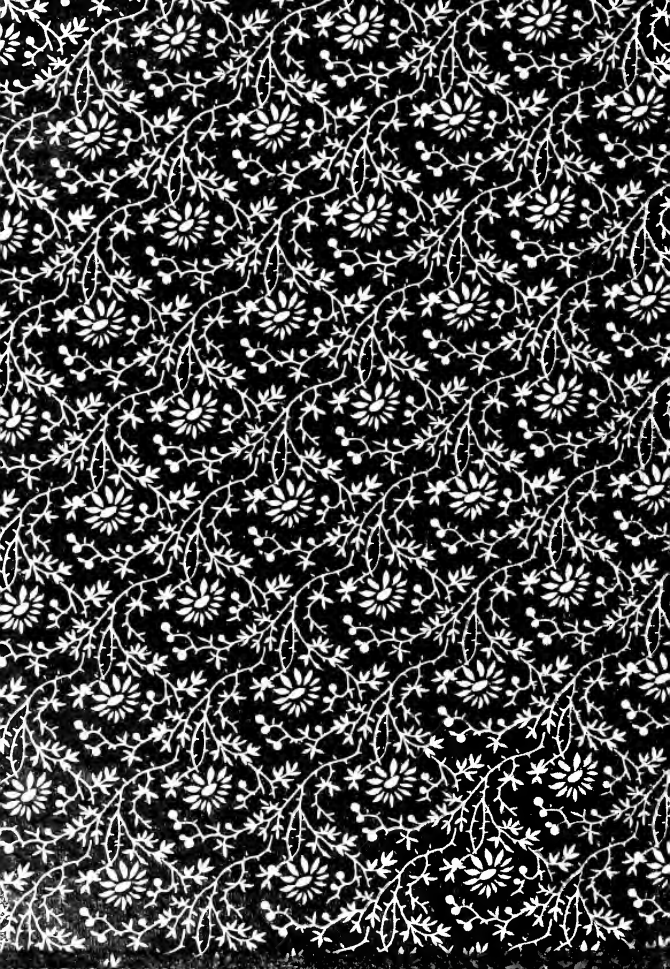
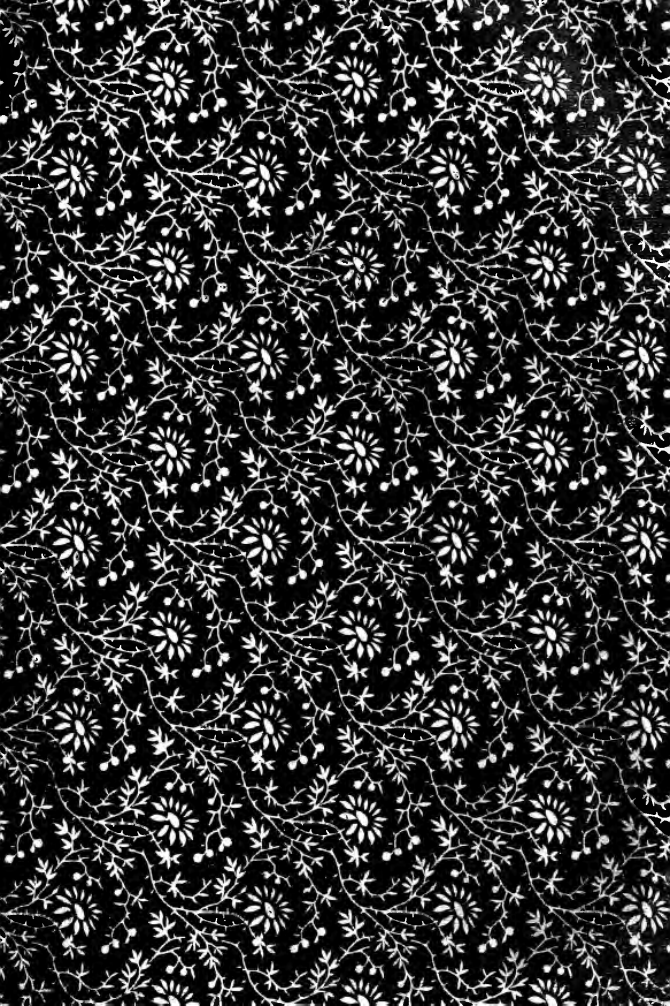




The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is dark, possibly black or dark green, with a textured surface. It features a decorative border with intricate, repeating patterns in the corners. The central focus is the title 'Biographical History Illustrated', rendered in a highly ornate, gothic-style font. The letter 'B' is particularly large and features a winged figure. The word 'Illustrated' is written on a ribbon that curves across the bottom of the title. The overall design is classic and elegant.

**B**IOGRAPHICAL  
**H**ISTORY  
ILLUSTRATED



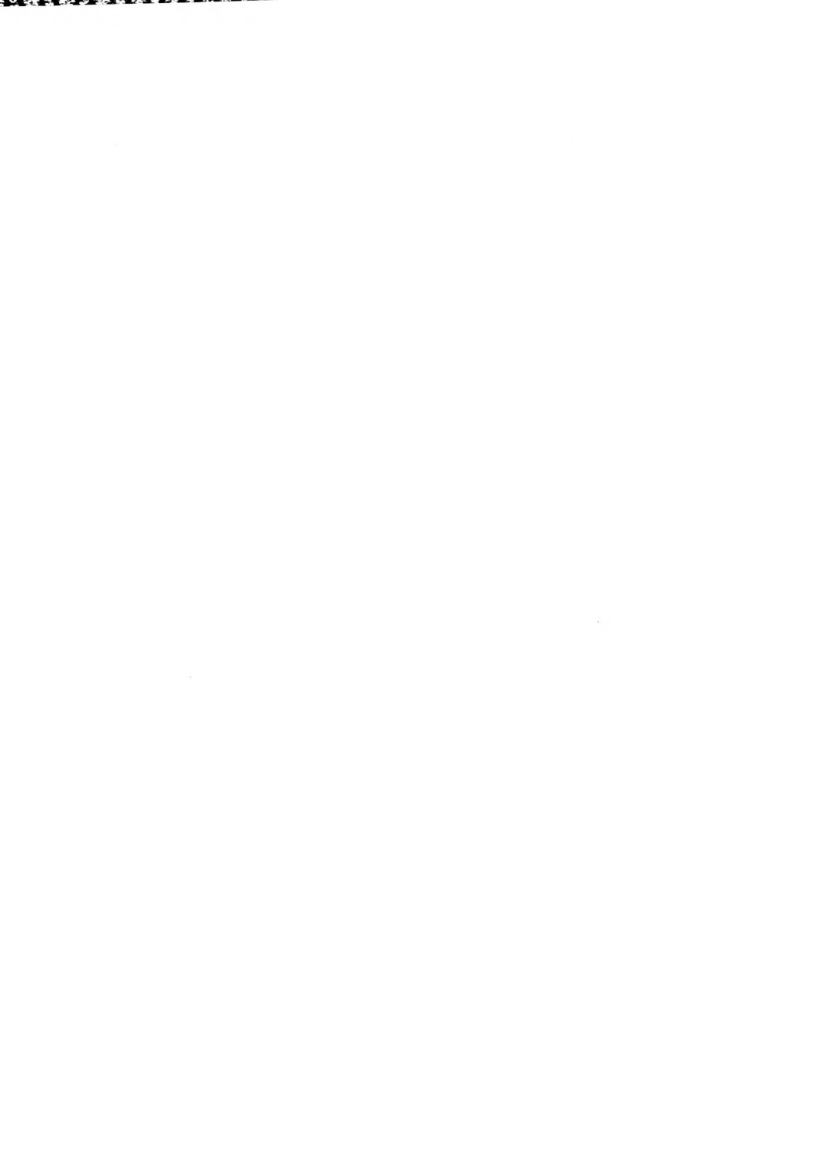














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THE  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

OF

DE KALB COUNTY

ILLINOIS.

ILLUSTRATED

*"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations."—MACAULEY*

CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY.  
1898.

SAUK VALLEY COLLEGE  
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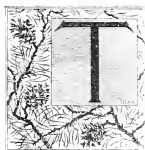
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**“Biography is the only true history.”**

—EMERSON

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# PREFACE.



THE greatest of English historians, MACAULAY, and other brilliant writers of the present century, has said, "The history of a country is best told in a record of the lives of its people." In conformity with this idea, the BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD has been prepared. Instead of going to musty records, and taking therefrom dry statistics, a matter that can be appreciated by but few, our corps of writers—gone to the people, the men and women who have, by their enterprise and industry, brought these counties to a rank second to none among those comprising this great and noble State, and from their lips have the story of their struggles. No more interesting or instructive matter could be presented to an intelligent public. In this volume will be found a record of many whose lives are worthy the imitation of coming generations. It tells how some, commencing life in poverty, by industry and economy have accumulated wealth. It tells how others, with limited advantages for securing an education, have become learned men and women, with an influence extending throughout the length and breadth of the land. It tells of men who have risen from the lower walks of life to eminence as statesmen, and whose names have become famous. It tells of those in every walk in life who have striven to succeed, and records how that success has usually crowned their efforts. It tells also of many, very many, who, not seeking the applause of the world, have pursued the "even tenor of their way," content to have it said of them, as Christ said of the woman performing a deed of mercy—"They have done what they could." It tells how many, in the pride and strength of young manhood, left the plow and the anvil, the lawyer's office and the counting-room, left every trade and profession, and at their country-call went forth valiantly "to do or die," and how through their efforts the Union was restored and peace once more reigned in the land. In the life of every man and of every woman is a lesson that should not be lost upon those who follow after.

Coming generations will appreciate this volume and preserve it as a sacred treasure, from the fact that it contains so much that would never find its way into public records, and which would otherwise be inaccessible. Great care has been taken in the compilation of the work, and every opportunity possible given to those represented to insure correctness in what has been written; and the publishers flatter themselves that they give to their readers a work with few errors of consequence. In addition to biographical sketches, portraits of a number of representative citizens are given.

The faces of some, and biographical sketches of many, will be missed in this volume. For this the publishers are not to blame. Not having a proper conception of the work, some refused to give the information necessary to compile a sketch, while others were indifferent. Occasionally some member of the family would oppose the enterprise, and on account of such opposition the support of the interested one would be withheld. In a few instances men never could be found, though repeated calls were made at their residence or place of business.

November, 1898.

THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.







GEN. DANIEL DUSTIN.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

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GENERAL DANIEL DUSTIN.—Among the many citizens of De Kalb county, who have attained distinction in civil and military life, is the subject of this memoir, who probably was personally known to more of the people of the county than any other man that ever resided within its borders, and whose friends were legion. He was born in the town of Topsham, Orange county, Vermont, October 5, 1820, and was the son of John Knight and Sallie (Thompson) Dustin, the former a native of Atkinson, New Hampshire born January 24, 1784, and the latter born in Newbury, Vermont, January 15, 1788. They were the parents of thirteen children, eight of whom lived to maturity and were married. John K. Dustin, who was a farmer by occupation, died in Topsham, Vermont, in August, 1858. His wife preceded him many years, dying December 14, 1829, also at Topsham, Vermont.

The Dustin family is of Scotch and English descent, our subject tracing his ancestry back to Thomas and Hannah Dustin, of Haverhill, Massachusetts, who were married in 1677. She was the daughter of Michael and Hannah (Webster) Emerson, and was born at Haverhill, Massachusetts, December 23, 1657. Hannah Dustin was the heroine of an exploit famous in the early annals of New England. She was taken prisoner by the Indians, in the attack

on Haverhill, March 15, 1698. Her nurse and an infant one year old were also taken, but the child was soon afterwards killed. She was taken to an island in the Merrimac, afterwards known as Dustin's Island, and with her were twelve Indians. One night, with the aid of the nurse and a white captive boy, she killed all the Indians in their sleep, except a squaw and a boy who escaped. She then returned to Haverhill with their scalps.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was Nathaniel Dustin, who was born September 8, 1756, and who died March 3, 1815. He married Judith Knight, who was born May 2, 1756, and who died June 3, 1842.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native town and county, and after attending the subscription schools, was a student in the famous old academy at Newbury, Vermont. After studying medicine at Topsham and Corinth, he attended three full courses of medical lectures at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, at a time when Oliver Wendell Holmes was professor of anatomy. From that institution he was graduated November 18, 1846, and immediately commenced the practice of his profession at Corinth, in his native county. While residing there he was married at Topsham, Vermont, in 1846, to Miss Isabel Taplin, a daughter of Colonel

Gouldsburn Taplin, of Corinth, Vermont. By this union there were three children. Emma married William Myers, of Carthage, Missouri. Electa married Walter Waterman, a grocer of Sycamore, Illinois. William G. is editor of a paper at Dwight, Illinois, and is also postmaster of that city. In August, 1850, a few months after Dr. Dustin left Vermont, Mrs. Dustin died.

The discovery of gold in California caused great excitement throughout the length and breadth of the land, and every state in the union sent its representatives to the New Eldorado. In the spring of 1850, Dr. Dustin started for the land of gold, sailing from New York, on the steamer Georgia, March 13. Landing at Charleston, South Carolina, a number of slaves were brought on board, which was his first glimpse of slavery as it then existed in the south. It was a strange sight to him, and the incident was firmly fixed in memory, causing him afterwards to become a thorough anti-slavery man. From Charleston he went to Panama, and crossing the Isthmus, reached San Francisco the middle of June of that year. He was accompanied by several partners, and they took with them a dredging machine to wash the gold from submerged bars, but sold the same immediately on their arrival for a large advance. After selling the dredger, Dr. Dustin went first to Benecia, and later to Sacramento, and in the latter place engaged in the practice of his profession. Going to the mining regions at Hangtown, he engaged in mining for a time, but finally drifted into the French Corral in Nevada county, at which place he met the lady who later became his wife, and at Spring Valley, California, October 15, 1854, the Doctor was united in marriage with Miss

Elmira Pauly, a native of Lebanon, Ohio, and a daughter of Aaron Pauly, also a native of the same state, whose father emigrated from western Germany to America in the early part of the century. Aaron Pauly married Lydia Birdsall, a native of Wilmington, Ohio, and a daughter of Daniel and Zada (Hinman) Birdsall. Elmira was their only child. Her mother dying, her father later married, and in 1849 went to California, and was followed in 1852 by his second wife and family. Aaron Pauly was a merchant tailor in Cincinnati, Ohio, but engaged in the general mercantile business in California. He retired from business about 1884, and died in San Diego, California, in 1890. By this second union Dr. Dustin had one child, Zada, wife of John C. Craft, cashier of the Bankers National Bank, Chicago.

On locating in Nevada county, California, Dr. Dustin engaged in the mercantile trade, and also in the practice of his profession, his services being more in demand in cases of surgery than in medicine. Cuttings and shootings were quite frequent, while the climate was remarkably healthy. While there he gave some attention to surface mining with fair success. He also mingled in political affairs, and in 1855-6 he was chosen to represent Nevada county in the legislature of that state.

Having seen enough of California, he determined to again return east, but instead of returning to his own home, came to Sycamore, Illinois, where he became associated with J. E. and Chauncey Ellwood, in the mercantile business, continuing with them until the outbreak of the Civil war. He enlisted first in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, and by Governor Yates was commissioned captain, January 3, 1862, taking the



rank from September 1, 1861, and was promoted major in 1862, ranking from January 8, 1862. In March, 1862, his regiment joined in the general advance on Manassas, in General Sumner's division. In the early part of the spring of that year, at four different times it drove the enemy across the Rappahannock. His regiment did important service at Gaines Hill and Malvern Hill, leading the advance on the second occupation of Malvern Hill, and with Benson's Battery, United States Artillery, bore the brunt of the fight, and brought up the rear of our retreating forces at Barrett's Ford and at Chickahominy. At the opening of the Seven Days Fight, Major Dustin was in command of a squadron of the Eighth, on the extreme right of our lines, and where the rebel troops first encountered the Union army. The first volley of musketry on the first day of that memorable succession of engagements, was fired at Major Dustin, his orderly and a captain of his command, by the advance guard of the enemy at close range, the captain being shot down by the Major's side.

In July, 1862, Major Dustin resigned, came home, and assisted in raising the One Hundred and Fifth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was mustered into the service September 2, 1862, at Dixon, Illinois. Major Dustin received the commission of colonel, October 4, 1862, ranking from September 1, 1862, and was placed in command of the regiment. Soon after muster, the regiment joined the Army of the Cumberland, with which it remained throughout the war. In the spring of 1864, with the One Hundred and Second and One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois, the Seventieth Indiana and Seventy-ninth Ohio, the regiment formed the First Bri-

gade, Third Division of the Twentieth Army Corps. After the Atlanta campaign, Colonel Dustin was placed in command of the Second Brigade of the same division and corps, and remained its commander during the war. He accompanied General Sherman in his march to the sea, and after the battle of Averysboro, North Carolina, he was breveted brigadier-general, a promotion which was well deserved. His commission was received April 9, 1866, ranking from March 16, 1865, and given for gallant services in the campaign in Georgia and South Carolina. Marching with his brigade to Washington, he participated in the grand review, and June 7, 1865, was mustered out of the service, having made a record of which he might well be proud. Returning home, in the summer of 1865, General Dustin was nominated on the Republican ticket for the office of county clerk, and was duly elected in November following, and served a term of four years. He was later elected county treasurer and served a term of two years, and in 1880 was elected circuit clerk, re-elected in 1884, and again in 1888. He resigned the latter office and by President Harrison was appointed, May 2, 1890, sub-treasurer of the United States treasury at Chicago. In the latter office he served with distinguished ability until his death at Carthage, Missouri, March 30, 1892, while on a visit to his daughter. During the construction of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Quincy, Illinois, he was president of the board of trustees.

From the organization of the party until his death, General Dustin was a consistent Republican. In the councils of his party, his views always commanded respect, and his advice was generally found

to be correct. Twice was he the choice of the Republicans of De Kalb county for congress, but withdrew in favor of personal friends. In the various political campaigns he took an active part, and did yeoman service for his party. Fluent of speech, and possessing rare grace and power of oratory, he was a most effective stump speaker. Fraternaly, he was a Mason of high standing, having attained the thirty-second degree. In 1872, he was elected right eminent commander of the grand commandery of Knight Templars of Illinois, a position which he creditably filled. He was appointed representative of New Jersey in the Illinois grand lodge. Religiously, he was a member of the Congregational church, of which body his wife and daughters are also members. As a friend and neighbor he was universally loved and respected, and his death left a void which can never be filled.

**A**LBERT F. ROWLEY, photographer, has a pleasant suite of rooms at No. 245 Main street, De Kalb, Illinois. The growth and development of photography has been one of the most striking results of the last century of progress. A perfection of results has been obtained, which marks the highest type of artistic development. Indeed there is no branch of art which has made such rapid strides in so short a time, and it is thought that the time is not far distant when landscape scenes will be produced by means of photography in their natural colors, thus combining truth, art and nature. Photography is indeed one of the fine arts, and the successful photographer must be an artist in the true sense of the term. Such we find Mr. Rowley to be.

He is a young man of progressive ideas, thoroughly in love with his art, and has constantly adopted the latest devices for producing superior work. A visit to the studio of Mr. Rowley is a rare treat to the lover of true beauty in art. It is ornamented with many specimens from the camera, brush and pencil of Mr. and Mrs. Rowley (the latter being an artist of high merit), and afford the best possible evidence of the genius and skill which is brought to bear in the management of this establishment.

Mr. Rowley was born in Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, May 18, 1864, and is the son of Thomas and Susan Rowley. His father is one of the oldest settlers in Ogle county, having resided there for more than forty years. He owns a valuable farm of two hundred acres, and is a well known and influential man in the community where he resides, having been honored by his fellow citizens with various local offices of honor and trust. He is a native of Syracuse, New York.

Our subject grew to manhood in his native county, and was educated in the public schools. He early evinced a taste for art, and began to practice photography as an amateur, first at Aurora. He saw then, as all young aspirants should see, "room at the top" and began preparations to fill it. While residing in Aurora, on June 1, 1893, he married Miss Eva E. Shippee, the daughter of Silas H. and Ann Shippee. Shortly after his marriage, he went to Chicago, placing himself under the instruction of Hoyt & Gale, to perfect himself in his profession. Returning to Aurora, he remained there a short time, and in 1896 moved to De Kalb, where he purchased the establishment and good will of Mr. Oleson, since which time his business has increased four-

fold. His establishment is supplied with the most perfect apparatus and an admirably adapted arrangement for securing the proper light and shade, to produce the desired results. His reception room is spacious, and handsomely and appropriately furnished. In addition to his regular business, he keeps a full line of amateur supplies. His work consists of commercial landscapes, crayon, new process bromide, lantern slides, stereoscopic and colored work, in fact everything in the line of photography. His wife ably assists him in his fine work, especially in retouching, which is executed by what is termed the retouching device, worked by electricity. Mrs. Rowley has many students under her, who practice with pencil and brush.

**HON. GEORGE STEWART ROBINSON** was for years a well known citizen of Sycamore, Illinois, a lawyer of recognized ability, one who enjoyed the respect and confidence of the entire community. He was a native of Derby, Vermont, born June 24, 1824, and was second in the family of three sons born to George and Harriet (Stewart) Robinson. His father was a native of Connecticut, and the son of Eber Robinson, a captain in the war of the Revolution. His mother was a native of Vermont and a daughter of Rufus Stewart, a major in the war of 1812. George Robinson was by occupation a farmer, and also served his country faithfully during the war of 1812. He died about 1870, when about seventy-five years old.

In his native city, our subject received his primary education in the common schools, and later attended the Derby Academy. When nineteen years old he entered

the law office of Hon. S. B. Colby, at Derby, and began his professional studies. After reading under Mr. Colby's instruction for two years, he finished his legal course with Hon. Lucius B. Peck, of Montpelier, one of Vermont's most prominent attorneys, and was admitted to the bar of his native state November 18, 1846. On account of close application to his studies, his health failed, and with the hope of its restoration, in 1847, he went south, where he was occupied in teaching. In 1853 he returned to Vermont, and in his native town, October 13, he married Olive A. Colby, also a native of Derby, and a daughter of Nehemiah Colby, and a granddaughter of Samuel Colby, both of whom were natives of New Hampshire. Nehemiah Colby was for many years engaged in the mercantile trade, and also followed the occupation of farming for a time. For some fifteen years he was postmaster of Derby, and was one of its best known men. Religiously he was a Congregationalist, and a firm believer in the Christian religion. His death occurred in 1862, at the age of seventy-five years, being preceded by his wife, Malinda Larrabee, born in 1790, and a daughter of John Larrabee. She died in 1842, at the age of fifty-two years. They were the parents of thirteen children, of whom Mrs. Robinson was twelfth in order of birth.

Immediately after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson went to Cuthbert, Georgia, and he began the practice of law in that city, where he resided during the trying times of the Civil war. For a few months during the war, much against his will, he was compelled to serve in the Georgia State Militia. Being a well known Union man, he suffered many inconveniences, and his practice was completely

broken up. Having a cousin residing in Sycamore, Illinois, by his invitation, he came to this place in 1866, and soon afterward became associated with Hon. Charles Kellum, a partnership which continued for four years. He then continued alone until his election as county judge in 1877, a position which he continued to hold until 1882, when he resigned to attend to private business in Vermont.

For several years prior to his election as judge of the county court, he held the position of master in chancery, which position he resigned soon after his election. When Sycamore was organized as a city, he was elected alderman and served two terms. He was also city attorney, and drafted the ordinances under which the city was governed for years, many of which are still in force. In 1869, he was appointed on the board of state commissioners of public charities for the state of Illinois, by Governor John M. Palmer, was re-appointed by Governor John L. Beveridge, in 1874, and again by Governor Shelby M. Cullom, in 1879. He was an active member of the board until March, 1884, when he resigned, being unable to attend to the duties of the position by reason of absence from the state on business demanding his entire time. For nearly fifteen years he was a member of the board, and was its president for nine years, devoting from two to three months of his time each year to its work, spending much more than he received for his services.

To Judge and Mrs. Robinson three children were born: Harriet M., Lucius P. and Nellie C., the second named dying in infancy. Harriet M., who was born in Georgia, married C. L. Buchan, of Rockford, Ill., and they have one son, George Buchan Robinson, the son having been adopted by the

Judge to bear his name. He is now at the Morgan Park Academy, a preparatory school for the Chicago University. Nellie C. married James B. Ellwood, and died in 1892, and was soon followed by her only child, a daughter, Muriel Olive.

Judge Robinson was a man of more than ordinary ability, was well read in the law, and withal was endowed with good common sense. As judge of the county and probate courts no man ever filled the position in a more satisfactory manner. His popularity with the bar and the people was always maintained, and he was always considered an able lawyer, and a safe counselor. As a member of the state board of public charities, he made a state reputation and notwithstanding he received no compensation, he devoted his time just as faithfully and as energetically as though he was receiving a handsome salary. He was always interested in educational affairs, and gave much of his time to advance the interests of the school, being president of the school board at the time of his death. Fraternally, he was a Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge, chapter and commandery. He was a man of excellent qualities of head and heart, and his friends were numerous, not only throughout De Kalb county, but the entire state. His death, which occurred October 30, 1894, left a void which could not well be filled.

EDWIN GILSON, deceased, was well-known throughout DeKalb county, as a man of upright character, one whom to know was to love. He was born in Westminster, Vermont, December 27, 1811, and was the son of Michael Gilson, who was also born in Westminster, in 1782, and who died in

1852. His father, Zackariah Gilson, was born in 1736, and died in 1804. He married Hannah Patch, who died in 1826, at the age of eighty-four years. Zackariah moved from Massachusetts, in an early day, and built a house in which three generations were born. Michael Gilson married Eunice Haywood, born in 1783, and died in 1838. She was the daughter of Deacon David Haywood, who was a descendant of John Haywood, who was born in Concord, Massachusetts, in 1633, and who attained the age of sixty-seven years. His son, Deacon John Haywood, was born in the same place in 1662, and died at the age of fifty years. He was the father of Samuel Haywood, born in Concord, in 1687, and who died at the age of sixty-three years. Charles, the son of Samuel, was born in Winchendon in 1723, and died at the age of eighty-six years. He was the father of Deacon David, who was born in 1755, and died at the age of seventy-one years. The latter married in 1780, Abigail Bixby, whose mother, Jerusha Houghton, was of an old English family. Abigail died at Weathersfield, Massachusetts, in 1824. Deacon David Haywood enlisted at Holden, Vermont, in 1777, and served two years in the revolutionary army, being at one time stationed at West Point. To Deacon David Haywood and wife, a daughter, Eunice, was born in 1783. She married Michael Gilson, and bore him five sons: Michael, Jr., Solon, Edwin, Ira and Charles. The latter for many years was professor of modern languages in Williams college.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm, and in his boyhood attended the common schools. He early assumed charge of the farm, and consequently his school life was limited. He was self-educated in later life, having mastered algebra

alone, and studied astronomy, knowing all the principal constellations and stars by name. He was a omniverous reader, with mind clear to the end of life, hand steady and writing clear, regular and distinct at the age of eighty years.

He was married in Putney, Vermont, May 20, 1845, to Miss Fanny Evans, born in Athens, Vermont, October 1, 1816, and who is yet living, and making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Mary G. Shurtleff. She is the daughter of Roswell Evans, who married Jerusha Chaffee. By this union three children were born. Solon died in infancy. Carrie died unmarried at the age of twenty-five years. Mary G., who was born at Westminster, Vermont, in the Connecticut valley, in the house where her father and grandfather were born, received a good education and inherited her father's bright mind. As successful teacher, she found her father a great help in school work and always went to him with difficult problems. A member of the Methodist Episcopal church, she is active in church work, being a willing worker in the cause of her master. She was married June 4, 1885, to Ephraim Shurtleff, a descendant of one of the old pioneer families of DeKalb county.

In the fall of 1855, Mr. Gilson visited a brother in Wisconsin, and after looking over a portion of that state and also a portion of northern Illinois, he decided to settle in DeKalb county. Purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Cortland, in Cortland township, and in the spring of 1856, brought his family from Vermont and at once engaged in farming. He became a well known and influential man in the township, and for several years served as supervisor from the township and also as assessor. He lived on the farm until 1867, when

he removed to Sycamore, where he purchased eight acres north of the city, which he cultivated in order that he might have something to keep him busy. He was for sixty-five years a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was very active in church work, being for years chairman of its official board. He attended all meetings of the church, and was a liberal giver in its support. He was never sick in his life, never seemed old but always young in heart and mind—a man that everybody respected and loved. He passed away April 21, 1891.

**HON. CHARLES KELLUM**, late judge of the twelfth judicial circuit, now the sixteenth circuit, had the reputation of being one of the best judges that ever occupied the bench in the state, a state that has always been distinguished for the high rank of her bench and bar. In him were found united many of the rare qualities which go to make up the successful lawyer and jurist. He was born March 16, 1821, in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Samuel and Lucretia (Eldridge) Kellum, the former a native of Connecticut, born in New London county, October 19, 1783, and the latter in the same county, November 27, 1786. The maternal grandfather, James Eldridge, and the maternal grandmother, Sarah (Newton) Eldridge, were also born in the same county. The former was born November 16, 1753, and died August 2, 1841. The latter was born December 17, 1757, and died August 6, 1824.

Samuel Kellum, the father, was a son of Samuel Kellum, Sr., a native of Connecticut, who served as captain in the militia, and was otherwise prominent in the affairs of the state. The father was also a prom-

inent man in the state, and likewise served as captain in the militia. He was a Mason of high standing in the order, and the Judge treasures among his possessions a notice sent his father of which the following is a copy:

“Companion Samuel Kellum:

“You are requested to attend the duties of Franklin Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, at Newcome Kunys, their chamber of convocation, in the city of Norwich, on Wednesday next, at five o'clock P. M., on special business.

“Norwich, 1st March, A. D. 1809.

“JOSEPH POWERS, Sec'y F. C.

“By order of the M. E. H. P.”

By occupation Samuel Kellum, the father, was a farmer, which vocation he followed during his entire residence in the state. Politically he was a Whig, having an abiding faith in the principles of that party. With it he continued to act until the formation of the Republican party when, on account of its liberty loving principles, he gave adhesion to it, and continued to act with it during the remainder of his life. In 1866, he came west and made his home with the Judge, where his death occurred January 2, 1869. His wife, who was a native of New London county, Connecticut, survived him ten years, dying at Prophetstown, Illinois, January 2, 1879. Samuel Kellum was a large, athletic man, over six feet in height, and strongly built. He was over eighty-five years old when his death occurred, while his wife was over ninety-two years old when she departed this life. They were the parents of seven children: Samuel, Elizabeth, Isaac S., Ann E., Henry F., Charles and William C. All are deceased but our subject.



HON. CHARLES KELLUM.





Charles Kellum, our subject, received his primary education in the district school, and was then sent to Mannington academy and boarding school, in Susquehanna county, where he passed through all the courses. He then began the study of law at Montrose, Pennsylvania, in the office of Lusk & Little, where he read law about two and a half years, and in 1844 was admitted to the bar. With his preceptors he remained two years on a salary, and then went home to his father's farm in Bradford county, and gave his time to outdoor pursuits in order that he might recover his health, which had been impaired by close study and work for more than four years. After the recovery of his health, he went to Towanda, Bradford county, where he opened an office, and commenced the practice of his profession. He continued there in practice about four years; during a year and a half he was in partnership with the late Judge Henry Booth.

In 1854, Mr. Kellum started for the great west, coming on the Erie railroad to LaPorte, Indiana, where he remained about one year with his brother, Isaac S. Kellum, who was engaged in the banking business at that place. While there he assisted his brother in the office, and got an insight into the banking business. Leaving LaPorte, he came to Sycamore, Illinois, arriving March 17, 1855, when he formed a partnership with William Fordham, under the firm name of Fordham & Kellum, which lasted one year. He was then alone for a time, after which at different times he had various partners, the firms being Kellum & Webster, Kellum & Robinson, Mayo, Kellum & Chase, Kellum & Cames, Kellum & Stephens and Kellum & Balliet. In 1879 he received the nomination from the Republican judicial

convention for judge of the twelfth circuit, and was duly elected. The circuit at that time embraced DeKalb, Boone, McHenry, Lake, Kane, DuPage and Kendall counties. He was re-elected in 1885, and again in 1891, serving until 1897, when he retired from the bench. His eighteen years on the bench was one of arduous labor. He is now engaged only as counselor, and does not try cases in court.

Judge Kellum was married March 15, 1855, at LaPorte, Indiana, to Miss Chloe Clement, a native of LaPorte, Indiana, and a daughter of William and Caroline (Reed) Clement, both of whom were from Erie, Pennsylvania. By this union two children were born. The eldest, William C., was born in Sycamore, December 14, 1855, and was educated at Todd's school, at Woodstock, Illinois. He studied law in his father's office and was admitted to the bar in 1878, and at once commenced practice. He is a good attorney, and is worthy to wear the mantle of his distinguished sire. He married Laura McKinnon, by whom he has one child, Charles S. The Judge's second son, Samuel, was born December 22, 1857, is married and has one child, Charles. He is in business in Chicago, where he has made many friends. Mrs. Kellum departed this life, January 24, 1898, deeply mourned by all who knew her, being a woman who won the hearts of all.

From 1868 to 1872 Mr. Kellum was state's attorney for the then thirteenth circuit, during which time he had the prosecution of several murder cases. As an advocate he was quite strong, always holding the attention of the jury and the respect of the court. During his long service on the bench, he was always regarded as a fair, impartial and able judge. He had the faculty

of establishing precedents when there were none, and his rulings were generally sustained by the higher courts. After a continuous service of eighteen years upon the bench, he voluntarily retired, on account of approaching old age, and by the bar was presented with a set of resolutions of respect and a gold-headed cane, as a mark of respect and appreciation. His decisions were always made upon the basis of equality and justice, and were marked by the large amount of common sense with which nature and ripe experience so liberally endowed him.

Judge Kellum is a Mason, and has attained the rank of Knight Templar. Politically he is a Republican, and although never a partisan, he has served his party as a delegate to various state conventions. It is, however, as a lawyer and a judge that he will always be remembered. In the midst of friends, who hold him in the highest regard, he is now enjoying the fruits that come to a noble and well spent life.

**A**DOLPH LEIFHEIT, who resides on section 18, Squaw Grove township, is a representative of that class of German-American citizens who have been instrumental in developing the waste places of this land, and who, by their industrious and thrifty habits, usually place themselves in comfortable circumstances, that their last days may be spent in ease and comfort. The subject of this sketch is the owner of a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres, lying three miles west of Hinckley, which he has under the highest state of cultivation. He was born on the farm where he now resides July 24, 1857, and is the son of William Leifheit, a native of Germany,

born in 1821, and who grew to manhood in his native country, and there married Caroline Eckhart, also a native of Germany. Together they emigrated to the New World about 1845, and first located in Kendall county, where he went to work on a farm by the month. Later he rented land in Kendall county, and engaged in farming for himself. After residing in Kendall county for a few years, he moved to De Kalb county, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Squaw Grove township, which comprises a part of the present farm of our subject. On locating here he built a small frame house, and began the improvement of the place. Later he purchased more land, and finally was the owner of eight eighty-acre tracts, or six hundred and forty acres in all, and which all lay in one body. Year by year the improvements went on, now a barn, then some other outbuilding, then the tiling of the land, until it resulted in one of the most productive farms in the entire county. He was a very successful farmer, and actively engaged in that vocation until about 1884, when he rented the place and has since lived a retired life. He is now seventy-seven years old, and a well-preserved man. His wife died about 1892. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom grew to mature years, while nine are yet living, three daughters and six sons.

Adolph Leifheit was fifth in order of birth, and grew to manhood on the farm and was educated in the common schools of Squaw Grove township. He remained with his father until he attained his majority and render faithful assistance in the improvement of the place. He was married in De Kalb county, March 14, 1881, to Miss Louisa Granart, a native of the county and a daughter of Ferdinand Granart, a sub-

stantial farmer of Squaw Grove township, and who was originally from Germany. After his marriage he rented one hundred and sixty acres of his father's farm, which he operated for five years, and then returned to the old home, which he rented for a period of eight years. In 1894 he bought a part of the old farm, comprising three hundred and twenty acres, and since that time has made many improvements upon the place, remodeling the old house and erecting a new and large barn. In addition to general farming, he is engaged in dealing and breeding in Short-horned cattle and Poland China hogs. In all his operations he has met with success, and is now numbered among the most substantial farmers of De Kalb county.

Mr. and Mrs. Leifheit are the parents of five children, four of whom are living—Ella, Hattie, William and Irvin, all of whom yet remain at home. Mr. Leifheit is a life-long Republican, and while he gives the party his support, he asks no favors in the way of local office, but gives his undivided attention to his farming interests. He and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church. A life-long resident of the county, he has an extensive acquaintance and is held in the highest esteem by those who know him.

**T**HOMAS HOLLAND, the present supervisor and a substantial farmer of Cortland township, is well known to the great majority of citizens of De Kalb county. He was born in Richfield township, Fairfield county, Connecticut, April 28, 1845, and is the son of Robert and Grace (Keeler) Holland, the former a native of Ireland, and the latter of Fairfield county,

Connecticut. They were the parents of five children—Ellen, Thomas, George, Nathan G. and Jane E. The first and last named are deceased.

Robert Holland, the father, was born in Fermanagh, Ireland, March 26, 1815, and was the son of Thomas and Ellen (Graham) Holland, also natives of Ireland, and who passed all their lives in that land. In May, 1839, Robert Holland came to the United States, landing in New York, and spending the first three months after his arrival at Poughkeepsie, New York, where he found employment in a brick yard. He was next employed by a hotel keeper in Dutchess county, New York, with whom he remained about one year, then went to the town of Richfield, Fairfield county, Connecticut, where on the 28th of June, 1843, he married Grace Keeler, a daughter of Thomas S. and Emily (Gilbert) Keeler. After remaining in Fairfield county about fourteen years, in 1854 he came west and located in Kaneville township, Kane county, Illinois, where he remained some ten years, and then came to De Kalb county, Illinois, locating in Cortland township.

The subject of this sketch was nine years of age when he came with his parents to Illinois, and about twenty years old when they located in De Kalb county. His education was obtained in the schools of his native county, and also in the public schools of Kaneville township, Kane county, Illinois. His entire life has been passed on the farm, and he was required to do his full share of farm labor from his boyhood up. On the 11th of October, 1870, he was united in marriage with Miss Fanny A. Hopkins, a native of Cortland township, and a daughter of Cyrus B. Hopkins, and a sister of Hon. Albert J. Hopkins, at pres-

1853, purchasing the eighth Illinois district in 1858. By this union there has been four children, two of whom died in infancy. The living are Floyd J., Ellen M. and Fannie M.

In politics Mr. Holland is a staunch Republican, with which party he has been connected since attaining his majority. For nine years in succession he has served as supervisor of Cortland township, and is yet serving in the same capacity. That he has served his township faithfully and well, is attested by his re-election from time to time. He has also served as school director, school trustee, and in other minor township offices. For a number of years he has served his party as a member of the county central committee, and as such has wielded considerable influence in that body. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is the owner of eighty-six acres of highly improved land, and no man in Cortland township holds the regard of the people in a higher degree.

**M**P. ANDERSON, one of the proprietors of the De Kalb Tea and Coffee Company, is a native of Sweden, born in 1864. His education was obtained in the schools of his native land. In 1882, when but eighteen years of age, he came to the United States, and first located in McKean county, Pennsylvania, where he remained about five years, engaged in lumbering and where he had his first experience of America's primeval forests. In 1887 he went to Montana, where he was engaged in the same business, and where he remained four years. From there he came to Illinois, and located at Rockford, which was his home

until 1895, at which time he removed to the city of De Kalb.

In 1890 Mr. Anderson was united in marriage with Miss Ida C. Swanson, a native of Sweden. By this union are four children, Mamie, Ada, Adla and Ruth. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Swedish Lutheran church, and are actively interested in the work of that body.

When Mr. Anderson, with his partner, S. Carlson, first began business, their stock was confined to tea and coffee. Their trade grew to such proportions in a very short time as to necessitate a larger store room. This was obtained by moving farther east into their present commodious store building, situated on Main street, between Sixth and Seventh, and which ranks second to none in that section of the city. Since removing into their new quarters, they have not only enlarged their stock, but put in a greater variety, including many of the luxuries and delicacies, their stock varying and changing with the season. A splendid showing is made in choice teas and coffees, of which they keep a superior quality. They are both good business men and have the confidence of the community in which they reside.

**C**APT. ANTHONY RAMER, of Hinchley, Illinois, is a well known citizen of De Kalb county, one who has resided here since 1846. He is a native of Crawford county, Ohio, born March 17, 1842, and is the son of Henry L. and Susanna (Groun) Ramer, both of whom were natives of Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, the former born August 8, 1804, and the latter November 2, 1808. In 1833, they emigrated to Ohio, and settled in Richland county, where

they remained until 1846. In that year they came to Illinois, and first settled in Du Page county, where he rented a farm and there remained until 1849, when he came to De Kalb county, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 27, Pierce township. He built a frame house upon it, for which he drew the lumber from Du Page county. On that farm he spent the remainder of his life, dying in April, 1881. His first wife died in January 9, 1877, and he later married Catherine Smith, who lived but five months after their marriage. When he first located in Pierce township, his nearest neighbor was four miles away and there were but two or three residents in Pierce township.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Pierce township, and had very limited educational advantages in the common schools of pioneer days. On the 15th of January, 1863, he enlisted in Company C, Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, his regiment being assigned to the Western Department, joining the army at St. Louis. He participated in a great many skirmishes, and was in the fight at Wilson Creek, where the Union army captured General Marmaduke, and seven thousand prisoners. He was later in the engagement near Fort Scott, Kansas, and for a time his regiment was in active pursuit of the noted guerrilla Quantrell. At Black River, Arkansas, he was injured by being thrown from a horse, having two ribs broken, shoulder dislocated and hips fractured, being permanently disabled. Some time later he was sent to Fort Leavenworth, and had his injuries dressed, and later was sent to the hospital at St. Joseph, Missouri. He was not discharged, however, until the fall of 1865, long after the close of the war. Enlisting as a private,

he was promoted quartermaster of his regiment, and being made drilling master, he was given the honorary title of Captain.

On receiving his discharge, Captain Ramer returned home, went back on the farm and assisted his father eight years. He was married in Pierce township, January 15, 1875, to Miss Lucinda Jane Shoop, a native of Pierce township and a daughter of Solomon Shoop, one of the pioneer settlers of the township. After marriage, he bought a farm of eighty acres in Pierce township, a place which was fairly well improved and began life for himself. He remained on that place for twenty-five years, then sold and purchased the place where he now resides, near Hinckley. His farm now comprises ninety-seven acres, the improvements on which are of a most substantial character. The Captain still suffers from the injuries received in the service, but notwithstanding gives personal attention to the cultivation of his farm. Mr. and Mrs. Ramer have one daughter, Alta, a young lady at home.

Politically Mr. Ramer is a staunch Republican, and has voted that party ticket since 1864, when he cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln. For two years he served as collector in Pierce township, constable five years and road commissioner three years. He has ever been a friend of education and the public schools, and for fourteen years served as a member of the school board. Since residing in Hinckley, he was elected and served as township collector of Squaw Grove township for one year. For years he has served as a delegate to the various county and congressional conventions of his party, and usually in each campaign he organizes a campaign marching club, from sixty to

city strong. The club usually attends all political gatherings within a reasonable distance. At the laying of the corner stone at De Kalb for the normal school building, he was appointed and served as marshal of the day. Fraternally he is a member of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. Few men are better known and none more highly respected.

**H**O. CARY, superintendent of the barbed wire, staple and field fence department of the American Steel Wire Company, De Kalb, Illinois, was born in Windham, Connecticut, March 6, 1850, and is the son of Horace H. and Cornelia E. (Brown) Cary, both of whom were also natives of Connecticut. Horace H. Cary was born in Scotland, Connecticut, August 5, 1819. By occupation he was a contractor and builder, and was a fearless abolitionist, a staunch Republican, and a patriotic citizen. He cast his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison, and his last one for the grandson, Benjamin Harrison. His family consisted of eight children, all of whom grew to maturity, and six of whom are now living. Edgar A. is a grocer in Joliet, Illinois. Frederick A. is a farmer residing near Joliet. Frank L. is a member of Company B, Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, engaged in the war with Spain. Dwight P. is in the office of the superintendent of the Illinois Steel Company at Joliet. Oscar E. is engaged in farming near Joliet. One daughter is now engaged in teaching in the public schools of Chicago.

Horace H. Cary was the son of Capt. William Cary, born in Scotland, Connecticut, December 10, 1782, and who fought

for his country in the war of 1812. He was a farmer of influence and prominence, but in early life he learned the carpenter's trade, which he carried on in connection with farming. Captain William was the son of William Cary, born in Scotland, Connecticut, October 25, 1747. He was the son of Deacon John Cary, born in Scotland, Connecticut, April 12, 1717. Deacon John was the son of John Cary, born June 23, 1695. John was the son of Deacon Joseph Cary, born in Bridgewater, Connecticut, in 1663. He was a prominent man in Bridgewater, and a member of the First Congregational church in Windham, Connecticut. He owned one thousand acres of land, which he purchased from the British government for ten pounds and nine shillings. He was buried by his townsmen under arms, a very unusual occurrence in those days. Deacon Joseph was a son of John Cary, who was a native of England, and the progenitor of the Carys in this country. He came from Somersetshire, near Bristol, England, in 1634, and joined the Plymouth colony in New England. Their coat of arms had on it the inscription, "Virtute excerpta."

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated at Dover, Bureau county, Illinois, and after he received his education he taught school for some time, and also assisted his father in his building and contracting. In 1873, he removed from Dover to Joliet, Illinois, where he engaged in the manufacture of paints and oils, which business he followed until 1886, when his health failed, which necessitated his selling the plant. He subsequently went to Florida to regain his impaired health, which in a measure he did. It was at this time (1886) that I. L. Ellwood recognized in

him one who would be an important *attaché* to his extensive works at De Kalb. Mr. Cary was therefore duly authorized to take charge of the paint department of the I. L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company, which he did with successful results. He was soon afterwards removed to the office, and finally given entire charge of the plant as superintendent.

Mr. Cary was united in marriage October 24, 1871, with Miss Anna E. Knight, who was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 18, 1852, and a daughter of Clayton E. and Lydia E. Knight. By this union five children have been born: Charles M., August 25, 1872; Herbert L., June 18, 1876; Ralph H., August, 1882; George B., October, 1884; and Mabel, August, 1887.

Mr. Cary is well born, descending from one of the best families in England, and is a refined gentleman in the full acceptance of the term. His maternal grandfather Brown was a captain in the war of 1812. His great-grandfather and five of the brothers of the latter were brave and valiant soldiers in the Revolutionary war. Mr. Cary has in his possession a table which his great-great-grandfather built in his younger days, prior to the Revolution. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cary are members of the Baptist church. Socially they are well esteemed wherever known, and have many warm friends in Bureau, Will and De Kalb counties.

**R**OBERT NEWITT, who for many years was an active business man in De Kalb, Illinois, is now living a retired life. He was born in Oxfordshire, England, April 22, 1822, and is the son of James and Hannah

Newitt, both of whom were natives of the same country. James Newitt was a soldier in the British army, and having served his full time, was pensioned by the Crown.

Robert Newitt grew to manhood in his native land, and received but a limited education in its private schools. He was twice married, his first union being with Miss Zilpah Bass, to whom was born one son, Robert B., who is now deceased. For his second wife he married Susan Rolph, December 10, 1846, and to them were born three children: Zilpah, born August 8, 1848; Eliza, born April 21, 1850; and George, born April 8, 1852.

Realizing that in his native land there were few opportunities for the aspiring ones to secure what may be termed even a fair living, he determined to emigrate to the New World, and accordingly with his wife and family he took a sailing vessel, and in April, 1854, landed at New York, from which place he came directly to De Kalb, Illinois, and engaged in the boot and shoe trade, in which he continued for forty-three years. As may well be imagined, the country at that time was comparatively new, with no such evidence of thrift as is now shown by the manufactories of the city. He grew up with the country and town, and what he has accumulated is the result of close application to business, strict economy and fair dealing with his fellow men.

In politics Mr. Newitt is a Republican, and has served his town in various offices, both previous and subsequent to its incorporation. It goes without saying that in ever position occupied, he discharged its duties faithfully and well, with the same conscientious regard for right that characterized him in his private business. In 1897, when he sold his mercantile establish-

ment, he visited his native land, where he enjoyed the associations of former years. The old world, however, had not the attractions of the new, and he returned to the scenes of his active life, where he is now living retired, spending his time in looking after his city property, now owning several houses and vacant lots. As a citizen he is regarded highly, and has always been progressive, with an eye single to the best interests of his adopted city and county.

**ISAAC LEONARD ELLWOOD.**—The life history of him whose name heads this sketch is closely identified with the history of De Kalb, which has been his home for forty-three years. He began his remarkable career here when the city was a little village. He has grown with its growth, and has been largely instrumental in its development. His life has been one of untiring activity, and has been crowned with a degree of success attained by comparatively few men.

A native of New York, Isaac L. Ellwood was born in Salt Springville, Montgomery county, August 3, 1833, and is the seventh son in the family of Abraham and Sarah (DeLong) Ellwood. In early youth he began to earn his own livelihood. He was fitted for the responsible duties of life only by a limited common-school education, but his force of character, unflagging energy and perseverance made up for his lack of early opportunities. Driving a team on the Erie canal at ten dollars per month, and later clerking in a store until eighteen years of age, thus his youth was passed. The discovery of gold on the Pacific slope, however, brought a change in his life, for

with the hope of more quickly realizing a fortune, he made his way to California in 1851 and spent four years in that state. He worked in the mines for a year, and then secured a position as salesman in a Sacramento store. By industry and economy he managed to secure a small capital, but not wishing to invest this in the far west he retraced his steps to Illinois, and established a little hardware store in De Kalb in 1855. His history from that time forward is one of interest, showing, as it does, that there is no royal road to wealth, but that industry and a fit utilization of his opportunities has brought him to the goal toward which all business men are eagerly wending their way. For twenty years he carried on his store, increasing his stock as his patronage justified.

His travels through Illinois as an auctioneer, and his contact with farmers, brought to his knowledge a condition of affairs which in later years he was able to improve. Illinois' broad prairies offered special inducements to the agriculturists, but they had great difficulty in securing fences which would indicate the boundaries of their land and prevent cattle from destroying the crops. As there were no forests lumber was very expensive, and then, too, the board fences were being continually broken down and in need of repair. J. F. Glidden invented what is to-day known as the Glidden barb wire and Mr. Ellwood assisted him in obtaining patents, having a half interest in the invention. In 1876 Mr. Glidden sold his interest to the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company, and they together, after a litigation of some years, granted licenses to various factories. Through Mr. Ellwood's influence and foresight, all of the underlying and first





ISAAC L. ELLWOOD.



patents on barb wire and machinery for making the same were combined together, enabling him, with the assistance of others, to build up one of the largest and most successful business enterprises in the history of the country. For forty years farming was carried on in this section of the United States with the same need of fencing material, yet not until the year mentioned did any one take advantage of the opportunity to give the world this important invention. For a time Mr. Ellwood was associated in the manufacture of barb wire with Mr. Glidden and afterward with the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company, of Worcester, Massachusetts. This connection continued for some time, but Mr. Ellwood is now exclusive owner and manager of the large manufacturing establishment at De Kalb, doing business under the firm name of the I. L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company. When he was associated with Mr. Glidden he was placed in charge of the business management of the firm, and to his tact and business ability may be attributed in no small measure the success of the enterprise.

From time to time improvements have of course been made. Countless objections were urged against the new fencing material, but this was to be expected, for no successful invention ever came at once into general use. Its utility, however, was soon demonstrated, and the sales increased rapidly after a time. The fencing began to be used not only by the farmers but also by the railroad companies; and although the railroad corporations were loath at first to accept the invention, they have to-day thousands of miles of road enclosed with barb-wire fence. In order to turn out his material at a lower cost, it was seen that it

would be necessary to have automatic machinery, which was secured through the efforts of Mr. Ellwood. This machine was made for the purpose of taking the raw wire from the coil, barb, twist and spool it ready for use; and in perfecting this invention over one million dollars were spent, but the result was at length attained, and one machine was able to do the work of eight men and do it more perfectly. The works of the I. L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company are very extensive, the capacity being about twenty-five car loads every ten hours, and in this establishment employment is furnished to about six hundred men. It is now consolidated with the American Steel & Wire Company. While others are also engaged in the manufacture of barbed wire, it is a widely recognized fact throughout the country that this industry owes its successful establishment to Mr. Ellwood.

On the 27th of January, 1859, Mr. Ellwood married Miss Harriet Miller, and they became the parents of four sons and three daughters, but two of the sons are now deceased. Those living are William L., Mrs. Dr. Mayo, Mrs. J. H. Lewis, Mrs. B. F. Ray and E. P. Ellwood.

Although a staunch Republican in his political views, Mr. Ellwood has always declined to accept political office, save that of alderman of his adopted city, in which capacity he served his fellow townsmen for a time. He has always taken great interest in the promulgation of the principles of the party, and in the annual meetings of its representative men in Illinois he is always invited and his advice is listened to with interest, and his views meet with general acceptance. While refusing office, he was, however, appointed upon the staff of Governor Tanner, with the rank of colonel,

and is now serving in that position. There is no more progressive or public-spirited citizen in De Kalb county, and he withholds his support from no movement or enterprise tending to advance the public good. In securing for De Kalb the Northern Illinois State Normal, Colonel Ellwood gave much time and attention, spending weeks at the state capitol, using his influence with legislators in securing the passage of the bill creating the institution, and its location at De Kalb. In 1896, a bill was passed by the general assembly of the state, appropriating seventy-five thousand dollars to the buildings, and in 1898, one appropriating fifty thousand dollars. In addition to this the city of De Kalb gave seventy thousand dollars. By the governor he was appointed a trustee of the school, and is now serving as such. While others were working for the same object, it is due him the greater share of credit for securing such a noble institution.

Colonel Ellwood is a charitable and benevolent man, one of broad humanitarian principles, who regards not lightly his duty to his fellow men. He has climbed steadily upwards, and all the time he has had a hand reaching down to assist others less fortunate. Always ready to encourage industry and energy, his employees know that faithful service means promotions as opportunity offers. He has won for himself very favorable comment for the careful and systematic methods he has followed in business. He realized the intrinsic value of minor as well as greater opportunities, has ever stood ready to take advantage of circumstances, and even mold adverse conditions until they serve his ends, and in all relations has maintained an unassailable reputation for integrity and honor.

GEORGE G. LEWIS, a teacher of music in Sycamore, Illinois. He was born in the village of Cortland, De Kalb county, Illinois, June 30, 1864. His father, Dr. George W. Lewis, was born in Albion, Orleans county, New York, in 1832. He read medicine in Cincinnati, and latter attended the Miami Medical College. About 1853 he came west, locating in Galena, Illinois, from which place he moved to Cortland in 1856. He was a great student and investigator, and gave much time to private research. In his profession he was not bigoted, but adopted successful methods from every school of medicine. A methodical man, he kept a diary from the time he was six years old until his death in 1895, in the Wesleyan hospital at Chicago, where he was being treated. For several years prior to his death he made his home with our subject.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, George Lewis, who married a Miss Ferry, was a farmer by occupation, and lived many years near Flint, Michigan, where he died at a good old age. The maternal grandfather, Littlefield, attained the age of one hundred and three years, and at that age performed on a violincello, on which instrument he was a fine musician. He was with General Washington at Valley Forge and acted as one of his body guards.

