.

Mr. Olson was married in 1876 to Johanna C. Johnson. In religious matters Mr. Olson is a member of the Church of God; and in political affairs he affiliates with the republican party. His mother resides with him.



REN W. TOPPING, who is engaged in the hay and straw baling business in the village of Litchfield, was born in Greenleaf, Meeker county, November 11, 1860, and is the son Charles G. and Louisa M. (Briggs) Topping.

The father of the subject of this memoir, one of the pioneers of this county, was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., April 11, 1834, and made his home there, with his parents, until 1855. In the spring of that year he removed to Wisconsin, where he lived until the fall of 1857, when he came to this vicinity, settling at Hutchinson, McLeod county. The following spring he took up a claim on section 10, Cedar Mills township, which he commenced improving as a farm. In January, 1860, he returned to his native State, and was there united in marriage to Miss Louisa M. Briggs, and with her returned the following spring to his farm.

In 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Fourth Minnesota Infantry, and served until September, 1864, when he was honorably discharged from the service for disability,

owing to disease contracted in the army. His family, at the time of the Indian outbreak, having fled back to New York State, he, on receiving his discharge, went there and brought them back to Minnesota, and made his home upon his farm until 1872, when he sold out and came to the village of Litchfield, where he now lives. His wife, the mother of our subject, and three brothers and one sister, died February 14, 1888. She was a most estimable woman, an affectionate wife and indulgent mother, and who possessed the esteem of all with whom she came in contact.

Oren W. remained with his parents while they lived upon the farm, but some time after coming to Litchfield, commenced to learn the barber's trade, which he followed for some time, after which he established his present business.

NELS JOHNSON, a successful and enterprising farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 32, Union Grove township, is a native of Sweden, born July 17, 1836, and a son of John and Maggie Hanson. His early life was spent in his native land, where he learned the mason's trade, and acquired the habits of industry and frugality which are characteristics of the Swedish people.

In 1880 he came to the United States and made his way direct to Meeker county, Minn. He first located at Grove City, where he followed his trade, and remained there for four years. At the expiration of that time he came to Union Grove township and purchased 160 acres of land on section 32, where he now lives. His residence is a comfortable new frame building, and he is rapidly getting his farm in tillable condition.

Mr. Johnson was married in October, 1863, in Sweden, to Miss Hannah Peterson, a daughter of Peter and Hannah Trolson. She

was born in Sweden on the 18th of December, 1831. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been the parents of five children, three of whom are dead. The two living children are as follows—Mary, born May 18, 1866; and John, born May 13, 1868. Mary married O. C. Olson, and now lives in Harvey township, and John is still at home.

FRANK McLAUGHLIN, a prominent, energetic, and industrious farmer, living upon section 10, Manannah township, is a native of county Tyrone, Ireland, born March 16, 1828, and son of William and Alice A. McLaughlin. He remained beneath the parental roof until some twenty-three years of age, but foreseeing the utter impossibility of ever acquiring a competency in his oppressed native land, he came, like many of his countrymen, to the free shores of America to hew out his own fortunes. After spending about a year in the cotton mills at Lowell, Mass., he repaired to Boston and found employment in a rolling mill, where he continued for three years. The next seven years were passed in various places, engaged at various employments, and the spring of 1861 found him in Columbus, Ind. While there, April 16, of that year, he enlisted in Company K, Thirteenth Indiana Infantry, and was in the engagement at Rich Mountain, W. Va., July 11, 1861, and the balance of the campaign under Gen. George B. McClellan. On March 23, 1862, he was with his regiment and took part in the first battle at Winchester. During the Chickahominy campaign he participated in the Seven Days' battles which terminated at Malvern Hill. From that time on Mr. McLaughlin's fortunes were those of the regiment, one of the best known in the Indiana contingent in the Armies of the Potomac and Shenandoah. He served at the siege of Pe-

tersburg, Va., in the spring of 1864, and was discharged at Indianapolis on July 2, 1864. He was three times wounded, once severely.

On his discharge Mr. McLaughlin returned to Lowell and went to work in a factory there. In April, 1866, he came to Meeker county, and settled where he now lives. He has made all the improvements here and endured while doing so, all the hardships of early settlers. He was married on the 31st of July, 1864, to Miss Anna Breen, who has become the mother of four children—William J., born June 30, 1865; Mary A., born January 10, 1868; Maggie E., born February 21, 1871; and Alice C., born January 13, 1877.



GEORGE B. STROBECK, a progressive farmer and stock-raiser living near the village of Litchfield, is a native of New York, and was born in St. Lawrence county, July 6, 1846. He was reared on the farm with his parents, Henry and Fanny Strobeck, and was primarily educated in the common schools of the county, and afterward received an academic course of four years in the St. Lawrence Academy. In September, 1868, he was united in marriage with Celestia M. Thomas. They have one child, Frederick, born December 4, 1872.

George continued the conduct of his father's farm some five years after his marriage, and then purchased a farm in the same neighborhood, which he operated until 1877, when failing health compelled him to make a change. In the fall of that year he came to Meeker county, and purchased the northeast quarter of section 12, Litchfield township, and the following spring brought his family on, and began life anew on a piece of land without a dollar's worth of improvements on it, and after having been reduced in health and circumstances by two years of

severe sickness. He now has one of the best improved farms in the township, and has fully regained his health and strength. His antecedents were remarkable for their longevity, his grandfather being 107 years old at the time of his death, and his grandmother 103, while his great-grandmother is known to have reached the age of 120. Mr. Strobeck is a model farmer, and devotes his entire attention to the improvement of his farm, and is getting a fair start in the introduction of high grade stock. The family are members of the Protestant Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Strobeck is a staunch republican, and in 1887 was elected to the board of supervisors on that ticket.



FRANK J. TWOMBLY, one of the progressive farmers of Cosmos township, living on section 23, is the son of James and Ellice Twombly, and is a native of McKeene county, Penn., born in 1857. He was reared among the hills, and amid the picturesque surroundings of his native county, until he was about six or seven years of age, when his parents removed to St. Anthony, this State, where they made their home until 1878, when they came to Meeker county and located on the place, now owned and occupied by Frank. The latter accompanied his parents here, and remained with them until 1884, when he purchased the homestead of his father, upon which he now carries on agricultural pursuits. His father, after disposing of his property, emigrated to far-off Oregon, settled there and is still a resident of that State. Frank Twombly has held several minor local offices as a preparatory school to the more important ones which, no doubt, the future holds in store for him. He is a careful business man, and holds the respect of all who know him.

NELS A. DRAXTEN is one of the thrifty and enterprising farmers of Acton township. Like so many of the residents of the western part of Meeker county, he is a native of Norway, born on the 6th of October, 1850, the names of his immediate ancestors being Andrew F. and Mary Draxten. His early life was spent in his native land, but in 1869 he sailed for the United States, and upon his arrival, came direct to Minneapolis, where he was employed in saw-mills. Seven years later he came to Meeker county and purchased 111 acres of land on section 17, in Acton township, where he now lives. He has a good farm and valuable improvements—a neat two-story house, 26x32 feet in size, with an addition 14x14, and also a substantial barn 28x54 feet in dimensions. His parents live with him, and he has four brothers who are Meeker county farmers, all of whom are married.

Mr. Draxten is a democrat in political matters, and takes an active interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his township. He is a well-posted and intelligent citizen, and is highly respected by his neighbors. He has held a number of township offices; was elected supervisor in 1881 and served one term, and in March, 1886, was elected township treasurer.



JESSE V. BRANHAM, SR., one of the pioneers of this locality, was born April 18, 1803, in Scott county, Ky., and lived there until 1811, when he removed with his parents to Franklin, Jefferson county, Ind. He learned the millwright's trade there and followed it for some years, at one time owning a half-interest in the mill at Franklin, and an interest in the woolen mill at the same place. In 1857 he removed to Meeker county, and took up a claim in the town of Litchfield, where he made his home until the

tragic days of the Indian outbreak in 1862, when he took his family to a place of security, and, although then nearly sixty years of age, returned to help defend the country. He it was that volunteered to ride to the State capital, with the demand of the settlers for help, a service of danger and fatigue, as the road then was nearly one hundred miles long. After fulfilling his duty here he went to Minneapolis, where his family were and there spent the winter. In the spring of 1863, he and his family returned to Forest City, and two years later to the old homestead. In 1864 he was elected to the office of county treasurer, and served for six years. In 1874 Mr. Branham sold his farm and moved to the village of Litchfield, where he now resides. He was married December 24, 1821, to Miss Mary Butler, and they have been the parents of eight children, four of whom are living, namely—Jesse V. Jr., William, Mrs. Gullet, and Mrs. E. A. Campbell. Mrs. Branham died June 12, 1888, at Litchfield.



NICK BAUER. The subject of this biography, a respected and enterprising farmer and stock-raiser residing on section 7, Forest Prairie township, is a native of Prussia, Germany, born on the 20th of March, 1853, and a son of Goodheart and Mary (Earnest) Bauer. In 1865 the family sailed for the United States, and after a voyage lasting for forty days they landed at New York City, and at once proceeded by way of St. Paul to St. Cloud, in Stearns county, Minn., where they were among the first settlers. They settled on a farm about nine miles from St. Cloud, and that was the home of the parents until the time of their death. Goodheart Bauer and wife were the parents of a large family of children, the names of their offspring being as follows—



P. O. Hanson

Lena, Mary, Lizzie, Gertrude, Lucy, Katie, Peter, John Peter, Michael, Nick, Matt and Hobart.

Nick Bauer, the subject of our present sketch, was married on the 14th of September, 1879, at Minneapolis, to Miss Lizzie Fenniman, a native of Germany. She became the mother of one child, a girl named Mary, and the mother died in June, 1880.

Mr. Bauer's present wife was formerly Miss Mary Rouch. They were married at St. Nicholas, Stearns county, on the 9th of November, 1882. They are the parents of two living children, named Anna and Peter.

In political matters Mr. Bauer affiliates with the democratic party. The family are exemplary members and active supporters of the Catholic Church.

RICHARD DOYLE, a progressive and wide-awake farmer of Darwin township, has his home on section 10. He is a native of Upper Canada, born about the year 1836, and is the son of Terence and Margaret Doyle, who were natives of the beloved but down-trodden island of Ireland. Richard remained for many years in his Canadian home engaged in tilling the soil, for he was always a farmer until 1867, when he came to the States and settled in Meeker county, where he now lives, and where he has continued to make his home ever since.

While living in Canada he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Enright, who bore him nine children, of whom the following six still survive—Michael, John, James A., Richard T., Mary and Terence. Their oldest child, Terence, died in Canada, as did Patrick, in 1867; Margaret died here April 14, 1888, and is buried in Darwin.

Mr. Doyle has given a great amount of attention to mixed farming, and is authority with those who know him best in respect to

his calling. His success since coming here is entirely due to his persistent labor and good judgment, and is an excellent example. There is no flowery road to success, nothing but diligent work, and Mr. Doyle has proven that he has found it so. He is a strict member of the Roman Catholic Church. In politics he is a sincere and abiding democrat, believing that in that party lies the safest rules for the preservation of our National existence.



JOHN WISE, who is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising, upon section 29, Kingston township, is a native of Miami county, Ohio, born April 8, 1835, and is the son of Samuel and Barbara (Shope) Wise, who were natives of Lancaster county, Penn. His father emigrated from the "Buckeye State," in his later days, to Indiana, where he died at the age of seventy-nine years nine months and thirteen days. The mother died in 1869. Both were members of the German Baptist Church, and were the parents of fourteen children, who all grew to manhood and womanhood. Their names were—Jacob, John, Samuel, Andreas, Levi, Isaac, Abram, Henry, Daniel, Elizabeth, Sallie, Teena, Barbara, and Mary.

John Wise was reared in Miami county, Ohio, upon the paternal farm, where he lived until attaining his majority, receiving in the halcyon days of youth the elements of a good education. He commenced farming in his native State, and from there moved over into Indiana, where he lived until 1879, when he came to Minnesota, locating in Meeker county, on the place where he now lives.

The subject of this historical notice was united in marriage, January 2, 1855, with Miss Sarah Christian, a native of Pennsylvania, and daughter of Solomon and Pollie

Christian, natives of the "Keystone State" also. By this union there have been six children born, namely—Samuel, living in Wisconsin; and Anna, Fannie, Elizabeth, Barbara, and Sara Jane, all of whom are married, but the son. In his politics Mr. Wise is a steady adherent to the principles of the republican party, and is a representative man of the township.



NELS EKMAN is a farmer on section 34, Swede Grove township, where he carries on general farming and stock raising. Mr. Ekman is a son of Swan and Ingra Swanson, and is a native of Sweden, born on the 2d of October, 1853. He came to the United States in 1871, and made his way directly to Meeker county, Minn. He worked for farmers in this part of the State until about 1877, when he bought a farm of Peter Elofson. Two months later he traded this for a farm in Douglas county, but did not move on to it, and soon afterward traded it for a farm near Grove City, in this county. Two months later he sold this and went to Devil's Lake, where he worked on the railroad one summer, and then returned to Swede Grove. In the spring he bought a farm of George Okeson, where he now lives. He has 120 acres of land on sections 33 and 34, his buildings being on the latter section. By industry and economy Mr. Ekman has secured a good start, and is in comfortable circumstances. He was a poor man when he came here—so poor, in fact, that he owed for his passage from his native land to the New World, and he worked for two years to pay the debt. Mr. Ekman was married to Miss Ellen Anderson, a daughter of Bengt and Betsy Hanson. They have been blessed with two children—Betsy, born March 21, 1884, and Andrew, born February 2, 1887. Mrs. Ekman was born in Sweden on the 28th of Novem-

ber, 1859. Her mother is dead, and her father lives in Swede Grove township. Mr. Ekman's father is dead, and his mother is still living in Sweden, her native land. In political matters Mr. Ekman is a republican.



THE SUBJECT of this sketch, W. J. WHITTINGTON, the proprietor of the Litchfield greenhouse and market garden, is a native of Sussex, England, born December 28, 1863. From the time that he was old enough he spent his time in a greenhouse and garden in his old home, on the south coast of his native land, until he was about fourteen years of age, when he came to this country and located in Union Grove township, in this county. He passed some three years in that vicinity, and then removed to Litchfield. The first six months he was here he spent in attendance at the high school, after which, for about four years, he was employed at farm labor. In the fall of 1885 he leased two town lots on the corner of Third and Holcomb streets, with the intention of establishing a floral and plant conservatory for local and shipping trade. He broke the first ground for this enterprise September 12, 1885, and by his energy and perseverance soon built up an active trade and an enviable reputation. These grounds proving too small for his rapidly increasing business, in the fall of 1887 Mr. Whittington purchased some five acres of ground in Greenleaf's addition to the town, a portion of which he is laying out as a private park, for the purpose of floral displays, which is to bear the name of Garfield Park. In this our subject proposes to show the growth and culture of the various flowers and plants susceptible of outdoor exposure in this climate, and exhibit some features of landscape gardening. It is the intention to hold annual horticultural shows and festivals here, given by the generosity of the propri-

etor to his friends and patrons throughout this section of the State. In connection with this Mr. Whittington carries on market gardening, and being connected with the business part of the city by telephone, can make deliveries at short notice. He also handles all the various tools used in gardening, pots, and instructions as to the cultivation of plants and flowers, and is prepared to furnish bouquets and floral decorations for weddings or other festive occasions.



AUGUST ERICKSON, The subject of this sketch is a prominent farmer who lives on section 15, in Greenleaf township. He was born in Sweden October 3, 1851, and his parents were natives of the same land, his father having been born in 1809 and his mother in 1812. His father died when he was only twelve years of age and he was early in life thrown upon his own resources. His mother is still living. In 1872 he came to the United States and settled at Brocton, Chautauqua county, N. Y. Two years later he removed to Minneapolis, Minn., and remained there about four months after which he came to Meeker county, and settled in Greenleaf township, where he has since lived. He arrived here in the fall of 1874. He has a valuable farm, substantial improvements and is in prosperous circumstances. He has taken an active interest in religious matters and is a member of the Mission Friends Church.

On the 20th of July, 1873, he was married to Christina Peterson, who is also a native of Sweden. Her parents were also natives of the same country, her mother still living, but the father having died several years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson have been blessed with seven children, all of whom are living, as follows—Anna, born September 5, 1874; Hildur, born June 4, 1876; Salma,

born May 9, 1878; Frida, born March 11, 1880; Agda, born February 21, 1882; Edward Emil, born March 22, 1884; and Albert, born December 29, 1885.



OWEN PRINTY, a prosperous and well-to-do agriculturist of Darwin township, residing on section 14, is a native of that gem of the sea, Ireland, born about the year 1831. Reared among the beautiful scenery of that ever-verdant isle, Mr. Printy had no wish to leave it, were it not for the fact that it was almost impossible to stay there and enjoy more than the barest necessities of life, so oppressed and down-trodden are its people by foreign misrule.

In October, 1860, Owen was married to Miss Alice McGill, a native of the same country, and the following year the young couple determined to seek a new home in free America, where a man could raise his condition if he chose. They accordingly embarked, and, crossing the ocean, landed at Quebec. From there they came direct to St. Paul and St. Anthony, and in the latter city Mr. Printy remained some five or six months. He then came to Meeker county, but after a stay at Forest City of some five or six months more, he was driven back to St. Anthony by the terrible Indian outbreak of 1862. Four years later, with his family, he left St. Anthony, where they had been living, and coming to Meeker county, settled in Darwin township, on the farm where he now lives, where he has ever since made his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Printy are the parents of seven children—Ellen, Mary, Owen, Alice, John, Joanna and Michael, all living but Joanna, who died November 29, 1877. The family are members of the Roman Catholic Church.

NICHOLAS NELSON, a highly respected old settler of Litchfield township, was born in Sweden, October 23, 1849. His father, Bengt Nelson, was born in 1815, and died in Meeker county, in 1874. His mother, Christine Nelson, was born in Sweden, in 1805, and at this date (1888) still lives near neighbor to Nicholas. The family came to America in 1856, and lived in Knox county, Ill., till 1858, when they came to Meeker county, by way of the river to Carver county, and took up a claim on section 22, of what is now Litchfield township. Nicholas has three half brothers and one half sister, namely—Swan, Nels and Peter Swanson, and Hannah Swanson Vorys.

At the time of the Indian outbreak the family, consisting of Nicholas and his father and mother, were living on the old claim, about two miles from where Litchfield village now stands. After receiving the warning of the onslaught of the savages on that memorable 17th of August, the family took refuge for the night in the house of Nels Swanson, and they next proceeded to Forest City. After remaining there a short time, they went to Washington county and stayed there during the winter, returning to the farm in the spring. Nicholas continued to assist his father in carrying on the farm until the latter's death, when he took the helm himself, and has operated it in a quiet, though successful way. In 1879 he was married to Emma Olson, a native of Sweden. They have four children—Charles, Josephine, Ellen and Alfred.



JOHAN W. TORREY. One of the most successful and enterprising farmers of Union Grove township, is the gentleman whose name heads this article. He is a resident of section 25, and his enter-

prise is manifested in the substantial buildings which he has erected, and his farm, as a whole, is a credit to the township in which he resides.

Mr. Torrey is a son of John A. and Ann E. (Diamond) Torrey, and was born forty miles west of Detroit, in Jackson county, Michigan, on the 29th of December, 1838. His mother died when he was still a boy of eight, and he remained with his father until he was sixteen years old, when he started out to earn his own way in the world. In 1855 he came to Minnesota with his father, and remained here two years working on a farm, after which he returned to Michigan. Three years later he came back to Minnesota, and in October, 1861, he enlisted in the First Minnesota Battery, and went south for service with his company. He saw very active service, and participated in the following battles—Shiloh, Corinth, second Corinth, Vicksburg, Champion Hill, Inka, Atlanta, Columbia and Goldsborough.

He remained in active service for three years and seven months, and was finally mustered out at St. Paul, on the 2d of July, 1865. He then came to Meeker county and looked over the country, but did not locate until March, 1866, when he took eighty acres on section 26, in Union Grove township. He remained there for two years and then sold his right, and purchased forty acres of railroad land. He has since added additional pieces, until he now owns 210 acres of land, his buildings being located on section 25.

Mr. Torrey was first married, December 5, 1868, to Miss Laura Vincent, who died March 22, 1878. She left four children, as follows—Agnes, born October 26, 1870; Hulda, born January 26, 1872; Joliette E., born May 29, 1874; and Bernice, born May 29, 1877; died March 7, 1878.

Mr. Torrey's second marriage was with Miss Emily F. Snell, daughter of James and

Mary Snell. She is a native of Madison county, Ind.

In the winter of 1865-6, the husband of Mr. Torrey's sister was frozen to death, and the care of his sister and her three children, devolved upon him. She was with him three years, when she removed to Litchfield, and has since married.

Mr. Torrey has met with considerable bad luck. He had some \$1,400 in money when he came to the county, but lost in all in three years, from various causes beyond his control. In 1877 the grasshoppers took his grain, and one year he paid \$2.50 per bushel for seed wheat, and sold his meager crop in October for 50 cents per bushel. Thus luck ran against him until, when he bought the first forty of his present farm, he did not have a dollar. His enterprise and industry, however, have not been unrewarded, as he is now one of the most comfortably "fixed" farmers in the township. He is a republican in political matters, and has taken considerable interest in township matters, and held various local offices, including that of supervisor for four years.



ANTHONY WAYNE COLEMAN is one of the leading farmers of the town of Collinwood, and lives on section 31, where he has a fine farm of 180 acres. He is a native of Buchanan county, Va., and is the son of Richard and Nancy (King) Coleman, natives of Virginia and Kentucky, respectively. His father was a merchant in the village of Grundy, and owned a large stock farm besides. When the war broke out he joined the "Home Guards," and while absent from home on duty was taken prisoner by the Federals. By disguising himself he managed to escape, but found that the Confederates had cleaned him out of everything in his absence. Disgusted, he returned and

and enlisted in the federal army, and was afterward killed in battle. The family, being left destitute, removed to Louisa, Ky., where they lived until 1864, at which time the family came to Minnesota. At that time the family consisted of Mrs. Coleman and her eight children—Lewis, Joseph, Anthony, Mary Jane, Pricy, Ellen, Crosby and Carrie. They settled in Hutchinson, McLeod county, where the mother died two years later, and the children were scattered. Anthony worked around from place to place until he was about eighteen years old, at which time he commenced attending school, spending two years in the district schools, one year in the Hutchinson High School and the last term in the State Normal. He then came to Collinwood, and for eleven years taught a portion of each year. In 1877 he purchased the farm where he now lives, and has made it his home ever since. He was married April 4, 1878, to Miss Lydia McKinney, daughter of John and Lydia (Hicks) McKinney. By this union they have five children—Lydia, born January 6, 1879; Joseph, born August 29, 1880; James, born September 13, 1882; Jane, born May 5, 1884; and Theresa, born July 7, 1886.



HENRY C. ROWLEY. The subject of this sketch is a well-known and highly respected farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 20, Forest Prairie township, and an ex-Union soldier.

Mr. Rowley was born in Carroll county, Ohio, on the 24th of August, 1844, and is a son of William and Ann (Morledge) Rowley. The parents were natives of England; the father came to the United States, when seventeen, and the mother, when eleven years of age. They were married in Ohio. They are now both dead; the father died June 23, 1877, in Bartholomew county, Ind.,

aged seventy five; and the mother died in September, 1887, aged ninety six years. They (Henry's parents) had thirteen children.

Henry C. Rowley, our subject, spent his school days in Jennings and Bartholomew counties, Ind. On the 11th of November, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, Sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and went into service, participating in the battles of Green river, Shiloh, Corinth, Marietta, Chickamauga, and Atlanta, besides many skirmishes. He was finally discharged at Chattanooga, Tenn., on the 21st of November, 1865, and returned to his former home in Indiana. As he was only seventeen years old at the time of his enlistment he resumed his schooling, after his return from the war, and attended one winter term, after which he was employed in a saw mill, and also worked at mason work, having learned that trade. In the spring of 1880 he went to Arkansas, and was on the road in the machinery business for about one year, then lived in Little Rock, Ark., for one year, engaged in the milling business. In April, 1882, he came to Meeker county, Minn., and purchased his present farm in Forest Prairie township, where he has since lived. He has one of the best improved and most valuable farms in the township.

Mr. Rowley was married at Columbus, Ind., December 17, 1868, to Miss Margaret Irwin, a native of Indiana, and a daughter of William Irwin. Her father was tanner by trade, who died when she was quite young. Her mother married James W. Polk, and now lives in the same township as her daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Rowley are the parents of six children living, as follows—William Orin, Lula B., George, Clarence, Grace, and Mattie. One child, Nora B., died when three years old. The family are members of the Christian Church.

In political matters Mr. Rowley is a repub-

lican. He has taken an active interest in educational and official matters, and is one of the leading citizens of the township in which he lives.



FERGUS McCUSKER, the subject of this personal history, a resident of section 10, is one of the most successful and enterprising farmers and stock-raisers in Harvey township. He is a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, and was born in September, 1827. His early life was spent in the land of his birth, where he received the severe and rigid discipline of industry and frugality which was given to lads of his nationality. On the 1st of November, 1846, he sailed for America, landing at the city of New York, and a few days later went to Newburyport, Mass., where he worked in the ship-yards for several years. From there he went to Lowell, Mass., where he secured work in a cotton factory and remained until 1855. In the spring of that year he started west and located in Illinois, arriving there on the 4th of April. Remaining in that State during the intervening time, in 1859 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and located in Harvey township, where he still lives. Here he was living with his family peaceably carrying on his farming operations when the Indian outbreak occurred. Mr. McCusker at once moved his family to Forest City, and a few days later to Clearwater, where he left them and he returned temporarily to finish his harvesting. In the same fall, 1862, he brought his family back, and has since made this his home without interruption.

On the 7th of June, 1848, Mr. McCusker was married to Miss Margaret McNulty, and they have been the parents of seven children the two oldest of whom—Charles and Charles A.—are dead. The live living children are—James, Mary Ann, Rosella, Maggie and

Charles. James is married. Mary Ann is now Mrs. Patrick McQuid, of Swift county, Minn. The family are active members of the Catholic Church.

In political matters Mr. McCusker acts independent of party. By his thrift, industry and frugality he has accumulated a fine property, and now has a splendid farm of 460 acres, which is one of the best improved farms in Meeker county. His enterprise is manifested in his building improvements, which are a credit to any farming district. He has a windmill on his place arranged with the necessary machinery so that he can grind all his grain except for flour, and also does all such work as sawing wood, churning, etc.



OLE LARSON, one of the old settlers of Acton township, was born in Norway, on the 9th of January, 1835, and is a son of Lars and Katrina Anderson. He came to the United States in 1855, and settled in Illinois, where he worked for various farmers until 1861, when he came to Minnesota, and took a homestead on section 26, in Acton township, where he now lives. Mr. Larson had barely got settled in his new home when the terrible Indian outbreak of 1862 began. He visited Baker's house—where the first murder was committed—at about eleven o'clock on the night of the killing, and could hear the Indians yelling and shooting in the neighborhood, some of the bullets coming so near that he could hear them sing as they passed his head. Fearing that a large force of Indians would come he returned to his homestead, and, gathering together what few things he could readily carry, he went to Forest City. The same night the Indians burned his house, grain, and destroyed all else that they could. At Forest City he got a house to live in, and on the night of the

attack upon Forest City he went to the stockade for safety, and the Indians burned the house which he had occupied. After the close of hostilities he returned to his farm and has since made it his home. He has been very successful in his farming operations and is now well off. He has a comfortable house and fine farm buildings.

Mr. Larson was first married in the spring of 1861, to Miss Sarah Halverson, who died in 1870. His second marriage was with Mrs. Dora Hanson. Her first husband was Andrew Hanson, who died in Norway in 1863, and by whom she had two children—Sophia and Hans, both of whom were born in 1855. By these marriages Mr. Larson has had the following children—Betsy, born January 9, 1863; Louisa, born in March, 1865; Hannah, born March 1, 1867; and Lewis, born May 7, 1869. Betsy married A. O. Lawson, a general merchant of Grove City; Louisa married Andrew Bjorhus, a farmer in Greenleaf township; Hannah married Olof Olson, a farmer in Acton township; and Lewis is living at home with his parents.



JOHN KNIGHTS, one of the leading stock-buyers of Litchfield, is also engaged in the livery business in that village. He is a native of Eaton, Canada, born February 27, 1837, and is the son of William and Catherine (Hoburn) Knights. Both of his parents were natives of the Emerald Isle, who had come to the Dominion several years previous. John was reared in the county of his birth, upon the farm of his father, until he had reached the age of nineteen, when he came to the United States and located at St. Paul, this State. He remained in that place and in Hennepin county for about four years, engaged in lumbering, and then moved to Oshkosh, Wis. In the spring of 1861 he enlisted in

the First Minnesota Infantry, for three months, and on the expiration of his term of service, re-enlisted in the Third Minnesota Infantry. He participated in the fortunes of the regiment until March, 1863, when he was mustered out for disability. Settling in Wright county, at the time of the outbreak he was made scout and guide to one of the columns, after which he served as deputy provost marshal until the close of the war. Mr. Knights remained at farming in Wright county six years, and then ran a store at Cokato for eighteen months, and after spending another year in lumbering, he came to Litchfield and went into the livery business with A. L. McCarger. Four years later he commenced the cattle business. In 1886 the firm of Ross & Knights was formed. In April, 1864, he married Miss Helen Marr Jenks, a native of Illinois, who had come to this State in her childhood. By this union there have been born nine children—Henry H., Viola E., Gertrude E., Bertha M., Winnie M., Arthur E., Allie F., Harry M., and John A.



PETER E. LARSON, a prominent citizen of Litchfield township, was born in Sweden March 1, 1846, and came to America and Meeker county, Minn., with his parents, John and Celia Peterson Larson, in 1857. He was sixteen years of age when the Indian outbreak occurred, but the duties of a man devolved upon him. He helped move the family to Forest City, then Clearwater, and, later on, to Anoka. While the family were encamped on the bank of the river opposite Clearwater, he started there to see them. The ferryman refused to take him across the river, the object being to keep all the men and horses on this side of the river for use in the constantly expected conflicts with the Indians. But Peter had started to

see his folks, and see them he would, at all hazards. So, nothing daunted, he tied his clothes on his back and swam the Father of Waters, in defiance of the mandates of the ferryman and all his men. During the fall he came back and remained at the old home all winter and the following spring and summer, "keeping bach" with his brother Louis. After his father's death, in 1867, Peter conducted the farm, and still lives on the old homestead. On the 11th of June, 1870, he was married to Anna Oleson, daughter of Ole Hawkinson. Eight children have been born to them, two of whom—Charles and an infant unnamed—are dead. The others are all at home—Josephine Albertina, Alice A., George William, Alexander, Amanda and Huldah. Like his brothers, Peter has acquired some fine property, by dint of hard toil and close attention to business, having a splendid farm of nearly 400 acres. In addition to farming, he has for many years carried on the business of threshing, and yearly adds a goodly portion to his earthly store by that means. He devotes considerable attention to stock-raising, both native and blooded.



OLE K. BJORHUS, a prominent and successful farmer residing on section 18, Greenleaf township, was born in Norway, in 1824, and is a son of Knute and Martha Bjorhus. In 1869 he came to America in company with his oldest son, Knute, and two years later transported the rest of his family. In 1878 he purchased a tract of land on section 18, Greenleaf township, where he still resides. He has reared a family of seven children—Matilda, Knute, Lisa, Louis, Andrew, Inga and Peter, the last named of whom is dead.

ANDREW BJORNUS, fifth child of Ole K. Bjorhus, was born in Norway, October 6, 1860, and came to America with the family

in 1871. He was reared on the farm with his father, and in 1884 purchased a farm adjoining, and commenced business for himself. The same year he was married to Louisa Larson, a daughter of Ole (Halvorson) Larson, who was born in Meeker county, February 10, 1865. They have one child, Maria Sarah, born May 26, 1887. Both are members of the Ness Lutheran Church, and the family are highly respected by all who know them.



LOUIS EKBOM, a farmer and stock-raiser of Darwin township, living on section 7, is a native of Sweden, born in the province of Gothland, October 25, 1833. He remained in the land of his birth until 1856, and then immigrated to the United States, landing in New York, from whence he came direct to Minnesota, and settled in Carver county. One year later he came to Meeker county, locating near where the city of Litchfield now stands. The first year he did what he could find to do, until during the year 1859, when he removed to Forest City and opened the first shoemaking shop in that place, and in the county. He continued there in that line until the starting of Litchfield, when he put up one of the first buildings in that city, and opened a shoe store and shop for the making of foot gear. This he ran successfully for twelve years. In 1880 he sold out his place and removed to the farm in Darwin, where he now lives.

When the Indians murdered the Jones and Baker families, on the 17th of August, 1862, Mr. Ekbom was at the house of his brother-in-law, Nels Elofson, in Swede Grove, where they were holding a meeting to find means to raise money with which to procure substitutes in the army, not desiring that any in their town should be drafted. Toward evening our subject started for the house of Ole

Munson, a neighbor, and on the way met nine Indians, six of whom were mounted, who made motions for him to go back, but he did not understand them, and went on to his destination. On his return to Elofson's, he found these Indians there, quietly smoking their pipes, and after talking with the whites went north toward Manannah. Hearing the news of the killing of the settlers in Acton, they sat up and watched all that night and in the morning joined the party at the inquest and burial of the first victims of the massacre. Mr. Ekbom that night stayed with Nels Elofson, and in the morning went to Forest City, but a few days later went to St. Paul, where he remained about a year and then returned to Forest City.

February 15, 1868, Mr. Ekbom was united in marriage with Miss Lizzie Williams, and by this union there have been born eight children, all of whom are living.

In politics Mr. Ekbom is a republican, and in religious views affiliates with the Methodist Church.



PETER McINTYRE, who is engaged in carrying on farming upon section 14, of Mannanah township, is one of the earliest settlers of that part of the county lying north of Crow river. He is a native of Ireland, born in 1839, but his mother dying in his childhood, he was taken to Scotland by his relatives, with whom he was reared. He made his home in that land of heaths and braes until he was almost nineteen years of age, at which time he concluded to cross the ocean and come to America. He set out and landing upon Columbia's shore made directly for Joliet, Ill., where his elder brothers were living. He made his home in that place for two years, but in 1860 he removed to Kansas, but one year later he returned to Joliet. On the 20th of July, 1862, our subject enlisted

in the Nineteenth Illinois Infantry, which was a part of the famous Fifteenth Corps, commanded by Gen. John A. Logan. He participated with the regiment in many a hardly contested field throughout their long and valued service, principal among which were the siege and capture of Vicksburg, battles of Corinth, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, all the various engagements in the Atlanta campaign, including the capture of the city. At the battle of Jonesboro, August 31, 1864, Peter McIntyre was badly wounded in the shoulder by a minnie ball, so that he could not march with Sherman to the sea. He was sent north on a furlough, after spending some time in the general hospital, and thirty days later reported at Nashville, where he was in the convalescent hospital during the bloody battle fought for its possession. On his recovery our subject was placed in a pioneer corps, and there served until June 6, 1865, when he was discharged.

About the 11th of August, the same year, Mr. McIntyre came to Meeker county and took up a homestead of 160 acres where he now lives, but which was then entirely covered with heavy timber. He lived here off and on until his marriage, since which time he has made it his home. He was married November 7, 1870, at Forest City, to Miss Catharine Klaas. They have a family of ten children—James, Mary, John, Nellie, Thomas F., Peter, Edward, Matilda, Philip Sheridan, and Rosanna. Mr. McIntyre is one of the board of school directors, and takes a deep interest in the cause of education. He is a member, also, of Frank Daggett Post, No. 35, G. A. R.



RICHARD FOURRE, a leading agriculturist of Darwin township, having his residence on section 10, is a native of Canada West, born February 8, 1839, and is a son of

George and Eliza (Wyman) Fourre. His father was born in England, although the paternal grandfather of our subject was a native of France, and was Richard Fourre by name. The mother of our subject was born in Oswego, N. Y., and was the daughter of Gardner Wyman, a native of Scotland.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch remained in his Canadian home until 1857, when he came to the United States, and settled in Kane county, Ill., where he made his home for some five years. Removing to Grant county, Wis., at the end of that time, he made that his home until 1865, when he came to Meeker county, and made a settlement in Darwin township, on the property where he now lives. While a resident of Grant county, April 18, 1863, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Morgan (Condon) Grogen. While still a citizen of the "Badger State," Mr. Fourre enlisted in Company F, Seventh Wisconsin Infantry, on the 27th of February, 1864, and was assigned for duty to the Army of the Potomac, and participated with the regiment in the sanguinary contest known as the battle of the Wilderness, where he received some slight injuries from a spent shot. In the battle of Spotsylvania, which followed some time after, he had the misfortune to have his thumb blown off, and was transferred to the Twenty-Fourth Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps, stationed at Washington, D. C., where he remained on duty until the close of the war. He was one of the guards over Mrs. Surratt, just before her hanging, and over the infamous Dr. Mudd. He received his discharge July 25, 1865, and returned to his home.

Mr. Fourre is a republican in his political faith. His wife is a consistent member of the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Fourre was born January 6, 1838, in County Limerick, Ireland. She came to Grant county, Wis., with her parents, David and Mary (Galway) Condon, in the spring of

1847. The parents were both born in County Limerick, Ireland.

Mr. and Mrs. Fourre are the parents of the following children—Mary F., born December 15, 1858; George, born January 15, 1864; James, born April 28, 1866; Richard, born March 16, 1868; Laura C., born May 25, 1870; John A., born October 8, 1872; Charley A., born November 10, 1874; Frederick E., born December 20, 1876; and Lucy, born December 22, 1878.



PPETER R. PETERSON is a prosperous and respected farmer who resides on section 23, in the township of Danielson, in which he was one of the very earliest settlers. He comes of the same nationality which by their industry and frugality have done so much toward the development of Minnesota's resources. He was born in Norway on the 10th of October, 1838, and is a son of Rolof and Rachel Peterson. The family came to the United States in 1857 and located in Rock county, Wis., where the father's death occurred, and where the mother still resides.

Shortly after his arrival in the United States, in 1857, Peter R. Peterson, our subject, began life for himself, by working for farmers in Wisconsin, and remained there until June, 1864. At that time he came to Meeker county, Minn., and went to work for Ever Jackson, a farmer in Litchfield township. In the spring of 1865 he removed to a homestead which he had taken on section 2, in Danielson township, thus becoming one of the first settlers of that township, the only settler at that time within its limits being Nels Danielson. Mr. Peterson remained upon his farm until 1872, when he sold out and removed to a farm which he had purchased in Iowa. In 1874 he sold the Iowa farm and returned to Danielson township,

where he bought the farm on section 23, upon which he still resides. He has been very successful in his farming operations and now owns 104 acres of land, sixty-four of which is in Danielson, and the balance in Cosmos township, besides which, in 1882 he gave his son, Elof, eighty acres on section 23, Danielson township. He was a poor man when he came to America, and his present comfortable circumstances are entirely due to his own efforts and industry.

While in Wisconsin Mr. Peterson was married to Miss Mary Anderson, and they were the parents of five children—Elof, born September 19, 1862; Ralph, born November 11, 1864; Anna, born October 1, 1866; John, born June 20, 1869; and Eliza, born November 20, 1871, died August 13, 1873. The daughter Anna, married Hans Olson, of Greenleaf township. The sons, Ralph and John, are in Dakota. Mr. Peterson's first wife died on the 25th of May, 1880, and on the 16th of October, 1885, he was married to Carrie Olson, the widow of Christian Jacobson. By her former marriage she had four children, as follows—Jacob Jacobson, Ole Jacobson, John Jacobson and Christina Jacobson.

Mr. Peterson has taken an active interest in the public matters affecting his township, and has held various offices of a local nature, including the following: Township supervisor, two years; school director, two or three years, and road overseer, two years. In political matters he affiliates with the republican party.



DR. E. B. WEEKS, dentist, residing in the village of Litchfield, is a native of Hartland Waukesha county, Wis., born September 30, 1857, and is the son of Thomas and Mary E. (Bissell) Weeks. His father was engaged in agricultural pursuits, and the subject of this sketch was reared upon a

farm until he was about twenty years of age. His early educational advantages were somewhat limited, but he attended the district school when the opportunity occurred, and being of a studious nature studied by himself whenever he had any leisure from the duties of the farm, thus, by energy and perseverance, laying a good foundation of knowledge. Shortly before attaining his majority our subject went to Dakota, where he spent one year, and, returning, entered a dental office in Whitewater, Wis., where he remained until he had become proficient in the theory and practice of that profession. In 1883 he came to Litchfield and opened his present office, over Revell Bros.' drug store, and is now enjoying the fruits of an extensive practice, having gained the reputation in this community of being a man of sterling worth and excellent ability.

The Doctor is a member of the Presbyterian Church and a Christian gentleman. He takes great interest in the good of the village and enjoys the esteem of all who know him.



NELS WAYLANDER, one of the pioneers of Acton township, is a native of Sweden, and came to this country in 1852, with his wife and child, he having married Miss Elsa Swan. The first winter after coming here he spent in Knoxville, Ill., and the following summer in Moline, but late that year he emigrated to St. Paul, Minn., and after numerous difficulties got his little family to Chisago county, this State, where he took up a claim. This he sold shortly after, and owned and occupied various pieces of real estate there, until the spring of 1837, when he came to Meeker county and settled on section 4, Acton township. He afterward took up a homestead on the same section, and later, purchased adjoining

land until he had accumulated a fine property. For many years he was busily engaged in operating this farm, but has now retired from the active cares of life. He has given each of his sons a farm, and his daughter a tract of timber land. In 1862, with the other settlers here, he passed through the terrible vicissitudes of the Indian troubles. On the night of the Acton murder, he was with the party who set out from Swede Grove, as detailed elsewhere. He took a prominent part in the movements of that autumn, and relates many hair-breadth escapes and thrilling stories of those eventful days. On Sunday afternoon, August 17, 1862, six Indians stopped at his cabin and talked with him, and it is the supposition that they were the red fiends who had murdered Jones, Baker, etc., in that town, but a few hours previous.

Mr. and Mrs. Waylander are the parents of five children, as follows: Nels, born September 12, 1851, married and living in Acton; Betsy, born in May, 1854, is dead; Ellen, wife of George Oakeson, born April 20, 1856, living in Grove City; Lewis, born September 12, 1860, died September 18, 1878; and Albert, born February 20, 1863, married and living in Paynesville, Minn. Mr. Waylander is one of the representative citizens of the county, and merits and receives the respect and esteem of the entire community, for his industry, thrift, and social uprightness and sterling integrity.



WILLIAM P. CHANEY. Among the thriving farmers of Collinwood township, there is none more prominent than the subject of this biography. He was born in Russell county, Va., January 15, 1836, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Blair) Chaney. His parents were natives of North Carolina, and his maternal great-

grandfather was born in Germany, and settled in Pennsylvania at an early day. The latter married and moved to North Carolina, where he died at the age of 101 years, in 1864. His wife was a native of Scotland, and a daughter of General Wilson, of Revolutionary celebrity.

The subject of this memoir lived with his mother until attaining the age of twenty-one years, and then went to Pike county, Ky., where he was married, April 7, 1858, to Miss Malinda Sword, the daughter of John and Rebecca Sword. Two years later he moved back to Russell county, Va., where he farmed about four years. While there he enlisted in a battalion of Virginia cavalry, and served three years in the Confederate Army. He was taken prisoner, and after lingering in confinement for a year, enlisted in the Union Army, and served there, on the frontier, thirteen months. After his discharge he returned to Kentucky. Two years later he moved to Piatt county, Mo., where he made his home until April, 1887, when he came to Meeker county. He has a fine farm of 120 acres of good land. Mr. Chaney is the parent of ten children.



PPETER OLSON, an intelligent, prominent and successful former and stock-raiser of Litchfield township, was born in Sweden, April 7, 1845, and is a son of Ole and Carrie Peterson. In 1870 he was married to Betsy Larson, daughter of Louis Paulson. No children have been born to them, but they have adopted and are rearing a boy named John Oekeson, who was born in Sweden May 7, 1876. Mr. Olson and wife came to America in 1872, and lived near St. Paul until 1875, when they came to Meeker county and settled, pursuing the business of farming. Mr. Olson has met with some severe reverses since coming to Meeker

county, by way of grasshoppers and hailstones, which destroyed a good portion of his crops, but he still ranks as a successful and enterprising farmer.



BBURNS BROTHERS, two of Meeker county's honest, sober, industrious and prosperous stock-raisers, farmers and business men, are proprietors of the Union Stock Farm, on Tyrone prairie, in Manannah township. They are natives of Lowell, Mass., where Edward Frank, the elder, was born December 5, 1859, and where Hugh was born November 25, 1861.

Their father, Frank Burns, was born at the same place, August 13, 1838, just after the death of his father, and his mother passed to the other world two weeks after his birth. Frank Burns learned the miller's trade, and in 1858 was married to Mary McMahan, a daughter of Peter and Ann McMahan. When the foundation of the government was threatened, and the stars and stripes were fired upon by Southern traitors, Frank Burns enlisted and went into the service, and the fact that he nobly did his duty, and answered to every call where danger was involved, is attested by the sad fact that he now fills an honored soldier's grave. The following will explain itself:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, ADJUTANT-
GENERAL'S OFFICE, BOSTON, JUNE 4, 1888. }

The name of Frank Burns, of Lowell, aged 24, occupation mill operator, is borne on the muster-out roll of Company B, Fortieth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry; enlisted August 13, 1862; mustered in August 22, 1862, for three years; killed in battle June 3, 1864.

SAMUEL DALTON,
Adjutant-General.

Frank Burns was with Grant's advance on Richmond, and, as the historian has already recorded, "a series of terrible conflicts ensued, in which blood flowed like water." He was at the Wilderness May 5th to 7th; at Spot-

sylvania C. H. from the 8th to the 12th; and at Cold Harbor, a few miles from Richmond, June 3, 1864. At daybreak on that date a general assault was made, and, twenty minutes after the first shot was fired, ten thousand Union men were stretched writhing on the sod or still and calm in death. Here Frank Burns met his death. He fills an honored soldier's grave—his life given as a sacrifice upon the altar of his country and his flag.

Upon the death of the father, the children and bereaved widow lived with the widow's father and mother, Peter and Ann McMabon, the grandfather, becoming guardian of Edward and Hugh. They lived happily together, and the grandfather invested the money, obtained for the boys from the government, in railroad land, as he received about enough to meet the payments. On the 3d of October, 1866, they came to Meeker county, Minn., and settled in Manannah township, where the two boys, with their mother and two sisters, Mary Ann and Lizzie, still live happily together. The grandmother died in May, 1875; the grandfather March 11, 1883. They were highly respected by all. The grandfather was a "Father Mathew Temperance man." They were buried at Forest City, where there have since been interred the remains of Edward and Hugh's half-sister, Ellen Omelia A. Virtus, a young lady, sixteen years old, who died May 2, 1888. Her death was sincerely regretted by a wide circle of friends, and her funeral, which was presided over by Father McDevitt, was very largely attended.

In 1875 Edward F. Burns started West, and entered a homestead near DeGraff. He was then but seventeen years of age, so he used his father's homestead right. He farmed it for five years under discouraging circumstances, meeting with reverses in the loss of crops, which would have disheartened the hardiest of men. The fourth year his labors

were better repaid, as he cleared about \$500, but losing the following crop he finally left Swift county, and afterward sold his farm.

On the 24th of February, 1884, he took a contract to ship cattle to Miles City, Mont., and during the following spring shipped 300 head, and was very successful in this enterprise. In March, 1885, he purchased the stallion French Emperor II., and was also successful in this venture. With him he secured the second premium at the county fair and his colts rated high. Mr. Burns finally sold the animal April 1, 1886. On the 15th of September, 1886, E. F. Burns bought the first lot that was sold in Eden Valley, erected a fine building, and October 19th, established a meat market and farm produce exchange, and supplied the railroad contractors with provisions. He also bought wheat and dealt in wood. When the boom began to "weaken," in February, 1887, he sold out.

The brothers are independent in politics, and are members of the Catholic Church. In 1885 Edward F. was elected treasurer of his school district, which office he filled for three years, and in the spring of 1886 he was elected justice of the peace. He has also taken an active interest in temperance matters, and in speaking of their prosperity, they say they attribute the success of their firm to "religion, temperance and diversified farming."



SWAN CARLSON. The subject of this biography is an enterprising and thorough farmer and stock-raiser on section 32, Harvey township. He was born in Sweden, May 4, 1848, and six years later came to the United States with his parents, landing in the city of New York, but after a week's stay came to Minnesota and located at Swede Lake, Chisago county. He made that place his home until 1871, when he

came to Meeker county and settled on the place where he now lives.

He was united in marriage May 16, 1872, with Miss Ellen Nilson, and by this union there have been born seven children as follows—Edward, born February 5, 1873; Eugene, born July 12, 1874; William, born February 4, 1877; Alvina, born February 9, 1879; Frank, born August 15, 1880; Alfred, born November 24, 1882; and Victoria, born February 11, 1885. Mrs. Carlson's father died in Sweden, his native country, in October, 1878, but her mother is still living in the old country. Mr. Carlson's parents make their home in Chisago county, where his father carries on the carpenter's trade in connection with his farming operations.

In his political views our subject is an adherent to the principles of the republican party, and has held several local offices. He and his wife are zealous members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and are exemplary Christian people. Mr. Carlson, being imbued with the natural thrift and frugality of the race from which he sprang, has accumulated a fine property consisting of 280 acres of excellent arable land, upon which he has made some excellent improvements.



LOXLEY R. WOOD, a prominent citizen of Darwin township, has his residence on section 7, where he carries on farming and stock-raising. He is a native of the city of Philadelphia, Pa., born March 23, 1828, where he was reared. Remaining there until 1856, our subject then removed to Luzerne county, in the same State, and made his home there, among the picturesque scenery of the Blue Ridge, for about three years. About 1859 he came to Minnesota, and settled at Minneapolis, where he made his home for some two years, and then removed to Wright county, and there lived for

about eight years. At the end of that time he again made a new settlement, this time in the vicinity of Montevideo, Chippewa county, this State, but a few years later returned to Minneapolis, and in that city remained some thirteen years. While a resident of Wright county, Mr. Wood was a participant in many of the exciting scenes of the Indian massacre of 1862. He was living on Moore's Prairie at the time, but did not feel alarmed until he heard of the murder of the Dustin family, and then went to Minneapolis, and on his way there came across the corpses of the victims of the savages, and assisted in their burial. He came back to his place a few days later, and gathered up his stock, which he drove to a place of safety.

The war for the defense of the Union had been progressing some time, and men had become quite scarce in the Northern States, and in response to the call from the President for more troops, in 1864, our subject enlisted in Company I, Sixth New York Heavy Artillery, and served with that regiment under General Sheridan. He was assigned to the quartermaster's department, and there served until the close of the war, and was mustered out and discharged in 1865, and returned to Wright county, Minn.

Mr. Wood was united in marriage August 18, 1850, with Miss Elizabeth J. Fisk. By this union there have been seven children, four boys and three girls, all of whom are dead except one—Isaac L., born June 1, 1860.

In 1884 Mr. Wood came to Meeker county, and took up his residence in Darwin township.



WILLIAM MILLS CAMPBELL, the present United States marshal for the district of Minnesota, is one of Meeker county's most prominent citizens, and has been identified with its interests from pio-

neer days. He was born in Philadelphia, Pa., April 11, 1839, and is the son of Edward and Eliza (Mills) Campbell. The father was a native of the city of Londonderry, Ireland, born in February, 1808. He came to the United States in 1834, and in Philadelphia learned and followed plumbing and gas fitting. In 1837 he married, moved to Rutland, Kane county, Ill., in 1842, and shortly after purchased a farm near Elgin, where now stands the village of Gilbert. The mother of our subject was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, and died in 1848, leaving five children, namely—William M., Edward Augustus, Louisa, now Mrs. John Fitzgerald, Fannie, Mrs. Michael J. Flynn, and Eliza M., Mrs. C. F. McDonald, of St. Cloud.

William grew to manhood upon the farm and received his education in the district schools of the day and county, which he attended during the winter sessions. In 1858, hearing excellent accounts from Minnesota, from friends here, who had come in 1856, on the first of May, he started alone for Meeker county, walking the entire distance from St. Anthony to Forest City, arriving there the same month. He was for some two years engaged in working on the river and in saw mills.

In 1860, his father, induced by the descriptions of the son, sold out and came to Meeker county, and William helped his father get settled, and took up a claim himself, the southwest quarter of section 26, Forest City township. This he lost, however, by enlisting in the service. At the time of the Indian outbreak, in 1862, Mr. Campbell was temporary in Iowa, but hurried back, and assisted in organizing a force of young men, stacked and took care of all the grain they could find cut and helped some thresh. He then enlisted in Company A, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and accompanied Sibley in the campaign to the Missouri in 1863, participating in all its dangers, and in all its

battles. Returning, he re-enlisted in Company D, Second Minnesota Cavalry, and was a part of the expedition under General Sully, and served two years. He was mustered out December 5, 1865, and returned home.

The following year Mr. Campbell entered into mercantile life in company with his brother Edward; not liking that line, quit it and engaged in farming, opening up a large farm in company with Michael J. and Daniel Flynn, his brothers-in-law. In 1868 he purchased a place on section 34, in Harvey, to which he removed the following year.

In 1869 our subject was elected sheriff of the county on the democratic ticket, overcoming a republican majority of about 500. He was re-elected to the same office in 1871, and then removed to Litchfield. At the conclusion of his second term he commenced the sale of agricultural implements, a business he followed until 1877, when he sold out, and in company with W. H. Jones, became general northwestern agent of the Gammon & Deering harvester machinery. In the fall of 1877 Mr. Campbell was elected to the State Legislature, to which he was re-elected the next year. In 1880 he was elected to the State Senate, Gartfield carrying the county at the same time by a majority larger than the whole democratic vote. Two years later he was defeated for re-election by fifteen votes. His record in the House and Senate is highly creditable, and he then assumed the position of a leader in the democratic party in this State, from which he has not receded. He was a delegate to the national democratic convention at Chicago, in 1884, and received his appointment of United States marshal in February, 1886, and then moved to St. Paul.

June 11, 1866, Mr. Campbell was married to Miss Lizzie A. Flynn, and they are the parents of ten children—John A., Millie, Edward Bennett (deceased), Anna, Grace, Edward, James, William Lewis, Michael B., and Mary.

JAMES NELSON is a prominent and wealthy farmer and stock-raiser, who resides on section 23, Union Grove township. To avoid repetition we must refer the reader to the chapters devoted to the Indian trouble, and also to other sketches for many of the most interesting features in the history of Mr. Nelson. He took a very active and prominent part in those trying days.

Mr. Nelson was born in Ireland, on the 18th of June, 1837, and was a son of Robert and Ann Nelson. In July, 1840, he came to America with his parents. His father and mother settled near Montreal, in Canada East, where they engaged in farming, and remained until the time of their deaths. In August, 1856, James came to Meeker county, Minn., and preëmpted 160 acres on section 23, in what is now Union Grove township. This place has since been his home, with the exception of a short time during 1862-3, when they were driven away by the Indians. He then enlisted in the Second Minnesota Infantry and went South, remaining there until the close of the war, when he again settled upon the farm, and has since remained there. He has one of the most valuable farms in the township, and it is well improved, with substantial farm buildings.

Mr. Nelson was married on the 7th of April, 1857, to Miss Elizabeth Caswell, which is said to have been the first marriage within the limits of Meeker county. Mrs. Nelson was a daughter of Carlos and Anna Caswell, and was born in Canada on the 16th of August, 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have been the parents of six children, as follows—William, born November 24, 1858; Frank, born October 27, 1860; Anna, born May 25, 1863; James, born July 9, 1870; Orrin, born July 9, 1872; and Albert, born October 21, 1875. Anna married William Phillips, and now lives in Union Grove township; they have three children—Mana, Carl and Florence. William married Sarah Newcomb,

and lives in Dakota; they have one child, Iva. Frank married Ella Hinds, and lives in Dakota.


In political matters Mr. Nelson is a republican. He has taken an active interest in public matters, and is one of the leading citizens of the county. He has taken a prominent part in township affairs and held various local offices.



SOREN MORTON. The subject of this biography is one of the most prominent citizens of Danielson township, being a resident of section 10, in that subdivision of Meeker county. Mr. Morton is a native of Denmark, born on the 29th of November, 1836, and is a son of Morten Johnson and Johanna Skovenborg. Soren remained in the land of his birth until 1863, when he came to the United States and first located in Ripon, Wis., where he remained five or six months, having charge of a farm. He then went to St. Clare county, Ill., where he worked on a farm until March, 1864, when he returned to Ripon, and again took charge of the farm which he had previously had control of. In the fall of 1864 he came to Meeker county, Minn., and took a homestead on section 10, in Danielson township, where he now lives. After taking his claim he worked for different farmers for a time, then went to St. Paul, and remained through the winter, working in a wood-yard. The following spring he returned to his claim, set out some trees and made some other improvements and then returned to St. Paul. A short time later, in July, 1865, he moved his family to his claim, and has lived there ever since. He now has a splendid farm and splendid improvements. He devotes considerable attention to raising stock, together with general farming, and is recognized as one of the most intelligent and prominent

farmers in the western part of the county. He is a democrat in political matters and takes an active interest in the affairs of his township, having held a number of the most important local offices, including those of chairman of the supervisors, for several years while Acton and Danielson formed one township, school clerk for eight years, and others.

Mr. Morton married Miss Louisa Winterlig, who was born May 22, 1845, and is a daughter of Peter C. and Christine Winterlig. Mr. and Mrs. Morton have had six children, as follows—Sarah H., born July 3, 1865; Henry W., born December 28, 1867; Willie T., born June 8, 1869; Victor, born July 12, 1874; Agnes Myrtle, born February 4, 1877; and Alice, born July 3, 1884. The family are members of the Methodist Church, in which Mr. Morton is one of the most active workers, having held various offices in that organization, including those of trustee and steward, for several years.

 **G. JOHNSON.** The subject of this biography, a farmer residing on section 22, Greenleaf township, was born in Sweden on the 10th of October, 1857. He left his native land with his father's family in 1867, and came to Meeker county, Minn. His father was a farmer most of his life, but has now retired from active business and lives in the village of Litchfield. The subject of this sketch now has three brothers and four sisters living, one brother having died.

C. G. Johnson learned the carpenter's trade in 1878, and followed that vocation for several years. In 1881 he went to Missouri and remained there about eighteen months, returning then to Minnesota. In 1884 he purchased the farm where he now lives, on section 22, Greenleaf township, and has since made that his home. He has a valuable farm of

160 acres, seventy-eight of which is under plow and fifty to meadow, while he has a few acres of timber. He has substantial improvements, and his farm is among the most valuable in his portion of the township. He devotes his time to general farming and to stock-raising, and has a good herd of cattle on the place.



MICHAEL J. ROACH. Among the farmers and cattle raisers of the north part of the county, is Mr. Roach of Forest Prairie, who has his home upon section 8 of that township. He was born in Rockbridge county, Va., December 23, 1820, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Peto-lomey) Roach, natives of Maryland and Virginia, respectively. When our subject was but a child his parents removed to Henry county, Ind., and finally settled in Cass county, that State, where they died. The early education of the subject of this sketch was acquired in his native county, and afterwards in the schools of Indiana, which at that early day were few and far between. He was one of a family of thirteen children, the names of the others being—Lucilla, William, James N., Mary Ellen, John C., Betsy J., Margret A., Joseph, Andrew J., George, Carson, Nancy D., and one that died in infancy.

Mr. Roach was reared to manhood in Cass county, Ind., and was there married, December 28, 1843, to Miss Sarah J. Wynn, a native of Warren county, the same State, born November 4, 1832. She is the daughter of James and Pollie (Harden) Wynn, who were born in Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. By this union there have been born a family of thirteen children—William, Michael, Sarah Jane, Margaret A., Deniza, Elizabeth, Ellen Dosh, Cinda, James, John and Mary. The latter died in infancy; the rest are all

living and married except Dosh and Ellen, who reside at home.

Mr. Roach came to Meeker county in 1866, reaching Forest City, on the 9th of May, and shortly after came to his present place and took up his homestead. At that time the woods were full of game and he acquired the reputation of being the best and most successful hunter in this part of the country. He made considerable money by this means, but has always given considerable attention to farming and stock-raising, preferring the sure gains of husbandry to any more alluring speculation or business. He was the third settler in the township, one of the old pioneers; is a member of the Church of God, and usually votes the republican ticket.



JESSE V. BRANHAM, JR., a pioneer, who took a most active and prominent part in the trying times of the Indian massacre, is one of the best-known and most conspicuous figures in Meeker county's history. He is a native of Jennings county, Ind., born July 8, 1834, and is the son of Jesse V. and Mary (Butler) Branham, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this ALBUM. In 1847 his parents removed to Franklin, Johnson county, Ind., where our subject remained under the parental roof until nineteen years of age, when he opened a dry-goods and grocery store. In 1855 he was united in marriage with Miss Mary L. Stark.

Early in the summer, of 1857, Jesse V., Jr., joined a party of pioneers, consisting of his father, Jesse V. Branham, Sr., William Branham, Levi Reed, Hugh McGannon, and others, and came to Meeker county, Minn., our subject locating on section 35, of Litchfield—then Ness—township, in June of that year. He at once began improvements, and his family joined him in August. He there remained, earnestly devoting his time and

labor to developing a farm, living in contentment and prosperity, notwithstanding the many disadvantages usual to pioneer life, until the Indian outbreak of 1862 began.

On Sunday, August 17, 1862, while Jesse V. Branham, Jr., was crossing a field with a neighbor, the report of the Jones and Baker murders were brought to him. After a hasty consideration of the matter, he concluded to get all the people of the neighborhood together at the house of George C. Whitcomb (who was absent), on account of the location, partly because of a good well in the cellar, should the Indians make an attack, and partly to protect Whitcomb's family. Sunday night, after the neighborhood had been notified and brought to one point, our subject, in company with his brother William, mounted his horse and started for Acton, to learn as to the truth of the reports. When within about three miles from their destination, they met a party from the scene of the massacre, who had with them a child, which was the only surviving member of either the Jones or Baker households. The Branhams then learned that all reports were true, and immediately returned to Whitcomb's house. Early Monday morning they all started for Forest City, where they remained inactive for a day or so, but Tuesday afternoon word was received that the outbreak was general and would extend all along the border. That evening they held a council, and decided to send all women and children to Clearwater, and J. V. Branham, Jr., was appointed to take charge of the train. Wednesday morning the train started, being made up of teams of every description, and being half a mile in length. Jesse V., Jr., piloted them about half way through the "Big Woods," when he bade his family good-bye and returned to Kingston. There he talked with a number of the leading citizens, gave them his idea of the stockade, and the fol-

lowing morning, with his team, he hauled the first log for the Kingston fortifications. Returning to Forest City, he found George C. Whitcomb with an order from Governor Ramsey to form a company of State militia, to defend the town. Our subject joined the ranks, and, as soon as possible, he, with others of the command, were mounted and started west to bury the dead and aid the wounded. They rode through the western part of Meeker county and all over Kandiyohi county.

After this Jesse V., Jr., remained with the company until the night of September 2, when, on coming into the stockade after a brush with the Indians, they learned that Captain Strout would be in camp at Acton that night. The whole company knew that the country was filled with hostile Indians, and knew that unless Strout was warned, his whole command would probably be murdered. Captain Whitcomb called for volunteers to go upon the extremely dangerous mission of warning Strout, and Jesse V. Branham, Jr., was the first to offer his services, Thomas Holmes and A. P. Sperry soon joining him, and at sundown they started for Acton, with Jesse in command of the trio. Reaching their destination and fulfilling their mission in the night, they slept for a time, and in the morning the company started for Forest City. The Indians soon made an attack on them, and in the engagement, Jesse Branham, Jr., was shot through the lungs, the bullet coming out of his back, and seventeen others of Strout's company were wounded. They were taken to Hutchinson that night, and upon arriving there, Branham got up and walked from the wagon to his room, in the second story of the hotel. When the doctor examined him, he said to those in attendance: "I can do nothing for this man; make him as comfortable as you can; he will be dead in three hours." The following morning, September

4th, was the day of the attack on Hutchinson, and while our subject was lying on his cot, then unable to move, there came a shower of bullets on and through the house. Later he was carried to the stockade with the other wounded, and there cared for. Four weeks later he was able to go to Minneapolis to his family. Three weeks later the family went south to Louisville, Ky., and remained there until the spring of 1863, when they returned to Minneapolis, and the following fall, again settled in Meeker county. Jesse V. Branham, Jr., rented the mill at Greenleaf, and operated it during the winter of 1863-4, and the following spring went to Forest City and rented a farm for the season. In the fall of 1864, the county commissioners appointed him county auditor to fill a vacancy, and he was afterward elected and re-elected, serving until the spring of 1871. During this time the county seat had been removed to Litchfield, and after the expiration of his term of office, our subject engaged in the mercantile trade at that place. Since that time he has been engaged either in the mercantile trade, real estate or farming.

In early days Jesse V. Branham, Jr., was one of the most active and public-spirited men in the county. When the town of Ness was organized, he was elected first town clerk; he also held the office of county commissioner, besides that of county auditor, and various local offices. He was one of the original town site proprietors of Litchfield; drew the bill changing the county seat from Forest City; gave Litchfield its name, and in many other ways connected his name indissolubly with the early history of the county. He drew the plan of the park in Litchfield, and to him, more than any other one man, is due the credit of planting trees and getting it into the beautiful condition of to-day.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse V. Branham, Jr., are

the parents of five children, as follows—Hiram S., a member of the Litchfield banking firm of Stevens & Co.; Alice, now Mrs. Robert Burns; Delaney E., Lula and Thomas.



JNORGREN & CO., dealers in general merchandise in the village of Dassel, came to the village in the spring of 1875, and established their present business, and are, therefore, the oldest house in town having a continuous existence. They carry a large and well-assorted stock, and are doing an extensive and lucrative trade. The store which they occupy was built by Louis Rudberg, and is a handsome brick edifice, well lighted and ventilated, and presents a neat appearance from the street.

John Norgren, the senior member of the firm, is a native of Sweden, and immigrated to America in 1866, landing in Carver county, Minn., on the 22d of July, with his family, which then consisted of his wife and five children. He soon afterward bought a farm of eighty acres in Hancock township, about nine miles from Carver, and moved his family to it. They remained there until 1873, during which time the farm was increased to 160 acres. In 1873 they came to Meeker county, and the father purchased a half interest in the saw- and flouring-mill at East Kingston. He was there engaged in the milling business for two years and a half, when he sold his interest to his partner, and came to Dassel, where he has since lived. He then, in company with J. O. Berlin, opened a general merchandise store under the firm name of J. Norgren & Co. The partner, Mr. Berlin, is also his son-in-law, and had the misfortune to lose his eyesight some nine years ago. Mr. Norgren has turned the active management of the mercantile business over to his sons, John and

Lewis. Mr. Norgren is a hale and hearty man of about sixty years of age, and still retains his vigor. He has large property interests here in the way of farms and village real estate, and has been intimately associated with the growth and development of the eastern part of Meeker county. He is the present town treasurer, and has taken an active interest in official and educational matters.

John and Lewis Norgren, who have charge of the business, are both capable business men, and their establishment commands as heavy a trade as any in the village. John has been a member of the village council for four years, while both take a prominent part in all matters pertaining to the welfare of their locality.



HON. A. C. SMITH, for many years one of the most prominent figures in the history of the county, and one of the leading attorneys, was a native of Vermont, born in 1814. He was educated in the State of his nativity, and there studied law, and was admitted to the bar at Washington, D. C., at a session of the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1839 he removed to Mount Clemens, Macomb county, Mich., where he entered upon the practice of his profession. A short time after he entered upon a career of journalism, editing and publishing the *Macomb Gazette*, and the *Landmarks*, the latter a Masonic periodical, and continued at this for some five years. He then occupied the judicial bench for three years, and served one term in the Michigan State Senate. In 1855 he came to St. Paul, where he established and published the *Free Press*, a democratic daily, which did not prove very remunerative. He then took up his law practice in that city, and made it his home until March, 1858, when,

having been appointed to the position of register of the land office of the United States at Forest City, he came to this county, where he made his home until the day of his death, which occurred September 20, 1880. Of his death, the *News Ledger* said: "We have known Judge Smith for twelve years; in fact, he was the first man we consulted when we thought of locating in this county in 1868, and our confidence in his judgment led us to settle in Forest City. Judge Smith was a man among men — honorable to a fault. He could not brook dis-

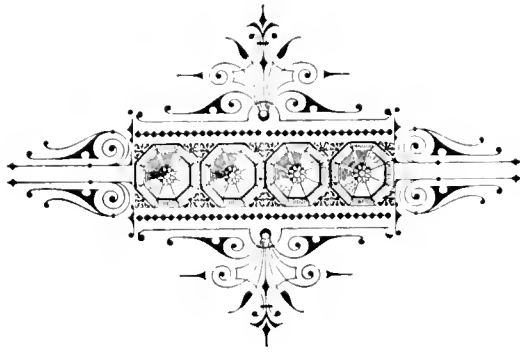
honesty or trickery in others. As a friend he was genial, warm and true as steel — ever ready to assist all who were so fortunate as to be associated with him. As a member of the bar he ranked among the best — was courteous and affable — always working for the interests of his clients with a will and energy which caused him to be respected by his opponents. In his death the county met with a great loss and the community of Litchfield one of its most esteemed citizens, and his memory is revered by all the early residents of this part of the State."













GENERAL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY.



NO portion of the great State of Minnesota is Meeker county surpassed for its beautiful scenery; its rolling prairies interspersed and diversified with natural and domestic groves; its famous lakes, meandering streams and its carpet of flowers and verdure. It lies in the central, or south-central part of the State, having for its boundaries Stearns county on the north, Wright on the east, McLeod and Renville on the south and Kandiyohi on the west. As an agricultural and stock-raising region Meeker county cannot be excelled. The soil is very productive—a rich, dark loam, well adapted to all the cereals common to this latitude. It is also well suited to the production of tame and indigenous grasses; and stock-raising, both native and blooded, attracts the general attention of the intelligent class of farmers that have settled here. The greater portion of the surface of the county

is made up of a rolling prairie, interspersed with oak openings; while a considerable area is covered with a moderately heavy growth of natural timber. The surface is well watered by numerous streams, which furnish ample drainage and an abundance of pure water for stock. In addition to the streams there are scattered throughout the county hundreds of beautiful lakes teeming with fish, and at some seasons of the year the resort of myriads of wild fowl. These lakes add greatly to the beauty of the scenery and healthfulness of the region, and they have made the county noted throughout the State as a "sportsman's paradise."

The principal stream is the Crow River, which traverses with sinuous course through the northeastern portion of the county, and with its many little affluents drains a considerable area of territory. The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Company have a branch, known as the Breckinridge division, that intersects Meeker county, crossing the boundary line at the north line of section 36, in Dassell township, on the east, and after crossing the townships of Dassell, Darwin, Litchfield and Acton, recrosses the county's limits, on the west, at the north line of section 7, of the latter township. This road, which is one of the best in the State, affords ample facilities for the

marketing of the products of the county and vicinity, and the transportation of freight or passengers. The northern part of the county is provided with shipping facilities by the Minneapolis & Pacific Railway, upon the line of which is located two stations within the limits of Meeker county.



CHAPTER II.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

THE annals of the early settlement of the county, while it is the most difficult to collate, is yet the most interesting and entertaining to the general reader, and of absorbing interest to the pioneer himself. For several years prior to the advent of white settlers, this portion of the State was frequently traversed by hunters and trappers. The nomadic Indian for ages had here found his hunting ground, and doubtless his battlefield, and the woods, if they could speak, could tell of dire deeds of blood that were enacted beneath their leafy shade.

During the summer of 1855 three men in a canoe paddled and poled their way up the Crow River, through the "Big Woods," into what is now Meeker county. They were John W. Huy, Benjamin Brown and a man named Mackenzie, and were in search of pine timber for some lumber firm. Pushing onward through the forest, they emerged upon the prairie east of where Forest City afterward stood, and were delighted with the view that burst upon their sight.

"The wondrous, beautiful prairie, billowy bays of grace ever rolling in shadows and sunshine," interspersed with groves of timber, islands of verdure in an emerald sea. The paradise of lake and land that lay before them in its pristine loveliness charmed them, and, returning to their employers with the

report of their failure to find in this direction the object of their quest, John Huy made up a party to come to this ideal land and settle.

In company with D. M. Hanson, Rudolph Shultz and Thomas H. Skinner, he came back the same fall, by way of Glencoe, and on their arrival at the Crow River located a town site upon the north bank, opposite the mouth of the creek, on section 13 of what is now Harvey township. To this prospective village they gave the name of Kar-i-shon, the Indian name for "crow." Erecting a claim shanty upon the shelving banks of the rippling stream, Huy and Skinner commenced housekeeping, Hanson returning to Minneapolis, where he died in April, 1856.

The two adventurers passed the winter, for the most part, in their humble cabin in the pathless wilderness, to hold their claim to the town site, but in the spring, discovering at some distance down the river, a more eligible site for a village, moved on to sections 17 and 20, of what is now Forest City township, on which they at once erected a claim shanty, calling the place "the village of Forest City." John Huy also, afterward, pre-empted the northeast quarter of section 19.

Upon this tract arose the village that for about twelve years was the county seat of Meeker county, and a history of it is given elsewhere in this ALBUM. John Huy lived here until the summer of 1862, when he left the county. He is now a resident of the State of California, quite well-to-do. Thomas H. Skinner, who was quite a prominent figure in those early days, died in Milwaukee, whither he had gone on business, August 20, 1863, and is buried at St. Albans, Me., his boyhood's home.

Rudolph Shultz made a settlement early in 1856, he having spent the previous winter in Minneapolis, on section 26, Harvey township, where he now lives.

Abijah Bemis came here in the early spring of 1856, and was appointed the first sheriff of the county, to help organize it. He remained until the fall of 1857, and then left this locality.

Milton G. Moore, the first register of deeds of the county, took up his residence early in the year, 1856, before the snow was off of the ground. He remained for a year or so, and then left this part of the country.

Dr. Frederick Noah Ripley and John McClelland took up claims in Ellsworth township, on coming to this county late in the fall of 1855. They erected a cabin on the shores of Cedar Lake, where they passed the winter, but running short of provisions, on the 1st of March, 1856, they started across the country to the shanty of John Huy and his party, near Forest City, where they knew they could replenish their stores. Although it was a beautiful morning when they started, the breeze warm and balmy, and the snow melting fast, before long a terrible blizzard sprang up and enveloped them. They were compelled to camp that night, and having neither food nor blankets, for they expected to travel the eighteen miles before dark, they suffered intensely. In the morning they again started on their quest. On striking the river they were lost and could not tell whether they were above or below the cabin they sought, so about two o'clock they, being discouraged, started back for their claim, as the storm had abated. They had no matches to build a fire, the few in their possession having become wet, and the want of food enfeebled them. As they stumbled on their course, Dr. Ripley became too weak to travel, and insisted on his companion going on and seeking safety, and leave him to his fate, telling him at the same time, if help could be got for him to come to his assistance. He perished in the snow near the shores of the beautiful lake that now bears his name, and his remains were found the following spring

by W. S. Chapman and a party of others, and buried beneath the trees where he was found. The Masonic fraternity, of which he was a member, on the laying out of the Litchfield cemetery, exhumed his body and placed it in consecrated ground in the center of the circle in that beautiful "city of the dead." McClelland had to have both legs amputated, and barely escaped with his life. He afterward removed to Becker county, this State, where he finally became register of deeds.

J. B. Salisbury, still a resident of the county, came here first in the summer of 1855, with a Government surveying party, and was engaged in running town lines. In the fall he went back to Scott county, Iowa, but in the spring of 1856 returned here and made a settlement in Kingston. With him came Joseph Weymer, Sr., his father-in-law, and two brother-in-laws, Joseph, Jr., and Jacob. The elder Weymer settled in Forest City, as did his son Jacob. Joseph, Jr., located in Kingston. Jacob removed to Iowa, where he now lives. Joseph, Sr., died in Iowa, whence he had removed, but Joseph, Jr., is still a citizen of the county.

On the 20th of June, 1856, T. Carlos Jewett made his appearance in this county, and seven days later, having spent that time in looking over the country and finding the section lines, made a claim upon the southwest quarter of section 31, in Forest City township. At the time of his arrival here his entire capital consisted of \$16.19, besides considerable energy and Yankee thrift. He is still among his old associates, residing in the city of Litchfield.

July 2 of the same year marked the settlement of Isaac C. Delamater. His claim was located upon the southwest quarter of section 29, Forest City township.

Josiah W. Dorman and Benjamin Dorman, Alpheus C. Maddox, Henry, Warren and Cyrus Averill, Mark Cates, Elmer Harper, William Higgins, John Fitzgerald, Patrick

Flynn, John T. Kennison and A. B. Whitney made settlements in the territory now embraced in the civil township of Kingston. Josiah Dorman died in this county about two years ago; Benjamin Dorman remained a resident until about 1878 or 1880. John Fitzgerald died here in 1876, and John Flynn was gathered to his fathers many years ago. Alpheus C. Maddox left this county about twenty years ago, and is now living at Lake Calhoun, Kandiyohi county. Henry Averill left the county, having, when acting as sheriff, stabbed Kennison in a fight; his brothers Warren and Cyrus left the county about 1858. Mark Cates is still a citizen of Meeker county. Elmer Harper and William Higgins did not remain long in this locality. John T. Kennison made his residence here until about 1870, and is now a citizen of Minneapolis; and A. B. Whitney, after about two years' residence, emigrated to California, where he now lives. S. B. Hutchins, another settler in the same town in the year 1856, remained here until 1863, when he left, and now has his home in French Lake township, Wright county.

John Bramhall came to this county the same spring, and located in Forest City. He was a carpenter by trade, and the first in the county.

Nathan C. Caswell, Ziba Caswell, Christopher Davis, and Green Sykes, made a trip through this county in November, 1855, in search of a mill site and lands for farming. This party returning to Monticello, Wright county, on the 10th of December, following, N. C. and Ziba Caswell again started for the country that had pleased them so much on the first trip. They simply came to prospect, and that part of the country now embraced in the town of Manannah, pleasing them, they returned here in the spring of 1856, with Alonzo, Silas and Albert Caswell, James Nelson, Edward Brown and A. D. Pierce, and took up claims in the

neighborhood of what was afterwards known as the the town site of Manannah, which was laid out and surveyed in December, 1856. The new settlement was reinforced the same autumn by the arrival of Andrew Hamilton, Charles Caswell and John Tower.

Timothy Dunn and Patrick Condon came to this county in 1856, and settled in Darwin township. Mr. Dunn is still a resident, but Condon was frozen to death in January, 1873.

A considerable number of settlers came through the Big Woods together, early in July, 1856, and found homes in this country. They were friends, countrymen and neighbors, for the most part, in Indiana, who were on their way to California's golden shores, when, at Dubuque, Iowa, they heard of the rich lands in this new country and determined to investigate. These people were John Flynn, his wife, family, consisting of Michael J., then some sixteen years of age, Daniel and Elizabeth; S. Marshall, two hired men and a nephew; John Dougherty and family; John Whalen and family, Thomas Dougherty and family, Edward Fitzgerald and family, Patrick Fitzgerald and family, and Morris Powers and family.

After a preliminary survey of the country made by Messrs. Flynn and Whalen, they all came here and made settlements, some in Kingston, some in Forest City, and some further west in Harvey. They arrived in the county on the 8th of July. Dr. V. P. Kennedy came to what is now Meeker county, in June, 1856, and took the same claim in Ellsworth township, in section 31, on the shores of Cedar Lake, the same place as was formerly claimed by Dr. Ripley. The Dr. is now a resident of the county seat.

Nathan Butler and M. M. Standish, two surveyors, came to this locality in the early part of 1856, and prospected through the country. Butler settled on a claim of beau-

tiful timber in Acton, which he owned for some time, but finally sold, and went to Minneapolis. He is what is known as a "cruiser," looking out timber land for parties engaged in the lumber trade, at the present time. Standish enlisted in the First Minnesota during the war, and never returned to this county.

Two men by the names of George Orentt and Mr. Pratt, made a claim in what is now Greenleaf township, in the summer of 1856, but having had one of their oxen killed by the Indians, this breaking up their team, they, in discouragement abandoned their land, and a short time afterward left the county.

William Benson, Swen and Nels Swenson, and Michael Lenhardt made settlements in what is now Litchfield township, in the year 1856, and all are still residents of the original homesteads.

C. L. Richardson and Edwin Ayres, who were surveyors by profession, made their appearance in the county in 1856, and took up claims in what is now Dassel township. They made their home here until the Indian massacre times of 1862, when they left and never returned.

Among the others who came to this locality this same year, were the following:

E. O. Britt, who located in Manannah township, where he lived about one year, and then moved to Harvey; he died in May, 1871.

David Mitchell and William H. Van Ness, both of whom are still residents of the county, located in Forest City township.

Judson A. Stanton made a claim on section 24, Harvey, where he remained for a time, then entered into trade at Forest City. He remained there until the Indian outbreak, and now lives at Sauk City.

Harrison Thoms settled upon section 17, Forest City, where he made his home until 1868, when he left here for California and Oregon.

T. R. Webb and Dr. Russell Whiteman located in Ellsworth: the former is still a citizen of the county; the latter is in Illinois.

Dudley and Samuel Taylor took up their residence in Forest City, on the 25th of June. Dudley Taylor entered the army during the late war and was hurt by the falling of the deck of the steamer "Gladiator," in the Tennessee river, and on his discharge went to New York State, where he died shortly afterwards. Samuel Taylor is living on the claim he took upon first coming here.

J. W. Walker and Reuben Davis came to this section of the State late in the fall of the same year and settled in Harvey, but only remained a short time.

James A. Quick came this same year, but after a year or two's residence left here, going back to Pennsylvania.

Charles McAron came to the county and helped set up a saw-mill. He ran a blacksmith shop for a time and left here in 1857.

John W. Patterson took up a claim on the northwest quarter of section 30, Forest City, where he took up bachelor "house-keeping" and made his home here for some time, and then left for Minneapolis, where he was when last heard from.

Henry Clinton made a claim on the northwest quarter of section 32, Forest City. In 1875 he left here for California, where he now lives.

Peter Stearns, John Peiffer and Gottlieb Reef, three Germans, made their appearance here and took claims in the town of Darwin. Peter Stearns, a veteran member of both the First and Second Cavalry during the last war, is still resident here; Peiffer also lives on his original claim, and Reef is now a wealthy farmer of Kandiyohi county, having gone there in 1865.

Leander L. Wakefield made his settlement

in the fall of 1856, on section 19, Forest City, and is still a resident of the county.

Loring G. Hay and Ogden T. Tuttle made a settlement in 1856, also, but only stayed about a year, going to Minneapolis.

Frederick Cook made a trip to this county from Illinois in July, of this same year, and, liking the looks of it, returned to his home, and the next month brought his brothers, Christopher, Ferdinand and William, with him and made a settlement in Litchfield township. Fred died in 1860; Chris, in 1858; William was killed accidentally in the army, and Ferdinand is a resident of Mananah at the present time.

Lyman Allen and Messrs. Baker and Allen came to the county and settled in what is now Union Grove, this same year. Baker died here, and the other two, in 1860, returned to their home in the "Old Bay State."

Daniel Cross located in Cedar Mills township in 1856, where he made his home until he was killed by the Indians, in 1862.

Charles E. Cutts and Walter Bacon settled on adjoining claims in the town of Forest City, in the fall of 1856, and put up bachelor quarters, where they lived. Mr. Cutts, who has been prominently identified with the history of the county, is still a resident upon his original preëmption; Mr. Bacon, after living here some years, moved to Otter Tail county, and is a resident of Fergus Falls.

James B. Atkinson came to the site of Forest City on the 7th of February, 1857, where he found but about five people. He had with him a load of merchandise, and at once put up a store, and in April opened the first store in the county. A full account of his business affairs may be found in the history of the village of Forest City, and a sketch of this well-known resident of Litchfield in the biographical department of this work.

W. H. Dart, now engaged in the grocery

trade in the city of Litchfield, is also a settler of the same year, coming to Forest City in April, where he found but seven men, who all lived in one house. Their names were Thomas H. Skinner, Walter Brown, A. Bemis, Matthew Standish, M. G. Moore, and two others. With him came Charles N. Shedd, and the two men took up adjoining claims in Forest City township.

About the same time that Atkinson came, there appeared Henry N. Baker, one of the original Baker family, from Waukeegan, Ill., a jolly scapegrace, most widely known, who hoped to bury in the woods some of his escapades. He remained here for a few years, and then returned to his friends. He acted as judge of probate here in 1857-8-9.

Jacob Ball, carpenter, located in the village of Forest City, this county, in the spring of 1857, and erected a store building for James B. Atkinson. He followed his trade somewhat, and taking up a claim on section 4, did some farming. After a few years passed here, he returned to Canada.

Rev. John Robson, an ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, came to the new settlement at Forest City early in the same year, and preëmpted 160 acres of land, the northwest quarter of section 20, and operated the saw-mill for a time. He was the first justice of the peace, and made this place his home for a few years, but left here previous to the Indian outbreak, removing to the far East, and died at Medford, Mass.

H. Walker, a carpenter, came to the rising village in May, 1857, and took up his residence. After some years' residence here he removed from the county, and, when last heard from, was keeping a hotel at Buffalo, Wright county.

Thomas Grayson, also a knight of the saw, plane and chisel, settled in the town about the same time. He is still a resident of the county.

J. W. Griswold settled about the same time, and remained for a few years. He now lives in Minneapolis.

James Willis, who is a resident at the present of the town of Litchfield, located in a claim south of Forest City in 1857, where he made his home for many years.

Among the other arrivals of the same year was Hamlet Stevens, now a banker of the City of Litchfield, who located at Forest City.

The tide of immigration having set toward this section of the State, west of the "Big Woods," many, being delighted with the picturesque scenery and abundant fertility of the land of Meeker county, settled in the county of Meeker during the years of 1857 and 1858, and the country began to assume the appearance of being the home of white people. The blue smoke curling from the chimneys of the cabins of the settlers, the ploughed ground around their little clearings and breakings, and the hum of busy industry announced the coming of civilization. Among those located in the county in 1857, not mentioned were Dennis Shields, John and A. F. Heath, John Wigle, L. F. Haines, Jacob Reef, Isaac Perrine, James Murphy, John Kimball, S. W. Ryan, B. F. Butler, Willard Keats, Charles McPartheon, David Ralston, L. A. Henry, Richard Poole, Allen Teachout, H. M. Angier, J. P. Botham, W. W. Woodman, Jacob Knapp, Henry Bierman, Louis and Maximillian Cook and their mother, A. B. Hoyt, D. P. Delemater, A. C. Campbell, Charles Willis, N. O. Griffin, Patrick Finnegan, Mark Warren, Messrs. Charlton and Andrews, George S. Sholes Sr., William Marble, William Cramer; Charles, William and Herman Krueger, Bengt Hanson; John, Nels, Andrew, Peter E., and Lewis Larson; Hogan Peterson, Tholson J. Cornelius, Ole Amundson, Nels Danielson, Kettle Haroldson, Henry J. Johnson, John Nelson; Jesse V. Branham Sr., and his sons, William, Jesse and Edward; Oscar

Erickson, Nels Clements, Ole Johanson, John Winqvist, Ole J. Winqvist, E. S. Fitch, Bryan McNulty, Noah White, Patrick Casey, John Doyle, Louis Ekbon, John Dougherty, John McRaith, William Cunningham, Michael Gallahue, James Shelley, Jacob Reef, three brothers O'Brien, Mr. Hagerty, John Ramsey, Hans Peterson, Peter E. Hanson, Andrew Peterson, Ole Nelson, N. E. Hanson, Nels Elofson, Peter E. Lund, Nels Waylander, John Rosenerans, Bertha Anderson, Andrew Elofson, Peter J. Lund, John and Peter Ritchie, Robinson Jones, Howard Baker, Mrs. Ann Baker, Abram Kelley, John Blackwell, Capt. Robinson, Lyman Allen, and possibly a few others.

Rev. J. C. Whitney, in 1858, came to the new settlement, and bought the claim of Nathan Roberts, adjoining the town site, where he lived for some years, after which he removed to the city of Minneapolis, and acted as United States gauger for a time, since which time he has grown quite wealthy in the real estate business, and makes his home in the "Flour City."

John Goodspeed settled in Union Grove in the same year, where he made his home for several years. He afterwards removed to Monticello.

Among those who took up their residence in the county during the year 1858, there have been gathered the following names—J. D. Evans, A. C. Smith, R. W. Brown, Ursilius S. Willie, George S. Sholes Jr., J. A. Baird, Thomas E. Massey, Charles and Samuel Getchell, Daniel Campbell, Levi L. Getchell, E. K. Wright, James Merrill, F. M. Scott, Dennis Cronin, G. W. Parker, N. W. Bannister, Charles Maybee, E. O. Britt, Vincent Coombs, Thomas McGannon, Iver Jackson, Bengt Nelson, Dana E. King, William H. Greenleaf, Bennett M. Bruik, William H. Wileox, Thomas Ryckman, Christian Erickson, Halver Michelson, Ole Munson and Ole Lindquist.

A full history of the settlement, location of their homes, etc., of many of the old settlers is given in detail in the annals of their respective towns, or in the biographical departments, to which chapters the reader is referred for particulars.

HISTORICAL ITEMS.

The first birth in Meeker county was that of Sarah Jane, daughter of Thomas Dougherty, born while the family were still living in a wagon, before getting to their claim, July 15, 1856. She is now living with her parents in Harvey township.

The first male child was Ole T. Halverson, son of Henry and Margaret Halverson, born December, 11 1856, in Litchfield township.

The first death was that of Dr. Frederick N. Ripley, who was frozen to death March 3, 1856, on the shores of the beautiful lake that bears his name, in Litchfield township, and commemorates this unhappy man's cruel fate. The second death was that of Frank Parsons, who died November 20, 1856, and was buried on the town site of Forest City.

The first land broken was by Benjamin Dorman, in the summer of 1856, in Kingston township. Morris Powers broke the sod next the same season.

The first house erected was a shanty, put up by John Huy and his party at the junction of the creek with the Crow river, on section 13, Harvey township, in the summer of 1855.

The first barn was built by Ole H. Ness in the summer of 1856, in Ripley, now Litchfield township.

The first religious services were held at Forest City in November, 1856, at which Rev. John Robson, a Methodist clergyman, delivered the sermon and led the exercises.

On the 22d of March, 1858, the United States land office, under A. C. Smith, register, and John D. Evans, receiver, was opened at Forest City, and this was deemed

an important era in the history of that town and of the county. There was but a small quantity of land upon which claims had been filed at that time, in this portion of the State, and consequently, with the considerable tide of immigration this way, the land office was crowded nearly all the time. Old settlers state that in those days it was no uncommon sight to see a large number of land-seekers camped all around the office, awaiting their turn to enter their claim or transact other business with the officers. The building in which it was located was a small log shanty. Here the office remained until after the Indian outbreak in August, 1862, when it was removed back to Minneapolis, but some time after the cessation of hostilities and peace again reigned upon the border it was brought back to this county and located at Greenleaf, where it remained some time.

The first homestead under the act of Congress authorizing their entry was taken and filed by Samuel Taylor in 1863; this was located upon the south half of the southeast quarter of section 4, in the town of Darwin, and was first claimed by Richard Poole.

The first term of the district court held in the county was in October, 1859, with Hon. E. O. Hamlin upon the bench, and met in the office of A. C. Smith, in Forest City. The first case before the court was that of John Peiffer *vs.* Peter Stearns, and was a singular one. They were brothers-in-law, and had erected one cabin on the line between their farms, so as to cover both with their residence. After a time they quarreled, and Peiffer shot Stearns as the latter was attempting to carry off his share of the lumber of the house, and to settle the shooting case Peiffer gave the other a chattel mortgage on two yoke of oxen, but on the maturity of the claim refused to give up the cattle, as the mortgage had been given to compound a felony. During this trial, as to who was the owner of the cattle, was impaneled the first

petit jury in the county, which consisted of the following named: George S. Sholes, Sr., foreman; Azro B. Hoyt, J. C. Scribner, Alexander Lee, T. R. Webb, Thos. Dougherty, A. C. Maddox, Samuel L. Getchell, George W. Baird, Edward Brown, John Blackwell and Charles Duffy. The verdict was found for the plaintiff, three cents damages. U. S. Willie appeared for Stearns, and A. C. Smith for Peiffer. These two were the sole members of the bar, but at this term William Richards was admitted to the bar, the first in the county so honored.

The first gristmill in the county was erected at Kingston. Its construction was commenced in 1856, by A. P. Whitney, and finished the following year. This was the pioneer mill of the region lying west of the Big Woods, and was a great advantage to the early settlers, as all their flour, previous to its completion, had to be hauled here by teams from St. Paul. This mill is still in operation. Mills were built shortly after this, one at Greenleaf and one at Forest City.

The pioneer postoffice of the county was established in the spring of 1857, at Forest City, with James B. Atkinson as postmaster. He had the office in his store, but there was no regular mail until the fall of the same year, when a mail route was established between that point and St. Cloud, and a man by the name of Evans became mail-carrier. He covered the thirty-five miles between the two places on foot, and frequently got into Forest City by 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The first hotel in the county was a log building, where entertainment of a primitive character was dispensed in 1856 and 1857, by Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Taylor.



CHAPTER III. OFFICIAL MATTERS.

IT IS intended, that grouped together under this general head, will be given all that pertains to the official life of the county, those who have represented it

and its citizens in office, property valuations, educational statistics and all other kindred matter that is drawn from official records, and worthy of preservation in a volume of this character. The first point taken up, therefore, will be

ORGANIZATION.

The Seventh Territorial Legislature which met in the spring of 1856, ordered the creation and organization of a county to be called Meeker, in honor of Hon. B. B. Meeker, of St. Anthony, and to contain within its boundaries all that is now defined by them, except what is now the townships of Cosmos and Cedar Mills. This act of creation is dated February 23, 1856. Previous to that time, this territory had been considered a part of Kandiyohi county, but was almost without any definite boundaries. Under this act, the Governor appointed Thomas H. Skinner, Dr. Frederick N. Ripley and J. W. Huy, as commissioners to complete the organization.

Accordingly, on the 5th of May, the first board met at the house of Mr. Skinner, in Forest City, where the seat of justice had been located, and appointed Milton G. Moore, register of deeds, Thos. H. Skinner, clerk of the board, and Abijah Bemis, sheriff. At the same time they made into one election precinct the whole county, to be named Forest City precinct. Thus was born the county of Meeker. No assessments or levy of taxes were made in the county that year, nor were there any bills presented or paid by the board. The latter simply started the machinery and held their seats until the due qualification of their elected successors. The following is the record of the succeeding

BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

At the second meeting of board, January 5, 1857, the county was divided into three assessment districts, as follows: The town-

ships in range 29, and the east half of the townships in range 30, were designated as district No. 1; the west half of the townships in range 30, and all the townships in range 31 were to be district No. 2; and the townships in ranges 32 and 33 were to constitute district No. 3. The assessors elected in October, 1856, having failed to present themselves, or to qualify, the commissioners appointed A. P. Whitney to assess No. 1; John B. Kimball to assess No. 2, and Lyman Baker to assess No. 3.

At a meeting on the 6th of April, 1857, the county was divided into four election precincts, which were designated as Kingston, Forest City, Round Lake and Union Grove precincts. At this meeting nine petitions for roads were presented to the board, the first business of the kind to come before it.

At the meeting on the 20th of July, 1857, the office of sheriff having become vacant by the removal of Abijah Bemis from the county, T. C. Jewett was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In October, 1857, a meeting of the board was held, at which the county was divided into four school districts, with boundaries the same as the election precincts.

On the 5th of October, 1857, the first bill audited and ordered paid by the board was presented by John W. Goodspeed, for services in assessing district No. 3.

The following is a complete list of the gentlemen who have composed the board of county commissioners for each year since the county was organized, as complete and correct as it is possible, at this late day, to make it:

1856. Thomas H. Skinner, John Huy and Frederick N. Ripley.

1857. J. T. Kinnison, John Wigle and J. W. Griswold, and later T. G. Gould.

1858. A. P. Whitney, John Wigle, Mark Warren, Peter Ritchie, Ziba Caswell, and J. V. Bramham Sr.

1859. Peter Ritchie, Mark Warren, John Wigle, Charles Low, Robert Lang and J. W. Dame.

1860. E. M. Whitney, Mark Warren and Linus Howe.

1861. J. C. Whitney, Peter Ritchie, and J. V. Bramham, Sr.

1862. Charles E. Cutts, E. B. Kingsley, E. A. Chapin, E. H. Whitney, James B. Atkinson and Samuel Taylor.

1863. George S. Sholes, Sr., H. Hall and Moody Caswell.

1864. George S. Sholes, Sr., H. Hall, Michael Johnson and F. McCusker.

1865-6. G. S. Sholes, Sr., H. Hall, and Ziba Caswell.

1867. M. J. Flynn, H. Hall, and Ziba Caswell.

1868. W. H. Dart, S. Y. Gordon, and A. N. Fosen.

1869. W. E. Graham, J. B. Atkinson, and A. N. Fosen.

1870. J. B. Atkinson, W. E. Graham, and H. Halvorson.

1871. J. A. C. Waller, Even Evenson, H. C. Bull, Patrick Flynn and N. C. Hines.

1872. E. Evenson, N. C. Hines, Patrick Flynn, H. C. Bull, and Chauncey Butler.

1873. C. Butler, N. C. Hines, E. Evenson, Patrick Flynn, and Henry Clay.

1874. C. Butler, E. Evenson, Henry Clay, B. F. Spaulding, and Joseph Hubbard.

1875. E. Evenson, H. Halvorson, H. Clay, Joseph Hubbard and B. F. Spaulding.

1876. Even Evenson, H. Halvorson, Joseph Hubbard, Louis Rudberg, and B. F. Spaulding.

1877. Even Evenson, chairman; Joseph Hubbard, Henry Halvorson, J. H. Pendergast, and Isaac Lloyd.

1878. Even Evenson, chairman; Joseph Hubbard, Isaac Lloyd, V. H. Harris, and C. A. McCollom.

1879. C. A. McCollom, chairman; Joseph

Hubbard, V. H. Harris, O. M. Linnell, and Isaac Lloyd.

1880. V. H. Harris, chairman; C. A. McCollom, W. H. Wilcox, O. M. Linnell, and Isaac Lloyd.

1881. Peter E. Hansen, chairman; Rasmus Nelson, Claus Anderson, Isaac Lloyd, and W. H. Wilcox.

1882. Peter E. Hansen, chairman; Isaac Lloyd, Rasmus Nelson, C. Anderson, and W. H. Wilcox.

1883. Peter E. Hansen, chairman; C. Anderson, R. Nelson, F. F. Phillips, and C. H. Atkinson.

1884. Andrew Nelson, chairman; F. F. Phillips, C. A. McCollom, C. H. Atkinson, and R. Nelson.

1885. Andrew Nelson, chairman; F. F. Phillips, C. A. McCollom, C. H. Atkinson, and John Blomberg.

1886. Andrew Nelson, chairman; F. F. Phillips, C. H. Atkinson, John Blomberg, and C. A. McCollom.

1887. V. H. Harris, chairman; John Blomberg, N. C. Caswell, Peter Sangreen, and William M. Abbott.

1888. V. H. Harris, chairman; John Blomberg, Peter Sangreen, William M. Abbott, and N. C. Caswell.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Upon the formation of the State Constitution, July 13th, and its subsequent ratification, October 13, 1857, the State was divided into twenty-six senatorial districts. These districts were subdivided into representative districts and many were entitled to two Senators, and from one to six Representatives in the Lower House.

Under this apportionment, when the First State Legislature convened, on the 2d of December, 1857, the body was composed of thirty-seven Senators and eighty Representatives. According to the provisions of the Constitution the newly created county of

Meeker became a part of the Twentieth Senatorial District, being associated with the counties of Benton, Sherburne and Stearns. The district was entitled to one Senator and three Representatives. The first Senator to represent this district was Hon. Reuben M. Richardson, of Stearns county. The first Representatives were Hon. J. B. Atkinson, of Meeker county; John L. Young, of Benton county, and Joseph B. Carpenter, of Sherburne county.