Dr. George W. Lewis married Miss Julia Teachout, born in Royalton, Ohio, near Cleveland in 1833, and who died in De Kalb county, in 1892. She was the daughter of John and Lydia (Throop) Teachout, the former a native of New Amsterdam, New York, who was an old-fashion herb doctor, and an expert in the use of nature's remedies. Many of his formulas have since been used by practicing physicans. The

Throop family were early settlers of Chicago, locating there when the place was more than a village. Throop street was named in honor of one of the family. John Teachout was a son of John Teachout, senior, who in early colonial days took up a tract of land where New Amsterdam, New York, now stands.

With the exception of a short time in Cincinnati, while an infant, and two years when his parents resided in Michigan, our subject lived in Cortland, until the age of sixteen. He attended the public schools of Cortland, until that age, after which he went to Evanston, where he took a course in the Northwestern University, and later one at Oberlin, Ohio. At the age of seventeen he began the teaching of music, having made a study of it for several years. He later attended the Cincinnati College of Music, perfecting himself in his profession. He also took private lessons under the best musicians in Chicago. For a number of years he traveled through many of the states in the union, teaching on the way. He has made five or six trips to California and Oregon, and traveled all along the Pacific coast. In 1889, he came to Sycamore, taking charge of the musical department of Waterman Hall.

George G. Lewis was married in Dixon, Illinois, August 1, 1888, to Miss Harriet C. Chapell, a native of South Grove township, De Kalb county, Illinois, and a daughter of Enoch and Sarah (Winchell) Chapell. By this union there is one child, Gertrude, a bright little miss of two years. Mr. Lewis is of an inventive turn of mind, and among other inventions is an appliance for turning music with foot while both hands are playing; also an appliance for watering poultry, by which the water is kept fresh and clean.

The most important invention, however, is a machine for re-insulating electric wires that have become weatherworn, without removing from the poles. With his partner, William A. Buehl, he is now making practical use of the invention. Politically the Professor is a Republican, and fraternally a Mason, holding membership with the blue lodge and chapter at Sycamore.

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EDWARD I. BOIES, of the firm of Van Galder & Boies, publishers of the True Republican, Sycamore, Illinois, is a native of the city, born February 19, 1860, and is the son of Henry L. and Harriet S. (Holmes) Boies, the former a native of South Hadley, Massachusetts, born July 5, 1830, and the latter a native of Sherburne, New York, and the daughter of Alexander and Margaret (Rumrill) Holmes. They were married at Springfield, Massachusetts, February 9, 1858, and became the parents of three children—Edward I., our subject; Charles Artemas, who is engaged in the practice of law at DeKalb, Illinois; and Lucy M., who was born in Sycamore, Illinois, February, 1865. She received her early education in the Sycamore schools, graduating from the high school at the age of sixteen years. She taught school in the country for a few terms, then attended Oberlin College. She afterwards was employed as teacher in Sycamore schools. In 1888 she went on a pleasure trip to the Bahama islands. The winter of 1891-92 she spent in study and travel in Europe. In June of the latter year she returned home where she remained until the fall of last year when, upon the advice of physicians, she went to California. In spite of the most assiduous care and attention of her devoted mother, and the efforts of the

best medical talent, she continued to grow weaker until death ended her suffering Friday, August 9, 1895, at Passadena.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Artemas Boies, was born in Blandford, Massachusetts, in 1792. He was a minister in the Congregational church, and after a useful life of fifty-three years, died September 20, 1845. The family are of French origin, and were among the Huguenots who were driven from their native land into Scotland, and who came to this country about 1680. Henry L. Boies grew to manhood in his native state, and in 1854 came DeKalb county, Illinois, and engaged in agricultural pursuits in South Grove township. In 1858 he located at Sycamore, where he purchased a small farm, which was afterwards surveyed and platted, and is known as Boies' Subdivision of Sycamore. He later became associated in the publication of the True Republican, and in 1865, its editorial management passed into his hands. He continued with the paper as editor and publisher up to the time of his death, April 26, 1887. His widow is still living in Sycamore, where she is well known and highly respected, being an active member of the Congregational church.

In politics Henry L. Boies was a staunch Republican from the organization of the party. During the administration of President Hayes, he served as postmaster of Sycamore, and in 1870, was secretary of the Illinois state senate. He was very active and prominent in politics and an earnest worker for the party, ever ready to aid his friends. During his life in Sycamore, he was a prominent member of the Congregational church and did much to strengthen that organization and build up the Master's cause. He was a man of literary tastes,

and gave much attention to that kind of work. Among his literary productions was Boies' History of DeKalb County, published in 1868, a work of considerable merit, with much practical and statistical information.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Sycamore, receiving his education in its public schools, and at Todd's Seminary, Woodstock, Illinois. Later he attended the business college at Jacksonville, Illinois, in which he received a good business training. In 1880 he entered the office of the True Republican as a printer and reporter, and in 1885 became a partner with his father in the publication of the paper. This partnership was continued until the death of the father, after which he carried on the paper alone for about one year, and then associated with himself F. O. Van Galder, and under the firm name of Van Galder & Boies, the publication of the paper has since been continued.

The True Republican was founded in 1857, and has always been an advocate of the principles of the Republican party. It was published as a weekly until 1868, when it was made a semi-weekly, since which time it has been issued regularly every Wednesday and Saturday. The paper has a large circulation and is in a prosperous condition. While it makes party politics one of its principal issues, yet it devotes more attention to local affairs, having its correspondents in almost every town and township in the county. In connection with the paper, the proprietors have a good job printing office, from which they turn out first-class work.

In 1883 Mr. Boies was bill clerk for the state senate, and again in 1885, serving in a most acceptable manner. In 1884 he took a vacation from newspaper work, and

went to the Dakotas and took up a quarter-section of government land, remaining there about one year, in order that he might prove up his claim. On returning home he settled down to his work, in which he has continued to the present time. He is now serving as alderman of the second ward, being elected in 1897. In all matters pertaining to the public welfare, Mr. Boies takes an especially active interest, rendering all the aid in his power, personally and through the paper with which he is connected.

**J**OHAN MULLINS resides on section 18, Shabbona township, where he owns and operates a farm of two hundred and forty acres, while owning another farm of one hundred and fifty-four acres in the same township, both being highly improved places. He is a native of Yorkshire, England, born October 4, 1844, and is the son of Robert Mullins, also a native of England, born in 1811, and who grew to manhood and there married Sarah Ulyett, who was born in Yorkshire. By occupation Robert Mullins was a farmer in Yorkshire, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits in that shire for some years. In 1852 he emigrated to the United States, taking passage on a steamer, the Sarah Sands, an English vessel, and was fifteen days in crossing the Atlantic. Landing at New York, he came directly west to Buffalo, by rail, and then by boat on the lakes to Chicago, and from Chicago to Aurora, by rail, that being as far west as the railroads then extended. From Aurora he came with teams to Shabbona, where he joined some English friends who had located there the previous year. Robert Mullins purchased one hundred and sixty

acres on section 17, erected a small house and at once commenced to improve his farm. He later bought one hundred and sixty acres, and from time to time made other purchases of land until he owned over five hundred acres of the most productive land in Shabbona township. He continued to reside upon his farm until his death, in February, 1886, at the age of seventy-five years. He was twice married, his first wife dying in 1858, when he subsequently married an English lady, who survives him, and now resides near Manchester, England. He was the father of six sons and one daughter who grew to mature years. Mary, the eldest born, is now the wife of Septimus Story, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. George is a substantial farmer of Willow Creek township, Lee county. John is the subject of this review. Robert is a farmer residing in Wright county, Iowa. William and Henry also reside in Iowa. Thomas resides south of Chicago.

John Mullins came to the United States when a lad of eight years, and in opening up and developing the home farm he rendered what assistance he could. He had but limited school advantages in early life, but is now a well informed man. He enlisted, August 13, 1862, in Company E, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel Dustin, the regiment being assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. He participated in the battles of Resaca, Burnt Hickory, Kenesaw Mountain, Marietta, Georgia, and Peach Tree Creek. In the latter engagement he received a gunshot wound in the left arm, which permanently disabled him, the arm being broken. He still carries the lead, which was never extracted. After being in the hospital for a time, in October, 1864, he received a fur-

lough and came home. While here he cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln. In the winter following he rejoined his regiment at Blackville, South Carolina, and was later in a few skirmishes. He was at Raleigh, North Carolina, where Johnson surrendered to Sherman. Later he participated in the grand review at Washington, and was there discharged June 17, 1865, and was paid off at Camp Fry, Chicago, about two weeks later.

Returning home, he went to work on the farm, and remained with his father until 1869, when, in Shabbona township, October 12, he was united in marriage with Miss Martha R. Nicholson, a native of Ohio, but of English parentage. Her father, Rev. William Nicholson, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, removed from Ohio to Indiana, and later to Illinois, where Mrs. Mullins was mostly reared and educated. By this union were six children, five daughters and one son. Clara is the wife of Henry Longford, a farmer of Lee county. Anna is the wife of Thomas Faircloth, a farmer of Shabbona township. Gertrude, Cora, Grace and Elmer Howard reside at home.

Immediately after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Mullins commenced their domestic life on the southeast corner of the farm on which they now reside. Mr. Mullins first purchased fifty acres, and later one hundred and sixty acres of his father, comprising the home place, and there resided for some years. In 1892, he built on section 18 the house in which they now live. No farm in the township shows better improvement, and Mr. Mullins has the reputation of being a No. 1 farmer. Politically he is a staunch Republican, and has served three consecutive terms as one of the highway

commissioners. He and his wife are members of the West Shabbona Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is trustee and steward. He has been connected with the Sunday school and has been its superintendent for nearly a quarter of a century. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of Shabbona Lodge, and is also an Ancient Odd Fellow. His long-continued residence in De Kalb county has made for him many warm friends.

**PHILO FERNANDO SLATER** is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres, a part of which lies within the village limits of Hinckley. He was born in Sugar Grove, Kane county, Illinois, July 24, 1853, and came to De Kalb county with his father, Philo Slater, in 1854. Philo Slater was a native of New York, born in Tompkins county, in 1824, while his grandfather, Thomas Slater, was a native of Connecticut. The family are of English descent, the first of the name locating in Connecticut at a very early day. Thomas Slater was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was an officer of the state militia. From Connecticut he moved to Tompkins county, New York, and in 1837 came to Illinois, and located in Sugar Grove township, Kane county, where he engaged in farming. Philo Slater at that time was only thirteen years of age. He there grew to manhood and married Sallie Nichols, a native of Chenango county, New York, and a daughter of Cyrus C. Nichols, who was an early settler of Kane county. After his marriage, Philo Slater engaged in farming for five years in Kane county, and in 1854 came to De Kalb county, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, adjoining



ing the present village of Hinckley, a partially improved place. Later he purchased one hundred and seventy-three acres adjoining, making the home farm comprise three hundred and thirty-three acres, in addition to which he became the owner of two small farms near Hinckley. He was recognized as one of the most enterprising and practical farmers of De Kalb county. Politically, he was a Republican from the organization of the party, having in 1856 voted for John C. Fremont, its first presidential candidate. He took an active part in local politics, and for years served as supervisor of Squaw Grove township, and also held other offices of honor and trust. He was a man of good habits, and a strong temperance man. He died on his home farm, March 28, 1894. He was twice married, his first wife dying in 1884, and he later married Miss Maria Severance, who still survives him. By his first wife, he was the father of the following named children: Cyrus, a farmer of Squaw Grove township; Mary S., wife of Albert G. White, of Idaho; Philo F., the subject of this sketch; Sarah, who grew to womanhood and died single at the age of twenty-one years; and Eva, wife of Elmer Benton, who resides in Hinsdale, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on the home farm, and received a good common-school education. He was married June 4, 1879, to Miss Alice J. Sebree, a daughter of W. M. Sebree, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. By this union there are two children, Roy M. and Elva E. After marriage he located on a part of the old place, which he cultivated for several years. After his father's death he and his brother, Cyrus, bought out the heirs, and succeeded to the old homestead, which they divided equally be-

tween them. Since coming into possession of the place he has greatly improved it, and has now one of the most valuable farms in Squaw Grove township.

In connection with his farming Mr. Slater has been engaged for some years in the sheep business, and has the largest flock of recorded pure-blood Shropshire sheep in De Kalb county. His flock now consists of about one hundred and fifty head. His reputation as a breeder and dealer in these sheep extends throughout the whole country. Politically he is a thoroughbred Republican, casting his first presidential ballot for R. B. Hayes in 1876. He has taken an active part in local politics, and has served on the county central committee for several years, and has been chairman of the township committee. As a delegate he has attended various conventions of his party, and has always exerted a good influence. He and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church at Hinckley, and fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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**R**OBERT DUFFEY is a retired farmer residing in the city of De Kalb, where he is now enjoying the fruits of a life of toil. He was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1830, and is the son of James and Belle Duffey, the former being a prosperous farmer of Coshocton county. In 1844, accompanied by his family, James Duffey came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in De Kalb township, which he placed under a high state of cultivation, and which was his home during the remainder of his life. After a somewhat uneventful but useful life, his death occurred in 1872. He

was highly respected as a citizen, beloved as a husband and honored as a father.

Robert is the second son in a family of eight children, and was fourteen years of age when with his father he removed to De Kalb county, Illinois. He lived with his father, assisting in the cultivation of the farm, and attending the district schools as opportunity offered him, until he reached his majority, when he was employed by J. M. Goodell, who was then engaged in mercantile business at De Kalb. He remained with Mr. Goodell two years, and then purchased a threshing machine, which he run for several years in connection with farming. In 1855 he removed to Storey county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and seventy-two acres, and there remained engaged in its cultivation for two years. Returning to DeKalb county, he remained here two years, engaged in farming, after which he removed to California, in 1859. He had a similar experience to all other gold seekers, who took the overland route by ox teams to the New Eldorado. In California he engaged in handling and hauling freight, using horses and mules as locomotive power. He there remained five years, meeting with fair success.

After his return to De Kalb, in 1864, Mr. Duffey engaged in the livery business, which he followed for four years. He then purchased eighty acres of land which he improved, and sold at an advance in price. He next speculated in city property, which has grown on his hands to a phenomenal extent. At present he is living a retired life, as the result of former activity and push.

On the twentieth of February, 1865, Mr. Duffey was united in marriage with

Miss Ellen M. Fox, daughter of P. L. Fox, and by this union were born seven children, six of whom are living, and who have each received a good education.

In politics Mr. Duffey is a Democrat, and was honored by his fellow-citizens with various town offices, including road commissioner, which office he held for three years, and was trustee for nine years. He is highly respected in the city of De Kalb, of which he is a loyal and patriotic citizen.

**D**ANIEL PIERCE.—Success in any line of occupation, in any avenue of business, is not a matter of spontaneity, but is a legitimate offspring of the proper use of the means at hand, the improvement of opportunity, and the exercise of the highest functions made possible in any case. Young men in the past have often been deterred from devoting themselves to a business life because of the widespread impression that such a life yields no opportunity for the display of genius. The time, however, has gone by when, other things being equal, the business man must take a secondary place to the lawyer, the doctor, the minister or the editor. In fact, as a rule, let the business man be equally well-equipped by education and natural endowment, and you will find him to-day in every community, exerting a wider influence and wielding a larger power than a man of equal capacity in other walks of life. The men of affairs have come to be in a large degree the men upon whom the country leans. The subject of this sketch is pre-eminently a man of affairs.

Daniel Pierce was born in the town of Neversink, Sullivan county, New York, July 18, 1814, and is the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Cargill) Pierce. His father was



DANIEL PIERCE.



a native of Westchester county, New York, and when fifteen years of age went to Sullivan county, where his marriage with Elizabeth Cargill was solemnized. They became the parents of six children—William, Polly, John, Daniel, Penelope and Catherine. He died in March, 1819, at the age of thirty-one years, and his widow, three years later, married Edward Porter.

When our subject was but twelve years of age, he commenced life for himself, working for three dollars per month for the first seven months. His education was very limited, for the reason that he was thrown upon his own resources at such a tender age. But there was in him the making of a man. He toiled early and late, working for others until he attained his majority, when he began working a farm on his own account. He worked during the summers, and in the winters worked for his board while going to school. He was married December 17, 1835, to Miss Phebe J. Brundage, a native of Orange county, New York, born August 17, 1818, and a daughter of Abijah and Sarah (Lane) Brundage. Her father, who was born April 23, 1781, was by occupation a farmer, and during the war of 1812 served as a soldier. He died in Sullivan county, April 23, 1850. His wife was born September 23, 1786, and died October 21, 1837. Abijah Brundage was the son of John and Martha (Ogden) Brundage, the former born February 12, 1733, and died February 9, 1796. The latter born December 10, 1738, died October 28, 1799. To our subject and wife three children were born, the first dying in infancy. Eleanor is now the widow of A. W. Townsend. Sarah married G. P. Wild, cashier of the banking house of Daniel Pierce & Company. She died June 11, 1896. Mrs. Pierce died Oc-

tober 4, 1876, leaving many friends to mourn her loss.

After his marriage, Mr. Pierce operated the old homestead for four years, and then purchased the lease of a farm in a different locality, which he operated five years, and upon a third farm he remained until 1848, when he purchased the titles of three farms in Sullivan county, New York, including the old homestead. From there he removed to Deming, Ulster county, New York, and purchased an interest in a tannery where he remained two years. The desire was in him, however, to increase his worldly possessions more rapidly than he could in the east, and he therefore determined on coming to Illinois, where the opportunities for advancement were much greater. Accordingly, in 1855, he sold the greater part of his possessions in his native county, and came to De Kalb county, where he rented a farm in Mayfield township for one year. In 1856, he removed to the city of Sycamore and engaged in the real estate business, buying and selling both improved and unimproved farms. He continued in that business exclusively until 1867, when the banking house of Pierce, Dean & Company was established, of which he took the active management. The firm name was changed in 1871, to Pierce & Dean, and in 1883 to Daniel Pierce & Company. Until 1888 Mr. Pierce had the active management of his bank, but on account of impaired health, he is now practically living a retired life. During the past ten years he has devoted his time principally to his Iowa interests.

For more than forty years Mr. Pierce has ranked among the ablest financiers of northern Illinois. Successful beyond even his own highest expectations, he has added

to his possessions until he is the owner of many large and productive farms in De Kalb county, and several thousand acres in Iowa and other western states. The banking house so long managed by him has always been regarded as one of the safest financial institutions in the state, and this confidence in the soundness of the bank has been brought about by his well-known conservative character and strict integrity. While as stated, his early education was limited, yet by reading and observation he became well informed, and his judgment of men and affairs, especially as affecting financial interests, has been almost infallible. He always knew when to buy and when to sell a piece of real estate, and the fluctuations in the money market were generally foreseen by him. His word was always kept inviolate and a promise made by him was fulfilled to the letter.

**P**ROF. FREDERICK BRINK BETTIS is a musician whose skill and ability is acknowledged by all. Since 1893 he has made his home in Sycamore, but has classes in music in many of the surrounding towns. He was born in Lacon, Marshall county, Illinois, December 5, 1853, and is the son of John W. and Sarah A. (Brink) Bettis, the former a native of Montreal, Canada, and the latter born at Saugerties, on the Hudson, opposite the old Robert Livingston manor. They were the parents of seven sons and three daughters, of whom three sons and one daughter survive. Two of the sons served during the war of the rebellion. By trade the father was an architect and builder, and for some years resided in Kingston, New York, from which place he moved to Lacon, Illinois, in the

early fifties. In that place he engaged in the lumber business, and also had a large farm near the city, on which he resided. His wife dying in 1856, he later went to California, where he remained seventeen years, then returned to the residence of a son in Kansas, where his death occurred in 1888. His father, the grandfather of our subject, was one of the Revolutionary heroes.

The mother of our subject dying when he was three years of age, he went to live with relatives, but being of an independent turn of mind, at the age of ten years he began supporting himself. He attended school until the age of fifteen, working on farms during the summer months for his board and clothes, and part of the time for the opportunity of attending school. At the age of fifteen he commenced to learn the painters' trade, and during the time thus employed was studying music, which he intended to make his profession. After ten years he began the study of vocal music with C. E. Leslie, a well-known Chicago author and teacher of music, and with him traveled for ten years, over nearly a score of states, singing at conventions and musical gatherings. He traveled eight months in the year, and during the remainder of the time he perfected himself in his chosen profession. He spent several seasons in the New England Conservatory of Music, in Boston, and took private lessons there at Professor H. E. Holt's Normal School for Trained Teachers, for public-school work. In 1888 he went to St. Joseph, Missouri, and there remained two years, engaged in teaching music in its public schools. In 1890 he moved to Chicago, and taught music in the schools of South Evanston. While residing there he frequently came to Sycamore to give lessons to the pupils in

the public schools, and in 1893 he took up his residence in this city. He gives special attention to vocal culture and harmony, and has private pupils in Creston, Malta, Genoa, Kingston and other places. He takes great interest in musical conventions, and often reads papers before them on musical topics.

Professor Bettis was married in Austin, a suburb of Chicago, December 27, 1890, to Miss Blanche Bentley, born in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and a daughter of Martin Bentley, a native of Warren, Ohio, who moved to Boone county, Illinois, and was one of the forty-niners of California, where he engaged in farming a number of years. With two companions, he engaged a man to take them across the plains in a wagon, each of them paying one hundred dollars in advance. At Omaha the man deserted them, and all three walked across the plains and mountains to the land of gold. Returning later to Ohio, he remained a short time, and then removed to Austin, Illinois, where he died.

In politics Professor Bettis is a staunch Republican, although he gives little attention to political affairs. Fraternally he is a Mason, holding membership with the blue lodge at Sycamore.

**G**EORGE D. BENTLY, dealer in real estate and loans, De Kalb, Illinois, was born in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess county, New York, in 1825. He is the son of John and Cornelia Bentley. John Bentley was a shoemaker, but in middle life gave up the trade to follow agricultural pursuits. In 1834 he removed to the city of Auburn, New York, where he passed away at the advanced age of ninety-four years.

George D. Bentley, the subject of this sketch, emigrated to Illinois in 1854, locating in De Kalb, De Kalb county, on the same place where he now resides. In his early life in De Kalb he was busily engaged in the grain, lumber and coal business, at which he continued for thirteen years. At the expiration of that time he began to deal in real estate and loans, and little by little worked himself into the business.

In 1854 Mr. Bentley was married to Miss Ada E. Brown, daughter of F. W. Brown, by whom he had six children, four of whom are now living. Frank W. is a conductor on the Northwestern Railroad, and has been employed by that road for the past twenty years. Chester is secretary of the Cripple Creek Mining Company. Fred is foreman for the Omaha Packing Company. Jesse is yardmaster at Tracy. Mrs. Ada E. Bentley died in 1870, and he married for his second wife Miss Jennie Streubly, in 1878. To this union have been born two children, George D. and Ada E. The latter is possessed of more than ordinary intelligence, a fine musician and an accomplished elocutionist.

Mr. Bentley has never, strange to relate, advertised, nor does he have an office; when his patrons want land or money, they find him without difficulty. While he is getting along in years, Mr. Bentley is not above doing a day's work that any other laboring man can accomplish. By his industrial habits and his close application to the golden rule, he has accumulated a nice fortune. He owns several houses in addition to his other city property. He is a plain, honest, unassuming man, whom his fellow citizens highly respect. Among the various local offices with which he has been hon-

ored, was that of city commissioner, holding it for several years. He was also a member of the Board of Health for a period of ten years.

**W**ILLIAM VON OHLEN, now living a retired life in the village of Hinckley, was for nearly thirty years an active and enterprising farmer of De Kalb county. He is a native of Germany, born in the Dukedom of Brunswick, May 14, 1843. His father, Christian H. Von Ohlen, was a native of the same place, born in 1798. He there grew to manhood and married Johanna Borneman, also a native of Germany. He was a mechanic and carried on a manufacturing business for some years. His ability was recognized by his fellow citizens, and he served in the legislature of his native country. In 1855, he came to the United States, and arrived at Sandwick, De Kalb county, October 30, and first located on a farm near that place, and later moved to the town of Victor, and lived a retired life. He died in 1880, at the age of eighty-two years. His wife survived him two years, dying in 1882. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters, who grew to mature years. Louis grew to manhood, married and died at the age of thirty-nine years, leaving a wife and five children. Christian is a farmer of De Kalb county, and a well-to-do and substantial citizen. Mrs. Christian Baie resides in Hinckley, where her husband is living a retired life. Mrs. Henry Thoerel, with her husband, is living retired in the village of Hinckley. Henry lives a retired life in the village of Somonauk. William and Mrs. Boller reside in Hinckley.

William Von Ohlen came to De Kalb

county, Illinois, when but twelve years of age. His education, began in the old country, was completed in the schools of Victor township, where the family resided. In September, 1861, he showed his loyalty to his adopted country by enlisting in Company B, Thirty-Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was sent to Rolla, Missouri, soon after being mustered into the service. He there participated in the battle of Pea Ridge. With his regiment he was in the siege of Corinth, the battles of Perryville, Kentucky, and Stone River. He was wounded at Pea Ridge, being shot through the abdomen, and at Stone River was shot through both thighs, and permanently disabled. He was sent to the hospital at Nashville, Tennessee, and later at Louisville, Kentucky, and was discharged from the service May 13, 1864.

Returning home, Mr. Von Ohlen was unable to work to any extent for some years. When able he first rented a farm for two years, and then purchased a place in the township of Victor, comprising seventy-five acres. Removing to that farm, he began its further development, and there remained until 1874, when he sold out and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, a fairly well improved place in Squaw Grove township. On this farm he moved his family and there resided for some years. He later built a good house, barn and other out buildings, making of it one of the best farms in the township. To the original farm he added eighty acres, all of which he improved, and during his residence there he engaged in general farming and dairy business. In 1893, he rented his place to his son and purchased a residence in the village of Hinckley, a neat and comfortable home where he is now living retired. In addi-



tion to his farm of two hundred and forty acres, he also owns another well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres.

At Pierceville, Illinois, September 1, 1867, Mr. Von Ohlen married Miss Mary Roth, a native of Germany, who came to the United States a child of six years with her father, Henry Roth, who is now one of the substantial farmers of Pierce township, a hale and hearty man of eighty-five years. To Mr. and Mrs. Von Ohlen four children have been born as follows: Amelia C., now the wife of Edward Ramer, a farmer of Squaw Grove township; Arvet H., who is married and carrying on the old home farm; Alta A. and Veda May, who are attending the high school at Hinckley, Illinois. Mrs. Von Ohlen, who was a worthy and consistent member of the Evangelical church, died October 28, 1894.

Politically Mr. Von Ohlen is a staunch Republican, being reared in the faith of that party, and with which he has been identified ever since he cast his first ballot in 1864 for Abraham Lincoln. He was elected and served as commissioner of highways for twelve years, and has also served as township trustee and school trustee, and is yet filling the latter office. In 1894 he was elected supervisor of Squaw Grove township, re-elected in 1896, and also in 1898, and is now serving his third term. He has made a valuable member of the board, serving on several important committees, including the finance committee, equalization of personal property, and of fees and salaries, being chairman of the latter committee. Religiously he is a member of the Evangelical church, and fraternally he is a Mason, and also a member of Aurora Post, No. 20, G. A. R. For forty-three years he has been a resident of De Kalb county, and has wit-

nessed its wonderful growth, contributing his full share to its development. He is well and favorably known throughout the county, and no man stands higher in the estimation of his fellow citizens.

PATRICK BROCK, a farmer by occupation, but who is now living a retired life in the city of De Kalb, was born in Dublin, Ireland, December 13, 1830. In the winter of 1842, when but a lad of twelve, he immigrated to the United States, locating in New York, where he engaged in stage driving. After residing there three years, he removed to New Jersey, where he was engaged in the manufacture of white lead, remaining here until 1855, at which time he determined to come west, believing that a better chance for worldly success could be had in the then newly opened up states. On coming west he located in De Kalb county, where he purchased eighty acres of land and at once commenced its improvement. As the country was new, the land wild and unimproved, Mr. Brock had a task before him. But like many of his countrymen in De Kalb county, he was anxious and determined to make for himself and family a comfortable home. By perseverance, industry and economy, Mr. Brock succeeded beyond all expectations. He purchased more land, still more, adding acre to acre, while land was low, and at one time owned some four hundred and forty acres. When land took a boom in later years, Mr. Brock was ready to sell, and did sell at a great advance. Every dollar put out brought in at least two. After disposing of his farm, he purchased property in the city of De Kalb, and is yet the owner of several houses in the city.

Mr. Brock was married April 26, 1851, to Miss Catherine Fitzpatrick, also a native of Ireland, and a most estimable lady, and and to them were born eight children, five of whom are yet living, and are an honor to the parents who reared them. Their names are Mary Ann, Bridget, Elizabeth, Agnes and Lawrence. Mrs. Brock passed from this life September 11, 1894, and her death was greatly mourned by a large circle of friends. She was a consistent member of the Roman Catholic church, of which her husband and family are also members. Politically Mr. Brock is a democrat, and has supported that party since becoming a naturalized citizen. He is a man much respected by his fellow-citizens, because of his many sterling qualities of head and heart.

**C**HARLES O. BOYNTON, of Sycamore, Illinois, is a self-made man in the best sense of the term. The family are of English descent, but were probably descendants of the Norman-French in earlier generations. The earliest member of the family known in England was Bartholomew de Boynton, of Boynton, lord of the manor, in 1607. As the name would indicate Norman-French origin, it is more than likely that some of the ancestors came over with William the Conqueror. The family is extensive in England, where some of its members for many generations have held positions of honor and trust. The first of the name in America were William and John Boynton, who came from Yorkshire, England, in 1638, one settling in Massachusetts and the other in Vermont. Our subject is a descendant of the latter.

Of the immediate ancestors, Abraham Boynton, grandfather of our subject, is the

earliest of whom anything definitely is known. He was probably born in Vermont, where it is known that most of his life was spent. In 1828, he moved with his son John, to Tompkins county, New York, and there died at an advanced age. He married a Miss Marsh and became the father of twelve children, of whom John, the father of our subject, was born in the town of Rockingham, Windham county, Vermont, a short distance above Bellows Falls, July 2, 1798. He there lived until 1828, when he removed to Tompkins county, New York. In early life he was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and although his school advantages were meager, he was possessed of a clear, strong mind, and was a great reader and student. Being of a thrifty disposition, he accumulated enough from the proceeds of his trade to enter upon mercantile pursuits in McLean, New York. Success crowned him in that work, and from his profits he purchased land and at the time of his death was possessed of large farming interests. By William H. Seward, who was then governor of New York, he was appointed judge of the circuit court, and served with distinction. He was a man whose opinions had great weight with all who came in contact with him. His death occurred April 28, 1869, at his home in Tompkins county, New York. He was twice married, his first union being with Elizabeth Davis, of Rockingham, Vermont, who was of a family known for their mental and bodily vigor, many of them being distinguished in professional and business life. She was one of twelve children. One of the number served two terms as mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio. Betsy Davis, as she was called, was born in 1797, and died in 1834, in the prime of life, leaving six children, three of whom are yet

living—Charles O., our subject; Laura Carr, of Jersey City; and Lydia Jarvis, of Elgin, Illinois. The father married a second time, Miss Ann Fitts, by whom two children were born, one surviving, Edward, now engaged in business in Sycamore.

Charles O. Boynton was born in the town of Rockingham, Windham county, Vermont, July 19, 1826, and was but two years of age when his parents moved to Tompkins county, New York. He there grew to manhood, and attended the district schools and the Homer Academy until the age of sixteen years. He remained at home assisting in the work of the farm, and also in the store at McLean, until he attained his majority. In September, 1847, he came west to Chicago, where he engaged in the mercantile business in his own name, although the store was partly owned by another person. Closing out his interests there, in February, 1849, he came to Sycamore, where he opened a general store, and continued for three years. Seeing a better opportunity in financial fields, he secured funds in the east at the low rate of interest prevailing there, and loaned it in the west at a higher rate. He continued in that business for some twenty years, and by good management prospered beyond the usual success of men. In 1871 he engaged in the banking business, as a junior member of the firm of Divine & Boynton, but after one year sold his interest and has since been interested in land speculations. He now owns some sixty thousand acres of fine timber land in Arkansas, covered with hard wood timber, much of it being walnut. On his land, among other large trees, there is a black walnut tree eight feet in diameter. On the property he has lately erected a large mill, with the capacity of about twenty

thousand feet, the lumber from which he sends to the best markets in the south and west. Also owns about fifteen thousand acres in Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Kansas. He also owns some two thousand acres of fine farming land in northern Illinois, the garden spot of the Great Central Valley.

Mr. Boynton was married in Ledyard, New York, November 26, 1861, to Miss Luccetta P. Stark, daughter of Paul and Pauline (Billings) Stark, both of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, the latter being one of a family of ten children. Paul Stark was born in 1802, and died in 1873, in Ledyard, New York, to which place he had removed on retiring from active life. The first American ancestor was Aaron Stark, who resided near the head of Mystic river, and whose death occurred in New London, Connecticut, in 1685. He was first mentioned in Hartford, in 1639, and in Windsor, in 1643, and at Mystic, in 1653. He was elected freeman in 1666, at Stonington, Connecticut, and also at New London, Connecticut, in 1669. His son William, whose birth is not given, died September 8, 1730. His son Christopher, the oldest of five children, lived in Dutchess county, New York, but moved to Wyoming Valley in 1769, and died in 1771. Christopher's son, William, moved from Dutchess county, and located on Tuckhannock creek, where he married Polly Carey, and died in 1795, but was buried at Joshua, New York. Nathan, son of William, father of Paul, was eldest of a family of eleven children. He was born December 24, 1768, and died May 23, 1837. He married Dorcas Dixon, by whom he had several children. After her death he married Rachel Hewett, but by this last marriage there was no issue.

To Mr. and Mrs. Boynton four children have been born, one of whom died in infancy. Charles Douglass lately closed his bank in Carroll, Iowa, to take charge of the mills and lumber interests of his father, in Arkansas. Mary is the wife of Frederick B. Townsend, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Elmer resides with his parents in Sycamore.

Mr. Boynton was formerly a Mason and Odd Fellow, but has been dimitted from each order. In politics he is a Democrat, but independent of party lash, always refusing to give support to candidates not creditable to party. Under the old organization he served as chairman of the city board, and has been a member of the board of supervisors. Religiously Mrs. Boynton is a member of the Episcopal church. As a citizen, he is enterprising in all things, and as already stated, is truly a self-made man. He never received a dollar from his parents, although he was given the help of his father's credit in starting in business. All that he has was acquired by his own brain and energy, and his success has been marvelous when compared with others who have started out in life well equipped with funds, and given many opportunities. Few attain his success in material wealth. Mr. Boynton has one of the finest residences and grounds in De Kalb county. He also built and presented to his daughter the house adjoining the one in which he lives, and both together make a desirable addition to any community.

**HON. CHARLES A. BISHOP**, judge of the sixteenth judicial circuit of Illinois, residing at Sycamore, takes rank among the ablest members of the bar in

northern Illinois. Upright, reliable and honorable, his strict adherence to principle commands the respect of all. The place he has won in the legal profession is accorded him in recognition of his skill and ability, and the place he occupies in the social world is a tribute to that genuine worth and true nobleness of character which are universally recognized and honored.

He was born September 26, 1854, and is the son of Adolphus and Joanna (Willet) Bishop. His father is a native of Kings county, Nova Scotia, born May 26, 1829, and is the son of Gordon Bishop, also a native of Nova Scotia, who was a son of Captain William Bishop, Jr., who was a son of Captain William Bishop, Sr., who was a son of John Bishop, Sr. John Bishop, Sr., after the French were expelled from Nova Scotia, upon invitation of Governor Lawrence, was one of the colonists who took possession of the lands previously occupied by the French Canadians. Accordingly many came from the British colonies along the Atlantic shore to different parts of Nova Scotia, and John Bishop, Sr., was one of these men who came from Connecticut to Horton, Nova Scotia, with his four sons, about the year 1762. His four sons who went with him from Connecticut were Colonel John Bishop, Captain William Bishop, Peter Bishop and Timothy Bishop.

Gordon Bishop, the grandfather of our subject, was a farmer, and lived and died in Kings county, Nova Scotia. His wife was Louisa Oaks, by whom he had eight children: Eunice Ann, Mary Eliza, Adolphus, Edward, James L., Allen, Ainsley and Charles A., all of whom are living except Eunice Ann, Edward and Charles A.

Adolphus Bishop, the father of our sub-



HON. CHARLES A. BISHOP.



ject, is a farmer by occupation and is now living in Grand Pre, Nova Scotia. Joanna (Willett) Bishop, his wife, was born at Annapolis, Nova Scotia, August 27, 1833. They were married at Horton, Nova Scotia, March 30, 1852. Adolphus Bishop was born May 26, 1829. Joanna died November 3, 1861. Of that marriage were born Charles Alford Bishop, the subject of this sketch, David Averd Bishop and Franklin Willett Bishop. Franklin Willett Bishop died July 4, 1894. David A. is living at Truro, Nova Scotia.

For his second wife Adolphus Bishop married Mary E. Willett, by whom he had two children, Ernest A. Bishop, who died in infancy, and Nellie May Bishop, who died December 1, 1896, at the age of twenty-one years. Mary E., the mother, died October 3, 1890. Adolphus Bishop married for his third wife Louise Faulkner. No issue of third marriage.

Judge Charles A. Bishop, received his primary education in the public schools of Nova Scotia; attended the Academy at Acadia, and from there went to the Academy at Mt. Allison, Sackville, New Brunswick, where he took a special course of three years. He then became principal of the high school at Sackville for a term of two years, at the end of which time he started for the west, locating at Sycamore, Illinois, June 1, 1878; read law in the office of H. A. Jones and was admitted to the bar in June, 1880. He then formed a partnership with his preceptor, under the firm name of Jones & Bishop, which partnership was continued until October 19, 1886. In 1886 Judge Bishop was a candidate before the Republican convention for the office of county judge of De Kalb county, but his nomination was defeated by political com-

binations, when he lost as an independent candidate and was elected, receiving majorities in fourteen of the eighteen townships of the county. In 1890 he was nominated by the Republican convention by acclamation for the same office and was re-elected. He was again nominated by acclamation in 1894; was elected and served until 1897, when he resigned the office of county judge of De Kalb county, having been nominated for circuit judge in the twelfth district February 3, 1897. After the judicial re-appointment he was re-nominated in May for the sixteenth district, which is composed of the counties of De Kalb, Kane, Du Page and Kendall, and elected in June following.

Judge Bishop was married August 25, 1880, to Parmelia, daughter of Major Evans and Martha (Smith) Wharry, of Sycamore. She was a native of Sycamore, a graduate of Wellesley College, New York. She died April 13, 1889, her death being mourned by a large circle of friends. The Judge was again married November 25, 1890, to Martha E. Stuart, daughter of Charles T. and Nancy D. (Hutchins) Stuart. Her father, Charles T. Stuart, was the son of Nathan and Roxanna (Phelps) Stuart, and was born April 13, 1819. He died October 13, 1892, leaving surviving him Nancy D. Stuart, his widow, and Martha E. Stuart and Charles H. Stuart, his children. Nancy D. Stuart was the daughter of Solomon and Nancy (Dillingham) Hutchins, and is the niece of ex-Governor Paul Dillingham, of Vermont. Nancy D. Stuart was born June 29, 1826, and is still living.

The children of the second marriage of Judge Bishop are Stuart A., born August 21, 1892, and Marian O., born January 7, 1896. Mrs. Bishop is a lady of culture and refine-

ment, domestic in her tastes, and much devoted to her family. The Judge and his wife attend the Congregational church.

Fraternally the Judge is a member of Sycamore Lodge, No. 134, A. F. & A. M., Sycamore Chapter, No. 49, R. A. M., Sycamore Commandery, No. 15, K. T., is a member of Medinah Temple, A. A. O., Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and is past high priest of Sycamore Chapter and past eminent commander of Sycamore Commandery; member of Sycamore Lodge, No. 105, I. O. O. F., of the Ellwood Encampment of Odd Fellows, and also of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Judge Bishop is the possessor of the sword worn by his great-grandfather, Captain William Bishop, at the time he was captured by an American privateer in Minas Basin. Captain William, who was captain of a company of militia, when he saw the privateer coming up the bay, got some of his men together, manned a vessel that was faulty, and went out to give battle to the privateer. They were soon, however, captured and placed in the hold of the privateer in irons. Captain William, during the first night, succeeded in getting out of his irons and releasing his men, conceived the idea of capturing the crew of the privateer; being physically a giant in strength, he went on deck, followed by his crew armed with whatever they could get. Captain William grappled with the guard, fell on the deck holding the man over him, and when the crew of the vessel tried to bayonet him he would shield himself with the guard by moving him from side to side. The struggle was short. The crew of the privateer being taken by surprise were soon captured, and Captain Bishop and his crew had control shortly of the vessel, which they

brought into port, where Wolfville, Nova Scotia, now is; and the sword worn by him on that occasion has been handed down to the oldest in the family, and is now in the possession of Judge Bishop.

While Judge Bishop was serving as county judge of De Kalb county he also assisted Judge Scales and Judge Carter, of Cook county, for about two years, and has also presided at intervals on the circuit bench of Cook county since his election to the circuit bench.

The Judge is a fine specimen of physical manhood, six feet four and one-half inches in height, average weight two hundred and fifty pounds, commanding appearance, of pleasing address and affable manner. He is a good lawyer, and as a judge is impartial and careful in his rulings, and is giving satisfaction to the bar and the people.

**I**SAAC S. WOODS, supervisor of Afton township, and a leading farmer of the township, is a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, born May 17, 1835, and is the son of David H. and Catherine (Campbell) Woods, both natives of Pennsylvania, and who were the parents of eleven children, five of whom are deceased. Those living are Hannah, Cynthia, David, Martha, Catherine and Isaac S. The Woods are of Scotch Irish descent, but were early settlers of the United States. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and was with Daniel Boone in Kentucky. In April, 1844, the father moved with his family to Richland county, Ohio, and two years later came to Illinois, locating in Kendall county, where he purchased one hundred and eighty acres of wild land, which he proceeded to im-



prove, and where his death occurred June 5, 1849, at the age of sixty-six years.

The subject of this sketch was reared to farm life, and received his education in the district-schools of Ohio and Illinois, principally in Kendall county. He remained on the old homestead until after attaining his majority, assisting in the cultivation of the farm. On the 20th of December, 1865, he married Miss Pluma E. Ovitt, a native of Kendall county, and a daughter of S. A. Ovitt. By this union there are six children—John W., Minnie E., Charles S., Daisy A., Ida B. and Emma C. Of these children, John, Minnie and Daisy have each engaged in teaching in the district schools, and have been quite successful teachers.

In 1865 Mr. Woods came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and located on section 34, Afton township. He soon became quite prominent in township affairs, and has served as collector and assessor for several terms, and 1892 was elected supervisor, re-elected in 1894, 1896 and 1898. He is now serving his fourth term and is recognized as one of the active members of the board, serving on several of the most important committees. In politics he is a thorough Republican and has voted that ticket since attaining his majority. Religiously he and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Waterman, in which he takes an active part. His farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres, and its general appearance denotes the thrift of its owner. No man in Afton township has more friends than the subject of this sketch.

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**B**ENJAMIN F. ATHERTON, who resides on section 31, Shabbona township, has resided in De Kalb county, since

September 29, 1854, and now has a farm of two hundred and sixty-eight acres, together with eighty acres in Willow creek township, Lee county, which is just across the county line from the home farm. He was born near Scranton, Lackawanna county, Pennsylvania, October 24, 1828, and is the son of Joseph Atherton, born in the same county and state and on the same farm. His grandfather, Eleazer Atherton, was a native of Massachusetts, as was also his great-grandfather, Cornelius Atherton. The Athertons are of English ancestry, the original ancestor coming to the New World in 1666. Colonel Humphery Atherton, with his two sons, Rev. Hope Atherton and James Atherton, coming to this country in that year. Our subject is a direct descendant of James Atherton, who had twelve sons, one of whom, John, was the father of Cornelius. The latter was a pioneer of that part of Luzerne county which is now Lackawanna county, Pennsylvania. He went to that locality prior to the Revolutionary war, but was compelled to return to New York during that struggle. After the Revolution, he returned to Lackawanna county, purchased land, and there spent the remainder of his life. His son, Eleazer, there grew to manhood, but in New Jersey married Martha Kenan, after which he located upon the old farm in Lackawanna county, Pennsylvania, where he reared his family of nine children.

Joseph Atherton grew to manhood in his native county, and there married Phebe Vosburg, of German and Holland parentage. Her father, Cornelius Vosburg, was a resident of the Mohawk Valley, and there resided some years, prior to his removal to Pennsylvania. Joseph Atherton resided on the old homestead, a part of which he

inherited, and there died in 1845, at the age of forty-five years. He was twice married, his first wife dying at the age of twenty-seven years. His last wife survived him some years.

The subject of this sketch grew to mature years in his native county, and received a fair common-school education. He remained on the old home farm and assisted in its cultivation, until the fall of 1854, when, accompanied by his brother Charles Atherton, he came to De Kalb county, joining an uncle who was then living here. The brothers bought a tract of one hundred and sixty-six acres, on which they erected a small house, and then set about its further improvement. As the years went by, they erected the various buildings now on the place, planted an orchard, set out forest and shade trees, and also five hundred rods of hedge fence, making of the farm one of the neatest and best in the entire county. Charles Atherton remained single and assisted in the cultivation of the place until his death in 1888, at the age of fifty-six years.

Mr. Atherton returned to Pennsylvania, and in Wyoming county, fifteen miles from Scranton, on the 26th of October, 1858, was united in marriage with Miss Almira Maynard, a native of Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Thomas Maynard, of the same county. She was reared and educated in her native county, and was a teacher in its public schools previous to her marriage. By this union were four children, two of whom are deceased, Blanche dying in infancy, and Thomas at the age of fifteen years. The living are Ella and Joseph, the latter now assisting in carrying on the home farm.

Politically Mr. Atherton is a Republican,

while his father was an old-line Whig, and grandfather a staunch Federalist. The first presidential vote cast by our subject was for General Winfield Scott, in 1852, and his second vote for that office for General Fremont.

The only office our subject has ever held was that of school director, only accepting that by reason of his interest in the public schools. His wife is a member of the Congregational church, while the family in Pennsylvania were Baptists. Success has crowned him in his efforts since coming to De Kalb county, and he is now numbered among the most substantial men to be found in it.

**E**LIJAH CURTIS, a retired farmer residing in the city of De Kalb, Illinois, has been a resident of the county for forty-two years, during which time he has principally engaged in agricultural pursuits, but has also shown his loyalty to his country by a service of nearly four years in its army during the war for the union. He was born in Douglas, Worcester county, Massachusetts, November 23, 1836, and is the son of Bryant and Patience (Powers) Curtis. Bryant Curtis was a native of Worcester county, Massachusetts, and was born December 4, 1803. By occupation he was a farmer, both in the east and after his coming to Illinois. Locating in Afton township, De Kalb county, he lived a life of usefulness and respectability, and passed away December 8, 1880. His wife was a native of Croydon, Sullivan county, New Hampshire, born June 11, 1803. After proving herself a companion meet for her husband in truthfulness and love, she was called to her reward, March 12, 1876.

Bryant Curtis was the son of Ebenezer Curtis, who earned for himself an enviable reputation for his daring courage in the Revolutionary war. He participated in the battles in which Burgoyne's army was defeated and captured. His descendant, the subject of this sketch, owns a musket that he used in those dark and troublous times. Mr. Curtis has also in his possession a cutlass captured by his great-granduncle at Cape Town, South Africa. The mother of Mr. Curtis had four uncles who were engaged in defense of freedom and independence at the battle of Bunker Hill. The Curtis family, as far back as the fourth generation, lived on land in Worcester county, Massachusetts, deeded to them by the King of England.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated on a farm in Worcester county, Massachusetts, where he confined himself to agricultural pursuits. At the age of nineteen, he came to what was then the west, locating in De Kalb county, Illinois. Here he engaged as a farm laborer, working by the month, at which vocation he continued until 1859, when he began to work land on shares. This he followed for two years. At this period in his life's history, his country became imperiled, and, like many others of her brave and patriotic sons, Mr. Curtis went forth, placing himself upon her altar, that the nation's integrity and glory might be retained. How faithfully he performed this sacred duty, the following will attest.

In 1861 he was enrolled as a member of Company C, Fifty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, G. W. Kittell, captain, and W. F. Lynch, colonel. The regiment was assigned to the Second Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps, and participated in the

battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Red River, Kansas City, Nashville, and Bayou La Mourie. At Shiloh, April 6, 1862, Mr. Curtis was wounded and was laid up for four months, during which time he visited his home, in Alton township, De Kalb county, Illinois. After the expiration of his furlough, he returned to his command, then stationed at Camp Danville, Mississippi. At the battle of Corinth he was again wounded in the ankle, October 4, 1862. This caused an absence of seven months, during which time he again received a furlough to visit his home. At this time his regiment was recruiting at Springfield, and he joined it at that place. In the winter of 1863-4, his regiment joined Sherman's Army at Vicksburg, and participated in a raid through Mississippi. At a battle fought during the Red River Expedition, Mr. Curtis received another wound, May 16, 1864, this time in the thigh. After a four months' furlough and rest, he returned to his command, then stationed at Jefferson Barracks.

After its brush with Price at Kansas City, the Fifty-eighth returned to St. Louis and shipped for Nashville, to join General Thomas, and arrived just in time to engage in a battle at that place. The regiment was then sent to Eastport, at which place Mr. Curtis left it, his time having expired. He was honorably discharged at Chicago, February 7, 1865, as sergeant of his company, being promoted to that rank at Corinth, Mississippi, as a reward for his bravery in that contest. He still carries the ball received at that battle. At the battle of Shiloh, his regiment was surrounded and after a well contested struggle it was obliged to surrender, but after being imprisoned seven months it was paroled. A brother of Mr.

Curtis was a member of Company G, Fifty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and died in Danville, Virginia.

After his discharge, Mr. Curtis again engaged in agricultural pursuits in Clinton township, where he owned forty acres of land, which he sold and bought eighty acres, and to this he added eighty acres more in Milan township, which later he exchanged for a valuable farm of two hundred acres in Afton township, which he still owns, in addition to his fine city residence. On the 1st of July, 1865, he married Miss Candace E. Boyce, a daughter of Richard and Orpha (Parks) Boyce. She was born in Erie county, New York, September 14, 1836. Their wedded life was of short duration, Mrs. Curtis dying June 27, 1867, leaving one son, David G. For his second wife Mr. Curtis married, April 3, 1879, Miss Juliette E. Hurd, a native of Marion county, Indiana, born August 14, 1844, and a daughter of Alanson and Jerusha A.

Springer) Hurd, both natives of New York state. By this union two children were born—Hortense, September 9, 1880, and Sarah Eloise, January 10, 1883. The former died October 10, 1884. Mrs. Julia E. Curtis departed this life December 1, 1886, at the age of forty-two years. For his third wife, December 3, 1891, Mr. Curtis married Mrs. Wealthy M. White, widow of James White, sergeant in the Twelfth New York Volunteer Infantry, and a daughter of Robert Morse and Caroline Smith, both of whom were natives of New York. By her first marriage she has one daughter, Nina, who makes her home with her mother. Mrs. Wealthy M. Curtis is a lady of fine talents, a most estimable wife and loving mother. To Mr. and Mrs. Curtis one son has been born, Leland Powers,

June 15, 1898. Mr. Curtis traces his ancestors back to John Leland, who was antiquary to King Henry VIII, of England.

Politically Mr. Curtis is a staunch Republican and has been honored by his friends and neighbors with several town offices, serving as town clerk, road commissioner, school director, all of which he filled with much credit. He was formerly a member of Merritt Simonds Post, G. A. R., of De Kalb, of which he served as commander. In 1896 he asked to be transferred to Potter Post, No. 12, G. A. R., of Sycamore, of which he is now a member. Mr. Curtis is of a kind and loving disposition and has the happy faculty of making and retaining friends. By marriage his children and those of President Fillmore are closely related.

JOSEPH P. WAYLAND, M. D., Sycamore, Illinois, has attained a high degree of success, both as a physician and surgeon. He is of the Homeopathic school of medicine, well read, not only in the authorities of his own school, but in all schools of medicine. He is a native of Kenton county, Kentucky, born May 4, 1841, and resided in his native county until the age of twenty-one years, receiving his education in the district schools and at Aspen Grove Academy, attending the latter institution from the age of seventeen until he attained his majority. He then went to Hebron, Indiana, where he engaged in teaching and where he remained for eight years, in the meantime studying medicine, and attending lectures at the Cincinnati Pultz Medical College. In 1870 he removed to Byron, Ogle county, Illinois, where he engaged in prac-

tice for twenty years. In 1877-8 he entered Hahnemann Medical College, from which he graduated in 1878. At Byron and Stillman Valley he built up a good practice, but believing Sycamore to be a better field, he removed to that place in 1890, and now has a large and lucrative practice, and has the respect of the medical fraternity of the place, and the people in general.

Dr. Wayland is a son of Joseph Wayland, who was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, September 9, 1778, and who by occupation was a farmer during his entire life. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and because of his dislike for slavery removed to Kentucky, in 1797. His removal was hastened from the fact that his father desired him to take charge of a large plantation on which there were many slaves. Being firmly convinced that no man had the right to hold another in bondage, and that a human being was not subject to property rights, he declined to accede to the wishes of his father. This made the father angry, and the son left home, going to Kentucky. Notwithstanding the latter became a slave state, and that he was always surrounded by slaves, he never owned one, nor would he receive one hundred and fifty of them left by his father on his death. His action displeased his relatives, especially when he publicly advocated the abolition of slavery and denied their right to hold human chattels. He predicted a great war over the question of slavery, and frequently told our subject that he would live to see it, even if he, the father, should not. His death occurred November 17, 1850, a decade before the predicted war began. In politics he was a strong Whig, while bitterly anti-slavery.

He married Nancy Massey, a native of Orange county, Virginia, born August 20, 1792, and died September 13, 1864, at the age of seventy-two years. She was a daughter of Edward Massey, who married a Miss Timberlake, both of whom were natives of Virginia. Edward Massey, with four brothers, served in the Revolutionary war. Joseph and Nancy Wayland were the parents of twelve children, of whom our subject is the youngest.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Henry Wayland, was a native of Germany, who settled in Virginia early in the eighteenth century, and who became a large land owner and also the owner of many slaves. At his death he left each of his seven sons and two daughters large plantations and one hundred and fifty slaves each. His wife was Miss Nancy Phinks.

Dr. Wayland was first married in Pendleton county, Kentucky, in 1861, to Miss Belle Cook, a daughter of Thomas Cook, who married a Miss Mains. By this union were three children, all of whom are yet living. Etta married Abraham Hannaker, by whom she has four children: Chellis, Morris, Clinton and Belle. They reside in Spencer, South Dakota. Belle married Clarence Mack, by whom she has two children, Elsa and Earl. They reside at Monroe, Illinois. Clara resides at home. The Doctor's second marriage was when he resided in Hebron, Indiana. He there married Mary Jane Kithcart, a daughter of Joseph Kithcart, who married Phebe Ann Youngs. They came to Hebron from Ashland county, Ohio. They have two children, Chellis and Alwilda, the latter now being the wife of G. A. Dayton, of Austin, Illinois. They have one son, Wilbur Wayland.