When the Second State Legislature convened, December 7, 1859, Meeker county was still a part of the Twentieth Senatorial District which at that time was represented in the Senate by C. C. Andrews, of Stearns county, and in the House by U. S. Willie, of Meeker county; G. W. Sweet, of Benton county, and M. C. Tolman, of Anoka county. The "apportionment of 1860" was made by this Legislature, and by the re-arrangement of districts Meeker county was associated with the counties of Carver, Wright, LeLeod, Kandiyohi and Monongalia in constituting the Sixth Senatorial District, the district being entitled to elect one Senator and three Representatives.

The Third Legislature assembled on the 8th of January, 1861, and adjourned on the 8th of March. In this session the newly-formed Sixth District was represented in the Senate by Hon. Samuel Bennett, of Wright county, and in the Lower House by Hon. V. P. Kennedy, of Meeker county; Hon. T. D. Kennedy, of Kandiyohi county, and Hon. William R. Baxter, of Carver county.

On the 7th of January, 1862, the Fourth Legislature convened, and in this body the Sixth District was represented by the same delegation that had served it in the preceding Legislature except that Hon. John H. Stevens, of McLeod county, had succeeded W. R. Baxter in the House.

In the Fifth Legislature, which convened January 6th, 1863, Charles A. Warner, of

Carver county, represented the Sixth District in the Senate, while in the House it was served by C. F. Davis, of Meeker county; W. G. Butler, of Wright county, and B. G. Lee, of McLeod county.

The Sixth Legislature assembled on the 5th of January, 1864. Charles A. Warner was still in the Senate. In the House were Henry Hill, of Meeker county; W. G. Butler, of Wright county, and John S. Letford, of Carver county.

The Seventh Legislature convened January 3, 1865. The Sixth District at that time was represented by the following gentlemen—G. D. George, of Wright county, Senator; and Henry Hill, Frank A. Renz and C. F. Davis, Representatives.

In the Eighth Legislature, which assembled January 2, 1866, G. D. George was still in the Senate. The Representatives were—Dana E. King, of Meeker county; L. Harrington, of McLeod county, and Chauncy W. Griggs, of Carver county. The "apportionment of 1866" was made by this Legislature, according to which there were then to be twenty-two Senators and forty-seven Representatives. Meeker county still remained in the Sixth district, which was then formed of Meeker, Wright, McLeod, Kandiyohi and Monongalia counties.

When the Ninth Legislature convened, January 8, 1867, H. L. Gordon, of Wright county, took his seat as Senator from the Sixth District. The district was only entitled to two Representatives in the House—Dana E. King, of Meeker county, and P. W. Savage, of McLeod county, being the members.

In the Tenth Legislature, which assembled on the 7th of January, 1868, H. L. Gordon was still in the Senate, and in the House the district was served by J. B. Salisbury, of this county, and Lewis Harrington, of McLeod county.

The Eleventh Legislature convened January 5, 1869. The Sixth District was repre-

sented in the Senate by Dana E. King, of Meeker county, and in the House by D. Pile and W. W. Patterson.

On the 4th of January, 1870, the Twelfth Legislature assembled, with Mr. King still in the Senate. In the House the Sixth District was represented by E. Abbott, of Kandiyohi county, and A. H. Reed, of McLeod county.

The Thirteenth Legislature convened January 8, 1871. The representatives of the Sixth District at that time were as follows—W. T. Bonniwell, of McLeod county, Senator, and W. H. Greenleaf, of Meeker county, and Andrew Railson, of Kandiyohi county, Representatives. The apportionment of 1871 was made by this Legislature, the State being divided into forty-one senatorial districts, and the House to be composed of 106 members. Under the division of territory then made, Meeker county constituted District No. 35, and was entitled to elect one Senator and one Representative.

In the Fourteenth Legislature, which convened January 2, 1872, Meeker county was represented in the Senate by Charles E. Cutts, and in the House by William H. Greenleaf.

The Fifteenth Legislature assembled January 7, 1873. Meeker county was represented by the same delegation as in the preceding Legislature.

The Sixteenth Legislature convened January 6, 1874. Charles E. Cutts was still the Senator from Meeker county, and Andrew Nelson took his seat as Representative.

In the Seventeenth Legislature, which convened January 5, 1875, Meeker county was represented in the Senate by Andrew Nelson, and in the House by N. C. Hines.

The Eighteenth Legislature assembled January 4, 1876. Andrew Nelson was still in the Senate from Meeker county, and C. E. Cutts took his seat as Representative.

The Nineteenth Legislature convened January 2, 1877. Meeker county's delegation at

that time was composed of J. M. Waldron, Senator, and L. Rudberg, Representative.

The Twentieth Legislature assembled January 8, 1878. Meeker county was represented in this Legislature by J. M. Waldron in the Senate, and W. M. Campbell in the House.

The Twenty-first Legislature began its work on the 7th of January, 1879. The Representatives from Meeker county at that time were, C. E. Cutts, Senator, and W. M. Campbell, Representative.

The Twenty-second Legislature convened January 4, 1881. Meeker county's delegation at that time was composed of William Campbell, Senator, and O. M. Linnell, Representative. The apportionment of 1881 was made by this Legislature. According to the provisions of the act, Meeker county was made District No. 34, and was entitled to the same representation as under the preceding apportionment. By this act the Legislature consisted of forty-seven Senators and 103 Representatives. It was also provided that sessions of the Legislature should be held biennially instead of annually.

The Twenty-third Legislature convened January 2, 1883. At that time Meeker county was represented in the Senate by W. H. Greenleaf, and in the House by O. M. Linnell.

The Twenty-fourth Legislature assembled on the 6th of January, 1885. Meeker county's representatives were W. H. Greenleaf in the Senate, and Michael J. Flynn in the House.

The Twenty-fifth Legislature assembled January 7th, and adjourned March 4th, 1887. Meeker county was ably represented in this session by J. S. Shields in the Senate, and Even Evenson in the Lower House.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

The following is believed to be a complete record of the gentlemen who have represented the people of Meeker county in the

various offices in the gift of the electors thereof:

REGISTERS OF DEEDS.

Milton G. Moore, 1856; Thomas H. Skinner, 1857-8-9, and 60; T. C. Jewett, 1861-2; Thos. H. Skinner, 1863, until August 20, when he died; Hamlet Stevens, who was appointed to fill vacancy 1863-4; E. H. Whitney, 1865; J. M. Harvey, 1866; John Blackwell, 1867 to 1871; N. A. Viren, 1871 to 1878; August T. Koerner, 1878, to 1884; and N. A. Viren, the present incumbent, from January, 1885.

COUNTY AUDITORS.

Thos. H. Skinner, as clerk of the board, was *co-officio* the county auditor, 1856 to 60; D. P. Delanater, 1860 to November, 1863; James M. Harvey, 1864, resigned in 1864; M. W. Piper, appointed by the board and served until 1865, when he, too, resigned. Charles E. Cutts was appointed to the office, but did not qualify; Jesse V. Branham, Jr., 1865 (Nov.) to January, 1871; John Blackwell, 1871 to 1875; Hamlet Stevens, 1875 to 1879; G. B. Phelps, 1879 to 1886; Ambrose Wall, 1886, the present incumbent.

CLERKS OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

J. A. Stanton, 1860 to 1863; J. M. Harvey, 1863 to 1867; John Blackwell, 1867 to 1872; S. W. Leavitt, 1872 to 1884; J. E. Upham, the present official, since 1884, having been re-elected in 1886.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

J. A. Stanton was elected to this office in 1858, but, failing to qualify, the board in January, 1859, appointed Charles E. Cutts, who served that year; W. H. Greenleaf was the next, 1860 to 1862; George C. Whitcomb 1862 to January 6, 1863, when he resigned and board appointed A. C. Smith; Jesse V. Branham, Sr., served from 1864 to 1870;

Henry Hill, 1870-71; Hamlet Stevens, 1872 to 1873; Amos Nelson Fosen, 1874 to 1880; August Palm, 1880 to 1884; and N. W. Hawkinson, the present treasurer, first elected in 1883, and re-elected in 1886.

SHERIFFS.

Abijah Bemis, appointed May 5, 1856, who served until fall of the same year, when Henry Averill was elected to this office; the latter, having wounded Kennison in a fight, fled the country, and T. C. Jewett was appointed to the office July 20, 1857, and was elected to the same office; he served in this capacity until 1860, and was succeeded that year by E. S. Fitch, who served 1860 and 1861; John Wigle, short time in 1862; James B. Atkinson, 1862-3-4; George S. Sholes, Jr., 1865 to 1868; A. A. Sanford, 1868 and 1869; W. M. Campbell, 1870 to 1874; N. J. March, 1874 to 1878; P. Ekstrom, to 1878 to 1884; Daniel Flynn, 1884 to 1887; and H. M. Holm, the present incumbent of the office, elected November 2, 1886, and qualified in 1887.

JUDGES OF PROBATE.

H. N. Baker, 1857 to 1860; A. C. Smith, 1860 to 1865; E. H. Whitney, 1865; C. B. Jordan, 1866 to 1868; Harvey Wilson, 1868; John M. Waldron, 1869 and 1870; Charles B. Howell, 1871-2; F. V. DeCoster, 1873-4; John Blackwell, 1875 until his death, when he was succeeded by S. A. Plumley, who served the balance of that year and 1876 and 1877; N. C. Martin 1878 to 1887; and Charles H. Strobeck who occupies that office at the present writing, having been elected thereto in November, 1886.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

The following list of those occupying this position is believed correct, having been submitted to those well posted in the county, although in several instances no record authorizes the insertion of the names: Will-

iam Richards, the first, qualified July 4, 1858, and served until 1861; Mark Warron, 1861-2; A. C. Smith, 1863 to 1867; Thomas Brown, 1867 until he resigned and was succeeded by Henry Wilson; Henry Hill, 1869 and part of 1870; Charles B. Howell, the balance of that year; Francis Belfoy, 1871-2; C. H. Strobeck, 1873-4; E. A. Campbell, 1875-6; C. H. Strobeck, 1877-8; S. A. Plumley, 1879-80; W. S. Van Enian, 1881; E. A. Campbell, 1882-3; E. P. Peterson, 1884-5-6; and J. M. Russell, the present attorney, who was elected in 1886, and qualified in 1887.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS.*

The first officer of this denomination, after it became elective, was J. W. Gordon, who was elected November 5, 1877, and served during the years 1878 and 1879; J. W. Wright, who served from 1880 to 1884; S. W. Gordon from 1884 to 1887, and was succeeded by T. J. Soule, who was elected to that office in 1886, and is the present occupant of the position.

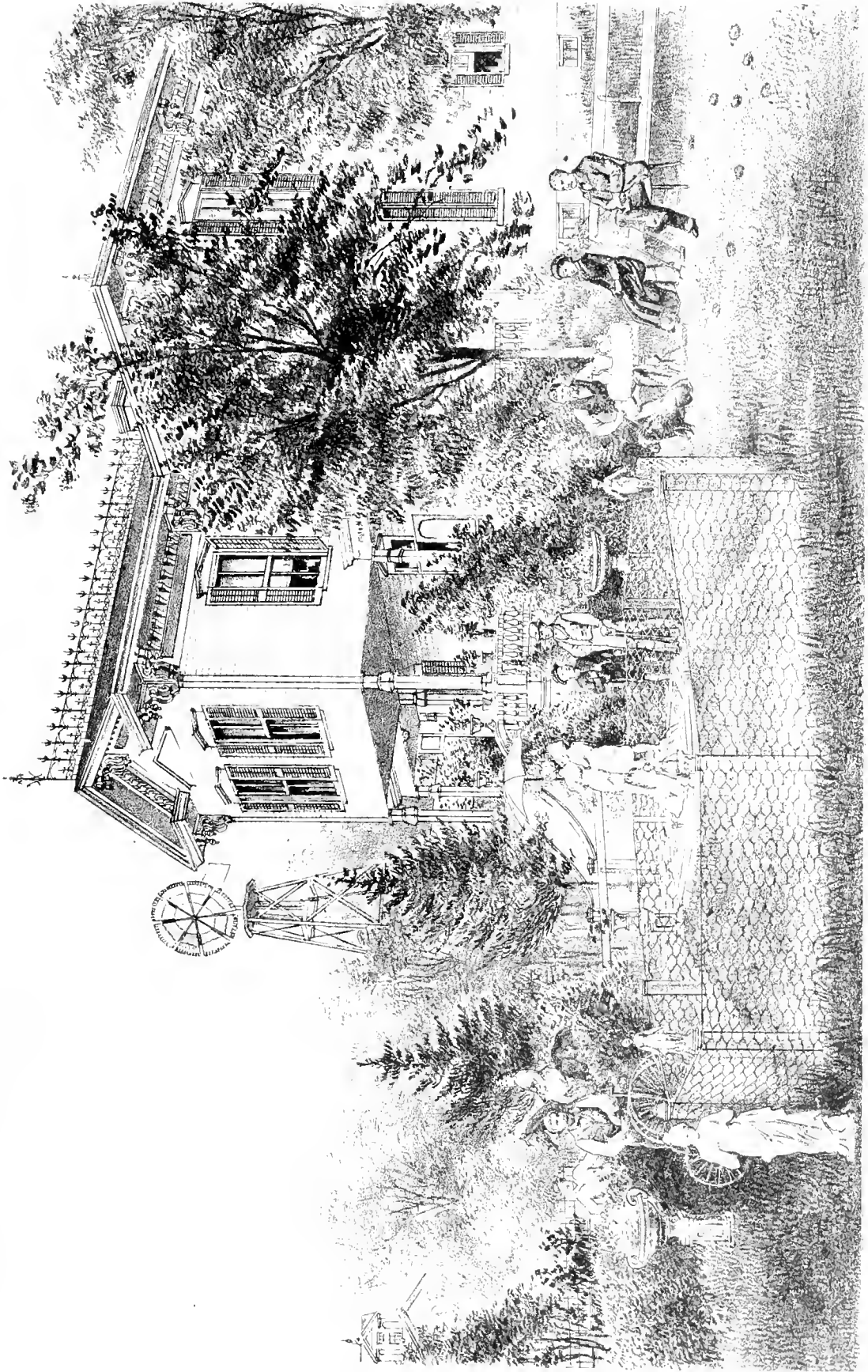
COUNTY SURVEYORS.

M. M. Standish; William Richardson; W. H. Greenleaf, elected in 1866 and also in 1868; J. B. Salisbury, elected in 1870; L. E. Dudley, who occupied the office from 1873 to 1885; J. B. Salisbury, the present surveyor, since 1885.

CORONERS.

John Heath, 1862-3; O. H. Ness, 1865; John Curran, 1866; S. Y. Gordon, 1867-8; O. H. Ness, 1869; William Matheny, 1870; John A. Quick, 1871-2-3-4; Oliver Raswick, 1875; L. E. Dudley, 1876-7; Nels Eloffson, 1878-9; John A. Quick, 1880 to 1884; E. Kimball, 1884 and at present.

*NOTE.—It is impossible to give complete lists of those who have served in the offices of superintendent, surveyor, coroner and court commissioner, as the records do not show their names.—EDITOR.



RESIDENCE OF PETER E. HANSON, LITCHFIELD, TWP. MEEKER COUNTY, MINN.

COURT COMMISSIONERS.

The record of these officers is very incomplete in the books of the county, but the following-named are known to have served in this office: James B. Atkinson, W. D. Stanton, O. H. Campbell, J. H. Bacon, H. L. Smith, Francis V. DeCoster and H. S. McGonagle.

MARRIAGES.

The following table shows the number of marriages recorded on the books of the county from 1858 to 1887, inclusive:

1858	1	1873	88
1859	3	1874	85
1860	7	1875	65
1861	7	1876	89
1862	3	1877	68
1863	1	1878	76
1864	4	1879	86
1865	8	1880	107
1866	17	1881	115
1867	27	1882	116
1868	42	1883	114
1869	78	1884	109
1870	86	1885	106
1871	72	1886	114
1872	65	1887	119

Total, licenses issued from 1858 to 1887, inclusive, 1,882

During the same time, from the date of the organization of the county until the beginning of the current year, there have only been granted some fifty-seven divorces, which, in a population which now numbers nearly 17,000, is a remarkable showing, as against the 3,700 people who have been joined in wedlock.

CENSUS.

A research among the volumes of the Census Bureau of the United States Government shows that the territory known as Meeker county had a total population in 1860 of 928, of which 572 were of American and 356 of foreign birth. In 1870 the inhabitants had

increased to 6,090, and in 1880 to 12,069, and it is safe to say that it has nearly 17,000 to-day (1888). About two-fifths of the entire population is made up of hardy Scandinavians, who bring to the new New World the thrift and economy of their native land, and are very important factors in the development of this county and State.

COURT-HOUSE AND JAIL.

The Meeker county court-house is one of the most substantial and serviceable structures of its kind in this part of the State. It was built in 1885-6 at a cost of nearly \$20,000, bonds for that amount having been issued by vote of the people. The building is of brick, made in the county, covers a ground space of 74x80 feet over all, and is two stories and basement in height, the two upper stories being fifteen feet in height, each. It is surmounted with a Mansard slate roof and a tower which reaches the height of seventy feet above the ground. It contains rooms for all the county officers, with capacious vaults and ample conveniences for each. The vaults are all situated so as to form part of the outside walls, and are provided with outside windows, thus affording good light and insuring great safety in case of fire. On the upper floor is a commodious court room, 45x65 feet, with which is connected two jury rooms, an attorney's room, judge's room and the circuit clerk's office. Although the appearance of the building will compare favorably with others of its class, gaudy ornamentation and style is generally ignored, and every foot of available space is utilized for business purposes, thus affording larger and more commodious offices and apartments than are usually found in buildings of its size.

The jail building, which is a substantial, comfortable and capacious structure, was built some three years previous to the erection of the court-house. It is provided with four

large steel cage cells of the latest improved pattern, and the foundation of floor is of concrete, three feet in thickness. G. B. Phelps, county auditor, was the architect of both buildings.

MEEKER COUNTY IN THE WAR.

Although Meeker county had a population but little exceeding 900 at the last census preceding the great conflict between the seceding States and the Federal Government, it furnished a number of men for the army exceeding her proper quota. With about 300 voters, not one county of the State sent a greater percentage of her citizens. The following list of the "brave boys in blue," whose homes were in Meeker county, has been compiled from the reports of the Adjutant General of the State, with great care, and supplemented by consultation with some of the comrades, who have added some of the names not credited to this county in the official record.

ROSTER.

FIRST MINNESOTA SHARPSHOOTERS.

James Lang,	Horace Mixer,
Henry McGaffly,	Philip Page,
Leverson Rogers,	J. W. Walker.

FIRST MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

E. W. Pierce,	B. W. Harriman,
Rufus Eastman,	Reuben Waite.

SECOND MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

E. F. Branham,	H. Clinton,
Daniel Campbell,	Isaac Chapin,
Andrew Nelson,	O. Oaks,
Charles Hutchins,	Moses Hutchins,
Gilbert Jackson,	Christopher Johnson,
Joseph T. Riggs,	George S. Sholes, Jr.,
James Nelson,	W. W. Hunter.

THIRD MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

Albert W. Angier,	J. H. Bradshaw,
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William Foster,	Lorain Johnson,
John Peterson,	Felix Stark,
Albert Taylor,	Jerome Todd,
	William Willis.

FOURTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

Capt. F. V. DeCoster,	L. D. Allen,
Capt. C. H. Stinchfield,	S. D. L. Baldwin,
Daniel Butler,	A. C. Lawrence,
Washington S. Cates,	Seth Nichols,
Michael McCann,	Thomas Fallon,
James W. Dunn,	William H. Hall,
John Fallon,	Dudley Taylor,
Daniel Rhodes,	Joel Taylor,
Augustus Whitney,	C. G. Peabody,
	C. M. F. Hutchins.

FIFTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

Surgeon V. P. Kennedy,	R. Bogusrode,
	Benjamin Pottle.

SIXTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

Paul Mattson,	August Williams,
Ole Peterson,	Paul Paulson,
	John Johnson.

SEVENTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

E. Reiff,	Emanuel Reiff.
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EIGHTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

James Murphy,	O. Olson.
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TENTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

A. Oleson,	K. Larson.
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SIXTEENTH WISCONSIN INFANTRY.

Azro B. Hoyt.

HATCH'S INDEPENDENT BATTALION.

Cap. G. C. Whitecomb,	T. Grogton,
William P. Bennett,	Charles Maybee,
Thomas Grayson,	Frank Howe,
Henry S. Howe,	Charles Peabody,
Emanuel Reef,	J. B. Salisbury,
E. N. Eastman,	W. S. Winston.

BRACKETT'S BATTALION MOUNTED RANGERS.

Edward Evans, W. P. Burnett,
 Wm. M. Campbell, E. A. Campbell,
 Samuel Hutchins, Patrick McKenney,
 G. R. Page, Peter Stearn,
 John Wigle.

FIRST MINNESOTA CAVALRY.

John Wigle.

SECOND MINNESOTA CAVALRY.

William Branham, Freeman G. Gould,
 J. B. Atkinson, James Deerey,
 Jasper Fischer, Michael J. Flynn,
 Egidon Moers, William Koch,
 Maximilian Koch, G. R. Page,
 Jacob Reef, Peter Stearn,
 Carl Schultz, C. Gould,
 William Caswell, John Fitzgerald,
 William M. Campbell, E. A. Campbell,
 Even Evenson, William Heath,
 Henry Luton, G. W. P. Little,
 Andrew Larson, H. Mickelson,
 Samuel Hutchins, Jerome Rogers,
 Thomas Armstrong, Daniel B. Hoyt,
 Otho Campbell, William Armstrong,
 Knute Haverson.

FIRST MINNESOTA HEAVY ARTILLERY.

Capt. J. B. Atkinson, Louis Koch,
 John Angier, Henry Johnson.

FIRST INDEPENDENT COMPANY OF SCOUTS.

Albert DeLong, J. A. Brink.



CHAPTER IV.

POLITICAL.

THE political history of Meeker county is more fully and authentically shown by giving the vote of the county during the various years, than by any other manner.

The county has been Republican nearly

every campaign since its organization in State and National politics, yet on local issues it has varied considerably, and many from the other tickets have captured the coveted offices from the republican nominees through personal popularity or other causes. In this connection is presented an abstract of the vote at every general election held in Meeker county, as far as could be ascertained from the records in the court house and files of newspapers. The vote for some years in the early part of the county's history are entirely wanting and a most diligent research among the papers and books of the county fails to find any trace of them.

Election, October 13, 1857.

Member of the Council.	
Daniel Bassett.....	38— 38
Members of the House of Representatives.	
Otis Bradford.....	93—
John W. Griswold.....	92
J. M. Spear.....	33
County Commissioner.	
Freeman L. Gould.....	95— 55
A. D. Pierce.....	40
County Treasurer.	
J. A. Stanton.....	95— 54
I. C. Delamater.....	41
Sheriff.	
C. T. Jewitt.....	92— 50
H. G. O. Thoms.....	43
District Attorney.	
Wm. Richards.....	93— 57
M. Warren.....	36
W. Warren.....	1
Probate Judge.	
J. W. Griswold.....	55
Coroner.	
J. Teachout.....	73— 40
John Heath.....	33

Election, November 6, 1860.

President.	
Abraham Lincoln, Republican.....	166— 74
Stephen A. Douglas, Democrat.....	83
John C. Breckinridge, Southern Democrat.....	9

The balance of the vote for this year is entirely wanting in the county records, nor can it be procured in any way.

Election, November 4, 1862.

[There were but two polling places in Meeker county, one at Kingston and the other at the stockade at Forest City, the county being depopulated by the Indian massacre and scare.]

Member of Congress.	
Ignatius Donnelly.....	38— 7
W. J. Cullen.....	31
State Senator.	
Chas. A. Warner.....	34— 3
I. H. Stevens.....	31
Representatives.	
B. G. Lee.....	33
A. C. Smith.....	32
C. F. Davis.....	32
Joseph Weyman.....	5
Register of Deeds.	
T. H. Skinner.....	37— 14
T. C. Jewett.....	23
Clerk of the District Court.	
J. M. Harvey.....	26— 25
T. H. Skinner.....	1
County Auditor.	
J. M. Harvey.....	66— 66
Sheriff.	
J. B. Atkinson.....	37— 7
Milton Gordon.....	30
County Attorney.	
A. C. Smith.....	23— 23
Coroner.	
John Heath.....	34— 34

Election, November 3, 1863.

No general election was held this year in Meeker county, the inhabitants not having sufficiently recovered from the effects of the Indian outbreak to give attention to politics. Meetings were held at Forest City and at Kingston, and several officers were subsequently installed, in accordance with the sentiment of the people, as manifested at the meetings.

Election, November 8, 1864.

President.	
Abraham Lincoln, R.....	115 31
George B. McClellan, D.....	84
Member of Congress.	
Ignatius Donnelly, R.....	115 32
John M. Gillman, D.....	83
State Senator.	
G. D. George.....	113— 28
I. I. Lewis.....	85

Representatives.	
C. F. Davis.....	112— 24
Henry Hill.....	111— 26
F. A. Renz.....	111— 27
M. W. Piper.....	88
John Hein.....	85
Gustave A. Ruckoldt.....	84
County Auditor.	
Charles E. Cutts.....	92— 2
Mark W. Piper.....	90
Register of Deeds.	
E. H. Whitney.....	89— 9
Hamlet Stevens.....	74
M. W. Piper.....	4
J. H. Harvey.....	2
Sheriff.	
George Sholes, Jr.....	101— 31
William Richardson.....	70
County Attorney.	
Mark Warren.....	69— 69
Coroner.	
Ole Halverson Ness.....	70— 70

Election, November 7, 1865.

Governor.	
William R. Marshall, R.....	105— 13
Henry M. Rice, D.....	92
Representatives.	
Lewis Harrington.....	102
D. E. King.....	102
E. F. Lewis.....	84
J. S. Telford.....	82
D. W. Johns.....	80
C. W. Griggs.....	78
C. F. Warner.....	19
County Treasurer.	
Jesse V. Branham, Sr.....	97— 22
Chester D. Hill.....	75
Register of Deeds.	
J. M. Harvey.....	111— 39
W. H. Dart.....	72
County Auditor.	
Jesse V. Branham, Jr.....	101— 18
J. B. Atkinson.....	83
Judge of Probate.	
C. B. Jordan.....	45— 2
J. M. Harvey.....	43
Clerk of District Court.	
J. M. Harvey.....	103— 20
J. E. Warren.....	83
Sheriff.	
Henderson Angier.....	88
George S. Sholes, Jr.....	88
County Attorney.	
A. C. Smith.....	40— 40

Election, November 6, 1866.

Member of Congress.	
Ignatius Donnelly, R.....	299— 157
William Colville, D.....	142
State Senator.	
H. L. Gordon.....	298— 153
W. T. Bonniwell.....	145
Representatives.	
D. E. King.....	308
P. W. Savage.....	299
George DeFler.....	140
Edward A. Campbell.....	139
County Auditor.	
Jesse V. Branham, Jr.....	292— 142
M. W. Piper.....	150
Register of Deeds.	
John Blackwell.....	280— 121
James M. Harvey.....	159
Probate Judge.	
C. B. Jordan.....	298— 154
Thaddeus R. Webb.....	144
Sheriff.	
Orrin Whitney.....	300— 300
Court Commissioner.	
J. B. Atkinson.....	117— 117
County Attorney.	
Thos. S. Brown.....	248— 226
A. C. Smith.....	22
Surveyor.	
W. H. Greenleaf.....	300— 300
Coroner.	
S. Y. Gordon.....	293— 146
H. G. O. Thoms.....	147

Election, November 5, 1867.

Governor.	
William R. Marshall, R.....	403— 183
Chas E. Flandrau, D.....	220
State Senator.	
A. C. Smith.....	210— 210
Representatives.	
J. B. Salisbury.....	361
Lewis Harrington.....	384
M. V. Cochran.....	211
M. W. Piper.....	222
County Treasurer.	
J. V. Branham, Sr.....	380— 148
Andrew Elofson.....	232
Clerk of the District Court.	
John Blackwell.....	400— 188
E. A. Evans.....	212
Sheriff.	
A. A. Sanford.....	399— 179
H. G. O. Thoms.....	220
Judge of Probate.	
Harry Wilson.....	398— 185
James B. Atkinson.....	213

County Attorney.

Harry Wilson.....	357— 185
A. C. Smith.....	172

Election, November 3, 1868.

President.

U. S. Grant, R.....	600— 315
Horatio Seymour, D.....	285

Member of Congress.

C. C. Andrews, R.....	459— 168
E. M. Wilson.....	291
Ignatius Donnelly.....	133

State Senator.

Dana E. King, R.....	539— 203
Mark W. Piper, D.....	336

Representatives.

W. W. Patterson, R.....	592— 202
Daniel Pyle, R.....	592— 204
Eli E. Lewis, D.....	289
Ashley C. Riggs, D.....	288

County Auditor.

Jesse V. Branham, Jr.....	531— 199
Hamlet Stevens.....	332

Register of Deeds.

John Blackwell.....	603— 325
H. L. Smith.....	278

Probate Judge.

John M. Waldron.....	570— 268
James Thoms.....	302

County Attorney.

Henry Hill.....	592— 592
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Surveyor.

William H. Greenleaf.....	590— 590
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Coroner.

Ole Halverson Ness.....	591— 302
M. J. Flynn.....	289

Election, November 2, 1869.

Governor.

Horace Austin, R.....	630— 336
Geo. L. Otis, D.....	294

Daniel Cobb, P.....	8
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Representatives.

A. H. Reed.....	627— 346
Burroughs Abbott.....	624— 344
A. G. Sexton.....	281
Albert Sperry.....	280

County Treasurer.

Henry Hill.....	500— 86
Hamlet Stevens.....	414

Sheriff.

William M. Campbell.....	493— 94
Samuel G. Gordon.....	399

County Attorney.

Chas. B. Howe.....	No opposition.
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Coroner.	
William Matheny. No opposition.	
On the question of removal of the county seat to Litchfield:	
For the removal.....	508— 89
Against the removal.....	419

Election, November 5, 1872.

President.	
U. S. Grant, R.....	908— 532
Horace Greeley, D.....	476
Members of Congress.	
John T. Averill.....	881— 383
George L. Becker.....	498
State Senator.	
Chas. E. Cutts.....	809— 234
Charles B. Howell.....	575
Representatives.	
William Greenleaf.....	829— 284
Dillon O'Brien.....	545
County Auditor.	
John Blackwell.....	896— 327
Jesse V. Braulham, Jr.....	469
Register of Deeds.	
N. A. Viren.....	934— 483
John W. McKeen.....	451
County Attorney.	
C. H. Strobeck.....	915— 475
Francis Belfoy.....	440
Judge of Probate.	
F. V. DeCoster.....	817— 291
E. A. Campbell.....	526
County Surveyor.	
L. E. Dudley.....	919— 455
Asa Garland.....	464
Coroner.	
John A. Quick.....	850— 322
H. F. Edmund.....	524
Henry Clay.....	4

Election, November 4, 1873.

Governor.	
C. K. Davis, R.....	839— 420
A. Barton, D.....	419
County Treasurer.	
Amos N. Fosen.....	681— 108
Hamlet Stevens.....	573
Sheriff.	
N. J. March.....	726— 190
Geo. W. Brower.....	457
H. M. Angier.....	79
Court Commissioners.	
O. H. Campbell.....	822— 394
H. C. Bull.....	428
Representative.	
Andrew Nelson.....	787— 335
Orrin Whitney.....	452

Election, November 3, 1874.

Member of Congress.	
Eugene M. Wilson.....	875— 151
William S. King.....	724
State Senator.	
Andrew Nelson.....	798— 14
J. M. Waldron.....	784
Representative.	
N. C. Hines.....	731— 52
L. G. Pendergast.....	679
W. W. Hobbs.....	168
County Auditor.	
Hamlet Stevens.....	937— 274
John Waller.....	663
Register of Deeds.	
N. A. Viren.....	1582— 1582
Judge of Probate.	
John Blackwell.....	923— 254
S. A. Plumley.....	669
County Attorney.	
E. A. Campbell.....	898— 227
C. H. Strobeck.....	671
County Commissioner.	
J. H. Bacon.....	1588— 1588
Coroner.	
Oliver Rasmick.....	881— 164
J. A. Quick.....	717

Election, November 2, 1875.

Governor.	
J. S. Pillsbury, R.....	720— 55
D. L. Buell, D.....	665
Representative.	
C. E. Cutts.....	704— 15
V. P. Kennedy.....	689
County Treasurer.	
Amos N. Fosen.....	759— 135
M. J. Flynn.....	624
Clerk of the District Court.	
S. W. Leavitt.....	726— 57
J. Q. A. Braden.....	669
Sheriff.	
N. J. March.....	712— 49
P. Ekstrom.....	673
Judge of Probate.	
S. A. Plumley.....	721— 83
N. C. Martin.....	638
Coroner.	
L. E. Dudley.....	747— 82
L. P. Foster.....	655

Election, November 7, 1876.

President.	
R. B. Hayes, R.....	1211— 381
S. J. Tilden, D.....	487
Peter Cooper, G.....	343

State Senator.	
John M. Waldron, R.....	1216— 409
V. P. Kennedy, D.....	554
A. C. Smith, G.....	253
Representative.	
Louis Rudberg, R.....	1201— 417
J. N. McDonald, D.....	405
T. R. Webb, G.....	379
County Auditor.	
Hamlet Stevens.....	1034— 76
A. T. Koerner.....	958
Register of Deeds.	
N. A. Viren.....	1224— 460
G. W. Jordan.....	458
A. P. Ornsdorff.....	306
County Attorney.	
C. H. Strobeek.....	777— 66
E. A. Campbell.....	603
J. B. Atkinson.....	108
County Surveyor.	
L. E. Dudley.....	1087— 162
J. B. Salisbury.....	817
J. B. Atkinson.....	108

Election, November 5, 1877.

Governor.	
John S. Pillsbury, R.....	832— 2
W. D. Banning, D. and G.....	826
Austin Willey, P.....	4
County Treasurer.	
Amos N. Fosen.....	840— 76
W. H. Dart.....	764
Sheriff.	
P. Ekstrom.....	916— 181
N. J. March.....	735
Superintendent of Schools.	
J. W. Gordon.....	707— 136
W. E. Cathcart.....	571
R. R. Beecham.....	376
Judge of Probate.	
N. C. Martin.....	883— 111
S. A. Plumley.....	772
Coroner.	
Nels Elofson.....	866— 85
M. Baldwin.....	397
G. O. Trow.....	384
Court Commissioners.	
H. L. Smith.....	825— 14
E. P. Peterson.....	517
J. B. Atkinson.....	294

Election, November 5, 1875.

State Senator.	
C. E. Cutts.....	866— 37
V. P. Kennedy.....	829

Representative.	
W. M. Campbell.....	785— 27
Joseph Hubbard.....	758
R. K. Beecham.....	133
County Auditor.	
G. B. Phelps.....	963— 230
H. S. Branham.....	733
Register of Deeds.	
Aug. T. Koerner.....	914— 144
N. A. Viren.....	770
County Attorney.	
S. A. Plumley.....	904— 129
L. C. Spooner.....	775
County Surveyor.	
L. E. Dudley.....	901— 113
J. P. Mann.....	788

Election, November 4, 1879.

Governor.	
John S. Pillsbury, R.....	870— 160
William Meighen, G.....	710
Edmund Rice, D.....	363
W. W. Satterlee, P.....	14
County Treasurer.	
August Palm.....	1018— 73
A. H. Lofstrum.....	707
J. B. Atkinson.....	238
Clerk of the District Court.	
S. W. Leavitt.....	1062— 167
W. D. Joubert.....	590
N. Y. Taylor.....	305
Superintendent of Common Schools.	
J. W. Wright.....	943— 139
J. W. Gordon.....	804
Joseph Weymer.....	210
Sheriff.	
P. Ekstrom.....	1263— 573
L. D. Marshall.....	571
J. B. Hatch.....	119
Judge of Probate.	
N. C. Martin.....	1038— 118
W. L. Van Enian.....	693
A. C. Smith.....	227
Coroner.	
J. A. Quick.....	950— 221
William Christoph.....	729
A. Fryberger.....	278

Election, November 2, 1880.

President.	
James A. Garfield, R.....	1335— 373
Winfield S. Hancock, D.....	563
James B. Weaver, G.....	399
Member of Congress.	
W. D. Washburn, R.....	1292— 299
H. H. Sibley, D.....	664
Ebenezer Ayers, G.....	329

State Senator.

W. M. Campbell.....	981—	17
V. P. Kennedy.....	964	
V. H. Harris.....	336	

Representative.

O. M. Linnell.....	1120—	497
Ole Johnson.....	623	
A. D. Ross.....	523	

County Auditor.

G. B. Phelps.....	981—	17
Daniel Pineo.....	964	
Hamlet Stevens.....	336	

Register of Deeds.

A. T. Koerner.....	1250—	230
James Kline.....	1020	

County Attorney.

W. S. Van Enian.....	1203—	147
L. C. Spooner.....	1056	

County Surveyor.

L. E. Dudley.....	1236—	188
J. B. Salisbury.....	1048	

Court Commissioner.

F. V. DeCoster.....	1183—	149
E. P. Peterson.....	1034	

Election, November 8, 1881.

Governor.

L. F. Hubbard, R.....	1061—	306
C. H. Roberts, D.....	459	
R. W. Johnson.....	296	

County Treasurer.

A. Palm.....	767—	144
N. W. Hawkinson.....	623	
Amos N. Fosen.....	376	

Sheriff.

P. Ekstrom.....	969—	134
N. J. March.....	731	
James McMahon.....	104	

Judge of Probate.

N. C. Martin.....	1035—	273
J. T. Alley.....	662	
J. B. Atkinson.....	100	

County Attorney.

E. A. Campbell.....	960—	184
S. A. Plumley.....	776	

Superintendent of Common Schools.

J. W. Wright.....	971—	136
J. Y. Winings.....	835	

Coroner.

J. A. Quick.....	942—	325
E. Hilderbrandt.....	617	
William Christoph.....	237	

Election, November 7, 1882.

Member of Congress.

H. B. Strait.....	1385—	587
C. P. Adams.....	438	
Porter Martin.....	360	

State Senator.

W. H. Greenleaf.....	1100—	15
William M. Campbell.....	1085	

Representative.

O. M. Linnell.....	1108—	54
Olaf Peterson.....	1054	

County Auditor.

George P. Phelps.....	1297—	406
Andrew Rowland.....	891	

Register of Deeds.

Aug. T. Koerner.....	1361—	560
H. W. Adlerbjelke.....	801	

Election, November 6, 1883.

Governor.

A. Biermann, D.....	1123—	44
L. F. Hubbard, R.....	1026	
Chas. E. Holt, P.....	53	

County Treasurer.

N. W. Hawkinson.....	1160—	97
A. Nelson Fosen.....	1063	

Clerk of the District Court.

J. E. Upham.....	1292—	526
C. D. Brown.....	766	

Sheriff.

Daniel Flynn.....	1019—	239
P. Ekstrom.....	780	
John Knight.....	437	

Judge of Probate.

N. C. Martin.....	2192—	2160
F. H. Wickstrand.....	32	

County Attorney.

E. P. Peterson.....	1201—	183
C. H. Strobeck.....	1018	

Court Commissioner.

F. V. DeCoster.....	1211—	221
J. B. Atkinson.....	727	
A. Wall.....	263	

Coroner.

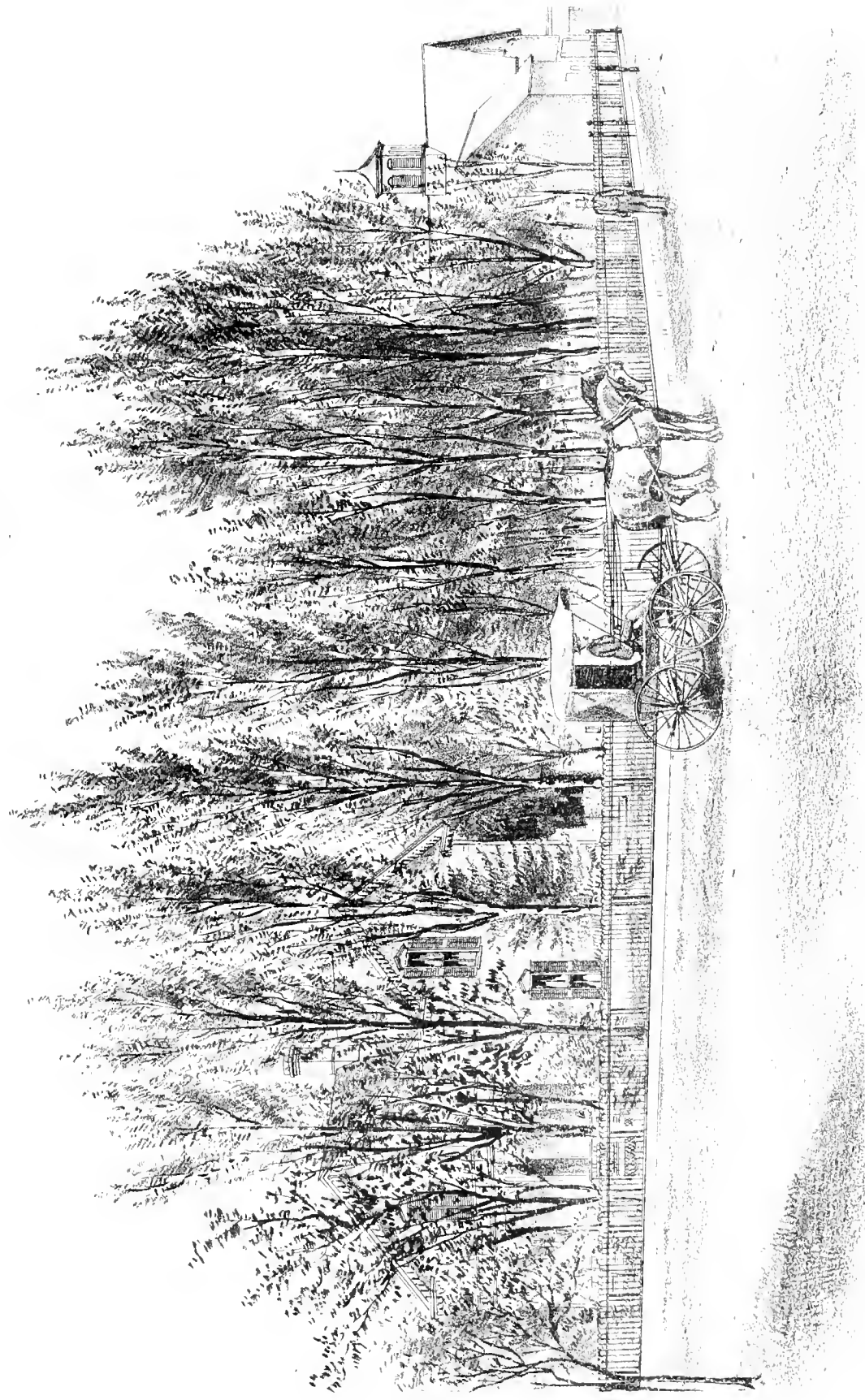
E. Kimball.....	1215—	205
William Christoph.....	1010	

Superintendent.

W. E. Cathcart.....	571	
J. W. Gordon.....	707—	136
A. J. Garland.....	238	

Representative.

W. M. Campbell.....	841—	46
L. Rudberg.....	419	
R. K. Beecham.....	376	



RESIDENCE OF HON. ANDREW NELSON, LITCHFIELD, MINN

Election, November 4, 1884.

President.	
James G. Blaine, R.....	1456— 184
Grover Cleveland, D.....	860
B. F. Butler, G. and L.....	294
John P. St. John, P.....	118
Member of Congress.	
Horace B. Strait, R.....	1448— 165
Ignatius Donnelly, D. and G.....	1173
I. C. Stearns, P.....	100
Representative.	
M. J. Flynn.....	1380— 45
Even Evenson.....	1220
C. S. Clark.....	115
County Auditor.	
G. B. Phelps.....	1857— 981
E. Kimball.....	876
Register of Deeds.	
N. A. Viren.....	1566— 418
T. J. Soule.....	904
A. P. Onsdorf.....	244
County Surveyor.	
J. B. Salisbury.....	2732—2732

Election, November 2, 1886.

Governor.	
A. R. McGill, R.....	1377— 61
A. A. Ames, D.....	1316
James E. Child, P.....	113
Member of Congress.	
B. B. Herbert, R.....	1416— 13
J. L. McDonald, D.....	1298
E. B. Lathrop, P.....	105
State Senator.	
John S. Shields.....	1007— 53
O. H. Campbell.....	954
Hamlet Stevens.....	827
Representatives.	
Even Evenson.....	1810— 814
Martin Paulson.....	996
County Auditor.	
Ambrose Walls.....	1467— 136
T. H. Pendergast.....	1331
County Treasurer.	
N. W. Hawkinson.....	1430— 63
Rasmus Nelson.....	1367
Register of Deeds.	
N. A. Viren.....	1743— 697
John Rodange.....	1046
Clerk of the District Court.	
J. E. Upham.....	1915—1049
J. B. Hatch.....	866

Sheriff.	
H. M. Hohn.....	1162— 64
Daniel Flynn.....	1098
J. W. Johnson.....	552
Superintendent of Schools.	
T. J. Soule.....	1473— 105
J. W. Wright.....	1368
Judge of Probate.	
Chas. H. Strobeck.....	1381— 299
C. M. Gumaelius.....	1082
County Attorney.	
J. M. Russell.....	1491— 172
E. P. Peterson.....	1319
Court Commissioner.	
H. S. McMonagle.....	1601— 412
F. V. DeCoster.....	1189
County Surveyor.	
J. B. Salisbury.....	2793—2793
Coroner.	
E. Kimball.....	1727— 651
James Maher.....	1076
Commissioners.	
V. H. Harris, 1st dist.....	397— 163
Andrew Nelson, 1st dist.....	234
John Blomburg, 2d dist.....	401— 222
Daniel Jackman, 2d dist.....	179
Peter Sangren, 3d dist.....	451— 243
Harrison Fuller, 3d dist.....	208
William Abbott, 4th dist.....	213— 36
C. H. Atkinson, 4th dist.....	177
N. C. Caswell, 5th dist.....	442— 442



CHAPTER V.

JOURNALISM AND EDUCATION.

TWO important and potent factors in the civilization and development of any community are its educational and newspaper facilities. In these respects Meeker county is not behind her sister counties, having been provided liberally as to both these engines of civilization.

THE PRESS.

The pioneer journal was the *Meeker County News*, which was established at Forest City in 1868, and was published in that place by Frank Belfoy until the fall of 1869, when he removed the office and material to the new town of Litchfield. It was a sprightly,

newsy, republican sheet, and well edited. It was carried on by Mr. Belfoy in the latter town until the fall of 1874, when the subscription book and good-will of the journal were purchased by Daggett & Joubert, and the paper consolidated with the *Ledger*, press and material being sold to go to Hutchinson, by Mr. Belfoy. The press was the first that was ever brought to the State of Minnesota.

In the fall of 1870, H. G. Rising commenced the publication of a newspaper, known as the *Litchfield Republican*, and continued its issue until the autumn of 1871, when he removed it to Glenwood, the county seat of Pope county, west of this place. It was, as its name implies, republican in politics, and was a good local sheet.

The *Litchfield Ledger* was established in 1872, the first issue bearing date of April 30. It was an exponent of the principles formulated by the republican party, was a seven-column folio, and was edited and published by Daggett & Joubert. It was an able and spicy local paper, and attained, from its first inception, considerable influence. In the latter part of 1874 the firm purchased the business of the *News*, and consolidated the two journals under the name of *News-Ledger*, and the paper was issued weekly by Daggett & Joubert under the double title. In October, 1876, Mr. Daggett was taken from this world by death, after which W. D. Joubert ran the paper alone until six months later, when Frank Belfoy brought a half-interest, and the firm of Belfoy & Joubert was formed, and carried on the business until August, 1881, when Mr. Belfoy, also, died, and four months afterwards the interest belonging to him was purchased by his surviving partner. Under the sole management of Mr. Joubert the *News-Ledger* has continued until the present day, growing in influence and prosperity every year. Since the establishment of the paper five of the apprentices in the office have become full-

fledged editors, after having learned the principles and practice of the "Art preservative" in this school. Four of them are now running papers in the State of Minnesota, namely—S. W. Frasier, of the *Brown's Valley Reporter*; V. Gordon, of the *Inter-Lake Tribune*; F. E. Joubert, of the *Wheaton Gazette*; and N. P. Oleson, who is publishing a Swedish paper in Minneapolis. The other is M. O. Cathcart, one of the *Litchfield Ledger* staff.

The *Rambler*, a small humorous journal, first saw the light in 1874, and owed its inception to two of the compositors in the *Ledger* office, J. D. Hayford and N. P. Olson. For a few months, while its existence lasted, it afforded considerable amusement.

The *Litchfield Independent* was started in 1876 by a stock company, as an exponent of the National greenback party. Among those who owned stock in it were W. M. Campbell, E. A. Campbell, Dr. V. P. Kennedy, A. Palm, P. Ekstrom, and the editors, H. C. Martin and A. Sanders. A short time after the first issue, H. I. Peterson purchased the interest of Sanders, and the firm of H. C. Martin & Co., was formed, who acquired the interests of the other owners. Two years later E. P. Peterson bought out Mr. Martin and the firm name and style changed to E. P. and H. I. Peterson. These gentlemen carried on the paper until March, 1881, when H. I. Peterson, the present proprietor, purchased the interest of his brother and has continued at the head of the journal ever since. He is a good newspaper man, a pungent writer, and the paper, under his management, is deservedly popular.

The *Rathhuggaren*, a Swedish radical journal, was established by Hans H. Widsstrand, in 1880, as a monthly paper, and for a period of a few months operated in this locality, but its publication was finally suspended.

The *Litchfield Review* made its first ap-

pearance on the 5th of July, 1881, with the names of the firm of Lewis A. and Fred. A. Pier at the head of its columns as editors and proprietors. It was at that time an independent, five-column quarto sheet, but is now a six-column quarto, just as non-partizan as ever, and an excellent local paper. April 1, 1887, the junior partner disposed of his interest in the business to Frank H. Haven, and the firm of Pier & Haven formed, who have controlled the management and revenue of the office ever since. July 1, 1887, they purchased a Shipman one-horse-power engine, which furnishes the power to run their presses, etc. Besides his labors upon this journal, Mr. Pier holds and occupies the editorial tripod on the *Christian Gleaner*, a monthly paper published at Minneapolis, devoted to the interests of the Christian Church of Minnesota, of which denomination he is a minister.