In politics Dr. Wayland is a Republican, but prohibition in sentiment. While residing in Byron he was president of the board of trustees of the town, and also held the office of school director. For several terms he served as coroner of Ogle county. Fraternally he is a member of the Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of the Globe. He is one of Sycamore's honored and valued citizens, his upright and honorable career having won for him the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact either in professional or social life.

**J**ACOB HAISH, the originator and inventor of the barb wire and the automatic machine used in its manufacture, in the true sense of the term is a self-made man. With limited opportunities for study, or for the exercise of any special talent, he has made a name that has brought him national fame and honors that were little dreamed of when as a boy and youth he struggled with adverse fortune. For years his manufactory at De Kalb, Illinois, has been one of the noted institutions of the city and state, where he has turned out millions of pounds of barb wire of various patterns, including the "Eli" barb, the "S" barb and the "Glidden" barb. But he has not confined himself alone to the manufacture of barb wire, but has likewise made a specialty of the manufacture of woven wire fencing, plain wire, staples, nails, the Rusler disk harrows, tubular steel and wood beam hustler lever harrows, barrel carts, bob sleds, etc. His manufactory has been a veritable hive of industry, and he has

given employment to hundreds of men at good, living wages.

Jacob Haish was born near Colslu, Baden, Germany, March 9, 1827, and is the son of Christian and Christina Haish, natives of Germany, who emigrated with their family to America, in 1836, when Jacob was but nine years of age. They located in the south part of Pennsylvania, where they remained but a short time, during which, however, the wife and mother passed away, leaving Jacob, but ten years of age, an age, indeed, when all boys should have the protecting care of mother to shield them from the dangers which beset their path. The father with his motherless children soon removed to Crawford county, Ohio, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres in the woods, with the Indians for his neighbors, and entered upon the herculean task of subduing it.

Christian Haish was by trade a carpenter, and his son, our subject, soon acquired a full knowledge of that trade. On the farm, however, he lived and worked, alternating his labors by attending school and using the plane and saw till he attained his twentieth year. In 1846, he left the paternal roof, turned his face towards the setting sun, and finally located at Naperville, Du Page county, Illinois, where he followed agricultural pursuits for several seasons. While living in Du Page county, Mr. Haish formed the first partnership of his life in the person of Miss Sophie Ann Brown, with whom he was united in marriage, May 24, 1847. This partnership has never been dissolved, but has become stronger by the flight of years. Mrs. Haish is a native of New York, born March 10, 1829. She has proved herself a helpmeet, and a true and faithful wife, not only in the palmy days of



JACOB HAISH.





luxury, but in the stern and stirring days of opposition and competition, which try the temper and disposition of man.

One year after his marriage, Mr. Haish removed to Pierce township, De Kalb county, where he carried on farming for some three years. In 1854, he moved into the village of De Kalb, where he worked at his trade. After his first one hundred dollars were saved, he purchased a bill of lumber, and from that time began to contract and build, a business which he followed successfully for fifteen years. It was while in this business that Mr. Haish was annoyed by the farmers who were anxious to secure sound boards for fencing, strong enough to resist brute force. This brought to his mind the first idea of a fence. He first began by weaving osage on a fence so that the thorns would prick the stock. This was not practical, however, but opened up the way to new fields of speculation and invention. Mr. Haish next conceived the idea of making "thorns" of wire, but using only one wire, it slipped and proved unsatisfactory. This was in 1873. He next thought of putting two wires together, forming a twist, with the barb between them, when "presto" we have the barb wire complete.

Mr. Haish first made the wire in sections, thinking that to be used for fencing purposes it must be so constructed. Each section was sixteen feet long. He put one side the first section that he constructed, thinking nothing more of it until a farmer came in one day and offered him fifty cents for it, but on this wire he secured a patent January 20, 1874. He next conceived the idea of inventing an automatic machine to make his fence wire. This machine must form the twist, spool, put in the barb, and thus complete the fence. Mr. Haish was urged

by his friends to abandon his project as chimerical, but he could not be turned aside, for, with a vision of a prophet, he looked down the vista of time and saw revealed unto him the midday glory and triumph of the fair and shapely form of the "S" barb, which was all this time taking shape and comeliness in the evolutions of his mind. He was advised by his counsel to enter a caveat to secure his right, but the time ran out before he applied for a patent, thus throwing him out of his right to the machine. He then had it manufactured by a mechanic, who patented it, and sold the right to Mr. Haish. In this way he secured his original machine.

The summary of the matter is this: Mr. Haish introduced one of the first successful barb wires; he made the first wooden spool upon which the wire is coiled; he used the first paint or varnish; he shipped the first spool by rail or water; and introduced it into eight states, before any other man had shipped any. He also introduced the first automatic machine for manufacturing the barb wire, but he was not to have his rights without a severe contest, and no contest over a patent right was ever so widely advertised, never so stubbornly contested, and never so courageously defended. Mr. Haish believed with all his heart that he was right, and on the strength of that belief he advanced, he fought, he conquered. During all this time the "S" barb went rejoicing on its way, gaining strength and friends in its onward march. Now, in ripe manhood, Mr. Haish can look back and see in his far reaching sagacity, the vast importance of his new and cherished industry, the Haish Manufacturing Company of De Kalb.

Mr. Haish enjoys the finest and most

palatial residence in the city of De Kalb. This grand and imposing edifice he conceived in his own fertile brain. Even the beautiful and exquisite artistic designs which adorn the walls and ceilings of his house were first planned by himself and have a history or point a moral. The painting on the dome—the four seasons—is magnificent and imposing. There is indeed harmony all through the interior of this beautiful and comfortable home. But the harmony of the furnishings is not to be compared to the harmony that exists between the happy inmates who occupy the home.

In 1884 Mr. Haish organized the Barb City Bank, of De Kalb, of which he is president, while George Baldwin is cashier. Besides owning the bank, he owns land in Dakota, Denver, Colorado, Kansas, Ohio and Chicago. In De Kalb city he owns about one hundred and thirty houses, and in the township he has about twelve farms. With all this wealth, he is the same Jacob Haish he was when he worked at the carpenter's bench, willing to help his fellow-men, who are in need, and who appreciate being helped. He is deeply interested in the education of the young, and the building up of his adopted city. For the State Normal School, he willingly and cheerfully contributed ten thousand dollars. He is ever ready to assist with his means any laudable enterprise, and it can be safely said of him that he has done as much as any other one man to advance the material interests of his adopted city and county.

**T** W. COOPER, a well-known farmer residing on section 35, De Kalb township, is a native of Cayuga county, New York, born March 11, 1834, and is the son

of George C. and Sarah (McCally) Cooper, both of whom were also natives of New York state. The father was a colonel of the Seventy-seventh New York Volunteers, who, in the war of 1812, took such an active part in the defense of their country. Not only was he a prominent leader in military circles, but he was a leader in politics also, although he would never be incumbered with office, but was the means through his party in placing others in official positions. In politics he was a thorough and uncompromising Whig, a believer in the principle of protection, and an admirer of the great Whig statesmen, Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. In 1842 he removed with his family to Michigan, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, and there remained three years. He then removed to Du Page county, Illinois, where he remained for several years. He was born in 1796 and died in 1871. His wife was born in 1787, and died in 1868.

From Du Page county our subject removed to La Salle county, where he remained until 1883, then moved to Carlton, where he purchased what is known as the Robbins farm. In 1894 he sold that farm and removed to De Kalb county, and now resides on a fertile farm of eighty acres in De Kalb township. He was married August 15, 1859, to Miss Josephine A. Bond, a native of New York state, born in 1840, and a daughter of William and Mary Bond. She died in 1861, leaving one daughter, Mary J., who was born October 5, 1860. For his second wife, in 1866, he married Miss Malvina A. Covall, a daughter of Richard and Malinda Covall. This union resulted in the birth of two sons, Frank E., born in 1867, and Charles, born in 1869. Mrs. Malvina Cooper, who was born in New

York state in 1847, died in 1876. Mr. Cooper married for his third wife, June 29, 1878, Miss Mary A. Ellwood, a native of LaSalle county, born in 1859, and a daughter of Benjamin and Olive Ellwood. By this union seven children have been born, five of whom are now living: Mabel B., born in 1879; Bertie, in 1880; Myrtle, in 1885; Ray, in 1886, and Herbert, in 1888.

Mr. Cooper is a genial man, of marked sociability, and in politics is a Republican. He is a member of the Baptist church, with which he has been connected for thirty-five years, for thirty years of which time he was a leading member of the church choir, being a musician of more than ordinary ability.

**C**H. FOILES is a retired farmer residing in the city of De Kalb. He is a native of Northampton, Schoharie county, New York, and was born in 1822. His parents, James and Ann Foiles, who, while not rich in this world's goods, were in uprightness of character far beyond the average in the higher walks of moral life. They confined themselves to agricultural pursuits, and both died before our subject reached the age of twelve years.

Mr. Foiles was only twelve years of age when with others he came to the Fox River Valley, in 1834, just as the Indians had vacated that country. He there made his home until he reached his majority, when he removed to Shabbona Grove, and there purchased a farm of one hundred acres, for which he paid two dollars per acre, and which cost the seller only eighty cents per acre. Like all early settlers, he worked hard, used rigid economy, until he was able to purchase more land, and now owns a

beautiful and fertile farm of two hundred and forty acres.

Mr. Foiles has been twice married, his first union, which was celebrated August 3, 1850, being with Miss Marietta Burdick, a native of Caledonia county, New York, born May 13, 1831, and a daughter of Harris and Sarah Burdick, who were numbered among the early settlers of De Kalb county. Mrs. Foiles died September 4, 1870, leaving five children: Helen, born in 1851; Charles H., in 1854; Edward, in 1857; Harris, in 1861; and Fred, in 1863. For his second wife Mr. Foiles married Mrs. Minerva Davis, widow of D. C. Davis, and a daughter of Narcis and Minerva La Port. She was born November 10, 1856, and is a native of Canada, of French extraction, whose parents came to this country at a very early day. By her marriage with D. C. Davis, she had six children born to her, two of whom are living, Justin L., born March 10, 1867, and Charles O., April 18, 1870. The union of Mr. Foiles and Mrs. Davis was solemnized September 14, 1880, and to them was born one son, Earl Leroy, born August 30, 1883.

In politics Mr. Foiles is a Republican, and has been honored by his fellow-citizens with several township offices, which he filled with credit to himself, and to those who trusted him with power and authority. In 1893, he removed to the city of De Kalb, where he is now living a retired life, enjoying the fruits of honest toil.

**J**O. OLESON, photographer, Postoffice building, De Kalb. It is safe to say that there is no branch of industry, art or science, in which more marked advances have been made during recent years than

in photography. From the date of Daguerre's first discovery of retaining impressions on material substances, by the aid of light and chemical appliances, its progress has been nothing less than a continuous march of success, and yet the end has not been reached. Notwithstanding all that has been attained, much yet depends upon skill and judgment of the operator in obtaining favorable and desirable results. Among the prosperous and well-patronized men of De Kalb, our subject has always maintained a most enviable reputation for superior workmanship and liberal business methods.

Mr. Oleson is a native of Norway, born in 1845. In 1868 he emigrated to the United States and located in Chicago, at which time he began business as a photographer. In 1872, after serving under the best photographers in Chicago, he opened an establishment on his own account, and was eminently successful. He continued his residence in Chicago for ten years, coming to De Kalb, in 1878, where he established himself in his business, and for sixteen years was the only permanent photographer in the city. His studio was on Main street up to 1896, but he is now situated on Third street, over the postoffice. The premises he occupies for his business are spacious and commodious, easy of access, and the reception room and office are handsomely furnished. His gallery and finishing room are fitted up with the latest appliances known to the profession, including the best light accessories. Indeed, the whole establishment is fitted up in first-class style. Sitters are posed by Mr. Oleson, who is recognized as an artist of marked ability, and the most careful attention is given to every detail which is likely to en-

hance the beauty and faithfulness of the picture. The beauty of design, fineness of finish, and the artistic workmanship of everything manipulated, are matters of just pride to Mr. Oleson. His merits are indorsed by hundreds of patrons in city and country.

On the 8th of October, 1876, Mr. Oleson was united in marriage with Miss Bertha Johnson, a native of Sweden, born in 1854, and to them were born three children. Derby D., born in 1877, died January 17, 1898. Ross M. was born in 1879, and Chester G., in 1885. For twenty years Mr. Oleson has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has held several responsible offices. In politics he is a Republican.

CAPTAIN ORVILLE B. MERRILL, who is engaged in the mercantile trade at Hinckley, Illinois, has been a resident of Illinois since 1855. He is a native of New York, born in Plessis, February 18, 1833, and is the son of Ahira and Melinda (Shurtleff) Merrill, both of whom were natives of New York state, the latter born in Washington county, being the daughter of James Shurtleff, a major of dragoons in the war of 1812, and who was in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. The Merrill family are of Scotch and English descent, the first of the name to settle in America being Major Joshua Merrill, who located in Massachusetts, at a very early day.

Ahira Merrill, the father of our subject, grew to manhood in his native state, and in his youth learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, and for some years engaged in contracting and building before coming west. In 1854 he came to Illinois, and

first located in Chicago, where he remained one year, and then settled in Aurora, where he engaged in the sash, door and blind manufactory, as a member of the firm of Reed & Merrill, their factory being located on the Island. They built up a large and profitable business, which was continued for some years. During the war for the Union, he joined the engineer corps of the army, and was with Fremont about one year. He then returned to Aurora, and engaged in the lumber business, which he continued until his death in 1871, at the age of seventy-six years. Prior to his removal to Illinois, he went to California in 1849, where he engaged in contracting and building in San Francisco, where he built the first church and the first theatre in that city. He remained there five years, and was fairly successful. Religiously he was a Congregationalist and an active worker in the church. He was the father of two sons and five daughters, the oldest of whom, Helen, is the wife of K. A. Burnell, of Aurora, Illinois. The others are Mrs. S. E. Bridgeman, of Northampton, Massachusetts; Mrs. Dr. O. Wilson, of Aurora; Orville B., of this review; Mrs. S. M. Fitch, who died in Missouri; Julia, who died single at the age of sixteen; and F. E., who was the first settler of Hinckley, but is now deceased.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Aurora, was educated in its public schools, and learned the printer's trade in New York city. He enlisted May 24, 1861, as a member of the Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was later transferred to the Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which he was commissioned captain of Company I. Among the numerous engagements in which he participated were the

battles of Wilson-Creek and Pea Ridge, serving in the latter on the staff of General Ousterhouse. He was again in the fight at Perryville, Kentucky, and at Stone River. During the latter engagement he was taken prisoner with six other officers of the Thirty-sixth Regiment, and of these seven, Captain Merrill is the only survivor. Colonel Campbell, whose death occurred at Sioux City, Iowa, recently, was the last of the number to go. While Captain Merrill was the oldest of the seven, he yet survives them all, and is an enterprising business man. Previous to his capture Captain Merrill was shot in the ankle. When taken he was at once sent to Libby Prison, where he remained about four months, and was then exchanged, and joined his regiment at Chattanooga. He was next in the battle of Chickamauga and then Mission Ridge, followed by the Atlanta campaign. At the expiration of his term of service he was discharged and returned home, but later joined the army in the commissary department at Duvall's Bluff, serving until the close of the war.

Returning home Captain Merrill engaged in newspaper work and served as foreman on both the Beacon and Herald at Aurora, Illinois, remaining there for some years. Later he was with the Milwaukee Sentinel and Chicago Journal, after which he engaged in newspaper work at Batavia, Illinois. In 1884 he came to Hinckley, and went into the store of his brother, F. E. Merrill, and in 1891 purchased the clothing department of that store and engaged in the clothing and gents' furnishing goods business.

Captain Merrill was married at Delevan, Wisconsin, August 26, 1887, to Miss Fannie L. Smith, a native of Washington

county, New York, and a daughter of Peter Smith, a pioneer of Delevan, and a substantial farmer, residing at that place. By this union there was one daughter, Vivian, who grew to the age of six years, dying April 24, 1896. Religiously Mrs. Merrill is a Baptist, and is an active worker in the church at Hinckley. Politically the Captain is a strong Republican, his first presidential vote being cast for General John C. Fremont. He has been elected and served as mayor of the city, township clerk, village clerk and is a member of the school board. His friends are many throughout Kane and De Kalb counties.

**C**HARLES BROWN, deceased, was for nearly forty years one of the most highly respected citizens of Sycamore, as well as one of its most enterprising men. He was born in German Flats, Herkimer county, New York, January 14, 1812. His father, Henry Brown, was born in Connecticut and died in Herkimer county, New York, at the age of sixty-three years. His wife was Miss Wealthy Able, also a native of Connecticut.

Charles Brown was reared in Herkimer county, New York, and attended the district school until about the age of eighteen years. In his youth he was in ill health, and when fifteen years old was sent to Connecticut, with the hope that the change of climate would do him good. After a year or two he returned to his father's house, and remained under the parental roof until his marriage at the age of twenty-three years. He first married Caroline Dodge, who bore him two children. Henry, the first born, was for many years associated with his father in business. He first mar-

ried Elizabeth Bennett, by whom he had four children, all deceased. He next married Mrs. Sarah Hood, who now survives him, making her home in Waukegan, Illinois. He raised a company in Sycamore and served through the Civil war, attaining the rank of major. Addie B. married N. C. Warren, who lives in Sycamore, she having died several years ago.

Soon after marriage Mr. Brown engaged in running a fulling mill, which business he continued for several seasons. He then sold and for a few years lived on a farm, after which he purchased a paper mill at Pulaski, Oswego county, New York, which he operated until the death of his wife, when he sold out and engaged in buying and shipping cattle, sheep, dressed beef, etc., for about five years. On the 11th of February, 1858, at Richfield Springs, New York, he was united in marriage with Miss Narina Louise Tunncliffe, who was born at the foot of Schuyler's Lake, at Leroy, Otsego county, New York, and a daughter of Richard W. Tunncliffe, a native of Warren, Herkimer county, New York, born May 2, 1805, and who died March 17, 1892. He was the son of William Tunncliffe, a large landed proprietor of Otsego county, New York, the owner of many thousand acres of land, but who was also engaged in the mercantile business for many years. William Tunncliffe was the son of John Tunncliffe, who with his three brothers left England because of distasteful game laws, and settled at Richfield Springs, where they became the owners of much of the valuable land in that region. William Tunncliffe married Charlotte Rentzau, a daughter of Count Rentzau, a German officer serving under Burgoyne, and who, after the surrender, was paroled, remained in this country, married, and

shortly afterward was drowned upon the ocean by the capsizing of his boat. He was of the same family as the Rentzaus who intermarried with the son of Prince Bismark.

Richard W. Tunncliffe first married Eliza Jane May, February 10, 1828. She was born at the foot of Schuyler's Lake, September 24, 1810, and was the daughter of Amasa May, who was born either in Connecticut or Exeter Centre, New York, and who married Betsy Clark. To Richard W. and Eliza Jane Tunncliffe, two children were born—Narina L., widow of our subject, and Frances Elizabeth, widow of John Harrington, now living in Richfield, New York. After the death of his first wife, Richard W. Tunncliffe married Miss Harmony Clark, an own cousin. They were married March 13, 1839. She was the daughter of Merritt and Anna (Van Court) Clark, the latter being a daughter of Stephen Van Court. Amasa Clark was the son of Gamamile Clark. By the second union were five children: Albert R., deceased; Harriet Ann, living with her half sister, Mrs. Brown, widow of our subject; Ambrose M., deceased; Merritt J., of Sioux City, Dakota; and Fred, in Foxbon, Canada.

To Charles and Narina L. Brown, four children were born as follows: (1) Carrie M. is now the wife of William Sanford, a druggist of Sycamore. They have two children, Louis R. and Narina Tunncliffe. (2) Charles M. is deceased. (3) Richard T. has never left the parental roof. (4) Frank H., who is in partnership with his brother-in-law, Mr. Sanford, married Fannie Cunningham, of Polo, Illinois, but they reside in Sycamore. They have two children, William H. and an infant.

After his second marriage, Mr. Brown, in 1858, made a permanent settlement in Sycamore, and for two years again engaged in buying and shipping stock, but in company with a partner. In 1861, his son enlisting in the army, he purchased his grocery store, which he continued to run alone until the return of his son, when they formed a partnership until the son died August 27, 1887. The death of the father occurred July 9, 1895. In politics Mr. Brown was a Republican, but never a seeker after political preferment, although from a sense of duty he served for many years as a member of the board of education. Mrs. Brown is a member of the Episcopal church while Mr. Brown was an attendant of the same church, to the support of which he contributed quite freely. To all public enterprises he gave substantial support, always having an interest in that which would build up his adopted city and county. As expressed by one who knew him, "Mr. Brown was an exemplary man—one of our best citizens."

MRS. ANNA VAN HORN, widow of the late Orlando Van Horn, whose death occurred in 1897, now makes her home in the city of De Kalb. She is a native of Germany, born in 1825, and was eleven years of age when she accompanied her parents, Valentine and Dorothy Hoffman, from Germany to this country in 1836. Shortly after their arrival her father was taken sick, and died the same year. The widow with her family then came west and located in Rockford, Winnebago county, Illinois, which continued to be her home during the remainder of her life. She was born in Germany, in May, 1800, and died

at Rockford, in May, 1850. Her daughter Anna, the subject of this sketch, removed from Rockford to Chicago in 1844, where she became acquainted with and married her first husband, Carver Butterfield, in the following year. To those young and happy parents one child was born, Frank, who now resides in Marysville, Marshall county, Kansas.

Mr. Butterfield was a printer by trade, and a native of Franklin, Massachusetts. He came west to Chicago in 1836 and worked on the *Prairie Farmer* for a number of years, at a time when John S. Wright was editor. He was afterwards identified with the *Chicago Democrat*, edited and published by John Wentworth, who was a familiar figure in Chicago for many years. In 1846 he established himself in a job printing office, which he conducted for two years, then sold out and returned to Massachusetts, but, being dissatisfied with his native state, when compared with the then great western state of Illinois, he returned to Chicago, where he again entered upon the duties of a printer in the office of the *Democrat*. In 1848 he entered a claim with the government for a quarter section of land in De Kalb county, which in due time purchased, and where he made a home for his family. In 1850 his family moved to the claim, Mr. Hoffman, a brother of Mrs. Butterfield, superintending it, while Mr. Butterfield remained in Chicago working at his trade, thus supplying funds for the improvement of his land and the support of his family. In this way he had the advantage of many of his neighbors. In 1854 he died of cholera in Chicago.

In 1864 Mrs. Butterfield married for her second husband, Orlando Van Horn, a native of Otsego county, New York, whose birth occurred in 1828. He was by trade a

carpenter, but came to Illinois in the spring of 1856, locating at South Grove, De Kalb county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, besides a small homestead, and followed the even and uneventful life of a farmer during the remainder of his life. Like his predecessor, Mr. Butterfield, he was a man beloved by all who knew him. Mrs. Van Horn is a woman of marked intelligence, good business ability, sound common sense, and has many friends throughout the county.

**L**EWIS MERRILL GROSS, the efficient county superintendent of public schools of De Kalb county, Illinois, is an educator of acknowledged ability. He was born in Mayfield township, De Kalb county, June 11, 1863, and is the son of William and Harriet (Ault) Gross. William Gross was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, December 5, 1835, and is the son of George and Mary (Keithline) Gross, the former a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, born in 1809. Phillip Gross, the great-grandfather of our subject, was also born in Northampton county, in 1775. He was the son of Daniel Gross, who came from Germany in 1750. Some of the ancestors of the Keithlines were soldiers in the Revolutionary war.

William Gross came to De Kalb county in 1857, settling in Mayfield township, where he engaged in farming. His death occurred at Kingston, May 2, 1886. In politics he was a Republican and in religion a Methodist. He was a prosperous and substantial citizen, holding the respect and confidence of his fellow townsmen. His wife died February 28, 1870. Her father, Samuel Ault, was a native of Pennsylvania, and came west in an early day, locating in May-





LEWIS M. GROSS.



field township, De Kalb county, where his death occurred in 1868. By occupation he was a farmer and also a miller. His wife was Catherine (Page) Ault, and she died in 1865. They had a family of fourteen children—Elizabeth, Nancy, John, Catherine, Mary Ann, Margaret, Adam, Mathias, Christine, Joseph, Hannah, Julia, Ann, Harriet and Sarah. Of these six are yet living. To William and Harriet Gross eight children were born as follows: Laura, now the wife of C. N. Townsend, living in Bremer county, Iowa; Millard F., married and living on the old homestead in Mayfield township; Elnora, wife of E. Johnson, of Sycamore; Lewis M., our subject; Amanda J., wife of Elvin Nichols, of Calhoun county, Iowa; Alice, a teacher in the public schools of Sycamore; George and Mary, deceased.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm, receiving his primary education in the district schools. Subsequently he entered the Sycamore graded schools, graduating from the high school in that city in the class of '85. After teaching a district school one year he attended the Wells training school, at Oregon, Illinois. Leaving that school he became principal of the Cortland school two years, and then served as principal of the Kirkland school for two years. In November, 1890, he was elected county superintendent on the Republican ticket, and was re-elected in 1894. In the summer of 1898 he received the nomination for a third term, and will doubtless be re-elected.

Mr. Gross was united in marriage November 12, 1896, at Huntley, Illinois, to Elizabeth M. Parsons, a native of McHenry county, and a daughter of Theophilus L. and Ellen (Hubbard) Parsons, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of

New York. Her father has been in the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway for forty-one years, and is now station agent at Huntley and is the oldest station agent on the line. Both parents are yet living. They were the parents of three children, one of whom died in infancy. The others are Earl and Elizabeth. She was a graduate of the high school at Huntley, subsequently attended the Cook County Normal and the Illinois State Normal. Later she was a teacher in the public schools.

In politics Mr. Gross is a Republican and in religion a Methodist. He is a Mason of the thirty-second degree, and has been prominently identified with Masonry in the state since uniting with the order. He is a member of the Mystic Shrine and of the Medinah Temple, Chicago, and of Freeport Consistory. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. As a Republican he has taken an active part in the affairs of his party, although it is as an educator that he is best known. In every part of the county he has staunch friends who regard him highly, and who know his worth as a citizen and his ability as superintendent of the public-schools.

**S**OLISTON BEAUBIEN, who is living a retired life in the city of De Kalb, is a native of Detroit, Michigan, born March 4, 1831, and is the son of Mark and Monicke Beaubien, both of whom were natives of Michigan, but of French parentage. Mark Beaubien was a prominent figure, in the early settlement of Illinois, and did much in the infant days of Chicago, in building it up. He removed from Detroit to Chicago, in 1832, where he later erected several build-

ings, one being the Illinois Exchange. He engaged in the mercantile trade, operated a ferry which crossed the Chicago river, and opened and kept the first hotel in Chicago. He accumulated some wealth, previous to his death, which occurred in April, 1881. Politically he was an active Republican. He was twice married, and obeyed the divine injunction to multiply and replenish the earth by being the father of twenty-three children, Soliston being a son by his first wife.

Soliston Beaubien grew to manhood in Chicago, and there commenced his active business career. He remained in Chicago up to 1837, when he went to Du Page county, Illinois, and there purchased a farm of two hundred and sixty acres, where he lived for fourteen years. In 1851, he removed to Aurora, where he engaged in the livery business, being the first in that town. After a few years, however, he found his way back to Chicago, and there engaged in the hotel business on the Oplain river. Tiring of this he returned to his farm, and remained there three years. He next went to Mt. Morris, Ogle county, Illinois, where he opened a harness shop, which he conducted with marked success. He sold out, however, and moved to La Salle, Illinois, where he engaged in the same business, but soon sold to one of his workmen, and again fell back on his farm, where he spent three years of rural contentment.

The life of a farmer did not seem to agree with him, so he removed to Sterling, Illinois, and there engaged in the livery business for seven years. Once more he sold out and returned to his farm, and there remained six years. From his farm he went to Aurora and engaged in the restaurant and bakery business, where he remained

three years; he then went to Waterman and operated a road grader. He next went to Fox River, where he kept a restaurant for two years. In 1881, he sold his farm and removed to De Kalb, where his wandering ceased. On moving to that place, he purchased a boot and shoe store, including the stock of Robert Ryles. To this his daughter-in-law, Mrs. O. M. Beaubien, added a stock of millinery goods, and had charge of that department. This business he carried on for four years, when he sold out to his son, and retired from active business life. He now owns considerable city property, the oversight of which keeps him busy.

On the 30th of September, 1850, Mr. Baubien was united in marriage, in Du Page county, Illinois, with Miss Rosa Normanda, a native of Canada, born in September, 1833, and a daughter of Peter and Charlotte Normanda, early settlers of Du Page county. By this union four children were born, only one of whom is now living, Oliver, a resident of De Kalb, who was born in the city of La Salle, Illinois, in 1854, is now engaged in the real estate business in De Kalb, Illinois.

**F**RANK O. VAN GALDER, of the firm of Van Galder & Boies, publishers of the True Republican, Sycamore, Illinois, was born near Janesville, Wisconsin, January 6, 1855, and is the son of Truman W. and Mary (Phelps) Van Galder, the former a native of Niagara county, New York, and the latter of Livingston county, of the same state. The Van Galders were originally from Holland, but were early settlers in Vermont, from which state they moved to New York. The Phelps family were early

settlers of Pennsylvania, from which state they also moved to New York. Later the respective families moved to Ohio, and at Montville, January 29, 1843, Truman W. Van Galder and Mary Phelps were united in marriage. Soon after their marriage they moved to Michigan, and in 1851 to Rock county, Wisconsin, locating on a farm near Janesville, at which place our subject was born. From that place they came to Sycamore, Illinois, where he engaged in the manufacture of brick, in which occupation he continued until his death, January 24, 1882. In politics he was a Republican and took an active interest in political affairs. His widow, who is yet living in Sycamore, is a member of the Universalist church. They were the parents of nine children, of whom seven are yet living.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools. In his youth he learned the trade of brick-making, acquiring a practical knowledge of all the details of the business. In 1874 he went into the office of the Free Methodist, a religious paper published in Sycamore, with a view of learning the printer's trade. In that office he continued four years, after which he entered the office of the News at De Kalb, where he was employed for a few months. Returning to Sycamore he went into the office of the True Republican, where he remained but a short time, and in January, 1878, in partnership with Cass Davis, started the publication of the Free Press, the business being conducted under the firm name of Van Galder & Davis. The latter part of the year he sold his interest in the Free Press to his partner, and purchased a half interest in the Sycamore City Weekly,

then conducted by V. Hix, with which paper he was connected until October, 1887, when he sold to Mr. Hix, and purchased the interest of the late H. L. Boies in the True Republican. In 1895 he received the appointment as editor of the official paper of the Modern Woodmen of America, and was re-appointed in 1897 and still holds that position.

Mr. Van Galder was married March 17, 1881, to Miss Florence M. Talbot, who was born in Cortland, Illinois, and is a daughter of Charles A. and Harriet (Newell) Talbot, natives of England. By this union there have been three children—Anna Claire, Cora May and Charles T. The family now reside on California street, Sycamore. The parents are members of the Methodist church, in which he is an especially active worker. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and for five years held the office of city clerk of Sycamore. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic Order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. In the latter order he wields a great influence and is well-posted in its various lines of work. As a citizen he is progressive, and socially he is held in high esteem.

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G. R. HOLMES, a well-known liveryman of De Kalb, Illinois, has been engaged in the business for thirteen years. He is well and centrally located on Main street, where he enjoyed the deserved patronage of the public. He keeps a number of well-conditioned horses, and a large variety of buggies, phaetons and other vehicles, to please the taste and satisfy the desire of his numerous patrons. His stables are well

kept, thoroughly ventilated and sufficiently lighted.

Mr. Holmes is a native of Oneida county, New York, born June 11, 1849. His parents were Richard and Lucretia Holmes, both of whom were natives of New York state. In early life, Richard Holmes was engaged in the mercantile trade, but in after life gave it up for the more quiet pursuit of farming. In 1847, he came west, and located in Paw Paw township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he entered four hundred and eighty acres of land. This he kept until land was in greater demand, when he sold at a fair advance on the purchase price. He came west in order that his sons might be provided with farms sufficiently large to make them comfortable homes. In this new country he was a man of influence as well as means, and was elected to several offices by his numerous friends. He was born in 1802, and died in 1887, after a prosperous and useful life of eighty-five years.

The subject of this sketch is the youngest of three sons born to Richard and Lucretia Holmes. He began his business career in the township of Paw Paw, where he owned a farm of two hundred and forty acres. He followed farming up to 1885, when he sold out and removed to De Kalb, where he engaged in his present business. He married Frances M. Hinckley, a native of Maine, born July 24, 1844, and a daughter of Dr. D. Hinckley, of La Salle county. Her parents removed from New England in 1848, and located in La Salle county, Illinois, where Dr. Hinckley enjoyed a wide reputation as a skilled physician. The marriage of Mr. Holmes and Miss Hinckley was solemnized December 24, 1866, and by this union seven children were born, one

of whom died in infancy. The living are Ella M., born in 1863; Mary C., in 1865; Seth W., in 1868; George H., in 1871; Bert D., in 1881; and Clyde R., in 1884.

CHARLES A. HUBBARD, who lives a retired life in the village of Hinckley, but who for years was one of the active and enterprising farmers of De Kalb county, dates his residence since the fall of 1852. He is a native of Massachusetts, born in Pittsfield, Berkshire county, June 2, 1827, and is the son of Enoch and Marietta (Tracy) Hubbard, the former a native of Dalton, Massachusetts, and the latter of Pittsfield, Berkshire county, the same state. She was a daughter of Appleton Tracy, who was born in the same county and state, the family being among the early settlers of Massachusetts. The Hubbards are of English descent, the first of the name locating in Connecticut. The paternal grandfather, Enoch Hubbard, Sr., was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, where his entire life was spent. Enoch Hubbard, Jr., the father of our subject, also spent his entire life in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, there dying at the age of seventy-three years. His wife survived him a number of years. They were the parents of nine children, all of whom grew to mature years, and of the number seven survive. The children were Mrs. Mary E. Robinson, who resides in Berkshire county, Massachusetts; Enoch, a farmer residing in Lincoln, Nebraska; Charles A., of this review; Sarah A., wife of Daniel Foot, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Washington, who died at the age of twenty years; Mrs. Lydia E. Henry, residing at Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Edward N., who

died at the age of thirty-six years, in Malta, Illinois, being numbered among the early settlers of De Kalb county; Martha, wife of A. E. Elliott, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts; and Elsie A., wife of Jean Harrington, of New York city.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and had fair school advantages in early life. After reaching the age of nineteen years, he worked in woollen mills for six years. In his native county, May 1, 1851, he married Miss Eunice Apthorp, a native of the town of Hinsdale, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and a daughter of James and Betsy (Stearns) Apthorp. By this union were six children, one of whom is deceased. The living are Albert E., who is married and engaged in farming in De Kalb county; James A., a carpenter and farmer, residing near Lemars, Iowa. George W., married and operating the old home place, Elmer E., engaged in farming near Rochester, New York; and Marietta, a well educated young lady, a teacher in the high schools at Adrian, Michigan. The deceased was Charles S., who died at the age of fourteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard have now seventeen grandchildren.

In 1852 Mr. Hubbard came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and located in Pierce township, arriving in time to assist in its organization. He bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of raw land and at once commenced its improvement. He later bought forty acres additional, making him a fine farm of two hundred acres, on which in due time he erected a nice residence, with good barns and other outbuildings, planted an orchard and tiled the place, making of it one of the best farms in Pierce township. After living there a number of years he

rented the farm and moved to Cortland to give his boys a better chance for obtaining an education. He resided there about two years, and then returned to the farm, but in 1885 moved to Aurora, that some of his children might enter Jennings Seminary. However, he only resided there one year, and then went to Hinckley, where he purchased a lot and built a residence in the place, since which time he has been living retired.

Mr. Hubbard commenced life in De Kalb county, Illinois, with very limited means, and by his own labor and enterprise he has accumulated a valuable property and is recognized as one of the substantial men of the county. Politically he was formerly a Republican and supported the men and measures of that party for many years. Always a strong temperance man, and also believing in the rights of the common people, he has of late years supported the Prohibition party. As a representative he was twice a delegate to the state Prohibition convention in 1884 and 1898. For six years he was a member of the board of supervisors, an office which he was filling at the time of his removal to Aurora. While on the board he served on a number of important committees, being chairman of the claims committee and also chairman of the education committee. In 1858 he was elected justice of the peace in Pierce township and served until 1869. Religiously, he and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hinckley, in which he serves as a member of the official board. For forty-six years he has been a resident of De Kalb county, Illinois, and has not only witnessed the wonderful transformation in the state, but has been an important factor in producing the change. He is a man

of exemplary habits, strict integrity and has the confidence of the community in which he has long made his home.

**M**HANRAHAN, who is engaged in the livery business and in conducting a bus line, with office and stables corner of Second and Grove streets, De Kalb, Illinois, has one of the best equipped establishments of its kind in the state. The experience of Mr. Hanrahan in this line extends over a period of several years. In 1880 he began the livery business in De Kalb, and has proved his eminent fitness for it. His stables are furnished with all the latest improved stable fixtures, with accommodations for fifteen head of horses and twice as many vehicles. His turnouts are not surpassed for style and elegance anywhere in De Kalb county.

Mr. Hanrahan is a native of Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, born in August, 1858. He is a son of Patrick and Alice (Carroll) Hanrahan, who were both natives of Ireland, and who came to this country about 1842. They removed from New York, where they first located, to Wisconsin, in 1853. Patrick Hanrahan was by occupation a farmer during his entire life. His death occurred in Sheboygan county in 1859. His wife is yet living and still makes her home in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin.

Mr. Hanrahan was reared and educated in the county of his birth and followed farming for twenty-two years. In 1880 he came to De Kalb, where for two years he continued farming operations, and then entered the barb-wire factory, where he remained for two years. In 1884 he was interested in the sale of coal and lumber, under the firm name of Brown & Youngs, where he

remained five years. In 1889 he entered upon his present business, in which his success has surpassed his own expectations. His bus attends the incoming of all trains, conveying passengers to hotels and residences. He owns ten fine road horses, whose silky coats show that the eye of the master is looking after their welfare.

On the 3d of October, 1883, he took for his wife Miss Mary Hannan, daughter of Martin and Catherine Hannan, and to them have been born four children: Alice, born in 1884; Mary, in 1888; Hazel, in 1882; and George, in 1896. Mrs. Hanrahan is a native of New Jersey and was born in 1860.

**T**HOMAS M. CLIFFE, senior member of the firm of Cliffe Bros., attorneys at law, is a well-known member of the Sycamore bar, one who has the love for his profession at heart, and has attained distinction as one of its ablest members. He was born in Sycamore, January 16, 1866, and was educated in its public schools, graduating from the high school in 1883. He is a son of Thomas Cliffe, a native of England, who came to America when a boy, and located first in Boston where he was in the boot and shoe trade, and in 1857 came to Sycamore, Illinois, where he also engaged in the boot and shoe trade, but is now living retired. He married Mary A. Collins, a native of Ireland, who came to America, in company with a brother, when she was quite young. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom are living.

Thomas M. Cliffe was reared in Sycamore, and after graduating from the public school commenced reading law with Judge Charles Kellum, and later with Harvey A. Jones, after which he attended the Union



College of Law, in Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1887. He then passed an examination before the Appellate Court of the state and, September 26th, was licensed to practice. Shortly after his admission he commenced to practice, and little later formed a partnership with C. D. Rogers, which continued for a time, and in 1894 he formed a partnership with his brother, James W. Cliffe. In October, 1897, the firm of Cliffe Brothers was formed by the admission of Adam C. Cliffe, as a member of the firm. The firm has been quite successful in their business, and has now quite a large clientage, our subject being recognized as one of the leading advocates of the bar of De Kalb county. From 1889 to 1891, he was city attorney of Sycamore, and since March, 1898, has been master in chancery of the Circuit Court of De Kalb county, receiving his appointment from Judge C. A. Bishop. During the past eleven years he has figured in some of the most important cases on trial in the circuit courts of De Kalb and adjoining counties. He was the defendant's attorney in the Kerwin murder case, which was on trial at Geneva, Kane county. He was also employed in Pooler will case, and in the Solomon will case, together with many other noted trials in the county. He has been a Mason since 1889, and holds membership with the blue lodge, chapter and commandery, at Sycamore; now serving as worshipful master, chief ranger of the Kishwaukee Court of Foresters, and is a prominent and enthusiastic Odd Fellow. In politics he is a Republican, and is active on the stump in every political campaign. He is a member of the Republican county central committee, from Sycamore, and is chairman of its executive committee.

September 14, 1898, he was married to Miss Esther Stroberg, and they reside on Main street.

James W. Cliffe, of the firm of Cliffe Brothers, was also born in Sycamore, and educated in its public schools. He read law with his brother, Thomas M., and after passing an examination, was admitted to the bar in May, 1894. Immediately afterwards, he formed a partnership with his brother, in the practice of his profession, which relation is still continued. He has also been quite active in politics, as a member of the Republican party, and is now serving as alderman from the Third ward. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Foresters. In February, 1898, he married Mae E. Wharry.

Adam C. Cliffe, junior member of the firm of Cliffe Brothers, was born in Sycamore, June 25, 1869, and grew to manhood in his native city, receiving his education in the public schools, being a graduate of the Sycamore high school, of the class of 1885. After his graduation, he engaged in teaching for several years, being principal of the public school of Hinckley one year, of Shabbona three years, and of Franklin Grove, two years. He attended the Northwestern University Law School, from which he was graduated in the class of 1897, and was admitted to the bar in May of that year, and in October, following, became a member of the firm of Cliffe Brothers. He is also prominent in Masonry, and is a member of the blue lodge and chapter at Sycamore, and of the Aurora council and Sycamore commandery. Has been prominent in Knights of Pythias circles. He is also a member of Sycamore Lodge, No. 105, I. O. O. F., and of the Modern Woodmen

of America. In politics he is also a Republican. He is now serving as a member of the board of education of the city of Syracuse.

**J**OHAN OTT is a worthy representative of the farming interests, and resides upon section 5, Squaw Grove township, where he owns a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres, a portion of which has been in his possession for thirty-two years. He was born in Mecklenberg, Germany, in April, 1833, and there grew to manhood and received his education in the common schools. In 1856 he emigrated to the United States, taking ship at Hamburg and was about six weeks on the broad Atlantic. Landing at New York he came directly west to Illinois, and located in Big Rock township, Kane county, where he went to work by the month on a farm and continued to be thus employed for five years. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went with his regiment to St. Louis, and later participated in the battles of Pea Ridge, Perryville and Missionary Ridge. He then participated in the Atlanta campaign, being in various engagements, in one of which he was wounded, being shot through the foot and captured by the enemy in the engagement at Stone River. He was taken to Libby Prison, where he remained some five or six months, was then exchanged, and later sent to St. Louis, but joined his regiment in Tennessee, participated in several battles and skirmishes until the close of the war. Among other engagements in which he participated were Chickamauga, Kenesaw Mountain, Franklin and Nashville. He was finally discharged

at Springfield, after four years of hard service.

Returning to Big Rock, Kane county, he there remained until the spring of 1866, when he came to De Kalb county, and purchased forty acres of raw land, on which a small house had been erected. Locating here he began the improvement of his little place, and from time to time added to his possession until the home farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres, in addition to which he now owns a farm adjoining, comprising one hundred and twenty-four acres, and another, one mile west of Hinckley, having two hundred and twenty-one acres, all of which are well-improved and very valuable farms.

Mr. Ott was married in Aurora, Illinois, January 1, 1866, to Miss Sophia Stoldt, a native of Mecklenberg, Germany, who there grew to womanhood, coming to America with her parents, who located in Kane county, Illinois. By this union there are eleven children as follows: William, who yet resides at home, and assists in operating the home farm; Louie E., married and residing on one of the Ott farms; Charles W., who is engaged in farming in Squaw Grove township; Christian J., married, and residing on the farm near Hinckley; Fred A. and Henry W., at home; Minnie, wife of Neal Anderson, of Kane county; Matilda, wife of Christian Skau, of De Kalb county; Lena, wife of Thomas Gormley, of Pierce township; Lizzie, wife of Charles Cole, of Chicago; and Marie, a young lady at home.

Politically Mr. Ott is a Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. While he has ever taken an interest in political affairs, he has never accepted public office. Religiously he and his wife are members of the German Luth-





JOHN OTT.



MRS. JOHN OTT.



eran church. Commencing life a poor man, by his own industry, assisted by his good wife, he has been very successful, and is numbered among the most substantial farmers of Squaw Grove township and De Kalb county.

**A**R. KELLOGG, deceased, who for some years was managing accountant of the Superior Barb Wire Company, was well known throughout De Kalb county, as well as to business men throughout the west. He was a native of Franklin county, New York, born August 19, 1846, and was the son of Benjamin and Mary P. Kellogg, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Rome, New York. Benjamin Kellogg was an industrious, upright man, and in his younger days he was engaged in the hardware business, but in later years he followed farming with some degree of success.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native state, and there married, November 16, 1875, to Miss Emily J. Martin, the accomplished daughter of Allan H. and Priscilla E. Martin. She was born in Georgia, Franklin county, Vermont, May 10, 1845. By this union four children were born: Bertha E., born in 1876; Clara L., in 1878; Mary P., in 1880; and Agnes A. (deceased), in 1884.

In 1880 Mr. Kellogg came to De Kalb, Illinois, and was employed as bookkeeper for I. L. Elwood for two years, but by his close attention to business, his excellent disposition and upright life he gained the favor, not only of his employer, but the public generally, and it opened up for him a new and better field. For the deep interest he took in his employer's business—indeed he made it his own business—he

was promoted to the office of managing accountant of the Superior Barb Wire Company and filled that position faithfully and well for thirteen years. No duty was slighted or left undone, and sterling integrity marks his brief and uneventful life. For three years he was an invalid, the strain on his system being too much, and he at last succumbed to the inevitable, his death taking place January 22, 1896. He was not a politician and filled no political office, but for several years served as notary public. In his death the community lost an excellent citizen and the company with which he was associated a faithful employee.

**D**ANIEL BLACK, foreman of the bridge building department of the N. I. & C. branch of the Northwestern Railroad, with headquarters at De Kalb, Illinois, was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, July 11, 1838, and is the son of Daniel and Jeannette (McDermott) Black, natives of Scotland, and the parents of sixteen children, of whom our subject is the only surviving member. He was left motherless and fatherless early in his youth.

In his native town our subject grew to manhood and received a fair education in the schools of the place. In his youth he learned the carpenter's trade, securing a thorough knowledge of it in all its branches. In 1856, at the age of twenty years, he left his native town, the happy scenes of his childhood and youth, for Buffalo, New York, where he secured work at his trade, and there resided for one year, when he came west, taking up his residence in Chicago. On the 4th of October, 1859, he married Miss Jennie McAdams, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, born in 1842, and a

daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth McAdams, also natives of the same country. By this union seven children were born, four of whom are living: Walter S., born in 1861; W. H., in 1866; Isabel, in 1868; and Jennie H., in 1870.

For more than thirty-five years Mr. Black has been connected with the Northwestern Railway Company, the last five years being foreman on building bridges and water supply on the N. I. & C. branch, and is now serving under the fourth administration. He assisted in the building of the first passenger depot of the road, on Kinzie and Canal streets, Chicago, in 1862. In 1868 he built the round house of the company at Kanasco, Wisconsin, and in 1868 built the round house at Escanaba, Michigan. In 1875 he superintended the building of their shops in Chicago. He is a thorough mechanic and understands all the requirements of his office, as is evidenced by his long continued service. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and also of the Knights of Honor, in which orders he has held high offices.

**HON. ROBERT HAMPTON**, who resides on section 7, Paw Paw township, is a well-known citizen of the county, having resided here a period of fifty-two years. He is a native of Canada, born in the province of Ontario, March 27, 1821. His father, James Hampton, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1796, of which state, his grandfather, Jonathan Hampton, was also a native. The family is of English descent, three brothers coming from that country in 1745, one locating in New Jersey, another in South Carolina, and the

third in Nova Scotia. Our subject is a descendant of the one locating in New Jersey. From Pennsylvania, in 1800, Jonathan Hampton moved to Canada and located about thirty miles north of Toronto, a section which was then but a wilderness, and where he secured a tract of government land. He died there some twelve years later. James Hampton, his son, was then but a youth of sixteen years. After arriving at man's estate, he there married Miss Clarissa McCarty, born near Saratoga, and a daughter of William McCarty, who was a son of John McCarty, a pioneer of Saratoga county, New York. John McCarty was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, being attached to the army under General Gates, and was present when General Burgoyne surrendered to his commander. He was a native of county Tyrone, Ireland, and came to the New World when a young man. He married a Scotch lady.

James Hampton, the father of our subject, was a farmer in Ontario, Canada, until 1838, when he came to the states and in 1839 located in Adams county, where he engaged in farming until the breaking out of the Mexican war, when he joined the Mormon battalion, under General Kearney, and died on the Rio Grande, while in the service, November 9, 1846, at the age of fifty years. His wife survived him a number of years, dying October 8, 1889, at the age of eighty-nine years. They were the parents of three sons and five daughters, of whom our subject is the eldest. William P. and Jonathan are farmers residing in Lee county. The latter was a member of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, during the Civil war. The daughters all grew to mature years and each of them married and became well settled in life.



The subject of this sketch was seventeen years old when he accompanied his parents to Adams county, Illinois. In his native country he received a common-school education, which served as the foundation for the knowledge acquired in after years by reading and observation. He remained in Adams county until 1846, engaged principally in farm work by the month. In 1845, however, he rented a small farm and engaged in farming for himself. In the spring of 1846 he came to De Kalb county, having but five dollars in money and a little stock. For one year he worked at anything that he could find to do, but in 1847 entered eighty acres of land, built a small log house sixteen by twenty feet, in which he lived while improving his place. In 1851 he built a frame house, which in 1869 gave place to his present fine residence. In his agricultural operations he has met with fair success, and is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres, mostly inclosed with a neat and well-trimmed hedge fence. All that he has was acquired by his own labor, with the assistance of his wife and sons.

Mr. Hampton was married in Hancock county, Illinois, January 1, 1843, to Miss Lydia Zemmer, a native of Ohio, reared in Richland county, that state, and a daughter of Frederick Zemmer, who there died. Mrs. Hampton's grandfather, Caspar Walters served in the Revolutionary war. Her grandparents were of German descent. Her grandfather and grandmother Zemmerman and an aunt were massacred by Indians in Ohio in an early day. Her mother later moved to Adams county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Hampton have been the parents of eight children. Hiram died at the age of fourteen years. William S., a minister of the Congregational church, is now located

at Silver Creek, Nebraska. Joseph P. is a farmer residing in Greene county, Iowa. Marrietta resides at home. Robert F. is engaged in operating the home farm. Riley J. is engaged in business at Chico, California. Lydia A. is the wife of T. P. Dalton, of Paw Paw, Lee county. Harriet D. is the wife of S. M. Henderson, of Waterman, Illinois.

In early manhood Mr. Hampton was identified with the Democratic party, casting his first presidential vote for James K. Polk in 1844. From the organization of the Republican party he has been an earnest supporter of its principles. He was first elected commissioner of highways in 1850, and served three years. He was then elected supervisor and served five years, then one year as assessor, and again elected supervisor, serving five years more. In the fall of 1866, he was elected a member of the legislature, and served one regular term and two special sessions. During the time he was on several important committees, and made a valuable member of the house. In the spring of 1873, he was elected supervisor of his township, which office he resigned in the fall of the same year, being elected county treasurer, in which office he served one term. Since that time he has served several years as supervisor, a portion of which time being chairman of the board. He has also served as justice of the peace for some years, and in the various conventions of his party he has usually been a delegate. He is a member of the East Paw Paw Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is now serving as steward. He was formerly a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at East Paw Paw, and for years was a member of the Sons of Temperance and Good Templars, taking a

very active interest in both orders. Few men are better known in De Kalb county, and none more highly respected.

ALEXANDER RAY, deceased, was a wealthy and influential farmer of De Kalb township. He was born in Scotland, in 1819, and immigrated to this country just as he reached his majority. He spent some years in the New England states previous to his removal west, and being of a mechanical turn of mind, he became interested in the cotton mills of the east, where he was engaged as a trusted and profitable employee. While still residing in the east, on the 31st of October, 1850, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza A. Anderson, a native of county Tyrone, Ireland, born in 1826, and a daughter of James and Eliza Anderson, both of whom were natives of the same country. By this union four children were born, of whom two are now living: George, born June 9, 1853, and Frank, January 5, 1864. The deceased were Isabel M., born September 13, 1851, and who died March 3, 1883, and Robert, February 7, 1859, and who died March 9, 1892.

The desire to better his fortunes induced our subject to come west, and 1855 he located in Mayfield township, De Kalb county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land, which he highly improved, and to it added one hundred and sixty acres more. This, too, he reclaimed and brought under the subject of the plow. On account of failing health he later sold one of his farms and removed to the city of De Kalb, to rest and recruit his wasted energies. After a few years of restfulness he became anxious to see the Creator's handiwork in the growth and development of the animal

and vegetable kingdom, which only the true agriculturist can appreciate. Therefore, after mature thought, he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in De Kalb township, which is now owned by his widow, and upon which his son Frank now resides.

Alexander Ray departed this life in 1885. He was an exemplary man, one in whom his neighbors could trust, on whom they could lean in time of need. He was a man of marked social qualities, mild disposition and an even temperament. While residing in the city of De Kalb, he served as alderman for several years faithfully and well. No duty was left undone, no trifle overlooked. For years he was an honored and consistent member of the Congregational church, having a love for the Master and glory of his cause. Mrs. Ray now resides in the city of De Kalb, and like her husband is a faithful follower of the Master and a member of the Congregational church.

HARKER MULLEN, an engineer and inventor, of Sycamore, Illinois, has been a resident of De Kalb county for fifty-nine years. He was born in the town of Kingston, Sullivan county, New York, July 31, 1835, and is the son of John and Phebe (Brown) Mullen. The former was a native of Sullivan county, New York, and was the son of Philip Mullen, who lived and died in New York when past eighty years of age. John Mullen by trade was a carpenter and builder, which occupation he followed after coming west, but later purchased a farm of two hundred acres at Pleasant Hill, where he lived until his death at the age of eighty-five years. His wife, Phebe Brown, was born at Rockland, Sullivan county, New York, her father, Obediah Brown, who mar-

ried a French woman, being a vessel owner and sea captain, who sailed all over the known world.

In the fall of 1839, when but four years of age, our subject came with his parents to Sycamore township, where he was reared, and, as he expresses it, "ran barefoot and grew up among the rag weeds and stumps." The school facilities in that early day were very poor, and as his parents were in poor circumstances he was enabled to attend school but a short time in winter months, but even then was kept out at least one day in each week to assist in the farm work. He remained at home until his marriage in Kingston township, with Miss Harriet A. Collier, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Phillips) Collier, early settlers of De Kalb county. By this union were born two children: Mary E. married Theo. Shuey, by whom he has three children—Emma, Eva and Frederick. They reside in Story county, Iowa. Frank L. married Millie Drake, and they have two children, Hoyt and Hazel. He is a competent engineer, and is in the employ of the Patten Manufacturing Company.

After his marriage Mr. Mullen saw the necessity of possessing more knowledge, and studied by himself during his spare moments. He soon acquired sufficient knowledge to enable him to pass an examination, and for several terms engaged in teaching in the public schools. At the age of twenty-one he rented a farm and for some years followed agricultural pursuits. Later he went to Nevada, where he worked in stamping mills and learned engineering. Returning home, he entered the employ of the Marsh Harvester Company, with which he continued for nine years, as an engineer, or as an expert in the field during harvesting

seasons. For one or two seasons he ran a traction engine, and one winter ran a stationary engine in De Kalb, Illinois. He also ran the engine for Ellwood Manufacturing Company six years, and about three years for Patten Manufacturing Company, and has been with Sycamore Electric Light Company for four years.

In 1894 Mr. Mullen conceived the idea of constructing an engine that could be built without the expensive planing necessary in other engines. During spare moments Mr. Mullen constructed patterns for the different parts of his engine, the casting from which as fast as finished being handed to machinists for finishing. When all were done the parts were put together, steam turned on and the engine has been running ever since without the slightest alteration, something never heard of before in engine building. In the construction of the engine, which is known as Mullen's oscillating engine, no machine work is necessary except turnings and borings, thus making it much cheaper than other engines of equal horse power; in fact it can be made for about half the price of other engines of like capacity. While oscillating in principle, it differs from other oscillating engines in that it has a slide valve instead of an oscillating cutoff. Being very firm and compact it requires no foundation, but can be set on an empty pine box and will then be firm enough for practical use.

In March, 1894, Mr. Mullen built a shop for the construction of engines. The patent for the engines was granted May 5, 1896. There is certainly a great future for the invention, as its compactness, simplicity, economy of space and cost of construction, firmness without expensive foundation, and great power for weight and cost com-

mend it to all users of steam power. The first engine constructed, which was of small size, has had four years of daily use, without any expense for repairs or any apparent wear or deterioration. In 1898 the inventor is preparing for the extensive manufacture of his engine. One remarkable thing in connection with the engine is that no alterations from the original model have ever been made.

In politics Mr. Mullen is a Republican, and while living in the country served as school director. Fraternally he is a member of Genoa Lodge, No. 288, A. F. & A. M. As a citizen he commands the respect of all.

**W**ILLIAM FULLER, deceased, was a resident of De Kalb county, a farmer of wide reputation, who located here in 1853. He was a native of New York, and there grew to manhood, but on reaching his majority, came west, and first located at Wilmington, Will county, Illinois, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he later sold at an advanced price, and on which he made a large profit. He then went to Iowa, where he purchased one thousand acres of government land, for speculative purposes. This last purchase was also sold at a high figure, and only recently was the last of it disposed of. Mr. Fuller was a wise speculator, and rarely if ever missed his calculation. He had accumulated a large fortune previous to his death, which occurred in 1890.

In 1856, Mr. Fuller married Miss Eleanor Campbell, a native of Wyoming county, New York, born in 1839, and the daughter of Amos and Martha Campbell, both of whom were natives of the same county and

state. The former was born in 1810, and died in 1871, while the latter was born in 1812, and died in October, 1896. By this union there were seven children, six of whom are yet living—Frank, born in 1857; Florence, in 1859; Edward, in 1861; Minnie, in 1869; Kittie, in 1871; and Elva, in 1873. The parents of Mrs. Fuller moved from Wyoming county, New York, to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1854, where he purchased three hundred acres of land, but sold it three years later, and removed to North Plato, Kane county, Illinois, where he purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he remained until his death.

William Fuller was one of the best farmers of De Kalb county, a man of simple habits, a loving husband, and an affectionate and indulgent father, his interests being centered in his family and property. His death was sincerely mourned, not alone by the family, but by a large circle of friends. Mrs. Fuller has left the farm, and is now living in ease and comfort in the city of De Kalb, where she has much city property, and where she is greatly esteemed and respected by the entire community.

**J**OSEPH C. COSTER, of Hinckley, Illinois, is one of the representative farmers of De Kalb county, where he has been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits for about half a century. He is a native of New York, born in Rensselaer county, near Albany, August 18, 1815, and is the son of Richard and Rachel (Cook) Coster, the former a native of Holland, who settled in Rensselaer county at a very early day, and the latter a native of New York, and a daughter of Joseph Cook, a pioneer of Rensselaer. Richard Coster was a natural me-

chanic, and for years was engaged in the manufacture of shingles, and also in shoemaking. His wife died in New York, early in the '40s, while he survived her and spent the last years of his life with his son in De Kalb county, Illinois, dying here when about seventy years of age. They had a family of five sons and two daughters. Peter grew to manhood and married in New York, came west, settled near Kaneville, in Kane county, Illinois, bought a farm and later died there. Alexander H. came west, first located in De Kalb county, and later moved to Oregon, Ogle county, where he now resides. Joseph C., the subject of this sketch, was next in order of birth. Rosetta married a Mr. Deming, but is now deceased. Richard L. resides in Kent county, Michigan. Stephen is a resident of New York. Mrs. Rachel C. Weaver now resides in Hinckley, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native county, where he received a very limited education. When fourteen years he commenced working on a farm, and at eighteen began life for himself. He worked by the month until twenty-three years of age, when he married Miss Maria Wicks, a native of Rensselaer county. By this union there were three children. Melvin grew to manhood, and enlisted in the war for the Union, in August, 1862, and died while in the service, December 12, 1862. Hattie P. died in March, 1848 at the age of eight years. One died in infancy.

After his marriage Mr. Coster rented a farm which he worked on shares until 1841, when he moved to Chenango county, where, in partnership with a cousin, he bought a farm of ninety acres, and leased sixty acres additional. On that farm he resided for six years, when he sold out and

came west, locating in Sugar Grove township, Kane county, Illinois, where he commenced work on the old Judd farm, where he remained one year, in the meantime keeping house for the Judd's. In the spring of 1849 he came to De Kalb county, and purchased two hundred and ninety-five acres, the farm on which he now resides, giving for the same nine hundred dollars. There was a log house on the place, and about eighty acres had been broken. He at once began the further improvement of the place, which is now one of the best farms in Squaw Grove township. When he first located there were but few inhabitants in the township, but others came in, and the township was organized the following winter. In the spring of 1850 he was elected justice of the peace and served four years. He has always been an enterprising man and gave the right of way to the railroad, which runs through his farm, and also eight hundred dollars in cash and an acre of ground as an inducement to locate the depot at Hinckley. In addition to his original farm, he added from time to time until he was the owner of four hundred and fifty-five acres. He has since sold a portion of the same, and gave a daughter eighty acres. He also bought another farm in Squaw Grove township of one hundred and sixty acres, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Union county, Iowa. This land he held about thirty years, when he sold the same at a nice advance. He was one of the original men to start and build the first creamery at Hinckley. At one time he owned over four hundred acres of land in Wisconsin, but has since sold all but forty acres. His first wife died August 25, 1850. April 21, 1853, for his second wife Mr. Coster married Mrs.

Sophronia R. Bathrick, by whom he had six children, four of whom are living: Hattie M. is the wife of John H. Bander, a merchant of Hinckley. Susy R. is the wife of John A. Williams, a prosperous farmer of Squaw Grove township, who owns a valuable farm of two hundred and ten acres. Mary C. is the wife of John T. Evans, a farmer of Squaw Grove township. Alfred J. is married and is engaged in farming in Squaw Grove township, and Arthur died when four years of age. By her first husband, Mrs. Coster had one son, Daniel D. Bathrick, now a business man of Chicago. In 1874 Mrs. Coster passed to her reward, and later Mr. Coster married Mrs. Mary E. Evans, a widow lady, who then resided at Plano. About two and a half years later she lost her life from injuries sustained in a runaway. In 1880, at Kaneville, Kane county, Illinois, Mr. Coster married Mrs. Keziah Scott, a native of England and a daughter of William Owens. She was reared in New York, and there married John Scott, who later came to Kane county, Illinois, where he engaged in the mercantile business at Kaneville for some years. By this marriage she became the mother of three sons and two daughters. George resides in Denver, Colorado. L. K. is a prominent business man of Aurora, Illinois. Walter W. resides in Beatrice, Nebraska. Lilly, the oldest daughter, married Charles Stevens and located near Beatrice, Nebraska, but is now deceased. The other daughter, Clara, is the wife of John Evans, of Aurora, Illinois. Mrs. Keziah Coster died September 5, 1898.

Originally Mr. Coster was a Whig, and cast his first presidential vote in 1836 for General Harrison, and his second ballot for the same man in 1840. He continued to

vote the Whig ticket until the dissolution of the party, since which time he has been an earnest and steadfast Republican. He has voted for sixteen presidential candidates. A friend of education, he has served for years as a member of the school board, and assisted in the erection of four school houses in his district. Religiously Mr. Coster affiliates with the Methodist Episcopal church. A resident of De Kalb county for a half century, has enabled him to form many acquaintances throughout the entire county, and wherever known is universally esteemed.

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**M**ARCUS W. COLE, who is engaged in the banking business at Kingston, is one of De Kalb county's self-made men. He was born in Lockport, Niagara county, New York, February 8, 1836, and is the son of Washington and Harriet (Stiles) Cole, the former a native of Rhode Island, born in 1810, and the latter of New York, born July 16, 1812. They were married in New York, from which state they moved to Marshall, Clark county, Illinois, in October, 1836, where they remained until October, 1859, when they came to Kingston, De Kalb county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, in which he continued until his death July 21, 1889. His wife survived him some years, and died January 14, 1898. Their family number six children, five of whom grew to maturity, Marcus W. being the eldest of the family. Washington Cole was a sober, hard-working, honest man, who attended strictly to his own affairs. His wife was an extremely refined and cultured lady, and was liberally educated. Her superior mind governed the home and trained the young.



MARCUS W. COLE.





The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in Marshall, Clark county, Illinois, first attending the common schools, and subsequently the Marshall Academy, from which he was graduated. During his school days, he assisted in one of the printing offices as compositor, and became quite proficient in that line. He arrived in Kingston, De Kalb county, April 4, 1856, and in the summer following engaged in farming in the employment of his uncle, Dr. J. W. Stiles, who was a prominent dentist, real estate owner and money lender. During the following winters, he faithfully and satisfactorily taught three different terms in Boone county, and taught four winters in De Kalb county, a vocation in which he continued a portion of his time until 1868.

In 1858, Mr. Cole rented a farm, and worked it on his own account. In September of the same year, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Anna L. Little, a daughter of Henry and Amy Little, and to them one child was born, Alice C., April 21, 1864, and now the wife of Judge W. L. Pond, of De Kalb, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this book. After their marriage they fixed up a house on a forty-acre lot, belonging to his wife, in which they lived and worked in connection with one hundred acres of rented land until 1868, when he purchased a farm of one hundred and eighty acres, upon which he put some improvements, and there resided until 1882, when he removed to Kingston, and formed a co-partnership with Phillip Heckman, under the firm name of Heckman & Cole, and engaged in the hardware business. This partnership continued a few years, when the firm agreed to exchange their business for a farm owned by Dr. C. G. Cowell. During

this co-partnership, the firm almost unconsciously drifted into the banking business, on a small scale at first, but which afterwards became of enlarged proportions. Mr. Heckman purchasing the interest of Mr. Cole in the farm, the latter, in 1888, entered the banking business on a large scale, in due and legal form, at first using his private residence, but in 1893 erecting a suitable brick structure, with vault attached, and which building he now occupies. He does a good banking business for a town the size of Kingston, the business averaging over two thousand dollars per day.

Mr. Cole is one of the most popular men in his town and township, for five years he served as constable, and was township collector for eight years. In 1876 he was appointed school treasurer, which office he still holds. Between 1885 and 1894 he held the office of town clerk, and in 1895 was elected supervisor of his township, and re-elected in 1897. He was appointed postmaster of Kingston, during Harrison's administration, and served five years. He is a staunch Republican, and has been repeatedly appointed as delegate to the county conventions of his party, and also to the senatorial and congressional convention and to state conventions. In all the positions filled he has been true to his convictions. He has never deserted his party or its principles, and he has the entire confidence of the people.

Mr. Cole is a member of the Masonic fraternity, being initiated in the Genoa Lodge, No. 288, and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, July 21, 1866. He passed through the Royal Arch, in March, 1888, and was made a Sir Knight in the same year. He acted as secretary of the blue lodge from the time he was

raised until 1886. He was transferred to and received in the Kishwaukee Lodge, No. 402, in the last named year. At three different times he was sent as a representative to the grand lodge. He is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and originator of the Woodmen's annual picnic, which includes the Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin Picnic Association. He is a charter member of the Knights of the Globe.

Mr. Cole is a loyal citizen and extremely patriotic, and was only prevented from entering as a soldier in the great civil struggle by disability incurred while operating a threshing machine in November, 1862, while making preparations to enlist. The Grand Army of the Republic of Kingston made him an honorary member in 1886, and in the work of the post he takes great pride, and liberally contributes to its work. Mr. and Mrs. Cole are members of the Free Will Baptist church, and active in every holy and righteous enterprise that may be in progress. He is a trustee of the church in Kingston, and has filled the office of Sunday school superintendent for more than fifteen years, and is yet serving creditably in the same position. For six years he has served as clerk of the Fox river quarterly meeting of the Free Will Baptist church.

Mrs. Cole was born in Aurora, Erie county, New York, July 24, 1840. Her parents, Henry and Amy Little, removed to Illinois, in 1845, locating in Kingston township, De Kalb county, where they remained during the remainder of their lives. Mr. Little's death occurred August 18, 1858, while that of his wife took place September 15, 1891. Mrs. Cole is a refined and modest lady, and like her husband is quite

popular. She is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps, of Kingston, of which she has the honor of being president. She has also been highly honored by being appointed aid to Carrie Thomas Alexander, department president. She is also a member of the Eastern Star, and of the Eminent Ladies Garrison. Mr. and Mrs. Cole are very desirable companions, ever ready to greet a friend or entertain a visitor.

**H**ERBERT W. FAY, one of the editors and proprietors of the De Kalb Review, is one of the best known men in De Kalb county, with a national reputation. He was born February 28, 1859, in Squaw Grove township, De Kalb county, Illinois, and is the son of Edwin H. and Ann Haywood Fay, natives of New York and Maine, and the grandson of Horace W. Fay, who came to De Kalb county, from New York, in 1838. For several years the grandfather served as county surveyor of De Kalb county, and as a patriot, he enlisted during the war for the Union, and served his country faithfully and well, giving up his life in its defense, at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in the spring of 1863. Edwin Fay, the father, also settled in De Kalb county, in 1838, and afterwards on a soldier's land warrant, obtained for services in the Sixteenth Kentucky Infantry, with which he was connected for sixteen months during the Mexican war, obtained a tract of land. He is yet living in the village of Hinckley, but his good wife passed to her reward November 11, 1884.

Herbert W. Fay, our subject, grew to manhood in his native township, and received his primary education in the common schools. He later attended college at

Monmouth, Illinois, for three years, taught school one term, and then purchased a third interest in the Hinckley Review, and remained in company with Tomblin Brothers, the former proprietors, from May, 1880, to 1882, when he became sole proprietor. In March, 1887, he removed to De Kalb where he purchased a half interest in the De Kalb Review, in company with D. W. Tyrrell. This is a flourishing weekly paper, and a staunch advocate of Republican principles, with a growing circulation of fifteen hundred copies.

At Hinckley, Illinois, September 24, 1884, Mr. Fay was united in marriage with Miss Nellie A. Sebree, also a native of Squaw Grove township, born December 21, 1864, and the daughter of William M. and Rosetta Sebree. To this happy union there was born Earl Owen, October 24, 1885. William M. Sebree, the father of Mrs. Fay, is probably the oldest living settler in De Kalb county. He is a native of Indiana, born February 7, 1833, and is the son of John Sebree, a native of Virginia, born August 2, 1808. With his father, he came to De Kalb county, in 1834, when but little more than a year old, and has here since spent his entire life.

Horace W. Fay, the grandfather of our subject, was a very prominent man in political affairs, and served as a member of the Illinois legislature, from 1848 to 1850. As a surveyor he laid out nearly all of De Kalb county. His grandson has received his mantle, for he, too, is a prominent young man of more than ordinary ability, and is the present county surveyor of De Kalb county. He served for three years as a member of the De Kalb board of education. Fraternally he is a member of the Sons of Veterans, Chicago Press Club,

Knights of Pythias, Royal Arcanum, Knights of the Globe and Modern Woodmen of America. While residing in Hinckley he served as village clerk and was also town clerk of Squaw Grove township. He is a man of versatile talents and has a decided predilection for a literary career. He possesses a fine discriminating taste for artistic work and is an accomplished draughtsman, while his pencil specimens are very fine.

Once in a while one meets a man who is quietly pursuing a line of work in the achievement of a great purpose, and whose high aims and patient labors are never suspected until suddenly revealed and the great service that is being rendered the world is recognized. Such a man is Herbert W. Fay, the subject of this sketch. Mr Fay is a collector of historical portraits as well as an able editor, and has now one of the largest private collections of portraits of notable people in the world. The collection was begun by Mr. Fay in 1869, first by collecting the faces of his friends in an ordinary album. After that was filled he began another, and then one with the likenesses of distinguished persons. Book after book was filled until his albums were discarded and large showcases were substituted. His collection now numbers fifty thousand photographs of people in all spheres of life. He has photographs of nearly all the crowned heads of the nations of the globe. The collection includes ninety different sittings of Lincoln and twenty-five of Longfellow. He is the owner of the McNulta original negative of Lincoln and has photographs of kings, queens, presidents, ex-presidents, judges of the supreme court, United States senators, representatives, authors, scientists, inventors, artists, etc. This collection is the result of twenty-nine years of hard la-

bor and is worth going hundreds of miles to see.

A few years ago he conceived the idea to establish a portrait loan agency for the benefit of publishers of books, magazines and newspapers and has worked up a good business in this line. In this way he made what was once a bad source of revenue. He was associate editor of the National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, published in New York, and many of the portraits used to illustrate this great work are from his collection. He furnished at one time five hundred pictures of prominent people of this and other countries for the Americanized edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His series of Lincoln portraits were used in McClure's Life of Lincoln. Notwithstanding his varied attainments Mr. Fay is a very modest man.

**M**RS. SARAH CHAPMAN, widow of Julius Chapman, was born in New York state in 1823. She is the daughter of Henry and Jane Durham, her father being a native of New York, born in 1798. He removed to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1836, and the following year made a permanent location in Genoa. He became the owner of a vast amount of land on which he built extensively. A man of marked ability and influence, he held many offices of importance in the early days. He was a justice of the peace for some years as well as supervisor of the township. For several years he engaged in mercantile business, keeping a general store, but failing health caused him to abandon it. He died in February, 1855, at the age of fifty-six years. His wife, Jane Wager, died in November of the same year.

Julius Chapman, the husband of Mrs. Sarah Chapman, was a native of Ohio, born in 1812, and who removed to Genoa, De Kalb county, in 1837. By trade he was a carpenter, at which he worked for several years after he came to De Kalb county. He was an extensive dealer in real estate and at one time owned eleven hundred acres in De Kalb county. He was a live business man, knowing when to buy and when to sell. As he advanced in years he abandoned his trade, except to work on his own property, and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He held the office of justice of the peace, supervisor and other official positions, and was looked to as a man of influence in his neighborhood. He married Miss Sarah Durham, in September, 1842, at Genoa. After nearly fifty years of a happy married life he was called to his reward in October, 1891. About 1867 Mrs. Chapman took to live with her a niece, Edna Harris, a daughter of her deceased sister Caroline, wife of L. C. Harris. This niece grew to be an accomplished young lady, knowing only the love of her foster mother, who loved her as her own. In September, 1881, she was united in marriage to Charles R. Burton, a young farmer, and to this happy union three children were born: Jessie F., Edgar C. and Sidney F. Mrs. Burton was born in Genoa December 31, 1861. Charles R. Burton was born in Elgin, Kane county, Illinois, in March, 1855, and is the son of Francis and Mary (Pool) Burton, the former a native of Canada and the latter of England. In 1840 they came from Canada to Illinois, locating in Kane county, on the farm where they now reside. Charles Burton was reared and educated in Kane county and came to De Kalb county in 1878, where, with the exception of a few years, he has since con-

tinued to reside. His principal work is farming, but at times he has been engaged in butter and cheese making. He is a practical and up-to-date farmer, and has lived on the home farm of Mrs. Chapman for the past seven years.

The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Chapman, Michael Durham, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was as brave a soldier as ever put a gun to his shoulder. Mrs. Chapman is now the owner of three large farms, embracing five hundred acres of choice land. She is a woman of good business ability, and is well known and highly esteemed in the community which has so long been her home.

**J**OHAN D. JOHNSON, foreman of the shipping department of the Ellwood Manufacturing Company, Pleasant street, De Kalb, Illinois, and who makes his home in Sycamore, is a native of Sweden, born in 1856. He is the son of John and Christina Johnson, also natives of Sweden, and who still reside in their native land. Under the parental roof, our subject grew to manhood, received a fair education in the parochial schools, and at the age of sixteen years was confirmed as a member of the Lutheran church. With that laudable desire to better himself in life, and believing the New World afforded better opportunities than the Old, he determined to come to the United States. Accordingly, in 1882, he left his native land, and after landing at New York, immediately came west, locating in Sycamore, where he has since continued to reside.

In June, 1884, two years after his arrival in Sycamore, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna Peterson, and they now have a family of five children as follows:

Ella, Arthur, Herman, Ebbe and Pearl. One year after his arrival, he applied for naturalization papers, which he in due time secured, and has since been recognized as one true to his adopted country. He now resides with his family in a pleasant and comfortable home on Harvester street, Sycamore, the result of industry, honesty and economy.

On his arrival at Sycamore, Mr. Johnson at once entered the employ of the Ellwood Manufacturing Company, and has now filled a period of sixteen years in its service. His present position of foreman he has held for ten years. This goes to show his faithfulness and the high esteem in which he is held by his employers. While never serving an apprenticeship to any trade, he is a natural mechanic, and can turn his hand to almost any kind of business. He has entire charge of all the shipping of the large factory in which he is employed, and which ships farm machinery all over the United States. Previous to his coming to this country, he served as a soldier for two years in his native land, and is even now ready to serve his adopted country, if such services should ever be needed. He is a good Christian man, and a member in good standing in the Swedish Lutheran church in Sycamore, his wife being also a member of the same body.

**J**OHAN H. WOODBURY, a farmer residing on section 34, Shabbona township, is well known throughout De Kalb and adjoining counties, not only as a good farmer, but as a first-class auctioneer, having cried many sales throughout northern Illinois. He is a native of Tompkins county, New York, born in the town of Ithaca,

September 25, 1834, and is the son of Thomas Woodbury, a native of Vermont, and a grandson of William Woodbury, also a native of Vermont, and a soldier in the war of 1812. The latter removed from Vermont to New York with his family and became one of the pioneer settlers of Tompkins county, where he purchased a large tract of land, and there resided during the remainder of his life. Thomas Woodbury, his son and the father of our subject, there grew to manhood and married Mary Williams, a native of New York, and a daughter of Charles Williams, also an early settler of Tompkins county. For some years after his marriage Thomas Woodbury owned and operated a farm in Tompkins county, but in 1843 moved west, arriving in Chicago, June 10, and locating near the village, as it then was, he there remained about one year, then went to Wisconsin and made a permanent location in Rock county, near Milton Junction, where he purchased a tract of land and engaged in farming, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying in March, 1850. His wife survived him but a few months, dying in August the following year. They were the parents of five children, all of whom are yet living.

Our subject was but nine years of age when the family came to Illinois. For some time he was engaged in driving the stage from Middletown to Janesville and Whitewater, Wisconsin, and later went to St. Charles, Illinois, and for two years drove the stage. Leaving the stage company at Ottawa, Illinois, he went to New Orleans and ran on the river a part of two years. Later he went to Havana, Cuba, from which place he returned and located in southern Illinois, and was engaged with the Strawns

in handling cattle. In 1852 he came to De Kalb county and went to work on a farm by the mouth near Sandwich, and the following year rented land, which he continued to do some three or four years. He later purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Shabbona township, the place being fairly well improved. From time to time he purchased more land, some of which he sold off, but still owns a valuable farm of three hundred and forty acres, and has been extensively engaged in general farming, stock-raising and dairying. In 1858 he commenced auctioneering in LaSalle county, and followed that occupation for a year or two, and then abandoned it for several years, but later resumed and has now for many years had the reputation of being one of the best auctioneers in northern Illinois.

On the 29th of February, 1850, Mr. Woodbury was united in La Salle county, to Miss Laura A. Smith, a native of Herkimer county, New York, and a daughter of Rensselaer Smith, who located in La Salle county, in 1845. This wife died November 8, 1890, leaving four children. Prof. William W., married, is principal of the schools at Sandwich, Illinois. Elias married, and is a business man residing in Sutherland, Iowa. Alvin J. is married, and is now operating the home farm. Minnie M. is the wife of Professor Ladd, a teacher of Warren, Illinois.

Politically Mr. Woodbury has been a Republican since the organization of the party. He has served two or more terms as supervisor of his township, and for some years was a member of the school board. His extensive travels have brought him in contact with all classes of people, and while the time spent in the school room was comparatively short, he is yet a well-informed

man. The difference existing between the present time and that in which he was a stage driver, can hardly be conceived, but in the development of the country he has borne no inconsiderable part.

**L**EWIS P. HIX, editor and proprietor of the Sycamore City Weekly, is a native of De Kalb county, born near the city of Sycamore, June 29, 1868. His father, Volaski Hix, was born April 25, 1837, in Clarendon, Orleans county, New York, and was the son of Ephraim and Laura W. (Williams) Hix. When eleven years of age he came with his parents to De Kalb county, his father purchasing one hundred and thirty acres of land in Kingston township, to which he subsequently added until his farm consisted of three hundred and thirty-seven acres. On that farm Volaski Hix grew to manhood and received a fair common-school education, supplemented by a few terms at Mt. Morris Seminary and Wheaton College.

Volaski Hix assisted his father in the work of the farm until after he attained his majority. He was united in marriage November 17, 1864, with Miss Louisa Parker, a native of Hammond, Spencer county, Indiana, born May 9, 1843, and is the daughter of Henry N. and Mary A. (Stillwell) Parker, the former a native of Ontario county, New York, and the latter of Campbell county, Kentucky. They became the parents of five children—May, Lewis P., Eva L., Floyd, Arthur and Nellie, the latter dying in infancy.

Previous to and after his marriage Volaski Hix engaged in agricultural pursuits in connection with teaching. For some years, however, he had cherished the desire to en-

gage in newspaper work. In 1871 the desire was consummated and he established the De Kalb County Farmer, which he published monthly. In 1872 the paper was succeeded by the Sycamore City Weekly, which rapidly grew in public favor. At first it was independent in politics, but in 1876 it supported the Republican national and state ticket, since which time the paper has been a strong supporter of the Republican principles. As a local paper it took front rank, giving special attention to the collection and publication of local news gathered throughout the county. Progressive in his ideas he gave support and encouragement to every enterprise calculated to build up his adopted county. He was especially interested in agriculture and was for some years and until his death secretary of the De Kalb County Farmers' Picnic Association. He was unambitious politically and unpretending, giving his time to the building up of his paper and the advancement of the county. He died April 20, 1893. His widow is yet living in Sycamore.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Ephraim Hix, was born December 9, 1803, while his great-grandfather, Ephraim Hix, Sr., was born November 6, 1768. The family were originally from England. Ephraim Hix, Jr., was a very successful farmer and succeeded in accumulating a large property. He died on the old farm in Kingston township January 13, 1863. His wife survived him some years and died at her residence in Sycamore, June 14, 1875.

Lewis P. Hix, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in Sycamore, and was educated in its public schools. At an early age he entered the office of his father's paper to learn the trade and also the business of newspaper publication. He made rapid

progress in the various branches connected with the printing and publishing of a newspaper, and in 1887 he became a partner with his father, under the firm name of Hix & Son. That firm name has been retained since the death of the father.

On the 30th of January, 1899, Mr. Hix was united in marriage with Miss Dora Hopkins, daughter of Edward and Vesta M. (Johnson) Hopkins. She was born in De Kalb county, of which her parents were early settlers. Her father was a brother of Hon. A. J. Hopkins, the present member of congress from the district of which De Kalb county is a part.

Under the management of its present proprietor the Sycamore City Weekly maintains the excellent reputation established by its founder. It is a six-column quarto, neatly printed and ably conducted. It is a strong Republican paper and a staunch advocate of the principles of that party. A job office is connected with the establishment. Fraternally, Mr. Hix is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

**D**UANE J. CARNES, senior member of the law firm of Carnes & Dunton, Sycamore, Illinois, is numbered among the leading attorneys of northern Illinois. It is said that the poet is born, not made. The successful lawyer has to be both born and made—made by close application, earnest effort, perseverance and resolute purpose. The abilities with which nature has endowed him have to be strengthened and developed by use, and only by merit can the lawyer gain a pre-eminent position.

Mr. Carnes was born at Pomfret, Windsor county, Vermont, May 27, 1848, and is the son of John and Mary Warren (Paine)

Carnes, the former a native of Claremont, New Hampshire, born May 30, 1823. His father, also named John, was from the northern part of Ireland, and came to the United States about 1815, locating in Claremont, New Hampshire. He was a man of means and a weaver by trade, and started a woolen mill at that place of considerable magnitude for those days. He later located at Lowell, Massachusetts, where he was engaged in the same business. His wife was Persis Whitmore. They had two children, Charlotte and John. The former married James Parker, who subsequently located in Mayfield township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming until 1875, when his death occurred. His widow survived him a few years.

John Carnes, the father of our subject, was reared to farm life, and came to Sycamore in 1875, where he carried on farming in a small way near the city, and where he still resides. He brought with him to this country a considerable sum of money, which he invested in various ways, principally in loans. His wife was a native of Pomfret, Vermont, born July 4, 1825. Her father was Moses Paine, also a native of Pomfret, born in 1780, and the son of Asa Paine, who was likewise a native of Pomfret, Connecticut. His wife was Keziah Childs, a Pomfret, Connecticut, woman. Mary Warren Carnes was a niece of Hooper Warren, who came west at an early day, and was a noted anti-slavery editor and temperance agitator. To John and Mary W. Carnes two children were born, Duane J. and George D. The latter is a physician in South Haven, Michigan.

The primary education of our subject was in the district schools of Pomfret. He then entered the State Normal School at





DUANE J. CARNES.



Randolph, Vermont, from which he was graduated when twenty years old. He then came west and settled at Lincoln, Logan county, Illinois, where he engaged in teaching. He taught there from the fall of 1868 until the spring of 1869, during which time he pursued his law studies, a part of the time in the law office of William Jones, of Lincoln. Returning to Vermont, he finished his second course in the Normal school at Randolph, and in the fall of 1873 came to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he taught school for a time and continued his law studies in the office of Hon. Charles Kellum.

In 1875, Mr. Carnes passed an examination and was admitted to the bar, beginning his practice in partnership with Judge Kellum, which partnership continued two years. Later he formed a partnership with Judge Lowell, which lasted about six years. When Mr. Lowell went on the bench, Mr. Carnes formed a partnership with Gilbert H. Denton, which continued till the fall of 1889, when it was dissolved, and a partnership with George W. Dunton was formed, since which time the firm of Carnes & Dunton has been in existence.

Mr. Carnes was married June 1, 1880, to Helen A. McMollan, daughter of Archibald and Ellen (Black) McMollan, both natives of Scotland, and after marriage came to the United States and located in New York, later moving to Ogle county, Illinois. He died in 1876, and his wife in 1885, at Oregon, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Carnes one child was born, Hope, who yet resides with her parents. Religiously Mrs. Carnes is a member of the Presbyterian church. Fraternaly he is a Mason, having taken the Royal Arch degree. Politically he is a Republican. His law practice

has been such as to preclude his giving much time to politics or to aspire to any office. For several years he has been local attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad, and in special cases has been attorney for other roads.

Mr. Carnes is a ripe jurist and an able advocate. After his admission to the bar he rose rapidly to the front in his profession, and with his partners, has been associated in nearly all the important cases since he began his practice that have come before the De Kalb county bar. He is found in the trial of most of the criminal cases in the county, either in prosecution or defense. He makes such cases a study, and finds in them problems in human nature, where his analytical mind has full play and serves him well. His special forte as a lawyer is as an advocate, and he rarely fails to bring the minds of the jury to his cause. When before the court or jury, he always commands the closest attention. He possesses a fund of humor withal, and his quaint sayings, apt illustrations and similies are not the least attractive feature of his legal oratory. In his profession he has been a success, and holds the esteem, not only of the bench and bar, but of the people. He is possessed of fine instincts, charitable and kind to the deserving, of pleasant manners, and an attractive conversationalist.

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EDWIN JESSEN, foreman of the painting and dipping department in the Ellwood Manufacturing Company, Pleasant Street, De Kalb county, Illinois, resides in a pleasant and commodious home which he erected for himself in the city of Sycamore, where he also owns other valuable lots. He

is a native of De Kalb, born June 3, 1804, and is the son of Jess and Helen Jessen, who immigrated from Denmark to this country in 1863, locating in De Kalb, Illinois, where they resided a few years, then moved to Michigan, where the father died. His wife survived him a few years, dying in Sycamore, June 13, 1893.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated principally in De Kalb, Illinois. At the age of fifteen, he began to work for the Ellwoods, in the paint shop at Sycamore, and has since continued the work for the same firm for eighteen years, several years of which time he has been foreman of the paint shop. On the 25th of January, 1893, he married Miss Emma Ross, who was born in 1870, in Mayfield township, and who is a daughter of Peter Ross, an early settler of De Kalb county. By this union there is one child, Archie Wilmer.

Faithfulness has been one of the characteristics of our subject, and by doing well whatever work was intrusted to him, he won not only the esteem of his employers, but secured the confidence of his fellow citizens, who elected him to the office of alderman of Sycamore, in which position he served two years. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Workmen of America, and in social life he is greatly esteemed, having the manners of a true gentleman.

**I**SRAEL R. WHITEMAN, deceased, was for some years one of the leading farmers in DeKalb township. He was born in Delaware county, Ohio, in 1832, and was the son of John and Sarah Whiteman, also natives of Ohio, who removed to this county in 1846. After their arrival, John Whiteman, the father, purchased one hundred and

sixty acres of land, which after a time he sold to good advantage, buying another tract west of the city, near where stands the present new normal school building. This, too, was put on the market in due time, and realized to its owner a large profit. In 1872 he purchased another farm on which he remained during the rest of his life, dying in December, 1876, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife survives him, and has now reached the advanced age of ninety-nine years.

Israel R. Whiteman was only six years of age when he accompanied his parents to De Kalb county. Here he spent the remainder of his life, with the exception of ten years in Chicago, as foreman for Mr. Beers. Even at that time, and notwithstanding his father's removal to Michigan, he yet claimed De Kalb as his home. On the 17th of June, 1858, he married Miss Ellen A. Price, born near Cooperstown, New York, July 28, 1830, and the daughter of David and Polly Price, who removed from New York to St. Charles, Illinois, in 1844. David Price was a man of good repute among his fellows, and for fifty years was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, during which time he held the office of class leader and other official positions. For four years he was keeper of the county-house at De Kalb, discharging the duties of the position in a most faithful manner. In early life he was known as Captain Price, having been captain of militia in his native state. His interesting family consisted of Lorenzo, Marie, Minerva, Juliette and Ellen. By the union of Mr. Whiteman and Ellen Price, two children were born, Frances M., born October 26, 1856, died April 30, 1864, and Minnie Grace, born September 16, 1866, who married Charles Graham and is a resident of Chicago.

While Mr. Whiteman was by occupation a farmer, he was also a natural mechanic, and at one time invented a machine for making barb-wire fence. He was a leading spirit in the organization of the Whiteman Manufacturing Company, of Marsailles, La-Salle county, Illinois, with a capital of thirty thousand dollars, which organization was later dissolved, on account of the death of Mr. Whiteman. His death was immediately caused by being run over by a vehicle in Chicago, resulting in complications which finally caused his death, August 27, 1888, at the age of fifty-five years. Fraternally he was a member of the Masons, and was always considered a trustworthy man, in the various relations of life, one held in the highest esteem by all who knew him.

**S**AMUEL M. SANDERSON, who resides on section 39, Milan township, is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, which is kept under the highest state of cultivation. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, July 31, 1853, and is the son of Sander H. Sanderson, a native of Norway, who came to the United States with his father, Henry Sanderson, who located in La Salle county, Illinois, being among the first of the Norwegian nationality to locate in that county.

Samuel H. Sanderson was the oldest of a family of six children, all of whom had to walk the greater part of the way from Chicago to La Salle county. In that county he married Ann Moland, a native of Norway, who came to this country in childhood. The occupation which Mr. Sanderson engaged in La Salle county was that of a farmer, and on his removal to De Kalb county, in 1863, he continued that vocation, pur-

chasing eighty acres of unimproved land, to which he later added another eighty acres, giving him a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres of excellent prairie land. He became quite a prominent man in Milan township, and served some ten years as justice of the peace, and also held other official positions. He was very helpful to the Norwegians settling in his neighborhood and did them many a good turn. He died in Milan township in 1883, while his wife preceded him only about one week.

Samuel M. Sanderson was second in order of birth in the family of five sons and four daughters, who grew to mature years, all of whom are yet living and are married; one, Ole, died in infancy. He was reared in De Kalb county, and educated in the common schools, attending during the winter months, and assisting in the farm work at other seasons of the years. He remained with his father until after he reached his majority, and later formed a partnership with him and engaged in the general mercantile business at Lee for five years, during which time he received a good business training.

In La Salle county, Illinois, September 10, 1874, Dr. Sanderson was united in marriage with Miss Betsey K. Halverson, a native of La Salle county, and a daughter of Knute Halverson, a native of Norway and likewise one of the early Norwegians locating in La Salle county. Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Sanderson rented a farm and later purchased eighty acres where he now resides, and on which he added eighty acres adjoining, making him a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. The place was partially improved when he purchased, but he has remodeled the house and erected various outbuildings, and is now one of the

most successful farmers in the township. He is also a stockholder, secretary and manager of the Lee Creamery Association, an enterprise which has been quite successful.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson twelve children have been born, six of whom died in infancy and early childhood. The living are Harvey C., Sander E., Eva A., Kinnie O., Lester E. and Vira M. Politically Mr. Sanderson is a Republican, and has given his support to that party since 1870. He has taken quite an active part in local politics, and was elected and served one term as township collector, and in 1895 was elected supervisor of his township, and re-elected in 1898, and is now serving his second term. He has made a very faithful and efficient officer, rendering complete satisfaction to his constituents. His influence has always been in favor of good schools, and to that end he has given much of his time as a member of the school board, and clerk of his school district. He and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the Lutheran church. His life has been an active one, and his friends are many, not only in Milan township, but throughout DeKalb and Lee counties.

**PETER VAN ALLEN QUILHOT**, of Shabbona, Illinois, is a highly esteemed citizen of the county, who dates his residence here since June 11, 1845. He is a native of Cayuga county, New York, born in the town of Victory, January 21, 1822. On his father's side he is of French ancestry, his great-grandfather, Dr. Quilhot, being a native of France and a surgeon in the French Navy. He was taken prisoner by the British, during the French and English war of 1765, and was later paroled in New

York, and settled in Columbia county. He married, in New York, a Miss Vanderpool, a native of Holland, a member of one of the pioneer families of New York, from that county. His son, James Quilhot, was born in Columbia county. Henry Quilhot, the son of James Quilhot, was the father of our subject. He was born in the town of Kinderhook, Columbia county, New York, in 1789. He grew to manhood in his native county and served in the war of 1812. In 1817 he moved to Cayuga, being one of its first settlers. Before moving to that county, he was married, in Kinderhook, to Miss Hannah Van Allen, also a native of that place, but of Holland parentage, the Van Allens being among the pioneers of Columbia county. On his removal to Cayuga county he opened up a farm and there spent the last years of his life, dying September 11, 1828, when about forty years of age. He was a very vigorous and active man, and took pride in doing more work than any other one man could do. In one day he cradled seven acres of rye, which brought on a congestive chill, the cause of his death. His wife survived him and passed away in Shabbona township, De Kalb county, May 20, 1867.

The subject of this sketch is the seventh in the family of ten children born to his parents, all of whom grew to mature years. James, born in Kinderhook, in 1809, married in Columbus, Ohio, where he located and where his wife died. He was a soldier in the United States Army, was taken sick, and died in the hospital at Governor's island, about 1848. Myndert V., also born in Kinderhook, in 1811, married in New York, came to Kalb county, in 1853, and here died. Catherine, born in 1813, married Daniel Husk, who has since died. She now

resides in Buffalo, New York. Elizabeth, born in 1815, married Peter Miller, and they now reside in the town of Shabbona. Maria married Nicholas I. Kipple, of Rensselaer county, New York. They came west in 1849, settled in De Kalb county, where her death occurred. Margaret married Henry Kirkpatrick, and settled in Kansas; she died May 12, 1897, in Shabbona. Peter V. is the subject of this review. Jane married Hiram P. Allen, who was murdered in Sandwich, Illinois, February 15, 1880. Mrs. Allen now resides in Chicago. Cornelius V., who came to De Kalb county in 1849, now resides in Shabbona, living a retired life. Caroline married William Marks, Jr., and settled in De Kalb county in 1845, and both are now deceased.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Cayuga county, New York, and received his education in the common schools, supplemented by an attendance at Red Creek Academy. He remained on the farm for some years, after attaining his majority, then commenced to learn the painter's trade. After the first year he received journeyman's wages, having become an expert painter. That trade he followed until he came west in 1845. Leaving home he came by way of Erie canal to Buffalo, and thence by the lakes to Chicago, being accompanied by his sister and brother-in-law. They came direct to De Kalb county and located in Shabbona township, and the following year our subject entered a tract of government land, comprising one hundred and twenty acres. When he went to get his first deed recorded, in 1846, he rode an Indian pony across the prairie to Sycamore, and as the old frame court house had not been inclosed by a fence he rode right up to the door of the same. In that year he

sowed twelve acres of wheat on the farm of a Mr. Miller. In 1847 he returned to Cayuga county, New York, and worked at his trade for several months. In October, 1848, he again came to De Kalb county, and in the spring of 1849 built a small frame house, for which he obtained the siding and finished lumber in Chicago. He at once commenced to improve the place, and in 1854 purchased eighty acres adjoining, on which he later moved. In 1863 he built a large and substantial residence, erected a barn and other outbuildings, thus putting the place in a homelike condition. He continued to cultivate the farm until 1884, when he rented the place, and four years later removed to the village of Shabbona, where he has since lived a retired life. In addition to his De Kalb county farm, he owns two hundred acres in Morris county, Kansas. Mr. Quilhot was married in Somanauk, De Kalb county, August 8, 1850, to Miss Frances M. Bacon, a native of Onondago county, New York, where she was reared and educated, and a daughter of Lyman Bacon, one of the early settlers of De Kalb county and one of the first members of the county board of supervisors. He was a native of New York, and there married, coming from Onondago county to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1846. By this union there are six children. John J. married, in 1879, Fannie Burchard, and they now reside on the old home farm. Henry Bacon is a farmer residing in Morris county, Kansas; he married Alice Prescott, of Kansas, in February, 1876. Helen E. is now the wife of Richard K. Anderson, and they now reside in Fort Scott, Kansas. Josephine married John A. Swett, and they reside in Harvey, Illinois, where he is employed as station agent. Franklin V. married Miss

Ida Patton, and they reside in Chicago, where he is engaged in the grocery business. Lila Sarah married Henry Loucks, and they reside in Victor township, De Kalb county, where he is engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Politically Mr. Quilhot is a staunch Republican, having voted for every presidential nominee of the party from Fremont to McKinley. His first presidential ballot, however, was cast for James K. Polk. He has been honored by his fellow citizens with various local offices, being elected highway commissioner on the organization of his township, and later served as assessor at different times. In 1862, he was first elected as a member of the board of county supervisors, and at different times has served seven terms. In 1883, he was chairman of important committees and has served on almost all the important committees of the board. While he did not enter the service during the Civil war, he showed his patriotism and interest in the cause by contributing to the support of the families of volunteers and in raising the bounties required to fill the quota of his township. He gave fully twenty per cent. of the amount contributed by the entire township of the first cash subscription and also contributed liberally for other purposes. For two years and a half of the war he gave much of his time in affording relief to soldiers' families of the volunteers. He performed various duties pertaining to the enlistment of recruits without remuneration.

Mrs. Quilhot is a member of the Congregational church, and while not a member himself, Mr. Quilhot attends the church with his wife and gives of his means to its support. Fraternally he is a member of Shabbona Lodge, No. 374, A. F. & A. M.,

having united with the order in 1863. For twenty-five consecutive years he has served as treasurer of the lodge. Mr. Quilhot has been a resident of Illinois for more than half a century. When he came there were but fifteen families in Shabbona township, and old Shabbona was his neighbor. The Indians resided in the neighborhood until the fall of 1849, when they went to a reservation in Kansas. Mr. Quilhot is well known throughout De Kalb county, and is held in the highest esteem by all.

**T**HOMAS J. WINDERS, editor and proprietor of the Malta Record and Creston Observer, makes his home in the former place, and is recognized as one who has the best interests of his adopted county at heart, always ready to advocate any measure that will advance the best interests of the community. He was born in Nevada, Colorado, January 20, 1863, and is the son of John N. and Susan (Powell) Winders, both natives of Washington county, Maryland, born about 1831. The father was a civil engineer by profession, and removed from his southern home to Polo, Illinois, in 1855, where he engaged in the grain business for several years. He subsequently removed to St. Joseph, Missouri, with his family, and there remained about two years, going from thence to Nevada, Colorado, where he engaged in mining.

The subject of this sketch remained under the parental roof until in his seventh year, when he came to Ogle county, and after attending the common schools for a time, entered the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana. He also took a course in Aumont's Business College at Sterling, Illi-



nois, concluding his studies at Northern Illinois College, Fulton, Illinois.

On leaving school, Mr. Winders removed to Iowa where he engaged in the printing business, remaining there until 1887, when he removed to Chicago, in which city he engaged in like business until 1894. In the spring of 1894 he returned to Polo, Ogle county, Illinois, and in the fall of the same year purchased a half interest in the Malta Record and Creston Observer, becoming associated with L. L. O'Kane. In February, 1895, he purchased the interest of Mr. O'Kane and became sole proprietor of the papers. At that time the plant was at Creston, but in the fall of 1895 he removed it to Malta. In March, 1897, he formed a partnership with F. E. Campbell, which continued one year, when he repurchased and again became sole proprietor.

On the 15th of July, 1896, Mr. Winders was united in marriage with Mrs. Alice A. Chapell, widow of the late Clarence E. Chapell. He and his wife are members of the Congregational church, uniting in 1896 under the pastorate of Rev. S. S. Unger. They are both active workers in the church and in the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. Mr. Winders is now serving as trustee and usher in the church. Politically he is a Republican and has been an active worker in the interest of the party, advocating its principles with voice and pen, and often serving as delegate to the various conventions including congressional and state.

Mr. Winders is a popular man and his companionship is sought by various societies. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, at Malta, of which he was clerk in 1897. He is a charter member of the Mystic Workers of the World, and has

been secretary of the order since its organization, January 13, 1896. He is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias at Malta, of which he has been keeper of the records and seals since March 25, 1896. He is also a charter member of the Knights of the Globe at Malta, and at the date of its organization he was elected judge and one of the board of managers, and is now past supreme judge. He is a member of the Endowment Rank of the Insurance order of the Knights of Pythias. In each of these organizations he has taken an active interest and is an influential member.

**W**ILLIAM A. BUEHL, a well-known business man of Sycamore, Illinois, was born in Buffalo, New York, June 5, 1857, and is the son of Louis A. and Sophia (Ludwig) Buehl, both of whom are natives of Germany. The father was born near Heidelberg, January 13, 1827. At the age of seventeen he came to America, leaving in time to escape forced service in the army. For a time he made his home in New York City, where he married and where several of his children were born. He was for some years captain of one of the crews of engines connected with the fire department, under the old *regime*, where jealousies were rife and fights frequent between rival crews at fires. On one of the occasions, he was struck on the back of his head with a speaking trumpet, and was unable to discharge his duties while that fire continued. Frequently the rival crews would turn the stream upon each other instead of upon the flames. About 1854, he removed to Buffalo, and some time later he became interested in the manufacture of shoes, at one time having the

largest shoe store in Buffalo. He was a great traveler and traversed the greater part of Europe and America. During the Civil war, he enlisted in the United States service, but the war closed before he reached the front. About 1872 he retired from active business, and took life easy until his death, April 1, 1887. His wife was born May 10, 1827, in Hohenberg, Koenigfalz, Bavaria, Germany, and came to America with her parents, the voyage lasting forty-seven days. To Lewis A. and Sophia Buehl six sons and one daughter were born, the latter dying at the age of fifteen years. The five brothers of our subject yet reside in Buffalo, where they are engaged in business.

The early life of our subject was spent in his native city, where he attended school No. 13, Oak street, Buffalo, until the age of fourteen. Like many others, he regrets quitting so soon, but he was ambitious to get to earning his own living. He was apprenticed to a company of manufacturing jewelers, with whom he worked four years, then learned watch-making, at which he worked until coming west in 1878. He located first at Appleton, Wisconsin, where he engaged in manufacturing jewelry and doing repair work. After remaining there some five or six years, he moved to Rockford, Illinois, where he engaged in the same business for about fifteen months. He then sold out and for eight months traveled in California for the benefit of his son's health.

Mr. Buehl was married in Loomis, Michigan, July 27, 1879, to Miss Annie Ostrander, born in Howard township, province of Ontario, Canada, and a daughter of James and Sarah (Gosnell) Ostrander. By this union four children have been born—Buehah, Russell, Willie and Farris. Of these Willie

is now deceased. The family are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally Mr. Buehl is a Mason, and a member of the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and National Union.

On returning to Illinois, Mr. Buehl came to Sycamore, purchased a jewelry store, and continued in business until the spring of 1898, when he sold his store in order to give his entire time and attention to the manufacture and introduction of the insulating apparatus, invented by his friend, G. G. Lewis, with whom he is in partnership in the patent. Of these patents there are four in number. The first was constructed on the plan to pump the insulating liquid up to the wires. This worked well on low wires, but was not satisfactory on wires forty or fifty feet from the ground. Another arrangement on the same principle was patented, but that likewise was found defective. A third was constructed, with a box to slide along the wires, which principle was found to be the correct one, and a fourth machine was constructed and patented, which has overcome all objections and meets all contingencies and conditions. After coating the wires of a plant in a neighboring town, the electric company noticed a saving of fuel on the first day. The appliance not only saves leakage of electricity from the wires, but preserves the insulation for many years. One commendable feature of the process is its cheapness. Having perfected the idea, Buehl & Lewis are giving their attention to introducing it to the public.

CAPTAIN ALMON FORD PARKE resides upon a fine farm in sections 7, 8 and 9, Sycamore township. He was born



CAPT. A. F. PARKE.



in the town of Evans, Erie county, New York, January 25, 1838, and is the son of Larmon Z. and Martha W. (Fenton) Parke, the former born in 1800, and the latter in 1799. The paternal grandfather, Reuben Parke, was born June 10, 1772, and died in Indiana, when about ninety years old. He married Elizabeth R. Ford, a daughter of Almond Ford, a captain in the war of 1812, for whom our subject was named. She was born in Connecticut and buried in De Kalb, and was buried on her ninety-fifth birthday. Larmon Z. Parke was a carpenter and joiner and followed that trade until compelled to give it up, when he learned the trade of a mason; was a fine mason and followed that until he received a stroke of paralysis, during the war. He resided on a small farm near De Kalb for many years. His death occurred September 14, 1885, in De Kalb where he was then residing.

The subject of this sketch attended the district schools in his native county and state, until the age of eighteen years, in the meantime assisting in the farm work during the summer months. The family resided about eighteen miles from Buffalo, to which city he hauled the farm produce. In 1856 he accompanied his parents west, the family locating in De Kalb township. He attended the De Kalb High School, and also one term at Mt. Morris Seminary, which completed his school life. He then taught school for one term. His father following the trade of a mason, all the sons were required to learn the same trade, and were good masons, before attaining their majority. Our subject learned not only the brick and stone mason trade, but also plastering. When twenty years old, he hired his time from his father, and followed ma-

sorry on his own account until the second year of the Civil war, doing his last work in the fall of 1862, on a school-house in De Kalb.

Believing that it was his duty to assist his country, Mr. Parke assisted in raising a company, and was mustered into the service at Dixon, Illinois, September 2, 1862, as second lieutenant of Company K, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. With his regiment he was sent to Camp Douglass, Chicago, from which place it was sent to Louisville, Frankfort and Bowling Green, Kentucky, thence to Nashville, and wintered at South Tunnel, near the latter city. While in camp at South Tunnel, Lieutenant Parke was taken sick with typhoid fever, from which he suffered two months. When convalescent, he was assigned to duty with the pioneer corps and sent to Murphysborough. Within three months after being mustered into the service, our subject was promoted first lieutenant, and while on duty with the pioneer corps, the captain of his company resigned, when he was commissioned captain, and ordered back to take command of his company.

Soon after receiving his commission as captain, our subject joined his company at Nashville, and reported for duty. From Nashville, with his regiment, he went to the Wauhatchie Valley, and in the spring of 1864 entered on the Atlanta Campaign. He was in every battle during that campaign, but never was wounded, although shot through the coat, and his scabbard once struck with a minie ball. After the Atlanta campaign, the Twentieth Army Corps, of which the One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Regiment formed a part, was given a rest at Atlanta. The father of Captain

Parke having received a stroke of paralysis, the Captain secured a leave of absence and returned home for seven days. On returning to his regiment, he found that it had gone on the march to the sea. He got as far as Nashville, then went to Chattanooga, but could not get through. He was then assigned to the command of a company at Nashville, and for a time was under General Thomas, and later under General Harrison. After Sherman reached the sea, Captain Parke was relieved from duty in Tennessee, where he had been serving on the military commission, trying criminal cases. When the commission was dissolved, he received an order to report to his command at Raleigh, North Carolina. While *en route* upon the ocean, he learned of Lincoln's assassination at Morehead City, passing boats having their flags at half mast. From Raleigh his regiment marched through Virginia on its way to Washington, and our subject had a glimpse of Libby Prison, and saw many of the battlefields of the Eastern Army. After the Grand Review, in which it participated, his regiment was ordered to Chicago where it was mustered out of service June 7, 1865.

On being mustered out, Captain Parke returned home and resumed his trade in De Kalb, and later in partnership with a brother, who owned one hundred and sixty acres, he purchased eighty acres of land on Section 33, Afton township, nine miles south of De Kalb. He continued at his trade, however, until about 1869, when, with his brother, he bought another farm in Afton township, on sections 1 and 12, and in connection with his trade followed farming until 1870, when the partnership with his brother was dissolved, and he continued in possession of the farm. In 1871

he moved to the farm in Afton township, where he resided until February, 1873, when he came to his present farm, at that time consisting of two hundred and forty acres. In 1884 he built a residence forty by forty-four feet, and twenty-six feet in height. The building is a brick with hard-wood finish, and a large tank in the garret supplied water for the entire house. On the place is a model barn, thirty-four by one hundred and two feet. Since taking possession of the farm, Captain Parke has put down about three miles of tilings, set out orchard trees which gives the place a beautiful appearance.