The *Svenska Folkets Allahanda*, an independent Swedish paper, was established in 1882, by Gisslo & Peterson, and published by them in Litchfield in that language for about eighteen months, when it was removed to Minneapolis.

EDUCATIONAL.

Perhaps in no other direction is the material development and progress of the county better shown than in the rapid and enormous increase in the educational facilities afforded the rising generation. A careful study of the statistics furnished from the official papers will convince the most skeptical reader that in this respect Meeker county has made giant strides toward universal education.

In 1861 it is shown by the records there were within the bounds of the county but 245 persons of a school age, or between the years of five and twenty-one, while in 1868 there were 1,426, and in 1887 these had increased to 4,204 scholars entitled to their proportion of the school apportionment.

The whole number of schools in 1861 is

reported as being 11, which in 1868 had risen to 35, and now in the present year, 1888, there are 81 organized school districts in the county, having some 77 school-houses erected and in use. In 1861 there were but 4 school-houses within the county limits, and in 1868 there were 12.

In 1861 it required 8 teachers to manage the schools; in 1868, 15 were necessary; while now 90 are required for the schools taught in the winter, and 82 for the summer schools.

In 1861 the salaries paid to teachers aggregated only \$343.80; in 1868 the sum was \$1,477, but in 1887 it took \$22,392 to liquidate the indebtedness of the districts for the same purpose.

The value of the school edifices in 1861 is recorded as having been \$345, and in 1868 \$2,270. In 1887 the same class of property represented a value of \$66,708.

In the early records of the county there is no mention of any school apparatus or school libraries, and the furniture in use in those days was of a very rude and primitive character, while the annual report of T. J. Soule, the efficient county superintendent, for 1887, shows that the value of school apparatus, libraries and furniture in use in the various schools of the county was \$9,172, being, alone, about four times the value of all the school property in the county twenty years previous.

The average per cent. of attendance to the whole number of pupils in 1868 was 31.5, while in 1887 the percentage had risen to 61.4; the difference being partly owing to the increased facilities, but more to the growing interest in educational matters by the citizens, and a more intense desire on the part of the children of this generation for the advantages of an education, for they can see that in this day and age the man who has the greatest amount of knowledge has the greatest chance for success in life.

The whole number of trees planted by the

pupils of the various schools in the county on Arbor Day, 1887, was, according to official sources, 2,202.

Take it altogether, but few counties in Minnesota can make a better showing in the matter of education than Mecker county. The interest manifested by the people, the

high grade of teachers employed, and the general excellent feeling throughout the community in regard to school affairs, is rapidly and clearly placing the county at the head as one of the most enlightened and progressive subdivisions of the State.





Meeker County During the Massacre.

CHAPTER VI.

THE INDIAN MASSACRE.



THE necessary hardships and trials of the pioneers of this county was added the terrible experience of Indian atrocity and fiendishness. By the first settlers here, in the midst of their hard struggle with nature, was heard, in 1862, the thrilling war whoop of the red savage and the sharp crack of his rifle, as its ball sped to the doom of the peaceful farmer. The tragical episode of the Indian massacre of that year commenced

within the limits of Meeker county, and has impressed itself indelibly, in letters of fire and blood, with fearful distinctness, upon the pages of its annals and in the hearts and minds of the survivors of that fearful ordeal. It is the task of the historian to trace the event in all its detail, and endeavor to reconcile some of the conflicting statements received.

In order to have a full understanding of the causes that led to the outbreak, it is necessary to give in brief the complaints of

the tribes, and other matters connected therewith, compiled from the most authentic State and United States documents.

By the treaty of Traverse de Sioux, between the United States Government and the Sissetons and Wapaton, dated July 23, 1851, \$275,000 were to be paid to their chiefs, and the further sum of \$30,000, was to be expended for the benefit of the tribes. By the treaty of Mendota, dated August 5, 1851, the Medawakantons and Wapakutas were to receive the sum of \$200,000, to be paid to their chiefs, and \$30,000 to the improvement fund. This sum of \$535,000, the Indians claimed, and perhaps truly, that they had never received, except probably a small amount expended on the improvements on the reservations. This evident breach of treaty obligations, caused the Indians to express their discontent quite freely to the Government agents. In 1857, Major Kintzing Pritchette, sent out by the Department, made a report, in which he says:

“The complaint which runs through all of their councils, points to the imperfect performance or non-fulfillment of treaty stipulations. Whether these are well or ill-founded, it is not my premise to discuss. That such belief prevails among them, impairing their confidence and good faith in the Government, can not be questioned.”

Judge Young, who was commissioned to investigate certain charges brought against

the Governor of Minnesota, in connection with the disposal of large amounts of money, due to the Indians and paid out under his direction, in his report, shows quite conclusively that some \$320,000 was paid by the Governor to Hugh Tyler, for the savages, but a large proportion clung to the fingers of that gentleman, and the balance was paid out in accordance with the dictates of the post traders, and without any regard to the wishes of the annuitants. Peculation and chicanery were rife in all transactions of the Indian Department and its agents at the time, and this was no exception to the general rule. The Senate of the United States exonerated Governor Ramsey, of Minnesota, from any blame in the business, but still the Indians murmured about their treatment. It is very evident that there was some truth in their complaints, but wily men among them, who had certain ends to gain, stirred up the feeling and intensified it in every savage breast. When they wanted an excuse, Indian subtlety never lacked one.

From the time when the Government desisted from the pursuit of Inkpaduta, the infamous author of the Spirit Lake massacre, in Dickinson county, Iowa, in 1857, considerable feeling was manifested by the Sioux who thought that the action of the United States arose from fear of the savages, and these feelings were fomented and increased with insidious care by Little Crow, and other chiefs. This famous chief was a second edition of Tecumseh, on a smaller scale, and had formed the scheme of driving the whites from the territory of Minnesota, and enjoying it themselves, by a preconcerted massacre of all the settlers by a simultaneous outbreak. Maturing his plans with a care worthy of a great general, by means of a secret organization, known as the "Soldier's Lodge," he adopted means for the carrying out of all the arrangements. It was a deep-laid conspiracy, and but for the premature action of a few

braves would have been more direful in its consequences and wide-spread in its effect.

On the 3d of August, 1862, a memorable council was held at the village of Little Crow, near the Lower Agency. Little Crow was present and was not wanting in the ability to meet the momentous occasion with a wily subtlety. The proceedings were entirely secret, but some of the details have since been divulged, and it is now known that then were matured the details of a conspiracy, which for atrocity has scarcely ever been equaled. Little Crow said, upon that occasion, that in this way they could get all the land back; that the whites would want their lands again, and that the Sioux would get double annuities. But the causes that led to the outbreak are of so complex a nature that but few have fully mastered them, and hardly any two people agree on all points on this head, and therefore, it suffices to give the above account, which is a simple statement of what is known and fully agreed on by all, and not enter into a closer investigation as to the details, which are given with regard to their general effect in the State at large in the history of Minnesota, in this volume. We will, however, go at length into the account of its local annals within the bounds of Meeker county.

We now come to the terrible massacre itself, the fierce blow that fell, like a lightning flash from a cloudless sky, with such suddenness and force upon an almost unarmed and unsuspecting border, crimsoning its beautiful fields with the life blood of the settlers, and firing the heavens with the lurid glare of their blazing homes. The survivors fleeing, filled with the nameless terror of such a moment, wandered around, often to fall before the deadly rifle or gleaming tomahawk of the ruthless and fierce nomadic Sioux, or to perish miserably of want and exposure on the broad prairies.

Although Little Crow, the chief mover of

the plot had ordered the simultaneous outbreak to take place on the first of September, wishing the whites to get in their grain, for it was harvesting time, and that the three regiments that had been raised to aid in the suppression of the rebellion but then, in this State, would be forwarded to the front. His able tactics, however, were thwarted by the action of some "bucks" who precipitated matters by the attack on the settlers of Meeker county. What was the reason for this premature movement will never be fully known, as many theories have been formed, and hardly two of them agree.

Rt. Rev. H. B. Whipple, Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota, gives the following account of the massacre at the Lower Agency and the causes that led to the outbreak, and it deserves preservation. It is given in this connection just as it was written, but not all, as much of it is irrelevant to our purpose. He says:

"The Sioux had been our friends, and for more than a quarter of a century had boasted that they had never taken the life of a white man. Our wretched Indian system was at its worst. It left wild men without government or personal rights of property, and by its almshouse system at every agency, was training up savage paupers. The Indians made bitter complaints of the treaty of Traverse de Sioux—that they did not receive the money promised to them, that they were not permitted to take the reserve agreed upon, that large claims were allowed, that when payment was made, it was delayed until they were starving, and their annuities were paid for food. In 1858 they sold 800,000 acres of land on the north side of their reserve, to procure additional means for civilization. This treaty had a provision that the Secretary of the Interior might use the avails of this purchase, and any of their moneys, as he deemed best for their interests, but that no debts should be allowed unless

they had been approved by the Indians in open council. No such council was ever held. There were councils of a few chiefs; one was held in our school-room, and Little Crow was one of the leaders in it. They waited four years, and the only thing they received for this valuable tract of land, was a few thousand dollars' worth of goods, among which were many dozens of Canadian belts. At our first meeting Wabasha said, 'Will you ask the Great Father what has become of our money? He would not lie to us. White men would not have a liar for their great chief. He says he would send the money—so many boxes. He probably started it, but the cars go so fast it has fallen off by the way. Tell him we are poor, and ask him to look it up.' Another chief, Wacouta, said, 'Our eyes have grown dim by looking so long for our money. Our old men would like to see it before they die.' Sometimes harder words were spoken with flashing eyes, and many young braves boasted they would never shake hands with a white man. The civil war was at its height, and up to this time the tide of victory seemed to be with the South. Pietorial papers lay on the counters of traders, and Indians believed that the South was victorious. About this time a company of Renville Rangers was organized by the agent, and many of its members were mixed bloods and Indians. The Indians said: 'The whites are all being killed, and now they come to us for help.' There were many darker stories told of which I will not speak. The Indians, with foolish bravado, began to boast that they could repossess their lands, and sweep the white man from their country. Most of the new settlers were very poor immigrants, upon whom the Indians looked down in contempt. The payment had always taken place in June. They came as usual—2,500 at the Lower Agency, and over 5,000 at the Upper Agency. Misses Catha-

rine and Elizabeth Beddle, Miss Caroline A. Harris, Miss Sarah A. Farnum, Mrs. Whipple and my son Charles had accompanied me to the Sioux Mission. We found everything unsettled, the air full of rumors, the Indians turbulent, restless, dissatisfied. Again and again the Indians asked me, 'When will we receive our payment? How much will we receive?' I invariably answered, 'You will receive \$20 each, and be paid very soon.' No one seemed to believe me. One day after my return from the Upper Agency, I said to a trader, 'Major Galbraith will be down to-day to make arrangements for payment.' He answered, 'Galbraith is a fool. The full payment will not be made. The money is gone; it has been spent for claims; we can not trust the Indians because they will have no money to pay us.' It filled me with sad forebodings. I believed Major Galbraith was an honest man, but here was a trader who claimed to know more about the payment than the agent. Each day there was some new dance or gathering, as if the Indians would crowd into weeks, all the savagery and heathenism of generations. The air was charged with elements which at any moment might carry desolation and death to the whole border. We left the Sioux country about the 10th of July, and went immediately to the Chippewa country. While at Crow Wing, a letter was brought, directed to care of Rev. E. S. Peake, for 'Hole-in-the-Day,' and marked 'immediate.' Hole-in-the-Day was absent, we called in his head warrior, and opened it. It was from Little Crow, the leader of the Sioux outbreak, and said, 'My Friend:—Some of your people have killed one of our civilized Indians. I tried to keep my men back as I agreed. I could not. They have gone. Look out. (Signed) Little Crow.' Whether an agreement had been made between them we do not know. We sent messengers to warn some Chippewas camped on the Crow

Wing river, and then went to St. Columba."

After detailing much of his trip and pointing out that a party of Sioux Indians were ahead of them bent on the murder of some Chippewa people, because a member of the latter tribe, as Little Crow had said, had murdered one of their people, the Bishop goes on to say:

"On our way home our Indians (Chippewas) said they had seen Sioux signs. We laughed at the idea that they could tell a Sioux moccasin track from the Ojibway. They insisted. Manitowaub threw himself on the ground and with a stick lifted each weed and spear of grass until he could trace a human step, and after hours he found the mark of a human foot in the sand. He showed us his moccasin and the mark in the sand, and said: 'That is Sioux!' The next day we found where the Sioux had camped, and the Indians told us about how many Sioux were in the party. They found a Sioux moccasin. The Indians were much excited and made a forced march to reach Gull Lake, and were rejoiced to find their people safe. Saturday we went from Crow Wing to St. Cloud and heard of this party of Sioux as being across the river near Winnebago prairie. That Sunday afternoon they reached Acton, and either for fear of being laughed at on their return home for their fruitless errand or from hatred of the whites, or because filled with malice and devilry, they murdered the family at Acton and then fled. They traveled all night and reached Little Crow's village early Monday, August 18. The Sioux have a Soldier's lodge, which decides all questions connected with war. The lodge was hastily convened, the story of Acton told, the certainty that troops would come to arrest the murderers. The spark had been laid to the train of powder, and it was settled that the whites should be massacred.

"About seven o'clock John Whipple, a stone mason, who was building our church,

stood by the door of the Mission house talking with Mr. Hinman. They heard the report of guns, and, looking toward the trading post of Myrick, saw a crowd of Indians firing into the store; others were running toward Forbes' and Roberts' stores armed. Shunkaska (White Dog) came running by. Mr. Hinman asked him what this meant. He answered, 'Go, go, the Indians are killing all the whites. I am going to Wabasha to see if I can not stop it.' Shunkaska was pale with terror. He was a civilized Indian—not a Christian. A few minutes after Little Crow came running by with other Indians. Hinman called him, but he refused to answer. They went to the Government barn, a little way from the Mission house, to take the Government horses, and were resisted by Wagner, the farmer, and his man, John Lamb. Crow said, 'Kill them,' and they were both killed. Mr. Hinman told Miss Emily West, a teacher in the Mission, that the Indians were killing the whites and they must flee. Mrs. Hinman was in Faribault. Mr. Hinman went to notify some neighbors. Miss West started for the ferry. On her way she met a woman and child, and advised them to go with her. They crossed the ferry and the broad valley beyond, and as they came to the top of the hill met three Indians, armed. As they saw Miss West the leader, a stranger to her, said, 'You belong to the Missionary?' She said, 'Yes.' He reached out his hand and shook hands, and said, 'Washta' (good). The poor woman with her reached out her hand. He refused it, and drew his knife and said, 'I will kill you.' Miss West said, 'No, she belongs to me.' The Indian laughed, as if it were strange that this single woman had a mother and child in her care, but Miss West persisted and the Indian said 'Washta.' He asked her where she was going. She pointed to a distant house. He said, 'No, we are going to kill those persons.' She said, 'Where

shall we go?' The Indians led them to the road, and said, 'This will bring you to the fort.'"

The outbreak commenced as mentioned by Bishop Whipple, in Meeker county, and it is now our duty to enter upon the narration of the events, both the massacre in Acton, and the subsequent perils, hairbreadth escapes, and labors of the settlers and soldiery in putting down the Indians during those trying times. As near as can be arrived at now, by an extensive and exhaustive research among all the papers, both State and otherwise, and personal interviews with many of the surviving citizens of the county, the facts are about as follows:

About eleven o'clock in the forenoon of Sunday, August 17, 1862, while the bright golden gleams of the summer sun poured down upon the lovely landscape in the wealth of its noontide splendor, and while from the throats of the feathered songsters of grove and prairie rose the glad hymns of peace and thanksgiving, six Indians, supposed to have been of Shakopee's band from the Lower Agency, red fiends with foul and deadly murder in their hearts, approached the house of Robinson Jones, which stood on the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 21, of Acton township. Mr. Jones kept a kind of frontier tavern and had for sale various staple articles of groceries, among which was the inevitable whisky, and besides attending to this business purchased or traded for furs, and carried on farming. The Indians came up to the house and demanded whisky of Mr. Jones, which he saw fit to refuse, and some words ensued and the savages became quite boisterous. Some little time after this Mr. Jones went over to the cabin of Howard Baker, leaving Miss Clara D. Wilson, a niece, in charge of the house, and a little boy, a half-brother of Clara and an adopted son of Mr. Jones about a couple years of age, lying on the bed. The

Indians, who had left the house some time before, followed after Mr. Jones, and four of them soon arrived at the house of Howard Baker, about three-quarters of a mile distant from Jones' house, and, sauntering leisurely up, bantered the men, Jones, Baker and Viranus Webster, who was an emigrant passing to the West, to shoot at a mark. After the savages had stayed in the house some fifteen or twenty minutes, the white men, taking down their guns, agreed to go outside and shoot with them. After a few minutes spent in this kind of sport, while the settlers were standing around, Mr. Baker made a trade with one of the redmen for his gun, the savage giving some three dollars difference between the weapons. Not suspecting any evil, and being entirely too trusting when an Indian was in the question, none of the three men reloaded their guns, an oversight for which they paid their lives. The savages, on the contrary, recharged their pieces in the doorway of the house, and about noon were joined by the two other Indians, who had been with them at Jones' cabin. The latter said that they were Sioux, and that he knew them all. Mrs. Howard Baker, one of the survivors, describes them as all being of middle age, one quite tall and one short, chubby and thick. The last two had on white men's coats, and one of the savages had three feathers in his cap and another two.

While they stood there one of the fiends raised his rifle to his shoulder and poured its leaden contents into the body of Mr. Jones, who fell. Mrs. Ann Baker and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Horace Baker, were standing in the doorway of the house and witnessed the cowardly murder, and when another of the savages took aim at the younger Mrs. Baker, her husband, with noble self-devotion, threw himself forward to shield her and received in his own body the bullet intended for his wife. Almost at the same instant

two more of the guns of the Indians blazed forth their death-dealing contents, and Webster and Mrs. Ann Baker fell to the ground. The latter had turned to run within the house after receiving the first shot and fell into the buttery, the other two Indians firing at her as she pitched forward. Mrs. Howard Baker, who had her infant child in her arms, in trying to get out of a window, fell down into the cellar, which saved her life. The last she saw was Mrs. Webster trying to pull the dead body of her husband into the house. Thus were four souls called to an account, cut off in the full prime of their life by the fiendish hand of ruthless murder, and thus was inaugurated the terrible massacre of that eventful year, that carried death and destruction into so many households throughout the State, and fear and panic over so vast an expanse of territory.

The report that this premature stroke in the massacre was the outgrowth of a drunken spree or broil has been so effectually disposed of that it is needless to dwell upon it in this connection.

After the dastardly attack upon and killing of the unarmed men and defenseless women, the same red devils returned to the cabin of Jones, and, in passing the house, one of them lifted his rifle, fired, and killed Clara Davis Wilson, who stood in plain sight in the room. They did not discover the little child nor enter the house. They then left the vicinity, taking the direction of the Beaver Creek settlement and the Lower Agency, leaving Acton about three o'clock in the afternoon. The incentive of this cruel outrage is sufficiently shown by the fact that no robbery took place, nor other damage being done except in the murder of these inoffensive settlers.

Mrs. Howard Baker, who was unhurt by her fall into the cellar, still had the presence of mind to remain quietly there until the murderers had gone. She finally emerged

from her place of concealment, and, before she left the house, was accosted by an Irishman, by the name of Cox, suspected of having been a spy of the redskins, and reputed to be crazy. She asked him to go with her to the settlement and help carry the baby, but he, with an incivility quite strange in one of the Celtic race, refused, saying, "the men are not dead but drunk, and in falling down have bumped their noses, which made them bleed." He, however, robbed the corpses of some \$50 or \$60 which was on their persons, and leaving the lone widow in her distress, with a total disregard for feeling or decency, took the road for the Lower Agency.

Mrs. Webster and Mrs. Baker, taking the latter's child in their arms, started alone for the county seat, Forest City. They stopped at the residence of John Blackwell, their nearest neighbor, but on their arrival there found that that gentleman and his family were absent. The two women then proceeded on their weary way, and soon reached the house of Nels Olson, who had a blacksmith's forge on his place and was employed at that business. From there Mrs. Baker went on to Forest City, which was some twelve miles from the scene of the massacre, and corroborated the account which had been given by Ole Ingeman, who had ridden into the town about six o'clock, and given the alarm to the settlers. The news spread throughout the country with amazing rapidity, and many were the parties who started out to inquire into the matter and investigate its truth, for the news was of so unwelcome a nature that many wished to disbelieve it.

During the week preceding the attack at the houses of Jones and Baker, the latter and Amos Nelson Fosen, now one of the prominent citizens of Meeker county, were cradling the wheat on the farm of Robinson Jones, but, as it was raining on that Saturday, Mr.

Fosen concluded that he would visit his own farm, which he had rented to Burger Anderson, and see how things were going on. Putting his idea into execution, he started with the intention of returning on Sunday. After spending some time in looking after his affairs, he went to attend a "war meeting," and was detained so late that he came to the determination not to return to work until Monday morning, instead of that night. Never has procrastination met with so signal and sudden a reward, for this dilatoriness in his movements undoubtedly saved his life.

In the mean time the news of the fiendish butchery came to the neighborhood where he was, and a party of thirteen started for the scene. Part of the number went but a portion of the distance, but seven of them pressed on. These determined men were Amos N. Fosen, Nels Danielson, John Blackwell, Burger Anderson, Ole Westman, Charles Quick and John Nelson. They came in sight of the late home of Howard Baker, and cautiously and carefully approached the house, with stealthy steps and peering eyes. Finding the coast clear, they drew nearer and nearer, the friendly shades of night covering their movements, and finally, entering the house, discovered the dead bodies of Mrs. Jones, Webster and Baker.

After lingering there for a short time the little party of heroes started for Jones' house, but on the road met another band of settlers, headed by Thomas McGannon, with whom they turned back to Baker's house, and making a more thorough search at that place discovered the body of poor Jones near the corn-crib, where he had fallen, and over whom was thrown a wagon-box. He had torn up the ground all around him in his death agony. Guards were properly posted and the balance of the party again started for Jones' place. At the forks of the road, before reaching that point, they were met by another squad of settlers, for many were out,

the evil tidings having spread fast, and stricken panic terror into the hearts of a great number, while others were seized with a desire to investigate the matter. The last addition to the little band was a delegation from Swede Grove, and were all mounted. On coming to the house, it was cautiously surrounded and a plan formed for the capture of the Indians, for it was supposed that they were in the house, as it was of wide notoriety that whisky was kept in the cabin, and it was but natural to suppose that the savages had come here after committing the murder to indulge in a drunken orgie. The dead body of poor Clara Wilson was found lying across the pantry doorway, but no Indians, and there was no evidence of their having entered the house, for nothing was disturbed. A barrel of whisky stood in one corner, and several bottles of the same liquor upon the shelf, but no signs of the Indians having disturbed them. In a bedroom, lying upon the bed, was the adopted child of Mr. Jones, spoken of before, smiling up into the faces of his rescuers. The babe, who was about two years old, was the grandchild of Mrs. Ann Baker, and bore the name of Robinson J. Cotton. He was taken from the bed and afterward placed in the hands of T. C. Jewett, of Forest City, who kept him for some little time, until he was finally adopted by Charles H. Ellis and wife, of Otsego, Wright county, this State, with whom he remained until he had attained the years of manhood.

In another direction, as soon as the news came to the neighborhood of Swede Grove, Nels Elofson and Nels Hanson got on their horses, and, with others, proceeded to the scene of the tragedy, and fell in with the other party as related above, at the forks of the road near Baker's house. Another party was formed at Forest City that same evening, on the arrival there of Mrs. Baker, for thither she had fled, carrying her babe, for protection.

This force consisted of J. B. Atkinson, Sylvester Stevens, John Wigle, Hamlet Stevens and one or two others, and left the county seat and proceeded toward the place where the startling events of that day had happened. They met the other squads mentioned before, and, on learning the facts, spread the news throughout the country, warning the settlers of their peril, and then returned to their homes at Forest City, arriving there about four o'clock in the morning.

The next morning a strong posse, consisting of A. C. Smith, Milton Gorton, J. B. Atkinson, T. C. Jewett and others, accompanied by Mrs. Jewett and Mrs. Gorton, started for the Baker house, and the settlers, by this time all thoroughly aroused to their peril, flocked in the same direction, so that they reached the scene of the murder some sixty strong. An inquest was held that day and the facts as stated above elicited, and a verdict given in accordance therewith.

Whilst the inquest was in progress, some one espied a body of eleven mounted Indians in the vicinity, and gave the alarm, and seven men, among whom were J. B. Atkinson, Hamlet Stevens, Daniel McGraw, Albert De Long and Sylvester Stevens, mounting in hot haste, pursued the savages, who, when they saw the pursuit, cut across the slough. A few distant shots were fired, without damage to either party, and the wild race was kept up at breakneck speed as far as Lake Lillian. Here the redskins were joined by another band from another direction, and a halt was called. The party counted twenty-five well-mounted Sioux before them, their own horses were blown and worn out with fatigue, and although one or two wanted to go on, a vote was taken and the pursuit abandoned. One of the party is credited with having shot one of the Indians, who was seen to drop, but was picked up by his comrades and hurried away with them in their flight. The little squad of settlers re-

turned after feeding their horses and resting them, and the savages, who were afterward found to have been another band than those who committed the murders, went on their way toward their tribal headquarters.

While the little company of enraged settlers were pursuing the redskins, the inquest was finished, and, tools being at hand, boxes were made and the bodies of the murdered people placed therein, and the five victims placed in one grave in the Norwegian Lutheran Church cemetery, in Litchfield township, on the spot now marked with the monument.

The funeral over, the party returned to Forest City, whither they were followed by almost the entire community, for the panic had seized every one, and the trembling pioneers saw Indians in every waving bush, or heard their yell in every sound brought to their listening ears by the gentle evening breeze. To nerves unaccustomed to this tension, the position was too frightful, and men could not long stand it. Something must be done and that right speedily.

George C. Whitecomb, the treasurer of Meeker county, left Forest City on that eventful Monday, and rode to Carver or Chaska, and there took the small steamer Antelope, and reached St. Paul about ten or eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning, according to the official report of Governor Ramsey, and at once waited upon the governor, with the dreadful tidings with which he was laden. The news of the outbreak, which was, prior to his arrival, supposed to be only a local emeute, at Yellow Medicine, had preceded him only an hour or two. Mr. Shelley, from the latter agency, having ridden in with dispatches announcing the massacre at that point.

Governor Ramsey, in his report upon the matter, uses the following language in speaking of the action taken at that time:

"I at once proceeded to Fort Snelling,

and consulted with the authorities there regarding the outbreak, and the best means to be used to meet the danger. A serious difficulty met us at the outstart. The only troops at the fort were the raw recruits, which had been hastily gathered for the five regiments. Most of them were without arms or suitable clothing as yet; some not mustered in or properly officered, and those who had arms had no fixed ammunition of the proper caliber. We were without transportation, quartermaster's or commissary stores, and, in fact, devoid of anything with which to commence a campaign against two or three thousand Indians, well mounted and armed, with an abundance of ammunition and provisions captured at the agency, and flushed with the easy victory they had won over the unarmed settlers. Finally four companies were fully organized, armed and uniformed, and late at night were got off on two small steamers, the Antelope and Pomeroy, for Shakopee, from which point they could proceed overland. It was arranged that others would follow as fast as they could be got ready.

"This expedition was placed under the command of H. H. Sibley, whose long residence in the country of the Sioux had given him great influence with that people, and it was hoped that the chiefs and older men were still sensible to reason, and that with these he could check the mad and reckless disposition of the younger men; and if that failed, that his knowledge of Indian war and tactics would enable him to overcome them in battle.

* * * * *

"Late that night (the 20th), probably after midnight, Jesse V. Bramham, Sr., arrived from Forest City after a forced ride of 100

miles on horseback, bearing the following message :

FOREST CITY, August 20, 1862, }
6 o'clock A. M. }

His Excellency Alexander Ramsey, Governor, etc.

Sir—In advance of the news from the Minnesota River, the Indians have opened on us in Meeker. It is war. A few propose to make a stand here. Send us, forthwith, some good guns and ammunition to match.

Yours truly,

A. C. SMITH.

"Seventy-five stands of Springfield rifles and several thousand rounds of ball cartridges were at once issued to George C. Whitcomb, to be used in arming a company which I directed to be raised and enrolled to use these arms; and General Sibley gave Mr. Whitcomb a captain's commission for the company. Transportation was at once furnished him, and the rifles were in Forest City by the morning of the 23d, a portion having been issued to a company at Hutchinson on the way up."

Jesse V. Branham, Sr., whom the governor mentions as bringing the dispatch, had volunteered, notwithstanding his sixty years, to ride the entire distance of one hundred miles for help, and on his arrival at St. Paul, paying no attention to his fatigue or his bodily wants, at once waited upon the governor, although it was one o'clock in the morning, with the result as given above. On the arrival of Captain Whitcomb with the arms and ammunition, having left thirty-one muskets and a part of the ammunition at Hutchinson, that place being entirely destitute of firearms, a company was formed at Forest City, of which the following is the roster :

G. C. Whitcomb, captain.
J. B. Atkinson, first lieutenant.
Hamlet Stevens, second lieutenant.
William Branham, first sergeant.

H. S. Howe, second sergeant.
Daniel McGraw, third sergeant.
F. G. Gould, fourth sergeant.
A. F. Heath, first corporal.
H. J. Hill, second corporal.
T. C. Jewett, third corporal.
Samuel Hutchins, fourth corporal.
J. M. Harvey, fifth corporal.
R. B. Ralston, sixth corporal.
N. H. White, seventh corporal.
A. B. Hoyt, eighth corporal.

PRIVATES.

O. B. Todd,	J. V. Branham, Jr.,
James Lang,	A. G. Smith,
Thomas Grayson,	Aslog Olson,
Henry Johnson,	H. Lutons,
M. Gorton,	G. S. Sholes, Sr.,
Sylvester Stevens,	J. H. Bradshaw,
C. E. Payson,	Halga Olson,
Lory Smith,	Nels Tornborn,
Jerome Rogers,	Oliver Gibbins,
J. Heath,	S. W. White,
Albert Sperry,	J. B. Garrison,
Joseph Thomas,	E. A. Chapin,
A. Hamilton,	H. Behrmann,
William Caswell,	C. D. Maybee,
Patrick Condon,	Andrew Nelson,
Thos. Ragan,	Eli Gibbins,
Charles Kruger,	G. W. Waggoner,
Herman Kruger,	W. Johnson,
Michael McGraw,	G. R. Page,
Jesse F. Cobb,	Henry L. Smith,
Alfred Mousley,	D. Chapin,
William Wilcox,	H. Mickelson,

D. M. Holbrook.

On the arrival of Captain Whitcomb, he found that the county seat was nearly a deserted village, most of the inhabitants having fled for safety to the eastern portion of the State, and but thirteen men and three women were left of its population. These brave men and heroic women, who had determined to make a stand in defense of their homes, and who, by their gallant and spirited action,

stayed the tide of arson and murder, and saved the balance of the State, as far as the Mississippi River, from the fiendish cruelty of the relentless Sioux. Their names should be perpetuated in the pages of history, with those of the noble band of Spartans under Leonidas, at the pass of Thermopylae, who devoted themselves to the salvation of their country. Their names are J. B. Atkinson, A. C. Smith, T. C. Jewett, Milton Gorton, George S. Sholes, Dr. Thomas H. Skinner, James M. Harvey, William Fowler, Henry L. Smith, Thomas Grayson, Judson A. Stanton, Sylvester Stevens and Hamlet Stevens, and Mesdames T. C. Jewett, Howard Baker and G. C. Whitcomb. These, however, were soon joined by many others.

During the time while Whitcomb was absent nearly two hundred teams passed through Forest City on their way to the Mississippi River and safety, with their hastily-gathered household goods thrown promiscuously upon their wagons, and all fleeing in fear and trembling, and listening for the dreaded war-whoop which they expected to break upon their ears at every moment, or the whip-like crack of the deadly rifle.

The military organization was formed on Sunday, the 24th of August, and by the next day some thirty had joined, and a portion of them mounted upon such horses as they had.

The following is preserved as the oath taken by the members of the "Irregulars," as they were termed, at the date of their muster, August 24, 1862:

"We, the undersigned, do solemnly swear to bear true allegiance to the United States and the State of Minnesota, and the officers which may be elected or appointed over us, to the best of our ability, in accordance with the captain's commission issued to G. C. Whitcomb, by Col. H. H. Sibley, bearing date August 20, 1862."

The forty-four muskets brought by Captain Whitcomb were then issued to as many

men, and the balance either left unarmed or given some Belgian muskets which had been procured for a militia company organized by G. C. Whitcomb and J. B. Atkinson some time before, or the few shotguns that could be found in the settlement. As it was necessary for their efficiency that they should be all mounted in order to cope with the mounted Indians, and as they only had about fifteen horses in all, a detail was made from the command to proceed to Kingston and make a forced levy of all the horses that they could find there for the use of the company. The detail consisted of sergeants William Branham and H. S. Howe, corporals A. F. Heath, H. J. Hill, T. C. Jewett, Samuel Hutchins and R. B. Ralston, and privates O. B. Todd, G. W. Waggoner, Michael McGraw, F. G. Gould, A. H. Hamilton, H. Kruger and D. McGraw, and was under the command of Lieut. J. B. Atkinson. They advanced to Kingston, and the levy made of about forty horses, much against the wishes of the people in that place, and despite their vehement protests, and returned to headquarters of the company at Forest City. At the same time a detail, consisting of B. Cobb, D. P. De Lamater, J. A. Stanton and Oliver Gibbins, to procure forage for the animals, and W. H. Towler and Gottlieb Reef as stock guard. These were citizens who volunteered for this duty.

On the dawning of Monday morning, August 25th, a portion of the company, numbering some twenty seven, rank and file, were ordered on a reconnoissance into Monongalia county, now a part of Kandiyohi, and swept through the country for some forty miles distant from headquarters, and returned on the 27th, having seen none of the enemy, but had found traces of them in the corpses of nine or ten mutilated, murdered settlers, ruins of burned houses, and a considerable number of dead domestic animals scattered over the country. The bodies of the dead

settlers were given decent burial by the party before their departure.

On Wednesday, August 26th, eleven citizens of Manannah, who were staying at Forest City, finding that there was a great lack of stoves, bedding, provisions, etc., in that place, volunteered to go to their homes and procure the necessaries. They were Linus Howe, Moody Caswell, Chauncy Wilson, Thomas Ryckman, David Hoar, James Nelson, Wilmot Maybee, Philip H. Deck, Nathan C. Caswell, R. D. C. Cressy and Joseph Page. They started, and on their arrival at the house of Wilmot Maybee stopped and got their dinner, and from there proceeded to the house of Carlos Caswell, at Manannah, and, seeing no Indians about, left one yoke of their oxen there, intending to return thither that evening and spend the night there. They went on about two miles further to the residences of Silas Caswell and James Nelson, where they loaded Maybee's wagon full of bedding, provisions, etc., and the latter gentleman, who was driving, accompanied by Joseph Page, turned the team toward their last stopping-place, where they intended to camp. They were closely followed by P. H. Deck and Linus Howe in the former's one-horse wagon, which was filled with James Nelson's household goods, the rest of the party being employed in gathering the scattered farm stock about them. As they turned into Carlos Caswell's doorway the sharp crack of several rifles rang out upon the air, from behind a pile of lumber and the weeds by the fence, and Joseph Page fell dead to the ground. The others turned east to escape, and drove for about fifteen or eighteen rods, when again the deadly rifle spoke and carried death to Deck and Howe. Wilmot Maybee, thinking to escape, ran his horses for about thirty or forty rods further, breaking down a stout pair of bars in his way, but, on being cut off in his retreat by the savages, leaped to the

ground, and, leaving the horses and wagon to their fate, ran about a hundred and fifty yards toward the river, but was shot and instantly killed by a well-aimed charge of buckshot from an Indian musket.

Chauncy Wilson and Thomas Ryckman were but a short distance away, and witnessed the cold-blooded murder of their comrades, but could offer no assistance, as they had placed their arms, such was their fancied security, in one of the wagons. After securing the teams and their loads, the Sioux, a band of about ten or twelve, started toward the west, and passed within thirty rods of H. C. Caswell and James Nelson, who let them go by without firing a shot as they mistook them for white men, the shades of evening having descended upon the earth. They followed the warriors, still thinking they were their friends, for some distance. The party returned to Forest City, having lost four of their best men. Mr. Howe was one of the county commissioners at the time, and has served for three years in that office. Lieut. J. B. Atkinson set out the next morning with some twenty-four men to bury the murdered settlers and bring in anything that he could find, which mission he accomplished without any molestation. On the 30th of the month, a detail of twenty-four men was ordered to move to Hutchinson to procure the government arms left there, but found on their arrival at that place that the citizens of the town would not surrender the guns, so returned the next day to headquarters. On the 1st of September, a report having gained currency in Forest City, originating with Andrew Nelson, that the family of that gentleman's brother-in-law, Swan Swanson, was on an island in Foot Lake, Kandiyohi county, in destitute circumstances, a detail of some seventeen men, supplemented by some volunteer citizens, was dispatched to their aid. The little force took up their line of march, bound on their errand of

mercy, but on their arrival at the farm of Peter J. Lund, on section 4, Acton township, found a body of Indians, who, having on white shirts, they at first mistook for white men. They were soon undeceived and shots were exchanged for a few minutes, when the savages retreated to the woods, probably to attempt to draw their opponents into an ambush. They did not succeed in this, the little company proceeding to the house, where they found plenty of evidence of the presence of savages there in the shape of pipes, moccasins, old powder-horns, etc., and also found hanging upon a woodland crane a large iron kettle filled with hot water, the Sioux having been surprised while preparing to scald the body of a pig that lay butchered near by. Two of the savages were killed in this skirmish, and one of the settlers, Samuel Hutchins, was wounded in the thigh by a rifle ball.

Early on the morning of the 2d of September, a squad of twenty of the members of the military company, and a like number of volunteer citizens, started again to look for the same family. At noon they camped for dinner at the fence which surrounded the farm of Howard Peterson, and fed their horses with the oats inside of the fence. Some of the party conceiving that the pork and bread was not good to eat, in fact that it smelt bad, began to look around for other food. Peter E. Hansen, Nels Elofson and Mr. Larson started across the country to a farm, where Mr. Hansen, who was well acquainted with the country, knew there was a melon patch. This was about half a mile from the camp, on the brow of a hill. After getting their arms full of melons, Mr. Hansen, leaving his two comrades, went to the top of a neighboring hill, the highest in that vicinity, and, looking off toward the Acton timber, espied fifteen or sixteen Indians, some two or three miles off. They were mounted men, and, as it was known that

there were no such number of whites in that direction, it was natural to suppose them Indians. Calling to Jesse V. Branham, Jr., and his brother, William Branham, to come to him, for they had followed after Mr. Hansen's party, they were looking at the horsemen, who soon disappeared, when turning round discovered, to their surprise and horror, a band of some 300 Sioux Indians, more or less, within a distance of 200 yards of them, all on foot, but well armed. They did not linger long in that perilous position, but fled with due precipitation to the camp, pursued by the yelling fiends, who thirsted for their scalps. Hastily hitching up their teams, the whole posse beat a hasty retreat, the savages hanging on their rear, firing steadily all the time. A halt was soon called as the rout was growing more disorderly, and the march resumed with more steadiness. In crossing a slough, one of the teams belonging to J. B. Atkinson, but driven by E. O. Britt, became mired, and, leaving the wagon and one horse that could not be extricated in the excitement in the mud, the little command pushed on for Forest City, pursued by some of the Indians, the rest having stopped at the wagon in the slough. Although many of the men wanted to fall out of the ranks and ambush their pursuers, who were keeping up a constant fusillade on them, the captain would not permit it. The command was met near Forest City by all the remaining men of that place, who had marched out to reinforce them, under the leadership of A. C. Smith, but their services were not called for, as the savages had given up the pursuit by this time. Considerable dispute has been had over the number of Indians on this occasion, but, by a diligent search among the participants, it has been put at some 300 of active opponents, with many more in view. This is on the authority of nearly all the survivors of the little band, who would have been totally annihilated had

they allowed themselves to be surrounded, and they displayed great judgment in retreating, even if it were done hurriedly. In this skirmish, when the men were hastily mounting into the wagons, one of the muskets was accidentally discharged, and its contents wounded O. B. Todd in the leg, barely missing D. Chapin, both of whom stood in the way of the ball.

Col. B. F. Smith, the post commander at Fort Snelling, on the 24th of August, ordered Capt. Richard Strout, of the Tenth Minnesota Infantry, then in the course of organization, to take his company, after arming and equipping them, to Forest City and that vicinity, for the assurance of safety for the settlers. The company, which had just been raised, was made up of clerks, mechanics, etc., of Minneapolis and St. Paul, had as yet received little or no drilling, and were totally devoid of the army discipline that marks the soldier. They set out for the scene of hostilities and arrived at Forest City on the 27th inst. He went into camp near the residence of A. C. Smith in that town, and gave it out that he should remain in that neighborhood for some time, but on being informed during the evening that nearly all the Indians in the vicinity were congregated at Swede Grove, about ten miles distant, the captain thought that his duty called him to a different point of vantage, and, therefore, the next morning put his little column in motion for Glencoe. On his movements being reported at headquarters he was immediately ordered back to Meeker county, and, on reaching the township of Acton, went into camp in the yard of the murdered Jones, an open spot surrounded by timber, in which lurked some two or three hundred savages, and it is claimed that he entirely failed to post any pickets. In this blind security he lay exposed to any attack that the enemy might make, and in almost a defenseless position. Thomas

Chambers, of Hutchinson, having arrived in Forest City, and mentioning the movements of Captain Strout and his company, it was determined to intercept his column and bring it to Forest City direct, and, the dispatch having been prepared, a volunteer force of three to carry it was asked, in response to which J. V. Branham, Jr., Albert Sperry and Thomas Holmes came forward and offered their services, which were accepted. As the summer sun was setting behind the western horizon, and flooding the land with its crimson light, the three brave and gallant men put foot in the stirrup and started on their lonely, perilous ride. They started toward Rice City, with the intention of saving the command from running into the Indian camp at Swede Grove, which they were approaching so incautiously.

They found, on reaching what was known as the Henderson trail, that Captain Strout and his men had passed that point, so they pushed on in the intense darkness, surrounded by peril, toward Acton, and found the command peacefully sleeping, with no guard or picket set. The party at once communicated their tidings, and instantly the excitement grew intense. The Belgian muskets that the company had been armed with, for lack of better pieces, were overhauled, when it was discovered that most of the ammunition was of a different caliber from the guns, and would not fit, so the balance of the night was spent in preparing it for service in the best manner possible. As daylight dawned, and breakfast was being eaten, the firing of guns in their neighborhood alarmed all hands, as it was well known that there were no white men in that entire neighborhood. All made ready for the march to Hutchinson, which was necessary for their safety, for it was plainly apparent that their camp was untenable against any force of Indians. The five mounted men rode ahead of the column, which marched in a southerly direction

for about two miles, when the glistening of gun-barrels through the foliage announced an ambush. This was upon a hill opposite Kelley's bluff, and our troops moved steadily on until they had arrived within half a mile of the enemy, and then halted. They were then formed in line of battle, and advanced until they were about two hundred yards from the savage foe, when they were saluted by a storm of bullets, which was bravely and promptly returned, and the firing thus commenced was kept up rapidly with some effect. Our troops, who were formed in four sections, in open order, pressed on as skirmishers toward the foe. Shortly after this a fresh body of mounted Indians were discovered in their rear, and, the two forces being united, and the lake being on the left of the company, the little body of soldiers were effectually surrounded. A charge in the direction of Hutchinson was ordered, and, the bayonets dropping to a level, the men bravely charged the red horde, who fell back, for the savage can not stand cold steel. Like many another battle, the troops were endangered by the misconduct of the teamsters, who, thinking that the road to the south was now opened, started on the run for Hutchinson, and their panic soon spread to the scarcely-disciplined soldiers, who had behaved so bravely but a few minutes before, and away they all went, pell-mell, after the teams. In a few minutes order was restored, and the retreat conducted in a more orderly manner. During this movement Jesse V. Branham, Jr., one of the scouts and messengers of the previous night, was seriously wounded, being shot under the shoulder blade, the ball passing through his lungs. Three men were killed in this engagement, and some eighteen wounded; the latter were all brought from the field. The dead were afterward buried by the detail from the Third Regiment. On their arrival at Hutchinson the wounded were properly

cared for, and the command obtained some rest.

Early on the morning of the 3d of September, the entire force, both of the Home Guards and the citizens of Forest City, finished the erection of a stockade for their defense, and labored hard and faithfully all that day. It was a parallelogram of 120 feet square, and was made of a double row of logs on end, planted in the ground some three feet, and projecting upward some ten feet. Bastions on the corners and numerous loopholes through the timbers afforded ample means for sweeping down any assailants that attacked it, and would shelter the marksmen from the bullets of the savages. Every one being turned out, the company were marched to the principal hotel of the place, where they were quartered, and all settled down to a peaceful slumber, and, with the exception of the armed guard, seemed totally oblivious of the proximity of the savages.

Between two and three o'clock in the morning, the sentinels discovered the approach of a body of Indians and gave the alarm, at which the Sioux, with wild yells, charged forward and fired a volley at the hotel, where the troops were in quarters. These latter, sallying out with most of the citizens, retired to the stockade, but in their hurry forgot or neglected to take with them the horses or the bulk of the ammunition, the former being in J. B. Atkinson's stable and the powder and balls in the store of Judson A. Stanton. Within the palisaded enclosure stood a frame house and a well, and had they one-half the ammunition with them they could have held out for some time. But, not expecting the redskins so soon, they were taken by surprise, and in the excitement much was overlooked. No sooner had they reached the fort and been safely ensconced therein than the savages opened upon it with some forty or fifty rifles, for it was both a surprise and a disappointment to the red fiends

to find the stockade built, for they never dreamed of such a thing and anticipated an easy victory. The intense darkness of the night rendered aim very uncertain, so, to save their ammunition, but very little firing was done upon the part of the beleaguered garrison. Nels Elofson, a resident of the county, in speaking of that night says: that "the captain told him to be saving of his ammunition, as they had but a small supply." He adds that "while one part of the savages, early in the morning, continued to harass the settlers within the enclosure, the others were employed in burning the buildings and haystacks, and in running off the horses, oxen, wagons and other property." Most of the property burned was situated at a distance from the fort, for if an Indian stepped into the circle of light from a burning building, the leaden missives warned him that he was seen, and, if he did not drop, he hastily retreated. Once the incendiaries approached the more central part of the village, but the torches in their hands betrayed them to the troops, and a discharge of their muskets laid some half a dozen upon the ground, and the rest fled. As the light of day once more dawned upon the settlers, they found the most of the Indians had retired, while an Indian was perceived stealing out from behind the barn of J. B. Atkinson, and Thomas Grayson, who was an excellent shot, determined to kill him. The distance was about three hundred yards, and in the gray light of early morn the savage stood sharply outlined against a bright background. Slowly the death-dealing rifle of the settler rose to his shoulder, an instant, as he tightened his grip, as the aim became sure, the sharp, whip-like report rang out with wondrous clearness, and the Indian threw up his hands with a yell and pitched to the ground.

As the light of day grew more bright the beleaguered citizens and soldiers saw with delight that most of their savage foes had

retired, while a small body of them were driving away some of the captured stock. A number of volunteers, among whom were Nels Elofson, Aslog Olson and William Branham, made a charge upon the latter, when the Indians fled over the hills, but, when the party arrived at the brow of the eminence, they were fired upon from an ambush in the school-house, and Aslog Olson and William Branham were wounded. The settlers retreated to the stockade, carrying their crippled comrades with them, and some of the stock for which they had ventured their lives. A few days subsequently the command escorted their wounded to Hutchinson to have their wounds dressed and be taken care of, and both recovered in time.

On the 17th of September, Caleb Sanborn, a settler in the neighborhood of Cedar Lake, was murdered by the Indians, who were prowling around in that locality, murdered in cold blood, through a general hatred of the white race and being filled with the malice and cruelty of the Evil One himself. The next day a party, consisting of Lewis Harrington, Daniel Cross, T. R. Webb, Silas Greene, Frank Jewett, David Hern and Nathaniel Pierce, left the town of Hutchinson to get the body and to bury it decently. After their arrival north of the lake, while skirting the forest, they were startled by the discharge of three rifles, and saw with dismay one of their number, Daniel Cross, fall to the ground, mortally wounded. Five of the party jumped into their wagon and left for a more secure place, whilst T. R. Webb found his way to a small boat in the lake and paddled for the island, where he spent the night. The next morning he escaped and reached Hutchinson, meeting on the way a posse of about fifty, who had started in search for the bodies of Cross and himself. This party marched on to the scene of the ambush, and recovered the bodies of both Sanborn and Cross, and returned safely to

their homes. It seems that it was discovered then that there were thirteen redskins in the body, who had fired on the little squad.

On the 5th of September Lieut. William Byrnes, of the Tenth Minnesota Infantry, with a part of a company of that regiment, numbering some forty-five muskets, started to reinforce any troops that then might be in Meeker county, and took up their quarters at Kingston, turning the storehouse of Hall & Co., of that place, into a barrack for his men. This he strengthened by means of earthworks, and during the same time carried on scouting expeditions all over the vicinity. Captain Pettit, of the Eighth Minnesota Infantry, with his company, had reinforced Captain Whitcomb's command at Forest City, and was there on the reappearance of the Sioux on the 22d of September. Word that day was brought to the county seat that the red fiends were again committing outrages, this time at Lake Ripley (now Litchfield), and Captain Pettit asked the coöperation of his comrade, Lieutenant Byrnes, in a movement to the neighborhood of the hostiles. The next morning the latter sallied out with some thirty-six men, and, uniting his command with that of Captain Pettit, who had eighty-seven, and five of Captain Whitcomb's mounted rangers as guides, started for Lake Ripley. On their arrival they found the body of poor Olson, the blacksmith mentioned in the first part of this article. He had been shot three times through the body and once through the hand, was scalped, his brains beaten out, his throat cut from ear to ear, and his tongue cut out by the roots.