Captain Parke was married September 1, 1870, to Miss Ruth Hall, who was born in a log house which is still standing, on a farm just north of our subject, in which the county court was once held. At the time it was built it was the largest and finest house in the county. She is a daughter of Ephraim Hall, born in Wallingsford, Connecticut, March 15, 1808, and who came to De Kalb county in the fall of 1836. In his native state, he engaged in the manufacture of Britania ware. His death occurred in De Kalb county, within one week of the age of eighty-eight years. To our subject and wife seven children have been born, six of whom are yet living. Martha W. died at an early age. Nelson R. is proprietor of a feed stable in Belvidere, Illinois. Henry H. is assistant curator of the Museum at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He attended a school of embryology, at Wood's Hall, Massachusetts, in the summer of 1898. Mary and Mila are graduates of the Sycamore High School, the latter being a teacher in the home district. Ruth and Eleanor G. are attending the high school in Sycamore.

In politics Captain Parke is a Democrat. Fraternally he was formerly a Mason, holding membership with the blue lodge and chapter. For about twenty years he has served as a school director, and since living in his present district has been clerk of the school board. He is one of the best farmers in De Kalb county, his farm showing evidence of thrift at every hand.

**D**R. C. SCHUYLER, dentist, with office on the corner of Third and Main streets, De Kalb, Illinois, is one of the leading dental practitioners of the county, none sustaining a higher reputation for skill and reliability. While he is a young man in years and practice, he is in the front of his profession, being a thoroughly expert dentist, both in the mechanical and surgical branches of the art. He is a graduate of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, and has been established in De Kalb, Illinois, since his graduation from that institution in 1891. From the time that he first opened his office he has been steadily increasing his hold on popular favor and patronage. His rooms are neat, well appointed, and furnished with approved dental appliances, enabling him to do work in the very best form of art. All operations comprehended in modern dentistry are performed in a superior manner, and satisfaction is guaranteed in every instance.

Dr. Schuyler was born in Nunica, Michigan, February 23, 1868, and is the son of James H. and Mary (Sixbury) Schuyler, who were residents of Michigan at the time of the Doctor's birth. There his mother's death occurred, but the father subsequently removed to Sycamore, Illinois, where the Doctor received his early training and fitted

himself for college. On the second of September, 1896, he was united in marriage with Miss Harriet D. Goodrich, the accomplished daughter of Erastus and Phebe Goodrich. She is a native of New York, born in 1871, and came with her parents to DeKalb county in 1879. Here she grew to womanhood, and received her education.

James H. Schuyler, the father of our subject, was united in marriage, at Sycamore, Illinois, May 9, 1866, with Miss Mary E. Sixbury, and they shortly afterwards removed to Nunica, Michigan, where two sons were born to them, Colfax, our subject, and James C. Mrs. Mary E. Schuyler was born at Sycamore, DeKalb county, May 30, 1838, and died at Nunica, Michigan, February 7, 1876. Mr. Schuyler afterwards married a second wife, by whom he had one son. Joseph Sixbury, the father of Mrs. Mary E. Schuyler, was one of the pioneers of Sycamore, locating in that place in 1837. He was one of the men who assisted in locating the county seat at Sycamore. Both he and his wife were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he held the office of class leader and steward for several years. He was born in Amsterdam, Montgomery county, New York, November 7, 1810, and died at Sycamore, December 28, 1879. His wife was born at the same place, March 2, 1815, and died in 1880.

**H**ON. WILLIAM M. BYERS, one of the old and prominent citizens of De Kalb county, now residing in Sycamore, dates his residence from pioneer times, having come to the county in 1841, in company with his parents, and has here since continued to

reside. He was born in Andes, Delaware county, New York, March 20, 1821, and is the son of James and Jane (Scott) Byers, both of whom were native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, where they were married prior to their emigration to this country. In his native land, James Byers was a herder, an occupation which was not a very profitable one. Learning of the opportunities afforded the poor man in the United States, he determined to make that land his home. With his family, in 1818, he set sail and in due time landed in New York, from which place he went to Delaware county, that state, where he purchased a farm of the Hardenburg patent, on which he resided for twenty-three years.

The great west was now being opened up for settlement, and the fame of the prairie state had penetrated the old state of New York, so he determined to sell out and move west, where the opportunities were still greater for advancement. In 1841, he sold his place in New York, and came direct to De Kalb county, Illinois, and took up a claim in what is now South Grove township, a tract of land which he afterwards purchased when it came into market. On this tract he built a residence and commenced its improvement, and there he continued to reside during the remainder of his life. He continued to give personal attention to the management of his farm, as long as age and health would permit, when he sold, but reserved a home interest during his life. He died December 10, 1874.

During the existence of that party, James Byers was an old-line Whig. A believer in the freedom of all mankind, he espoused the principles of the Republican party on its organization and continued to act with that party until the end. He was

a leader among the people, and held various official positions, being a justice of the peace for many years. During the administration of the elder Harrison he was appointed postmaster of South Grove, being the second incumbent of the office at that place. Physically he was a man of good size, strongly built and was usually in the enjoyment of the best of health. His wife died in 1872. They were the parents of six children—John; William M., our subject; Christine, who married John Nichols; James; Asel B.; and Jane, who died in childhood. Of this number, James and the subject of this sketch are all that are living.

William M. Byers was reared on the farm in Delaware county, New York, where he attended the common schools. He was not yet twenty-one when his parents came west. When of age he worked with his father in partnership, until he was twenty-eight years old, when he moved to the farm, which had been purchased for him, in South Grove township, consisting of a quarter-section of land. At first he engaged in grain farming, and later went into stock and general farming. Soon after locating on his original farm, he purchased forty acres of raw prairie, after which he purchased one hundred acres adjoining his old farm. Later he added another hundred acres adjoining, and then purchased a quarter section in Malta township, which he fenced and cultivated in connection with his other purchases. Soon after he purchased the first quarter-section of land, he then bought eighty acres. Later he bought an eighty and a forty-acre tract, that squared his first purchase. His next purchase was a quarter section in South Grove township, which he cultivated, after which he bought the old homestead of three hundred and ninety-seven acres. He then



purchased thirty-five acres of timber land adjoining his first purchase. He now owns upwards of one thousand acres, having occasionally sold small tracts from his possessions. His farms are now worked on the shares. When he was actively engaged in farming he made a specialty of raising hogs, cattle, sheep and horses. All in all, the raising of hogs was the most profitable, though during the war sheep paid well.

On the organization of the township, Mr. Byers was elected trustee, which position he held for some years, and was then elected township treasurer, holding that office for twenty-one years. For some years he served as road commissioner and was elected and served several terms as justice of the peace. In 1852, he was elected supervisor, and was then re-elected. After a lapse of a few years, he was again elected and re-elected three times. During the last three years of his term of service, he was chairman of the board, a position he filled to the entire satisfaction of its members and the public generally.

In 1876, Mr. Byers was elected to the legislature from De Kalb county, and was re-elected in 1878, serving two terms. While a member he was chairman of the committee on miscellaneous subjects, and was on the committee of education, highways and other important committees. He was an active member, and represented his constituents with signal ability.

Mr. Byers was united in marriage at South Grove, January 10, 1833, to Miss Mary Ann Adee, daughter of Jonathan and Jane (Thompson) Adee. She was a native of Delaware county, New York, while her father was a native of New York state, and her mother of Ireland. By this union were two children, John T. and Augustus, the

latter dying in infancy. John married Elizabeth Gibson, and they have six children, three boys and three girls, Arthur, Myrtie, Charles, Mabel, Margaret and James. They reside on the old home farm. Mrs. Mary A. Byers died November 12, 1856. For his second wife Mr. Byers married, September 1, 1859, Miss Jane Adee, a sister of his first wife. They have had three children—Della, Anna and Jenny. The first named died in 1887. Anna married Gilbert H. Denton, a manufacturer of mining machinery and building material, and they now reside in Denver, Colorado. By profession he is a lawyer. They have two children, William B. and Karen Irene. Jenny is living at home.

In 1876, Mr. Byers moved with his family to Sycamore, where he purchased an elegant home on Somonauk street, where he is now living somewhat retired from active life. Since coming to the city, and during Mayor Elwood's term of office, he was called upon and served as alderman two terms. He is one of the substantial men of the county, his farms being among the finest and best, and no man in it is held in higher esteem. A strong Republican, his influence in the party has ever been great, and he has done much to promote its interest. Religiously, Mrs. Byers is a member of the Congregational church at Sycamore. For more than fifty years he has gone in and out among the people of De Kalb county, and it can be safely said that few men have done more to advance the material welfare of the county.

ORLANDO CARTER, deceased, was one of De Kalb county's worthy pioneers. He was born in Champaign county,

New York, January 29, 1830, and was eleven years of age when his parents, Jared and Lydia (Ames) Carter, removed to Ohio, where they continued to reside two years, and at the end of that time made another transfer to Iowa. In 1848 they came to Illinois and settled in De Kalb county, where the father became extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits. He died in July, 1855, while his wife survived him a number of years, dying in November, 1872. Their children were Eveline, Orlando, Clark, David, Lydia, Jared and Joseph.

From the time Orlando Catter accompanied his parents to De Kalb county, Illinois, he made it the field of active operations up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1895. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Elizabeth Campbell, to whom he was wedded July 4, 1852. She was a native of New York, and the daughter of William and Sallie Campbell, who were formerly residents of Alton township, De Kalb county, but who removed in 1879 to Nebraska. The Campbells came to De Kalb county about the same time the Carters did. Mrs. Carter died April 6, 1853, and Mr. Carter was again married in De Kalb, December 25, 1855, to Miss Huldah White, a native of New York, born February 5, 1836. Her parents removed from New York to Kaneville, Kane county, Illinois, about 1840. In 1854 they removed to De Kalb, Illinois, where her father died the following year of smallpox. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1892. Their family consisted of six children, Mrs. Carter being the only member of the family remaining in De Kalb county, the others residing in other parts. The children born to Orlando and Elizabeth Carter were William O., born October 14, 1856; Charles D., November

19, 1858; Jesse M., July 5, 1861; Ernest, September 24, 1864; Eva, March 12, 1868; Mabel, October 23, 1871; and Cleo, July 13, 1876. They are all living and residing in the city of De Kalb, where they were born.

Mr. Carter led a life of activity and frugality, and was respected and esteemed by all who knew him. He was one of the substantial men of the township, owning a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, all under excellent improvement. Besides this he owned valuable property in the city of De Kalb, where he resided for several years previous to his death. In 1881 he purchased a livery stable, and successfully conducted the business up to the time of his sickness, which resulted in his death. Politically he cast his lot with the Democratic party. Fraternally he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being a charter member of the lodge in De Kalb. His remains were laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery of De Kalb.

**P**ELEG S. WINSLOW, of Himeckley, Illinois, after a long and useful life, is now living retired. His residence in Illinois dates from 1842, when he located in Kane county. He is a native of Massachusetts, born in the town of Chalmont, Franklin county, March 3, 1823, and is the son of Dr. George Winslow, who was born in Vermont in 1783. The family are of English descent, being descended from one of two brothers who came to America in the Mayflower and originally settled in Massachusetts.

Dr. George Winslow grew to manhood in Vermont, there studied medicine, and later moved to Colerain, Massachusetts,

where he began to practice his profession. He was married three times, his last wife being the mother of our subject. Her name was Harriet Severance, and she was a native of Massachusetts. The Doctor practiced in Massachusetts for some years and later came west, locating at Big Rock, Kane county, Illinois, where he resumed practice in which he continued some years, his professional services being required in both Kane and De Kalb counties. He died at Big Rock November 2, 1848, his wife surviving him for some years, dying in De Kalb county.

Peeg S. Winslow spent his boyhood and youth in Massachusetts where he received a fair education in the common school and in Chalmont Seminary. From his boyhood he worked on a farm in summers, and attended school during the winter months. He remained at home until he attained his majority, when he came west to Kane county, Illinois, with Thomas Judd, who located there some years previous. On arriving in Kane county he went to work for Mr. Judd at Sugar Grove. On coming west, there being no railroad west of Ann Arbor, Michigan, he walked across that state to St. Joseph where he took a boat across the lake to Chicago, walking from there to Sugar Grove. After working for Mr. Judd during the summer of his arrival, in the fall of the same year, in partnership with his brother, Ebon Winslow, he purchased two hundred acres of raw land on credit, on the west line of Kane county. The following year he broke and fenced forty acres, and in the second year put in a crop. After building a small shanty, twelve by fourteen feet, he moved in and there lived while further developing the place. He later built a large, neat and substantial residence with good barn

and other outbuildings, and there successfully engaged in farming until 1874, when he came to Hinckley, but continued to give personal attention to his farm for four years, after which he rented the place. He then built a business house in Hinckley and engaged in agricultural implement business for fourteen years, then sold out and has since lived retired.

At Sugar Grove, Kane county, Illinois, May 6, 1847, Mr. Winslow was united in marriage with Miss Mary Alice Randall, a native of Connecticut, born in North Stonington, June 26, 1828, and a daughter of Jedediah Randall, who located in Sugar Grove township, Kane county, in 1842. Previous to this, however, he resided for a time in New York state, moving from there to Kane county, Illinois. By this union were three children, the first born dying when but five months old. Frank L., the second born, is well educated, a telegraph operator, who served also as agent of the Chicago & Iowa Railroad at Hinckley for twenty-two years. He then went to Mendota, and for three years was in the freight department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. He is now agent at Riverside, Illinois. He was married in Aurora to Ida E. Palmer, and they had one son, Ralph Palmer, who died when about seventeen years of age. The third child of our subject is Belle, who remains at home and is housekeeper for her father.

Mr. Winslow has been a Republican since the organization of the party, having voted for John C. Fremont in 1856, and for every presidential nominee of that party from that time to the present. He never desired nor would he accept office, save that of school director. His good wife died April 3, 1891. For many years she was a

member of the Baptist church, and was a firm believer in the Christian religion, endeavoring to walk faithfully in the steps of her Master. Mr. Winslow is also a member of the Baptist church, and has for years taken a somewhat active part. For fifty-six years he has been a resident of Illinois, and is therefore classed among the early settlers, one who has lived to see the many wonderful changes that have so rapidly followed each other in the last half century. His life has been an exemplary one, and all who know him have for him the utmost respect.

**H**ARVEY A. JONES has been one of the leading members of the De Kalb county bar for over a generation. He was born on the banks of the historical Burnett Creek, that winds its way through the old Tippecanoe battle ground, not many miles from Lafayette, Indiana, October 17, 1837. His paternal ancestors came from Cardiganshire, South Wales, and settled on the Delaware Welsh tract, in 1710, where yet stands the old Welsh tract Baptist church, with British bullets imbedded in its walls, and where five of Mr. Jones' ancestors preached the gospel in the days before the Revolution.

David Jones, the father of our subject, was born near Richmond, Virginia, February 18, 1798, and went with his parents to Monongahela county, Virginia, now West Virginia, when he was three years old. At the age of sixteen he was a pioneer of Clark county, Ohio, and in early manhood moved to Indiana, where he died November 11, 1849. He married Mary Owens, daughter of Asa and Deborah McMunn Owens,

Southern Quakers, whose ancestors were of Savannah, Georgia. Jonathan Owens, the father of Asa, had his right hand cut off by the British during the Revolution, because he would not fight, being a Quaker.

Daniel Jones, the grandfather of our subject, was born near Wilmington, Delaware, April 10, 1754. He died in Clark county, Ohio, May 12, 1832. He was a pioneer in West Virginia, but lived three years in Greene county, Pennsylvania, then settled in Clark county, Ohio. Rev. David Jones—chaplain of "Mad Anthony" Wayne and of General Gates' regiments—was a cousin of Daniel Jones. He was the grandfather of Horatio Gates Jones, the historian of Philadelphia. (See Appleton's Biographical Dictionary.) His father, the great-grandfather of our subject, was James Jones, a native of Wales, born in 1707, and who on coming to this country, located in New Castle county, Delaware, where his death occurred May 29, 1786. He was a Baptist clergyman, and was a surgeon in the American army, under General Gates. He married Susanna Williams of the Welsh tract, New Castle county, Delaware. His father Rev. David Jones, who was a great-great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Forreast ap Llanwenog, Cardiganshire, Wales, in 1668, and came to America in 1710, settling in New Castle county, Delaware, where he died August 29, 1748. He was a Calvinist Methodist clergyman, and married Esther Morgan, daughter of Morgan ap Rhydrith, a chieftain in Cardiganshire, under Cromwell. Asa Owen's people were from Wales, and as already stated were Quakers in religious belief. The ancestors of Deborah McMunn were also Quakers, and came from the north of Ireland. They came to the United States and located in



HARVEY A. JONES.



Georgia, with the Oglethorpe settlers. Both families were early settlers in Clark county, Ohio, locating near Dayton, in 1812, where the parents of our subject were married. During their early married life, they emigrated to Tippecanoe county, Indiana. Of their children, Amanda married Benjamin Morehouse, and is now deceased. John M. C. was among the early seekers for gold in California, where he settled and later became sheriff of Siskiyou county. He died in 1882. Abel went to Oregon. James O. was graduated at the law department of the University of Michigan, but later became a farmer in Indiana. Deborah, who married Owen Hill, is deceased. Lewis is a farmer in Missouri. Levi M. was a real estate agent at Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is now deceased. Harvey A., our subject, was next in order of birth. David C. was a graduate of the law department of the University of Michigan, figured quite prominently in politics in Tippecanoe, but is now deceased. Asa F., was a physician and resided on the old homestead at Grand Prairie, Indiana, until his death.

The early years of Harvey A. Jones were spent at home, like most farmer boys. Until the age of seventeen he attended the common schools of his neighborhood, and then became a student in the Wabash Indiana College, of Crawfordsville, Indiana, finishing his literary course, however, at Lombard University, Galesburg. After leaving college in 1861, he went to Missouri, where he engaged in teaching. After a few months spent in that profession, on account of the Civil war, he was compelled to change his plans. Returning to Illinois, he became a student in the law office of Hon. A. M. Harrington, of Geneva, Kane county. He read law there until 1863, when he entered the

University of Michigan, and was graduated from the law department in 1865.

After leaving the university, Mr. Jones settled in Sycamore, Illinois, to commence the practice of his profession. He formed a partnership with Daniel B. James, later county judge, which partnership terminated in 1869. His next law partner was Charles A. Bishop, now judge of the sixteenth judicial circuit, who became associated with him in 1880, and who had been a student in his office. This partnership continued until 1887, when it was dissolved. They made a strong law firm, and there were few cases of importance in De Kalb county in which they were not on one side or the other. Later he formed a partnership with C. D. Rogers, which still continues.

Mr. Jones practices in both state and federal courts, and during his long legal career has been associated with some of the most important litigations before the courts of this circuit. Among the noted cases in which he has been associated as counsel are *Pritchard vs. Walker*, in which he was counsel for the plaintiff; *Walker vs. Pritchard*, when he was counsel for the defendant; *Jones vs. Lloyd*, when he was counsel for plaintiff; *Pooler vs. Christman*, when he was counsel for the plaintiff; *Barrows vs. City of Sycamore*. This last was a damage suit brought by the plaintiff against the city for the erection of a standpipe. This case was prosecuted by Mr. Jones, assisted by his partner. All of these cases mentioned were noted ones, and attracted wide attention by their importance, and the legal ability with which they were conducted on both sides, and on account of the nice legal points involved. In the case of *Hall vs. Ball*—in which Mr. Jones took the position that a married woman had the right to sue

in her own name. This was the first case of the kind to be brought in Illinois, the legal ruling having heretofore been contrary to his position. There has since been a law placed on the statute books permitting a woman to bring action in her own name.

Mr. Jones is careful and methodical in the preparation of causes, and when he goes to trial either as a prosecutor or a defender, the client will not suffer the want for a vigorous, able and skillful handling of his cause. Before a jury he is strong and convincing, always presenting the points in his case in a clear, logical and convincing manner. He is a good advocate and good pleader, strong in his own case, and a formidable opponent.

Mr. Jones is a member of the Masonic Order, and has attained the Knight Templar degree. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of the Globe. Politically he has been a consistent Republican, and has given as much time to the advocacy of its principles as his arduous professional duties would allow. In 1888, he was presidential elector for the fifth Illinois district. He has always been an ardent temperance man, and with voice and pen has labored for the cause, believing however that its interests could the better be served through the Republican party.

Neither in his reading or his studies has Mr. Jones confined himself to the law. His mind has taken a wide range in other fields of thought and literature, keeping himself well posted in the topics that interest the people in the closing days of the nineteenth century. He did not leave off study when he left the college hall, but his books have still been his companions, often to shake

off the dust of courts and law books, to refresh and soothe the spirit for a night's repose.

During his long residence in Sycamore, his life both private and public has been such as to win the confidence and esteem of all. In seeking recreation and relief from professional labors, he has been greatly blessed in the companionship of an educated and intellectual wife, who can find time from domestic duties to keep up her literary studies and reading.

Mrs. Jones, *née* Sarah Dudley Perkins, has seven printed genealogies of Puritan families, five of them historical, who number her among their descendants. She is in the eighth generation in direct descent from Governor Thomas Dudley, the second colonial governor, through the Rev. Samuel Dudley, of the first settlement of Exeter, New Hampshire, whose first wife was a daughter of Governor Winthrop. Thomas Dudley was the governor whose signature is affixed to the charter of Harvard College, and for whom the office of major-general was created, he being the first to ever bear the title. Her paternal ancestor, Quartermaster John Perkins, so called because he was sent across the ocean for supplies for the Puritans, was one of three brothers who came in the ship *Lyon*, 1628, with Roger Williams and the ancestor of Ralph Waldo Emerson for passengers. She is collaterally related (descended from the same Puritan ancestor) to Major-General Artemus Ward (who was the temporary commander-in-chief before Washington) and with Major-General Dearborn and Lorenzo Dow, the eccentric preacher. None of Mrs. Jones' ancestors came later than 1680, with the exception of Darby Kelley, who came over in 1710. The late General B.



F. Kelley, of West Virginia, who raised the first negro regiment south of Mason and Dixon's line, was also a descendant of Darby Kelley.

Sarah Dudley Perkins was born October 14, 1838, at St. Charles, then known as Charleston, Kane county, Illinois. Her father, Otho Williams Perkins, came from Boston, Massachusetts, to Kane county, in June, 1834, where his only brother, Ephriam, had already settled. They were born in Hebron, Grafton county, New Hampshire. Otho was two years the elder and was born June 16, 1806. Mrs. Jones was the eldest of three children, her two brothers dying before she was eighteen. The youngest, Otho W., Jr., died April 15, 1855, at the age of fourteen, and Jonathan Dudley, the other brother, July 8, 1856, at the age of sixteen years.

Otho W. Perkins was married to Nancy Kelley at St. Charles, Illinois, January 6, 1838, at the home of his cousin and Miss Kelley's brother-in-law, the husband of her youngest sister, Sarah Dudley Kelly. Mr. N. H. Dearborn was the pioneer justice of the peace in St. Charles. Sarah Dudley (Kelley) Dearborn was born at New Hampton, New Hampshire, and died at St. Charles, Illinois, October 12, 1838. The following poem written by Mrs. Jones, in October, 1886, was dedicated to her memory:

Oh! sky and meadow, wood and glen,  
Oh! murmuring river, fair as when  
I saw thee first in childhood's years,  
To-day, the pictured scene appears,  
Traced by its glow, I watch the sky,  
(As on the hillside turf I lie,  
And question what beyond - if true  
That thou sweet Aunt, thy namesake knew?  
While thy green grave, beside me spread,  
Was my earliest lesson of the dead.

And one and fifty years have sped  
Since thou wert numbered with the dead;  
But two bleak days shadowed thy tomb,  
Ere ope'd my eyes on a world of gloom;  
Sad tears of vain regret must fall  
Upon my cradle, as a pall,  
For wintry blast's untimely sway,  
October's glory swept away;  
Mocking the promise the land had held,  
Of fruitage fair, and garnered field.

And scarce ten years have passed away,  
Since I wandered where thy girlhood lay;  
Where stern New England's hills arise,  
Whose white peaks pierce New Hampshire skies;  
And there I found thy memory green,  
Kept two score years, what thou hadst been,  
And gray haired men, they spoke of thee,  
As the fairest flower of their memory,  
Transplanted to the western wild,  
By untimely frosts and death despoiled.

Otho W. Perkins was one of the pioneer Universalists of the west, and one of the thirteen who founded and built the first Universalist church west of the Great Lakes, at St. Charles, three years before even a Universalist society had been organized in Chicago. He also contributed liberally toward purchasing the printing press and establishing the first Universalist denominational paper in Chicago, "The Better Covenant", the predecessor of the present "Universalist", the Rev. William Rounseville, pastor from St. Charles, going to Chicago to be editor of the paper.

The father of Otho W. Perkins, born in Ipswich, Mass., was a descendant of "Quartermaster" John Perkins, who came from Gloucestershire, England, with his father's family, to Salem, thence to Ipswich, in the ship *Lyon*, in 1628. The wife of Jacob Perkins, the maternal grandmother of O. W. Perkins, was Hannah Andrews, a descendant of Captain John Andrews (sometimes spelled Andrus), who came to Ipswich in 1630. Captain John Andrews was also

this ancestor of John A. Andrews, the war governor of Massachusetts during the Civil war.

The mother of Otho W. Perkins was Thirza Dearborn, who died when her son was but five years old. She was a descendant of Godfrey Dearborn of the first settlement of Exeter, New Hampshire, then part of the Massachusetts Colony, who came from Devonshire, England, in 1628. He was also the American ancestor of Major-General Henry Dearborn, the commander-in-chief in the war of 1812, and the one for whom Fort Dearborn was named. The mother of Thirza Dearborn, the maternal grandmother of Otho W. Perkins, was Abigail Ward, the daughter of the Rev. Nathan Ward, who was the first Congregational clergyman in Plymouth, New Hampshire. The youngest sister of Thirza Dearborn, Eliza (Dearborn) Scott, is yet living in Exeter, New Hampshire, and on her eighty-sixth birthday the Boston newspapers chronicled the fact that she was the oldest living widow of a Methodist clergyman in New England. She is a widow and was the second wife of the Rev. Orange Scott, who separated from the Methodist Episcopal church on the slavery question, and founded the Wesleyan organization. (See Appleton's Biographical Dictionary, for Orange Scott.) Abigail Ward was a descendant of William Ward, of Sudbury, who was also the ancestor of Artemus Ward, who was the provisional Major-General in the Revolution, before Washington.

The mother of Mrs. Jones, Nancy Kelly, was born in New Hampton, Belknap (then Stafford) county, New Hampshire, July 30, 1807. She was the daughter of Dudley and Ruth (Dow) Kelly. Her education was obtained in the New Hampton Female Sem-

inary, once the leading preparatory for college in New England. Her father, who was one of the trustees of the school for many years, was a finished scholar and for many years was a teacher. He was born in Exeter, the suburb of Brentwood, in 1761. He enlisted at the age of sixteen in the Revolutionary army. His father was Darby Kelly, son of Daniel, who was born in Waterford, Ireland, in 1700, and who at the age of ten years ran away to sea as a cabin boy, on a ship of which his cousin was captain, coming to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. When he refused to recross the ocean, he was left by his kinsman, and never saw or heard of any of his people afterward. He was adopted into the family of Phillip Huntoon, of Exeter, whose daughter Sarah he married, at the age of twenty-eight. (See Huntoon Genealogy.) His second wife was Sarah Dudley (1760), who was a granddaughter of the Rev. Samuel Dudley, of the first Exeter settlement. He was the eldest son of Governor Thomas Dudley, the second colonial governor. Rev. Samuel Dudley's first wife, was a daughter of Governor Winthrop. (See Dudley Genealogy.)

The ancestor of Governor Thomas Dudley was Edmund de Sutton, who was one of the knights who came over with William the Norman. Edmund de Sutton was the first baron of Dudley. He married the Saxon heiress of Dudley castle, which was then five hundred years old. The numerous descendants of Governor Thomas Dudley include some of the most illustrious names in our country, among them the Channings, the Danas, the famous Field family, of whom Cyrus W., David Dudley and Chief Justice Field are members, Wendall Phillips, Oliver Wendall Holmes, and

a score of others almost as well known to fame. Thomas Dudley was the governor who signed the charter of Harvard College, and almost always since some descendant has been a member of the faculty. Charles Eliot Norton, at the present time, is one of Governor Dudley's descendants. Both of the wives (cousins Dana and Channing) of Washington Alston, the painter, also the second wife of Sir Edwin Arnold, an American lady who was a Channing, and the wife of Edward Everett Hale who is a granddaughter of Rev. Lyman Beecher, is a descendant both of Governor Dudley and John Perkins. See Dudley Genealogy. Ann Dudley Bradstreet was a daughter of Governor Thomas Dudley and the sister of Rev. Samuel Dudley and Governor Joseph Dudley. She married Simon Bradstreet and published the first book of poems in America. The following sonnet acrostic on the three Dudleys was written by Mrs. Jones in 1884 and published in the *Inter-Ocean*:

## I.

(Ann Dudley Bradstreet.)

A down two centuries and a half thy fame  
Now wakes faint echo as we speak thy name,  
Nor holds on modern thought but feeble claim,  
But thou, the first verse-writer of our land,  
Reign'st as the first and hold'st that place the same  
As thou wert laureate of that Pilgrim band,  
Down to our time thy chart of rank will stand  
Sober and serious, earnest, never vain  
The Puritans held their life and speech and deed,  
Robbed of all flowers, they sought but ripened seed  
Earth-life they shaped to fit their somber creed;  
Each act in view of their immortal gain,  
Thou only sang'st with repressed and formal strain.

## II.

(Sir Philip Sidney.)

The brightest star that, undimmed by mist or cloud,  
Out of the darkness shines of that dark age,  
Pouring a luster o'er the tarnished page—  
History unrolls of the cruel base and proud  
In every grace of manly chivalry,  
Living the truest, highest, noblest, best,

In courage, art, thy int'nal self  
Pauses as the rushlight in the quiet of day,  
So to the end, on Zutphen's plain of blood,  
In glory's panoply thy life would win,  
Death found thee but to give a solemn proof  
Never to fade, her model of every good  
England still holds thee, still thy name is proud  
Yet deemed her flower of chivalry and renown.

## III.

(Sir Robert Dudley.)

So ever, it above the rabble raised,  
In fortune's favor or a prince's smile,  
Roused in all hatred, malice, envy's train,  
Revenge with it's sharp spite, thine enemies assail  
On you it fell not, hence ever the wars  
Beyond their feeble shades, when they dispersed,  
Even though ambition, the cur of thy day,  
Ruled in the heart and the strife was strong,  
To hew thy path regardless of the strong,  
Darker the fate that swept thy sire away,  
Under its ban his sire, too, met his fate,  
Doomed by that innate power that marked thee  
Great  
Lies, slanders, vile surmise, of all the prey  
Envy, that could not reach their high estate,  
Yelped at their heels to their last fated day.

The mother of Nancy Kelly Perkins (Mrs. Jones' maternal grandmother) was Ruth Dow, born in Old Hampton, New Hampshire. Her father, Jonathan Dow, was the first cousin of Lorenzo Dow, the eccentric preacher, who visited at the home of Dudley Kelly in 1810, when Nancy Kelly was three years old. This was during Lorenzo Dow's last tour through the New England states. Their American Dow ancestor was also the ancestor of General Neal Dow, the famous Maine Law champion.

Mrs. Jones was educated in a select school at St. Charles, with one year at St. Agatha's Academy, Sisters of Mercy, Chicago, where she was awarded the gold medal for composition in 1855. The old academy building before the Chicago fire was where Mercy Hospital now stands. In August, 1857, she entered Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois, for the four years clas-

sical course. She was a fellow student for the four years with Harvey A. Jones. They were married at Galesburg, at the home of Rev. J. P. Fuller, February 22, 1861. Rev. Fuller was the first Universalist preacher in the state of Missouri, and the second in Illinois. For one year succeeding their marriage Mr. Jones taught school in Callaway county, Missouri, and studied law at the same time. On account of the increasing danger to Northern residents, they left the state the second year of the war, and on account of the serious illness of Mrs. Jones' mother, they went to St. Charles, Illinois, where after a lingering illness the mother died June 28, 1863.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the parents of seven children as follows: (1) Dudley Kelly, born and died May 5, 1862, at St. Charles, Illinois. (2) Mary Fuller, born at St. Charles, May 10, 1863. She was married at Sycamore, Illinois, November 27, 1884, to Elmer Jerome Baker, the publisher and one of the proprietors of the Chicago Farm Implement News. They were married by the Rev. D. P. Baker, the father of the groom. Mr. Baker was educated at the High School in Sycamore, supplemented by an attendance of one year at Wheaton College, and at the State University, Champaign, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have two children, Ruth Mary, born September 29, 1885, and Elmer Jerome, Jr., born in Chicago, January 3, 1889. At the present time, Miss Ruth Mary, accompanied by her mother, who is superintending her studies, is now traveling and attending school abroad. During the fall and winter of 1897 she was at school at Nice, Italy, and at present is in Rome, Italy. Mrs. Baker was educated at the Sycamore High School, from which she graduated. She attended the Musical Conservatory at

Fort Wayne, Indiana, and at Vassar, Poughkeepsie, New York. (3) Owen Dudley was born at Sycamore, November 21, 1865, and died January 21, 1867. (4) Anna Kelly, born at Sycamore, February 10, 1869, was married July 10, 1889, at Sycamore, to George Manford Clayberg, principal of the Chicago West Division High School. They were married by the Rev. J. E. June, pastor of the Universalist church at Sycamore. Mr. Clayberg was educated at Michigan University, where he took the mathematical prize and won the Houghton Scholarship in 1865. He also attended a course of lectures at the German universities. Mrs. Clayberg received her primary education in the Sycamore schools, and took the four-years course and graduated from the Chicago West Division High School in the class of 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Clayberg have had three children—Harold Dudley and Harvey Alston (twins), born January 24, 1892, in Chicago, and Dorothea Marion, born at Oak Park, July 27, 1893. Harvey Alston died at Oak Park, July 3, 1892. (5) Harvey Alston, Jr., was born at Sycamore, October 28, 1871, and died April 12, 1880. (6) Sarah Dudley, born at Sycamore, June 24, 1873, died July 15, 1873. (7) David Dudley, born July 21, 1874, at Sycamore, died April 5, 1880.

On the first birthday of her second child, Mary Fuller, Mrs. Jones penned the following poem, which was printed in the Chicago Journal:

One year old to-day!  
 Our little baby girl,  
 The cloud-flecked skies, with clearest ray  
 Blend azure tint with pearl,  
 And all around the glorious May  
 Its banners gay unfurl—  
 Just as it welcomed you, our pet—  
 To life and love that guards you yet.

Your footsteps falter now  
 Upon a threshold new,  
 While on your pure young babe-brow  
 Missteps have left no rue;  
 Thus may your future footsteps go  
 In pathways straight and true;  
 No bitterness of sin and tears  
 To blight the joy of coming years.

Within your eyes I look,  
 Sweet babe, so dark and deep,  
 And your broad, fair brow is a sealed book  
 Of latent powers that sleep;  
 Lithe, restless limbs that will not brook  
 A long restraint to keep,  
 While in your pouting lips we know,  
 Are affection's power and fervent glow.

Within your tiny veins  
 The life-blood mingling flows,  
 From Georgia's bright Savannah plains,  
 And bleak New England's snows;  
 If beauty's spell around thee reigns,  
 May life high aims disclose,  
 And the wild South-fire, may its glow  
 Be pure and clear as New England's snow.

Sweet birding of the May,  
 That fills our own home-nest  
 With music, gladsome as the lay  
 That thrills the wood-bird's breast,  
 May ever flowers spring round thy way,  
 No thorns bring thee unrest,  
 Till the flowers immortal bloom for thee,  
 Still farther on o'er death's dark sea.

**T**HEODORE O. BERG resides on section 19, Milan township, where he owns a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which he keeps under the highest state of cultivation. He is a native of Norway, born near Christina, November 23, 1833, and in his native country grew to manhood and received a limited education. In 1853, he came to the United States, taking ship at Christina, for Quebec, from which place he came directly west to Chicago, arriving in that city. He made the trip with his brother Ole Berg, and they went direct to La Salle county, where our subject com-

menced work on a farm by the month, and continued to be thus employed for one year, when he was taken sick, and remained in ill health for two years. He then resumed work on a farm, and later purchased a threshing machine and engaged in threshing and also in teaming.

Mr. Berg was married in Henderson county, Illinois, in 1858, to Maria Donaldson, a native of Norway, who came to the United States in the spring of 1853, and located first in Chicago, after which she went to Henderson county. After marriage, Mr. Berg rented a farm for three years in Henderson county, which he operated, and in 1864 moved to De Kalb county and purchased eighty acres of unimproved land in Milan township, on which he located, and as time passed, made other purchases of land until he was the owner of six hundred acres, all of which was well improved. His home place may be considered a model farm, having all the improvements used on a farm at the present time, including a gasoline engine for pumping water for stock and grinding feed for the same. Coming to this country without a dollar, his success in life has been remarkable, and all has been acquired by his own labor, assisted by his good wife. They are the parents of two children, Oscar T., who is married and residing on the old farm, and Amelia, wife of A. Sanderson, a farmer of Milan township. They have lost three children. Caroline grew to womanhood, married Charles Sanderson, and died leaving six children. Oscar died at the age of four years, and Caroline died in infancy. To each of his children he has given good farms, while yet retaining the home farm of three hundred and twenty acres.

In addition to his general farming, Mr. Berg has for years owned and operated a

steam thrasher, and has now one of the most complete threshing machines manufactured. He began the business before coming to De Kalb county, and has continued in the same to the present time, making it a source of some revenue. He has always been in favor of good roads, and for six years served as commissioner of highways, giving much of his time to the improvement of the roads. Politically he is a Republican, but is not what is now termed a politician. He believes in the principles of the party and annually votes his party ticket. He and his wife have been life long members of the Lutheran church. They are good people and are held in the highest esteem wherever known.

**MORRIS WILLEY** is one of the leading farmers of DeKalb township. His beautiful and productive farm is situated on sections 28, 29 and 33, and consists of three hundred and thirty acres. This farm he did not inherit, but it is the result of incessant toil, rigid economy and practical honesty. He is in every sense of the word a self-made man. Everything about his farm has the appearance of thrift, his buildings being models of neatness, while his stock shows excellent care.

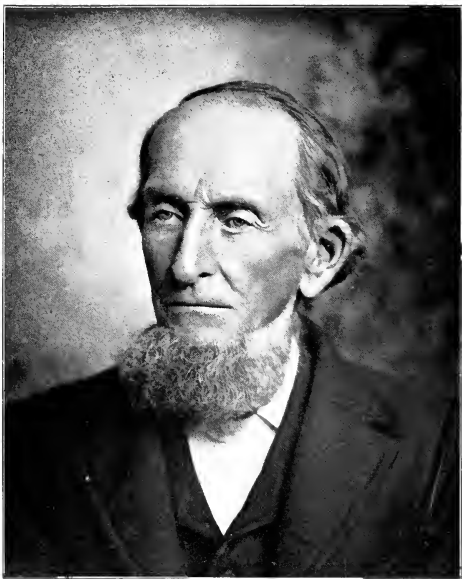
Mr. Willey was born in Jefferson county, New York, July 5, 1827, and is the son of Eleazer and Wealthy Marsh Willey, both of whom were natives of the same state. Eleazer Willey was a man of integrity and influence in his native town. He was a strict member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and for years held the position of class leader in the same. His death occurred in 1832, his wife surviving him a few years, dying in 1838. There were seven

children born to them, our subject being sixth in order of birth. He was reared and educated in his native town, where he remained until he was sixteen years of age, when he came to Illinois in company with S. Richardson, with whom he had lived after the death of his parents. They located at Aurora, Illinois, where our subject remained until after he reached his majority, when he left his foster father and worked out by the month.

In 1850, in company with others, Mr. Willey took the overland route for California, where he arrived after a very tedious journey of some months. While in that new Eldorado, he worked in the mines, and in the course of two years accumulated about fifteen hundred dollars. Satisfied with his experience in California, he returned to Illinois, and in DeKalb county rented land for a short time, and became quite a successful farmer, so much so that in 1855, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, a portion of his present farm, to which he added from time to time, until it has reached three hundred and thirty acres.

On the 14th of July, 1855, Mr. Willey married Miss Mary Bovee, a native of Boone county, Indiana, born October 9, 1838, and a daughter of Richard and Orpha Z. Bovee. The latter was born in 1811, and three of her uncles were soldiers in the Revolutionary war, and witnessed the hanging of Major Andre, of the British army. To Mr. and Mrs. Willey nine children have been born: Warren B., born March 14, 1857; Harry, January 17, 1859, and who died March 20, 1884; Sarah E., April 4, 1861, and who died September 29, 1867; Caroline, August 15, 1863, and who died February 11, 1894; Eliza C., October 30, 1865; Emily, September 21, 1866; Wealthy M., April 3, 1872.





MORRIS WILLEY.





MRS. MORRIS WILLEY.



Richard M., February 13, 1875; and Lelah L., July 6, 1878.

Mr. Willey and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, a church with which he has been connected since January, 1858, and of which he has been a faithful member, many times holding responsible offices in it, and now serving as trustee. As a citizen he is progressive and enterprising, being at all times willing to do his full share in the upbuilding of his adopted county, which has now been his home for nearly half a century. Their home is one of hospitality, and their friends are many.

J. B. AURNER is a retired farmer residing in De Kalb, Illinois, and is a pioneer of 1834. He was born January 6, 1818, near Berwick, and is the son of Henry and Betsy (Belick) Aurner. By occupation Henry Aurner was a weaver, and removed from Berwick in the spring of 1820, to Geneseo, New York, to better his financial condition. He remained in Geneseo for a number of years, but finally removed to Western Illinois, and eventually found his way to De Kalb county, in 1836, twelve years after his son, J. B., had made it his home. He died in 1852, at the age of ninety years, while his wife survived him, dying in 1858, at the age of eighty-eight years. Their lives were long, eventful and useful. Tradition tells us that the grandfather of Henry Aurner was secretary to William Penn. His family consisted of eight children, two of whom are yet living, Henry F. and J. B.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood in Pennsylvania, and in New York, where he remained until his fourteenth

year. In 1832, he went to Michigan and there spent one year. This, as well as subsequent years, was one of varied experiences. He was now beginning to hew out his own destiny in a new country, with few advantages and little if any encouragement. In 1833, he traveled through Illinois, but did not locate. He was then in company with, and in the employ of an Indian trader, whose custom was to spend the milder part of the year in traveling through Illinois, but wintering in Michigan, where facilities for comfort were greater. Mr. Aurner was in this county when the first election was held, previous to its becoming Kane county, but did not then make it his permanent home. He saw it pass from La Salle to Kane, and from Kane to De Kalb county, during his early years. It was not, however, until 1847 that he came to stay permanently and winter in the county.

From 1837 to 1848 he made his home with William A. Miller, for whom he worked and from whom he learned the carpenter's trade. Three of these eleven years were spent on the upper Mississippi, carrying the mail for Mr. Miller, who had the contract from Fort Crawford to Fort Snelling. He subsequently worked on the lower Mississippi one and a half years as a boathand, but sickness caused him to abandon this vocation. All this time he was looking after and improving his land in De Kalb county.

On the 1st of February, 1849, Mr. Aurner married Miss Adelaime Jarrod, a native of Tioga county, New York, March 17, 1828, and the daughter of Jeremiah and Orpha Jarrod, who removed from New York to Ohio, in 1830, thence to Illinois, in 1837, and to Wisconsin, in 1840, where they remained some years, but finally removed to Blackhawk county, Iowa, where

Mrs. Jarrod died May 15, 1873, at the age of seventy-one years. She was born in Watertown, New York, in 1802. Mr. Jarrod was born in Long Island, in 1798, and died in March, 1885, at the age of eighty-seven years.

To J. B. and Adelaïne Aurner two children were born, George H., January 3, 1850, and Annette A., May 31, 1852. George H. Aurner became a physician of wide reputation and practice. He received his primary education in De Kalb, and first began reading medicine under Dr. Hopkins, a well-known physician of De Kalb, and completed his course at Rush Medical College, Chicago, from which he graduated in 1871, at the age of twenty-one years. He began his practice in Ogle county, where he met with good success, and where he remained eight years. He then removed to Hanover, Kansas, where he met with the same success, and where in addition to his practice, he engaged in the drug trade. No man was more beloved, none could be more successful. His carefulness of patients and strict personal attention to every detail, cost him his life. He contracted the disease and also bloodpoisoning, while attending a patient suffering from diphtheria. He departed this life April 11, 1891. He married Miss Hattie Smith, January 1, 1871, and who died April 6, 1888, leaving four children: George A., born June 15, 1872; Grace H., January 7, 1874; Myrtle B., August 26, 1876; and Edna May, December 9, 1878. The Doctor subsequently married and by the second marriage had one child, Ida A., born January 16, 1891. Annette Aurner married Noyes Belknap, November 8, 1879, and for a second husband she married W. C. Keeler, yardmaster of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, at De Kalb, Illinois.

This latter marriage was solemnized October 15, 1890.

The first purchase of land made by our subject consisted of two hundred and eighty acres, which cost him one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. To this he added two hundred and eighty acres more, these purchases being made under the administrations of Presidents Van Buren and Polk, whose names are attached to his deeds. Half of this land he disposed of, and now owns two hundred and thirty acres of highly improved land. Mr. Aurner is much respected by his fellow citizens for his sterling worth.

**W**ILLIAM M. ATHERTON is a veteran of the war for the Union, and an enterprising farmer residing on section 19, Paw Paw township. He was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, March 21, 1841, and is the son of Ralph Atherton, a native of Massachusetts, born April 1, 1804. The paternal grandfather, Jonathan Atherton, was also a native of Massachusetts, and there spent his entire life, his old homestead being still owned and occupied by one of his sons, Zora Atherton. In his native state Ralph Atherton grew to manhood, being one of four sons, all of whom are over six feet in height. He went to Pennsylvania a young man in 1828, locating in Luzerne county, where he married Maria Sine, a native of New Jersey, who went to Luzerne county a miss of twelve years, with her father, Phillip Sine, who was a miller by occupation, and there engaged in the milling business. Ralph Atherton was a shoemaker by trade, and served an apprenticeship of seven years. He opened up a store and engaged in the boot and shoe

business for several years in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1843 he came to DeKalb county, Illinois, and entered a tract of two hundred acres, a portion of which now comprises the farm of our subject. Locating on his claim he built a log house, in which he lived for eight years, while improving the farm. During the winter he worked at his trade, and carried on quite an extensive business, making boots and shoes for the people in the surrounding country. The old log house gave place to a more modern frame building after eight years, and he there reared his family. After the death of his wife, he went to Kansas and resided with a son two or three years, then returned to Illinois and spent his last years, dying at the residence of a daughter in Lee county, September 6, 1890, at the age of eighty-six years. In his family were seven sons and four daughters, of whom four sons and three daughters yet survive.

William M. Atherton came to DeKalb county, when a child, and grew to manhood on the farm where he now resides. After attending the common schools, he spent several terms in Union Academy, at Paw Paw. He was married in Sycamore, February 2, 1861, to Miss Ellen Burch, a native of Ohio, but who was reared in DeKalb county. In the spring of 1862, he engaged in farming, but his services were in demand by the government, and August 12, 1862, he enlisted in Company K, Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, a company raised at West Paw Paw, and in which his two brothers, Benjamin F. and Zora, also enlisted. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, and participated in many engagements during its term of service. In the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862, it lost two hundred

and forty-five men, and among the killed was Zora Atherton, and among the wounded was Benjamin F. Atherton. Among the other engagements in which the regiment participated, were Stone River, Liberty Gap, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. At Lookout Mountain the company of our subject was on the wagon road skirmish line. Later the regiment was at Ringgold, and following was in the siege and surrender of Atlanta. It was in all the battles in the campaign from Chattanooga to the surrender of Atlanta in 1864. On the way down it was in the fight at Dalton, and returning was in the fight at Franklin, and also at Nashville, together with a great many lesser fights and skirmishes. From the 24th of November, 1862, our subject was never off duty nor lost any time from sickness. He was discharged at Chicago, July 4, 1865, and returned to his home and resumed his place upon the farm.

While still in the service, December 19, 1864, his wife died, leaving one son, Harry Lincoln, now grown and married, and engaged as a telegraph operator in Oklahoma. In Lee county, Illinois, December 10, 1865, Mr. Atherton married Miss Eleanor Stone, a native of New York state, who came west with her father, William Stone, who was one of the pioneers of DeKalb county, and who now resides at East Paw Paw. After marriage, he located on a forty-acre tract, which he purchased adjoining the farm where he now resides, and there engaged in farming until 1869, when he rented the place and moved to California, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and engaged in raising grain. Ill luck attended him, the dry weather mining two crops, but the third

year he raised a fine crop, but having enough of California, in 1872, he returned to De Kalb county, and purchased one hundred and thirty acres of his father's old place, and some years later purchased the remainder, and has there since been actively engaged in farming.

In 1883 Mrs. Atherton died. By the last marriage there were five children. Adie grew to womanhood, married, but is now deceased. Ralph L. is married and engaged in farming in Lee county. Benjamin F. enlisted in the Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry as a member of Company M, in the late war with Spain. Wilbur A. C. is assisting in carrying on the home farm. Jonathan W. resides with his parents.

Politically Mr. Atherton was a Republican for many years, then a Greenbacker and later a Prohibitionist, but in 1896 supported Bryan and free silver. For three years he served assessor of his township, and for five years was school director of his district. In the fifty-five years of his residence in De Kalb county he has made many warm friends and few enemies.

**WILLIAM BLAIR** is a retired farmer residing in the village of Malta. He was born in Barrickshire, Scotland, February 28, 1824, and is the son of Robert and Jane Dickson Blair, both of whom were natives of the same shire. Robert Blair was by trade a weaver, but handlooms being superseded by machinery, he abandoned his trade and engaged in farming. Our subject coming to this country in 1851, his parents followed him the next year, locating at St. Charles, Illinois, where they resided two years, when they removed to Du Page county, Illinois, and remained three

years, after which they came to De Kalb county, where they resided during the remainder of their lives. Robert Blair died May 4, 1891, at the age of ninety-three years, while his wife died August 6, 1876, in her seventy-ninth year. Their family consisted of nine children, of whom five grew to maturity, William being third in order of birth.

William Blair was reared and educated in his native country, and five years prior to his emigration to America he served as a tobacconist and chandler. He was twenty-seven years of age when he left his native land and came to America. After residing here for a time he sent for his parents, and on their arrival cared for them during the remainder of their lives. In May, 1857, he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Milan township, to which he soon added eighty more acres, and still later purchased one hundred and five acres, making him a fine farm of three hundred and forty-five acres. All this was in its wild state when purchased, but now it is handsomely improved and supplied with all that is modern in the farming world. He was an all around farmer, confining himself to no particular line, but was a success in whatever he undertook. In 1891 he built a creamery on his place, which was run by his son John until 1898, when, the labor required in running both creamery and farm being too great, he disposed of the former to some Chicago parties. The output of butter manufactured was quite large.

On November 13, 1856, Mr. Blair was joined in marriage with Miss Mary McNeil, daughter of John and Mary McNeil, both natives of Scotland, who came to this country in August, 1855. By this union six children have been born, all of whom are

yet living, namely: Robert H., John N., Mary J., Alice, D. and Edith.

In politics Mr. Blair is a Republican, and has been honored with nearly all the offices the citizens of his township could bestow upon him. He and his wife are consistent members of the Congregational church.

**G**EORGE WOOD, a retired blacksmith residing in De Kalb, was born at East Lothain, Scotland, September 9, 1818. His parents, Robert and Beatrice (Thom) Wood, were natives of Scotland, and lived and died on their native soil. They were honest, upright and industrious people. Robert died in 1848, at the age of sixty-six years, his wife surviving him until 1878, dying at the age of eighty-five years. Their family consisted of eight children, three of whom are now living: Robert, a resident of New Zealand; John, residing in New York; and George, our subject.

The subject of this sketch resided in Lothain, Scotland, until he reached his fifteenth year, when he removed to the county of Edinboro, where he served an apprenticeship at the blacksmith's trade, though a part of the time working in the city of Edinburgh. In that county he continued to remain, working as a journeyman blacksmith, up to 1851, at which time he embarked for the United States. Arriving in New York, he remained in that state for four years. In 1855, he removed to Mayfield, Illinois, where he remained one year, and in 1856 moved to De Kalb, where he opened a shop on Main street. Since locating in De Kalb, he has been quite successful and has hammered out on his anvil some valuable city property. He now owns

five choice lots, upon two of which are excellent dwellings, one being occupied by himself. In 1896, he sold his shop and tools to Thomas Thompson, since which time he has lived a retired life.

In December, 1839, Mr. Wood married Miss Jeannette King, a native of Scotland, born in 1800, and a daughter of Adam King. She died at De Kalb, Illinois, in 1858, in her fifty-ninth year. For his second wife, in December, 1859, Mr. Wood married Flora Bennett, a native of Ireland, born at Sanfield, in 1823, and a daughter of John and Elizabeth McKee, who emigrated to Canada, in an early day, where the father died. Subsequently the mother and children removed to the United States, locating in De Kalb, where Mrs. McKee died April 24, 1875, at the age of eighty-five years. By this second union four children were born: Jennie, born February 7, 1860; Robert, born May 27, 1861, died in 1878; Belle, born April 21, 1863; and Joseph, July 7, 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Wood are members of the Congregational church and are conscientious people, having many friends in De Kalb.

**E**DWIN P. SMITH, a retired farmer, residing in the city of Sycamore, is a native of De Kalb county, born in Mayfield township, January 19, 1843. His father; Spafford Smith, was born in Windsor, Vermont, May 18, 1809. He remained under the parental roof until seventeen years of age, when he left home to learn the carpenter's trade. He married Eliza Sholes, June 9, 1835, and four years later came to De Kalb county. She was the daughter of Prentiss Sholes, of Clearmont, New Hampshire, who was a farmer by occupation and

who died in his native state. On his arrival in De Kalb county, Spafford Smith stopped for a time in Sycamore, which then comprised but very few houses, and he was only able to get one room in the city hotel. At that time there were six families doing likewise. He worked as a carpenter on the hotel and other buildings until the following spring, when he moved to his farm in Mayfield township, and for several years lived in a log house. Chicago, sixty miles away, was his trading point. For some years after his arrival Shabbona, with his tribe of Indians, were often seen in the vicinity. For thirty years he lived upon his farm in Mayfield township, but in 1870 moved to the city of Sycamore, where the remainder of his life was spent. He became a very prosperous man, and at one time was the owner of four farms, two of two hundred and sixty acres, one of one hundred and eighty-three acres, and one of three hundred and ten acres. His death occurred in 1895, at the age of eighty-six years. He came of a long-lived family. His father served in the war of 1812. The grandfather was twice married, Spafford and Curtis Smith, who came west together, being children by the second wife. A half-brother of Spafford heard of the latter living in Sycamore, through a gentleman from that city traveling on a train in the west. He wrote to him and visited with him in 1889, after a separation of seventy years. The mother of our subject, who was born in 1800, died January 31, 1881.