After burying the dead and picking up three women who had been hiding several days in the woods, and sending them on to Forest City, an extended reconnoissance was made toward Diamond Lake, in Monongalia county, through a deserted country, covered with the ruins of the settlers' cabins and

wantonly-killed stock. On the morning of the 25th, while on their return to Forest City, they surprised a party of Indians with some stock, which they took in charge, the Sioux fleeing on catching sight of them.

On the 23d of September, Capt. Richard Strout, having sent out a party to scout around, was alarmed by the report of the little band who returned with the information that they had had a skirmish with the enemy at Greenleaf, and one of their number slain. Other parties of scouts came in with the information of having seen parties of redskins, who seemed to have flocked here in great numbers.

From this time on the country was safe, for troops, having been organized, now came forward to fill the places held by the Irregulars, and calm settled down on the land. Still the strained nerves of the citizens would vibrate at the slightest sound, and they saw and heard an Indian in every suspicious noise or movement.

We now come to the concluding phase of this tragedy, the death of Little Crow, the prime instigator of the conspiracy, with whose demise, and the hanging of the thirty-eight at Mankato, terminated the terrible massacre of 1862.

On the 1st of July, 1863, nearly ten months after the first blow was struck, James McGannon was killed between Kingston and Fair Haven, by some Indian, said to have been Little Crow. On Friday, July 3d, following, Mr. Lampson and his son Chauncy were out hunting and suddenly came in sight of two Indians picking berries on section 30, Collinwood township, on a little prairie opening in the woods, interspersed with clumps of bushes and a few poplar trees. These savages were Sioux, and were Little Crow and his son Wowinapa. Mr. Lampson and his son crept up within gunshot, and being the best shot took aim at Little Crow, his son covering the boy, who was about sixteen

years old. Two reports rang out upon the still air, and the Indian chief fell to the ground, hit just above the hip. He, however, snatched up his gun and fired it and his son's piece in the direction where the curling smoke betrayed the presence of the enemy, but another report came from the settler's gun and the ball hit the savage in the side and he fell over. After asking his son for water, which was given him, he expired. The son, who had on the clothes of the murdered McGannon, escaped, and after wandering around was finally captured some twenty-six days after in the neighborhood of Big Stone Lake.

During the eventful year there were killed by the red fiends, of the settlers in Meeker county, the following twelve persons: Robinson Jones, Mrs. Ann Baker, Viranus Webster, Clara D. Wilson, Philip Deck, Joseph Page, Linus Howe, Wilnot Maybee, Nels Olsen, Caleb Sanborn, Daniel Cross and Thomas McGannon. To the first five victims of the murderous Sioux there has been erected a monument by the State, commemorative of the beginning of the fearful outbreak that deluged this fair land with blood and fire. Besides the soldiers who lost their lives in this county, of whom there is no personal record, two Swedes were slain within the limits of Acton, as they were fleeing thither for safety. Their names were Lorinson and Backlin, who had settled at Eagle Lake, Kandiyohi county, but had left there with a train of fleeing citizens and were overtaken just this side of the county line and murdered. One of them had a number of butcher knives sticking in his body when found.

The monument, which stands in the Ness Norwegian Lutheran Church cemetery, on

section 20, Litchfield township, bears the following inscriptions, and was erected by the State, in 1878:

SOUTH SIDE.

IN MEMORY OF THE FIRST
FIVE VICTIMS OF
THE GREAT INDIAN MASSACRE IN 1862,
AND
BURIED HERE IN ONE GRAVE.

WEST SIDE.

ROBINSON JONES,
VIRANUS WEBSTER,
HOWARD BAKER,
ANN BAKER,
CLARA D. WILSON.

EAST SIDE.

"FIRST BLOOD."

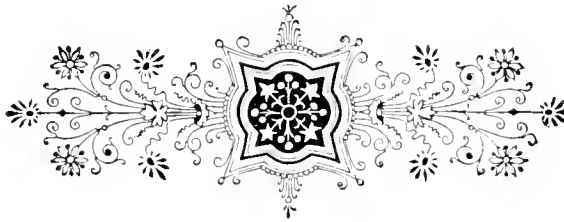
NORTH SIDE.

ERECTED BY THE STATE, IN 1878,
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE
MEEKER CO. OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The personal experiences of the settlers of this and the adjacent counties during the exciting times of the outbreak and massacre are given in detail in their sketches in the biographical department of this work, to which the reader is referred. The subject is one of great interest to every one, and, as the data from which these narratives are written are taken down from the participants themselves, strongly portray the trials and perils endured by the pioneers of this region. Stamped with the plain accents of truth, these personal biographies make up the full history of these perilous times, and finish out the tale of woe, of life upon the border, in the fateful year 1862.

Before dismissing this tragic episode in the history of Meeker county, at the desire of many of the survivors of those fearful days, it is proper to say that the prompt and hearty aid accorded to the imperiled settlers by Gov. Alexander Ramsey, has won him a place in their esteem and affection that is undying, and the mention of his honored name touches a chord in the breasts

of the participants in the Indian war that vibrates with gratitude for his noble actions and efficient work at that time. A truly respected and beloved man in this community, he needs no monument to recall him to the children's children of the old settlers of Meeker county; their regard has built up one in their hearts that is more enduring than stone or bronze.





TOWNSHIP HISTORIES.

CHAPTER VIII.

FOREST CITY TOWNSHIP.



THE subdivision of the county which bears the above name is one of the oldest settled and one of the most picturesquely beautiful. It embraces what is technically known as congressional township 120, north of range 30 west, and contains 22,846.87 acres in all, only 884.37 of which are covered with water of any description. It is for the most part extremely fertile, and the timber which covers a portion of the territory is of

the finest character.

It was upon the shores of the north branch of the Crow River, that meanders through the emerald prairies and leafy groves of this town, that John Huy and Thomas H. Skinner, the first settlers of the county, passed the lonesome and dreary winter of 1855, as related in the history of the early settlement of the county, in a former portion of this volume.

D. M. Hanson, a talented young lawyer of

Minneapolis, and Rudolph Shultz had come here with Huy and Skinner, but on the approach of winter returned to the "Flour City," where Hanson died the following April. Shultz returned to this county in the spring, and took up a claim in what is now Harvey township.

With the advent of the new year of 1856 came new settlers, the first to arrive being possibly Milton G. Moore and Elijah Bemis. The exact date of their arrival can not be ascertained at the present moment, but the former was appointed register of deeds and the latter sheriff at the time of the organization of the county, that same spring. Neither of them remained long, both leaving the county a few years after their settlement, probably in 1858.

During the year 1856, others made settlements in the township, among whom were the following named, some of whom still live here, some have moved away, while still another portion have passed to their reward beyond the grave:

Joseph Weymer, Sr., Jacob Weymer, T. Carlos Jewett, Samuel and Dudley Taylor, Isaac C. Delamater, David Mitchell, Wait H. Dart, Charles E. Cutts, Walter Bacon, Leander L. Wakefield, John Whalen, John A. Quick, James Brunhall, Mathew Miles Standish, John W. Johnson, Charles McAron,

John Patterson, Henry Clinton, Loring Huy, Ogden T. Tuttle, W. H. Vaness, John Kimball, Edward Fitzgerald, J. W. Griswold, Judson A. Stanton, Harrison G. O. Thoms, Charles N. Shed, Rev. John Robson, John Flynn, John Wigle and Wyman Ryan.

Most of these first settlers took up claims and commenced to improve their land, erecting log cabins in which to live. Their nearest market being St. Paul, they were, of a necessity, compelled to deprive themselves of all the comforts and conveniences of life, but game was in abundance in these pristine wilds, and they did not suffer from hunger at least.

The year 1857 witnessed a still further influx of settlers into this township, prominent among whom were the following: Milton Gorton, John Sullivan, John Murray, James B. Atkinson, Jacob Knapp, Jacob Ball, James Willis, John Heath, A. F. Heath, L. F. Haines, Isaac Perrine, Allen Teachout, H. N. Baker, H. M. Angier, William Richards, W. W. Woodman, Hamlet Stevens, A. B. Hoyt, G. M. Blandin, H. Walker, B. F. Butler, Thomas Grayson, D. P. Delamater, Charles and William Willis, N. O. Griffin, Michael Lenhart and W. S. Chapman. Many of those, also, have left the county, but a few are still residents, either of the farms upon which they settled or in the village of Litchfield.

The hard times that followed the financial crisis of 1857 had a discouraging effect upon all emigration, and the tide of settlers flowing into Meeker county was not so strong during the year 1858 as might have been expected. Still there were a few that came to Forest City township, and made settlements that year. Among them were: Sylvester Stevens, Charles McPartheon, L. W. Henry, Patrick Finnegan, Rev. J. C. Whitney, R. W. Brown, U. S. Willie, a lawyer; George S. Sholes Sr., George S. Sholes Jr., J. A. Baird, Thomas E. Massey, A. C. Smith; John D. Evans,

Charles and Samuel Getchell, E. K. Wright, James Merrill, Levi Getchell, F. M. Scott, Dennis Cronin, G. W. Parker, and N. W. Bannister. But few came here after this, until about the close of the war, and the condition of the country was more settled.

The terrible outbreak and Indian massacre of 1862, a history in detail of which has been given in an earlier portion of this work, not only caused the cessation of settlement in this portion of the State, but nearly all that were here left to seek secure quarters for their families. Some never returned and others only after considerable absence. During the year 1863, there were but few, if any, new settlers to locate in this town, and the population was much reduced in number, both by the people leaving and by the many men being absent with the Union armies.

FIRST ITEMS.

The first birth was that of Sarah Jane Dougherty, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dougherty, who was born here while her parents were camped July 15, 1856. The first birth among the settlers of this township was that of a son to John Whalen, born in the early part of 1857.

The first death was that of Frank Parsons, a young man, who died November 12, 1856, and was buried on the town site.

The first religious services were held by Rev. John Robson, a Methodist minister, in November, 1856.

The first steam saw-mill was put up by John Robson, near the village, in 1858.

The first school-house was built in 1857, on section 17, and the first teacher was T. Carlos Jewett.

FOREST CITY VILLAGE.

The village of Forest City was originally laid out by Standish and Moore, surveyors, in the summer of 1857, for the proprietors, T. H. Skinner, W. S. Chapman, J. W. Huy,

A. M. Fridley, A. Jackson Bell, and E. E. Wilson. This plat is described as covering the northeast quarter of section 17, and the northeast quarter of section 20, and was filed for record August 13, 1857. For some reason this was replatted, and other territory added in the latter part of 1858. The plat was filed for record March 23, 1859, and covered the south half of section 17 and the west half of the northwest quarter of section 21. The proprietors are described officially to have been W. P. Curtis, of Hennepin county, and Thomas H. Skinner, president of the Forest City Company. To this Hines, Kimball and Beedy laid out an addition on the northeast quarter of section 17, in September, 1871, the plat being filed on the 6th of that month.

Dudley Taylor and his wife had a large log building put up, in which they kept the first hotel in the village and in the county. A few other cabins were put up by the few settlers here, and thus the county seat was commenced.

Early in the spring of 1857, James B. Atkinson came to the village with a load of goods, and putting up a building, about the 1st of March of that year opened a general stock of goods. This was the first store in the township, and in the county. This establishment he presided over until the summer of 1862, when he took in as partner, Mark W. Piper, who ran it while Captain Atkinson was fighting in defense of his country. In 1866, Piper sold out to Atkinson, he having acquired sole possession, and the latter gentleman ran the store until 1879, when it was closed out.

The second store was opened in the village in 1858, by Fitch & Stanton, who ran it until the time of the Indian outbreak, when the goods were removed to a safer place by their owner.

Others in trade after this were: Thomas H. Skinner, who started in 1862, who afterward

sold it to Chauncey Dart; Campbell & Flynn, Wait H. Dart, Jesse V. Branham, Sr., Hines, Kimball & Beedy, O. C. McGray, C. D. Boom, Brost & Rodgers, William Hardy, Frank McCumber, William Knight and Nicholas Schreiner.

J. A. Baird established a brickyard here in 1858, and made the first brick in the county, but, finding but little chance for his business at that time, returned to Minneapolis the same year.

On the 22d of March, 1858, the United States land office, which had been located here, arrived at Forest City, and with it came John D. Evans, receiver, and A. C. Smith, register. Both of these men were afterward prominently identified with the growth of the place, and the institution over which they presided had a great influence in giving an impetus to the settlement of the county.

A postoffice was established in the fall of 1856, with Walter C. Bacon as postmaster, and in the spring of 1857 he was succeeded by James B. Atkinson. In turn this position was held by the following named gentlemen: William Richards, J. A. Stanton, C. F. Woodman, O. C. McGray, Benjamin Manton, William Hardy and others. Nicholas Schreiner is the present incumbent.

W. S. Chapman brought with him and erected the saw-mill, and, in company with others, operated it for a short time, when it was sold to John Robson. After a little time it was again disposed of and removed to Bear Lake.

The Forest City flouring-mill was erected in 1865, by Hines, Kimball & Beedy, and was operated by that firm for several years. N. C. Hines then sold out to his partners, and they ran it until a few years ago, when, becoming financially embarrassed, it passed into the hands of Stout, Mills & Temple, of Dayton, Ohio, and was operated for them by William Hilderbrandt, until May, 1888, when it was purchased by a Minneapolis party.

Forest City Lodge, No. 70, A. F. & A. M., the oldest lodge of any kind in the county, was organized under dispensation, May 18, 1867, with the following list of charter members and officers: A. C. Smith, W. M.; J. B. Atkinson, S. W.; T. Carlos Jewett, J. W.; H. G. O. Thoms, tyler; George W. Weisel, Sylvester Stevens, John S. Shields, Jesse S. Hipple, and Perry D. Bentley. The charter granted the lodge was dated November 14, 1869. The first officers under this were as follows: A. C. Smith, W. M.; G. W. Weisel, S. W.; T. C. Jewett, J. W.; M. W. Piper, T.; J. W. McKean, S.; S. B. Hutchins, S. D.; E. A. Campbell, J. D.; and A. G. Peters, tyler. A. C. Smith was his own successor in the office of worshipful master, until the dissolution of the lodge, December 23, 1871, caused by the removal of most of the members to the rising village of Litchfield.

The Methodist Church was organized in the old school-house, in 1857, although there had been services held here previously. Rev. Thomas Harwood was the first pastor. Services were held in private houses, school-houses, or where occasion offered, until 1869, when, with the removal of most of the members to Litchfield, the church was moved to that village.

The Baptists have an organization in the village at the present, and have a neat and tasty church edifice built in 1879.

On the 19th of September, 1857, pursuant to a notice given, the people of this town met at the house of Warren W. Woodman, to take some action toward building a school-house. Mr. Woodman was made chairman, and J. W. Griswold, secretary. After some remarks by John Robson and William Richards, a committee, consisting of C. E. Cutts, John Robson and J. A. Stanton, was appointed to see how much money could be raised for the purpose. The committee reported that the sum of \$205 could be raised for a church, or \$130 for a school-house, and

on putting the matter to a vote, five preferred a church, and six a school-house. A committee was then appointed, consisting of C. E. Cutts, John Robson, T. C. Jewett and J. A. Stanton, to collect subscriptions. At a meeting held a week later, the committee reported that the following gentlemen had agreed to contribute toward the matter: John Robson, J. W. Griswold, W. Richards, D. P. Delamater, J. B. Atkinson, A. B. Hoyt, Jacob Ball, John Wigle, David Bilstor, C. E. Cutts, H. Walker, T. H. Skinner, John Kimball, Thomas Grayson, James Patterson, H. G. O. Thoms, Allen Teachout, John Flynn, Milton Gorton, J. A. Stanton, B. F. Butler, T. C. Jewett, and A. W. Angier.

W. W. Woodman entered into a contract to put up the building for \$250, and it was finished that same fall. This was the first school in the town.



CHAPTER IX.

TOWNSHIP OF MANANNAH.

THE subdivision of the county known by the above name embraces all of Congressional township 121, north of range 31 west, and contains 25,393 acres; only 31.31 are covered by water. There is more available land in the town than in any other, were it denuded of the heavy timber that covers a large portion of its territory. The beauty of its scenery attracted the attention of its earliest settlers, and it has not lost any of its attractiveness by the lapse of years. The rich farms and clearings among the primeval forests have a charm peculiarly their own, and are found in abundance. South of the river the land is chiefly prairie, interspersed with groves of timber.

The pioneer settlers in this town were

Nathan C. Caswell, Ziba Caswell, Alonzo M. Caswell, Edward Brown, Silas Caswell and A. D. Pierce, who came here in 1856, as already detailed in the history of the early settlement of the county. They put up their cabins, the first in the town, around the town-site of the village.

The same fall there came to the little settlement John Tower, Carlos Caswell, Andrew Hamilton, J. W. Walker, Moody Bailey and Moody Caswell.

Among the settlers of the year 1857 were the following named: Jonathan Kimball, Linus Howe, Mark Bridges, Freeman T. Gould, E. B. Kingsley, C. O. Whitney, David Dustin, J. J. Baston, John Setter, G. W. Lamb, Robert Lyon, W. D. Magill, Thomas Faloon, Porter Loveless, Robert Lang, Henry Fleming, Henry Harndeem, Ephraim Pierson, Charles Maybee, Wilnot Maybee, James Shearer, Alexander Lee, R. D. C. Cressy, John Adeock, Henry Whitman, J. Hubbard, J. Marden, J. C. Hollis, S. Sterrett, James Lang, E. O. Britt and Chauncey Wilson.

The financial crisis that convulsed our country in 1857 put a stop to all settlement here as elsewhere, and but a few are found to have located here in 1858. Among these, however, were Samuel Clyde, Michael O'Keefe and Robert Carroll.

Joseph Page and Philip Deek, who were killed during the massacre days, settled here in 1860.

The first birth in the town was that of Mattie Estelle Kimball, which occurred in 1857.

The first death was that of Samuel Clyde, who was called hence in 1859.

The first school was held in district No. 12, in 1866, and Patrick McNulty was the pioneer teacher.

The first ground was broken by the Caswells, May 4, 1857.

The first religious services were held by Rev. Mr. Kidder, a Methodist clergyman, at the old village of Manannah, in 1859.

The first mass of the Roman Catholic Church was celebrated by Father Anthony, of St. Cloud, in 1865, at the house of Frank McIntyre.

Manannah was organized at an election held at the house of J. W. Walker, October 13, 1857, at which the following officers were chosen: N. C. Caswell, assessor; J. W. Walker and E. B. Kingsley, justices; Nathan Caswell and Mark Bridges, constables, and Ziba Caswell, road overseer. At this election J. W. Goodspeed, A. D. Pierce and J. Kimball were judges, and J. C. Hollis and Freeman Gould, clerks.

The present (1888) officers of the town are as follows: Supervisors: Jacob Hammus, chairman; Menus O'Keefe, Jr., and James Fitzpatrick. Clerk: C. J. O'Brien. Treasurer: N. C. Caswell. Assessor: P. Emright, Jr. Justices of the peace: Richard O'Brien and O. H. Campbell. Constable: Henry Hukreide.

A name was wanted for the village which was laid out by J. W. Walker and Ziba Caswell, on part of section 30, in the spring of 1856, and search in an old Scottish history gave them the name of Manannah, so it was adopted. The party who made the survey and platted the village was a man by the name of Halcott, and N. C. Caswell acted as chainbearer.

A postoffice was established in the new village in 1857, with Jonathan Kimball as postmaster; this has been presided over, in turn, by Carlos Caswell, Ziba Caswell and James Lang. The latter is the present incumbent of the office.

On the 4th of March, 1857, Ziba, Nathan C. and Albert Caswell commenced the erection of a hewn log building 18x26 feet in size, one story and a half high, in which, the following May, Jonathan Kimball opened a hotel. This building was used as a stockade during the Indian outbreak, as detailed elsewhere, but is now a thing of the past.

In May, 1857, J. W. Walker opened a store in a hewn log building he had erected, which was the first and only one in the village.

In the same spring Walker put in the dam and the following fall put up the saw-mill. This stood there until after 1862, when it burned down.

Of the old village, nothing remains, its glory having long since departed, and growing crops cover the site of the place that was hoped would be the principal place in the county.

MANANNAH VILLAGE.

The present village of Manannah was laid out in 1871, by Hines, Kimball & Beedy, and the plat filed for record September 6, 1871. Cressy's addition was platted by R. D. C. Cressy, and filed for record November 16, 1874. It occupies a small part of sections 30 and 31.

In 1869, Ziba Caswell put in a dam at this place, which partly went out the following spring. In 1871, Ziba Caswell erected a store building and opened a general stock of goods. He was succeeded in this stand by N. C. Hines, and he, in turn, by Hardy & Boone, Boone & Mitchell, O. B. Webb, Hines & Campbell, O. H. Campbell, Gray & Lang, Haines Bros., Con O'Brien, T. Kerry, Staples Bros., and by the present owner, C. A. Staples.

Another store was built in 1872, and run as a furniture depot by T. P. Murray until 1874, when James Lang purchased it and opened his present general merchandise business.

The hotel was run for a time in 1871 as a boarding house by N. C. Hines, but the next year it was opened as a hotel by S. H. Caswell. He was succeeded by James Lee, he by Jerome Haight, and then it passed into the hands of the present proprietor, James Lang.

At one time there was a third store kept

by Haight Bros., who were succeeded by E. A. Price, and finally was abandoned.

The flouring-mill was erected in 1872, by Hines, Kimball & Beedy, and was operated by N. C. Hines until 1874. He then formed a partnership with O. H. Campbell, and it was run under the firm name of Hines & Campbell. The next proprietors were Campbell & Caswell, who were succeeded O. H. Campbell, the present owner and operator. He has largely added to it, changing it to the roller system, putting in eight sets of rolls, with all the other machinery, and a fine sixty-horse power engine, and it is now one of the finest mills in the county. The main structure is 50x40 feet in size, with an addition 12x40 feet, besides the engine room. Its daily capacity is 100 barrels.

There is a fine graded school building now in course of construction, which is 24x40 feet in size, two stories in height.

The saw-mill which once stood here was built by Hines, Kimball & Beedy in 1871.

The Catholic Church of Our Lady, at Manannah, was established by the late Rev. John McDermott, of Darwin, in the year 1876, under whose direction was built a portion of the present edifice. The ground on which the church stands was donated by Anthony Kelly, of Minneapolis. It is situated on the bank of the Crow river, on a lofty eminence. The church building was finished during the administration of Father Kinney, the parish then being united to that of Litchfield. On the removal of the latter, the church was attended by the present pastor, Father McDevitt, who resided at Litchfield, for one year. Seeing the utility of Manannah having a resident priest, a parochial residence was erected in the fall of 1885, at a cost of about \$2,000. The parish, which is a separate one, contains about ninety-five families, and is in a flourishing condition. The church edifice is not yet completed, as the tower is to be finished and a bell put up. The first Catholic priest

that visited this part of the country was Father Anthony, from the Benedictine Abbey, in the diocese of St. Cloud in 1865. The mission was visited occasionally by Father Burns, who also resided at St. John's Abbey, in St. Cloud. Father Arthur Hurley, of the diocese of St. Paul was appointed to look after the spiritual wants of the people, and visited them occasionally, his residence being at Litchfield. This zealous priest had many missions to attend to and could visit each but seldom. After the removal of Father Hurley, Father Cahill served for some time with marked success. The late and much lamented priest of Darwin, Father John McDermott, came next and under his wise and able administration the parish increased rapidly. Father Kinney next took charge of the united parishes of Litchfield and Manannah, till his appointment to the Church of St. Stephen's, Minneapolis, in 1885. The present pastor then came to Litchfield and later to Manannah, as stated. The church corporation owns property to the amount of about \$6,000.

EDEN VALLEY VILLAGE.

The village of Eden Valley, located on the Minneapolis & Pacific Railroad, on the west half of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 2 and the east half of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 3, was laid out by Silas Cossairt, F. B. Smith and the railroad company, in the fall of 1886, P. M. Dahl being the civil engineer. The plat was filed for record May 11, 1887.

Previous to the location of the town-site, a store was opened there in May, 1886, by Parker & Cossairt. This was a small branch of their Litchfield store, but, when the railroad came here, they put up a large building and increased the stock to a great extent.

The next building was a blacksmith shop, erected by Henry Hukreide.

In December, 1886, William Hardy opened a store for the sale of general merchandise, and about the same time the two hotels, the Mansard and Pacific houses, were erected and opened for business.

During the same month two elevators were put up, one by Hoskins & Reeves, and the other by the railroad company. The former is now operated by Andrew Johnson, for its present owners, Osborne & McMullen, of Minneapolis.

The first dwelling house was put up by Bartley McDonough, that fall, and the second by C. J. O'Brien. The next spring there was several other stores added to the place, among them a general stock of some \$10,000, kept by Theisen & Schoen; a hardware store by C. Schmidt & Co., and one by John Cooney; one furniture establishment kept by William Thoms; and other smaller institutions. W. H. Greenleaf & Son have a lumber yard here also.

The postoffice was established April 1, 1887, with Samuel Cossairt as postmaster.

A fine depot was built about the same time, with L. V. Brown as station agent.

The Christian church, a neat and tasty structure, was erected in the fall of 1887.

There are now, in addition to the houses mentioned above, the following business places: William Kersten, general merchandise; two more blacksmith shops; a temperance pool room, run by E. H. Caswell, and a confectionery stand, by T. B. Mann.



CHAPTER X.

TOWN OF KINGSTON.

THE town of Kingston is the largest civil subdivision of Meeker county, embracing all of township 120 north, range 29 west, and the south half of township 121, the same range. It contains, in all, 34,389.39 acres, of which 1,337 are

covered with water. Much of the land is still covered by the primeval forest, a portion of "The Big Woods." The Crow River, that crosses its territory from west to east, bisecting sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26 and 25, seems to be the boundary line between the prairie and forest, south of it being mostly prairie, and north of it timber land. Consequent upon this, the first settlements were made in the southern part of the town, many locating upon the banks of the river, and at the village of Kingston.

The first to settle in this subdivision of the county is believed to have been Mark Cates, in the spring of 1856, and he was followed shortly after by J. B. Salisbury, A. P. Whitney, Benjamin and Josiah Dorman, John Fitzgerald, Patrick Flynn, A. C. Maddox, Henry Averill, Cyrus Averill, Warren Averill, Elmer Harper, William Higgins, John T. Kennison, Joseph Weymer, Morris Power, Wellington Cates, B. P. Whitney, Oliver Patch, Solomon Gray, John K. Perkins, John Lowell, Byley Lyford, John Martin, Uriah Palmer, Enoch Eastman, Rufus Eastman, Robert Niles, Nelson Niles, and Scott Hutchinson.

In 1857 Orrin Whitney, S. B. Hutchins, Benjamin Ruggles and E. H. Whitney were the most prominent settlers, but few coming here that year.

Among those who came here in 1858, and here found homes, may be mentioned F. V. DeCoster, George Scribner, A. H. Carvill, Jefferson Carvill, and John Doyle.

The trials, tribulations and hardships endured by the pioneers of the town would fill a volume. Coming here, for the most part, without money, or the wherewithal to live until they could get a crop, their endurance was severely tested. The land had to be prepared, and seed purchased before the land could be sown, and in many cases to get the seed was a serious problem.

Some of these old pioneers still live in this

town, some are in other portions of the county, many have moved away, and a part have passed to their reward beyond the grave. Their work remains, however, and it is due to the hardy pioneers of this county to remark that when they laid the foundations of society in this part of the State, they builded better than they knew, and to them is due much of the development of its resources.

Enough settlers having located here, on the 5th of April, 1858, the town was duly organized, at which time the following names bore a prominent part: A. P. Whitney, J. B. Salisbury, Orrin Whitney, Benjamin Ruggles, Mark Cates, E. H. Whitney, Joseph Weymer, Joseph Dorman, S. B. Hutchins and others of the older settlers. The present officers are: Supervisors, John Clay (chairman), Andrew Anderson and Geo. W. Robinson; assessor, Ben Apfeld; justice of the peace, Walter Salisbury, and Timothy Murphy, clerk.

The first birth in the town was that of Will H. Cates, in the opinion of the older residents. He was born July 6, 1856.

The first death was that of Morris Power, who died in 1857.

The first marriage, which was also the first in the county, was that of Joseph Weymer and Miss Mary Dorman, in August, 1857.

The first school was taught by James A. Austin, in the summer of 1857. This was undoubtedly the first in the county. The teacher held the school in the cabin of Enoch Eastman, which the people had fitted up for the purpose.

The first school house was built in 1861, at the village of Kingston.

The pioneer religious services were held at the village, up stairs over the store, by Rev. J. C. Whitney, in 1857.

KINGSTON VILLAGE.

The village of Kingston, which lies in this town, although now of but smaller impor-

tance, was, at one time, the rival and peer of the then county-seat. The location of the seat of justice at Litchfield, and the arrival of the railroad at that village, destroyed the hopes of Kingston, as well as several others, and it is now but a semblance of its former self. The town site was taken up by Albion P. Whitney, G. R. Nourse and R. P. Upton, in 1857, and surveyed and laid out that fall by a surveyor by the name of Curtis. The plat was filed for record June 2, 1858. The village is located upon the northwest quarter of section 22, township 120, range 29.

Here the town proprietors put in the dam, and commenced the erection of the saw-mill in 1857, and that institution commenced operations in July, of that year.

A stock of goods was brought here during the spring of 1857, by A. P. Whitney, and the first sales were made from the log cabin of that gentleman.

The same year the first store building was erected and a stock of goods put in by Whitney, Nourse & Upton. In 1858 A. P. Whitney disposed of his interest in the concern, and shortly after the business passed into the hands of Hines & Carner. The next to operate the institution was Hiram Hall, who was followed by William Hall, and he by Peck, Hutchinson & Durkee. Peck & Durkee were their successors, and were followed by Owen & Murphy, and the establishment is now under the control of the Murphy Bros.

The other store building was erected about 1859, and in it N. C. Hines commenced the sale of general merchandise. He was succeeded by William Hall, he by F. V. De Coster, and the latter by E. A. Briggs.

The mercantile life of the village is now represented by the firm of Murphy Bros., dealers in general merchandise; E. A. Briggs, capitalist; a blacksmith shop kept by Mr. Mahoney, and a wagon-making shop operated by Samuel Dorman.

The grist-mill was erected in 1858, by A. P. Whitney & Co., the foundation having been put in by Orrin Whitney, for them. The following year the property passed into the hands of Hiram Hall, and was run by Hall & Davis, Hall & Thompson, King & De Coster, Hall & Thompson again, and J. H. Thompson, successively, until it was purchased and improved by John Mattson, the present owner.

East Kingston was laid out in 1871, by Jefferson Carvill, upon the northeast quarter of section 14, and the plat filed for record January 24, 1871.

Jefferson and Dr. A. H. Carvill had, however, in 1866, taken up the mill site, and erected a dam at this place, and the following year put up the grist and saw mill, which constituted the entire business of the place. The Carvill Bros. ran the mills until 1873, when the doctor sold out to John Norgren, and for several years they were operated under the firm name and style of Carville & Norgren. Jefferson Carvill then became sole proprietor, but for the past three years the mills have been silent, they being in litigation.



CHAPTER XI.

CEDAR MILLS TOWNSHIP.

THIS town, which embraces all of township 117, north range 31 west, lies in the extreme southern part of the county. It contains a total acreage of 24,209.44, but 677 acres are taken up by the various lakes that dot its level and beautiful surface. The largest of these pellucid bodies of water, Red Cedar Lake, received its name from Nicollet on account of an island in it covered with timber of that variety. On the old maps, and in John C. Fremont's work, it is designated by its Indian title of Ranti-tia-wita, or the Lake of

the Red Cedar Island. From this the town drew its name. The ground is slightly rolling and of a prairie character, and the soil is of a warm, rich, black loam, which has a wonderful adaptability for raising wheat and other cereals.

The first to make a settlement within the limits of this town was Daniel Cross, who came here with his family in 1856. He was one of the victims of the tragic days of the Indian outbreak, being shot down by the treacherous Sioux.

In 1857 R. J. Brodwell, O. S. Merriam, Philander Ball and Elmer Eighmey made settlements here. The same year the following settled here also: Milton Coombs, Hector Hunter, David Hern, John Hunter, a German by the name of Steinkopf, William Hunter, Charles H. Stinchfield, L. S. Weymouth and a Doctor Hester, who brought several young men with him. The names of the latter have passed out of the minds of the settlers, and can not be given at this late day.

The settlers of 1858 were the following named, who all found homes here: S. D. L. Baldwin, George R. Jewett, C. G. Topping. In the year 1859, a few more settlers here found the land they were seeking, and took claims. Among them were—George Nichols and Jesse W. Topping, both of whom were largely instrumental in the growth of the town.

Among the prominent arrivals of 1860 were H. J. Lasher, J. M. Pitman, Seth Nichols, and one or two more that no longer live here. No more valuable citizens than those named above could have found a home here, and after they took up their claims here they were strongly identified with every movement calculated to benefit the community.

Among those who, although not very early settlers, still having done so much toward the upbuilding of the town, deserve

mention in a work of this character, are the following named: Arthur Wheeler, Isaac Wheeler, Jesse Barrick, A. C. Barrick, John Curry, William Owens, James A. Austin, Elijah Austin, E. R. Austin, R. D. Grindall, Edward Stafford, Edwin Gillett and C. B. Jordan.

The first deaths occurred in 1859, and were two children of Elmer Eighmey's.

The first school was taught by Miss Sophia Pratt, at the residence of Daniel Cross, in 1860, at Cedar Mills. The first school-house was built in 1869, and E. B. Comstock was the first teacher there.

The first religious services were held the winter of 1859-60, at the house of H. J. Lasher, by Rev. H. Adams, a Presbyterian minister from St. Peter.

There was a postoffice established here in 1858, with C. G. Topping as postmaster. He held the office until 1861, when he was succeeded by H. J. Lasher. During the Indian outbreak, the latter buried the official papers in the ground, and for several years there was no postoffice within the town limits. In 1870, in answer to a petition the postoffice was re-established, with Thomas Vinacke as postmaster. He was succeeded by J. D. Baldwin, who resigned two years later. O. W. Sterns was the next to occupy that position. Following him came E. B. Comstock, Elijah Austin, L. E. Austin and the present incumbent, Mrs. Julia Anderson.

The Presbyterian Church was organized in the town in May, 1879, with Rev. J. S. Sherrell, of Litchfield, as pastor, and a membership of about twenty-five. The first elder was John C. Curry, but later on S. W. Barrick and J. W. Topping were elected to the same position. In 1882 a neat and handsome church edifice was erected upon a lot of four acres of ground donated by Judge Vanderburg, of Minneapolis. The building cost some \$1,800. Services were kept up every alternate Sabbath until October, 1887, when

Rev. E. Curry became the resident pastor, and services are held on every Sunday. The church has now a membership of forty-one, with the following officers: H. J. Lasher, J. W. Topping and S. W. Barrick, elders; R. A. Wheeler, H. J. Lasher, E. B. Littell, Franklin Curry and I. N. Wheeler, trustees. The church was dedicated July 16, 1883, Rev. D. E. Wells, of Minneapolis, preaching the sermon.

The pioneer store of Cedar Mills was established in 1870, by J. D. Baldwin. For a couple of years he ran it, alone and in company with a brother, and then sold out to O. W. Sterns. A short time after this gentleman formed a partnership with E. B. Comstock. These parties drifted into the blacksmith business and their mercantile venture came to naught, finally, and some years after they disposed of the smithy.

In the fall of 1876, Ira Williams put in a stock of goods, but after a short time in his possession and in that of E. Gillett, it was purchased by L. E. Austin, who ran it for ten years. In the fall of 1887 another store was started by Elliott & Anderson, but in March, 1888, it was sold to the present proprietors, Standish Bros.

There are now two blacksmith shops in the village, one run by Louis Klamm, and the other by Vogenske & Dumont.

The flouring mill at Cedar Mills was erected by George Nichols, in 1858, who ran it until 1867, when it was purchased by C. B. Jordan. The latter employed Samuel Anderson, a miller, to run it, but some time afterward it passed into the hands of Dr. V. P. Kennedy. He took out the machinery, remodeled it, and finally sold the equipment, and it was all taken down and moved away.

The town was organized January 25, 1870, at a meeting held at the residence of Isaac Wheeler, some thirty voters being present. Mr. Wheeler was chosen moderator, and James A. Austin clerk of the meeting, and

the following town officers chosen: J. M. Pitman, chairman, and E. H. Halsted and E. R. Austin, supervisors; J. A. Austin, clerk; John Dyer, treasurer; E. Gillett, assessor; V. P. Kennedy and A. C. Barrick, justices.

The officers for 1888 are the following: Supervisors, E. B. Littell, chairman, F. E. Wheeler and A. G. Beckstrand; clerk, James A. Austin; treasurer, R. D. Grindall; assessor, I. N. Wheeler; constables, W. A. Curry and A. D. Cross; justice of the peace, T. Vinacke; roadmasters, Vincent Combs, Amos Barrick, O. J. Austin, E. C. Bell, Fred Schultz, H. H. Weeks.



CHAPTER XII.

SWEDE GROVE TOWNSHIP.

THE subdivision of Meeker county bearing this appellation lies upon the western border of the county, and comprises the thirty six sections of Congressional township 120, north of range 32 west, and contains 22,746.04 acres, 22,155.18 of which are either fine farm lands, or covered with the primeval timber, the balance being water. For the most part the surface is of a gentle, rolling character, and is nearly all of it natural meadow or prairie, interspersed with native groves or mottes of timber, seemingly prepared for the plow by beneficent nature. The soil is the rich, dark, sandy loam, that has made the name of Minnesota synonymous with all that is fertile and productive.

Several beautiful lakes nestle on the bosom of the township, which all abound with various species of the finny tribe, and because of the abundance of the game in this neighborhood, and the fine quality of the fish, it was a favorite resort for the Indians in an early day. The lakes bear the names of

Wileox, Mud, Miller, Peterson, Halga, and Elofson.

Among the sturdy pioneers that made settlements in this township in 1857 were Hans Peterson and his family, Peter E. Hanson, then a boy, Andrew Peterson, N. E. Hanson, John Roseneranz, Bertha Elofson, and her sons, Nels, Andrew, and Peter Elofson, Nels Thorbjörnson, Helgar Olson, Amos Olson, Nels Olson, and Nels Askelson.

With the year 1858 came others to found homes in this part of the county, prominent among whom were the following: William H. Wilcox, Christian Erickson, Halver Mickelson, Arslag Olson and John Larson. Mr. Wilcox is one of the few native American settlers in the town, and holds the warmest esteem and respect of the entire community. Arslag Olson was the settler who was so badly wounded during the attack on the stockade at Forest City, in 1862.

Swen Nelson and a few others settled in the town during the year 1859, but from that time until the close of the war there were very few, if any, who sought homes here, and none are remembered by the old settlers.

The town was a portion of the civil township of Acton until March 15, 1868, when it was organized as a separate precinct, by Nels Elofson, Nels E. Hanson, and W. H. Wilcox. The name was given on account of its having been first settled by the Swedish colony. At the first election among the officers chosen were the following: Nels Elofson, chairman of the town board; Nels E. Hanson, clerk; and W. H. Wilcox, treasurer.

The present officers are as follows: Swan W. Olson, chairman; Andrew Elofson and Andrew Peterson, supervisors; Nels Oke-son, clerk; Henry Palm, treasurer; Mr. Sily, justice; and Nels Erickson, constable.

In 1864 a postoffice known as Swede Grove was established at the house of Nels

Elofson, then on section 33, and that gentleman made postmaster. He held that office until 1870, when he resigned to make a trip to the old country, in favor of Mr. Dahlquist. The latter held it about one year, when he was succeeded by Ole J. Levander. It was removed to what is now Grove City, in 1870, when Mr. Dahlquist was appointed, and has continued there ever since.

The first birth in the town was that of Peter Peterson, the son of Andrew Peterson, born January 3, 1859. The second was that of A. P. Hanson, born the 9th of June, following.

The first death was the child of Ole Nelson, a Swede who came here in 1857, but shortly after went to Carver county. The child was buried on Nels Elofson's place.

The pioneer marriage was that between John Larson and Miss Hannah Elofson, which took place in 1858.

The first school was taught at the house of Nels Elofson, by Rev. William Baglund, a Lutheran minister, in 1859.

The first religious services were held at Nels Elofson's residence on section 33, in 1859, by the Rev. Mr. Baglund.

The pioneer to plow up the sod and sow grain was Hans Peterson, in 1859. He did some breaking in 1857 and 1858, but did not sow until the year mentioned above.



CHAPTER XIII.

DASSEL TOWNSHIP.

THE subdivision of Meeker county that bears this name lies in the eastern tier of townships, and embraces all of Congressional township 119 north of range 29 west, and contains 22,967.66 acres of ground; 3,275.66 are covered with water, leaving something like 19,692 acres

suitable for agricultural use. Much of the land is covered with timber and the soil is of a choice quality. The town was originally a portion of the town of Kingston, and when set off was called Swan Lake, after a body of water within its limits, of that name. In 1871, on a petition of the citizens of the township its name was changed to Dassel, after the village of that name within its boundaries.

The earliest settlers in this portion of the county were undoubtedly two surveyors by the names of C. L. Richardson and Edwin Ayres, who located here in 1856. They came to this locality from their homes in Houston county, this State, having come from Mexico, N. Y., originally. They built a cabin on section 14, where they lived until the Indian troubles of 1862, when they fled, and the savages burned their shanty. This was on what was afterwards termed Ayres' Prairie.

There were no other settlers who located in the town until after the Indian massacre, which depopulated the border and checked the tide of immigration in 1862. In November, 1863, Isaac Russell and his brother Anthony W., with their families, came here and took up claims on section 10. They were natives of Vermont. They lived here some years, and combined hunting and trapping with their farm operations. Isaac, in 1875, went to the Black Hills, but returned here in 1882, and here died, November 13, 1883. His brother died some years previous to that.

Wells Tumans, with his family, made a settlement in the summer of 1865, on section 14. The same year he was followed by Barney Cox, G. D. Arrowood, and Peter and William Cunningham.

The settlers of 1866 were the following named, who all took up claims and permanently located in the town—Thomas and James Sellards, Lewis Rudberg, John Erickson, John Rudberg, William Maynard,

Andrew Davidson, Mrs. Gardner and her son Peter, David W. King, John McKinney, Madison Delong, John Hendrickson, Eric Runquist, B. N. Backstrom, Henry Mattson, and James Littom.

Among those who found homes in this town in 1867, were: Peter Johnson, Harlow Ames, Sr., Harlow F. Ames, Henry Ames, and others. All these now occupy quite prominent positions in the county, as will be seen on reference to the biographical department of this work.

The first school-house in the town was built in 1867, on the corners of sections 10, 11, 14 and 15. It was a small affair, built of logs with a dirt roof, and had to admit the light through two small half sash, let into the sides. Mrs. E. M. Winan was the pioneer teacher.

The first frame house was erected by Harlow Ames on section 23, and is now a portion of the residence of that gentleman. The first chimney regularly built was also by him.

The first child born in the town was probably George Cunningham, whose birth took place late in the year 1865. The second was that of Ada Tumans, who was born May 6, 1866.

The first death was that of the child of James and Margaret Littom.

The first marriage was that of Barney Cox and Janet Davidson, which occurred in April, 1868.

The township was organized as Swan Lake, in the fall of 1866, at which time the following officers were chosen—John Smith (chairman), Frederick Spath and Wayne Russell, supervisors; G. D. Arrowood, clerk; Andrew Davidson and William Maynard, justices of the peace. G. A. Arrowood was appointed the first assessor. In 1871 the name of the town was changed to its present one. The present (1888) officers of the township, consist of the following named—Super-

visors: Andrew Davidson (chairman), Nelson Tumans and John Boo; clerk, W. S. Cox; treasurer, Peter Johnson; assessor, A. J. Waller; justices, W. Bartholomew and Isaac Vervalin.

A Methodist church was organized in 1874, by William Arrowood, in the school-house in district 21, with eighteen members, which has been kept up ever since. In 1885 the congregation erected a church edifice on the northwest corner of section 11, where they hold services every Sabbath, which are partially of a union character.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran was organized October 14, 1873, by Rev. F. Peterson, with the following membership: Andrew Olson and wife; Andrew Anderson and wife; Swen Johnson and wife; Andrew Larson and wife; E. A. Boren and wife, and Lars Nelson and wife. The first officers were the following named: A. E. Boren, secretary; A. E. Boren, Andrew Olson and Andrew Anderson, deacons; and Andrew Larson, Lars Nelson and Swen Johnson, trustees. The congregation own some ten acres of land on section 5, where they have a frame church. The pastorate was vacant until 1881, when Rev. J. S. Ryding took charge of the church. He was succeeded in November, 1883, by the present pastor, Rev. L. A. Hocanzan, who has filled the duties ever since. The present officers are: L. A. Hocanzan, pastor; Andrew Tumans, secretary; A. P. Gissle, A. Frank and John Lindquist, deacons; and Nels Olson, Andrew Freeman and Andrew Larson, trustees. There are seventy-two communicants and 140 members connected with the church, which holds meetings every Sunday. A Sabbath-school is held in operation during the summer months, and a parish school is held during some eight weeks in the year, with about forty scholars. The property has a value of about \$250, but no debt is due on it.

DASSEL VILLAGE.

The village of Dassel, which is situated in this township, upon the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 27, and lot 6, of the same section, and upon the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the west half of the northwest quarter of section 34, was laid out and platted by the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad in 1869, on the advent of the road at this point, and filed for record on the 11th of October, 1870. Several additions have been added to the original town site by Horace P. Breed, Bernard Dassel, A. M. Bell, and Jonas Rudberg. The land whereon the original site stands was owned previous to this by Madison DeLong, who had made a claim to it, and had erected a shanty near where R. T. Elliott now lives. Parker Simons, who was a civil engineer in the employ of the St. Paul & Pacific Railway, purchased the claim and proceeded to lay out the town, the railroad company acquiring an interest subsequently.

He moved his family here as soon as the road was opened and made this his home, although his business called him away nearly all the time for several years.

The town was named after Bernard Dassel, who was the secretary of the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, at that time. After laying out the place, in the fall of 1869 Mr. Simons put up the first frame building, and was quickly followed by Seth Nichols. Ralph Walters erected a building for hotel purposes, which was opened and run as such by Mr. Phillips, and is still standing.

During the fall of 1869 there were a few other dwelling houses erected, but in the spring and summer of 1870, quite a boom for the new village set in and a number of houses and store buildings were put up, and the population largely increased until it is to-day the largest place in the county outside of the county seat. It has now three

elevators, a flouring mill, a woolen mill, two hotels, a public hall, engine house and public library, Congregational, Seventh-day Adventists, Swedish Lutheran and Swedish Missionary churches, and the tile stove works. Quite a number of store buildings have been put up, and are all well filled with excellent stocks of goods, both necessities and luxuries, and the mercantile trade is well represented by a fine class of enterprising merchants, who are doing quite a large share of the business of this section of the county.

The pioneer store was opened by James and Charles Morris in the fall of 1869, who displayed a full stock of general merchandise. This place was run by the original owners, and afterwards by Charles Morris until 1872, when it was sold to Wilson & Bunting, who continued to operate it until 1875, when the business was purchased by the Rudberg Brothers.

A steam saw mill was next erected by George Brower, William Bradford and Thomas Wilson. These gentlemen operated it but a short time, when there was a change in the copartnership, and it passed through several hands, until in 1875, when it was destroyed by fire. The following year it was rebuilt and continued in operation until about August, 1881, when it was blown down by wind and never rebuilt.

James H. Morris, now of Litchfield, built the second store building, the one now occupied by Peter Johnson as an office, in which was opened a stock of general merchandise in 1872.

In 1872 the third store was commenced by Mickel Henderson, who died before finishing it. In the latter part of October, 1873, this building was occupied by O. H. Sundahl and Lewis and Jonas J. Rudberg, who opened a general stock. This they ran until 1874. Then C. A. Morris purchased Sundahl's interest, and in 1875 the firm purchased the business of Samuel Bunting's executors, as

above stated, and incorporated it with their business.

The fourth store building was built by Norgren & Co. in 1875, and was occupied by them until 1886, when they removed to their present quarters.

John Osborne was the first to deal in lumber and furniture, commencing in those lines in 1874. In 1881 he sold out to the Rudberg Brothers, and this old stand is still continued by the survivor of that firm, John Rudberg.

The old Dassel House, the pioneer hotel, was built in 1872, by George Brower, and for a time was run by him. Samuel Bunting afterwards operated it, and, after his death, his widow. J. H. Remick held the position of landlord from 1877 until February 3, 1883, when the structure burned to the ground. It was then rebuilt in its present shape.

The first hardware store in Dassel was established in 1880 by H. L. Babst, who ran it until 1882, when he sold out to A. M. Bell, who in 1886 disposed of it to W. S. Bartholomew, who sold it to Cox & Gallagher in 1888. L. W. Leighton and J. M. Johnson, in August, 1882, opened the second store of this character and carried on the trade until January 7, 1887, when Mr. Johnson bought his partner's interest, and the firm is now J. M. Johnson & Co.

The pioneer drug store was commenced in 1872, by C. A. Morris and Lewis Rudberg, who carried it on until 1875, when Rudberg sold to his partner, who operated it until 1880, and then disposed of it to Dr. McCollum and George Breed, who sold it again in 1883, to Rudberg Bros. On the death of Jonas Rudberg, in 1885, a partnership was formed by his widow and R. F. Case, which lasted for one year, when the latter purchased the business, and carries it on.

The first grain warehouse was built in 1870 by the Millers' Association, and in 1876

the same corporation erected the pioneer elevator. The latter, now owned by the Minnesota and Dakota Elevator Company, has a capacity of 30,000 bushels of wheat, and last year (1887) handled 7,000 bushels of that cereal alone. It is under the management of Harry Hines. The Dassel elevator was built by the citizens of the place in 1880, and has a capacity of 45,000 bushels; in 1887 shipped some 65,000 bushels of wheat. This is managed by J. H. McKinney. The Cargill Bros. elevator was erected in 1885, by Alexander Coffield, and this institution handled 70,000 bushels during the past year.

Weisner & Mattson, the proprietors of the machine and blacksmith shop, established their business in the fall of 1883, as a wagon, blacksmith and repair shop, which they carried on until the fall of 1886, when they put in an engine of four-horse power and some machinery. October 30, 1887, their shop was destroyed by fire, when they met with a loss of some \$1,500. At once they erected their present shop, which is 40x60 feet in size and well fitted up, and where they carry on business, employing some four or five workmen.