Edwin P. Smith, our subject, was reared in his native township, and there resided until 1892, a period of forty-nine years. He attended the district school until the age of twenty years, and spent two years in the schools of Sycamore and one year

in a private school. He remained with his father until the age of twenty-six years, when he married and took charge of the old farm, his parents shortly after moving to Sycamore. After operating the farm for some years, his father gave to him a deed to the place, retaining an annuity for life. He was married on the 6th of January, 1870, in Mayfield township, to Miss Flora M. Joiner, a native of that township, and fifth in a family of six children born to Cyrus S. and Elmira (Lyon) Joiner, the former a native of Wolcott, Wayne county, New York, born October 5, 1813, and who at the age of sixteen went to Allegany county, New York, but who was married in Chantauqua county, that state, April 24, 1836. He came to De Kalb county in 1837, and located in Mayfield township, becoming one of its pioneer citizens. By this union one son was born, Albert P., born on the farm November 8, 1870, and who now lives in Denver, Colorado, where he is engaged in the coal, wood and ice business. He is a fine amateur photographer, and is also very skillful with fine tools, and being quite artistic, he has manufactured for his own family and friends a number of pieces of fine inlaid work. He built a large hall clock of walnut, inlaid with beautiful figures of white wood. It is a small clock, and as fine as anything that ever came from Switzerland. His education was obtained at Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1894, and the following year took up his residence in Denver. He is a member of the Universalist church.

In politics our subject is a Republican, and has served as road commissioner and school director. He is a substantial farmer and good business man, and has three hundred and ten acres in Mayfield township,



which is well improved in every respect. Both he and his wife come from fine old New England families, dating back in colonial days. As a citizen he is enterprising, and is ever ready to do his part in promoting the material interests of his native county and state.

GEORGE N. LUCAS, M. D., is a well-known physician and surgeon of Malta, Illinois. There is no profession or calling more sacred than that of the physician. He stands on the threshold of time and ushers man into the world; he assists him in the observance of nature's laws all through life, and, at its close, helps him down the steep declivity, smoothing his pathway and making his exit easy, as he again passes back to the unknown. The man who proclaims a written law is no higher or holier than he who teaches the observance of the unwritten law of the Almighty. We revere the learned and eloquent divine, but no less the experienced and cultured physician. Whatever art or profession aids humanity to be true to itself and the laws of nature, that takes up the brittle and often shattered threads of life, making it to perform its proper functions, is noble, philanthropic, divine. It is with pleasure, therefore, that we write the sketch of Dr. George N. Lucas, a man who is self-made in the true sense of the term.

Dr. Lucas was born at Quaker Hill, Indiana, March 25, 1860, and is the son of George and Emily (Henderson) Lucas, the former a native of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Quaker Hill, Indiana. Shortly after the birth of our subject, they removed from Quaker Hill, Indiana, to Texas, where the husband and father died, at the age of twenty-four years, when

George was but six months old. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Lucas returned to Indiana, where, later, she was again married, but died in 1871. This advent threw the boy on the world without the protecting influence of a mother's love, the ties of which are often tested, but never broken, for "No love like mother's love ever was known." Mrs. Lucas was reared among those peace-loving people known as Friends, whose habits of life are proverbial for their strictness in those christian principles upon which rest true manhood. She was known and respected for her true worth, upright character and pure life.

After the death of his mother, our subject went to the home of his grandfather, Henry Lucas, at Whitestown, Boone county, Indiana, where he remained until 1874. The panic of 1873 proving ruinous to his grandfather's business, at the age of fourteen he was thrown entirely upon his own resources, and at once saw the necessity of striking out in life for himself. For the space of ten years he worked at various vocations in various places, as any boy would under similar circumstances. All this time, however, he was looking to the development of the intellectual man by attending school at every opportunity. Up to the time he attained his majority the most of his schooling was received in Boone and Putnam counties, Indiana. He then entered the high school at Lebanon, Indiana, where he spent some time in fitting himself for future usefulness. In 1874 he removed to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was employed in the Hospital for the Insane, but on account of the treatment of patients, which did not agree with his tastes, he abandoned the situation. He next repaired to Elgin, Illinois, where, through high influ-

ence, he obtained a similar situation, during which time he served also as attendant and assistant supervisor, and also as night watchman. At the expiration of three years he obtained a position in the watch factory where he remained for five years. Turning his attention to higher attainments, after mature thought and deliberate consideration, he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the University of Illinois, at Chicago, from which institution he was graduated with honors in 1895.

On March 25, 1888, Dr. Lucas was united in marriage with Miss Lucy E. Blackburn, daughter of Frank and Eliza Blackburn, of Manchester, Illinois, and by this union two sons have been born, Frank in 1890, and Edwin in 1892. Mrs. Lucas was born at Murrayville, Illinois, March 30, 1866.

Immediately after his graduation, Dr. Lucas established himself at Malta, where he has now a large and increasing practice. He possesses these social qualities which mark the successful man. His conversational powers are good with enough of humor to make him a genial companion.

**L**eonard Aurner, agriculturist, residing on section 22, Kingston township, is one of the pioneers of this section whose name and history is well known all over De Kalb county. He was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, July 6, 1810, and is the son of Henry and Elizabeth Aurner, both natives of Pennsylvania, and who removed to De Kalb county, Illinois, some time later than their son Leonard. Leonard Aurner justly comes of his good old age, his father dying in 1852, at the age of

ninety-eight years, while the mother died in 1856, at the age of ninety-two years.

Leonard Aurner removed from Michigan to Illinois, in 1838, locating on section 22, Kingston township. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of a Mr. Taylor, of Chicago, and to this he added at various times until he had some five hundred acres of excellent farming land. Some of this he has since sold, and some has been given to his children. He was appointed the first trustee of the first school taught in this district, which was in 1840, Miss Harriet Russell officiating.

Mr. Aurner was first married in St. Joseph county, Michigan, in 1836, to Miss Margaret W. Dibble, a daughter of James and Dolly Dibble, and to this union was born nine children, seven of whom are yet living: Orlando J., Eliza C., William R., Harriet L., Charles L., Joseph F. and Marquis D. Mrs. Aurner died in De Kalb county, September 26, 1864, at the age of fifty-two years. She was born in Delaware county, New York, August 13, 1812, and was a true helpmeet to her husband. For his second wife Mr. Aurner married a Mrs. Snyder, of Sycamore, and for his third a Mrs. Burghart, of De Kalb. By the last two marriages there are no children. Both are now deceased.

Mr. Aurner has lived an honest and upright life, respected and honored among all men, and dealing squarely with whomever he came in contact. His experience in the county has been varied and interesting, and he is truly the architect of his own fortune. He has been a Republican since the organization of the party and has filled many offices of honor and trust to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. When younger he was engaged in the mercantile business



LEONARD AURNER.

Aged 88 Years.



in Chapmanville for a number of years, but of late has been living quietly under the roof which has sheltered him so long.

His daughter, Harriet L., was born in Kingston township, February 8, 1846, and in 1866 was united in marriage with S. Keppel, of Kingston, and to them six children were born, three of whom are now living: Minnie A., born at Kingston, February 21, 1872; John M., April 27, 1876; and Lida B., November 16, 1880. They removed in 1866, to Topeka, Kansas, but subsequently removed to Montgomery county, that state, where Mr. Keppel founded the town of Elk City, and where he was a very prominent merchant. He was obliged on account of failing health to abandon the mercantile business, and went to Miles City, Montana, in an effort to regain waning health, but it was in vain, and at that place, April 5, 1887, he passed away to the better home.

On December 25, 1888, Mrs. Keppel was joined in wedlock with T. A. Shorey, a farmer, whose demise occurred May 17, 1890. Shortly after this bereavement, Mrs. Shorey sold out her interest in the property and came to Kingston, where she has since remained under the old roof which protected her in days of yore. Her daughter, Minnie A., was united in marriage to C. C. Smith, January 7, 1895, and to them three children have been born, Harland L., Helen C. and Fay.

**CHAUNCY H. WILDER, M. D.**—There can be no greater honor conferred upon man than the title of M. D. Trained must be his nerve, tender and delicate his touch, deep must be his study and wide must be his range of thought and knowledge to

acquire it. There is no more responsible position or profession than that of the physician, the man who aids dame nature in weaving together the brittle and often shattered strands of the thread of life. If true to his calling, he must be in love with his profession. He must be as much in harmony with the eternal laws of Jehovah as the man who proclaims from the sacred desk the oracles of the almighty. Dr. Wilder is yet a young man, but he has that true love for the profession that should animate the hearts of all engaged in it. He is a native of Independence, Missouri, born October 21, 1865, and is the son of Chauncy H. and Elizabeth (Hurlbert) Wilder, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Illinois.

Chauncy H. Wilder, Sr., the father of our subject, was a man of natural and acquired abilities. While residing in Vermont, he was postmaster of his native town for several years. In 1844, he accompanied his father, Oliver Wilder, to Winnebago county, Illinois, where the family resided until May, 1863, when Oliver Wilder passed to his reward. His wife followed him just two years later, in May, 1865. Oliver Wilder was a prosperous farmer, and was loyal to his country, serving it faithfully and well in the war of 1812 with Great Britain. The father of Oliver was Ransom Wilder, a native of Massachusetts, and a brave soldier in the Revolutionary war. He was a direct descendant of one of three brothers who emigrated from England, with a widowed mother, Martha Wilder, who landed in Massachusetts bay in 1638 and from whom it is supposed all the Wilders in the United States descended. One of the family was made a baron in 1497 by Henry VII, who gave him a land grant. After the

death of his parents, Chauncy H. Wilder, Sr., removed from Winnebago county, Illinois, to Independence, Missouri, where he soon contracted a disease which resulted in his death in 1868. After his death his widow with her family of little ones returned to their old home in Winnebago county, Illinois, where Martin V. B. Wilder then resided, and where she died the same year. The family consisted of eight children, six of whom are now living, Chauncy H. being the youngest.

Dr. Wilder was only two years of age when his parents died. His uncle, Martin V. B. Wilder, then adopted him into his own family, where he shared alike with the children of his adopted father. In this home in the city of De Kalb, Illinois, the Doctor received his first training, and in the public schools of the city received his education, assisting at odd times his foster father, who was one of De Kalb's prominent merchants. He assisted in the store and attended school until he reached his twenty-first year. In 1886, he removed to California, where one of his brothers resided. He there remained three years, during which time he was employed as a clerk and in mercantile business. In 1890, he returned to De Kalb, where he engaged as a clerk for the firm of Oleson Wilder, with whom he remained one year, after which he went to Chicago and began the study of medicine under Dr. James A. Clark, formerly of De Kalb, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and where he remained four years, three years of which time he held the position of house surgeon, which opened up to his mind a large and, as yet to him, an unexplored field of science. His experience there was varied, but all the time his education and training were ripen-

ing. He firmly believed in the sentiment embodied in the words of Bryant, when he said:

"Keep pushing; 'tis better than sitting aside,  
And sighing and watching and waiting the tide.  
In life's earnest battles, they only prevail,  
Who daily march forward, and never say fail."

After four years of hard and earnest study, he graduated with high honors, returned to De Kalb, in 1895, and began the practice of medicine in his home town. While in California, the Doctor was united in marriage with Miss Adalla Aplin, a native of Little York, California, born December 9, 1865, and a daughter of Dr. William D. and Mary L. Aplin. The marriage ceremony was celebrated August 6, 1889. They have one child, born September 2, 1895.

Dr. Aplin, the father of Mrs. Wilder, is a graduate of the Royal College of Surgery, of Manchester, England, and was in the employ of the English government previous to his coming to this country, in about 1852. For a time he resided in Rhode Island, where he held a position as chemist. On his removal to California he was employed by mining companies as assayer and chemist, and finally went into the mining business himself. He has, however, abandoned the mining business, but for his health's sake still makes his home in California.

Martin Van Buren Wilder, whose name has been mentioned in this sketch, is worthy of a more extended notice. He was born in Jericho, Vermont, in 1836, and was a brother to Chauncy H. Wilder, Sr., the father of our subject. In 1844 he came with his parents to Illinois, and in 1857 went to Nebraska, where he engaged in mining. In 1860 he went to Colorado,

and from there to New Mexico, where he was living at the outbreak of the Civil war. Stirred by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted in Company F, Fourth New Mexico Volunteer Infantry, which was subsequently transferred to the Second New Mexico Cavalry. He served all through the war and was honorably discharged in 1865, after spending eight years of camp life in various parts of the south and west. After the close of the war he moved to De Kalb, Illinois, and engaged in the mercantile business, in which he continued until his death, in 1894. In 1864 he married Miss Clara Whitmore, who, with her three daughters, survive him.

Dr. Wilder is an inveterate relic hunter, and has in his possession fifty different patterns of pistols, eleven kinds of muskets, some of which were used in the Revolutionary war, others in the Fenian raid, and some in the Rebellion. Besides these he has knives, daggers, stilettoes and other curiosities. Each relic has its own history, and the affable Doctor takes delight in explaining in detail each in its order. The old Wilder home in Hingham, Massachusetts, has remained unchanged for two centuries. The Doctor has a large and increasing practice, and his office and laboratory are supplied with all the latest appliances.

LEWIS EAMES, who resides on section 17, Milan township, and whose post-office is Lee, Lee county, Illinois, owns and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land. He is a native of Norway, born near the city of Stavanger, March 19, 1848, and is the son of Ole Eames, also a native of Norway, born

in the same section, and a grandson of Ole Eames, Sr., who was a well-to-do farmer of Norway. Ole Eames, Jr., grew to manhood in his native country, and there married Anna Turena Eames Goodmans, also a native of that country. By occupation Ole Eames was a farmer, and also was a dealer in cattle in his native country. He there raised his family and spent his entire life, dying when our subject was but nine years of age. Of their family of nine children, all grew to mature years, and of that number four sons and two daughters are yet living.

Lewis Eames remained on the old homestead until eighteen years of age, when he emigrated to the United States, accompanied by his brothers, Soren and Andrew, and sister, Hannah. His brother, Soren, had made a visit in 1860, and made a location in La Salle county, Illinois. To that county the brothers all went on their arrival in this country, and there our subject commenced work for Ezekiel Howland, at Prairie Center, and continued with him three years. He then went to Champaign county, rented land for a time and then purchased a farm near Urbana, which he sold—and lived on rented land some six years. In 1873 he came to De Kalb county, returned home, and selling out, again came to this county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres where he now resides. While the place was partially improved, he has since added greatly to its appearance by setting out an orchard and planting shade and ornamental trees and otherwise improving the place.

Mr. Eames was married in De Kalb county, March 10, 1875, to Martha Peterson, a native of De Kalb county, reared in Paw Paw township, and a daughter of

Peter Peterson, one of the first settlers in the western part of the county. By this union there are nine children, eight of whom are yet living as follows: Orrin Augustus, Peter Immanuel, Mabel Sophia, Leonard Mertin, Irving Silas, Lester Mertin, Verna Ruth, Ethel Agnes and Clarion Obed. All are living except Leonard Mertin, who died at the age of three years and five months. Orrin A. is a stenographer and is employed in Chicago. Mabel S. is now in Houston, Texas, taking lessons in music and also in elocution. The remainder of the children are at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Eames are members of the Lutheran church, in which he is one of the official members, and for some years has served as a deacon. Politically he is a Republican, and has given his support to that party since becoming a citizen of this country. He was elected and is now serving as commissioner of highways. For some years he served as a member of the school board, giving much of his time to the advancement of the public schools. He has always manifested more or less interest in political affairs, and has been elected as a delegate to the conventions of his party. He is a well known citizen of Milan township, and is held in the highest esteem.

**PATRICK A. MCGIRR**, who resides upon section 29, Afton township, is a representative farmer, one who has had lifelong experience in agricultural pursuits. He is a native of Afton township, born September 23, 1862, and is the son of John and Mary (Powers) McGirr, of whom further mention is made in the sketch of John McGirr, to be found elsewhere in this volume. In the district schools of Afton township our sub-

ject received his primary education, which was supplemented by attending the schools of De Kalb and Chicago. For some years he has been engaged in the grain business at Carlton, Illinois, and also in the general mercantile trade, a business in which he has been very successful, his trade extending for many miles around. In 1897 he was appointed postmaster of the place and is still serving in that capacity to the satisfaction of all concerned.

On the 14th of February, 1893, Mr. McGirr was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Minnehan, a native of Afton township, and a daughter of Dennis and Margaret (Foy) Minnehan, who were natives of Ireland, and who are the parents of seven children. By this union there are two children, Gertrude, born November 18, 1893, and Margaret, born May 19, 1896. Fraternally Mr. McGirr is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is a Democrat, having abiding faith in the principles of that party. He has never sought nor desired public office, but has served as assessor of his township, an office which he was well qualified to fill. Success has crowned his efforts in everything that he has undertaken, and in addition to his stock of general merchandise and means invested in grain business, he has two hundred and forty acres of valuable land, and is numbered among the well-to-do and progressive citizens of the township.

**JOHN WALKER**, deceased, was for years one of the leading farmers of Malta township, and one of the worthy citizens of Lee county prior to his removal to De Kalb county, honest and upright in every respect.



He was a native of Scotland, born in Bute-shire, August 28, 1814, and was the son of William and Jeannette Walker, both of whom were also natives of Scotland. The life of a farmer in Scotland afforded no chance for advancement. One could not add to his material wealth, and a bare living was about all that could be obtained. Because of this fact, our subject determined to come to the New World, and in 1845 he left his native land, and came directly to Illinois, locating in St. Charles, Kane county. After residing there a few years, he sent for his father's family, who joined him at that place. They purchased a farm near St. Charles, but account of reverses abandoned it, and in 1862 removed to Lee county, Illinois, where they purchased a quarter-section of wild prairie land. In course of time this became very valuable under their joint efforts, and two more quarter sections were added, which were later disposed of.

On the 24th of November, 1843, Mr. Walker was united in marriage with Miss Flora S. McNeil, who bore him thirteen children, nine of whom are yet living—Mary C., Jeannette P., William G., John M., Charles A., Joseph H., Flora J., Emma B., Henry A. and Belle S. Mrs. Walker was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1825, and she was there married to Mr. Walker, and they spent three years of their wedded life in their native land, before coming to this country. She lived in sight of the farm upon which Robert Burns lived and worked, and often visited the cottage in which the great Scotch poet was born. Mrs. Walker is a woman of rare natural ability, alive to every good word and work.

Mr. Walker was a man highly esteemed by his fellow citizens, who elected him to all the offices of the township, which he

filled with credit to himself and friends. He was a member of the Congregational church, and served eight years as deacon of the church in Creston, Illinois. The family are also members of the Congregational church. His death occurred October 31, 1893, in his seventy-ninth year. His friends were many throughout Kane, Lee and De Kalb counties, and all held him in the highest respect.

ALEXANDER RENNIE COURT is a retired farmer now residing in the city of Sycamore. He was born in Henderson township, Jefferson county, New York, March 10, 1848. His great-grandfather, John Court, was a native of London, England, where his entire life was spent. He married a Miss Gibson, and died at the age of ninety years. His son, Henry Court, Sr., also a native of London, England, came to America, with his family, in 1836, sailing from London, in the ship Philadelphia, being forty-four days *en route*, and landing in New York. His son, Henry Court, Jr., the father of our subject, was born in London, England, July 7, 1823, and came to the United States with his parents at the age of thirteen years. He grew to manhood in Jefferson county, New York, and at Antwerp, married Lovira Cross, a native of Jefferson county, New York, and a daughter of Enoch and Betsey (Britton) Cross, the former a native of Keene, New Hampshire. They became the parents of four children, of whom our subject is second in order of birth.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in Jefferson county, New York, on the old farm on Henderson Bay, near Sacketts Harbor. His time was spent principally on water, sailing, bathing and

ishing. In 1865, he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, with his parents, who settled in Sycamore township. His education, began in his native county, was finished with three terms in the Sycamore schools. At the age of twenty-one he began farming on shares with his father. He married at the age of twenty-four, and soon after rented a farm near Charter Grove, which he operated for four years. In February, 1876, he went to Story county, Iowa, with two thousand eight hundred dollars in cash, and purchased one hundred acres of prairie and six acres of timber land. In two years he saw clearly that he could do better in De Kalb county, as he was paying ten per cent. interest on borrowed money to carry on the place. What with poor crops, stock that he lost, and hard times generally, he felt that it was for his interest to return, and coming back he worked one year for his father-in-law, then rented the John Woolsey farm, on which he remained for thirteen years. He then retired and came to Sycamore, buying his present residence in the winter of 1893, since which time he has followed carpentering and painting when work came to his hand.

Mr. Court was married December 31, 1871, to Miss Ann B. Dean, born in Never-sink, Sullivan county, New York, and a daughter of Moses Dean, a native of the same place, born January 27, 1815, and who came west in 1856. In his native state Moses Dean followed the vocation of a farmer, taught school and kept a tavern. He acquired considerable property, some of which he rented. His emigration to the west was not until after the building of the railroad, and the journeys that required of the pioneers some weeks to make only required of him about two days. On arriving

in De Kalb county he settled in Charter Grove, where he purchased a farm and began a prosperous career. He was a thrifty man, a good manager, acquired more land, loaned money and was regarded as one of the best financiers in the county. Moses Dean was a son of Solomon Dean, a native of England, settled near Hartford, Connecticut, prior to the Revolutionary war, and who died at the age of one hundred and four years. His son, Solomon, born near Hartford, Connecticut, served through the Revolutionary war as a colonel under Washington. After the war he married Elizabeth Brown, by whom he had two daughters and one son. The latter, Reuben Dean, moved to Never-sink, New York, where he died December 16, 1845, at the age of sixty-one years. A patriot like his father, he served in the war of 1812. Reuben Dean married Elizabeth Devine, a daughter of Eleazer Devine; and they became the parents of Moses Dean, the father of Mrs. Court. Moses Dean married Rachel Evans, a daughter of George and Mary (Eller) Evans.

To Mr. and Mrs. Court five children have been born—Eliza, Henry A., Albert, Moses A. and Delia Elizabeth. Of these Eliza died at the age of thirteen months and Albert in infancy. Mrs. Court is a member of the Universalist church, which Mr. Court also attends.

SEPTIMUS STOREY has been a resident of DeKalb county since the fall of 1852. He was born in Harthill, Yorkshire, England, February 10, 1829, and grew to mature years in his native county, where he received a limited education, and in his boyhood worked for a time in the manufacture of nails. His father, Barnabee Storey, was

also a native of Yorkshire, England, as was his father before him. For several generations the male members of the family engaged in nail making. Barnabee Storey married Sarah Widdeson, a native of Derbyshire, England, and their entire lives were spent in their native country.

The subject of this sketch came to the United States in 1850, in company with Joseph Billam and William Cutts, both young men. They took ship at Liverpool, and were about twenty-four days in making the voyage, encountering in that time one severe storm, which damaged the sails of the ship to some extent. On arriving in New York Mr. Storey went up the Hudson to Albany, thence by rail to Buffalo, and the lakes to Chicago. From Chicago he went to Kendall county, where he joined some English friends and commenced work on a farm at ten dollars per month, continuing to be thus employed for one year. The next year he rented some land in Big Grove township, Kendall county, and secured one crop. In the fall of 1851 he came to De Kalb county, and purchased forty acres of land. Three of his friends owned one hundred and sixty acres, and they worked together to improve the tract, continuing thus engaged for two years. Mr. Storey then bought the share of William Cutts on section 17, to which he removed and erected a small frame house, in which he lived while developing the farm. He later bought eighty acres adjoining, which had been somewhat improved, and in due time built a larger residence, two good barns, tiled the place and enclosed a part of the barn with a fine hedge fence. From time to time he added to his possessions until he now owns six hundred and forty acres in one body. He previously owned one hundred and sixty

acres nearby, which he sold to his son. Up to 1894 he was actively engaged in farming and was recognized as one of the most enterprising farmers of the township, as well as a large breeder and dealer in shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. In 1894 he moved to Shabbona, after having erected one of the best residences in the place, and has since lived a retired life.

Mr. Storey was married in De Kalb county, December 23, 1856, to Miss Mary Mullen, a native of Derbyshire, England, who came to the United States a child of thirteen years, and a daughter of Robert and Sarah (Cyllett) Mullen, who were among the early settlers of Shabbona township, De Kalb county. By this union there are seven children, five sons and two daughters. John L., Charles E. and William H. are each engaged in farming in Shabbona township. George T. is one of the leading merchants of the village of Shabbona. De Forrest L. is with his brother, William H., engaged in farming on the old homestead. Sarah E. is the wife of Harvey Green, a farmer of Scranton township, Green county, Iowa. Lilly M. yet remains at home. They lost two children, Robert M. and Anna M., both dying when about three years of age.

Politically Mr. Storey is a staunch Republican, his first presidential ballot being cast for Abraham Lincoln, in 1860. He was elected and served as a member of the school-board for sixteen years, three years as road commissioner, and five years, at different times, as supervisor. While a member of the county board he served on the personal property committee, and of highways and printing, being chairman of the latter committee. Since moving to Shabbona, he served two years as a member of the village trustees. In every position

to which he has been elected he has discharged the duties in a faithful and efficient manner. In the various conventions of his party, county, district and state, he has often served as a delegate.

Mr. and Mrs. Storey are members of the West Shabbona Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Storey has officially served for many years. For almost half a century Mr. Storey has been a resident of Illinois, forty-eight years of which time a resident of De Kalb county. Coming to this county a poor man, by his industry and thrifty habits he has become independent financially, and can well afford to take a well-earned rest, knowing that he has the esteem and confidence of the entire community in which he has resided so many years.

**EDWARD M. BURST**, the present city attorney of Sycamore, is a native of the city, born January 1, 1872. He here grew to manhood, and in its public schools received his literary education. Early evincing a desire to make the legal profession his life work, in 1890, he entered the law department of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in June, 1892, with the degree of LL. B., and was admitted to practice the same year, in the courts of Michigan. In 1893, he entered the law office of Caldwell & Pierson, of Chicago, where he remained about one year, and then returned to Sycamore, opened an office in the room occupied by Judge L. Lowell, and began the practice of his profession. His professional qualities attracted the attention of the people of the city, and in 1895 he was elected to serve them as city attorney, and was re-elected in 1897. While in politics he is a Repub-

lican, he was elected the first term by the independent voters and to the second term on the citizens ticket. In 1892, he was one of the delegates from Illinois to the National Republican League, held at Buffalo, New York.

John W. Burst, the father of our subject, was born in Delaware county, New York. He is a veteran of the Civil war, and is held in high regard by his fellow comrades.

Captain Burst was one of the earliest to join the G. A. R., having been mustered into Ransom Post, Chicago, in 1866. He was transferred to the post in Sycamore, Illinois, in 1874, and was its commander for several years. He was very active in building up the order in Illinois, and besides holding many subordinate positions was senior vice-commander, and commander of the department. He served for several years on the G. A. R. National Pension Committee, and did effective work in the formulation and passage of the disability bill. He has been three times the candidate of the department of Illinois for commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. His appointment by Commander-in-Chief Lawler as quartermaster-general met the enthusiastic approval of thousands of personal friends among the comrades.

During the campaign of 1896, Captain Burst was a part of the aggregation made up of crippled veterans of the war for the union that made a tour of the country in the interest of the Republican party. In the party were Generals Sickles, Howard, Stewart, Corporal Tanner and others. Soon after his election President McKinley appointed Captain Burst United States immigration inspector, with headquarters at Chicago, which position he now holds.



EDWARD M. BURST.



Captain Burst married Lettice Mayo, a daughter of Hon. Edward L. and Emily (Holden) Mayo. Her father settled at Sycamore, Illinois, in 1841, and for many years was the acknowledged leader of the bar of De Kalb county. As a lawyer and a man, he was prominently identified with its early history. He was born in Moretown, Washington county, Vermont, in 1807, and while his advantages in early life were limited, he obtained a fair education. His friends tried to persuade him to enter the ministry, but he chose the law, and was admitted to the bar in 1835. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Lettice Ann Holden, who died shortly afterward, when in September, 1840, he married Miss Emily Holden, her cousin. In politics he was a Democrat, and in 1854 was the candidate of that party for congress, but was defeated, the district being strongly Republican. He was three times elected county judge, notwithstanding his politics, and the fact that he belonged to a party casting the minority vote. He was on intimate terms of friendship with the leading men of the state, among them being Stephen A. Douglas, Judge John D. Caton and Lyman Trumbull. After 1860, he was a "war Democrat," in full sympathy with the union cause. His integrity and honor were never questioned. Possessed of a legal mind, it was among his legal brethren who knew him best and were best able to judge, that he was most appreciated. He died in De Kalb, November 16, 1877, at the age of seventy years, leaving a widow and one son, Dr. E. L. Mayo, of De Kalb, and three daughters, Mrs. John W. Burst, of Sycamore; Mrs. T. E. Bagley, of Genoa; and Miss Kate Mayo, of De Kalb, surviving. To Captain and Mrs. Burst, three children were born—Edward M., the

subject of this sketch; Bessie, wife of Henry W. Prentice, an attorney of De Kalb; and Bertha C.

Edward M. Burst, the subject of this sketch, is an earnest and active member of the Republican party. In 1898 he re-arranged and revised the city ordinances. Fraternally he is a member of the Foresters, and in 1898 was elected chief ranger of Court Kishwaukee of Sycamore. He is a young man of fine character and future promise, and has already taken rank among the able members of the bar of De Kalb county.

THOMAS M. HOPKINS was for many years one of the leading attorneys in De Kalb county. He was born in the town of Salem, Washington county, New York, April 23, 1818, and was the son of Hiram and Sarah (McClary) Hopkins, also natives of the town of Salem. Hiram Hopkins was a man of considerable prominence in Salem, but with a view of bettering his condition in life, he came west and located in Aurora, Illinois, in the early settlement of that place.

Thomas M. Hopkins, our subject, was reared in his native town and educated in its public schools, completing his studies with three years at Washington Academy. In 1835, when but seventeen years of age, he commenced the study of law, and January, 1842, was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of the state, at Albany, New York, Judge Samuel Nelson presiding. At Salem he began the practice of his profession and there continued one year. In 1843 he came to Illinois, and after spending one summer in this state, went to Missouri, where he resided until February, 1846, when he came to De Kalb county and en-

tered a claim on section 13, De Kalb township, afterward entering the same from the general government. He at once commenced improving the land, erecting thereon a dwelling and necessary outbuildings and for some years engaged in general farming.

On the 23d of April, 1846, Mr. Hopkins was joined in marriage with Miss Julia A. Hawken, a daughter of Jacob Hawken, a native of Hagerstown, Maryland, from which place he removed with his family to St. Louis, Missouri, where the remainder of his life was passed, dying at the age of sixty years. His wife died when thirty-five years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins five children were born. Montgomery, who is a farmer, was born October 16, 1847. Charles O., also a farmer by occupation, was born October 2, 1849. Christopher M., born September 1, 1853, is a physician residing in Iowa. Alice C. (now Mrs. Bradt) was born December 19, 1855. Jacob H., a leading attorney in Chicago, was born May 3, 1865.

On first coming to the state Mr. Hopkins applied for admission to the bar of Illinois and was duly licensed to practice May 2, 1843, by the supreme court of the state, Chief Justice Caton and Judge Richard M. Young presiding. On his return to the state in 1846, in connection with farming, he engaged in general practice. In 1865 he moved into the village of De Kalb, opened a law office and devoted his whole time to the legal profession. He was a man of marked gifts and powers, thoroughly versed in his profession. His familiarity with all the laws, rules and regulations of the various courts enabled him to maintain a position in the front ranks of his profession, and it was admitted by all that he was one of the best members of the bar in De Kalb

county. His many clients bore testimony to his zeal and success in furthering their interests. Socially he was large-hearted and benevolent in the extreme. He passed away in 1888 at the age of seventy years, mourned by many friends and missed by all.

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**H** H. HOPKINS, a representative business man of Hinckley and De Kalb county, the superintendent and manager of extensive creameries in De Kalb, Kenilworth, Ogle and Lee counties, has been a resident of the county since 1880 and of Hinckley since 1884. He is a native of New Hampshire, born in Chesterfield, Cheshire county, July 2, 1861, and is the son of R. Henry Hopkins, a native of the same state and county, who there grew to manhood and married Miss Ellen L. Newton. For many years he was one of the leading business men of his native town, and occupied a very prominent position in social, business and political affairs. For one or more terms he served as a member of the legislature, with credit to himself and constituents. Fraternally he was a Mason. His death occurred in 1878, his wife passing away two years previously. They were the parents of five children as follows: Charles Barton, a business man of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; H. H., of this review; George C., of Oregon, Illinois, who is interested in the creamery business with our subject.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native town, and in the high school of Hinsdale, New Hampshire, finished his education. He came to De Kalb county in 1880, and was employed by H. B. Gurley, who operated a creamery on his farm near De Kalb, Illinois. While with Mr. Gurley he received a thorough and



practical knowledge of the creamery business, and in 1884 he formed a partnership with his employer, and under the firm name of Gurley & Hopkins, they purchased a creamery at Hinckley, which had been in operation some years, but was then run down and doing no business. Mr. Hopkins assumed the business management of the Hinckley concern, and at once commenced active operations. In due time the old machinery was replaced with new, and the plant is now better supplied with improved machinery than any other in this section of the state. From time to time the firm added other plants, until they have now eight creameries in Lee, De Kalb and Ogle counties. They are all first class plants, and turn out daily about three thousand three hundred pounds of first class butter. Our subject has full charge of the business, and to him is due the great success of these creameries.

Mr. Hopkins was married at De Kalb, Illinois, March 14, 1883, to Miss Frances E. Geiser, a native of Fonda, New York, but who was reared and educated in De Kalb.

Politically Mr. Hopkins is a staunch Republican, and has been quite active in local politics, often serving as a delegate to the various conventions of his party. In the state convention of 1898, with others, he represented De Kalb county as a delegate. For some twelve years he served as a member of the town council, being one of its most active and influential men. He was interested in and helped organize the fire department, and has since been at the head of that organization. Fraternally he is a Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge at Hinckley, the chapter at Sandwich and the commandery at Aurora. In the

work of the lodge he has taken special interest, and has served as worshipful master of the lodge at Hinckley. While a resident of the county but eighteen years, he has an extensive acquaintance in every part as well as in the surrounding counties. As a business man he is thoroughly enterprising, and is alive to every matter that will add to the growth and prosperity of his adopted county and state.

J. C. DUNCAN, M. D., is one of De Kalb's prominent physicians and surgeons, being a thorough expert, both in the medical and surgical branches of his profession. His office is on Fourth street, where he has in his service the latest and most improved medical and surgical appliances. He was born in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, March 3, 1851, and is the son of Thomas and Eliza (Cation) Duncan, both of whom were natives of Scotland, and who immigrated to this country in 1842, locating in New York, where they remained five years. In 1847 they removed to Wisconsin, where they remained twenty-three years, going from thence to Iowa, where the succeeding ten years was spent. In 1880 they removed to Mendota, Illinois, where the remainder of their lives was spent. Eliza Duncan died in December, 1890, in her seventy-third year, and Thomas Duncan, December 18, 1895, at the age of eighty-one years.

The family of Thomas and Eliza Duncan consisted of nine children, seven sons and two daughters. Five of these sons are practicing physicians at the present time. Thomas C. Duncan, M. D., of Chicago, is also an author of some note, his volume on treatment of infants and children being a standard work, which should not only be in

every physician's library, but in every par-ent's home. David Duncan, M. D., is also a resident of Chicago. George B. Duncan, M. D., resides in Kewanee, Illinois, while J. C. Duncan, M. D., is the subject of this sketch. Frank is an oculist and ranks high in his profession in Des Moines, Iowa. John is a farmer, residing in Mexico, Mis-souri. William, a deceased son, gave his life in defense of his country during the siege of Vicksburg.

The subject of this sketch received his primary education in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, after which he entered Milton College, Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1869. He then went to Iowa and engaged in agricultural pursuits, remain-ing there until 1877, when he went to Chi-cago, and attended a course of medical lec-tures, but did not then graduate. Returning to Iowa, he studied and practiced with his brother, even then a prominent physician, until 1882, when he again went to Chicago and became associated with his two brothers in study and practice. In 1887 he again attended medical college, and was graduated from the Chicago Homeopathic College. In March of the same year he removed to La Moile, Illinois, where his real active life began, and where success attended all his efforts. In 1892 he took up the study of the eye and ear, making himself familiar with all the diseases of those organs. He is an expert at testing the eye and fitting glasses to suit all the conditions of that delicate member.

On the 18th of May, 1875, Dr. Duncan was united in marriage with Miss Anna English, a native of Mitchell county, Iowa, born in 1855, and a daughter of Samuel English, one of the early settlers of that county. Mrs. Duncan died May 1, 1877,

leaving one son, Clifford J., born September 10, 1876. On the 8th of April, 1880, the Doctor was joined by marriage with Miss Nettie M. Patchen, a daughter of Orlando and Cassie Patchen, of Wisconsin. By this union three boys were born: Howard W., December 11, 1881; D. Edgar, De-cember 3, 1885; and Thomas Roy, Novem-ber 22, 1889.

Dr. Duncan remained in La Moile, Illi-nois, until October 15, 1896, when he re-moved to De Kalb, where he now resides, and where he enjoys the full confidence of De Kalb's best citizens. As a physician he has been very successful.

**CAPTAIN HENRY C. WHITTEMORE.**  
 One of the representative and honored citizens of De Kalb county, who for many years has been one of the leading merchants of Sycamore, was born at Auburn, New York, October 31, 1841, and is the son of Lorenzo and Hannah (Kelsey) Whittemore. His father was born in Leicester, Massa-chusetts, March 11, 1807, and was the son of Samuel Whittemore, who was a native of the same place, born September 15, 1769. Samuel Whittemore was a son of Lieuten-ant James Whittemore, who was first ser-geant of a company during the war of the Revolution, and who marched with his com-pany to Lexington, April 17, 1775, and was subsequently promoted to lieutenant. James was the son of John of Leicester, and a great-grandson of Thomas, who came to America from Hitchin, county Hereford, England, in 1641, settling in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

Samuel Whittemore, who was a farmer by occupation, moved from Massachusetts to New York and resided for a time in Cay-

uga and Allegany counties. He later moved to Sycamore, Illinois, but died at Westfield, New York, in 1866, while on a visit to that place. His wife, Catherine Ringer, died some twenty years previously.

Lorenzo Whittemore came west in 1848, and located in Sycamore, where his death occurred August 31, 1887. He was by occupation a carpenter, but also learned the shoemaking trade and was engaged in that line of business for a time. He was a natural mechanic. Politically he was a Republican, and religiously a member of the Congregational church. He was a large, portly man, weighing two hundred and twenty-five pounds. At one time he was coroner of the county, serving a single term. His wife, Hannah Kelsey, was a native of Ulster county, New York, born December 25, 1805, and died at Sycamore in March, 1879. They were the parents of two children, Henry C. and Floyd K. The latter is now deputy state treasurer and resides at Springfield, Illinois. He was born October 2, 1844, at Auburn, New York, came west with his parents and was educated in the schools of Sycamore. After serving an apprenticeship in the office of the True Republican, he entered the offices of the circuit clerk of De Kalb county, and served from 1861 to 1864. In 1865 he was made assistant state treasurer under Beveridge, and served with him two years, going out at the expiration of his term. He then entered the banking house of Jacob Bunn, at Springfield, as bookkeeper and was shortly made teller and later cashier, serving as such until the organization of the State National Bank at Springfield, when he became cashier of that institution, serving about twenty years. He then became cashier of the subtreasury at Chicago, under the administration of

President Harrison. In 1895 he was made assistant state treasurer, and has held that position up to the present time. In the summer of 1898 he was nominated on the Republican ticket for the office of state treasurer. He is regarded as one of the best financiers in Illinois.

Henry C. Whittemore, our subject, was reared in Sycamore, where he received his education in the public schools. For a time he served as clerk in a mercantile establishment, and then entered the office of the circuit clerk and was there engaged when the war broke out. He enlisted in September, 1861, and was mustered in in October of the same year, as a member of Battery G, Second Illinois Light Artillery, Captain C. J. Stolbrand commanding. He was in a camp of instruction until December, then went to Cairo, and from there followed the army down the Mississippi. He was appointed ordnance officer at Cairo, and had charge of the ordnance department of the Army of the Tennessee. He was with the fleet at Island No. 10, where he remained two weeks. He then went to Columbus, Kentucky, and was engaged in keeping open the railroads there. At that place he served on the staff of General Quimby, and also General Davis. He was later transferred to the Army of the Cumberland, and was judge advocate for several months. He was then with his battery in front of Fort Donelson. Later he was placed on the staff of General Rousseau and served with him until the close of the war.

Captain Whittemore was mustered out of service July 29, 1865, and was soon afterwards sent south in the employ of the postal department, in reorganizing the postal service in the southern states. He continued in that service until 1867, when he

returned home and later engaged in the tanning business in which he continued for a time. In 1873 he commenced in the hardware business under the firm name of Harkness & Whittemore, which partnership continued until the former's death, when Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. A. W. Brower purchased the interest of the Harkness heirs, and the firm became Whittemore, Chamberlain & Co. Later Mr. Chamberlain retired and the firm became Whittemore & Brower. They carry a large line of general hardware, agricultural implements, carriages and wagons, and have built up a large trade.

Captain Whittemore was united in marriage March 17, 1864, to Miss Amelia Martin, a daughter of Harry and Jane (Slack) Martin, both of whom were natives of Vermont. She was born in Sycamore, to which place her parents removed some years previously. By this union there are five children: Charles F., born in July, 1865, died at the age of six years. Mary is yet under the parental roof. Harry M., who is engaged in business with his father, married Miss Gertrude Chapell, by whom he has one child, Helen. Cora married Dr. George W. Nesbitt, of Sycamore. Floyd graduated from the high school at Sycamore, then entered the Illinois University, from which he was also graduated. He is now employed in the office of the state treasurer at Springfield.

Mrs. Whittemore is a member of the Congregational church in which she takes an active part. Politically the Captain is a Republican, with which party he has been associated since attaining his majority. By his party he has been honored with a number of official positions, including alderman of his ward and member of

the county board of supervisors. He was first elected a member of the board in 1883, and has been re-elected at each succeeding election, and is yet serving as a member, giving eminent satisfaction. He was a member of the thirty-fourth general assembly at the time General Logan was elected United States senator, after a hard and gallant fight. As a member of that body Captain Whittemore did good service. He is now one of the trustees of the State Home for Juvenile Offenders at Geneva. He has always taken an active interest in political affairs, and is usually a delegate in the various conventions of his party, county, congressional and state.

Fraternally Captain Whittemore is a Mason, and is a member of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery at Sycamore. He is also a member of Potter Post, No. 12, G. A. R., at Sycamore, of which he is past commander. He is a man of social character and generous instinct. As a citizen he is public-spirited and is active in all enterprises for the benefit of the people. He is greatly esteemed by all who know him.

**J**OHAN POWERS, who resides on section 28, Afton township, is a representative farmer and well known throughout the county. He is a native of county Waterford, Ireland, born December 20, 1837, and is the son of John and Catherine (Quinlan) Powers, who were also natives of Ireland and the parents of five children, Edward, Patrick, John, Mary and Ann.

In 1854, when but seventeen years of age, our subject came to America, and worked on a farm in De Kalb county by the month for several years in order that he

might get a start in the world. Previous to leaving his native land he attended a private school, and received a limited education. Since coming to the United States, by reading and observation, he has become a well-informed man. In 1864 he made his first purchase of land, buying two hundred acres at sixteen dollars per acre. Later he purchased eighty acres more, giving him a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres of good land, which, with the improvements, is now worth about seventy-five dollars per acre.

Mr. Powers was united in marriage with Miss Anna Hannagan, a native of Ireland and of Irish descent. Eleven children have been born to this union, of whom three are deceased. The living are Anna, John, Stephen, William, Nora, Maggie, Fred and Ed. Mr. Powers and his family are all members of the Catholic church, and in politics he is a Democrat. He has always been interested in educational affairs, and for fully twenty years has served as a member of the school board. A farmer who thoroughly understands his business, he has met with success in his vocation. As a citizen he is greatly esteemed in the community, which has been his home for more than a third of a century.

**J**OHAN G. DAVY, foreman in Bradt & Shipman's glove factory, De Kalb, Illinois, is a native of the city, born March 7, 1859, and is the son of Charles and Mary Ann (Whitler) Davy, both natives of England, who emigrated to this country in 1853, locating in De Kalb, Illinois, where the father engaged in the butcher business in which he proved very successful. In 1860, during the campaign, he killed and roasted

an ox, in honor of Lincoln's visit to the city. He was a strict business man, true to those principles which guide and govern successful men. He died June 29, 1862, at the age of thirty two years, his widow and two sons surviving.

John G. Davy was reared and educated in De Kalb, and after receiving his education in the schools of the city, he was employed by George Gurler in the grocery trade, for whom he worked three and a half years. At the age of twenty-two, he went to work for I. A. Robinson, in the glove factory, then located in the basement of the Glidden House. He remained there two years, and at the expiration of his first year Mr. Robinson made him foreman of the shop. In 1883 he bought the De Kalb Mitten Company, which he successfully conducted on his own account, increasing the business to such an extent that Mott & Wolcott were induced to buy him out in 1891. In the following year Mott & Wolcott sold out to Bradt & Shipman, who put Mr. Davy in charge of the entire plant.

On the 29th of March, 1882, Mr. Davy was united in marriage with Miss Laura B. Stevens, born at Sterling, New York, August 5, 1865, and a daughter of Phillip and Caroline M. Stevens. Her father died March 25, 1880, and her mother moved with the family to De Kalb county, Illinois, arriving here May 18, 1880. To Mr. and Mrs. Davy five children have been born: Althea Ruth, born October 11, 1883; Percival E., February 10, 1886; Benjamin L., December 1, 1888; Reuben R., June 1, 1891; and Okley B., October 12, 1893.

Mr. Davy is one of De Kalb's prominent young men, of good business tact and enterprise. He has been interested in the manufacture of cigars for a number of years,

and has brought upon the market several novel and choice brands, one known as the "Fraternit." He has also carried on successfully the lunch-room known as "The Famous Coffee House," situated on Sixth street, near the depot. By his townsmen he has been chosen as a fit man to represent their interests in office, and is now serving his second term as alderman of the second ward. He is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America, organized in 1884, and is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Macca-bees, Royal Neighbors and Home Forum, in all of which he is a leading spirit.

AMOS W. TOWNSEND, deceased, was for many years one of the leading business men of De Kalb county, a man well known throughout its length and breadth, one who by his own success was enabled to assist others in securing a foothold in life. His life was an exemplification of the fact that there are no rules for building characters and none for achieving success. The man who can rise from the ranks to a position of eminence is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that surround his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same; the surroundings of individuals differ but slightly. When one man passes another on the highway of life, it is because he has the power to use advantages which probably encompass the whole human race.

Amos W. Townsend was born in the town of Neversink, Sullivan county, New York, September 23, 1832. His ancestry is traced back to his great-grandfather, Charles Townsend, who lived for some years in Sussex county, New York, but spent the

latter years of his life in Sullivan county, in the same state, dying when quite an old man. His wife was a Miss Hall. During the Revolutionary war, he served in the militia of New York, assisting the struggle for independence. His son, Joshua Townsend, was born in Deckertown, Sussex county, New York, July 14, 1787. He married Phebe Porter, a native of New Haven county, Connecticut, born February 17, 1787. They came west in 1840, locating in Mayfield township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where the former died April 17, 1861, and the latter April 28, 1867. Their son, Stephen Townsend, the father of our subject, was born in Sullivan county, New York, in the town of Neversink, June 30, 1807. He there married Miss Ann Denman. Her father, William Denman, was born in Ditchling, Sussex county, England, November 12, 1763. He married Ann Boorman, born in Sheddum, Kent county, England, August 9, 1772. They later emigrated to the United States, and settled in the town of Neversink, Sullivan county, New York, where his death occurred December 10, 1858, his wife preceding him, having died June 5, 1842. In 1840, Stephen Townsend came with his family to Mayfield township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm and where the remainder of his life was passed. He died some years ago and his wife makes her home in Sycamore and is now eighty-nine years old.

The subject of this sketch was but eight years of age when he came with the family to De Kalb county. They came to this country preceded by an uncle of our subject, who came here in 1837. There were three generations in the party, and all located in Mayfield township. They drove through from the east with teams, and were





AMOS W. TOWNSEND.





MRS. A. W. TOWNSEND.



several weeks in making the journey. Previous to their leaving Sullivan county, New York, our subject there attended school for a year or two, and after his coming to De Kalb county he attended the district school for a time, and completed his education in the Wheaton academy now Wheaton College. Before attaining his majority, he began farming on his grandfather's farm, where he remained until the time of his marriage.

Mr. Townsend was married in Sycamore, October 15, 1857, to Miss Eleanor Pierce, a native of Sullivan county, New York, and a daughter of Daniel and Phebe J. (Brundage) Pierce, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. By this union five children have been born. Frederick B. is the present mayor of Sycamore and manager of the bank of Daniel Pierce & Company. A more extended notice of him appears on another page of this work. Jennie married Charles A. Webster, and they have three children, Marian, Frederick C. and Pierce. They reside in Galesburg, Illinois. Anna married Frank E. Claycomb, of Monmouth, Illinois, by whom she had five children, Eleanor, Amos T., Alta Louise, George F. and Edward Denman. She is now deceased, dying April 8, 1892. Georgia married Captain John E. Yates, and their four children are Dorothy, Margaret, Marjorie and Oscar T. The family now reside in Boise City, Idaho. Mary, the youngest born, yet remains with her mother.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Townsend bought a farm a few miles north of Malta, where he lived for nineteen years, and where he successfully followed agricultural pursuits. In the fall of 1876, on account of the death of the mother of Mrs. Townsend, they removed to a farm one

mile west of Sycamore, to make a home for Mrs. Townsend's father. On removal to this farm, in addition to giving his personal attention to its management, Mr. Townsend soon became interested in the banking house of Daniel Pierce & Company, as the junior member of the firm. He was a thorough business man, methodical in all his ways, and success crowned his efforts. In politics he was a staunch Republican, and while always taking an active interest in political affairs, and while giving unswerving allegiance to his party, he never asked nor would accept office, save that of supervisor of his township, an office which was forced upon him by his friends and neighbors, because of his well-known ability and strict integrity of character. His death occurred August 25, 1887, and his remains were laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery at Sycamore. By his death the wife lost an affectionate husband, and the children a kind and loving father, and the community one of its best known citizens, a man that was ever ready to do his part in promoting the business and material welfare of his adopted county and state. Mrs. Townsend now resides in a beautiful residence on Semonauk street, Sycamore, Illinois, and her home is the abode of hospitality and the center of a refined circle of friends and acquaintances, who esteemed her for her many excellent traits of character.

**WILLIAM H. ROBINSON**, for many years a successful farmer in Sycamore township, and later a dealer in agricultural implements in the city of Sycamore, but who is now living a retired life, was born January 9, 1835. His father, John Robinson, was born in Lancashire,

England, November 14, 1804, and came to America, when but eighteen years old, sailing from Liverpool and landing in Canada, where he resided for a time, and later moved to New York, but returned to Canada. In the fall of 1836 he came to Illinois and selected a location in Plato township, Kane county, and then sent for his family, consisting then of a wife, son and daughter. They came in the spring of 1837, and he there made his home until his death, with the exception of about three years spent in California. In 1852 he went with a drove of cattle across the plains to California, riding all the way on horseback, and was from April to November in making the journey. He reached the mountains too late to get the cattle through, and therefore left them with his partners in Carson Valley until the next spring. He met only with moderate success in mining operations. After the expiration of three years he returned to Plato township, Kane county, Illinois, and resumed farming. Success attended him as an agriculturist, and he acquired two hundred and fifty acres of very valuable land. While residing in Canada he married Sarah Hole, a native of Somersetshire, England, born in 1800, and who came to America in 1818. Her father, Robert Hole, who married Rachel Hansford in England, settled first in Canada, and later came to the United States, settling near St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming, but later returned to Canada, where he died at the age of ninety-seven years. To John and Sarah Robinson four children were born. Mary Ann married Gilbert Sawin, and both are now deceased. William H. is the subject of this sketch. Robert lives in Elgin, Rachel died in young womanhood.

William H. Robinson, our subject, was born in Bradford, Canada, and was brought by his parents to Plato township, Kane county, Illinois. On the farm of his father he grew to manhood and assisted in its cultivation from the time he was able to hold the plow. His education was limited to the common schools of Plato township, but by reading and observation he has since become well informed. When his father went to California he left him, a lad of seventeen years, in charge of the home farm, with all its responsibilities. He remained under the parental roof until the age of twenty-four years, when he was united in marriage, August 1, 1858, with Miss Sabron C. Seward, born at Romulus, Seneca county, New York, October 18, 1837, but who at the age of two years was taken by her parents to Broome county, New York. In 1851 the family moved west and settled in North Plato, Kane county, Illinois. Her father, Chandley Lambert Seward, was born in Courtwright, Delaware county, New York, in 1807. In Broome county, the same state, he married Harriet Lee, November 28, 1830. She was born in Chenango county, New York, April 25, 1813, and is the daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (French) Lee, who moved from Connecticut to New York, at a very early day. Nathaniel Lee was a fine cabinet maker, and made a set of furniture for his daughter Harriet when she began housekeeping as the wife of Mr. Seward. Chandley L. and Harriet Seward were the parents of four children, of whom Mrs. Robinson is third in order of birth. The others were Mary Jane Holmes, who lives in Kaneville, Illinois; Nathaniel Edrick, living in Boone county, Illinois; and William Wallace, who lives in Newago county, Michigan. Chaud-

ley L. Seward was one of the first to volunteer from Kane county in the Civil war, enlisting for three years. His son, Nathaniel Edrick, served four years in that war, enlisting in Kansas.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, William Robinson, lived and died in Lancashire, England, where he was the owner of forty acres of land which is now in the heart of the city of Lanshire. The grandfather of Mrs. Robinson, David Seward, a native of New York, married Susan Smith and moved to Michigan, where he died some years ago. He was a soldier in the war of 1812.

To our subject and wife four children have been born. (1) George E., born in Plato township, Kane county, Illinois, May 27, 1859, married Minerva Love, who was a successful school teacher, and they have six children, Carrie, Arthur, Glenn, Leon D. and Fern S. and an infant. For some years he was engaged in the farming implement business with his father, but now continuing the same business in partnership with his brother-in-law, L. D. Leve. George E. is a graduate of a business college in Jacksonville, Illinois. (2) Cora B. married Fred S. Rich, and they have one son, Ernest Paul. Their home is in Newton, Iowa, where he is engaged in the manufacture of self-feeders for threshing machines. Cora attended Jennings Seminary at Aurora and later taught school for several terms. (3) Elsie A. is a graduate of the Sycamore public schools. She studied stenography and journalism, and was employed during the World's Fair at Chicago, by the Press Bureau, to gather news at the White City. At the close of the fair she accepted a position with the same bureau in New York City. She is a writer on

special topics for the New York Herald, New York World and the Chicago Times-Herald. As a story writer, and also a writer of poetry, she has contributed to such magazines as Lippincott's, Overland and others. She is a fluent writer, specially strong in expressive adjectives, with a good conception of local color. She is now a stenographer in the office of a railroad official in Butte, Montana, a position which does not interfere with her literary work. (4) Edith died in infancy.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Robinson was deeded forty acres on section 8, a part of his father's farm, and later he bought eighty acres in an adjoining section, and a timber tract in Hampshire township. In 1865, he sold that farm and came to De Kalb county and purchased one hundred and five acres in sections 4 and 9, Sycamore township, and there engaged in farming until 1874, when he moved to the city of Sycamore, opened an agricultural implement store and engaged in the business until January 1, 1897, when he sold his interest to his son and son-in-law, who for some time had been in partnership with him.