The flouring mill of Dassel was erected as a foundry in 1883, and in 1887 E. Heglund purchased it and remodeled the edifice and put in roller machinery of the finest description. It has a capacity of sixty barrels per day, and is valued at between \$8,000 and \$10,000. The building is of solid brick and substantially built, and the internal arrangements are of the best. The motive power is furnished by a good engine of forty horse-power. The output of the mill ranks with the best, and is made out of the famous Minnesota hard wheat.

The woolen mill was built about 1882 by G. B. Lewis and S. P. Breed, and is one of the leading industries of the place. It has been improved largely of late, and is now in the hands of a stock company.

A custom card-machine mill was built in 1876, by G. B. Lewis & Co., for the manufacture of certain kinds of woollen yarns, but it was destroyed by fire in 1880. From the ashes of this rose the present woolen mill.

The first wagon shop in the village was run by L. W. Leighton, in the spring of 1874.

The first blacksmith shop was opened by Frederick Spath, in the fall of 1869, in a log shanty, without any roof, where he carried on business for a short time, and then built another smithy. He remained in this business in the village until 1881, when he removed to his farm in the township where he now lives.

There is a most excellent graded school, the building in which it is located, a handsome and substantial brick edifice, having been erected by the Independent district in 1885. It contains eight rooms, and cost some \$10,000 to build and finish. Prof. R. McKay is the present principal. The town hall and library are located in the same house with the village fire apparatus, and are each of them worthy of more than a passing notice. The library, which consists of an extensive selection of choice books, reflects great credit upon the taste and enterprise of the place in initiating so noble an institution.

The tile stove works of Peter Johnson is yet in its infancy, and is the only one of the kind in the United States. It was established by the present proprietor in 1886, and is for the manufacture of tile stoves, etc., such as have been in use in the northern part of Europe for years, but which have been, until now, unknown in America. Mr. Johnson has inaugurated the enterprise at an outlay of some \$10,000, and, having already met with a merited success, anticipates greatly enlarging the plant in the summer of 1888. This is one of the greatest institutions in the county and such places as St. Paul and Minneapolis would bid high to have it brought into their limits.

The postoffice was established here in the fall of 1869, and Isaac Atwater, the station agent of the railroad, was the first postmaster. He had the office in the depot, and there held it until the summer of 1877, when he was succeeded by C. A. Morris, July 1. Lewis Rudberg was the successor of Mr. Morris, and entered upon its duties July 1, 1881, and held it until January 1, 1883, when he gave way to Louis Osterlund. May 1, 1887, Henry Clay assumed the duties of the office, and is the present postmaster.

The village was duly incorporated as such March 4, 1878, and is still governed under the charter granted at that time. The first officers of the village were the following named: J. B. Smith, president; C. A. Morris, recorder; H. P. Breed, Allen Weatherly and J. J. Rudberg, trustees. Since that time H. P. Breed, J. J. Rudberg, J. H. Remick, L. W. Leighton, P. Johnson and J. H. McKenney have filled the office of president of the village board; J. J. Rudberg, Fred Spath, C. A. Morris, August Sallberg, Lewis Rudberg, J. M. Johnson, L. W. Leighton, John Norgren, William Gallagher, A. M. Bell, John Rudberg, S. O. Lindgren, L. A. Whitmore and Alexander Colfield have served as members of the board of trustees. W. L. Van Eman, C. A. McCollum, Douglas Martin and S. O. Lindgren have each in turn filled the position of recorder. The present officers are as follows: W. D. Bangs, president; S. O. Lindgren, recorder; J. Norgren, treasurer; W. S. Bartholomew, justice, and J. Rudberg, J. M. Johnson and J. J. Lindquist, trustees.

The Gethsemane Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized February 13, 1873, with the following members: Daniel Johnson and wife, Taylor Johnson and wife, Swen Johnson and wife, F. J. Peterson and wife, C. J. Johnson and wife, Olaf Dahlman and wife, and Johannes Johnson and wife. The officers at the time of its establishment

were as follows: Rev. J. G. Lagerstrom, pastor; D. Johnson, secretary; Daniel Johnson, Swen Johnson and Taylor Johnson, deacons; C. G. Johnson, Olaf Dahlman and C. G. Johnson, trustees. A log church was built the same year by the congregation, at Steelsville, in which services were held until 1878, when they purchased the school-house for \$350, in the village of Dassel, and fitted it up for a church, which they occupied until 1886, when they erected the edifice where they now worship. This is a brick-veneered building, 38x62 feet on the ground, 21 feet in height, with a sacristy twenty-four feet square in addition, and a tower eighty five feet in height, which is fourteen feet square at the base. It is handsomely frescoed and furnished within, and is a nice property. This, together with the school-house and stables at Steelsville, is valued at \$6,000. The present officers are: Rev. L. A. Hocanzan, pastor; D. Johnson, Taylor Johnson, O. P. Carislett, Matt Anderson, Alfred Soder and O. Christofferson, deacons; D. Danielson, Aug. Sangreen and B. J. Peterson, trustees; Peter Sangreen, secretary, and Aug. Sangreen, treasurer. There is a membership of 350, and a list of 211 communicants. A Sunday-school of eighty scholars is held in connection with the church.

The Swedish Mission Church was organized August 15, 1879, by John G. Sjorquist, with some twenty members. J. Norgren, E. Skarvik and E. Runquist were chosen trustees at that time and E. Skarvik, Z. Dolin, John Olson, Nels Nelson, J. E. Heglund, and E. Runquist, deacons. Services of this denomination were held in the place, at the residence of J. Norgren, as early as 1872, and were continued from time to time until the organization of the society. At that time they rented John Rudberg's hall, which they occupied until 1881, when steps were taken to build their present church edifice, which was completed in 1885. This

structure is, in the main building, 28x36 feet in size, with an annex 16x18 feet on the ground. The church is well furnished and fitted inside, and has a large and increasing membership. The following are the present officers: Rev. John G. Sjorquist, pastor; O. W. Olson, secretary; E. N. Dahlgren, John Olson and A. G. Heglund, trustees; E. Skarvik, P. Nelson, Frank Johnson, Hans Anderson, Andrew Olson, and John Nelson, deacons.

Colfax Post, G. A. R., was organized March 18, 1885, on which evening A. R. Becker, deputy grand commander, assisted by comrades V. H. Harris, J. B. Atkinson and J. B. Hatch, installed the officers and mustered in the members. The charter members were the following named—H. Y. Dorman, J. Bogart, M. Boyer, C. C. Curtis, E. F. Proctor, R. T. Elliott, John Bogar, E. A. Hines, J. E. Lyon, A. M. Bell, David Flack, James Patterson, Henry Clay, J. T. Shumater, C. H. Castle, Theodore Singleton, Joseph Hamilton, John Mattson, Henry Lenhart, John A. Quick and M. H. Boyer. The following named were elected as the first officers, and duly installed—E. F. Proctor, C.; H. Y. Dorman, S. V. C.; John Bogar, J. V. C.; A. M. Bell, Q. M.; Henry, A.; M. Boyer, O. D.; C. C. Curtis, S.; David Flack, Chaplain; J. Bogart, O. G. The organization increased in strength rapidly, until it numbered some thirty-two members, but by the removal of some of them from the county, a slight falling off in their number is noted. In 1886 a drum corps was organized, as attached to the Post, consisting of four fifes and four drums, and is one of the institutions of the same. They own the furniture of their hall, with the decoration flags, banners, etc., and four lots in the cemetery. Meetings were held weekly, but are only semi-monthly at the present, but the interest is still maintained in the order by all. The present officers are—Isaac Vervalen, C.; John Bogar, S. V. C.; Wells Truman, J. V. C.; G. O. Baily,

A.; E. F. Proctor, Q. M.; Moses Bogar, O. D.; John A. Quick, Chaplain; I. N. Russell, S.; and R. T. Elliott, O. G.



CHAPTER XIV

DARWIN TOWNSHIP.

THE town that bears the name of Darwin was called after one of the prominent men connected with the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad, and embraces all of Congressional township 119, north of range 30 west, and contains 23,002.26 acres, 20,552.86 of which are land and 2,949.40 acres covered with the water of the lakes. The soil is a rich, dark, sandy loam, capable of high cultivation and wonderfully productive. As to surface this is one of the finest townships in the county, being nearly all level or gently rolling prairie, well drained, and, with the growing crops, handsome and tasty houses and barns surrounded by natural or artificial groves, presents to the eye one of the loveliest of pictures.

The first to make a settlement in this township was Patrick Casey, who came here from Pennsylvania in the spring of 1856, and on the 18th of June of that year, made his claim on section 33, on the shores of beautiful Lake Casey, where he now lives.

Following him shortly were John Peiffer, Peter Stierens, Gottlieb Reef, Patrick Condon, John Doyle, John Dougherty and Timothy Dunn. These all took claims and made homes here in the same year, 1856.

They were joined during the year 1857 by the following named settlers, who here found, in the wilderness, the place for the homes they had set out to find in Minnesota: William and Michael O'Brien, Bryan McNulty, William Cunningham, John McRaith, James Shelley, Jacob Reef, James Murphy, S. W. Ryan, Willard Keats, Richard Poole, Henry Bierman, John Curran, J. Powell, J. E. Bill,

Capt. James Hayden, a man by the name of Hitchcock, Edwin Fitch, and Mark Warren.

Like all other sections of the county the little settlement received but few accessions the next few years, the financial crisis of 1857 having paralyzed all immigration and business. Among the prominent people who made settlements in 1859 were John S. Shields, Edwin and Lance Chapin, and Sylvester Stevens. In 1860 the following named made their appearance, and, taking up land, became identified with the development of the town: James Dearey, Michael Haggerty, Michael Nash, Michael Gallahue, Samuel Charlton, and "Colonel" Andrews.

The town of Darwin held its first election in 1857, at which time it was known as the town of Rice City, Capt. James Hayden, from Dubuque, Iowa, having laid out and platted a city of that name, where the farm of John S. Shields is now located. The township, however, was not organized until April 5, 1858, when the proper election was held, and the town properly commenced its existence. After the coming of the railroad, in 1869, and the laying out of the village of Darwin, within its limits, the name of the town was changed to its present one.

The officers in the town for the year 1888, are as follows: John Lenhardt, chairman; John Peiffer, second, and W. V. Passenger, supervisors; G. W. Harding, clerk; Ole Benson, treasurer; William Lenhardt, assessor; D. H. Hull, and Riley McGannon, justices; and Thomas Hughes and Henry Segar, constables.

The first child born in the town was Mary Ann, the daughter of John and Mary Peiffer, whose birth took place in 1857.

The first death was that of Edmund, the son of Timothy Dum, who died in 1862.

The first school was taught by Miss Mary Flynn, in 1859, in a log school-house near where Michael Harding's house now stands.

The first religious services were held at

the house of Bryan McNulty, in 1861, Rev. Father Alexis, from St. Cloud, celebrating mass of the Catholic church. This was in 1860 or 1861.

The first marriage was that of John Doyle and Mary Lynch, which took place in 1861.

DARWIN VILLAGE.

The village of Darwin was laid out and platted by John Curran and Martin McKenney, and the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, and the papers were filed for record with the register of deeds, October 11, 1869. The site of the village lies upon the south half of section 23, and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 30.

The pioneer merchant was Alexander Cairncross.

The next was J. F. Low, who opened a store shortly after, and finally failed, and the stock was closed out. A man by the name of Moran opened a store, but afterward sold it out to James Curran. The latter ran it until his death, when he was succeeded by Brown Bros. They finally sold out the store and moved away.

The Minnesota and Dakota elevator was built by C. D. Brown in the fall of 1870, but was preceded by one erected by the Davidson Elevator Company, in 1869. This latter was burned down about 1880. The Cargill Bros.' elevator was put up by F. J. Chevre, in 1887, and passed into the hands of the present owners in the spring of 1888.

Mrs. M. A. Paquet runs the only store in the place now, and thus the elevators and the temperance pool-room of Patrick McKinney constitute the business of the place.



CHAPTER XV.

HARVEY TOWNSHIP.

THE town known as Harvey embraces all of congressional township 120, north of range 31 west, and contains 24,830.92 acres, of which

464 acres are covered with water. The soil is unusually fertile and productive, being suitable for any of the great cereals of which Minnesota is the great storehouse. The land, which is generally of a slightly rolling character, is, a small portion of it, covered with the primeval growth of forest timber, but the most of it is in the natural prairie, and the clearings made by the hands of the industrious settlers. The Crow River, which flows through some of its eastern sections, with the lakes and affluent creeks, afford ample drainage, and make the land very desirable. The soil, a sandy loam of high quality, is noted for its fecundity, and the improvements of the residents are of a marked degree of excellence.

The first settler in this town was Rudolph Schultz, who located here where he now lives, in the spring of 1856.

Among the others who settled within what is now the boundaries of Harvey the same year were—Mr. McCue, Dennis Shields, Edward Fitzgerald, Carl Shultz, J. W. Walker, Reuben Davis, David Ralston, Patrick Armstrong, John Tower, Dennis, John, Thomas and Daniel Dougherty, and a few others. They mostly took up homes here, and remained, and many of them are still residents of the town.

In the following year, 1857, among the most prominent settlers were—Patrick Finnegan, E. O. Britt, Jorgen Lohse, William Marks and John C. Shultz. The date of John Ralston's settlement was March, 1858, and of Robert B. Ralston and Fergus McCusker, 1859. Like every other town in the county, there was but very little more settlement here until after the close of the war, when it began to fill up rapidly. Among the few who did settle prior to the outbreak of 1862, not mentioned above, were the following named—Samuel Hutchinson, Joachim Shultz, Henry Parker, L. F. McCusker, Martin Bramly, James Harvey, and two

men by the names of Taylor and Thomas.

The first birth was that of Miss Sarah Jane Dougherty, born July 15, 1856. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dougherty.

The first marriage was that of Dennis Dougherty and Miss Mary Finnegan, which took place in May, 1869.

The first death was the taking away of Eddie Dolan, a child of eight years of age, in 1870.

The first school was taught by Miss Mary Flynn.

The first ground was broken for farming purposes by Dennis Dougherty, in 1856, and the first crops were put into the ground by him, his father and brothers.

Harvey, which was previous to that a part of Forest City, was organized as a separate civil township in the spring of 1867, and at the first election, held at the Dougherty school-house, Philip Turek and Patrick Flynn were chosen supervisors, and Andrew Smith town clerk.

The officers for 1888 are as follows—Supervisors: E. Carlson (chairman), T. W. Curry and Patrick Vaughn; clerk, P. J. Mitchell; treasurer, James McCusker; assessor, J. C. Connole; constables, Thos. Flynn and Thos. J. Connole; justices, John Schultz and Michael Finnegan; poundmasters, D. Rutland, W. Shields and M. Nelson.



CHAPTER XVI.

DANIELSON TOWNSHIP.

CONGRESSIONAL township 118, north of range 32 west, is known by the name of Danielson, after one of its earliest settlers. It embraces an area of 22,950 acres, some 974 acres of which are, however, unavailable for agricultural purposes, being covered by the waters of several lakes and ponds. The land, which is

level prairie, is susceptible of high cultivation, and is uncommonly productive. The inhabitants are an industrious class of people, there being a large share of thrifty, hard-working Scandinavians among them.

The first settler in this part of the county was Noah White, who located here in 1857, but a year later moved over into Kandiyohi county. For several years thereafter there were none to settle here until in 1861, when the following named came and took claims and founded homes—Nils Danielson Upsaal, Peter Peterson, Oscar Phillips, Berger Anderson, Andrew Dakken, Soren Morton, C. L. Hanson, Ole Solomonson, Nels Mattson, O. K. Nelson, Bethel Gunderson and William Hanson. Most of these still have their homes here, and have brought their farms to a high state of cultivation and beautifully improved them.

No more settlers came in here until after the Indian outbreak, or, in fact, until about the close of the late war.

Prominent among the older residents of the town who, although not early settlers, still have done much toward its development, are the following—Daniel Danielson, Hans H. Johnson, John Murphy, John Johnson, John Henderson, Henry Solomonson, John Ogren, Isaac Johnson, P. C. Hanson, Christian Hanson, Christian and Lars Rasmusson, Otho Philips, Lars Hanson, P. C. Finelius, Charles Finelius, L. P. Frederickson, Nels Frederickson, Jens Hink, Lewis Johnson, Andrew Dahl, Peter Elberg, John Brown, Paul Nelson, Hans Falk, John Eklund, Christian Nelson, Andrew Ogren, Peter Thorenson, Christian Thorenson, Henry Philips, Andrew Swan, Charles Johnson and Peter Mortenson.

The first birth in the town was that of Arnt, the son of C. L. Hanson, who was born November 13, 1866.

The first death was that of Arnt, the son of C. L. Hanson, who died June 16, 1868.

The first marriage was that which united the lives of O. K. Nelson and Miss Mary Danielson, in 1868.

The first school was taught by Miss Lizzie Martin, in 1869.

The pioneer religious meeting was held in the school-house, on section 2, in 1869.

The first church in the town was named Arnt Dahl, being a combination of the names of the first person to die in the town, Arnt Hanson, and the name of the minister, Rev. Mr. Dahl.

Danielson was for some years a part of a precinct composed of the towns of Swede Grove, Acton and Danielson, but March 12, 1872, it was set off and organized with its present boundaries. Among those prominent in the organization were the following named: Daniel Danielson, who was elected clerk; Ole K. Nelson, chairman of the town board; O. Solomonson and C. Fernelius, supervisors; Berger Anderson, treasurer; C. L. Hanson, justice; Daniel Danielson, assessor, and Lars Rasmusson, constable.

The present officers are—Supervisors, Emeilius Nelson, chairman, William Nelson and Lewis Peterson; clerk, Peter Mortenson; treasurer, L. P. Sorenson; justices, Alfred Johnson and J. B. Dahl; constables, J. P. Hanson and August Nelson; overseers of highways, S. Morton, J. K. Brown, Frank Holmgren, August Nelson; assessor, Jens Hink.



CHAPTER XVII.

LITCHFIELD TOWNSHIP.

THE territory known as Litchfield township is in the third tier from the north line of the county, and the second from the western boundary. It embraces all of congressional township 118 north of range 31 west, and contains about

24,407 acres, 2,895 of which are covered with water, and about a like extent with timber. The prairie land is mostly high and sufficiently undulating and rolling to afford ample drainage, and add to its picturesqueness and adaptability for the uses of agriculture. There are several beautiful lakes within the limits of this subdivision of the county, the largest and most important of which is Lake Ripley, on the edge of the corporate village of Litchfield. This lovely sheet of water was named in honor of Dr. Frederick N. Ripley, one of the earliest settlers of the county, who was frozen to death near its banks in the winter of 1855-'56, as detailed elsewhere.

The first settlement of this township was made in July, 1856, by a party of Norwegian emigrants, who had moved hither from Rock county, Wis. Their names were Ole Halverson Ness, Henry Halverson, Ole Halverson Thon, Amos Nelson Fosen, Nels Hanson Colberg and Gunder Olson. Ness, Halverson and Thon had families, which they brought with them; the others were, at the time, single men. The entire party took up claims and settled in the southwest part of the township, one of the most picturesque localities in the county.

Among the other settlers of the year 1856 may be named the following: William Benson, Swen and Nels Swenson, Michael Lenhardt, Ferdinand, Christian, Frederick and William Cook.

In 1857 quite a number found homes in this town. Some are here still, a portion have moved away, and others have been called away by death. The names of the settlers of this year are—Bengt Hanson, John Larson, and his four sons, Nels, Andrew, Peter E. and Lewis; Hogen Peterson, Thorlson J. Cornelius, Ole Amundson, Nels Danielson, Kittel Haroldson, Henry J. Johnson, Ole Kittelson, Jesse V. Branham, Sr., and his sons, Jesse V., Jr., William and Edward;

Oscar Erickson, Nels Clements, Ola Johnson, and Louis and Maximilian Cook.

Among the settlers of 1858 were the following named—Iver Jackson, Bengt Nelson, John and Thomas McGannon. No more can be named by the old settlers, who were interviewed, but there possibly may have been one or two more. Times were hard during these years, and all suffered many privations, and nearly all were glad of any shelter, even if no better than a "dugout." Money was almost an unknown quantity, at the time, but in spite of the drawbacks and discouragements of those early days those who have remained have reaped their reward in their fine farms and elegant homes. The town now has a population of 1,100 people, outside of the village of Litchfield, which is situated within its borders.

The first house in the township was the log cabin of Henry Halverson, built in the summer of 1856.

The first birth was that of Ole T., son of Henry Halverson, who was born December 11, 1856. He is the first male child born in the county.

The first death was that of Dr. Frederick N. Ripley, who froze to death on the banks of Lake Ripley, March 3, 1856.

The first barn built was that of Ole H. Ness, who lived in it during the first summer, his house not being finished until winter.

The pioneer church services were held at the residence of Ole H. Ness, in the fall of 1858, by Rev. Wm. Frederickson, a minister of the Norwegian Church, from Goodhue county, this State.

The first school was taught by John Blackwell in 1860, at the house of Ole H. Ness, who employed and paid the teacher.

The first school meeting was held at the house of Mr. Ness, December 7, 1861, at which Amos Nelson Fosen was chairman, and John Blackwell, clerk. The first direc-

tors chosen were Thomas McGannon, Kittle Haroldson and Ole Halverson Ness.

The building of the first school-house was commenced in the summer of 1862, on the farm of O. H. Ness, but on account of the Indian troubles was not finished until some time after the war. A substantial brick edifice, used for the same purpose, marks the site of the original building.

This town was originally a portion of Round Lake township, but seems to have been known also as Ripley, from the lake of that name; but no record of such exists. On the 5th of April, 1858, the board of County Commissioners ordered its organization under the name of Ness, after O. H. Ness, one of its oldest settlers. It continued to bear that name until 1869, when, on a petition of its citizens, the name was changed to its present form. The officers of the town in 1888, are the following named: Supervisors, John Rodange, Bengt Hanson, and G. B. Strobeck; town clerk, Aaron Liedholm; treasurer, A. J. Revell; justice of the peace, J. H. Bacon; assessor, W. H. Dart; constable, G. S. Sholes; road overseers, Andrew Mattson, Peter H. Peterson, John Chilstrom, Peter Mortenson, Swan Swanson; poundmaster, H. M. Angier.



CHAPTER XVIII.

COSMOS TOWNSHIP.

ALL OF the territory technically known as township, 117 north of range 32 west, is embraced in one civil town under the name of Cosmos, and contains an area equivalent to 23,030 acres, but 542 acres of which are covered with the waters of the numerous lakes that stud its surface. The land, which is a low lying level prairie, is susceptible of high culture, and excellent authority claims for it a high

degree of adaptability for wheat raising. The soil is a kindly, warm and quick, black loam, and wonderfully suited to the growth of all indigenous grasses, and hence, this is an excellent place for stock raising.

The pioneer settler in Cosmos was Daniel Jackman, who first came here in 1867, and made a claim upon which he settled, with his family, in May, 1868.

The same season the following named made their appearance here, and, taking homesteads, settled: John Jameson, Isaac Layton, Hans H. Hanson, Iver H. Thompson, Ole K. Nelson, Ole Olson, H. W. Young, Daniel Hoyt, Edward Chamberlain, Ezra Mathews, Nelson Eddy, J. M. McDonald and Orrin A. Phelps.

The settlers of 1869 were the following named: Samuel Hutchinson, C. H. Duckering, Elisha L. Grindall, Christian Halverson, Albert Amermen, J. T. Royce, Thomas Royce, A. B. Watson, Ralph D. Waterman, Lewis Halverson and John Rastus.

The first birth in the town was that of a daughter of Samuel Hutchinson, born January 18, 1871.

The first boy was born March 27, 1871, child of Willard C. Amerman, and was named Albert.

The first death was that of John T. Royce, who died April 16, 1871.

The first marriage was that of Ole K. Nelson and Miss Mary Danielson in 1869.

The first school was taught in the spring of 1870, at the house of J. T. Royce, with Miss Lily Catheart as the teacher. The first school-house was built in 1871, and in this structure Miss Nellie Barrack was the pioneer instructor.

The first wheat crop raised in the town was by Isaac Layton and H. W. Young, in 1868. They also did the first breaking.

The first house was built by D. Jackman, in the summer of 1868.

The first religious services were held by

Rev. Mr. Kennedy, a Methodist divine, in 1873, at the school-house above mentioned.

In 1874 a postoffice was established in the town, under the name of Cosmos, with John A. Jameson as postmaster. Two years later he was succeeded by Isaac Layton, and in 1878, Daniel Jackman was commissioned. The latter held the position until 1880, when he resigned, and Mrs. Jackman was appointed postmistress.

The town was duly organized January 25, 1870, at a meeting held at the house of Daniel Jackman. The first officers were D. Jackman, chairman, and John Jameson and Albert Amerman, supervisors; Daniel Hoyt, clerk; J. H. Thompson, treasurer; D. Jackman, assessor; Oren Phelps and E. M. Matthews, justices. At this election the total number of votes cast was but nine. The present (1888) officers are the following— Supervisors, J. A. Town (chairman), F. A. Twombly and Peter Hanson; clerk, Daniel Jackman; treasurer, C. A. Gilman; assessor, Daniel Jackman; constable, Frank Twombly; justice of the peace, C. A. Gilman; road overseers, Daniel Jackman, C. A. Gilman, Daniel Cashman, John M. Nelson.



CHAPTER XIX.

UNION GROVE TOWNSHIP.

THAT portion of Meeker county embraced within the boundaries of Congressional township 121, north of range 32 west, is known as the town of Union Grove. It is one of the most beautiful in the county, the surface being diversified by alternate prairie and timber. It contains 23,025.25 acres within its limits, 766.26 of which are covered by the waters of the lakes and rivers that add loveliness to the appearance of the country. The soil, a

warm, sandy loam, is wonderfully fertile, and in quickness of growth is not surpassed in the county.

The pioneer settlement here was made in 1856, by Lyman Allen, Andrew Hamilton, Lyman Baker and Mr. Haywood.

In the same year, also, settlements were made by James Hamilton, S. H. Caswell, James Nelson, Cyrus Lewis, John W. Goodspeed, Mr. Brawn, Alonzo Cook, S. Dickinson, Judson Pierson and William Wheeler.

Those who found homes in this part of the county in 1857 were the following: Thomas Ryckman, Jeremiah Leaming, Moody Caswell, Alonzo M. Caswell, Albert Caswell, Charles and Wilmot Maybee, James A. Lee, James Shears, William Wilcox, Albert Bridges, Florinda Bryant, William Rodgers.

D. B. Hoar was also an old settler here.

From the year 1857 until after the Indian outbreak, but few came to this part of the county to make a settlement, and most of those, leaving during those exciting times, never to return, have passed out of the memory of the residents. The details regarding many of these will be found in the biographical department.

Among the first events that happened in this subdivision of the county were the following:

The first marriage was that of James Nelson and Miss Elizabeth Caswell, April 15, 1857.

The first birth is believed to have been that of the son of the above parties, born in 1858. His name is William Nelson.

The first school was taught in a small log cabin owned by Nathan Caswell, in 1859, by Miss Mary Caswell, now Mrs. Gould.

The first school-house was erected in 1867, on the southwest quarter of section 24, and Miss Vina McNabb was the first teacher there.

The first religious services were held at the house of Thomas Ryckman in 1865, by the

Rev. George Hardy. The Rev. Mr. Griswold, a Methodist divine from St. Cloud, held regular services in the school-house above mentioned during 1866.

Baker, Allen and Lewis were the first to raise a crop of wheat.

The first death was that of Mrs. Hannah B. Caswell, in January, 1859.

The town was organized at a meeting held at the house of Thomas Ryekman, April 30, 1856. At that time C. D. Hill was chosen chairman of the meeting; C. W. Puther, George W. Hardy, and David Newcomb, judges of election; Charles H. McCune, clerk. It was voted to hold the next election at the house of Thomas Ryekman, and also to raise the sum of two dollars by tax, to pay Mrs. Ryekman for cleaning up after them. The officers elected were as follows—Lucien J. Perry, chairman, and A. T. Pentler and David Newcomb, supervisors; C. H. McCune, clerk; A. T. Pentler, assessor; C. W. Puther and G. W. Hardy, justices; James Nelson and William Stockdale, constables, and S. O. Campbell, treasurer.

The officers for 1858 are as follows—Supervisors, Ole M. Johnson (chairman), John Hunter, Jr., and J. W. Torrey; clerk, O. B. Vose; treasurer, D. B. Hoar; justices of the peace, Jeremiah Leaming and Solomon R. Wright; assessor, C. A. Merrill; constable, T. J. Barrie.



CHAPTER XX.

FOREST PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

THE town of Forest Prairie lies in the extreme northern part of the county, and is technically known as township 124, north of range 30 west. It comprises 22,807 acres of surface, 542.47 acres of which are, however, covered by the waters of the several lakes. It is situated in a portion of "The Big Woods," and much

of it is still covered by the primeval growth of "century-old" timber. In this, the industrious hand of the sturdy pioneer has cleared up farms, and the soil, thus denuded of its leafy covering, is of a wonderful richness and fertility. In its pristine state there was not one acre of prairie in it, but it was entirely covered by trees, hence the late date of its settlement, the earlier pioneers preferring to take up their homes and till the soil of the prairie, already fitted to their hands.

The pioneers of this part of the county were Merritt B. Case, Charles T. Grote and James Hooser, who came in 1856, and here found the homes they sought. They learned that "here, too, lands could be had for the asking, and forests of timber with a few blows of the axe were hewn and framed into houses," and in the primitive structures thus erected settled down to the hard labor of clearing the heavy timber off the land, and opening up farms in the "forest primeval." Following them came R. K. Beecham, Hiram Bentley, Benjamin F. Spaulding, Perry D. Bentley, Charles F. Spaulding, Monroe Abbott, the widow Waldron and her son Sylvester, George Smith, J. W. Polk, M. J. Roach, William Keilty, John Mayer, Sidney Webb, Sidney Scribner, J. S. Reynolds and a few others, who also settled in the "Big Woods."

Among the more prominent arrivals of the year 1867, in what is now Forest Prairie township, were the following named, most of whom permanently located here—M. D. Stores, H. R. Williams, Casper Hawkinberry, Peter Keilty, Stephen Cornwell, Dennis Monroe, Daniel Duffy, William Wertz, Austin Brower and quite a number of others, for as soon as the way was led to these leafy shades, the tide of immigration followed fast, and quite a number of claims were taken that summer. The hard and laborious work of clearing off the umbrageous covering, the digging and grubbing out the roots, had long

deterred the settlers from opening up these lands, but with the close of the war, another class of immigrants came. These were the sturdy woodsmen from the forests of Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia, and these preferred the timber lands. Their untiring energy has brought its reward, and their thrift has enabled many of them to advance themselves well toward an easy competence.

Eli Boring and Christian and Joseph Vossen were among those who settled here in 1868.

The first birth within the limits of the town is believed to have been that of twin children, born to Mr. and Mrs. George Smith, in the fall of 1866.

The death of the first white person was that of Mrs. George Smith, whose decease took place some time in the fall of 1866.

The first school was taught by Mrs. James Hooser, on section 26, in the summer of 1868.

The town was duly organized July 10, 1867, at which time the following named took a prominent part in the proceedings: M. B. Case, C. T. Grote, James Hooser, B. K. Beecham, C. F. Spaulding and nearly all the settlers at that time within the limits of the subdivision of the county.

The present officers are as follows: Supervisors, J. T. Hagan (chairman), James Brower and Theodore Ackerman; clerk, Wm. M. Abbott; treasurer, Michael Hesse; assessor, A. R. Fisher; constable, C. F. Spaulding; justice of the peace, M. J. McCarthy; road overseers, John Harper, J. T. Hagan, Stephen Fencker, Thomas Casey, John Boden, H. R. Williams, A. R. Fisher, Joseph Teller, Thos. Keilty, Nick Bauer, Peter Pagan, Louis Wertzburg, Martin Thelan and A. R. Vossen.

The village of Watkins was laid out by Danville D. Spaulding, Alonzo Spaulding and the railroad company in June, 1887, and the plat filed for record August 22, of the same year. It is located upon the east half of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter,

and the west half of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 2.

Owing to its youth there is but little business doing there as yet.

Joseph Vossen and A. D. Spaulding were the pioneer merchants commencing here before the inception of the village in 1887. Six months later Mr. Vossen bought out his partner, and now runs it alone. This, the lumber yard and grain warehouse constitute the business of the place, but it may grow to considerable importance in the future, as its location is an excellent one.



CHAPTER XXI.

ACTON TOWNSHIP.

A MOST beautiful and picturesque part of Meeker county is comprised within the limits of Acton. This subdivision lies in the center of the western tier of townships, and embraces all of Congressional township 119 north of range 32 west. Lakes and ponds interspersed with groves of timber and openings of prairie, the diversity of the landscape is its chief beauty, while the excellence of the soil doubtless attracted the earlier settlers' attention, as well as the loveliness of the surroundings. It contains 19,842 acres of arable and timber land, and an area equal to 3,130 acres of water, and is noted for the fertility of the rich, dark, sandy loam that covers its surface.

The first settlers in this garden spot were Peter J. Lund, Nels Waylander, and Jessa Winquist, three Swedes, who came here early in 1857, and took up their residence. Mr. Lund settled on section 4, where he made his home for a number of years, but is now living west of Grove City. Waylander lives in the village, and Winquist resides on his original claim.

During the same year there were several others who found homes in this town, among whom were the following named: John and Peter Ritchie, Robinson Jones, Howard Baker, Mrs. Ann Baker, Abram Kelley, John Blackwell, Captain Robinson, and John Winquist.

Among the few that located here between that time and the period of the Indian massacre were Mathias Paulson, Paul M. Paulson, in 1859, and Peter, and John P. Johnson and Ole Larson, in 1861.

The fearful tragedy, known as the Indian outbreak, commenced in this town, as is detailed at full length in the history of the massacre in this volume. Not only did all the survivors of that bloody Sabbath flee the country, but for several years only few came here to take their place, nor did they return.

Among the settlers of the next ten years, who have so materially assisted toward the development and upbuilding of the town and the development of its resources, may be mentioned the following named—John Blomberg, August Davidson, Hans Cristoferson, Thomas Johnson, John Lauke, Bersvend Thorp, Lars Christianson, O. P. Draxten, Peter Brandt, Sever Johnson, P. O. Eiden, Ole P. Eiden, Ole Peterson, O. M. Linnell, Ole P. O. Engen, John Syng, and P. M. Peterson.

The first birth was that of a son of Peter Ritchie, which occurred in 1859.

The first school was taught at the house of Nels Waylander, on section 4, in 1859, by a man by the name of Algreen.

The pioneer religious services were held at the same cabin in 1858, by Rev. John Robson, a Methodist divine.

As to the first death and first marriage there are numerous opinions, and the committee could not decide, as many of the older settlers have left this part of the county, and exact dates can not be given.

Acton was set off and organized in April, 1858, and then embraced all the territory

now constituting the town of Danielson and the south half of Swede Grove, besides its present jurisdiction.

Nearly all the settlers here at the time took an active part in the matter, and much interest was manifested in the outcome.

The officers of the town for the current year (1888) are the following named: Nels Waylander, chairman of the town board; O. T. O. Lee and J. P. Berg, supervisors; O. M. Linnell, clerk; Nels A. Draxten, treasurer; John Paulson, assessor, and Peder Peterson Swenaas, justice of the peace.

THE VILLAGE OF GROVE CITY.

Grove City was laid out and platted by the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, on the northeast quarter of section 3, of this township, in the summer of 1870, the plat of which was filed for record with the county register of deeds, August 26, 1870. One addition has since been added to the original site by the same corporation, the plat of which was filed September 11, 1877.

Among the very first settlers of the village were Olaf Levander, A. P. Nelson, Swan Hokanson, George Okeson, Mark W. Piper, A. S. Wilcox, Andrew Okeson and E. P. Eklund.

The first dwelling-house on the site of the new village was erected by Olaf Levander, in the spring of 1870. About the same time a house was put up by the railroad company for the section hands, and the next one was built by Swan Hokanson.

The business life of the village commenced the fall of 1869, when Hines, Kimball & Beedy, of Kingston, put up a store building and opened a stock of general merchandise, under the charge of M. W. Piper. Two years afterward this was sold to W. W. Hobbs, who finally died, when the property was purchased by Nels Luberg, and the goods by Nels Elofson; the latter closed them out shortly after.

The second store was opened in 1870, by Larson & Dahlquist. A year or two after, Louis Larson purchasing his partner's interest, became sole proprietor, and thus operated it for three years, and then closed out the goods and moved to Atwater.

O. H. Peterson started a store in 1876, and in July, 1878, was succeeded by Peterson, Nelson & Co. This firm was succeeded, on the death of Mr. Peterson, by Dudley & Nelson, and in their hands it remained some three years. I. Hooper then became a partner, but was bought out again, and A. P. Nelson disposed of his interest to O. E. Dudley, who, in turn, sold out the business. Reitan & Christensen are the present proprietors.

The pioneer blacksmith shop was put up by E. P. Eklund, in the fall of 1869, and he still carries on the business.

The first hotel, which was known as the Swede Grove House, was erected by Louis Olson in 1874, and run by him until his death; afterward his widow rented it to M. J. Paulson. The latter purchased the property in 1879, and continued the landlord of the Grove House, for he changed its name, until the spring of 1888, when he leased it to S. D. Ringstrom, the present host.

The business of the place is represented by the following firms: Reitan & Christensen, general merchandise; O. N. Lindell, hardware and furniture; Fenstad & Grinsgard, general merchandise; A. O. Lawson & Co., clothing and general merchandise; M. A. Brown, general merchandise; A. J. Florin, boots and shoes; Hans Norgood, boots and shoes; Otto Dersch, agricultural implements, stock dealer, butcher shop, flour and feed; John Harstad, barber and confectionary; Olaf Jorgenson, harness; P. J. Malmquist, E. P. Eklund and Ole B. Anderson, blacksmiths; Bresden & Hawkinson, lumber; Eklund & Nelson, agricultural implements; O. N. Lindell, drugs; Ole Paulson, Peter

Redin, Nels Lagergren and Nels Elofson, saloons; E. N. Hanson, wheat buyer and flour depot; Swen Hawkinson, jewelry, clocks, etc.; Dudley & Nelson, insurance; and the three elevators of Dudley & Nelson, C. E. Sundberg and the Northwestern Elevator Co.

The village of Grove City was incorporated as such, by an act of the State Legislature, passed February 14, 1878. At that time the Secretary of State appointed C. J. Erickson, Nels Paulson and A. S. Wilcox as commissioners to issue the notices for the first election, and to govern the balloting at the time. At this election there were chosen the following officers: A. S. Wilcox, president of the village board; Nels Paulson, recorder; C. J. Erickson, treasurer; and N. Loberg, C. C. Reitan, and P. J. Malmquist, trustees. The first meeting of the new government met March 1, 1878, when most of the officers were duly sworn in. The government of the village is vested at present (spring of 1888) in the following gentlemen: O. N. Lindell, president; P. J. Malmquist, Otto Dersch and A. O. Lawson, trustees; John N. Gaynor, recorder; A. P. Nelson, treasurer; N. E. Hanson and N. Loberg, justices; and J. J. Hartstad and Olaf Ask, constables. C. C. Reitan was president of the village board for three terms, but prefers to eschew politics for the present.

Grove City Lodge, No. 69, A. O. U. W., of this village, was organized November 4, 1880, with the following named charter members: N. M. Holm, J. W. Jamison, N. Paulson, C. M. Carlson, H. P. Stark, George T. McKinney, J. T. Ally, Olaf Levander, L. N. Lund, A. P. Nelson, P. N. Engstrom, A. W. Larson, Hon. O. M. Linnell, N. E. Hanson, C. E. Lindberg and John Christensen. On organization, officers were chosen, of whom the following is the roll: N. M. Holm, P. W. M.; N. Paulson, rec.; H. P. Stark, fin.; N. E.

Hanson, receiver; J. W. Jamison, G.; P. N. Engstrom, I. W.; A. W. Larson, O. W. The lodge is in a very healthy condition, and is one of the noble benevolent orders that are of so much benefit to the families of the members in cases of sickness and death. The present officers are: A. P. Nelson, P. M. W.; O. N. Lindell, M. W.; D. A. Roos, O.; N. N. Waylander, F.; J. N. Gaynor, R.; C. C. Reitan, receiver; A. O. Lawson, fin.; J. J. Harstad, G.; P. Paulson, I. W.; H. Simonson, O. W., and J. Christensen, D. D. G. M. W.

There are three churches in the village, all having neat and tasty edifices for worship. They are the Swedish Baptist, Swedish Lutheran and the Norwegian Lutheran.

The postoffice, which is the old Swede Grove postoffice, brought to the village by Olaf Levander in 1870, has been presided over since his administration by Nels M. Holm, N. P. Olson, H. P. Stark and John Gaynor. The latter is the present incumbent of the office.



CHAPTER XXII.

GREENLEAF TOWNSHIP.

THE subdivision of Meeker county, which takes its name from Hon. William H. Greenleaf, comprises all that tract of land known as congressional township 148, north range 31 west, and contains a total of 24,736.07 acres, 1,958.23 of which are covered with the waters of its lakes and streams, and 22,777.84 are fine arable land or excellent timbered ground. The soil, like the entire county, is a fine, rich, dark, sandy loam, and peculiarly fertile and susceptible to a high state of cultivation.

The pioneer settlers in this portion of the county were two men by the names of George Orenutt and Mr. Pratt, who located on the

southwest quarter of section 35, in the summer of 1856. They commenced to break up the land, and had got about three or four acres of the sod turned when the Indians killed one of their oxen, which crippled their team, and growing discouraged they threw up the job in disgust and moved to Forest City, remaining in that village until the following fall, when they left the county.

The first permanent settlers were a family of brothers, William, Herman and Charles Kruger, natives of Germany, who came here in May, 1857, and located together on section 12. William is still a resident of the township, living on section 13; Herman is living near the village of Hutchinson, in McLeod county, and Charles makes his home in LeSueur county.

After these, in 1857, there came to this portion of the county the following named settlers, who here found homes—George C. Whitcomb, Vincent Coombs, Milton Coombs and Jesse V. Branham, Sr.

The settlers of 1858-9 were John Sampson, John A. Sampson, Roland Angier, Henderson M. Angier, Charles Allen, George McGowen, Jonathan Keach, Mr. Mathews, Ira Pratt, Sr., Ira Pratt, Jr., Silas Pratt, and Mr. Malloy.

Of the settlers of the year 1860, most of them are still residents of their original claims, but some have removed from the county to pastures new, or have paid the debt of nature. They were as follows: Lewis Meagher, John McGraw, Patrick Manning, Michael Hanley, Michael Ryan, Michael Carrigan, Patrick McCann, Thomas Reagan and Hans and Even Evenson, and others.

After the Indian outbreak of 1862, for several years, emigration seemed to have ceased, but about 1865 it recommenced and has steadily filled up the county with a sturdy class of citizens that is rapidly developing its resources. Of those who have settled in Greenleaf since the massacre days, but are

yet entitled to the distinction of old residents are the following: John B. Pennoyer, Martin Spellicy, Hiram Delong, Martin Lawson, John T. Putzier, John Knack, Daniel Nevins, L. M. Johnson, Jacob Anderson, J. William Johnson, Leonard Roman Johnson, J. A. Nystrom, C. M. Beckstrand, Olavius Hanson and Alexander Hanson. A great many of the prominent citizens of this township are noticed at length in the biographical department of this volume.

The town of Greenleaf was organized as a civil township, at a meeting held August 27, 1859, and at that time embraced all the territory now known as Collinwood, Ellsworth and Greenleaf, except the northern tier of sections which were attached to the town of Litchfield. At this organization the following named gentlemen took a prominent part: Dana E. King, George C. Whitcomb, W. H. Greenleaf, George McGowen, Jonathan Keach, T. R. Webb and Dr. Russell Whiteman.

The present (1888) officers are: David Shepherd, chairman; Nels B. Johnson and Alfred Anderson, supervisors; Even Evenson, clerk; John Spellicy, assessor; Even Evenson, justice of the peace; and C. W. Anderson and Ole Oleson, constables.

The first death was most probably that of Mrs. Kruger, the mother of the three Krugers, about 1859.

The first school was held in the Manning neighborhood.

The first school-house was erected where the Swede church is now located, on section 10, about 1868. This was a log structure, and in this Miss Viola Dart taught the first school.

The first religious services were held at the house of John Sampson, in 1860, by Rev. Andrew Jackson.

The Beckville Swedish Lutheran Church commenced with services held at the residence of Erick Norelius, in 1859. Worship

was held at various private houses and in the school-house, until 1873, when the present church edifice was erected. The first permanent pastor was the Rev. P. Backman, who settled here in 1869.



CHAPTER XXIII.

COLLINWOOD TOWNSHIP.

THE town which bears the above name, embraces all of Congressional township 118, north of range 29, and is one of the most beautifully picturesque in the county. It has a surface area of over 24,000 acres, of which a portion is covered with the waters of the beautiful lakes that bestud its surface. It lies entirely within the limits of the timber belt, and it is largely still in its primeval, wild state. Beautiful clearings, like isles in the sea of waving foliage, dot its surface, and the cottages of the settlers lend life to the picture.

The first settler in this part of the county was Charles C. Dewing, in the fall of 1862. Although several claims had been made within its boundaries, previously one by Dennis Felix, in January, 1858, and one by Levi Wilcox, in September, 1857. Neither of these settled here however.

The next to take up homestead and settle here was Thomas Fallon, who filed his claim in January, 1864, and was followed in the summer and fall of the same year, by Jacob Hutchins, Thomas J. Hutchins, Jacob Blair, Elkanah McStotts, Alexander Ramey, Harrison Fuller, Philip Van Blarrecorn, Hawkins Steel, Oliver Rasnick, E. K. Counts, Canaan Counts, George Fuller, Swan Johnson, John Fosberg, David Parks, Noah Parks, and Lazarus Parks.

Most of these people came from their native State, Virginia, and the town was know as New Virginia, previous even to its organization.

During the year 1865, there was added quite a number to the population of the town, nearly all of the same sturdy class of woodmen, who literally hewed out homes for themselves here. Their names were: Abraham Pancake, George Pancake, John McKinney, James Currington, Jasper Wright, Solomon H. Wright, W. A. Wright, William Taylor, Charles Taylor, Jonathan Watson, David Taylor, Lemuel and John Deuty, Andrew Shortridge, Erin Ramsdell, George H. Watson, Johnson Taylor, Abraham Risner, William J. Yates, Erick Larson, Amost Stage, R. M. Young, and John Aeres.

Among those who settled here shortly after this were the following named: Moses H. Bogar, Peter Anderson, Erick Stiffinson, T. H. Bogar, J. A. Quick, Taylor Johnson, George W. Clark, James Grant, S. Johnson, and others.

The first death was that of Mrs. E. K. McStotts, who died in the fall of 1865.

The first marriage was that of John Taylor and Miss Elizabeth Hutchins, in the fall of 1866.

The first school was taught by E. K. Counts, during the winter of 1866-7, in what is now district 17, on the Van Blarrecom farm, on section 18.

This was the first school-house built in the town, put up in the fall of 1866, the first school officers of the district being—Jacob Blair, clerk; E. K. McStotts, treasurer; and Jacobs Hutchins, director.

The first religious services were held in what is now Steelsville, in the Grove, by the Revs. William Maynard and James Sellards, two Baptist clergymen, in 1867. The first church organized was that of the Methodists, who formed a class in the fall of 1868, with J. A. Quick, as class-leader, and George Fuller as steward. The first pastor was George D. Potter. This church is still in existence, and John A. Quick is still the class-leader.

The town was organized as New Virginia in the spring of 1866, with the following officers elected—E. K. McStotts, chairman, and Canaan Counts and Hawkins Steel, supervisors; E. K. Counts, town clerk; Jacob Hutchins, treasurer; Jacob Blair, assessor; Oliver Rasnick, justice; and Harrison Fuller, constable.

The name of the town was changed through the influence of H. C. Bull and others to its present name, "Collinwood," in 1868.

The officers for the present year are the following named—Supervisors, Oscar Peterson (chairman), Matt Anderson, Swan Cervin; clerk, Peter Sangreen; treasurer, Erik Dahlman; assessor, Matt. DeLong; justices, John A. Quick and G. O. Bailey; constable, William Adams.


A village was laid out in 1866, on the shores of Lake Collinwood, by H. C. Bull, an eastern man, and called Collinwood, in which David Parks was the pioneer merchant. Bull and Taylor followed soon after in the same line of trade. David Parks put up a saw-mill which he sold to Pendergast Bros., and by them was moved away about 1876. The latter parties also erected and ran a grist-mill, but it, too, has ceased running. A postoffice was also established with H. C. Bull as postmaster. He was succeeded by L. G. Pendergast, and various other parties, but finally the whole thing was abandoned.

Bonniwell's mill was erected in 1870, by George Bonniwell and his nephew Charles, who purchased the water power and site of Lloyd and William Pendergast. This was operated by them and by George Bonniwell alone until June, 1887, when it was destroyed by fire.

Jewett's mill, built by G. R. Jewett, in 1867, on section 7. This is a saw and grist-mill combined, and still operated by Mr. Jewett.

CHAPTER XXIV.

TOWNSHIP OF ELLSWORTH.

ONGRESSIONAL township 118, north of range 30 west, is known as the civil town of Ellsworth. It comprises some 23,019 acres; 18,494 acres are either fine, arable prairie, oak openings, or covered with timber; 4,525 acres of its surface are included in the beautiful lakes which dot its bosom. It was named in honor of that gallant hero, Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth, who was so ruthlessly murdered at Alexandria, Va., in the spring of 1861, for defending his flag from insult. The soil, a quick, warm, sandy loam, is remarkably fertile, and the return to the husbandman ample. The chief product is wheat, of the best quality of the much sought after hard variety.

The pioneer settler in this town was Dr. V. P. Kennedy, now a resident of the county seat, who came here in June, 1856, and took the land formerly claimed by Dr. F. N. Ripley. He made his residence here for a number of years previous to his removal to Litchfield.

The others who made settlements in what is now Ellsworth, during the year 1856, were—Thaddeus R. Webb, James Barrett, Dr. Russell Whiteman, and possibly one or two others.

Like all who pioneer the way for advancing emigration, these hardy men and their families were called upon to endure many privations, such as is incident to life upon the frontier. Their nearest market was St. Paul, a hundred miles distant, by the rude road of the period, and the smallness of their crops gave them but little to purchase with when they reached that city.

In 1858, there came to this subdivision of the county, the following named, who found homes here—James Fallon, John M. Mousley, Alfred Mousley, John Hurley, W. H.

Greenleaf, Dana E. King, and a man by the name of Hook.

In 1859 and 1860, there were but few to seek homes in what is now Ellsworth township, the financial panic of 1857 having for a time put a stop to all, or nearly all, immigration. Among the few who did dare to come west in those years and locate here, were the following named: George McGowen, Ira Pratt, Sr., Ira Pratt, Jr., Silas Pratt and Mr. Mathews.

The Indian outbreak of the fall of 1862, depopulated this town, along with the balance of the county. For a little while thereafter, there were but few within its limits, but it has gradually filled up, however, until now it has a respectably large population of sturdy farmers.

The first birth in Ellsworth occurred in 1857, and was that of a child born to Dr. Russell Whiteman.

The second births and first deaths in the village, were those of Frankie and Fred, the twin babies of Hon. W. H. Greenleaf, whose birth and death occurred in 1860.

The next time that the angel of death came to this locality, was in 1862, when Mr. Halstead died.

The first school-house, was the one erected in 1859, and in which Lydia Angier taught the first session.

Ellsworth township was for years a portion of the town of Greenleaf, but on the 1st of September, 1868, it was organized as a separate civil township, under its present name. At the first election therein, most of the residents took an active part. The present officers are as follows—Supervisors: Rudolph Krussow (chairman), Jonathan McStotts and D. Barret; assessor, Ira Gleason; clerk, N. Y. Taylor; treasurer, Rudolph Leverage; justices, John Vogelpohl and L. L. Sisson; constables, D. F. Smith and Wm. Christoph.

GREENLEAF VILLAGE.

The village of Greenleaf was laid out and platted by Dana E. King, in 1859, and the plat filed for record on the 3d of September of that year. Shortly after this W. H. Greenleaf, A. C. Smith and Bennett M. Brink acquired an interest in the town site by purchase. The village plat was situated upon the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter, the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, and lots 5 and 6, of section 30, and contained a mill site and water-power.

Previous to the laying out of the town, in the fall of 1858, William H. Greenleaf and Dana E. King came here, and the former, finding a mill site, went back to Wisconsin, and, purchasing the machinery for a saw-mill, returned the same fall with Bennett M. Brink, and the two in company erected the saw mill and improved the water-power. Around this mill sprang up the little settlement which bore the name of Greenleaf, after the founder of the leading industry of the place. Dana E. King returned in 1859, and laid out the town as above mentioned, having pre-empted the land. In 1859 Judson A. Brink came to the embryo village, and here made his residence until 1864, when he returned to New York State, from which he had come, where he died of consumption at a later date. Greenleaf and Brink operated the mill from December, 1858, until the spring of 1862, when Judson A. Brink purchased the interest of Mr. Greenleaf, and the two brothers ran the mill in partnership until 1864. Steam was then put in and its owners continued its operation until three years later, when they removed the machinery some few miles into the woods. It was afterward removed to the village of Dassel.

In 1862, on closing out his interest in the mill, W. H. Greenleaf put up a store building, and opened a stock of hardware and groceries. This was the first attempt toward

mercantile life in the village, and was, like everything else in the county, interrupted by the dreadful Indian outbreak of the autumn of 1862. In March, 1864, Mr. Greenleaf returned here and put in a stock of general merchandise. A short time after this he took into partnership C. B. Jordan, but, two months afterward, sold out to his partner. The latter gentleman ran the store for some years, but subsequently disposed of it to John Rank, who ran it for some time.

One year after selling out, W. H. Greenleaf erected the second store building, and in it opened with another stock of the same general character. This establishment he sold out to L. S. Weymouth, who carried on the business until 1884.

Anderson opened the third store here in 1868, and ran it for one year. These were all the mercantile establishments of the place. Miss Sophia C. Pratt, the present postmistress of the village, is also the present merchant, and carries an extensive stock of general merchandise.

A flouring mill was erected in the summer of 1862, by Dana E. King and Judson A. Brink, but its construction and equipment having been interrupted by the Indian troubles, it was not in running order until 1864. This manufacturing institution, which was a large and well-constructed building, with three run of stone, was shortly after sold to Norman Pixley and Albert DeLong, who ran it in partnership until 1873. Mr. Pixley then sold out to his copartner, who admitted to the firm J. R. McDonald, and under this management the mill remained for a time. Finally, as the investment did not pay, it was sold to Mr. Leiser, who tore it down and removed it bodily to Traverse county, this State, about the year 1879.

The United States Land Office, which had formerly been located at Forest City, was removed to Greenleaf in 1866, at which time Dr. Fletcher was the receiver, and B. F.

Baker the register. This office remained in the village until in December, 1869, when the growing importance of the railroad town of Litchfield, the new county seat, attracted nearly everything else in the county, and the office was moved to that place.

A seminary was started in the village in 1867, with Rev. W. C. Harding as principal and Miss Todd as assistant. On account of the sparsely settled condition of the country at that time, this institution of learning, which was ably conducted, could not be made a success, and only existed for some two years, when it was abandoned for want of sufficient support.

The first school was taught in the village in 1859, by Miss Lydia Angier. This was the first district school in the town of Ellsworth, and was held in a school-house that was built the same year.

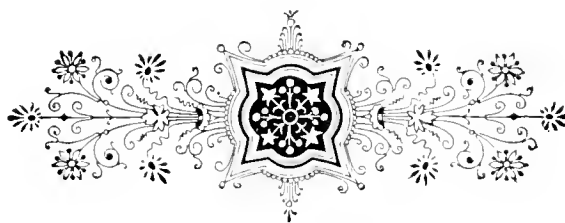
The first and only hotel of which the place could boast was opened by C. W. Butter-

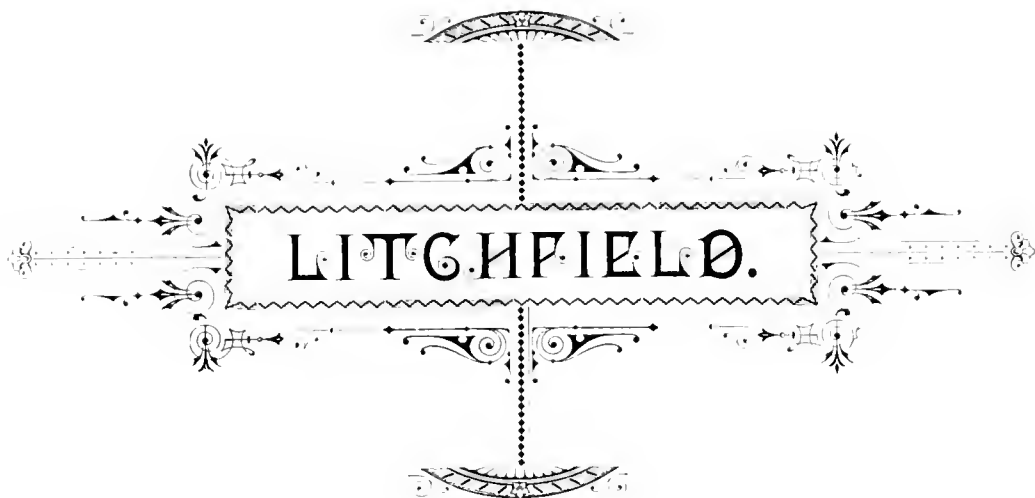
field in 1865, he buying the residence of Dana E. King for that purpose. He has kept it ever since, enlarging the original building as the necessities of the occasion required, and is still the landlord.

The first religious services were held at the residence of W. H. Greenleaf, in the upper story of the saw-mill, in the fall of 1859, on which occasion Rev. J. C. Whitney, a Presbyterian clergyman, officiated. A church edifice was built in 1868, by the Presbyterian congregation, in which the Rev. W. C. Harding, now deceased, was the first pastor.

The Methodists had also a religious organization, and held regular services, but never put up any church edifice.

The first blacksmith shop was put up and operated by Henry Keach, in 1861. He remained here until about 1870, and then removed to Nebraska. James McCue is the present blacksmith of the village, and does a flourishing business.





CHAPTER XXV.

HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LITCHFIELD.

PRIOR to the advent of the iron horse in this part of Meeker county, there was nothing upon the site of the now prosperous village of Litchfield, except a wheat field and pasture lands. It entirely owes its existence to that happy event, the coming of the railroad, which reached here in the summer of 1869, the track-laying as far as this place having been completed, and the first train, a construction, running in August 13th of that year. The town site was laid out and platted by the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company and George B. Waller, on the east half of section 11, Litchfield township. This was surveyed, platted and filed for record, July 16, 1869.

Litchfield is beautifully located on portions of sections 11, 12 and 14, and reaches north from the shores of lovely Lake Ripley for

more than a mile and a half, whilst its greatest breadth is about a mile. To the original town plat there have been added Weisel's addition in 1869, the second addition in 1873, Butler's addition in 1873, Crosby's addition in 1874, the third railroad addition in 1875, Hansen's addition in 1879, Angier's addition and Greenleaf's addition in 1887, and Rodange & Johnson's addition in 1888. The entire city is well laid out with wide streets and avenues, and the site is dotted all over with handsome residences, many of them surrounded with elegant and well-kept grounds. The business portion of the city presents a substantial and thrifty appearance, owing to the large number of fine brick stores, offices, hotels, etc., all of which are in fine taste. The stores are well filled with well-selected merchandise of a character above that usually found in cities of the size of Litchfield, and are doing a splendid business. The pride the citizens take in their home can be readily seen in the appearance of the place, in the many noble edifices, and their beautiful park.

The town drew its name from E. D. Litchfield, an English capitalist and stockholder in the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, living in London, and whose wife made such lib-

eral donations to the Episcopal Church Society, as is detailed elsewhere.

Litchfield is connected with the outer world by the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad, which passes diagonally north-west and southeast through the town plat. This, which is one of the best roads in the State, affords ample facilities for marketing the products of this part of Minnesota.

At the regular election held November 2, 1869, the question of the removal of the county seat from Forest City to Litchfield was submitted to the qualified electors of the county, and by a majority of 89, in a total vote of 927, it was decided in the affirmative, and the latter city became the seat of justice of Meeker county. The court-house, of which a description is given in another place, adorns the north part of the town, and is really a very handsome and complete edifice. The location of the seat of justice at Litchfield and the presence of the railroad have both been important factors in the rapid growth of the place, and have established it upon a firm basis.

George B. Waller, who had previously purchased the northeast quarter of section 11, in this township, came to this locality in the late summer of 1869, and settled, knowing that a town would be established near by. When the railroad had been graded through this county, he decided to the railroad company an undivided half in his quarter of section of land to be laid out into town lots, reserving a lot of some ten acres in the northwest corner of the tract for his home. As soon as the road was constructed to this point, and trains were running, he shipped from Minneapolis the material with which to construct a house, which had already been framed and gotten ready to put together, in the previous winter. In November, of the same year, he brought his family to the incipient village.

About the same time that Mr. Waller was

building his residence, J. M. Miller hauled the lumber for a house from Clearwater, and erected a dwelling. Shortly after this Truls Nelson put up another building in which to live, near where the town hall is now located. These were the first three buildings, the nucleus around which has sprang up this thriving and growing town.

B. F. Pixley put up the next house, and others soon followed. Mrs. C. O. Porter was the first lady to take up her residence here, and Mrs. Pixley the second, the former dating her arrival from the 26th of August, 1869, and the latter, one day later.

The first store was erected by Heard & Ward, a firm composed of S. A. Heard and C. D. Ward, who opened what is known as a general merchandise stock, in the embryo city, in the fall of 1869. The building which they occupied is the one that is used as a harness shop by Hugh Dowling, but originally stood on the site now occupied by the handsome brick store of D. E. Branham. Heard & Ward continued in business together until 1872, when Mr. Heard purchased the interest of his partner, and carried it on until 1880, at which date he, too, sold out to Branham & Hickeox.

H. B. Johnson's store building was the next to be erected, and was soon followed by that of Joseph James.

In November of this year, C. H. Strobeek, who had decided to locate in the place, erected a store building on the site of the present Kronsbrick building, which he occupied in part, and part of which he rented.

The first man to do turner's work in the village, was M. A. Brown, who put up a little shop on the site of the brick building now occupied by Birch & Nelson, where he carried on the business.

The pioneer hardware store was that of Vanderhorek & King, who commenced in that line in the fall of 1869. The firm of King & Whyborn, who succeeded them,

disposed of the stock and good will to Z. B. Fitchfield in 1877, in whose hands it proved a losing investment.

W. S. Brill entered into business in the drug line about the same time in the building put up by C. H. Strobeck, and continued in trade here until 1882, when, selling out to Revell Bros., he removed to St. Paul, where he now lives.

The first man to sell lumber in the new town was Joseph James, but he did not establish a yard; the first to enter into that line regularly was John Esbjornsson and C. Peterson, who, together, opened a lumber yard in the summer of 1869, when there was scarcely a building on the town site. They quit this business the following winter.

E. A. Campbell moved to Litchfield in the fall of 1869, with a stock of general merchandise, from Forest City. About a year later Jesse V. Branham, Jr., became a member of the firm and they carried on the business for some time under the firm name of Campbell & Branham.

C. L. Angell, another pioneer of the village, came here in the fall of 1869, and commenced the establishment of the photographic art gallery that he still carries on.

Chase & Dunn came into the incipient city during the same fall, and opened a livery stable, which they ran for some time.

Rapidly, as if by the stroke of a magician's wand, a busy town sprang up with a miraculous growth, and where once the ground gave back only the sound of the footfalls of grazing cattle, came the busy hum of commerce, and the noise of the saw, plane and hammer, as building after building rose into view.

Among those who settled in the village in 1869, not mentioned above, were the following: William H. Greenleaf, J. P. Scarp, James Tinkham, J. H. Bacon, N. A. Viren, Hamlet Stevens, E. A. Campbell, C. H. Strobeck, Dr. Geo. B. Weisel, O. B. Espin, W.

H. Dart, Walfreid Erickson, Smith D. King, David Miller, Mr. Rummion, Charles and Solomon Almquist, L. W. Perkins, Hans Mattson, Charles O. Porter, P. Crosby, Isaac Crosby, Julius Crosby, S. Y. Gordon, John Mitchell, J. D. Chapman, A. R. Potter, J. C. Braden, J. M. Waldron, C. B. Howell, Henry Hill, John Blackwell, Jesse V. Branham, Jr., Jesse V. Branham, Sr., H. B. Johnson and Andrew and B. P. Nelson.

In 1870 there came to the new village quite a number, among whom were—George H. Chapman, V. H. Harris, George Lyon, Lewis Larson, Chauncey Butler, M. J. Flynn, W. W. Rollin, Wm. M. Campbell, Dr. F. E. Bissell, Henry Chase, R. W. Dunn, J. Q. A. Braden, John Patten, W. D. Stanton, Louis Ekblom, D. E. Potter, A. C. Smith and others.

Others who made settlements in the new village early in 1871, 1872 and 1873 are easily named. Among the most prominent and best remembered are Frank E. Dagget, W. D. Jonbert, F. V. DeCoster, N. W. Hawkinson, Col. Jacob M. Howard, Daniel Flynn, S. A. Scarp, A. C. Johnson, Morris Neuman, Robert Gordon, W. S. Knappen, S. W. Glazier, Joseph Cameron, A. T. Koerner, M. T. Hayford, John Whyborn, S. P. Chipman, E. M. Eastman, Peter Berens, Joseph Leaser, W. S. Adams, James Hooser, S. W. Leavitt, R. S. Hershey, E. F. Roberts, J. B. Hatch, Joseph Mills, N. Anderson and many others. From this time on the settlement was rapid, and the village soon grew to be one of the commercial centers of this portion of the State.

Late in August, 1869, the Litchfield House was built and opened, and was, therefore, the first hotel in the city, as well as one of the first structures on the town site.

The pioneer religious services in the village were held in a small school-house, then in course of construction, but, as yet, without doors or windows, on the 15th of August,

1869, at which the Rev. D. B. Jackson, a Presbyterian clergyman in charge of the church at Kingston, this county, officiated. A Sabbath-school was organized September 19th of the same year, by Rev. Mr. Hall, a divine of the Congregational denomination, and was the pioneer of several others. The first church edifice was not finished until 1871, and was the house of the Presbyterians, which was commenced in the fall of 1870. The first donation party was held by the people connected with the Methodist Church, on an evening in December, 1869, at the house of Rev. J. S. Fassig, their minister. Gifts of \$52 in cash and a great amount of other articles were left with the worthy recipient of their kindness.

Hans Mattson, the present Secretary of State, came to Litchfield in 1869, and established the railway company's land-office in the small building on the corner opposite the Howard House. Here he remained several years.

The first death in the community occurred in the year 1871, and was that of the little son of M. D. Bowen. About the same time a Swedish settler, while passing to his home west of the city, fell from the trestle bridge of the railroad near the western limits of the village, and broke his neck. Old residents are undecided as to which of these preceded the other, but as the former is the death of a resident of the village it is given prominence.

The pioneer physician of Litchfield was Dr. George W. Weisel, who came to this place from Forest City in the fall of 1869. He remained here in practice, according to the regular or allopathic school, for some years, but is now living in Williamsport, Lycoming county, Pa. The second was Dr. F. E. Bissell, still a resident of the village. The third physician was a Dr. Bell, a follower of the homeopathic school, but who did not long remain in the place.

The pioneer bank was established in 1875, by Harrington & Lyon, who called it the Bank of Litchfield. They continued to run it for a short time, when it passed into the hands of Chauncey Butler, who continued its operations until December 27, 1877, when it collapsed.

The pioneer attorney of Litchfield was Charles H. Strobeck, who first came here in October, 1869. Newton H. Chittenden was the next to locate, and was followed, the same year, by Frank Belfoy. In 1870, Henry Hill, Charles B. Howell and A. C. Smith joined the resident members of the bar.

When Frank Belfoy came here in 1869, he brought from Forest City the press and material of the *Meeker County News*, the pioneer paper of the county, which became an important factor in the upbuilding and development of the young village.

Among the business concerns of an early day were the following named, with such history as would be of interest as could be gleaned from those most interested and best posted. These are the firms that have ceased to exist; those that still survive, or that are still operated by their successors, are treated of further on.

B. O. Esping came here in 1870 or 1871, opened the first jewelry store, and followed that business for several years. He is now engaged in the hotel business in Southern Minnesota.

Joseph Mills opened a jewelry establishment in 1872, and continued its operation until about 1877, when he died.

W. H. Dart came to the village with a stock of goods from Forest City, in 1869, but was succeeded by W. D. Stanton in 1870, who ran the business until 1874, when he sold out on account of ill health.

William H. Greenleaf opened a store for the sale of general merchandise in 1870, but the next fall sold it to B. L. Perry, who ran

it to the early part of 1871, when he in turn disposed of it to F. V. DeCoster.

Rankin & Greenleaf were for some time engaged in the sale of hardware. They were succeeded by S. W. Rankin, who ran it until 1887, when he sold out.

The pioneers in the sale of agricultural implements were James Tinkham and Scarp & Anderson. The latter established the business in 1872, and it passed through many changes of firm until the death of John Scarp, by drowning, in a wreck on the Baltic Sea in 1882.

Jacob Koerner was the pioneer butcher of the place, opening a meat market in about 1870. Harris & Gordon were in this same line for two years, dating from some time in 1872.

The first furniture was that of D. E. Potter, who commenced business in 1871. He finally removed from the village.

Mark Baldwin opened a harness shop in 1871, which he ran until 1877, and then closed out and emigrated to California, where he now lives.

A. W. Swenson, in 1877, started in the general merchandise line, continued in business two years, and then removed to Alexandria, this State.

C. M. Tileston's dry goods store was established in 1878, and ran until 1881, when he closed out and went to Minneapolis.

G. M. Babcock & Co. opened a hardware store in 1875, and continued in that line of trade for two years before closing out.

W. W. Page opened a book and notion store in the building where the postoffice is now located, in 1872, which ran for about a year.

J. W. Billings' confectionery store commenced operations in 1875, and continued about two years.

Conrad Junl came to Litchfield with a stock of goods in 1878, and ran for some time, when he failed. He built the first brick

store building in the town, the one where Tharalson Bros. are now doing business.

Among the gentlemen who have been connected with the bar of Meeker county, resident at Litchfield, not mentioned before, or not here at present, were: E. A. Campbell, S. A. Pimbley, F. P. Olney, L. C. Spooner and Mr. Julian.

LITCHFIELD IN 1888.

In order to have a just comprehension of the development and progress of the city, it is absolutely necessary to give a picture of the present business, religious, social and educational institutions of the city, with their histories; and they are herewith appended.

The general merchandise firm of Cairncross & Palm, originated in 1871 with the Nelson Bros. Several changes have been made in the name and style, several parties having operated it, among whom were Cairncross & Brother, who commenced in 1878. In 1881, Alexander Cairncross purchased the interest of his brother, Stewart, and ran the business until January 1, 1885, when, John Palm having acquired an interest, the present firm was formed.

The business house of Tharalson & Bro., dealers in general merchandise, was initiated July 1, 1878, by A. Tharalson, where the harness-making shop is now. N. Tharalson was general manager at that time. They remained in that building until October, 1881, when they purchased the store where they are now located, and moved in the same fall. February 23, 1887, N. Tharalson was admitted to a full partnership, and the firm name changed to its present form.

The stand of Nelson, Johnson & Larson originated in 1880, by the formation of a firm under the above name, composed of B. P. Nelson, A. C. Johnson and Lewis Larson. They at once commenced the erection of their fine brick store building, which was put up at an expense of some \$10,000, and

in December, 1880, therein opened a stock of dry goods, etc., and are to-day among the heaviest dealers in that line.

J. L. Wakefield, dealer in dry goods and general furnishing materials, came to Litchfield in November, 1883, and opened a stock of general merchandise in the building where F. V. DeCoster is now located. A short time subsequently he removed to his present location.

Charles Johnson came to Litchfield in the fall of 1883, opened a general stock of goods, and is engaged in that line at the present time.

The oldest drug house in the city is that of A. J. and N. F. Revell, operating under the firm name of Revell Bros., who are the successors of W. S. Brill, who started this establishment in 1869, the first of its kind in the village. The latter continued to manage it until 1882, when he removed to St. Paul, after disposing of it to the present proprietors, who are in the enjoyment of an excellent business. They carry a large and well-selected stock of drugs, fancy articles, as well as paints, etc.

V. H. Harris, who is also engaged in the drug business, was the second to open a store of that character in the village, commencing in the fall of 1873, under the firm name of Harris & Bell, in the building now occupied by the postoffice. There they remained until 1879, when, having erected the second brick store building in the place, Mr. Harris removed into it, where he now carries on business, which he has filled with a full and complete stock of first-class goods and is a leader in that line.

The drug firm of W. W. Johnson & Co. originated in a business established by J. E. Upham and W. W. Johnson, in 1881, in the building now used as the postoffice, and there continued, under the firm name of Upham & Johnson, until two years later, when Dr. George Newland purchased the interest of

the senior partner, and the present firm was formed. Three months later they removed to the Howard House block, where they remained until the fall of 1886, when they took up their quarters in the Old Court House block, where they are at present located. They, too, have a large stock and do a good trade.

The grocery house of D. E. Branham was established in March, 1883, by D. E. Branham and G. O. Hickeox, they buying out S. A. Heard, the pioneer merchant of the place. They conducted the business until March, 1888, when Mr. Hickeox disposed of his interest to his partner, and the firm name changed from Branham & Hickeox, to its present one. His stock is full, complete and elegantly displayed, and his business is accordingly quite large and remunerative.

W. H. Dart, who is also engaged in dealing in groceries, etc., exclusively, occupies the stand established by Daniel McLane, in 1880, and succeeded that gentleman in 1887. He carries a very large and complete stock for a town of the size of Litchfield, and as a representative pioneer citizen, has a wide acquaintance in the county.

The hardware firm of Windle & Anderson succeeded Anderson & Hanson, among the leading ones in that line. The latter was formed in May, 1887, by A. J. Anderson and N. C. G. Hanson. They entered at once upon the transaction of business, and carried it on until the spring of 1888, when they were succeeded by the present firm.

The hardware house of Johns Brothers, was established in April, 1887, by D. B. and W. H. Johns, under the above firm name and style. They started by purchasing the stock of Daniel McLane, and later that of S. W. Rankin.

Peter M. Johnson is also engaged in the sale of all kinds of hardware in the city. He came here in July, 1880, and, in connection with M. A. Brown, entered into this line of

trade. One year later it passed into the sole possession of its present proprietor.

The establishment of Birch & Nelson, dealers in clothing, hats, caps and gents' furnishing goods, was commenced in 1880, by John Birch and Andrew Nelson, trading under the firm name of John Birch & Co. They opened business in what is known as the old Bank building, where they remained some five years. In the spring of 1884, Andrew Nelson disposed of his interest to Rasmus Nelson, and the present firm was formed.

The Golden Eagle clothing house originated in March, 1886, at which time Jacob Kahn and M. Leon opened a stock in this line. The senior partner, who is a resident of Chicago, is a member of the wholesale clothing firm of Kahn Brothers & Co., and Mr. Leon is managing partner in this village.

F. V. DeCoster entered into the mercantile circles of Litchfield in the spring of 1871, opening a stock of general merchandise in the building, where he is now located, and operated in that line until 1879, when he commenced the sale of musical instruments, sewing machines and notions. This he continued until 1887, when he added to his stock an invoice of watches, jewelry and silver-plated ware.

D. Elnquist came to Litchfield in 1876, and opened a jewelry store, in the building now occupied by Nelson & Winger as a tailor shop. He remained in that edifice for some four years, when he removed to Brown's corner building, and later from there to a store owned by Mr. Koerner. In 1886, he removed to his present location in the Old Court House block.

C. G. Wennerlund, a native of Norway, opened a jewelry store in May, 1887, under the control of C. B. Nelson.

The pioneer lumber yard of the city of Litchfield, was established in August, 1869, by John Esbjornssen and C. Peterson, when the embryo town contained hardly a build-

ing. The firm carried on the business until the following winter, when it was dissolved. In 1876 Mr. Esbjornssen again entered into the lumber business, buying out the yard and stock of S. W. Leavitt, and has continued to carry it on ever since, carrying full stocks of all goods pertaining to the trade.

In 1878 W. H. Greenleaf bought out the lumber yard of M. J. Flynn, and in 1880 that of H. B. Brown, and consolidated the two and carried on the business alone until 1882, when he admitted to a partnership his son, Charles A., and the firm of Greenleaf & Son, thus formed, still conduct the business. They have also an interest in a wholesale lumberyard in St. Paul, and another retail yard on the Minneapolis & Pacific Railroad.

During the year 1880 Chauncey F. Dart established a furniture store in Litchfield, and continued its operation until November, 1884, when he disposed of it to P. Berens, the present proprietor, who has largely increased the stock, and carries a large line of goods of the description usually making up stocks of this character, including carpets, etc. His building, which he owns, is on the east side of Sibley avenue, and was erected in 1886 at a cost of over \$5,000.

John Snell came to Litchfield in 1877, and bought out the furniture establishment originated by J. B. Hatch, in 1876, and has continued in that line ever since. In 1879 he erected the brick building where he carries on business, his store-rooms having a frontage of eighty feet. He has added undertaking to the other branches of his business, and controls a large trade.

The extensive business carried on by M. J. Flynn & Bro. has grown up with the town. In the spring of 1870 Chauncey Butler established a lumber yard, which, in 1873, passed into the hands of J. H. Morris. One year later it was purchased by M. J. Flynn, who ran it until the fall of 1878, when he sold it to W. H. Greenleaf. In the same

year, Mr. Flynn and his brother Daniel, entering into partnership, commenced the sale of agricultural machinery, in which they are so largely engaged, succeeding in this line the firm of Butler, Campbell & White, which originated with those gentlemen in 1872. In 1880 M. J. Flynn & Bro. purchased the Butler elevator, with a storage capacity of 30,000 bushels, and are also engaged in handling grain, shipping 175,000 bushels of wheat alone in 1887.

McLane & Crowe are also engaged in the sale of agricultural implements, wagons, etc., having commenced this line of trade here in the spring of 1886. The firm consists of Daniel McLane and L. D. Crowe. They are also extensively known as grain buyers, they operating one of the elevators at this point.

J. W. Johnson commenced the sale of agricultural implements, farm machinery, wagons, etc. in 1888, carries a full line of everything needed by the farmer in that class of goods, and is quite a popular merchant.

Maher & Palm are also engaged in the sale of farm machinery and wagons, on Wall street, west of Sibley avenue.

George H. Chapin, who is engaged in the manufacture and sale of harness, etc., commenced business in Litchfield in May, 1870, and has continued in that line ever since. He carries a full line of all horse accoutrements, and everything needed by a horseman. His business, which is a large one, is gradually increasing year by year.

E. J. Gould is also carrying on the harness-making trade in Litchfield, commencing the business here in February, 1886. He carries everything needed in his line.

The harness-making shop of Hugh Dowlmg was established in September, 1879, by the present proprietor, who carries a full stock of all manner of goods connected with his line of trade, and has built up for himself a fine business in this locality, by strict at-

tention to business. On the 4th of March, 1885, he met with the misfortune of losing his stock by fire, but has fully recovered from the stroke of adverse fate.

The flour and feed store of C. H. Dart owes its origin to Mr. Dart and George Gordon, who commenced its operation in April, 1880. The firm only existed for a short time, when the present owner assumed sole charge, and has continued to so run it. In connection with this business he is also engaged in jobbing cigars, having been in partnership in this department with R. S. Hershey until January, 1887, when he purchased the interest of his partner. In 1886, Mr. Dart erected the fine brick building where he is located, and moved into it the same fall.

Robert Vorys, who is engaged in carrying on a bakery and restaurant, initiated this business stand in 1886. He carries a stock of confectionery and tobaccos in connection therewith.

Chris. Mortenson opened his bakery in the fall of 1884, on the corner of Second street and Marshall avenue, where he remained until June 19, 1886, when he removed to the corner of Ramsey and Second streets, where he operated a boarding house in connection with his bakery; but in April, 1888, he sold out to Henry Halvorson, Jr., who is now engaged in the same line.

Chris. Bertleson is occupied in running a blacksmith shop, having established that business here in 1883. He worked here for about two years, and then suspended operations for three years at this point, but came back to Litchfield on the expiration of that time, and re-opened his smithy.

Morris Neuman, blacksmith and wagon maker, commenced his business here in 1872, in a shop located on Marshall avenue. He erected the brick building he now occupies, in 1876, and moved into it the same year.

Paulson & Sather are engaged in the meat market business in the village, as are

Barker & Andrews. The first mentioned firm commenced business in 1882, with John Paulson and C. C. Sather at the helm, and so continued until July, 1885, when the former retired from business, but in 1887 came back to Litchfield, and again entered into partnership with the same party with whom he was in business before. The firm of Barker & Andrews was formed in the fall of 1887 by D. W. Barker and J. Q. Andrews.

David Gorman is engaged in running the Pioneer livery stable, which was established in the fall of 1869, by Chase & Dunn. Some time after the latter disposed of the business to R. W. Dunn, and the firm of Dunn & Deymouth was formed. They ran it for a while, and were in turn succeeded by Deymouth & McCarger, and it was run by them until 1882, when it passed into the possession of the present proprietor, who has operated it ever since.

Knights & Ross, who are, also, engaged in the livery stable business, commenced their labors in that line in Litchfield in 1886.

There are eight places in the city of Litchfield for the sale of liquor, wine, beer, etc. The gentlemen who conduct them, for the most part, are excellent citizens, and receive the respect of the people generally, although there is a large element of prohibitionists in the community. The saloons are kept by the following named—John Konsbrick, A. von Eckstaedt, John Burns, Minton & Peterson, Nels Clements, S. A. Scarp, A. D. Roos and Charles Foster.

Nelson & Winger, tailors, C. B. Nelson and N. Anderson, boot and shoe makers, and A. Lofstrom, house and sign painter, are among the leading artizans of the place, and help make up the business of the village.

There are four millinery establishments, also, in the town of Litchfield—namely, those of Mrs. Caswell, Mrs. Pixley, Mrs. Cary and Miss Nygren.

The photographic and art gallery of Angell & Weeks was established in 1869, in the infancy of the town, and is well entitled to the name of the "Old Pioneer Studio." C. L. Angell came to the site of the town when but few structures of any kind were erected, and at once commenced business in a small way. From this humble beginning he has made it one of the finest establishments in the State outside of the large cities, and furnishes work equal to any.

J. H. Bacon, who is also a resident dentist, is operating a photographic gallery, commencing in this line in 1879, and carrying it on in connection with the duties of his profession.

C. H. Bigelow, dealer in books, stationery, notions, confectionery, cigars, tobacco, etc., commenced business here in March, 1880, in the building where the Golden Eagle clothing store now stands, where he carried on the business until June, 1881, when he removed to his present location.

J. W. Knight, who is a dealer in tubular-well supplies, pumps of all descriptions, rubber goods and engine extras, commenced this line of trade in Litchfield in 1873, and has followed it ever since with considerable success.

The real estate, loan and insurance business of Aug. T. Koerner was established by that gentleman while he was register of deeds of the county, in 1879 or 1880, and on his retiring from that office he gave his whole attention to the business, which he carries on at the present writing.

D. W. Emery opened a real estate, loan and collection agency in Litchfield, on coming to this locality in April, 1886, and still continues in that line of business.

The members of the bar of Meeker county having their residence in the city of Litchfield, at the present writing, are the following named—Charles H. Strobeck, N. C. Martin, J. M. Russell, Edward P. Peterson and Henry S. McMonigle.

The medical fraternity of Litchfield, which enjoys a high reputation for ability, judgment and success, is represented by the following-named gentlemen—Dr. V. P. Kennedy, Dr. F. E. Bissell, Dr. W. E. Chapman, Dr. George Newland and Dr. J. H. Bowers.

The dental profession is well represented by Drs. E. B. Weeks and J. H. Bacon.

Litchfield has three progressive and ably edited local newspapers, all weekly—the *News-Ledger*, the *Review*, and the *Independent*, a history of which has already been given in the general history of the county, in connection with the annals of journalism.

The Meeker County Bank was established in January, 1878, immediately after the failure and assignment of Chauncey Butler's bank, by Walter Mann and W. R. Merriam, vice-president and cashier of the Merchants National Bank of St. Paul. They opened business in the Carey brick building, in which it continued as long as it remained under the control of the originators. The officers of the institution were—Walter Mann, president; W. R. Merriam, vice-president; and H. B. Gates, cashier. It ran but a short time, when the stock company that now owns the institution was formed, which was incorporated in the summer of 1878, with a capital of \$25,000, and the following stockholders—Andrew Nelson, H. B. Gates and E. P. Nelson, of Litchfield, and W. R. Merriam and Walter Mann, of St. Paul. Business was re-commenced in the small brick building opposite where the bank is now situated, where its predecessors had opened, with the following officers—Andrew Nelson, president; B. P. Nelson, vice-president; and H. B. Gates, cashier. They carried on operations in this edifice until 1881, when the present structure was erected by them at a cost of \$6,400. In 1882 the officers chosen were Alexander Cairncross, president; George S. Chandler, vice-president, and H. B. Gates, cashier. On the 7th of July, 1884,

E. B. Benson was placed in the position of assistant cashier, and February 5, 1885, he was promoted to the office of cashier, and is at present filling that responsible post. The other officers are—Alexander Cairncross, president; P. E. Hansen, vice-president; and C. C. Upham, teller. The capital stock of the bank was increased in January, 1886, to the sum of \$32,000. The stockholders are at present the following named—A. Cairncross, P. E. Hansen, G. S. Chandler, A. R. Montford, D. B. Johns, M. S. Flynn, E. B. Benson, John Burke and H. N. Peck, all of whom, with the exception of Mr. Burke, constitute the board of directors.

The following is a statement of the condition of the bank at the close of business, June 12, 1888:

RESOURCES.	
Bills receivable	\$160,258.40
Due from other banks	24,003.91
Cash on hand	14,925.38
Bank building, furniture and fixtures	10,136.87
Total	\$209,324.56
LIABILITIES.	
Capital stock	\$ 32,000.00
Undivided profits	31,672.93
Deposits	145,651.63
Total	\$209,324.56

The banking house of Stevens & Co. was established in 1881, by Hamlet Stevens and H. S. Branham, under the present firm name, in a wooden building on the site where Cairncross & Palm's store is now located. Business was carried on there until 1886, when the building which they now occupy was erected, into which they removed. They transact all kinds of business natural to banking institutions, handle large quantities of real estate in addition, and have acquired a prominence in the community well merited. They carry on a heavy business, and their financial resources are very extensive. The bank ranks as one of the most solid and reliable institutions in the State.

The Litchfield Woolen Mill was established in the fall of 1885 by a stock company formed at that time for the purpose, with a stock of \$25,000. The officers elected on organization were—J. M. Howard, H. Stevens, B. P. Nelson, John Rodange, N. W. Hawkinson, D. Flynn and D. Methven, directors; John Rodange, secretary and treasurer; and D. Methven, manager. The building, which they erected, is, in the main part, 35 x 80 feet in size, two stories high, and has connected with it an engine house and dry room, 35 x 42 in size, also two stories in height. The warehouse for the storage of wool is a separate structure, 20 x 45, and two stories high, and an office completes the list of buildings, which are all of brick veneer, and substantially constructed. Their manufactures have already achieved a good reputation, and are in great demand. The mill is well equipped with Correy machinery, and power is furnished by a powerful steam engine. During the proper season this institution furnishes employment for some thirty people, and about 300 spindles are set in motion. Blankets, satinets, mackinaws, flannels, yarn, etc., are manufactured, all of superior excellence. Between 40,000 and 50,000 pounds of wool were made up by them in 1887, besides doing some \$2,500 worth of custom work. In 1887 the capital stock was increased to \$50,000. While digging a well, two flowing subterranean streams were struck, which afford an ample supply of water. At the election in February, 1888, the following officers were chosen—M. J. Flynn, president; H. Stevens, treasurer; John Rodange, secretary and general manager; J. U. Moore, foreman; and J. M. Howard, Andrew Nelson, B. P. Nelson, H. Stevens, A. Cairncross, M. J. Flynn, and John Rodange, directors.

The Litchfield Roller Mill, one of the important industries of the place, was built in 1872 by J. C. Braden, J. M. Waldron, A.

Adams, and W. S. Brill, who continued its operation until the following year, when Messrs. Adams and Brill sold out their interests to their partners. In 1874 it changed owners again, passing into the possession of R. S. Hershey & Co. In 1877 it was purchased by Shaw & Ehlers, who have continued its operation ever since. It was of the old fashioned type until 1882, when these gentlemen remodelled the establishment and put in the present roller system. They manufacture and ship about a car-load of flour every day, besides supplying the local trade. In connection with the mill they, also, own an elevator, and ship the surplus in the rough state, when they have more than they can grind. They run a flour and feed store in the village, but the bulk of the product of their mill is shipped to and sold in the British Isles. They give employment to a force of nine men, besides several coopers, and are ranked among the prominent business men of the place. The mill cost, in the first place, about \$20,000, but a considerable sum has since been expended upon it, until it is one of the most complete in this region of the country.

James H. Morris was for a number of years prominently identified with the milling interests at Litchfield.

The Litchfield Creamery is one of the leading and prominent manufacturing institutions of the city. It is the property of an association which was completed and incorporated May 31, 1882, with a capital stock of \$5,000, and the following-named stockholders—W. H. Greenleaf, Henry Chase, S. W. Leavitt, H. B. Gates, Robert Shaw, G. S. Chandler, Alexander Cairncross, J. H. Morris, Thomas H. Wood, J. S. Sherrill, M. J. Flynn, Charles H. Strobeck, J. A. Gartner, F. V. DeCoster and Charles R. Strong. At the election the following officers were chosen—W. H. Greenleaf, president; Henry Chase, vice-president; H. B. Gates, treas-

urer; and S. W. Leavitt, secretary and general manager. The company commenced business, and manufactured and sold some 35,000 lbs. of butter the first year. They have increased this amount, by the superiority of the article made, which takes a front rank in the markets, to 75,000 lbs., and, with their machinery driven by the eight horse-power engine, have the capacity of turning out 8,000 lbs. per day, or a total of 2,500,000 lbs. per year, if crowded to the uttermost. They pay out annually the sum of \$25,000 for material and help, which all goes into the pockets of the farmers and laboring classes of this vicinity, and has proved of much benefit to the community.

The Litchfield Bottling Works of John Rodange was established by that gentleman in 1882, and in it is carried on the manufacture of all kinds of carbonated waters and beverages. A general jobbing business, amounting to some \$8,000 per annum, is done. For several years, from 1883 to 1888, the proprietor carried, in connection with this, the jobbing of Milwaukee beer, but has discontinued that branch of his business.

The Litchfield Baling Co. was established in May, 1885, by O. W. Topping and others, for the purpose of baling hay and straw, and the enterprise is already assuming large proportions, they shipping some 12,000 tons of those articles to the Minneapolis market, besides supplying the local trade. They are also the proprietors of a feed mill, which they purchased in the fall of 1887, and are dealers in coal and other fuel.

Charles A. Laughton's machine and blacksmith establishment is one of the institutions of the village that occupies a prominent place. In 1881 this gentleman established an agency for the sale of agricultural implements made by J. I. Case & Co. In the spring of 1887 he added to that business the machine shop, where he is fully prepared to make all kinds of repairs, making a specialty

of engine work. The blacksmith shop is for general farm work. The motive power of the machinery is furnished by a fine steam engine, and the entire plant cost over \$7,000. He gives employment to some eight or ten men during the busy seasons of the year, and to a less number at other times.

The feed, graham and corn-meal mill of Israel Miller was erected by him in 1885. He came to Litchfield the year previous, and built a steamboat, which he plied upon the bosom of Lake Ripley that summer, after which he put up this mill.

The marble works of William Grono were established by the present proprietor, about November 1, 1885, and is the first and only institution of the kind in Litchfield. All kinds of marble and granite work are done there, and monuments of all characters are made to order.

The town hall and Masonic lodge room was built conjointly by the town trustees and Golden Fleece Lodge, A. F. & A. M., in the fall of 1874, at a cost of about \$4,000. It is 26x72 feet in size upon the ground, and two stories in height. The various Masonic bodies occupy the upper story, which they have fitted up for their use in a handsome manner, including all the proper paraphernalia incident to the order. The body did not finish their portion of the building nor occupy it until the spring of 1875. Most of the money was raised by the issue of stock to the members, in \$20 shares, which bore an interest of 10 per cent., and found a ready sale. All of the other indebtedness has been paid off by the lodge, as well as some of the stock. The lower room is fitted up with seats and a stage, and in it are held all the entertainments given in the village, either by traveling troops or home talent.

The first elevator in this village was erected by Commodore Davidson, in connection with the railroad company in 1869. It was at that time quite small, and has been since its

sale to its present owner, the Millers' Association of Minneapolis, considerably enlarged and improved. This was in 1879. A. D. Ross has the charge of it at the present time.

What is now the grain elevator of M. J. Flynn & Bro. was erected in 1876 by Chauncey Butler, who operated it until the time of his failure in 1877, when it was purchased by James B. Atkinson. This gentleman continued its management for about two years, and, finding that it was an unremunerative investment, re-sold it to the assignees of Chauncey Butler, who disposed of it to its present proprietors, Flynn Bros., in 1880.

The Farmers and Merchants Coöperative Association's elevator was put up by that company in the fall of 1886, and has storage of capacity of 35,000 bushels. John Lindgren is the efficient manager.

The elevator of the Litchfield Roller Mill was constructed by Shaw & Ehlers in 1885, and has been operated ever since.

The Howard elevator was erected by Col. J. M. Howard in 1872, and was the first independent institution of the kind on the line of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad. It continued under the management of the owner until 1884, when it was sold by him to its present proprietors, Cargill Bros.

The Minnesota and Dakota Elevator Company are also running an elevator in the village. This edifice was constructed in 1883 by a local stock company, known as the Litchfield Elevator Company, composed of Alexander Cairncross, Andrew Nelson, W. W. Rollins, Nels Larson, B. P. Nelson and others, who operated it until 1887, when it passed into the hands of the present owners.

The Litchfield Brewery was established in 1874, by Lenhardt and Roetzer, and afterward passed into the ownership of the present proprietor, Ehrhardt Lenhardt, on

the north shore of Lake Ripley. During the first year, he manufactured about 100 barrels of beer, but the business has increased, until now he makes and disposes of over 2,000 barrels each year. This institution furnishes employment for five men.

The Litchfield and Meeker County Nursery, the only one in Central Minnesota, is owned and operated by G. W. Fuller and son. The senior partner came to this place in the spring of 1872, and purchased the Litchfield Nursery, or what there was of it, and that year started some 10,000 evergreen trees. He deals largely in all kinds of ornamental, shade and fruit trees, and all descriptions of small fruits, etc., and has a large and increasing trade.

The greenhouse and market garden of W. J. Whittington is one of the institutions of the city that must not be overlooked. The proprietor came to Litchfield in 1878, and, September 12th broke ground on two town lots which he bought on the corner of Third street and Holcomb avenue, for the purpose of establishing his business here. After raising a crop of vegetables, and later making a grand floral display on the grounds that year, he continued to make that his place of business for about two years, but finding it too circumscribed, decided to remove to his present location in Greenleaf's addition to the town site, where he now has five acres of land. Part of this is made into a private Park, known as Garfield park, and is used for the purpose of floral and landscape gardening displays. In this is held an annual horticultural fair and festival, given to the friends and patrons of the proprietor. Connected with the establishment is a market garden for the raising of early and choice vegetables, and as he has telephonic communication with the town, affords easy facilities for procuring those necessities at the shortest notice.

The Litchfield House, the first in the vil-

lage, was built by Charles Ahnquist and his brother in 1869, and was at once rented to L. W. Perkins, who was the landlord for a year. He was succeeded by M. T. Hayford in 1870, and the business was carried on by the latter gentleman until about 1880, when C. C. Sturdevant became the proprietor. A short time afterward it passed back into the hands of Mr. Hayford, who remained at the head of its affairs until the fall of 1885, when Mr. Hayford died, and the charge of it was assumed by M. E. Baun, the present proprietor.

The Howard House, the leading hotel of Litchfield, now under the able proprietorship of Frank W. Minton, was erected by Col. J. M. Howard in 1880, at a cost of some \$49,000. It is a beautiful and tasty edifice, built of cream-colored brick with brown trimmings; is about 75x90 feet in size, three stories, surmounted with a mansard roof, which adds another story to its height. It contains a comfortable office, complete bar-room, ample dining-room, and a large number of comfortably furnished bedrooms, with all of the usual additional rooms proper to the carrying on of a first-class hotel. The owner of the edifice has never assumed the responsibility of catering to the traveling public, preferring to rent it to some one more conversant with the business. The first landlord was Harry S. Lilligar, who remained until 1884, when he was succeeded by Richard Knights. Afterward Knights & Gorman ran it until May, 1885, when they were succeeded by Frank Minton, the present host. Mr. Minton is admirably fitted for the position of landlord, his kindly, genial disposition and accommodating manners making him a general favorite with the traveling community, a great number of which frequent this part of the State.

The Union House, owned and occupied by Andrew Ogren, was built in the summer of 1887, and opened for business in August of

that year. It is a fine building, two stories in height, built of cream-colored brick, is thoroughly fitted and furnished throughout, and offers superior inducements to travelers.

The Exchange Hotel, another of the hostelries of the village, was erected by W. S. Knappen early in 1873, and was situated on Sibley Avenue, opposite to where the Meeker County Bank is now located. Mr. Knappen continued to fill the post of "mine host" here for about two years, but in January, 1875, he disposed of it to Thomas Ryckman, who owned it until it was purchased by H. W. Simons, who removed it to its present site on Marshall Avenue, and enlarged it, and ran it for some time. He finally sold it to J. B. Hatch, who presided over its destinies for about a year, when, not being able to meet his payments on it, it reverted to Mr. Simons, who sold it to S. A. Searp, who rented it to A. J. Lee. The latter continued its landlord until the fall of 1887, when Henry E. Freeman became host, and has filled that position ever since.

The St. Cloud Hotel was erected in 1880 by M. L. O'Laughlin, and continued under his management until his death, since which time it has been run by his widow.

The Lake Ripley House was built by Gould & Co. in 1870, and was first rented by James Tinkham, who ran the house for a little over a year, when he was succeeded by P. E. Christian, who was followed soon by John Searp. A short time afterward O. D. Webb became the landlord, and continued to hold that position until the fall of 1872, and was followed by Otto Campbell, and then G. H. Fountain entered upon the possession of the house. He remained to fill the duties of host until March, 1876, when he was succeeded by L. D. Marshall, who was in town, followed by Otho H. Campbell, and he by R. W. Dunn. For a short time the house was run by the latter when he was in town, succeeded by Z. B. Fifield.

Peter Weissenburg became the landlord in 1880, and continued so until his death January 5, 1884, since which time the house has been presided over by his widow and son Nicholas.

The United States Land Office was brought from Greenleaf to Litchfield in December, 1869, at which time J. C. Braden was the receiver, and J. M. Walden, register. The office was located in this place until the 16th of September, 1876, when, in obedience to the mandate of the powers that were, it was removed to Benson, this State. At the time of this removal, W. H. Greenleaf, now of Litchfield, was receiver, and J. C. Braden, who died in December, 1877, was register.

BOARD OF TRADE.

One of the prime factors in the substantial growth and progress of Litchfield is the Litchfield Board of Trade. It was organized in 1880, with eighty-two charter members, and may be said to have had its origin in the movement which established and put the Litchfield Creamery in successful operation. The first officers of the board were as follows: W. S. Brill, president; E. P. Peterson, secretary; M. J. Flynn, treasurer; Henry Ames, W. M. Campbell, P. Eckstrom, S. A. Heard, H. B. Johnson, N. C. Martin, Jacob Koerner, J. H. Morris, A. Nelson, A. D. Ross, John Rodange, S. W. Leavitt and S. Cairncross. The board of directors has full power for the transaction of all routine business, and the aiding and encouragement of such enterprises as it may deem beneficial to the town and community. In 1885 the board took in hand the project of establishing a woolen manufactory, and the result was—the close of the year found one of the most creditable enterprises of its kind in the State established and in operation in the village. The present officers of the board are: J. M. Howard, president; W. D. Joubert, secretary; Andrew Nelson, treasurer.