In politics Mr. Robinson is a Republican. The family are regular attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church.

ORLANDO HARPER is a retired farmer living in the village of Kingston. He was born in what is now Erie county, Ohio, May 27, 1830, and is the son of Joseph and Susan (Williams) Harper, the former a native of New York and the latter of Vermont. Prior to the birth of our subject, they had resided in Ohio for some time, where the father engaged in agricult-

ural pursuits. In 1839 they removed to Boone county, Illinois, where they remained about one year, and then moved to Franklin township, De Kalb county, and in 1841 located in Kingston township, where the father made a claim to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he improved and upon which they lived a prosperous and respected people. Afterwards he purchased it from the government. Joseph Harper died in 1848, at the age of fifty-four years, and his wife in 1857, at the age of sixty years. Their family numbered nine children, four of whom are now living, Mrs. Laura W. Buck, George, Col. J. W. and Orlando.

The subject of this sketch was fifth in order of birth, and was reared and educated mostly in Kingston township, being nine years of age when his parents removed to Illinois. He remained upon the home farm and assisted in its cultivation until after he attained his majority, in the meantime attending the common schools, as the opportunity was afforded him. On the 21st of September, 1853, he was united in marriage with Miss Sallie Cameron, a native of Indiana, born July 21, 1837, and a daughter of William and Sallie Cameron, who came to De Kalb county in 1843, locating in Kingston township, on section 19, where her father purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He was born in Kentucky in 1793, and died in 1872, at the age of seventy-nine years. His wife was born in Virginia in 1795, and died in 1868, at the age of seventy-three years. They were well-to-do people, and highly respected for the true worth.

Immediately after his marriage Mr. Harper rented a farm, which he cultivated for two years. He had youth, strength,

ambition and pluck on his side, and saw the necessity of putting his entire energies on a place of his own. He therefore purchased a small farm of eighty acres in section 31, Kingston township, upon which he built and where he resided for six years. In 1865 he sold that farm to H. P. Grout, and purchased another farm of one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land, and which in after years under his skillful hands and governing mind became a model farm. He was always practical and kept abreast of the times. In 1881, on account of failing health, he retired to Kingston, renting his farm. There with his wife he lives a peaceful and contented life. He has been honored with the office of trustee of his town, an office which he conscientiously filled.

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CHARLES S. HOLMES, who is living retired in the village of Shabbona, came to De Kalb county, in 1848. He is a native of New York, born in Madison county, July 14, 1837. He is the son of Richard Holmes, a native of Vermont, born in 1810, and the grandson of Seth Holmes, a native of one of the New England states. The family are of English descent, and were early settlers of New England. Seth Holmes moved from Vermont to New York, and became one of the pioneers of Madison county. Richard Holmes, his son, there grew to manhood and married Lucretia Smith, a native of New York, born near the Hudson river. For a number of years, he engaged in merchandising at Albany, New York, and in 1848 came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and purchased a tract of land in Paw Paw township, owing some five or six hundred acres. With his sons he com-

menced the development of the place, and later sold a portion, leaving the home farm to consist of two hundred and forty acres, on which he erected good substantial buildings, and spent some years there. His last days were spent, at the home of his sons, in the village of Shabbona. He died in March, 1895, at the age of eighty-five years. His wife passed away in April, 1889, at the age of seventy-nine years. Previous to his moving to Shabbona, he resided some twenty years at Leland. By his fellow citizens he was honored with various township offices, including road commissioner and supervisor. Richard and Lucretia Holmes were the parents of three sons. J. L. is a retired farmer, residing in Paw Paw township, near Rollo. Charles S. is the subject of this review. George R. is a business man of De Kalb.

Charles S. Holmes came to De Kalb county, with his parents, when a lad of eleven years, and was educated in the common schools and in the seminary at Paw Paw. He later took a commercial course at L. W. Burnham's Commercial College at Rockford, Illinois. He then engaged in merchandising at Ross' Grove, two years, but not liking the business, he sold out and returned to the farm. Purchasing the interest of the other heirs, he succeeded to the old homestead, to which he later added one hundred and twenty acres, making him a fine and very productive farm of three hundred and sixty acres. In addition to general farming, he gave some attention to graded stock, and had some fine driving horses, from which he sold two teams one day, for nine hundred and fifty dollars. In his farming operations he was quite successful, but in 1883 he rented the farm, moved to Shabbona, purchased an

acre of ground, built a residence and has since lived retired.

Mr. Holmes was married in State Center, Iowa, December 11, 1873, to Miss Ella Sherwood, who was born, reared and educated in Shabbona, De Kalb county, Illinois, and who commenced teaching in the public schools when but sixteen years of age, and was a successful teacher in De Kalb county for five years. She is a daughter of Solomon and Martha Sherwood, natives of Vermont and West Virginia respectively. Mr. Sherwood came with his family to De Kalb county, March 1, 1852, and settled on a farm near the village of Shabbona. He met his death by accident in 1858. His wife survived him and reared the family of eight children that grew to maturity, six of whom are living at the present time. To Mr. and Mrs. Holmes three sons have been born. Charles S., Jr., who is a well educated young man, is now taking a course at the Metropolitan Business College, Chicago. Fred W. is a graduate of the Shabbona schools, and is also taking a course at the Metropolitan College, and has entered the Northwestern University of Dentistry, of Chicago, Illinois. Clare Richard is a student of the Shabbona schools, and is residing at home. They lost one daughter, Grace Ella, who died at the age of fifteen months.

Politically Mr. Holmes was originally identified with the Democratic party, giving his support to the "little giant," Stephen A. Douglas, in 1860. Later he became a Republican, with which party he was identified for some years, but on account of his staunch temperance principles he has of late voted the Prohibition ticket. He never desired nor asked for office, and while in the country never served in an official capacity, but since his removal to the village he has

served on the village board two terms, one year being president of the board.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, together with their two youngest sons, are members of the Congregational church in Shabbona, in which both are active workers. Both were teachers in the Sunday school, where they have been instrumental in doing much good. The latter is still a teacher. For many years Mrs. Holmes has had charge of a class of adults, made up mostly of the young men of the place. Her class book shows that she has had seventy different pupils, some who have been actively engaged in business. Her influence has always been for good. In the fifty years in which Mr. Holmes has been a resident of De Kalb county, he has done his share in making it rank among the best counties of the state. His teaching and his example has always been for good.

**CAPTAIN JOSEPH W. FOSTER**, a resident of the village of Kingston, is a native of Adams county, Ohio, born January 17, 1828, and is the son of Moses C. and Anna B. (Robb) Foster, the former a native of Adams county, Ohio, and the latter of Mercer county, Pennsylvania, both born about 1806. He lived until his eighty-fourth year, while his wife lived to see her seventy-fourth year. Moses C. Foster was the son of Nathaniel and Rebecca C. Foster, the former a native of New Jersey, who served six years in the Revolutionary army, and who finally settled in Ohio, where he died at an advanced age. Thomas Robb, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania. He was the father of a pair of twins, John and Thomas, who fought under General Jackson in the war of 1812. A younger

son, William, was sheriff for several terms of a county in Indiana, also a representative in the state legislature. All were men of great influence in political affairs in their respective places of abode. Thomas Robb came to De Kalb county in 1835, locating in Kingston township where he took up one hundred and sixty acres of prairie and timber land in section 22. Politically he was a Democrat and a man of influence in his party. He served his township in various offices. He also assisted in the organization of De Kalb county. His death occurred in 1844 at the age of seventy years. James K. Polk, once president of the United States, was a cousin of Thomas Robb.

Moses C. Foster was a potter by trade, and an expert workman. He removed from Ohio to Indiana, and there resided six years, coming from that state to Illinois in 1836, locating in Kingston township, De Kalb county, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres on section 26. After his removal to the latter place he confined himself principally to agricultural pursuits. He was quite active in politics, and was well versed in the political issues of the day. Originally he was a strong Henry Clay Whig, but subsequently became a Republican, with which party he was identified until his death in 1890. By his fellow citizens he was honored with several of the principal township offices. His wife died in 1868. Their family consisted of nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity and six of whom are now living.

Joseph W. Foster, our subject, was but eight years of age when his parents came to Kingston township. He was there reared upon the home farm and after receiving his education in the common schools followed the vocation of a farmer until 1852, when



he went to Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, and there engaged in the mercantile business, in which he continued for seven years. During his stay at Belvidere he became a member of a military company known as the Boone Rifles. In 1859 he removed to De Kalb, where he was for a time engaged in the grain business. In 1861 he assisted in organizing a company, the services of which were offered to the general government and of which he was commissioned first lieutenant. The company was assigned to the Forty-second Illinois Volunteer, Infantry under Colonel D. Stuart, and became known as Company K. With his regiment he went to the front and participated in the battles of Farmington, Columbia, Stone River, Chickamauga, and in the latter engagement was severely wounded, September 20, 1863, and left for dead on the battlefield, and taken prisoner by the enemy. He was removed from one prison to another and was finally incarcerated in Libby prison, where he originated the scheme of tunneling the prison. The scheme was carried out and one hundred and nine men escaped, but it was discovered before his turn came. He was thus doomed to be a prisoner until the close of the war. He was mustered out of the service, as captain, May 15, 1865, after spending seventeen months and eleven days in prison.

On his return to civil life Captain Foster settled in Kingston township, where he turned his attention to farming until 1892, when he removed to the village of Kingston where he now resides. On June 19, 1849, he was joined in wedlock with Miss Alidah Baringer, born at Sand Lake, Genesee county, New York, August 30, 1831, and a daughter of Martin and Mary Ann Baringer. By this union four children were born, three

of whom are now living: John W., Charles M. and Thomas P. The first two are farmers, while the latter is a skillful mechanic.

Captain Foster is a popular man in his town and is thoroughly alive to all its interests. As an appreciation of his willingness to serve well they have elected him assessor for fourteen years. He has also been president of the board of trustees for one term. Under President Hayes' administration he was appointed assistant United States marshal, and took the census of seven townships in De Kalb county. His army record is good—none better—and when found wounded on the battlefield of Chickamauga no man was nearer the enemy's lines. As a reward for his bravery and injuries received the government pays him a pension. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and has been commander of the post at Kingston. He and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he was superintendent of the Sunday school for four years at Charter Oak.

ALFRED BRADBURY is a retired merchant residing in Waterman, Illinois. He is a native of England, born in the county of Middlesex, near London, September 27, 1822, and is the son of Jacob and Mary (Wetherly) Bradbury, both of whom were natives of Middlesex county, the former living to the remarkable age of ninety-two years, the latter dying when seventy-eight years old. They were the parents of five children: Charles, deceased; Alfred, our subject; Frances, who married a Mr. Honnensden, and is now a widow residing in London; Ambrose, deceased; and Mrs. Sarah Whitehead, residing in London. Mrs. Bradbury, the mother of these children, was a

daughter of William Such, of London, a traveling man, who married Ann Blake, also a native of England. Mrs. Bradbury was also born in the city of London.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native county, and in his youth learned the carriage and wagon maker's trade, but later worked at railroad carriage building in the city of London, for about eight years, being in the employ of the London & Northwestern Railroad Company. He was married in London, July 15, 1847, to Elizabeth Such, a native of London, England. In 1855, with his family, he came to the United States, taking passage on a sailing vessel and being five weeks on the Atlantic ocean. He arrived in New York May 22, and came directly west to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he joined his brother Charles and located in Squaw Grove township in 1851.

On his arrival in De Kalb county, Mr. Bradbury purchased a lot at Freeland Corners, built a shop and went to work at wagon making and blacksmithing, and also doing general repair work and continued in that business for seven years. He then purchased a small grocery store at the corner and engaged in the grocery business at that place for several years. When the railroad was built he was one of the first to commence business in the village of Waterman, and the very first one to engage exclusively in the grocery business. For twenty years he was actively engaged in that business at Waterman, when he sold out to his son, and has since been living a retired life. Mr. Bradbury was appointed postmaster at Freeland, November 3, 1863, and served there until his removal to Waterman. Shortly after removing to the latter place, he was again appointed postmaster and served until

Cleveland was elected president in 1884, a period in all of twenty-three years. He has also served in other positions of trust and honor, serving as township treasurer some six or eight years, and as a member of the village board several years. Since becoming a naturalized citizen, he has been a staunch Republican, not only advocating the principles of the party, but voting the party ticket.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradbury have four children. Charles, who is a traveling salesman, makes his home in Hartford City, Indiana. Frances Ann is the wife of August A. Stryker, a farmer of DeKalb county. Harry is now postmaster of Waterman. Georgetta resides at home and assists her brother in the postoffice. They lost three children—Ambrose, who died when about twelve years old; William, who died when five years old; and Emily, who died when twelve years old. Mr. and Mrs. Bradbury were reared in the Episcopal faith. They have in their possession a bible that has been in the family for over two hundred and forty years. It was published in London, in 1637. They celebrated their golden wedding, July 15, 1897, when their children and grandchildren came to their home, making their hearts glad by their presents and tokens of love and esteem. For forty-three years they have resided in De Kalb county, and are well known, especially in the central part, and those who know them best have for them the highest regard.

GENERAL F. W. PARTRIDGE, one of De Kalb county's most distinguished citizens, now residing in the city of Sycamore, comes of fighting stock. His great-grandfather, Captain Samuel Part-



GEN. F. W. PARTRIDGE,  
Aged 63 Years.



ridge, served in the colonial wars, while his grandfather, Captain Isaac Partridge, was in the Revolutionary war, and his father, Captain Cyrus Partridge, in the war of 1812. A cousin, Captain Alden Partridge, was at one time superintendent at West Point, and later established a military school at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in which our subject was military instructor.

Captain Cyrus Partridge, the father of our subject, was born in Norwich, Vermont, July 11, 1786, and there spent his entire life, dying July 16, 1842. He was a very prominent man in his native city and county, and for almost forty years was engaged in the mercantile business, and for a like period was postmaster. In addition to his mercantile business, he owned large sheep farms and was extensively engaged in farming. For fifteen or twenty years he served as a member of the legislature, and was high sheriff of the county for several terms. He was seldom or never out of one or more official positions, and could have had any office for the asking. A life-long member of the Congregational church, he was active in the work of that body. During the war of 1812, he served as a captain of a company, and was with Scott at the battle of Lundy's Lane. A self-educated man, he had an unusually good memory, keen perceptive faculties, and was an omniverous reader.

Captain Cyrus Partridge was united in marriage December 10, 1806, with Miss Mary Loveland, a native of Norwich, Vermont, born November 3, 1786, and who died in La Salle county, Illinois, January 24, 1866. She was the daughter of Joseph Loveland, a native of Glastonbury, Connecticut, born April 14, 1747, and who died in Norwich, Vermont, September 8,

1813. At Colchester, Connecticut, November 12, 1773, he married Mercy Bigelow, a daughter of David and Mercy (Lewis) Bigelow. In 1776 he moved from Weathersfield, Connecticut, to Hanover, New Hampshire, and during the Revolutionary war, served in Colonel Jonathan Chase's regiment, and was in the battle of Ticonderoga. David Bigelow was the son of John Bigelow, Jr., whose father was John Bigelow, Sr., the son of Thomas Bigelow, who was an immigrant to this country. The Lovelands were early settlers of this country. A widow Loveland, with her three sons, settled at Glastonbury and Weathersfield, Connecticut, and bought Indian land on both sides of the river. One of these brothers, Elisha, was the ancestor of our subject. He married Lucy Sparks, and served four years in the Revolutionary army.

Frederick W. Partridge, of this sketch, was born on the old homestead in Norwich, Vermont, August 19, 1824. After attending the common schools he studied at the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy at Norwich, Vermont. He then entered Dartmouth College at Hanover, New Hampshire, which was only a mile and a quarter across the river from his place of residence, leaving at the close of the freshman year on account of the death of his father. In 1845, a few years after his father's death, he went to Pennsylvania and took charge of the Harrisburg Military College, which was established by his distinguished cousin. He proved to be a proficient teacher in military as well as classical branches.

In January, 1847, Mr. Partridge enlisted in the United States army and was entrusted with a secret mission to Mexico by

President James K. Polk, with instructions to see how operations were being conducted at the front, reporting to the Secretary of War. Being a secret mission he could not have credentials, and when captured as a spy he could not divulge the object of his mission. He was imprisoned at San Juan D'Ulloa, where his cousin, Henry S. Burton, lieutenant of First Artillery, was in command. He was later a general in the Civil war and commanded at Fortress Monroe at the time Jefferson Davis was a prisoner there. Mr. Partridge was soon released and returned to Washington, the object of his mission not accomplished.

After the Mexican war Mr. Partridge came to Illinois and located on a farm in Kendall county, where he made his home some seven or eight years. At the age of sixteen he began the study of law in Albany, New York, with Chancellor Kent, and afterward read in the office of Franklin Pierce, of Concord, New Hampshire, later president of the United States. On coming to Illinois he continued his studies and finished under the tutelage of Hon. Isaac N. Arnold, of Chicago. On admission to the bar he began practice in Sandwich, Illinois, to which city he removed about 1857. He always took an active interest in politics and was originally a Democrat, but left that organization on the birth of the Republican party. During the famous debates of Douglas and Lincoln he attended many of their meetings and once entertained both of them at his home at the same time. He told Douglas frankly that he could not support his latest principles, and stumped the northern part of the state for Lincoln.

In 1849, while still a resident of Kendall county, he was in command of a company of militia. At the outbreak of the Civil war,

he was commissioned by Governor Yates captain of Company E, Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, to take rank as the senior captain of the state of Illinois and served with distinction for three years. He was rapidly promoted, being commissioned as major of his regiment, in June, 1861. In December, 1862, he was promoted lieutenant-colonel, and June 18, 1864, colonel, for gallant service at Lookout Mountain, and after the battle of Ringgold Gap was breveted brigadier-general for distinguished bravery at Missionary Ridge. At Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi, he was wounded and again at Chattanooga, and also at Ringgold Gap, Georgia. With his regiment he was mustered out of service July 18, 1864.

After his discharge, General Partridge resumed the practice of law at Sandwich, Illinois, and also for some years had an office at 52 Lake street, Chicago. He served as postmaster of Sandwich for several years and was occupying that official position when elected clerk of the circuit court of De Kalb county, at which time he removed to Sycamore, Illinois. On the expiration of his term of office, he was appointed in the spring of 1869, by President U. S. Grant, as United States consul general to Bangkok, Siam, serving eight years. During his incumbency, he traveled much, made copious notes and at retirement wrote a voluminous account of his travels, experiences and observations in Siam, the manuscript unfortunately being lost in the destruction of his residence by fire.

On one of his excursions he saved the life of a young man, by shooting his murderous pursuers. It chanced to be the son of the King of Siam that he saved, and the King became his fast friend, sending him many presents and offering him gold

medals, etc., which owing to his official position, had at that time to be refused, but when offered later, after his term of office had expired, were accepted and are treasured relics of his life in Asia.

At one time King of Chiengmai, of one of the tribes of Siam, became hostile to Christians, killing native converts and sending the missionaries from the country. General Partridge insisted of the King of Siam that the persecutions of his tributary prince should cease, under threat of the United States recognizing the latter's independence. A treaty was then signed, granting greater freedom than ever to Christian missionaries. The consul's firm stand and successful fight for religious freedom gained for the United States more respect than had ever been known before in southern Asia.

During his travels General Partridge visited many places of unusual interest, but none greater than the famous temple, Nakhon-Wat, one of the wonders of the world. On laying down the cares of office in July, 1876, he returned home by way of Singapore and the Suez canal, traveled over Europe and reached home in October, very tired from travel and sightseeing. After a few years of private life, in 1882, the General was again called to official duties, being appointed special examiner of pensions, with headquarters at Rushville, Indiana, and Tiffin, Ohio. He resigned in 1889, since which time he has been living a retired life.

In 1852, General Partridge was united in marriage with Miss Mary Pauline, a native of East Aurora, Erie county, New York, by whom he had six children, only one, Frederick P., now living. His daughter, Blanche, who was a graduate of Elmira College, New York, died February 22, 1898.

She was a great help to her father, attending to his manuscript and correspondence. She had fine talents as a painter, many samples of her work being treasured by our subject. Mrs. Partridge died September 20, 1882.

General Partridge has his house filled with curios and relics from several continents. His recollections of General Grant are very pleasant. While on his special mission during the Mexican war, at Vera Cruz, he first met the General, and there dined with him. Later he was instrumental in securing the commission for Grant at the beginning of the Civil war, when his appointment hung in the balance. Grant remembered his face and recalled meeting him at Vera Cruz. When elected president, he did not forget his friend General Partridge.

**HON. HENRY M. BOARDMAN**, of Shabbona, Illinois, is one of the enterprising and representative farmers and business men of De Kalb county, owning and operating two well improved farms in Paw Paw township. His settlement in Illinois dates from the fall of 1854 and in De Kalb county since 1856. He is a native of the Green Mountain state, born in Rutland county, December 12, 1831, and is the son of Captain Charles G. Boardman, a native of the same county and state, and the grandson of Timothy Boardman, a native of Connecticut, who served on board a man-of-war during the Revolution. By trade he was a ship carpenter. The Boardman family are of English descent, the first of the name coming to this country locating near Hartford, Connecticut.

Captain Charles G. Boardman, the fa-

ther of our subject, gained his title by service in the militia of Vermont. He was married in his native state, to Submit Watkins, also a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Colonel Watkins, a soldier of the Revolutionary war and one of the prominent men of Rutland, Vermont. In his native state Captain Boardman spent his entire life. He was a man highly honored and respected by all who knew him.

Henry M. Boardman, our subject, grew to manhood in Vermont, and had good common-school advantages, supplemented by one term in a select school at Manchester, Vermont. After his education was completed, he was a teacher for two winter terms in his native state. In the fall of 1854 he came to Illinois, and stopped for a time at Joliet, where he joined a sister, then residing there. For some fifteen months he traveled through the northern part of Illinois, and in the spring of 1856 came to De Kalb county, and purchased one hundred and eighty acres of partially improved land in Paw Paw township, upon which a small house had been erected. Returning to Vermont on the 6th of February, 1856, in the city of Rutland, he married Miss Caroline Chatterton, a native of that state, reared and educated at Rutland, and the daughter of Deacon Waite Chatterton, who was of an old Vermont family. Immediately after marriage, he returned with his bride and they at once began their domestic life on the farm which was their home for many years after. He later bought forty acres adjoining, and still later sixty acres more, making a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres. This farm he improved in a most substantial manner, making of it one of the best in the township. As his means increased, he purchased an-

other farm in the same township, of one hundred and fifty-four acres, which is also a well improved place. He now owns four hundred and thirty-four acres in Paw Paw township. After nearly thirty years of hard labor upon the farm, Mr. Boardman moved to the village of Shabbona in the spring of 1885, and is now living a retired life. In addition to his farms in Paw Paw township, he owns two hundred acres of improved land in Pocahontas county, Iowa, near Pomeroy Station.

Mrs. Boardman died in 1866, leaving one daughter, Frances, now the wife of George Hyde, of Paw Paw. For his second wife, November 18, 1868, Mr. Boardman married Miss Christiana Powers, a native of La Salle county, Illinois, and a daughter of Norman H. Powers, who was an early settler of De Kalb county, where the early life of Mrs. Boardman was spent, but who was then residing in La Salle county. Mrs. Boardman, after attending the public schools of De Kalb and La Salle counties, completed her education in the State Normal School at Normal, Illinois. By this union there are four children. Ellen is a young lady residing at home. After attending the schools of Shabbona, she spent two years at school in Ann Arbor, and is now one of the successful teachers of De Kalb county. Norman H. and Catherine S. are twins, and, after graduating at the High School of Shabbona, are now attending school at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles W., after completing the course at the High School at Shabbona, engaged in farm work, and is assisting in carrying on the home farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Boardman and family are members of the Congregational church at Shabbona. Both parents are active workers



in the church and Sunday school, Mr. Boardman being one of the trustees of the church and teacher of the Bible class, having had charge of the Bible class since his removal to the village. Politically he is a lifelong Republican, and in 1856 cast his first presidential ballot for John C. Fremont, the first presidential nominee of the party. He has always taken an active part in local politics, and served as assessor of his township for eight years, and as supervisor for five years, serving as chairman of some of the most important committees of the board. In 1882 he was elected a member of the legislature, and served one term. He was a member of the agricultural and other committees. He has been a steadfast friend of education and the public schools, and served some years as a member of the school board while in the country, and since his removal to the village has continued such service, being one year president of the board. He has always made an efficient officer in whatever position he has been asked to fill.

Mr. Boardman commenced life in Illinois in very limited circumstances, but he was industrious and methodical, and, toiling early and late, he has secured a competence that enables him to live in ease and retirement during the remainder of his days. His long residence in this section of the state has brought him in contact with many people, and wherever and by whoever known he is held in the highest respect.

REV. MAGNUS FRYKMAN, pastor of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Salem church, Sycamore, Illinois, was born in Sweden, province of Wermland, parish of Sunne, October 3, 1844. He is the son of

Lars and Christina Olson Frykman, both natives of the same province and country. The family were old residents of that town. By occupation the father was a farmer and for years was in the public service, connected with the courts. Both he and his wife have been deceased for many years. The Olson family were also agriculturalists, and all were members of the Lutheran church. Lars and Christina Frykman were the parents of nine children: Olof, Carrie, Mary, Christina, Cajsa, John, Nels, Magnus, and Catherine. The four oldest are deceased, while the living all reside in this country, except Cajsa. John and Nels are living in Minnesota. Catherine married Joseph Lind and is living in Sycamore.

The subject of this biography was partially educated in Sweden. He came to this country in 1873, and entered the seminary at Paxton, Illinois, the institution being shortly afterwards removed to Rock Island, and is now known as the Augustana College. He was graduated there in 1875, and on June 27, of that year, at Vasa, Minnesota, was ordained to the ministry. His first charge was at Chariton, Iowa, where he remained five years. From there he went to Marinette, Wisconsin, where he remained three years. His next move was to Republic, Michigan, and after remaining there for about three years, he came to Sycamore, and took charge of the Swedish Lutheran church, December 22, 1885.

Since coming to Sycamore Mr. Frykman has largely increased the membership. On taking charge of the church there were about three hundred communicants, and it now numbers over five hundred, with a membership of about eight hundred. In the summer of 1896 he began the erection of the new church edifice, and it was dedicated

February 28, 1807, at a cost of over sixteen thousand dollars. It is located on the corner of Somanank and Charles streets, and is one of the finest church buildings in the city, being constructed entirely of stone. At the dedication services they seated about one thousand persons, although the building was not intended to seat but about five hundred. The congregation was organized April 4, 1870, by Rev. A. Hult, of De Kalb. He was succeeded by Rev. N. Nordgren, who in turn was succeeded by Rev. S. G. Larson, who was the first to locate permanently in Sycamore. He was succeeded by Mr. Frykman, who is yet in charge of the church. They have a Sunday school of about one hundred members, and Mr. Frykman conducts one in the country at the Lindahl schoolhouse, of about forty scholars which he visits occasionally.

Mr. Frykman was united in marriage December 4, 1884, at Marinette, Wisconsin, to Amanda Odea, daughter of Emanuel and Gustave (Anderson) Olson. Her parents were from Sweden, where Mrs. Frykman was born, and came to the United States in 1873. They are yet living at Marinette, Wisconsin. To Mr. and Mrs. Frykman seven children have been born—Reuben Emanuel, Victor Laurentius, Conrad Theophilus, Ruth Gustava Christina, Elmer Augustines, Hildur Amanda Catherina and Carl Magnus. Of these, Reuben and Ruth are deceased.

When in Chariton, Iowa, Mr. Frykman was a member of the Iowa conference, and served as secretary of the same for two years. He served as secretary of the Illinois conference three years, and in 1894 he was elected vice-president of the conference and on the president moving outside its jurisdiction he took charge as president,

servng out the term, and was then elected president, and has been re-elected every year since that time. This conference embraces Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and the greater part of Wisconsin. Politically Mr. Frykman is a Republican, but is not a partisan. He is an earnest and indefatigable worker in church matters, is an able minister and popular among his people and also with the community. Much credit is due him in the building up of so large a congregation and the erection of such a fine church edifice.

**J**OHNSON, a veteran of the war for the Union and a retired farmer, now resides in a beautiful home in the village of Malta. He was born in Sweden, March 21, 1820, and is the son of John and Nellie Johnson, both natives of the same country, where they lived and died. In his native land our subject grew to manhood, and received a good common-school education. He emigrated to this country in 1854, arriving in New York, August 11, where he remained three months, because of cholera being prevalent in Chicago at that time. In the fall of the same year he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and located in the city of De Kalb, where he worked for the Northwestern Railway Company until the outbreak of the Civil war. In August, 1862, his patriotism was so aroused as to cause him to offer his services to his adopted country, and he was enrolled as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for three years, unless sooner discharged. He served under Captain Austin and Colonel Dustin, was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and was in all the important engagements of that

memorable campaign. After serving faithfully until the end of the war, he was honorably discharged at Washington, D. C. He also participated in the celebrated grand review at Washington city.

Returning to De Kalb Mr. Johnson was again employed by the Northwestern Railway Company, in whose employ he remained ten years, during which time he purchased a farm of eighty acres, which he improved as the opportunity was afforded him. In 1875 he removed to the farm, and continued to add to his other improvements by fencing, tiling and building. On this farm he toiled for twenty years, confining himself to no special line, but engaged in general farming. In 1896 he purchased four lots in Malta, erected a beautiful house, into which he moved with his family, and is now living a retired life, while his son, C. O., is working the farm in Malta township.

In 1866, Mr. Johnson married Mrs. Mary Ann Johnson, widow of Alexander Johnson, and a native of Norway, born October 3, 1840, and who, at the age of twelve years, came with her parents to this country, the family moving to De Kalb county, Illinois, where her father died in March, 1855, her mother long surviving him, dying October 8, 1890. By her former husband, Mrs. Johnson had one child, which died soon after her marriage with her present husband. They are the parents of four sons, C. O., Louis, Frank A. and Amos. The son Louis has purchased a farm of eighty acres, in Milan township, on which he now resides.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Lutheran church, and were married by a Lutheran minister at Chicago. From the general government he receives a small pension for his faithfulness to his adopted country in her days of need.

W MOTT GOBLE resides on section 19, Paw Paw township, where he has a farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres of valuable land. He was born in Lee county, Illinois, January 14, 1847, and is the son of Timothy Goble, a native of Pennsylvania, born in Luzerne county, in 1808. The paternal grandfather, Ezekiel Goble, was a pioneer of that county, and there Timothy grew to manhood and married Elizabeth Ayers, a native of the county, where she was reared and educated. By trade Timothy Goble was a carpenter and joiner, which occupation he followed in his native state. In 1843, he came to Illinois, and located in Lee county, in the same school district where the son now resides. Entering eighty acres of land, he at once commenced to open up a farm, and later entered fifty acres more, giving him a farm of one hundred and thirty acres, on which he resided a number of years, then sold and purchased a farm in Paw Paw township, De Kalb county, on which the last years of his life were spent. His wife survives him and is yet in the enjoyment of good health. Their family consisted of three sons and three daughters. Esther married John Brown, but is now deceased. Orella married Jacob Radley, and they reside at Earl, Illinois. Ayres resides at Ayres, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the grain business. W. Mott is the subject of this sketch. E. T. is a physician residing in Earl, Illinois. Mary is the wife of Augustus Ricker, of Paw Paw, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in the vicinity of his present residence, spending his boyhood and youth in labor upon the farm, and in attending the common schools. He enlisted October 8, 1864, when seventeen years old, becoming a member of

Company D, Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, joining the regiment at Goldsboro, North Carolina, and serving with it to the close of the war. He was on detached duty and was in several battles before joining the regiment, among which was the battle of Nashville, and the skirmish at Raleigh, North Carolina. When he joined the regiment at Goldsboro it was with Sherman in his last campaign. From that place it continued on to Washington, and was in the grand review. Our subject was discharged in Louisville, and mustered out in Chicago, July 17, 1865.

Returning to his home, Mr. Goble remained under the parental roof and assisted his father until he arrived at mature years. He then bought a farm in Wyoming township, Lee county, a place of one hundred and thirty acres, on which he settled and there resided for several years. During that time he purchased the farm where he now resides, and owned other land in addition. He located on his present farm in 1883, since which time he has been engaged in general farming and feeding stock. He has on the place an average of one hundred head of cattle and about three hundred hogs, being one of the largest feeders and shippers in the western part of De Kalb county, shipping annually from ten to fifteen cars of stock.

Mr. Goble was married in Lee county, Illinois, December 25, 1868, to Miss Susan Robinson, a native of Lee county, and a daughter of Benjamin K. Robinson, an early settler of Lee county, but who later removed to California. By this union there has been eight children. Benjamin Fred is now a member of the First Illinois Cavalry, under General Ward, and in the summer of 1898 was stationed at Chicka-

mauga awaiting orders to go to Cuba. Lillian is a young lady of good education, having attended the schools at Paw Paw and the college at Dixon, Illinois. She is now a teacher in the public schools of Lee county. Viola is a student in the Paw Paw schools. Bertha is also a student of the Paw Paw schools. Clifford, J. Ward, Elsie and Glenn are at home.

Politically Mr. Goble is a Republican, his first presidential vote being cast in 1868 for General Grant. He is now serving his third term as commissioner of highways, and his second term as treasurer of the board. For eighteen years he has been a member of the school board, thus showing his interest in popular education. Fraternally he is a member of Paw Paw Lodge, I. O. O. F., and has passed through all the chairs and served eight years as lodge deputy. He is also a member of the encampment of that order, being past chief patriarch of the camp at Paw Paw. His interest in military affairs is shown by his membership in William H. Thompson Post, No. 308, G. A. R., of Paw Paw, of which he has been a commander for the past two years. In every matter pertaining to the best interests of his adopted county he is always found on the side of right.

**H**ORATIO H. MASON, capitalist, of Sycamore, Illinois, is pre-eminently a self-made man. He began life with a definite purpose in view, worked faithfully and honestly, and with a will for its accomplishment, and now enjoys a reputation that is by no means limited to the boundaries of the state. There are three distinct families of Masons in America, but who are not, as





H. H. MASON.



MRS. H. H. MASON.





erroneously supposed, descended from the traditional "three brothers who came over at a very early date." The three progenitors of the Mason family in America were of different religious belief and came at different times. John Mason of Puritan stock came in 1630, first settled in Massachusetts, and later moved to the Connecticut Colony. He was a man of no little prominence, and was a principal factor in settling the Piquod war. Sampson Mason is the progenitor of the family of which our subject is a worthy representative. Colonel George Mason, an Episcopalian, and a member of the English parliament, was third of the name to establish a family in America. He was a member of the royal army and colonel of cavalry under Charles Stuart, afterwards Charles II. After the battle of Worcester, which ruined the hopes of Charles II, George Mason escaped in disguise, reached Norfolk, Virginia, settled in that province, and established a family that was prominent in colonial affairs during the Revolutionary war, as well as in the early struggles of the young republic. One of the number was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Sampson Mason, known as the Baptist officer in Cromwell's army, probably a member of the old Ironsides regiment and a radical, immigrated to America, about 1650, prior to Cromwell's defeat. He settled at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and although owning property at Swansea, which he was instrumental in establishing, never removed there. In earlier generations the family lived in Rhode Island, or Massachusetts, near the border. One of the founders of Swansea became a man of substance and one of the proprietors of the "North Purchase," afterwards the town of Attleboro. He advanced thirteen pounds, five shillings

and ten pence for the prosecution of King Phillips War, which amount was voted to his wife after his death just at the close of the war. Sampson Mason died in Rehoboth, and was buried September 15, 1676. He married Mary Butterworth, who died August 29, 1714.

To Sampson Mason and wife thirteen children were born, of whom Peletiah was eleventh. He was born in 1669, married May 22, 1699, Hepzibah Brooks, daughter of Timothy and Mary Russell Brooks. The latter was a daughter of Elder John Russell, Sr., a noted divine of the colony. Peletiah Mason died March 29, 1763, at the age of ninety-four years. He was the last of six brothers, all of whom attained seventy years or over. Three of the sons of Peletiah Mason were ministers. Job, Russell and John were successively ministers of the Second Baptist church of Swansea, Massachusetts. According to old records, Job was a minister for over forty-seven years and was thirty-seven years an elder. Rev. Russell, ninth in a family of ten children, was pastor of the Baptist church at Swansea over forty years. He was born April 21, 1714, and married Rhoda Kingsley, June 5, 1736, by whom he had thirteen children, of whom Phillip was fifth. The latter, born January 29, 1745, married Mary Scott, born in March, 1745. Of their twelve children, Russell was second. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island, February 25, 1769, and married Ruth Lapham, born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, April 4, 1769. He removed to Fairfield, Herkimer county, New York, in 1794, where he owned a large timber tract, which he cleared and converted into a fine farm, but later moved to Warren, New York. Hiram, seventh in the family of nine chil-

dren born to Russell and Ruth Mason, was born in the town of Warren, Herkimer county, New York, September 17, 1805. Hiram Mason, an active, trading, business man, pushed his speculations in real estate into the state of Michigan, where on one of his numerous trips, he died September 14, 1835, and was followed five months later, February 29, 1836, by his wife, who was a Miss Fannie Brown. She was born in German Flats, Herkimer county, New York, August 9, 1808, and was the daughter of Henry and Wealthy (Able) Brown, both of whom were natives of Colchester, Connecticut. The former died at the age of sixty-three years, while residing in his native county.

The Masons seem to have all been men of strong physical and mental attainments, men of energy and brains, resourceful, independent and self-reliant. Of such stock sprung Horatio H. Mason, the subject of this sketch. Born in the town of Warren, Herkimer county, New York, February 19, 1829, he was left an orphan at the age of seven years, and was reared in the family of his grandfather Brown, and an uncle. At a very early age he became self-supporting, receiving before ten years of age, six and eight dollars per month for his services on the farm, while many other boys received only their board and clothes and very little of the latter. At the age of seventeen he went to Culpeper county, Virginia, seeking his fortune in the South. Being recommended by an acquaintance to a merchant in the Shenandoah Valley, he was told that if he would break a certain colt to ride that he would be sent on a collecting tour. Having been familiar all his life with horses, the task was an easy one. So successful was he in collecting that he was given a position as

clerk in the store, and there remained two years.

Returning to Herkimer county, New York, in the village of Little Lakes, February 28, 1850, Mr. Mason was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Treadway, who was born in the town of Warren, New York, April 18, 1832. She was the daughter of Belia and Philotheta (Marshall) Treadway. Her father was an attorney and the son of David Treadway, a farmer, who was one of the pioneers of Herkimer county. Her mother was a daughter of John Marshall, who died at the age of ninety-seven years, and who was so clear of mind and strong of body that he was able to transact business up to the date of his death.

About two years after his marriage Mr. Mason came west, traveling through parts of Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois, with a view of location. He finally decided upon Sycamore, Illinois, and in the spring of 1853 located here and had his family join him. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres, where his residence now stands, and began housekeeping in a log cabin, long since removed. The place he began immediately to improve, planting an orchard and ornamental trees and in due time erecting a large and commodious dwelling. All the ornamental trees around the place to-day were planted by him, with the exception of a few locust trees, which were standing near the cabin when purchased. Much of the original farm has since been platted, lots have been sold, and many comfortable homes erected.

Soon after locating in Sycamore our subject began speculating in land, buying and selling at a profit, and soon accumulated considerable property for that early

day. His good judgment of values, and his watchfulness as to the time when sales should be made, enabled him at all times to place the balance on the right side of the ledger. At various times during the last forty-five years he has owned seven or eight thousand acres of land in Illinois and nearly half as many in Iowa. In 1871, with James S. Waterman, he established the First National Bank, of Sycamore, the first institution of the kind in De Kalb county. He was elected vice-president and given the entire management of the bank. In 1875 he sold his stock and severed all connections with the bank. He later became a stockholder in the Sycamore & Cortland Railroad and assisted in its promotion and construction. For some years he was in the abstract business as a junior member of the firm of Bailey & Mason. He is now living retired from all business with the exception of the management of his financial and real estate interests, to which he gives his exclusive attention.

Mrs. Mason departed this life in Sycamore August 25, 1882, having been the mother of four children, two of whom died in infancy. The living are Florence and Maude M. The former married Walter Loomis, who is engaged in the real estate business in De Kalb county with our subject, and they make their home on the old homestead in Sycamore. They have three sons, Mason Walter, Samuel Colby and Harold Herbert. The second daughter, Maude M., married Horace H. Holladay and they have one daughter, Virginia. Their home is in Cairo, Illinois, where Mr. Holladay is engaged in business.

In politics Mr. Mason is a Republican, but with the exception of one term as alderman he has steadfastly refused to accept

office. He is a man of strong personality, keen perception and possesses great business acumen. He is a citizen of sterling worth and through his own exertions he has attained an honorable position and marked prestige among the representative men of De Kalb county, and with signal consistency it may be said that he is the architect of his own fortunes and one whose success amply justifies the application of the somewhat hackneyed but most expressive title "a self made man." His youthful dreams of success have been realized and in their happy fulfillment he sees the fitting reward of his earnest toil.

WELLS A. FAY, deceased, was numbered among the very earliest of the pioneers of De Kalb county, locating here in 1836. He was born in Onondago county, New York, November 13, 1814, and was the son of Jonathan and Rhoda (White) Fay, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Vermont. In his native state he grew to manhood, and when twenty-two years of age came to De Kalb county and took up a claim of land in Squaw Grove township, comprising some three hundred acres, which he entered and purchased after it came into market. A portion of this land he later sold. On making the claim he at once commenced to improve the place by the erection of a cabin and the breaking of the prairie land. The cabin was afterwards replaced with a good, comfortable residence, and with the various outbuildings erected, together with other improvements, he made a farm that compared well with any of the excellent farms in Squaw Grove township.

On the 8th of June, 1842, he married

Miss Harriett E. Lay, a native of Connecticut, and a daughter of Samuel H. and Emily (Pratt) Lay, both of whom were also natives of Connecticut, the former born in 1795 and the latter in 1800. In 1842 Mr. Lay came west and settled on a farm in De Kalb county where his last days were spent, he dying in 1861, while his wife, who survived him a few years, died in 1869. In their family were five daughters and one son, of whom Mrs. Fay was the oldest. One of their daughters, Julia, is now the wife of Oscar Whitson, of State Center, Iowa. The son, James H. Eay, is a farmer now residing in Newport, Nebraska. Mrs. Fay was reared and educated in Connecticut, and for one year after her arrival in De Kalb county, she engaged in teaching. To Mr. and Mrs. Fay five children were born. Emma S. grew to womanhood, married Rev. S. P. Gates, a minister of the Presbyterian church, and they moved to Pennsylvania, where she later died leaving one daughter, Sarah. Jennie is the wife of E. P. Gardiner, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Alcott N. married and is also engaged in farming in De Kalb county. He has a family of two sons and one daughter, and has lost one son. Ida is the wife of L. J. Lamson, who is a member of the Board of Trade of Chicago. Ashley H. died at the age of seven years.

In politics Mr. Fay was a Republican, and while he never desired public office, he was elected and served some years as justice of the peace. He took quite an interest in educational matters and was elected and served as school trustee for some years. In his early life he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but in later life was converted to the Adventist faith,

although he continued to attend the Methodist church. His wife was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hinckley.

In 1882 Mr. Fay rented his farm, purchased residence property to which he removed and lived a retired life until his death October 1, 1897. He was a man well known and universally esteemed wherever known. Since his death Mrs. Fay has bought other residence property in Hinckley where she resides and where her many friends always receive a hearty welcome.

**B**ENJAMIN F. UPLINGER, dealer in lumber, grain, coal, lime, salt, flour and feed, is one of Kingston's live business men. He was born in Butler township, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, September 10, 1859, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Wood) Uplinger, both natives of the same state. John Uplinger was a butcher, a business which he carried on in connection with farming, and was an active and prosperous business man. He removed from Pennsylvania to Illinois, with his family, in 1866, locating in Kingston township, De Kalb county, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of improved land, and added to that several other farms, which he disposed of at different times. He was a keen-sighted business man, and was usually in advance of his time. He retained two hundred acres up to the time of his death, which occurred October 6, 1893. His wife followed him in July, 1897. They were the parents of thirteen children, all of whom grew to maturity, and twelve now living.

Benjamin F. Uplinger was in his seventh year when he came with his parents to Kingston township. His boyhood and youth were spent upon the home farm, and his education was obtained in the common schools of Kingston. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age, when he removed to Kansas, where he took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, as a homestead, also took up a tree claim of one hundred and sixty acres, which he now owns. His stay in Kansas lasted but two years, and on his return to Kingston he took his place on the home farm, where he remained three years, at which time he removed to the village of Kingston, and May 20, 1891, he entered upon his present line of business.

On the 3d of December, 1886, Mr. Uplinger was united in marriage with Miss California Littrell, a native of Salem, Virginia, born March 26, 1867. By this union two children have been born: Leon O., August 21, 1888; and Alfred R., January 13, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Uplinger are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is an official member. He has been honored by his townsmen by his election to the presidency of the village board for two years. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and also of the Knights of the Globe. No man stands higher in the estimation of the people of Kingston. He is active in business, and falls in line with every modern improvement and scheme which benefits man and adds value to his labor. He has greatly at heart the building up of Kingston, a fact which is attested by his own commodious business establishment. His grain trade amounts to about two hundred and fifty cars per annum. Politically he is a Democrat.

HENRY CLAPSADDLE, who for forty-six years has been a resident of De Kalb county, is now living a retired life in the village of Shabbona. He is a native of Herkimer county, New York, born January 1, 1827, and is the son of Dennis Clapsaddle, a native of the same state, born in 1774, and a grandson of Major Clapsaddle, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, in which he held a major's commission. The Clapsaddles are of German ancestry, the family being among the early settlers of New York. Dennis Clapsaddle grew to manhood in his native county and state, and there married Elizabeth Frank, also a native of Herkimer county, and a daughter of Squire Frank, of the same county and a soldier of the Revolutionary war. By occupation Dennis Clapsaddle was a farmer, and spent his entire life in agricultural pursuits in Herkimer county, dying there in 1842. His wife survived him some twenty years, dying in 1862. They were the parents of five sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to mature years and married, our subject and three sisters being the sole survivors.

In his native county Henry Clapsaddle spent his boyhood and youth on a farm, and there received a good common-school education. After his father's death he remained with his mother on the old farm until after he attained his majority. In 1852 he came west to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he joined an older brother, Michael Clapsaddle, who located here about 1847. He had, however, come to De Kalb county two years previously and purchased a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Paw Paw township, after which he returned to New York. He was married February 26, 1852, in Herkimer county, New York, to Elizabeth

N. Cross, a native of Herkimer county and a daughter of Peter and Ora (Ingraham) Cross.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Clapsaddle came to De Kalb county with his young bride, and made a permanent location on the farm which he had previously purchased. There was a log house on the place and in that they resided a few years while improvements were being made in the place. Later he built a good house and barn, made other improvements and there resided twelve years. In 1864 he sold that farm and purchased and improved one of two hundred acres in Shabbona township, which he further improved by the erection of a large and substantial residence, barns and other outbuildings, and upon that farm he resided for twenty-eight years. In 1891 he rented the farm and in 1892 moved to the village of Shabbona, where he purchased lots and built a fine residence, which has since been his home. He has since sold the farm to his son, but owns one of one hundred and seventy acres near Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, a well improved place. Mr. and Mrs. Clapsaddle are the parents of three children, the first born, Dean, dying in childhood. H. J. now owns and operates the old home farm. He married Ella Lane of De Kalb county. Delos D. is now married, owns and operates a farm in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa. He married Mary Smith, of De Kalb county, and they have two children, Guy and Clare.

Politically Mr. Clapsaddle is a staunch Republican. Before the organization of that party he was a free soiler, and in 1848 voted for Martin Van Buren, the free soil candidate for president. On the organization of the Republican party, and on account of his liberty loving principles, he

naturally drifted into it, and voted for its first presidential candidate, John C. Fremont, in 1856. He has never missed casting his vote for the presidential nominee of the party, from that time to the present. He has ever taken an active interest in local politics, and was first elected commissioner of highways in Paw Paw township, serving as such until his removal to Shabbona township. For eight consecutive years he served as supervisor of Shabbona township, a portion of which time he served as chairman of the committee on public printing, and was on various other committees. He also served as township trustee of Paw Paw, and has filled the same office in Shabbona township. In the various conventions of his party he usually serves as a delegate.

Mr. and Mrs. Clapsaddle are members of the Congregational church in Shabbona, and he is a member of the official board, serving as trustee and deacon. Mrs. Clapsaddle is an active worker in the different church societies. Fraternally he is a Mason, first holding membership in the lodge at Paw Paw, into which he was initiated about 1859. He is a charter member of the Blue lodge at Shabbona, and has served through all the chairs and has also represented his lodge in the grand lodge of the state. In whatever position he may be found every duty is faithfully discharged. He is a man greatly esteemed in the community where he has so long resided, and his friends are many throughout the county.

EDWARD P. GARDINER, who resides on section 19, Squaw Grove township, where he operates a farm of two hundred and seventy acres, has been a resident of De Kalb county since 1868. He was born

in Middlesex county, Connecticut, July 29, 1842, and is the son of Orrin Gardiner, also a native of Connecticut, born in 1810, and who grew to manhood in his native state, and married Cordelia Pratt, who was likewise a native of Connecticut. By occupation he was a farmer. In his native state he spent his entire life, dying in the spring of 1876, at the age of sixty-six years. His wife survived him, and died in Aurora, Illinois, in 1890. Their family consisted of two sons and two daughters. Emily grew to womanhood, married Dr. T. M. Triplett, and they reside in Lincoln, Nebraska. Henry W. resides in Brooklyn, New York, where he is engaged in business. Edwin P. is the subject of this review. Fanny C. married Horace M. Smith, a farmer, and they reside at Friend, Saline county, Nebraska.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native county, where he received a good common-school education. When a young man of twenty, in August, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Twentieth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and later transferred to the Army of the Cumberland. With his regiment he participated in the battle of Chancellorsville, where he was shot through the right thigh and permanently disabled. From the battle-field he was sent to the hospital, where he lay for several months, and recovering was transferred to the veteran reserve corps, and was on guard duty at Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Rochester, New York, and later at Washington, D. C., and at the close of the war was guarding rebel prisoners at Elmira, New York. In July, 1865, he was honorably discharged and returned to his home in Connecticut.

On returning home Mr. Gardiner worked

on the farm and at such occupations as came to hand, and there remained until 1868, when he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and located at Sandwich, where he secured employment with the Sandwich Manufacturing Company, for thirteen years in the shipping department. He then had charge of the repair shops for some years. On the 4th of October, 1869, he married Miss Jennie L. Fay, a native of De Kalb county, where she was reared and educated, and a daughter of Wells A. Fay, who was one of the honored pioneers of the county, a sketch of whom appears in this work. By this union, three daughters have been born: Emma, wife of Jesse J. Nichols, now of Crowley county, Kansas; Hattie, who resides at home; and Ida, also at home.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner began their domestic life at Sandwich, where they continued to reside until 1882, when they moved to the farm, where they now reside, and where Mr. Gardiner has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits, in which he has been quite successful as a general and dairy farmer. Politically, he is a Republican and cast his first presidential ballot for General U. S. Grant. Office holding has never been to his taste, and he has therefore never engaged in any scramble for public office. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hinckley, in which he serves as one of the official board. He is a member of the G. A. R. Post at Sandwich, while Mrs. Gardiner is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps. They are also members of the Knights and Ladies of Security at Hinckley. He is well known in Somonauk township and the southern part of the county and has many warm friends, while Mrs. Gardiner, coming as she does from an old

pioneer family, is also well known and highly respected for her many womanly traits of character.

**JUDGE WILLIAM L. POND**, attorney-at-law, and judge of the county court, is a resident of the city of De Kalb and is a lawyer of well established reputation, one of the truly representative members of the legal profession of De Kalb county. He was born in Genoa township, De Kalb county, Illinois, February 11, 1860, and is the son of Americus H. and Amy N. (Hollenbeck) Pond, who were early settlers in this county, and whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. His boyhood and youth were spent upon the home farm, and his education was received in the district school and Genoa High School, from which he graduated June 10, 1881, in the first class graduating therefrom. He then taught the High School at Kukland one year, an experience to which he looks back with gratitude. In his capacity as teacher he came in touch with Young America, in its generally unsubdued state. He abandoned school teaching, however, for a vocation for which he was more aptly fitted, both by nature and education. Entering the law office of Lowell & Carnes, he remained with that firm one year and completed his course of studies with the firm of Carnes & Denton, of Sycamore. After passing a creditable examination before the supreme court of the state at Ottawa, Illinois, he was admitted to the bar June 10, 1884, and commenced the practice of law at De Kalb, in September of the same year.

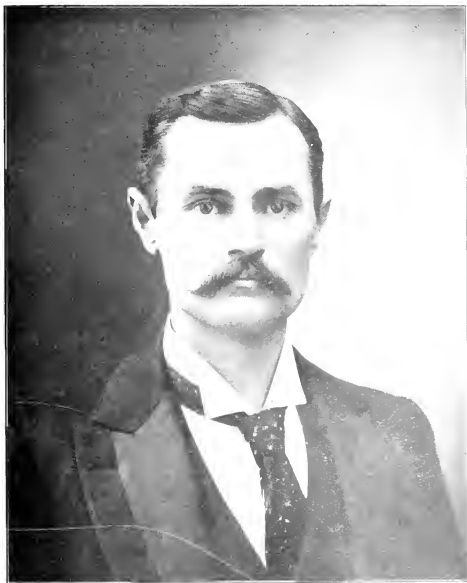
On November 9, 1887, Mr. Pond was united in marriage with Miss Alice E. Cole, a native of Kingston, Illinois, born April 21,

1860, and a daughter of Marcus W. and Anna E. (Little) Cole, both of whom were natives of New York. [See sketch in another part of this work.] Mr. and Mrs. Pond have one child, a daughter, Jessie A., born November 4, 1888, who is now attending the schools of De Kalb.

In May, 1886, Mr. Pond was elected city attorney of De Kalb, an office which he ably and conscientiously filled for eleven consecutive years, in the meantime serving one term on the board of education. In January, 1887, he formed a partnership with Judge Luther Lowell, which continued two years, having offices in Sycamore and De Kalb. He then practiced alone until January 1, 1895, when he formed a partnership with A. G. Kennedy, who had just located in De Kalb. This partnership continued until June, 1897, when it was dissolved just prior to the election of Mr. Pond as county judge. At that time he was elected to fill a vacancy, and in the summer of 1898 he received the Republican nomination to the office for the full term.

Fraternally Judge Pond is a member of De Kalb Lodge, No. 144, A. F. & A. M., and also of De Kalb Chapter, No. 52, R. A. M., De Kalb Council, No. 81, and Sycamore Commandery, No. 15, K. T. Among other fraternal organizations of which he is a member are the Modern Woodmen of America, Royal Arcanum, Knights of the Globe, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Knights of the Maccabees. Judge Pond is honored and esteemed, not only for his legal acumen and business ability, but for his sterling personal worth. Upright, reliable and honorable, his strict adherence to principle commands the respect of all. He is a staunch Republican, adhering to the true principles of the party, principles which





JUDGE W. L. POND.



he has advocated since attaining his majority. He is a genial, courteous gentleman, a pleasant, entertaining companion, and has many admiring friends among all classes of men.