POSTOFFICE.

The postoffice in Litchfield was established in August, 1869, and J. A. C. Waller commissioned as postmaster. He was succeeded by H. B. Johnson, and the latter by Frank E. Daggett. The next to hold the position was James H. Morris, who was followed by A. D. Ross, the present incumbent.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Frank Daggett Post, No. 35, G. A. R., was organized at Litchfield on the 8th of July, 1883, with fourteen charter members. The books, however, were held open until the next meeting, when additional names were added, making the number appearing on the rolls as charter members, twenty-seven. The following is a list of these, the original "fourteen" being named first—J. M. Howard, G. H. Chapman, J. B. Atkinson, John Lockwood, V. H. Harris, Carl Smith, William Heath, N. C. Martin, S. H. Hoffman, F. E. Bissell, Thomas G. Crump, George Sholes, A. J. Anderson, Carl Schultz, John Knights, Peter Stiern, August T. Koerner, J. S. McNeal, Peter McIntyre, Patrick McKarney, James Dearey, Robert Vorys, William McStotts, Isaac M. Russell, Christian M. Mortenson, Samuel Gleason and A. D. Simons.

The first officers of the Post were as follows—J. M. Howard, commander; John Lockwood, senior vice-commander; J. B. Atkinson, junior vice-commander; G. H. Chapman, officer of the day; V. H. Harris, quartermaster; N. C. Martin, adjutant; F. E. Bissell, surgeon; T. G. Crump, chaplain, and George Sholes, officer of the guard. Colonel Howard held the position of commander until January 1, 1884, when he was succeeded by V. H. Harris, who served one year. N. C. Martin was then elected commander, and has since been his own successor, being the present commander. The Post was organized in the old court-room building, but held regular meetings in the judge of

probate's office at the court-house until the summer of 1885, when the present G. A. R. building, "Memorial Hall," was erected. The corner-stone was laid on Memorial Day, in May, 1885. The cost of the building and grounds was \$5,000, and it is one of the finest furnished and finished buildings of that character in the county, and the only one owned by the members of the order in Minnesota. There is a fine library room in the hall, in which the Post have a number of interesting and valuable relics of the rebellion and "Indian massacre times." Among these relics are the two bullets which were fired at a mark on the tree by Jones and Baker with the Indians, on the 17th of August, 1862. They were cut from the tree on the first of January, 1886. The gavel, which is now in use by the commander, was made from the wood of a log taken from one of the log cabins in which the Jones and Baker families were killed.

The Post is now in excellent condition, having 125 members in good standing, and socially as well as well as financially it has been one of the most successful organizations in the State. The present officers of the Post are as follows—N. C. Martin, commander; G. H. Chapin, senior vice-commander; T. J. Soule, junior vice-commander; J. B. Hatch, adjutant; Israel Miller, officer of the day; G. A. Phelps, officer of the guard; A. T. Koerner, quartermaster; T. G. Crump, chaplain; F. E. Bissell, surgeon; F. V. DeCoster, Q. M. S.; C. C. Curtis, S. M.; and J. M. Howard, V. H. Harris and A. T. Koerner, trustees.

It may be of interest to state that the Post was named in honor of Frank E. Daggett, who was a lieutenant in the Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He was the first grand commander of the Department of Minnesota, G. A. R., and was well known throughout the State. A sketch of him is given in the biographical department of this work.

Edward Branham Post, G. A. R., was an institution of past days, formed under the old organization of the order. Their meeting room was over Dart's store on the east side of Sibley Avenue.

The Relief Corps, No. 16, auxiliary to Frank Daggett Post, No. 35, G. A. R., was organized January 2, 1886, with the following sixteen charter members—Mrs. J. B. Atkinson, Mrs. M. J. Flynn, Mrs. F. E. Bissell, Mrs. J. M. Lockwood, Mrs. William Campbell, Mrs. J. B. Sherman, Mrs. J. B. Hatch, Mrs. N. C. Martin, Mrs. A. Phelps, Mrs. Israel Miller, Mrs. George Chapman, Mrs. L. Perry, Mrs. J. McNeal, Mrs. F. V. DeCoster, Mrs. L. Damuth and Mrs. C. L. Angell. The following is the roster of the first officers who were elected on organization—Mrs. J. B. Atkinson, P.; Mrs. M. J. Flynn, S. V. P.; Mrs. J. McNeal, J. V. P.; Mrs. J. B. Sherman, S.; Mrs. F. E. Bissell, T.; Mrs. C. L. Angell, C.; Mrs. J. M. Lockwood, Con.; Mrs. A. Phelps, Asst. Con.; Mrs. N. C. Martin, G.; Mrs. J. B. Hatch, Asst. G. These officers were installed the same evening by Mrs. Becker, department installing officer, assisted by Mrs. Starkweather, the department treasurer. The corps soon received applications for new membership, and has always held interesting meetings and done much good. Various ways of obtaining funds for their treasury were devised, such as giving dinners, suppers, entertainments, making and selling ice cream, etc., with happy results. In the year 1886 relief was given to the needy to the amount of \$85 in provisions and clothing, and, in 1887, to \$53. In addition to this the ladies have given to the G. A. R. Post money to the amount of \$215 since their organization. The officers were reelected the second year, with the exception of Mrs. J. M. Howard being chosen J. V. P., and Mrs. Miller, guard.

December 3, 1887, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year—Mrs.

Bissell, P.; Mrs. Howard, S. V. P.; Mrs. Chapman, J. V. P.; Mrs. Sherman, S.; Mrs. Soule, T.; Mrs. Perry, C.; Mrs. Angell, Con.; Mrs. Phelps, Asst. Con.; Mrs. McNeal, G., and Mrs. Martin, A. G. The Corps is in a flourishing condition, having at present over thirty members in good standing.

J. C. Braden Camp, No. 10, Sons of Veterans, was originally known as Yerrick Camp, and was organized at the village of Dassel, December 5, 1885. In August, 1887, the camp was moved to Litchfield, and the name changed, though the original membership was retained and eight new members added, the camp being officered as follows: F. B. Lawson, captain; C. A. Perry, first lieutenant; Charles Phelps, second lieutenant; F. H. Haven, first sergeant; J. B. Atkinson, Jr., quartermaster. At present (1888) the camp musters twenty members in good standing, and has the following officers: C. A. Perry, captain; Chas. Phelps, first lieutenant; Chas. Collier, second lieutenant; F. B. Lawson, orderly; J. B. Atkinson, Jr., quartermaster.

MASONIC.

The Masonic Fraternity is exceptionally strong at Litchfield, there being a representative of three of the different branches of the order in full operation, namely—Golden Fleece Lodge, Rabboni Chapter and Melita Commandery, besides the lodge for the conferring the Eastern Star degree.

Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89, A. F. & A. M., was organized under dispensation March 10, 1871, with the following members—J. C. Braden, B. L. Perry, J. B. Hatch, H. L. Wadsworth, J. M. Mitchell, C. D. Ward, J. A. C. Waller, D. C. Miller, C. L. Angell, Samuel Anderson, G. W. Weisel, M. W. Piper, Daniel Pinco, H. J. Lasher, Henry Hill, N. A. Viren, M. T. Hayford, J. H. Morris, and Lowell Weymouth. The first officers chosen and installed—J. C. Braden, W. M.;

J. M. Mitchell, S. W.; B. L. Perry, J. W.; C. D. Ward, T.; J. A. C. Waller, S.; J. B. Hatch, S. D.; D. C. Miller, J. D.; H. L. Wadsworth, S. S.; and C. L. Angell, tyler. The lodge ran along under the dispensation until January 23, 1873, when it was placed under a charter granted by the Grand Lodge, and the following officers installed—J. C. Braden; W. M.; J. A. C. Waller, S. W.; J. M. Waldren, J. W.; Frank LaCross, T.; J. Q. A. Braden, S.; J. B. Hatch, S. D.; T. R. Briggs, J. D.; H. L. Wadsworth, S. S.; D. C. Miller, J. S.; H. J. Lasher, tyler. During the years of its existence the following named worshipful masters have presided over its meetings—J. C. Braden, 1871–2–3; J. A. C. Waller, 1874; A. C. Smith, 1875; J. Q. A. Braden, 1876; S. A. Plumley, 1877; J. H. Morris 1878–9; J. B. Hatch, 1880; Henry Ames, 1881; A. D. Ross, 1882–3–4; W. J. Nytes, 1885; A. D. Ross, 1886; and A. J. Revell, 1887. The officers for the current year (1888) are as follows—A. J. Revell, W. M.; O. A. Pennoyer, S. W.; C. Bertleson, J. W.; H. S. Branham, T.; Hamlet Stevens, S.; T. G. Crump, C.; G. B. Phelps, S. D.; Peter Berens, J. D.; C. F. Payne, S. S.; J. W. Wright, J. S.; C. H. Bigelow, tyler.

Rabboni Chapter, No. 39, R. A. M., was instituted at a meeting held June 1, 1882, when the following named companions signed the petition for authority to establish the chapter, and who filled the respective offices—J. H. Brown, H. P.; S. A. Plumley, K.; A. D. Ross, S.; A. T. Koerner, C. of H.; W. J. Nytes, P. S.; O. A. Pennoyer, R. A. C.; Hamlet Stevens, R.; H. H. Pennoyer, G. M. T. V.; T. G. Crump, G. M. S. V.; D. H. Duckering, G. M. F. V.; and A. C. Brown, acting sentinel. The first communication under the charter and name and number was held November 30, 1882, when the following companions were installed as officers—J. H. Brown, H. P.; S. A. Plumley, K.; A. D.

Ross, S.; A. T. Koerner, C. of H.; W. J. Nytes, P. S.; C. H. Strobeck, R. A. C.; W. S. Brill, T.; Hamlet Stevens, S.; H. H. Pennoyer, G. M. T. V.; H. B. Johnson, G. M. S. V.; D. H. Duckerson, G. M. F. V.; O. A. Pennoyer, Sent. J. H. Brown held the office of High Priest until 1884, and companion A. D. Ross filled the chair of High Priest of this chapter until the current year, when the dignity of that office was conferred upon Charles H. Strobeck. The other officers for 1888, are as follows—Theodore Ehlers, K.; A. T. Koerner, S.; J. H. Morris, C. of H.; A. J. Revell, P. S.; Nels M. Holm, R. A. C.; H. S. Branham, T.; Hamlet Stevens, S.; T. G. Crump, C.; Amund Dahl, G. M. T. V.; O. A. Pennoyer, G. M. S. V.; J. E. Upham, G. M. F. V.; and C. H. Bigelow, Sent.

Melita Commandery, No. 17, K. T., was duly instituted at a meeting held June 21, 1884, at which time Sir Knights J. H. Morris, A. D. Ross, A. T. Koerner, T. G. Crump, C. H. Strobeck, T. Ehlers, H. S. Branham, N. W. Hawkinson, O. A. Pennoyer, S. B. Lake, Hamlet Stevens and Peter Johnson signed the petition to the Grand Commander for the establishment of the Commandery. At a conclave held January 10, 1885, the following officers were chosen and installed: J. H. Morris, E. C.; A. D. Ross, G.; A. T. Koerner, C. G.; T. G. Crump, P.; C. H. Strobeck, S. W.; Theodore Ehlers, J. W.; H. S. Branham, T.; Hamlet Stevens, R.; E. A. D. Salter, standard bearer; O. A. Pennoyer, sword bearer; N. W. Hawkinson, W., and Marcus Johnson, Sent. The charter was received October 29, 1885, and the first officers under it were the following named Sir Knights: J. H. Morris, E. C.; A. D. Ross, G.; A. T. Koerner, C. G.; T. G. Crump, P.; C. H. Strobeck, S. W.; Theodore Ehlers, J. W.; H. S. Branham, T.; Hamlet Stevens, R.; E. A. D. Salter, standard bearer; O. A. Pennoyer, sword bearer; N. W. Hawkinson, W.; A. E. Rice, C. of 1st G.; W. J.

Nytes, C. of 2d G.; Peter Johnson, C. of 3d G., and O. W. Hawkinson, Sent. Sir Knight J. H. Morris held the post of Eminent Commander until April 9, 1888, from the first meeting. On the above date the following officers of the Commandery were duly installed at the regular conclave: A. T. Koerner, E. C.; Theodore Ehlers, G.; J. H. Morris, C. G.; C. H. Strobeck, P.; C. H. Bigelow, S. W.; A. J. Revell, J. W.; H. S. Branham, T.; Hamlet Stevens, R.; E. A. D. Salter, standard bearer; O. A. Pennoyer, sword bearer; N. W. Hawkinson, W.; Peter Johnson, C. of 1st G.; O. W. Hawkinson, C. of 2d G.

All of the branches of the Fraternity are in splendid condition, both financially and socially, and great interest is taken in the work by the members.

The Blue Lodge erected the hall, in 1874, as related elsewhere, and rents the use of it to the other societies. It is a finely furnished and comfortable lodge-room, and manifests considerable taste in the fitting and furnishing.

Fidelity Chapter, No. 17, Eastern Star, was organized under dispensation, March 3, 1886, with the following list of officers and members, all of whom were initiated into the order by Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 89: Mrs. Narcissa H. Heard, W. Matron; Charles H. Strobeck, W. Patron; Mrs. Carrie E. Strobeck, assistant matron; Mrs. Eunice A. Hayford, treasurer; Mrs. Theo. Ehlers, secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth M. Ross, conductress; Mrs. Elizabeth S. Newland, assistant conductress; Mrs. Louisa M. Hayford, Adah; Mrs. Ida H. Joubert, Ruth; Mrs. Alice E. Wright, Esther; Mrs. Ida M. Johnson, Martha; Mrs. Ellen M. Crump, Electa; A. J. Revell, warder; Charles H. Bigelow, sentinel; Mrs. Frances S. Patrick, Mrs. Jennie Revel, Mrs. Frances R. Bigelow, Mrs. C. D. Patrick, Mrs. Sarah Thomas, Mrs. Frances L. Salter, J. D. Hayford, Theo. Ehlers, A.

D. Ross, S. D. Patrick, T. G. Crump and O. A. Pennoyer. The lodge has prospered since its inception, and ranks among the best in the State. The present officers are as follows—Mrs. N. H. Heard, W. M.; Charles H. Strobeck, W. P.; Mrs. C. H. Strobeck, A. M.; Mrs. C. C. Patrick, T.; Mrs. Theo. Ehlers, S.; Mrs. E. M. Ross, C.; Mrs. J. Revell, A. C.; Mrs. L. M. Hayford, A.; Mrs. I. H. Joubert, R.; Mrs. M. C. Braden, E.; Mrs. F. S. Patrick, M.; Mrs. E. P. Howard, Electa; Mrs. Frances Bigelow, warder; Theo. Ehlers, Sent.; A. J. Revell, Chap.; and Mrs. T. J. Morris, organist.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Litchfield Lodge, No. 50, Ancient Order of United Workmen, was instituted February 23, 1878, with the following charter members—N. C. Martin, H. Angier, S. Cairncross, S. A. Heard, B. P. Nelson, A. Nelson, H. S. Bramham, G. O. Hickox, C. G. Topping, L. Eekstrom, H. McGannon, A. D. Ross, L. Elnquist, A. Palmquist, F. E. Bissell, A. McConger, A. J. Anderson, G. H. Chapman, S. Y. Gordon, A. A. Sanford and E. P. Peterson. The first officers were—C. G. Topping, M. W.; N. C. Martin, F.; F. E. Bissell, O.; G. O. Hickox, Rec.; H. S. Bramham, financier; A. Nelson, receiver; H. McGannon, G.; H. M. Angier, I. W.; A. G. Anderson, O. W.; S. Cairncross, P. N. W. The present officers of the lodge are as follows—E. M. Eastman, M. W.; O. A. Phelps, G. F.; George H. Chapman, O.; N. A. Viren, recorder; N. W. Hawkinson, financier; S. S. Cook, receiver; E. Nelson, G.; A. Palmquist, I. W.; C. Topping, O. W.; V. H. Harris, D. Elnquist, and John Rodange, trustees. The lodge has comfortable, convenient and pleasant lodge-rooms in the Harris block, and is in a flourishing condition, and enjoys an excellent reputation as a benevolent and social organization.

A lodge of the Independent Order of Odd-

fellows was instituted in Litchfield, and sustained for a time, but was finally abandoned and the charter surrendered.

The Litchfield Library Association was chartered under the laws of the State, on September 15, 1875. The capital stock was fixed at \$5,000, 1,000 shares being issued, at \$5 each. The articles of incorporation defined the general purposes of the association to be "for instruction and mental improvement in the arts and sciences, and for literary and social culture by means of the establishment and maintenance of a library of miscellaneous books, the collection and preservation of curiosities, works of art and skill, and object illustrations of natural science, and by lectures, addresses, and literary, scientific, musical and dramatic entertainments." The officers and charter members of the Association were as follows—A. C. Smith, president; W. M. White, vice-president; W. S. Brill, secretary and librarian; Charles H. Strobeck, treasurer; F. Daggett, J. Q. A. Braden, W. M. Campbell, W. H. Greenleaf, S. A. Plumley, V. P. Kennedy, F. V. DeCoster, H. S. Lasher, directors; F. Belfoy, Dr. F. E. Bissell, S. W. Leavitt, A. Nelson Posen, J. Esbjornsson, Leonard Leight, Henry McGannon, Nelson J. Marsh, C. F. Dart, E. A. Campbell, M. J. Flynn, J. H. Bacon, J. A. C. Waller, James H. Morris and C. G. Topping. The library is at present in the Grand Army of the Republic hall, in the immediate care of Post No. 35, though still the property of the Association.

The Litchfield Dramatic Association was organized January 13, 1877, with the following members—J. C. Braden and wife; Chamecy Butler and wife; J. H. Morris and wife; Col. J. M. Howard and wife; C. H. Strobeck and wife; Rev. T. G. Crump and wife; S. W. Leavitt and wife; A. D. Ross and wife; S. A. Plumley and wife; W. M. White and wife; J. Esbjornsson, O. B. Johnson, Hamlet Stevens, W. D. Joubert,

S. W. Frazier, H. J. Lasher, Dr. S. L. Barr, Dr. J. H. Bacon, and Misses Hattie Campbell, Nettie H. Pixley, and Hattie B. Simons. On organization the following officers were elected to attend to the government of the society: S. W. Leavitt, manager; Dr. J. H. Bacon, assistant manager; O. B. Johnson, treasurer, and W. D. Joubert, secretary. By one of the by-laws of the Association the number of members was confined to forty, half of whom were to be of the gentler sex. It has proven a brilliant success, and has a full membership, each of whom takes an individual interest in its workings. The present officers are the following—S. W. Leavitt, manager; J. H. Bacon, assistant; James H. Morris, treasurer; E. B. Weeks, secretary.

The Scandinavian Temperance Society was organized in the autumn of 1886, as an open society, by the citizens of that nationality or descent, with a membership of about twenty. It has accomplished much good in helping on the cause in this locality, and has increased rapidly in size, having now some 275 members. Meetings are held semi-monthly at the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church, and great interest is manifested in them. The first officers were—E. B. Nelson, president; Halvor Burglin, vice-president; O. Ringdahl, secretary; and Charles Hanson, treasurer. Elections are held every four months, and the present officers are the following named gentlemen: Bergh Anderson, president; J. G. Johnson, vice president; Edward Benson, secretary; and S. Peterson, treasurer.

RELIGIOUS.

The First Presbyterian Church Society of Litchfield, was organized temporarily on the 2d of day January, 1870, under the direction of a committee from the St. Paul Presbytery, although services had been irregularly held four or five months previous in a

newly erected school-house, Rev. D. B. Jackson officiating. On the 10th of March following a permanent organization was effected, when Henry Hill, A. N. Grenier and H. A. Rumions were chosen as trustees. The following named persons comprise the original membership of the church: A. N. Grenier, Mrs. Eusebia Grenier, Miss Rachel A. Grenier, Miss Isabella Grenier, Henry Hill, Mrs. Mary L. Hill, Henry Wilson and Mrs. Martha Gordon, and D. B. Jackson, pastor. Rev. Jackson was a most conscientious Christian worker, and, by infusing his followers with his own earnestness and zeal, his labors resulted in laying the foundation for some of the most effective religious work in the history of the county. During the summer of 1870, quite a handsome fund was raised by the society through donations, general subscriptions and otherwise, and two lots were deeded it by the railroad company, on which the erection of a church edifice was immediately begun. The building was finished and occupied the following year (1871), the total cost being about \$4,000. A parsonage has since been erected at a cost of \$1,400. Rev. Jackson was succeeded in turn as pastor, by the following ministers—Revs. W. C. Harding, Prescott Fay, A. J. Buel and John S. Sherrill. In April, 1887, the present pastor, Rev. D. E. Evans, was called to the charge, and the church has made excellent progress under his administration, more than thirty new members having been received during his first year. The society now has a membership of ninety-four, and everything pertaining to the church and its work is indeed promising for the future.

Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church was the outgrowth of a mission of that denomination established here previous to the laying out of the village. Services were held in the place shortly after the reception of Litchfield, and at a meeting held at the Masonic Hall, March 18, 1871, the parish was organ-

ized, and the real life of the church began. The pioneer officers were the following named: Rev. T. G. Crump, rector; J. C. Braden, senior warden; Charles H. Strobeck, junior warden; H. G. Rising, D. E. Potter, J. M. Mitchell, J. M. Waldren, O. B. Espin, W. S. Brill and G. H. Chapman, vestrymen; D. E. Potter, clerk; C. H. Strobeck, treasurer. A Mrs. Ellen Auchenty placed the sum of \$5,000 in the hands of Bishop Whipple for the purpose of erecting a church and parish school, and the Bishop selected this congregation as the beneficiary. The church edifice was erected during the year 1871, and dedicated February 1, 1872. It is a very handsome structure, built in the English Gothic style of architecture, and together with the rectory and school building is valued at over \$7,000. Mr. Crump continued to fill the position of rector until March 19, 1888, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Rev. Alfred G. Pinkham. The present officers are—C. H. Strobeck and J. H. Morris, wardens; A. J. Revell, T. H. Wood, C. A. Braisie, A. R. Montfort, James Dickson and J. E. Upham, vestrymen; Hamlet Stevens, treasurer; and M. O. Cathcart, clerk. Although the church had but about ten or eleven members at its inception it now numbers some 375 individuals in the congregation, of whom one hundred are communicants.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Litchfield was instituted in this neighborhood, as an auxiliary to the Forest City Church, in 1860, a board of trustees being appointed and a temporary organization being effected in July of that year. Rev. T. J. Woodworth was the first pastor to labor with the people, services being held irregularly in private houses. In 1869, on their removal to Litchfield, meetings were held in the old school-house, a permanent organization was effected, and the first quarterly conference was in November of that year. At that time the

pastor was Rev. J. S. Fasig, who was succeeded, in September, 1871, by Rev. William Copp. Under the administration of Rev. Copp the erection of the present church edifice was begun and completed, at a cost of \$2,600. For a year previous to its completion services were held in the hall over a saloon on Sibley avenue. In 1872 Rev. Levi Gleason came to the charge, and in 1873 he was succeeded by Rev. Isaac H. Riddick, whose circuit included Litchfield, Greenleaf, Spring Grove and Cedar Mills. He continued as pastor until September 27, 1876, when he was succeeded by Rev. Samuel Wood, who resigned the charge, on account of failing health, in July of the following year. Rev. C. W. Savidge completed the conference year, and was returned for the second year. The succeeding pastors were—Rev. Hoyt B. Hunt, 1878-80; Rev. L. Hall, 1881-2; Rev. N. M. Learned, 1882-3; Rev. J. C. Gullett, 1883-4; Rev. A. J. Brock, 1884-6. In 1886 the present pastor, Rev. T. W. Butler, was called to the charge. The church membership is now 120, and the society is in a very prosperous condition. During the year 1887 some \$300 worth of improvements were put upon the church, and a parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1,400. So satisfactory has been the progress of the church, during the past few years, that the society now has in contemplation the erection of a new church building, in order to more nearly meet the necessities of the times.

The Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church of Litchfield was organized early in the year 1874, the first meetings being held in the English Methodist Episcopal church, with Rev. C. J. Nelson, presiding elder, and Rev. Louis Dahlgren officiating. Among the original members and workers were Mr. and Mrs. Peter Palm and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hansen and others. Later in the year a comfortable church building was erected, at a cost of \$1,400. For the first eleven years the church

belonged to the Atwater Circuit, the pulpit being filled by the pastor from that charge. A regular pastor was provided in 1885, the first one being Rev. P. M. Alvin. In the fall of 1886 he was succeeded by Rev. John Anderson, the present pastor. The church has made wonderful progress during the past year and a half (spring of 1888), increasing its membership fully five-fold. The present membership is over sixty. Some \$200 worth of improvements have been put upon the church building during the past year, and a parsonage has been erected at a cost of \$650, besides purchasing an additional lot at a cost of \$60.

The Church of Christ, often called the Christian Church, was initiated at Litchfield by a discourse delivered by L. Y. Bailey, in the old school-house, in the summer of 1870. He was the teacher of the school, and, during that year preached occasionally, being regularly ordained as a minister of that communion. In 1871 the church society was duly organized with L. Y. Bailey and wife, Mrs. J. V. Branham, Jr., C. J. Rowley, Chauncey Butler and wife, O. B. Knapp and wife, and several others as members. They rented Asher's hall, where they held services for a time. Mr. Bailey had charge of the church as long as he was a resident of Meeker county, which was for some three or four years subsequent to the organization of the society, having been connected with the educational interests of the county, either as teacher or as county superintendent, and gave his services to the church without remuneration, as a matter of principle. In the early part of 1872, the present church edifice was erected, at a cost of about \$3,000, and the membership largely increased. The successor of Mr. Bailey was Elder Grant, who remained with this people about a year; after which, for a period of several years, the interest somewhat abating, there was no pastor until 1882. In April of that year, Elder

E. W. Knapp came here, and, taking charge of the ministerial duties, occupied the pulpit until September following, when he was succeeded by Elder R. C. Bryant, who attended the spiritual welfare of the church for about a year. After him came another interval, when there was no pastor. In March, 1884, L. A. Pier was duly installed as pastor, and continues in that position at the present time. The parsonage connected with the church was erected in 1883, at a cost of about \$1,000. The membership of the society is now about eighty, with the following officers—V. H. Harris, Thomas McGannon and Timothy Jayne, Jr., trustees; Thomas McGannon and Timothy Jayne, elders; A. T. Koerner, Henry McGannon and J. W. Knight, deacons; V. H. Harris, clerk; and J. M. Russell, treasurer.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church Society was organized on the 28th of August, 1873, with the following members—N. M. Hentzia and wife, Nels Agren and wife, C. J. Zettergren and wife, J. P. Scarp and wife, N. Anderson and wife, A. H. Lofstrom and wife, A. Palmquist and wife, B. P. Nelson and Alfred Zettergren. The first officers chosen were—Rev. J. G. Lagerstrom, chairman; Rev. Fred. Peterson, secretary; C. J. Zettergren, A. Hentzer, and Nels Agren, deacons; and B. P. Nelson, A. H. Lofstrom, and J. P. Scarp, trustees. The first regular pastor was Rev. P. Dittner, who was settled here in 1876, and was succeeded in 1881 by Rev. J. S. Ryding. November 1, 1883, the present minister, Rev. L. A. Hocanzan, succeeded the latter gentleman. The church edifice was erected at a cost of some \$6,000, in 1881, and is a brick veneered building, 38x62 feet in size, 24 feet high. The sacristy is 18x24 feet in dimensions, and the tower and spire, which is 14 feet square, rises to a height of 87 feet. It is well furnished inside, is heated by first class furnaces, and is handsomely finished in fresco.

The present officers are the following named—Rev. L. A. Hocanuz, pastor; A. Palmquist, organist; Aaron Lindholm, secretary; Carl Hanson, treasurer; A. Palmquist, John Snell, and Swen Nelson, deacons; and Andrew Nelson, Carl Hanson, and Nels Anderson, trustees. The church has a total membership of 190, of whom 117 are communicants. The Sunday-school, which meets every Sabbath, is under the superintendency of J. A. Ekblad. A parish school is held during some eight weeks in the year in connection with the church, and a ladies society meets once a month.

The Roman Catholic Church at Litchfield was organized as a part of the parish of Forest City, in 1871, by Rev. Father Arthur Hurley, who remained pastor of it until 1873, when he was succeeded by Rev. Father Cahill, under whose direction a parsonage was purchased, and one room therein was fitted up as a chapel, in which mass was celebrated. In 1875 Rev. Father John McDermott became the spiritual director of the church, and organized, during his ministry, the first total abstinence society in Meeker county, and lots were purchased, and the foundation of the church laid in 1881. Rev. Father Patrick Kinney, the next priest, came in the spring of 1882, and the church edifice was built under his direction, at a cost of \$4,000. Rev. Father H. McDevitt took charge of the parish in 1885, and remained about a year, when he was succeeded by Rev. Father P. J. Boland, the present pastor. In the summer of 1887 the present handsome parsonage was erected at a cost of \$2,000.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

These are matters upon which the citizens of Litchfield take a just pride. At this writing their schools are well graded, and have been in the past, and are to day, among the best managed schools in the State. There is not

a city of the same size in Minnesota where the public schools are rated higher, or educational facilities and privileges more excellent than in Litchfield, and the citizens justly feel proud of their institutions.

The first official school meeting on the present site of Litchfield was held on the 26th of March, 1870, when the following officers were elected: J. V. Branham, Jr., director; C. H. Strobeck, clerk, and Bengt Hanson, treasurer. This perfected the organization of the district. The first school on the town site was held in a small frame building which stood on block 41, and was valued at \$250. It is presumed that the district had bought this building, but the records do not show anything of the purchase, although it appears upon the reports as school property. The total enrollment of scholars during that year (1870) was forty-six, and there was only one teacher employed—Flora Mitchell. She was paid \$25 per month. The term lasted three months, and the total expenditure for school purposes during the year 1870 amounted to only \$148.78.

On the 8th of February, 1871, a special school meeting was held, at which it was decided to build a new school-house, to cost not more than \$3,000, and to be located on the northeast quarter of block 51. The contract was let June 19, 1871, calling for the completion of a two-story, four-room building. The building was occupied in the winter of 1871-72, there being an enrollment during the term of ninety-two. The total amount paid teachers during 1871 was \$305, the total amount expended for school purposes being \$3,369.54.

The school gradually advanced and grew in numbers until it became necessary to erect a larger school-building. A hot contest, lasting from March 15 until April 26, 1879, took place over this question, which is referred to as the "North and South side war." Each side wanted the building erected in their

own part of the town, the railroad track being the dividing line. The question was finally decided, and a splendid school structure was erected on the north side of the track, being located on block 124. The building is of brick, and contained eight rooms, although only four were furnished at the time. The total cost of the building was \$10,000, while the site and furniture cost \$2,000 more.

In August, 1880, Litchfield was organized as an independent district, with the following school board — S. W. Leavitt, president; Bengt Hanson, treasurer; J. H. Morris, clerk; M. J. Flynn, W. H. Greenleaf and Henry McGannon, trustees. The schools were graded during this year.

In April, 1886, an additional building was erected at a cost to the city of \$3,500 including the grounds. This building is located on the south side of the railroad. In the fall of 1887 it was found that the necessities of the schools required still another building, and one was rented and furnished, which is now used as first primary. This makes three buildings in all, with a total of eleven rooms. Eleven teachers are employed, V. W. Brokaw being the present principal. The present enrollment of the schools is 556 scholars. The total amount paid as teachers' salaries during the year 1887 was \$5,815.

The present school board of Litchfield is composed as follows — S. W. Leavitt, president; J. W. Wright, secretary; W. H. Greenleaf, treasurer; J. H. Morris, M. J. Flynn, and V. H. Harris, directors.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The first movement toward the formation of a fire department at Litchfield, was a volunteer company which was brought into existence in 1873. Among those who were active workers in this organization were the following named — A. R. Potter, A. E. Howe, J. D. Hayford, John Masette, H. J. Lasher, E. F. Roberts, John Hayford, J. P.

Searp, James McCabe, John Peterson, A. T. Koerner, W. H. Myers, F. P. Zimmerman, John Anderson, Henry McGannon, M. W. Damuth, P. Eckstrom, H. J. Brinkman, P. Berens, W. D. Jonbert, S. Y. Gordon, S. P. Chipman, S. W. Frasier, Chauncey Butler, Jacob Koerner and others. This organization was maintained until the present company was incorporated in 1877.

On the 20th of January, 1877, articles of incorporation were drawn organizing and incorporating the Litchfield Fire Company. The first officers were as follows — P. Eckstrom, foreman; H. J. Lasher, first assistant; J. M. Howard, second assistant; A. T. Koerner, secretary and treasurer; and W. H. Myers, steward. Besides the officers the following named were all charter members of the association — J. N. Bacon, Henry McGannon, M. W. Damuth, M. Thurin, Chauncey Butler, W. M. Campbell, M. J. Flynn, John Peterson, Henry Eckstrom, F. P. Campbell, S. Y. Gordon, F. P. Zimmerman, Alexander Cairncross, John Anderson, S. W. Leavitt, A. D. Ross, N. J. March, John Hayford, J. B. Hatch, J. P. Searp, E. F. Roberts, P. Berens and James McCabe.

At the time of organization the department was equipped with one Babcock extinguisher, together with the usual hooks, ladders, etc. In November, 1883, the city seeing the necessity of better protection against the fiery element, furnished the department with a Cataract hand engine, two hose carts and a thousand feet of hose, at a cost of \$2,350. The building then in use as an engine house was the old frame school-house located on block 51. This was used as an engine house until 1886, when the present brick engine house was erected on the corner of Second and Ramsey streets. It is a substantial, two-story building, conveniently divided, and containing a fireman's hall and council room. The building cost the city \$1,865 in money, besides which,

the old frame building and lots were traded in.

A few additional items in regard to the history of the department may be of interest. On the 17th of February, 1877, a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the purchase of a bell. The bell was secured during the following summer at a cost of \$80. The first time the present department turned out for drilling purposes was in June, 1878. The first delegates to the State Fire Department, were P. Eckstrom and A. T. Koerner. On the 6th of March, 1882, the village council appropriated \$50 for the purpose, and the department secured fifty helmets and belts.

In addition to the organization given above, the village also boasts of a "bucket brigade," which was organized on the 9th of May, 1882. It then had twenty-five members. The organization has been sustained up to the present time, and the "brigade" now has thirty members, and is in good working order. The present officers are—N. F. Revell, captain; N. Thoradson, secretary; and S. A. Scarp, assistant. Water is drawn from four cisterns which hold about 450 barrels, and the supply is practically inexhaustible. They have three force pumps.

MILITIA.

About 1878 an independent company was organized here, which was known as the "Litchfield Rifles." It was composed of about forty members, and was commanded by the following officers—S. W. Leavitt, captain; J. H. Morris, first lieutenant; and A. T. Koerner, second lieutenant. This organization was maintained for about two years, when their guns were called for, as they were needed in the West for actual service. As the guns were not returned, the organization was finally abandoned.

On the 20th of February, 1883, Company H, First Regiment Minnesota National Guards,

was organized at Litchfield with sixty-two members. The following were the first and are the present officers of the company—S. W. Leavitt, captain; J. H. Morris, first lieutenant; and A. T. Koerner, second lieutenant. The organization is still maintained, and the company now has sixty-four men, including both rank and file, and is under an excellent degree of discipline.

BANDS.

The first brass band in the county was organized in Litchfield in 1871, with fourteen members—H. J. Lasher, J. H. Bacon, S. W. Leavitt, H. S. Branham, D. E. Branham, V. H. Harris, H. McGannon, August Lundcrantz, N. A. Viren, John Blackwell, George Waller, Henry Chase, Martin Thurién and B. F. Pixley. It was not only the pioneer organization in musical matters, but also in dramatic and other entertainments. The first dramatic and literary society was instituted by its members, which is still in existence and flourishing under the name of the Litchfield Dramatic Association. The Litchfield Band maintained its organization for about three years, and proved the principal stepping-stone for amusement enterprises of almost every kind in the village.

The Litchfield cornet band was organized November 5, 1885, and was officered for the first year as follows—F. M. Phillips, president; D. Elmquist, vice-president; A. Leidholm, secretary; F. P. Zimmerman, treasurer. On the 5th of November, 1887, the band was incorporated under the laws of the State. It is now in a flourishing condition, owns a set of fine instruments, which were paid for entirely out of its own funds, and enjoys the reputation of being one of the best bands in this portion of the State. The present officers and members are as follows—L. N. Nelson, president; August Ericson, vice-president; M. O. Cathcart, secretary; A. Palmquist, treasurer; O. A. Olson, leader

and teacher; D. Elmquist, E. Anderson, A. O. Snell, B. E. Harris, Fritz Koerner, Andrew Palmquist.

PARKS.

Probably no village of its size in the Northwest can boast of a more beautiful park than Litchfield. It is called Central Park, and occupies one block, bounded by Sibley and Marshall avenues, and Third and Fourth streets. The land was donated the village by the Manitoba Railroad Company, who caused trees to be set out in it, in 1870. These trees died, and the following year the citizens, under the direction of Jesse V. Branham, Jr., took it in hand, broke and prepared the ground, and the next year trees and shrubbery were planted in it through private donations. Since that time it has been cared for and improved by the village council, until it has become one of the most beautiful parks in the State, and the pride which the citizens manifest in its preservation and improvement is indeed a pardonable one. The general picturesqueness of the park is greatly added to by a handsome pagoda, which occupies a circle in the center of the park, where summer-night concerts are given regularly by the Litchfield cornet band.

There are two other parks belonging to the village, one in the northwest portion and one in the southern part of town, both of which are being improved and ornamented with trees and shrubbery, and which will eventually become a credit to the village.

Not the least among the many commendable enterprises of Litchfield is the Litchfield Driving Park, which is located on a beautiful tract of land on the north shore of Lake Ripley, which was formerly the property of the Meeker County Agricultural and Mechanical Association. It is the design of the corporation to convert it into a first-class driving park, with a perfectly level half-mile track, amphitheater, stables, etc. The ground

is more admirably adapted for the purpose than any in this locality, and the backing which the enterprise has insured its success beyond peradventure.

INCORPORATION.

The village of Litchfield was chartered by act of the Legislature, February 29, 1872. On the first Monday in April of that year, an election was held in accordance with the provisions of the charter, when the following officers were chosen—Jesse V. Branham, Jr., president; J. Q. A. Braden, recorder; Charles B. Howell, attorney; V. H. Harris, justice; John Esbjornsson, treasurer; S. Y. Gordon, constable; George B. Waller, J. C. Braden, Nels Swanson, trustees. The election was held under the supervision of Jesse V. Branham, Jr., Michael J. Flynn and Nels Swanson. The first meeting of the council was held on the 5th of April, in the United States land office, which was then located in the building occupied by W. H. Dart, the grocer.

The second year in the history of the incorporated village the original officers were reelected, with the exception of members of the council, as follows—G. W. Weisel, president; M. A. Brown, C. O. Porter, Andrew Nelson.

No record of election in 1874.

In 1875 the annual election resulted in the choice of the following officers—S. W. Leavitt, president; Chauncey Butler, F. V. DeCoster, J. B. Hatch, trustees; V. H. Harris, recorder; John Esbjornsson, treasurer; S. A. Plumley, attorney; S. Y. Gordon, constable.

For the centennial year the village chose for its officers the following—J. M. Waldren, president; Chauncey Butler, P. Eckstrom, Frank Daggett, trustees; A. T. Koerner, recorder; J. Esbjornsson, treasurer; S. A. Plumley, attorney; H. McGannon, constable.

1877. Chauncey Butler, president; H.

Ames, N. A. Viren, A. Cairncross, trustees; A. T. Koerner, recorder; S. Y. Gordon, constable.

1878. A. C. Smith, president; H. Ames, S. A. Heard, N. Anderson, trustees; A. T. Koerner, recorder; Jacob Koerner, treasurer; F. R. Hawley, attorney; H. Angier, constable.

1879. S. A. Heard, president; M. J. Flynn, A. D. Ross, H. B. Johnson, trustees; A. Palm, recorder; M. A. Brown, treasurer; A. C. Smith, attorney; J. W. Hooser, constable.

1880. H. B. Johnson, president; A. Cairncross, F. E. Bissell, J. Koerner, trustees; W. W. Johnson, recorder; H. B. Gates, treasurer; A. C. Smith, attorney; H. McGannon, constable.

1881. M. A. Brown, president; V. H. Harris, S. A. Plumley, J. P. Scarp, trustees; A. T. Koerner, recorder; H. S. Branham, treasurer; S. A. Plumley, attorney; H. McGannon, constable.

1882. Charles H. Strobeck, president; N. Thorlson, D. Flynn, J. E. Peterson, trustees; A. T. Koerner, recorder; H. B. Gates, treasurer; E. P. Peterson, attorney; H. McGannon, constable.

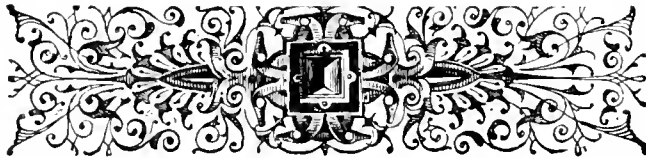
1883. V. H. Harris, president; D. Flynn, John Rodange, J. Esbjornsson, trustees; A. T. Koerner, recorder; Geo. H. Simons, attorney; H. McGannon, constable.

1884. V. H. Harris, president; M. J. Flynn, J. Esbjornsson, S. W. Leavitt, trustees; A. T. Koerner, recorder; J. M. Russell, attorney; H. M. Angier, constable.

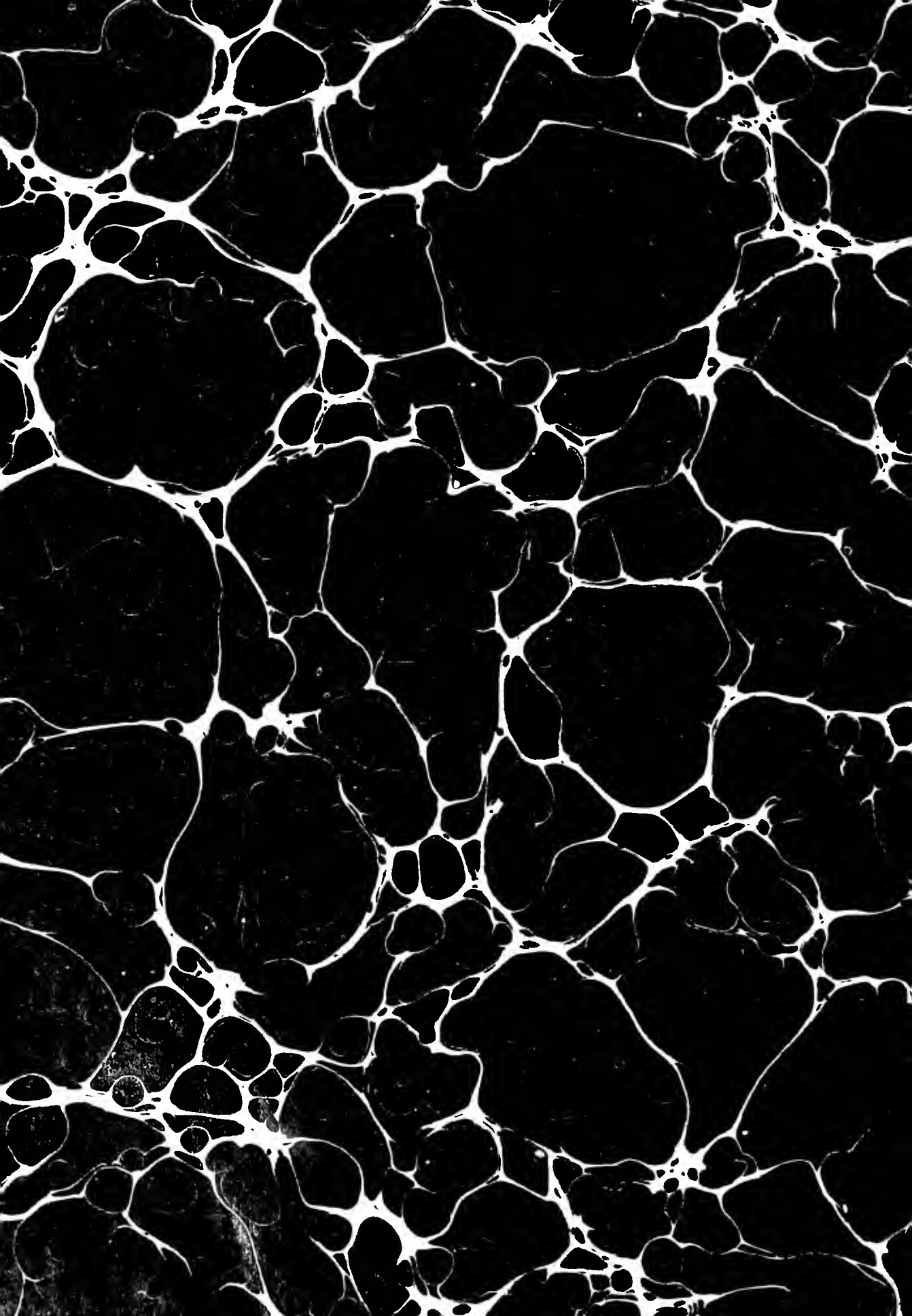
1885. J. M. Howard, president; M. J. Flynn, M. A. Brown, S. W. Rankin, trustees; A. T. Koerner, recorder; Wm. Kenney, attorney; H. M. Angier, constable.

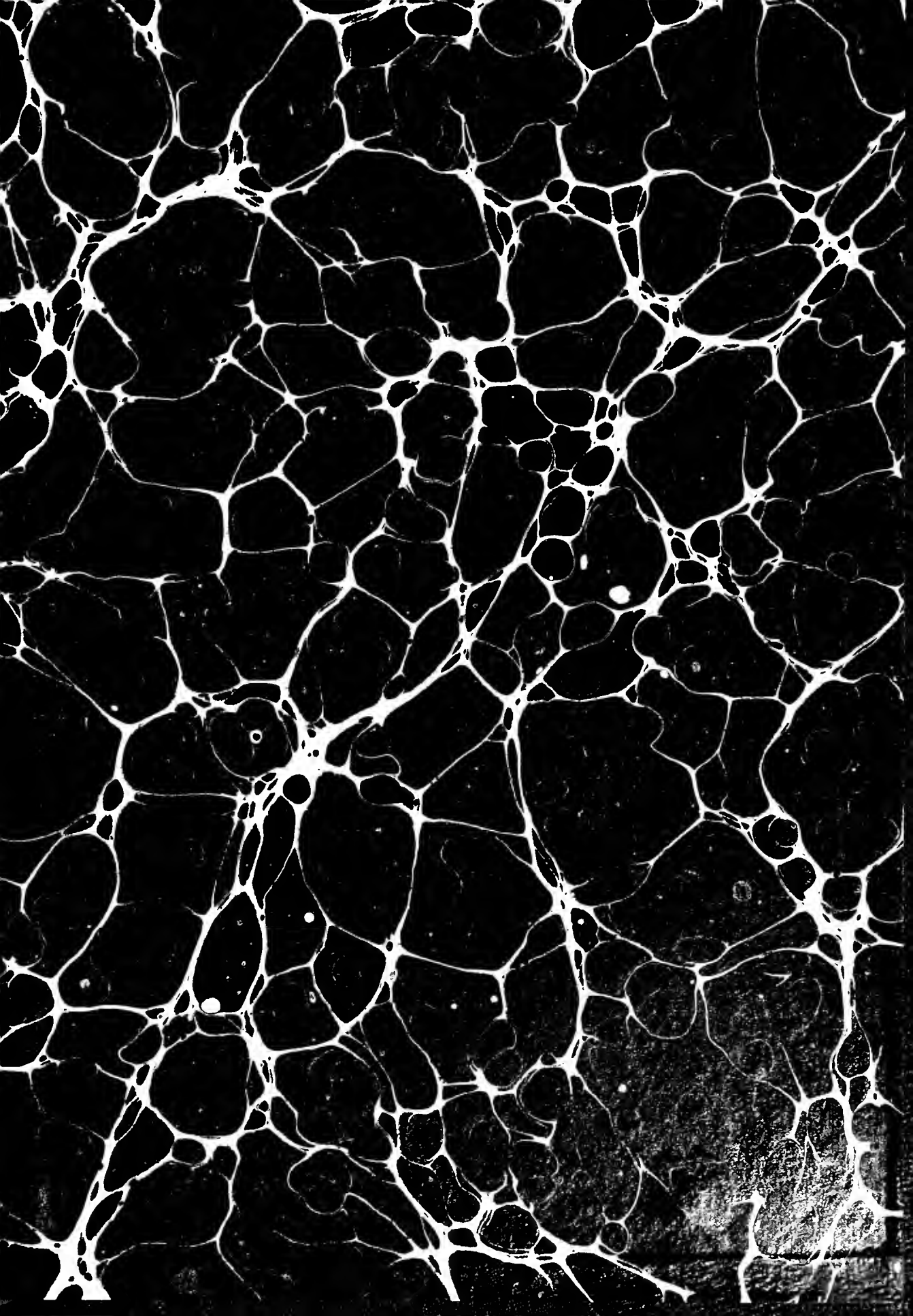
1886. F. E. Bissell, president; C. L. Angell, S. W. Rankin, N. C. Martin, trustees; C. H. Bigelow, recorder; A. J. Revell, treasurer; J. M. Russell, attorney, H. M. Angier, constable.

In 1887 the village charter was amended, empowering the extension of boundaries, dividing the village into wards, and giving it the powers generally possessed by municipal corporations at common law. The following officers were elected under the new regime—M. J. Flynn, mayor; J. L. Wakefield, recorder; W. H. Dart, treasurer; E. P. Peterson, attorney; H. M. Angier, marshal; A. T. Koerner, justice of the peace. Council: J. M. Howard, president; N. J. March, C. A. Greenleaf, first ward; J. Esbjornsson, A. D. Ross, second ward; J. M. Howard, N. W. Hawkinson, third ward. These were the officers at the time this manuscript went to press (February, 1888).









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