ROBERT BOSTON is not only a pioneer of De Kalb county, where he has resided since 1845, but is also a veteran of the Civil war. He is a native of Canada, born near London February 13, 1840. His father, Thomas Boston, was a native of Scotland, where he grew to manhood, emigrating from that country to Canada where he opened up a farm, clearing it of timber and making a home in the wilderness. He there married Mary Ann Jones, a native of Canada, of Welsh parentage. In 1838 he came to Illinois and selected a location for a future residence and for a time worked on a farm and later on the dam at Dixon, Illinois, the first dam built across Rock river. He later returned to Canada and there married, and in 1845 returned with his family and purchased a tract of one hundred and twenty acres of Mr. Ross. On coming here he resided for two or three years with the father of his wife, then built his residence, hauling the lumber from Chicago with an ox team. Fencing the place he commenced its improvement and later purchased one hundred and twenty acres additional, giving him a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, on which he continued to reside during the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1866 at the age of seventy-three years. His wife survives him and is now seventy-seven years old. Of their family of eight children, seven grew to mature years and five are now living.

Robert Boston grew to manhood on the home farm in Paw Paw township and was

educated in the district schools. He remained with his father doing his share of the farm work until August 13, 1861, when he enlisted in Company I, Fourth Illinois Cavalry, his regiment later being assigned to the Army of the Tennessee. With it he participated in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, the siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Jackson, Black River and Coffeyville, together with a number of minor engagements. At Shiloh he was struck by an exploded shell, his gun being shot away, but he only received a mere scratch on the ear, but he considered it quite a close call. He enlisted as a private and was appointed corporal and later sergeant, serving as such until the expiration of his term of service. He was discharged at Springfield, Illinois, November 8, 1864, after serving about three years and three months.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Boston returned home, and continued work with his father until the latter's death, when he purchased the interests of the other heirs and succeeded to the home place. He was married October 17, 1867, to Lucy S. Place, a native of New York, but reared and educated in Paw Paw township, and a daughter of George Place, one of the early settlers of De Kalb county. By this union there is one son living, R. Stanton, who is married and engaged in farming in Paw Paw township. They lost one daughter, Nettie, who died in 1886, at the age of seventeen years.

Politically Mr. Boston is a staunch Republican, and has voted for every nominee of the party for president since he cast his ballot for Lincoln in 1864. He was elected and served as township collector one term, for eight consecutive years has been assessor

of the township, was township clerk two or three years, and also served as township treasurer. For some twenty years he served as school director, being clerk and president of the board at different times. He is a member of the Rollo Congregational church, in which he takes an active part, and fraternally he is a member of Shabbona Post, G. A. R. As a citizen he has done his full share in the development of his adopted county, and by one and all is held in the highest esteem.

**WINFIELD S. CLARK** has a reputation of being one of the best photographers in northern Illinois. His gallery at Sycamore is well equipped for the production of every kind of photographic work, and he at all times keeps in touch with the latest improvements made. He is a native of New Milford, Illinois, born January 1, 1852, and is the son of James H. and Nancy M. (Horton) Clark, both of whom were natives of Ithica, New York. They came to Illinois in about 1838, settling at New Milford, Winnebago county, where they engaged in farming. In politics he was an Abolitionist, but became a Republican on the organization of that party. His wife died at New Milford in 1873, while he survived her some fifteen years, dying in 1888. They were the parents of three children: Charles M., Livonia C. and Winfield S. Livonia is now the wife of E. H. Mandeville, and they reside in Fresno, California.

The subject of this sketch lived at New Milford until he was ten years of age, when the family moved to Rockford, Illinois, where he grew to manhood and was educated in its public schools, after which he learned the photographic business in that place and

then went to Chicago, where he engaged in the business for two years. From Chicago he went to Paw Paw, Illinois, where he carried on the business for five years, and then located at Sycamore, coming to this place in 1887, where he has since continued to remain.

Mr. Clark was united in marriage at Paw Paw, January 27, 1882, with Miss Almeda M. Hicks, a daughter of Henry R. and Adelaide M. (Matthews) Hicks, both of whom were natives of New London, Connecticut. Mr. and Mrs. Clark are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are active in church work. In politics he is a Republican, and fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. As a citizen he is progressive, and, socially, he and his wife are held in the highest esteem. Since coming to Sycamore he has built up an extensive and high-class patronage, and has a prosperous business.

**DAVID N. CORY**, who resides on a farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres, in section 10, Paw Paw township, is a native of De Kalb county, born on the farm where he now resides, July 29, 1854. His father, Jesse Cory, was a native of New Jersey, born in 1818, and removed with his parents to Orange county, New York, when a child, and there grew to manhood. He was a well educated man, and for a number of years engaged in teaching in the public schools. In Tompkins county, New York, he married Catherine Nicholson, a native of that county, and shortly afterward came to Illinois and first located in Kendall county, where he remained a short time, and then moved to Winnebago county, but later returned to New York. Two years residence in his

native state decided him that the west was the place for one to succeed in life. He therefore came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and entered the land where his son now resides. He was one of the first settlers on the prairie.

After locating upon the place Jesse Cory erected a small house, in which the family resided for a few years, when he built a more modern residence with good barns and other outbuildings, making a valuable farm of one hundred and eighty acres. On that farm he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1881, at the age of sixty-three years. His wife survived him and died on February 13, 1893, when about seventy-seven years old. He was a pioneer teacher of De Kalb county, and taught many winter terms of school while engaged in improving his farm. He held many positions of honor and trust in his township, serving as township treasurer for about twenty-five years. His experience as a teacher made him desirous of obtaining good schools, and he therefore used his influence in that direction. Fraternally he was a member of Shabbona Lodge, A. F. & A. M. Jesse and Catherine Cory were the parents of eight children, four of whom grew to mature years. Susan is the wife of H. L. Terpening, a farmer of Vermillion county, Illinois. Elizabeth is the wife of William Campbell, of Janesville, Wisconsin. Andrew A. resides in Chicago, where he is employed as a conductor on the street railway. David N. is the subject of this sketch.

David N. Cory grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education in the common school and East Paw Paw Seminary. He assisted his father on the farm until the latter's death, when he took charge of the place, and later pur-

chased the interests of the other heirs. Since coming in possession of the estate he has added materially to the improvements, and has now one of the most valuable farms in the town. In his chosen occupation he has been successful, and in addition to general farming has engaged in breeding to some extent high grade stock. He was married in De Kalb county, January 28, 1880, to Miss Susan James, a native of Kendall county, Illinois, but who spent the great part of her life in De Kalb county. A well educated lady, she was for some years a teacher in the public schools prior to her marriage. She is a daughter of F. M. James, of Squaw Grove township. By this union there are two children, Ralph and Jessie, students in the home school.

A life long Republican, Mr. Cory cast his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant in 1868. He has taken quite an active part in local politics, and in various campaigns has contributed of his time and means. For three terms he has served as township collector, and has also served as supervisor of his township, making an efficient member, and serving on the committees on education, real estate and assessments, and some others. Mrs. Cory is a member of the Congregational church of Rollo, and fraternally he is a member of Shabbona lodge, A. F. & A. M. Both are highly respected citizens of the township and have many friends with whom they are held in the highest esteem.

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LUCIAN DODGE, a retired farmer residing in De Kalb, has been a resident of the county since 1863, thirty-two years of which time he spent in arduous toil upon the farm, and by his industry and thrift he

is now permitted to live in ease and retirement. He is a native of Vermont, born at Mt. Holly, June 19, 1843, and is the son of Thomas and Eliza (Connant) Dodge, the former born at Durham Flats, Canada, February 2, 1809, and the latter in Townsend, Massachusetts, September 12, 1807. Thomas Dodge was a large landowner, having some fourteen hundred acres under his control. He removed from Canada to Vermont, at the close of the war of 1812, in company with his father, Abram Dodge, locating near Mt. Holly, Vermont. In that state he attained some prominence, serving in the legislature of that state for one term. In 1863, he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and purchased what was then known as the Van Wert property. Politically he was a Republican, and was always interested in political affairs. He died December 29, 1893, and his wife March 23, 1875. Their family consisted of three sons: Thomas W., born May 30, 1838; Rollin, October 13, 1841; and Lucian, as noted above. All were born at Mt. Holly, Vermont.

Lucian Dodge was reared and received his primary education at Mt. Holly, Vermont, and afterward took a course at Black River Academy, Ludlow, Vermont. He was twenty years of age when he accompanied his parents to De Kalb county, Illinois. He at once engaged in farming, which he successfully carried on until 1895, when he removed to the city of De Kalb, where he now lives in retirement, enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

On the 22nd of October, 1891, Mr. Dodge was united in marriage with Miss Cora A. Tiffany, a native of Darien, Wisconsin, born December 6, 1860, and the daughter of Vester and Louise (Blodgett) Tiffany, both natives of Hartford, Pennsyl-

vania, from which place in 1857 they removed to Wisconsin, where they remained for several years. They next moved to Iowa, where Mr. Tiffany died in February, 1892, in his sixty-fifth year. His widow then came to De Kalb county, Illinois, where she now resides. They reared a family of eight children. Jessie is the wife of Dr. A. T. Piercy, Placerville, California. Ida married Rev. C. W. Pruitt, and died October 19, 1884, at Chefoo, China, after having lived in China several years as a missionary. Cora is the wife of our subject. William is a farmer at Independence, Iowa. Elmer is a practicing physician of Modera, California. Edward is a physician of Plymouth, California. Belle resides in Placerville, California. Herbert is a bookkeeper in Chicago, and served in the war with Spain. The Tiffanys are of English extraction, and some of that name emigrated to the New World in 1600, and located at Attlebury, Massachusetts. Colonel Amos Tiffany, the grandfather of Mrs. Dodge, was an officer in the war of 1812 and fought valiantly for his country. Her maternal great-grandfather, Timothy Blodgett, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The Blodgetts are also of English extraction, the first of the name locating in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as early as 1635, coming to the New World in the ship Increase.

The Dodges are of Scotch descent, and were early settlers in this country. Abraham Dodge, the grandfather of our subject, took an active part in the war of the Revolution. Lucian Dodge, in addition to his fine farm of four hundred acres in DeKalb township, owns a beautiful residence in the city. For some years he engaged in general farming, but of late years confined himself principally to dairying. Success crowned

his efforts, and he is now numbered among the well-to-do citizens of De Kalb county. Fraternally, he is a Mason and a firm believer in the principles of that order. Politically, he is a Republican.

**D**ANIEL HOHM, who is now serving as marshal of the village of Hinckley, is a well known citizen of the county, of which he has been a resident since 1878. He was born in New York city September 15, 1860, and is the son of Vincent Hohm, a native of Germany, who came to the New World after attaining his majority, locating in New York city, where he married Charlotte Schneider, also a native of Germany. By trade he was a shoemaker, at which he worked in New York about four years. In 1862 he removed to Plano, Illinois, where he engaged in business, and there resided until 1878, when he moved with his family to Victor township, De Kalb county.

Daniel Hohm, our subject, grew to manhood in Plano, Illinois, where he obtained a limited education in the public schools. From the age of ten years he has made his own living in the world, at that time commencing work in a livery barn. In 1878 he came with the family to De Kalb county, and for two years worked upon a farm, then engaged with George Watson, and afterwards with Joseph Glidden and others in the care of their horses. In 1885 he moved to Hinckley, where he engaged in the livery business. One year later he was burned out, suffering considerable loss, but later rebuilt the livery barn which he still owns, and for ten years was actively engaged in the livery business, in which he had a nice and satisfactory trade. During

those ten years he was also engaged in buying and shipping fine coach and driving horses, his market being principally Chicago, although he would occasionally make shipment to New York city.

Mr. Hohm was married in Hinckley, March 31, 1885, to Miss Bertha Bastian, a native of De Kalb county, Illinois, and a daughter of August Bastian, one of the early settlers of De Kalb county, and a substantial farmer of Squaw Grove township. By this union there are three children, May, Lola and Harley.

In 1895 Mr. Hohm was appointed marshal by the town board of Hinckley, and accepting the office he rented his livery barn, sold his stock, and has since given his entire attention to the duties of the office. In the discharge of the duties of the office of marshal he has been brought in contact with leading citizens of the county, who recognizing his ability as an officer lent their active support to his candidacy, and assisted him in securing him the nomination for sheriff of De Kalb county in the Republican county convention of 1898. He has the confidence and esteem of those with whom he is acquainted, and they are all confident of his election. He has been a life-long Republican, and an earnest supporter of the men and measures of that party. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of Hinckley Blue Lodge, Sandwich Chapter and Sycamore Commandery. As a business man, he has always been enterprising, endeavoring not only to advance his own good, but that of the community in which he resided. By his own industry, he has accumulated a fair property, and is recognized as one of the best men in the village of Hinckley, with friends scattered throughout the entire county. On the 9th of June,

1898, at Sugar Grove, Illinois, he sustained the same injuries and a general shake up in a railroad accident at that time and place. He feels fortunate that the injuries received were no worse, but he was badly bruised and disabled for duty for several weeks.

**WILLIAM LABRANT**, a retired merchant residing in Malta, Illinois, is a native of Massilon, Stark county, Ohio, born September 1, 1833, and is the son of Jonathan and Margaret (Isenbrigh) Labrant, both natives of Germany, who emigrated to this country about 1832, locating near Massilon, Ohio. While residing in his native country, Jonathan Labrant served as a mechanic, but after his emigration to this country he engaged in farming, which was his occupation during the remainder of his life. In 1843, he removed to Crawford county, Ohio, where he leased a large tract of land, which he cleared, turning it into a valuable and productive farm. On that farm he remained until 1851, when, with his family, he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he purchased eighty acres of land in Pierce township, which he at once began to improve, and on which he resided until 1868, when he sold the same at an advanced price. He then removed to the village of Malta, where he lived until 1870, when he exchanged his Malta property for Sandwich property, to which place he removed, having two daughters residing there. His death occurred at that place in June, 1876, at the age of sixty-seven. His wife's death occurred July 9, 1879, also at the age of sixty-seven years. They were consistent and upright people, members of the German Evangelical church.

Of the family of twelve children born to

Jonathan and Margaret Labrant, the subject of this sketch was the eldest. In his native state he received his primary education, which was supplemented by one or two terms of school, after his removal to De Kalb county, Illinois, when in his eighteenth year. While yet residing in Crawford county, Ohio, he assisted his father in clearing and cultivating the home farm. He left his father's roof at the age of twenty, and for two years subsequent worked on a farm. In the following year he engaged with Frederick Streeley to learn the carpenter's trade, and was with him one year. In 1859, he removed to Missouri, where he worked at his trade until 1861, when he returned to De Kalb county, and in 1862 he was appointed postmaster of Pierceville, Illinois, an office which he honestly and honorably filled. In 1865, he removed to Malta, Illinois, where for the first two years he was engaged at working at his trade, after which he formed a partnership with P. C. Wagner, of De Kalb, and opened the first furniture and undertaking establishment in Malta. This business was carried on by the firm for two years, when Mr. Labrant purchased Mr. Wagner's interest. A larger store room was built to accommodate his growing trade, and he continued in the business until 1889, when he sold out to Mrs. Leatherby, and removed to Ashton, Illinois, where, because nothing better offered, he kept hotel. This proving disagreeable to himself and family, he abandoned it, and removed to Aurora, Illinois, but seeing no opening there, he returned to Malta and bought back from Mrs. Leatherby his old business, which he followed until 1891, when he sold out to Dr. Badgley, and has since lived a retired life.

On the 23d of November, 1862, Mr.



Labrant was joined in wedlock with Miss Elizabeth Ann Myers, born in 1845, and a daughter of George W. and Naoma Eberly) Myers. By this union were five children, of whom Edward E. is deceased. The living are Cora E., Myrtle M., Maude O. and Roy W. Mrs. Labrant died December 6, 1890, and May 4, 1892, Mr. Labrant was joined in marriage with Mrs. Jane A. Harrington, widow of H. H. Harrington, of Malta. She was born March 11, 1843, and was eleven years of age when she came with her parents to De Kalb county. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. For a number of years Mr. Labrant was a member and an officer in the same church, holding the office of class leader and steward to the entire satisfaction of his brethren. Some years ago he did that which all men have a right to do. After due deliberation, he changed his religious belief, and is now a member and elder in the Advent church of De Kalb, Illinois. Politically he is a Republican.

**F**RANK A. LA PORTE, an enterprising farmer residing in section 8, Paw Paw township, owns and operates a farm of three hundred and sixty acres, three and three-fourths miles east of Paw Paw. He is a native of Paw Paw township, born November 6, 1860, and is the son of Alonzo La Porte, a native of New York, born in 1826 at Sackett's Harbor, near the Thousand Islands. The paternal grandfather, Narcis La Porte, was a native of France and a pioneer of Sackett's Harbor. He moved west with his family in 1837 and located at Sugar Grove, Kane county, Illinois, where he engaged at his trade of blacksmithing, and there reared his family.

He some years later, however, moved to De Kalb county and settled on a farm in Paw Paw township.

Alonzo La Porte was eleven years of age when he accompanied his father to Sugar Grove, Kane county, Illinois, and on a farm in that township grew to manhood and whenever possible attended the common schools where he received a fair education. From Sugar Grove he came to De Kalb county in 1848 and here married Thirza A. Hyde, a daughter of James and Ruth Hyde, who were early settlers in De Kalb county. They became the parents of two sons and four daughters, all of whom grew to mature years and married and all are living save one daughter. The wife and mother died about 1882.

Alonzo La Porte was a soldier in the Mexican war, and three times walked across the plains, first as a soldier to Santa Fe, next to California in 1850, and later to Pike's Peak. With a land warrant he entered one hundred and sixty acres and later added to his possessions until he now owns over eight hundred acres in Paw Paw township. For years he was actively engaged in farming, but in 1893 moved to the village of Paw Paw where he is now living a retired life. He was quite active in local affairs in his township and served as supervisor and in other positions of honor and trust.

On the home farm in Paw Paw township our subject passed his boyhood and youth, and after attending the district schools, finished his course in the East Paw Paw Seminary, once a noted educational institution. He remained under the parental roof until after attaining his majority, and assisted in carrying on the farm until twenty-five years of age. He was married

in Clinton township, De Kalb county, May 12, 1887, to Miss Margaret Fraser, a daughter of Edwin Fraser, an early settler and a substantial farmer of that township. By this union there are two children, Thurza M. and Frank A.

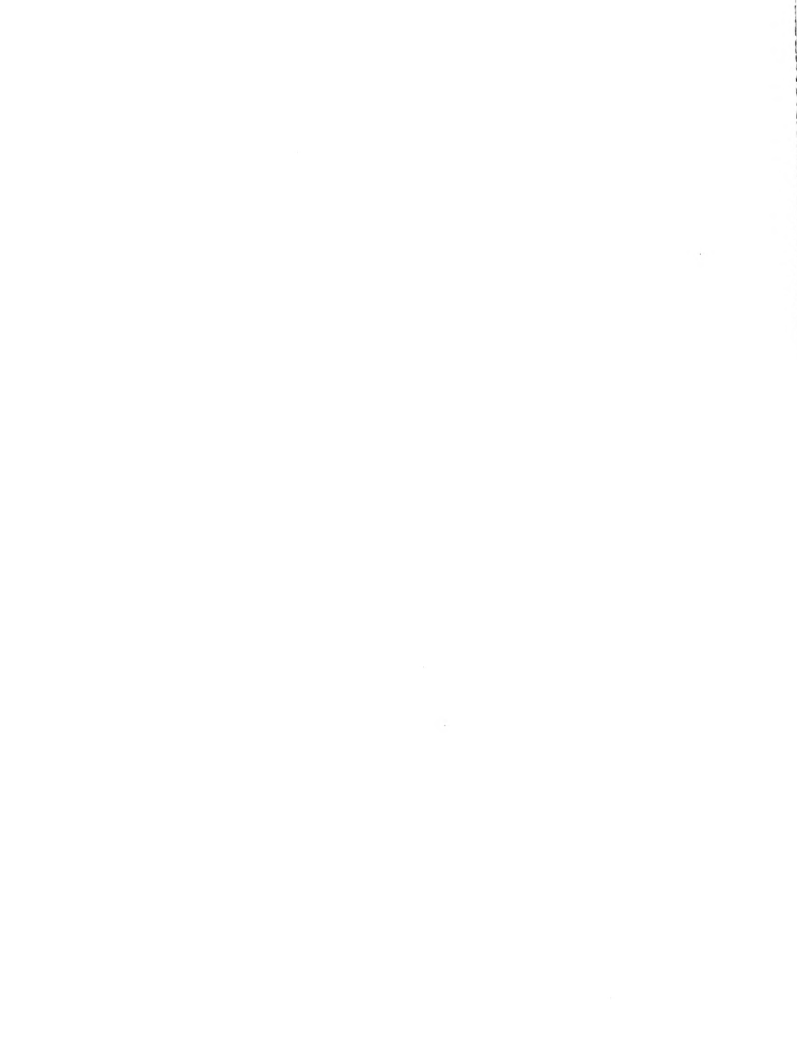
After marriage Mr. La Porte settled on the farm where he now resides, which then consisted of two hundred and eighty acres. Later he purchased eighty acres additional, and has now a well improved and valuable farm of three hundred and sixty acres. With general farming he combines stock raising, feeding and preparing for market, about six carloads of stock annually, which he ships to Chicago. He has been quite successful in his farming operations, and is regarded as one of the best farmers in the community. His first presidential vote was in 1884, when he voted for James G. Blaine. He has since been an earnest advocate of the principles of the Republican party. He has never desired nor has he ever held public office, his tastes and inclinations not running in that direction. In 1884 he rented his farm and moved to Paw Paw and there engaged in merchandising in partnership with his brother James H. La Porte. After three years successful experience in that line, he sold his interest in the store, and for a time was not actively engaged in any business. While residing in the village he served two years as a member of the board of trustees, and also served on the school board. In the spring of 1898 he returned to his farm, where he is now actively employed, and with the same characteristic energy displayed in past years, will no doubt meet with good success. His life has been an active one, and he is well known and has many friends in De Kalb and Lee counties.

**A**SHER DOWNER, residing on section 32, Milan township, is one of the most progressive farmers in De Kalb county, and owns and operates a farm of four hundred and forty acres, which is under the highest state of cultivation. He is a native of Ontario, Canada, born near Montreal, August 30, 1832, and is the son of Abel Downer, a native of Winchester, Vermont, born in 1791. His paternal grandfather Downer was a pioneer of Vermont, and Abel Downer there grew to manhood, and when a young man went to Canada, where he married Lucinda Loomer, a native of Canada, born on an island in the St. Lawrence river. After his marriage he engaged in farming in Canada for a few years, but being dissatisfied with the country, in 1837, he came to Illinois, looking for a location, but made no selection and came the second time for the same purpose, removing to the state in 1840, locating at Aurora, Kane county, which was then but an insignificant village. He made a claim some two miles from the village, and commenced the erection of a dwelling house, which was burned before completion, taking fire from one of the numerous prairie fires. He then built in the village a small house and there resided four years while opening up the farm. Erecting a good house upon the place, he removed to the farm and there spent the last years of his life, dying in June, 1864. His wife survived him and passed away in June, 1885. Of their family of eight children, three sons and two daughters yet survive.

Asher Downer was reared at Aurora and on the old homestead near that place, and had but common-school advantages. He remained with his father until twenty-five years of age and assisted him in carrying on



ASHER DOWNER.



the home farm. In 1858, at Batavia, Illinois, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Curtis, a native of New York and a daughter of Ephraim Curtis, an early settler of Kane county. By this union were three children, Fred C., H. C. and Mary S., all of whom yet remain at home, the sons assisting in the farm work and the daughter now acting as housekeeper for the family.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Downer came to De Kalb county and settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land, purchased by his father in Milan township, and at a time when there were but few settlers in the township. Erecting a small house, he commenced breaking the ground and placing the farm under cultivation. Success crowned his efforts, and he after added to his possessions until he now owns four hundred and forty acres all in one body. The small house originally erected has given place to a larger and more substantial one, and a large barn has been built together with various outbuildings and over three miles of hedge fence enclosed the place. The pumps which supply the stock with water are operated by a gasoline engine which also runs a feed mill that grinds feed for the stock. The farm is one of the best improved in De Kalb county.

Mrs. Downer, who for thirty years was indeed a helpmeet to her husband, passed to her reward in December, 1888, leaving not only the family, but many friends to mourn her loss. Politically Mr. Downer has been a Republican since the organization of the party. He never desired nor would he ever hold office, preferring to give his time and attention to his business interests. Both sons are also staunch Republicans, H. C. having been elected and serv-

ing as justice of the peace for several years. For fifty-eight years Mr. Downer has been a resident of the state and for forty years a resident of De Kalb county. In its development it will certainly be acknowledged that he has done his full share.

HECTOR H. COLEMAN, for many years was one of the leading agriculturalists of Mayfield township, was born March 11, 1837, in Orange county, New York, and is the son of John and Phoebe (Ketcham) Coleman, both of whom were natives of the same county, the former born November 8, 1791, and the latter August 25, 1805. They were the parents of five children, of whom one besides our subject, Charles W., is yet surviving. By a former marriage there were ten children, of whom the following are living: John, residing in New York City; James H., at Sing Sing, New York; Hiram, in Johnston, Michigan.

John Coleman, the father, was by occupation a farmer, and in early life was a Whig, and later a Republican. Religiously he was a member of the Presbyterian church. During the second war with Great Britain he served acceptably as one of the members of a New York regiment. His death occurred in Orange county, New York, November 9, 1859. His wife survived him many years, dying December 1, 1890, in her eighty-sixth year, at the home of her son in Mayfield township. The Coleman family were established in the United States in a very early day, three brothers coming from England, locating on Long Island about 1760, and from there moving to Orange county, New York, settling near Goshen, where the grandfather of our sub-

ject, Nathan Coleman, and great-grandfather lived and died.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm in Orange county, and there received his education in the common schools. In October, 1875, he started for the west, coming direct to DeKalb county, locating on section 1, Mayfield township, where he engaged in farming, and there remained until 1897, when he built a nice residence on Main street, Sycamore, to which he removed. He acquired in Mayfield township two hundred and twenty-five acres of land, which he still owns and where he carried on general farming. He now leases his farm and is living a quiet, retired life. In addition to his family residence, he is also the owner of another dwelling in the city of Sycamore.

Mr. Coleman was married November 30, 1861, in Mayfield township, to Mary R. Mackey, daughter of Harrison and Mary (Hall) Mackey. She is a native of Orange county, New York, and came west with her parents when quite young. Her father was born in Ulster county, New York, and settled in Mayfield township, in the spring of 1839, locating on government land, being farther back on the prairie than any other family. Her father died August 22, 1890, but her mother died many years before, her death occurring January 22, 1856, in Mayfield township. She was a native of Sullivan county, New York, and was the mother of three children—Mary R., Eliza J. and Julia A. The latter, who was the wife of John Westlake, died April 8, 1869. Eliza J. is the wife of J. E. Parker, of Sycamore.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman have one child, Harrison M., born February 19, 1863. He grew to manhood in Mayfield township, and

there married Katherine Ells, August 28, 1886. She is the daughter of George and Elizabeth Ells. They have two children—Ruth and Clare. They reside on section 11, Mayfield township, where he is engaged in farming on the old farm of his grandfather, Harrison Mackey.

In politics Mr. Coleman is a Republican, in the principles of which party he has unbounded faith. By his fellow-citizens he was elected school director, and has also held other local positions. He and his wife are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they take special interest. As a farmer, Mr. Coleman has aided largely in the development of the agricultural interests of De Kalb county. As a citizen he is held in the highest esteem, having many friends scattered throughout the county.

JAMES LANE, who resides on section 13, Shabbona township, has a fine farm of one hundred and eighty-five acres, lying in sections 13 and 24. He is a native of England, born in Dartford, near London, November 23, 1836, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Luxford) Lane, both of whom were also natives of England, where their entire lives were passed. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom grew to mature years. In his native country James Lane grew to manhood, his educational advantages being very limited. On the 23d of May, 1858, he was married in Kent, England, to Ann Maria Johnson, a native of England, who was reared and educated at Kent. One year later, with his young bride, he took ship at the London dock in a sailing vessel, the Daniel Webster.

for the United States, and were seven weeks on the broad Atlantic, during which time they encountered several severe storms, in one of which the main mast of the vessel was carried away. They arrived in New York in May, 1839, and immediately came west to Illinois, locating in Somonauk, De Kalb county, where Mr. Lane had an aunt residing.

On his arrival in Somonauk Mr. Lane went to work on a farm, working by the month for one year. He then rented a farm and continued to rent until 1874, when he purchased eighty acres on section 24, Shabbona township, located thereon, and engaged in farming for himself. After residing there some four or five years he purchased one hundred and fifteen acres adjoining, which was fairly well improved, and on which was a dwelling house, which he remodeled, and into which he moved with his family, and has there since continued to reside. In the twenty-four years that he has resided upon that farm he has shown himself to be a model farmer and has been very successful in all his undertakings. In addition to general farming he has been somewhat extensively engaged in dairying and has some good graded stock.

Mr. and Mrs. Lane are the parents of nine children, seven of whom were born in La Salle county and two in De Kalb county, Illinois. Henry G. grew to manhood, married and is now engaged in farming in Shabbona township. Edgar A. died in childhood. Maude M. is the wife of Louis Olmstead, a substantial farmer of Shabbona township. Ella M. is the wife of J. Clapsaddle, of Shabbona. Elmer E. is married and engaged in farming in Shabbona township. Arthur resides in Iowa. Charles J. assists in carrying on the home farm. Os-

car E. now resides in Wisconsin. Frederick, a young man, resides at home.

Mr. Lane is identified with the Republican party, with which he has been connected since becoming a naturalized citizen. He has never sought office, but has served four years as commissioner of highways, and is treasurer of the commission. With the exception of school director, that is the only office that he has held. He and his wife are active members of the Shabbona Congregational church, in which he has been a deacon for sixteen years. He is also a worker and speaker in the Sunday school, having a class of young ladies, which he has instructed for four years. The first years after the building of the railroad, he served as superintendent of the schools. Fraternally he is an Ancient Odd Fellow, having been a member of the order in England. For thirty-nine years he has been a resident of Illinois, and while he came to this country without means, by his industry and economy, assisted by his good wife, he has been fairly successful in life.

**J**OSEPH O. WALRAD, manager of the Ellwood farms in Afton township, is a native of Otsego county, New York, born January 28, 1834, and is the son of Livingston and Nancy A. (Ellwood) Walrad, who were also natives of Otsego county, New York, and the parents of two children, Joseph O., our subject, and James, who is now deceased. The paternal grandfather, Garret M. Walrad, was a soldier in the war of 1812. Livingston Walrad, the father, came to De Kalb county in 1846, and settled near the present site of the city of Sycamore, where he bought three hundred and twenty acres of government land, but

after nine years sold out and returned to New York.

When his parents came to De Kalb county, our subject was but twelve years of age. His education, began in the public schools of New York, was completed in the common schools of De Kalb county. In 1859 he made the overland journey to California, experiencing many hardships in going and losing nearly all that he had. Soon after his arrival he was taken sick and for six weeks was taken care of by a family by the name of Wilson, who did as well by him as could be done, making no charges whatever for their time and trouble, but doing all through kindness and with only the desire to aid one of their fellowmen. Regaining his health, he commenced work and prospered exceedingly, clearing in a comparatively short time some fifteen thousand dollars, but lost about seven thousand five hundred by loaning to friends. Returning to Sycamore in 1884, he engaged in farming and in 1887 took charge of the Ellwood stock farm as manager and superintendent. The farm comprises about seven hundred and forty-four acres, and is devoted to stock and grain business, ten men being given employment during the entire year.

On the 1st of February, 1865, Mr. Walrad married Miss Libbie Helmer, a native of Herkimer county, New York. They have no children, but have an adopted daughter, May. Fraternaly he is a Mason and religiously he is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he has been connected since he was sixteen years of age. For ten years he has served as class leader in the church, and has always taken an active interest in church affairs. In politics he is a Republican. In addition

to his regular business he is interested in the building and loan association of De Kalb, and in Calhoun county, Iowa, he has one hundred and forty-five acres of well improved land.

CHARLES W. GARNER, dealer in drugs and groceries, is recognized as one of the best business men of De Kalb. He is a native of the city, born October 16, 1858, and is the son of John C. and Eliza (Rolfe) Garner, both of whom were natives of England, the former born in 1832 and the latter in 1830. They were married in the spring of 1855, and their voyage to this country the same year was their wedding trip. By trade he was a shoemaker, and after his location in De Kalb, in 1855, worked at it for twenty years in that city. He was a superior workman, and his manufacture always gave excellent satisfaction. In 1875, he abandoned his trade in a measure, and took charge of the shoe department in the store of A. Chandler, where he was an efficient employee for a number of years. Mr. Chandler was succeeded by Tyndall & Brown, and in the course of years Brown bought out Tyndall's interest, and finally C. A. Read bought out Brown. Still Mr. Garner continued to fill his welllearned position in the store, enjoying the full confidence of each employer. On May 20, 1886, with his son, Charles W., he purchased the stock of drugs and groceries of John H. Lewis, and under the firm name of Garner & Son, continued the business until his death, which occurred January 10, 1898. He was much respected for his personal merits and social worth. For some time he served as one of the members of the city council, an office which he filled with honor and credit.



He was a Mason of high standing and reached the thirty-second degree. His wife survives him. They were the parents of four children, of whom Lizzie and Emily are deceased, while John P. and Charles W. are still living.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in De Kalb, and when eighteen years of age he entered the store of John H. Lewis, where he proved himself indispensable to his employer for many years. In 1886, as already stated, in partnership with his father, he purchased the store of Mr. Lewis, and on the death of the father succeeded alone to the business, which has grown to considerable magnitude. In July, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Elva Beaupre, a native of De Kalb, born January 23, 1871, and a daughter of Charles and Sarah Beaupre, of De Kalb. They have now one child, Charles Wicks. Mr. Garner has served his native city in the office of city treasurer for two years. Fraternally he is a Mason, and has reached the position of Knight Templar, having held every office in the various lodges, but that of tyler and junior warden.

**JAMES E. HARRINGTON**, who is engaged in the life insurance business, at Sycamore, is a native of the city, born August 13, 1866, and is the son of Nelson R. and Sarah F. (Waterman) Harrington, the former born January 7, 1844, and who followed farming in Sycamore township for many years, and then retired to Sycamore. He was city marshal of Sycamore for years, and served four years in the Civil war, as a member of Company F, Thirteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was a prominent member of the Independent

Order of Odd Fellows and the Grand Army of the Republic. His wife, Sarah Waterman, was a daughter of Edward Waterman, a native of Kent county, England, who came to America in 1848, and lived in New York for several years and then went to Petersburg, Virginia; here his death occurred when about fifty years old. He worked for a large contractor, building plank roads in New York and Virginia. He was the son of Edward Waterman, Sr., also a native of Kent county, England, who came to the United States in 1848, and died in Buffalo, New York, when about eighty years old. The paternal grandfather, Dr. James Harrington, who married a Miss Walrod, was born in New York in 1806, and died in 1892.

The subject of this sketch, when but a year old, was taken by his parents to Sauk Center, Minnesota, where he later attended school until the age of thirteen years. He then spent two years in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where an uncle, Mark W. Harrington, was professor of astronomy in the University of Michigan. One year in the Sycamore high school completed his school life. From the age of fifteen he has made his own way in the world. He clerked first in a drug store in Sycamore for twelve years, in the meantime taking a course in the Chicago College of Pharmacy, from which he was graduated in 1886. For three years he was in the employ of Sivwright, Irish & Johnson. Since January 1, 1898, he has been the general agent for the New York Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Harrington was married in Sycamore, November 30, 1886, to Miss Nellie Walker, born in Virgil township, Kane county, Illinois, and daughter of John S. and Hannah (Wilson) Walker, the former a na-

tive of Hamilton, Canada, born August 13, 1820, and who came to Illinois, locating in Virgil township, Kane county, in 1841. He was the son of John and Mary (Staunton) Walker, and was married in Campton township, Kane county, July 11, 1847, to Hannah Wilson, born in Dunham, Darling-ton county, Canada, and who came with her parents to Illinois, in 1843, locating in Campton township, Kane county. Her father, John Wilson, was born in Pennsylvania and went to Canada, where he married Mary Pickel, a daughter of John and Hannah Smith Pickel. John Wilson was the son of James and Deborah (Bennett) Wilson, the former a son of James Wilson, Sr., a native of Scotland, who ran away to sea, became captain of a vessel, and followed the sea for many years. To Mr. and Mrs. Harrington three children have been born: Joyce M., Grace O. and Frank.

Fraternally Mr. Harrington is a Mason, holding membership with the subordinate lodge and chapter at Sycamore. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, Improved Order of Red Men, Knights of the Globe and Sons of Veterans. In politics he is a Republican, and is now serving as alderman from the third ward. He is a thoroughly progressive man, and has many friends not only in Sycamore, but throughout De Kalb county.

**F**RANK E. GAMMON resides on section 8, Malta township, where he is engaged in general farming. He was born on section 7, of the same township, July 13, 1867, and is the son of John G. and Jane A. (Bennett) Gammon, both natives of England. The former emigrated to this country about 1848, locating in Buffalo, New York, where

an uncle and aunt, Henry and Mary Gammon, then resided. About 1850, his uncle, with his family, removed to De Kalb county, Illinois, at which time he accompanied them, and with whom he lived as a farmer boy, until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he showed his patriotism towards his adopted country by being enrolled as one of her defenders in Company K, Fifteenth Illinois Cavalry, under Captain Ford. He served his full term of service, participating in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged during the three years. After being honorably discharged, he re-enlisted in Hancock's Veteran Corps, with which he served until the close of the war, when he was again honorably discharged as corporal. On receiving his discharge, James G. Gammon returned to his native land, where he secured his life companion in the person of Miss Jane A. Bennett, whom he married May 31, 1866. They became the parents of three children, all of whom are yet living—Frank E., Henry B. and Jessie A. The latter married Burton L. Kittle, a grain broker in Chicago. Henry B. is a physician and surgeon, who after having mastered the common and advanced branches in the Creston schools, entered Michigan University at Ann Arbor, from which institution he was graduated. At the present writing (June, 1898) he is at the front in the Spanish-American war and has charge of a hospital near Santiago.

Frank E. Gammon is the eldest of the family. He grew to manhood in his native township, and was educated in the schools of Creston. With the exception of a short time spent in a machine shop, he has always confined himself to agricultural pursuits, and has lived on his present farm for twelve years. On May 18, 1890, he married Miss

Clara A. Foster, a native of Waverly, Iowa, born December 10, 1869, and a daughter of John and Carrie Foster. By this union three children have been born: Neil J., Alta M. and Clifford. Mr. Gammon is a member of the Masonic fraternity, holding membership with Creston Lodge, No. 320, of which he is worshipful master. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, No. 474, and of the Knights of Pythias. Politically he is an out and out Republican.

**T**HOMAS S. DALE is an enterprising farmer residing on section 9, Squaw Grove township, where he owns a valuable and well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He is a native of England, born in Durham county July 2, 1819, and is the son of Thomas and Ann (Stoddard) Dale, both of whom are natives of the same county. In his native land the father grew to manhood and was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He emigrated to the United States in 1852 and settled in Big Rock township; Kane county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm and spent the remainder of his life. In his family were nine sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to mature years, five now surviving.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Durham county, and there received a fair education. He was reared on a farm but spent some of the early years of his life in a grocery store, where he received a thorough business training. He was married in Jarrow, England, February 10, 1845, to Ann McArdle, a native of South Shield, Durham county, and a daughter of Thomas and Rachell (Dixon) McArdle. In 1852, with his wife and two children, he emigrated to the United States, taking ship at Liver-

pool, and being five weeks on the Atlantic. They arrived in safety in New York, took a steamer at Dunkirk, New York, and came by Detroit and Lakes to Chicago, Illinois, where he secured employment in Cleaver's Soap and Candle Factory, and made his home for three years in that city. In 1855 he moved to Kane county, Illinois, and purchased eighty acres of land in Big Rock township on which he resided some five or six years, then sold and in 1862 came to De Kalb county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of improved land, the farm on which he yet continues to reside. Many of the improvements now upon the place are the work of his hands. He has tiled the land well and cultivated it closely, being very successful in his farming operations. He came to the county with some means and by his own labor, enterprise and industry, has accumulated a competency. His farm is located about two and a half miles from Hinckley.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale are the parents of nine children, six of whom are living, as follows: James, married and now residing in Callhoun county, Iowa, where he is engaged in farming; Mary, wife of W. R. Owens, of Calhoun county, Iowa; William, residing at home, assisting in carrying on the home farm; Ada, also residing at home; Jennie, wife of C. W. Owens, residing in Calhoun county, Iowa; and Stoddard, who remains at home and assists in cultivating the farm. The deceased are John, who died when about one year old; Thomas, who grew to mature years and died a single man; and Anna, who died a young lady.

Politically Mr. Dale is independent, casting his ballot as his conscience dictates without regard to party ties. For some years he served as school director, but

would never accept other office. Both he and his wife were reared in the Episcopalian faith. A resident of Illinois for forty-six years and of De Kalb county for thirty-six years, he is well known throughout its length and breadth. In the many changes that have been made, he has given material assistance, and has lived to see the day when De Kalb county is ranked among the best in the state. He is respected by all who know him and is one of the best citizens of his township and county.

**HON. FREDERICK B. TOWNSEND,** mayor of the city of Sycamore, is a well-known representative of the business and financial interests of De Kalb county. He is a native of the county, born in the township of Malta, July 30, 1858, and is the son of Amos W. and Eleanor (Pierce) Townsend. His father, who was the son of Stephen and Ann (Denman) Townsend, was a native of Sullivan county, New York, and when nine years of age came to Illinois with his parents, who located in the township of Mayfield, De Kalb county. Stephen Townsend, the grandfather, was a native of Sullivan county, New York, born June 30, 1807. His wife was also a native of that county, born August 15, 1809. Stephen Townsend was the son of Joshua and Phoebe Townsend, who were likewise natives of Sullivan county, New York, and who came west in 1839 with their son. Both are buried in the old cemetery at Mayfield. Stephen Townsend, who died some years ago, is also buried in that cemetery. His wife, Ann Townsend, is still living at Sycamore at the age of eighty-nine years. They had ten children, six of whom grew to maturity. Eleanor, the wife of Luther Jack-

man, resides in Oregon. Nancy, the wife of Orrin West, living at Plainfield, Iowa. Katy B., wife of F. H. Brundage, died at Malta, Illinois, in 1896. William H. is living in Sycamore. Hattie E., also living in Sycamore. Amos W., who was third in order of birth, is the father of our subject.

Amos W. Townsend grew to manhood in Mayfield township and was educated in the common schools. He was reared to farm life and engaged in stock farming in Malta township after his marriage, and there continued until 1876, when he engaged in the banking business at Sycamore as a member of the firm of Daniel Pierce & Co., in which he continued until his death, August 25, 1887. His wife, Eleanor Townsend, is a daughter of Daniel and Jane (Brundage) Pierce. She is a native of Sullivan county, New York, and came west with her parents, who located at Sycamore in 1855. For a number of years her father was engaged in the real estate business, but upon the failure of D. Hunt & Co. he commenced the banking business in 1866, under the firm name of Pierce, Dean & Co. This was afterward changed to Pierce & Dean and later to Daniel Pierce & Co., the present title of the firm. Daniel Pierce is still living, but his wife died in 1876. He is now eighty-four years of age and spends his summers on a farm of three thousand acres in Dickinson county, Iowa, and his winters in Sycamore. To Daniel Pierce and wife three children were born, one of whom died in infancy. They are Eleanor, mother of our subject, and Sarah, who was the wife of George P. Wild, died in 1896. The children of Amos and Eleanor Townsend were five in number, as follows: Frederick B., our subject; Jennie, now the wife of Charles A. Webster, of Galesburg, Illi-



HON. F. B. TOWNSEND.



nois; Anna, who married F. E. Claycomb, of Sycamore, died in 1892; Georgia, wife of John E. Yates, of Round Pond, Maine; and Mary, at home.

The early life of our subject was spent in Malta township on the stock farm of his father, where he remained until seventeen years of age. His primary education was obtained in the district schools of Malta township, after which he attended the high school at Sycamore, and later entered Lombard University, at Galesburg, which he attended four years, pursuing the scientific course. He then went to Eastman's Business College, at Poughkeepsie, New York, and took a full business course. Returning home he entered the banking house of Daniel Pierce & Company, with which he has now been connected for seventeen years and where he is now the managing partner.

Mr. Townsend was married February 18, 1890, at Sycamore, to Mary Boynton, a native of Sycamore, and a daughter of Charles O. and Lucetta P. (Stark) Boynton. She was educated at St. Mary's Seminary, Knoxville, Illinois. By this union two children have been born: Charles B., born January 1, 1892, and Eleanor, born December 8, 1895. Religiously Mrs. Townsend is a member of St. Peter's Episcopal church, Sycamore, in which she takes an active interest.

In politics Mr. Townsend is a Democrat, the principles of which party were instilled into him from his youth. By his fellow citizens he has been honored with various offices. He was first elected alderman of the second ward in 1889, and was annually re-elected until 1893. In the spring of 1894 he was elected mayor to fill the unexpired term of the late Dr. George W. Nesbitt. He was re-elected in 1895, and again

in 1897, and is now serving his third term. In 1893 he became a member of the board of education, in which position he is still serving. In 1892 he was presidential elector for Grover Cleveland. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge, chapter, and Sycamore Commandery, No. 15, K. T., at Sycamore, and of Medinah Temple, A. A. O. Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Chicago.

That Mr. Townsend is a very busy man is shown by the fact that he has charge of some twenty-five farms in De Kalb county, which belong to the Daniel Pierce and Townsend estates, also some five thousand acres in Iowa belonging to the Daniel Pierce estate, together with large tracts of land on the Red River of the North. The private banking house of Daniel Pierce & Co., of which Mr. Townsend is now the manager, has been doing business for over thirty-one years, and has the confidence of the public to a high degree. The average deposits are about three hundred thousand dollars.

For his years Mr. Townsend has shown remarkable financial and executive ability, and the large moneyed and landed interests placed in his hands are managed with rare skill. His popularity among the people is evidenced by his being elected for the third time as mayor in a Republican city, he being a Democrat in politics. He is a man of social characteristics, winning in manner, and one of the rising young men of De Kalb county.

**J**OHAN H. UPLINGER, dealer in hardware, general merchandise, and farming implements, is one of Kingston's best known and most highly respected citizens. He has the largest hardware store in the vil-

lage, and has a large and extensive trade. He was born in Butler township, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, July 15, 1852, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Wood) Uplinger, both of whom were natives of the same state. The father for some years engaged in butchering, but finally gave it up for the more quiet but less lucrative business of farming. He came west with his family in 1866, locating in Kingston township, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of good improved land, besides several other parcels of land, which he disposed of from time to time. At the time of his death, October 6, 1893, he was the owner of two hundred acres of valuable land. His wife's death occurred in July, 1897.

Of the family of thirteen children born to John and Elizabeth Uplinger, our subject was sixth in order of birth. He was fourteen years of age when he came with his parents to Kingston, Illinois. His education, begun in the public schools of Pennsylvania, was completed in the schools of Kingston. He lived at home with his parents, assisting in the farm work, until he reached his twenty-fourth year, at which time he engaged in the hardware business in Kingston, opening his place of business in December, 1875. For twenty-three years he has continued in that line, and while he has been uniformly successful in his business he has yet met with some losses. On the 29th of January, 1886, he experienced a serious loss by fire, losing nearly all his stock, amounting to four thousand dollars. In August of the same year he was re-established again, and is now, as formerly, doing an extensive business, and having the full confidence of the community at large.

On the 28th of April, 1880, he was

joined in marriage with Miss Mary McDole, a native of Chemung county, New York, born in 1855, and a daughter of John and Catherine McDole, who were early settlers of De Kalb county. Like his father before him, Mr. Uplinger is a staunch Democrat, and served two terms as postmaster of Kingston under President Cleveland. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, September 20, 1877. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**JAMES LEISHMAN**, dentist, No. 235 Main street, De Kalb, Illinois.—There was a time when the ingenious mechanic with steady nerve, forceps and turn-screw could hang out his sign and go to work unchallenged. Now things have changed and not only must the dentist have nerve and muscle, but he must be a man of refinement and culture, who by a course of study and training has acquired a thorough knowledge of dental surgery. No other profession has made greater strides to the front than has dentistry. Closely connected with the medical profession, it is not a science to be acquired simply by study, but its conditions are ever changing, and the practice which was in vogue in one age is obsolete in the next; therefore, experience is a sure and true road to higher attainments. We revere the learned and experienced physician, but no less the cultured and practical dentist. It is, therefore, with pleasure that we record the biography of James Leishman, one of De Kalb's foremost dentists.

James Leishman was born in South Grove township, De Kalb county, Illinois, December 22, 1854, and is the son of James



and Margaret (Brown) Leishman, both of whom were natives of Scotland. The father was a skilled mechanic, who, while yet a young man, came to the United States, and shortly after his arrival married Mrs. Margaret Morton, *née* Brown, and by this union were born two children, James and David. The mother died at the age of seventy-seven years, Mr. Leishman surviving her and dying at the age of eighty years. They were both noble people, honest to a fault, and of good repute in the neighborhood where they resided. Members of the Methodist Episcopal church, they took an active interest in all church and benevolent work.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated at Sycamore, where he attended the high school, and after completing his course of study he turned his attention to dentistry, at which time he became a student at Philadelphia, taking a course in dental surgery. In 1881 he returned to De Kalb county and opened an office in the city of De Kalb for the practice of his profession, and where he has remained to the present time. His office is commodious and comfortable and supplied with all the modern appliances known to the profession.

On December 2, 1885, Dr. Leishman was joined by marriage with Miss Jessie M. Carter, a native of De Kalb, Illinois, and a daughter of Orlando and Hullah White Carter, the former a native of Chenango county, New York, and the latter also of New York. By this union one child has been born, Walter Bruce, now attending the public schools of De Kalb.

Dr. Leishman is the carver of his own fortune. He is one of that number who have risen to a position of eminence in his profession by virtue of intrinsic qualities that are inherent in his nature and that are

wholly incompatible with failure. Early disciplined in the rigid school of self-dependence, unaided by those extraneous influences, which, while they smooth the pathway and lighten the responsibilities of youth, tend only to weaken the physical and moral nature of man, he has pressed on to success in his profession. He possesses social qualities in an eminent degree, with good conversational powers, with a mixture of humor, which makes him a genial companion, as well as a warm-hearted and true friend, ever ready to greet an acquaintance or entertain a visitor. Fraternaly he is a Mason and also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In educational matters he has always been interested and is now serving as a member of the school board.

**O**RRIN M. NORTON, who resides on section 2, Squaw Grove township, where he owns and operates a farm of five hundred and forty-five acres, came to Illinois in 1836 and is therefore justly entitled to the name of pioneer. He is a native of Ohio, born in Geauga county, November 27, 1825. His grandfather, Phineas Norton, was a native of Scotland, a pioneer of Vermont and a soldier in the Revolutionary war. His father, Robert Norton, was a native of Vermont, born in 1785, and who, as a young man, moved to Geauga county, Ohio, where he cleared a tract of land and engaged in active farm life. He there married Louisa Monroe, a native of Connecticut, her father, Joseph Monroe, being a pioneer of Ohio. The Monroes are of Scotch and English descent.

In 1836 Robert Norton removed with his family to Kane county, Illinois, located near the village of Big Rock, where he re-

sided for some years, then came to De Kalb county and purchased the farm where our subject now resides, where his death occurred in 1845, at the age of sixty-two years. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1878. They were the parents of three children, our subject being the eldest. Ora T. married Robert Waudby and resides in Sioux City, Iowa. Mary Jane married David Harmon, of De Kalb county.

The subject of this sketch came to Illinois when eleven years of age, his boyhood and youth being spent in Kane and De Kalb counties. The education he received in the pioneer schools was very meager, but he has since become a well informed man by reading and observation. He remained with his father till the latter's death and then took charge of the farm and business. He was married in Kane county, Illinois, December 25, 1853, to Miss Jemima Drake, a native of Allegany county, New York, and a daughter of Eda and Hannah Drake, who were among the pioneers of Kane county. After his marriage Mr. Norton purchased one hundred and sixty acres which he located with a land warrant. He at once commenced the improvement of the place, and as his means increased bought more land until his farm comprised five hundred and forty-five acres. His farm is well equipped with all necessary outbuildings and modern utensils, and on the place is a neat and commodious residence. Although he commenced life with very limited means, he has been very successful and ranks with the best farmers of his township.

Of the two children born to Mr. and Mrs. Norton, Alice died at the age of two and a half years. Charles grew to manhood, married Jennie Crosby and has three

living children, Elmer, Carrie and Edna Blanche. He is now engaged in farming the old homestead.

From the organization of the party to the present time, Mr. Norton has been an ardent Republican, and has given earnest support to every presidential nominee of the party. Both he and his wife are members of the Batavia Christian church, Mrs. Norton having been a member for about thirty-five years.

When Mr. Norton came to Illinois, Chicago was but an insignificant village, and he has lived to see it take rank as the second city in the union. The changes that have been made in the sixty-two years of his residence in Illinois can scarcely be conceived. An almost unbroken wilderness at the time of his arrival, the country is now dotted with flourishing villages, and the magnificent farms with their large dwelling houses and barns indicate that the people are indeed prosperous. The prosperity attending others has in a measure been meted out to him, and he is numbered to-day among the leading citizens of Squaw Grove township, with many friends throughout Kane and De Kalb counties.

**R** F. HAMPTON is a native of De Kalb county, born in Paw Paw township, February 3, 1852, and is the son of Hon. Robert Hampton, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He now resides upon a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 7, Paw Paw township, which he owns and operates, in connection with another farm of three hundred and fifty acres. His boyhood and youth were spent upon the old homestead in Paw Paw

township, and his primary education was obtained in the district schools. From the district school he entered the classical seminary at East Paw Paw, in which he took a thorough course, and later engaged in teaching during the winter months, in which occupation he continued for some twelve terms, while in the summer he assisted in the farm work.

On the 9th of March, 1879, in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Hampton was united in marriage with Miss Lizzie Dienst, a native of Illinois, born in La Salle county, but reared and educated in De Kalb county. Her father, Casper Dienst, died when she was a small child, and her mother a few months later. She was then taken and reared to womanhood by Wells W. Fay, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. By this union there is one son, Robert Wells, a bright child of two years. They have also taken a child to rear, Golden Hampton, who entered their household when but four years of age, and is now a student in the home school.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Hampton removed to the farm where he now resides, which he had purchased a few years before. He has here almost continuously since been engaged in general farming. In September, 1894, he purchased a mercantile business at Rollo, in which he was actively engaged for about three years, closing out in August, 1897. In the spring of 1898, in connection with his own place, he took charge of the greater portion of his father's farm, and in connection with general farming he is quite extensively engaged in stock raising. For seven years he has been engaged in breeding and raising Polled Durham cattle. In his farming operations, Mr. Hampton has been uniformly successful, and

has the reputation of being one of the best farmers in the township.

Politically Mr. Hampton is a Republican, with which party he has been indented since attaining his majority. He was elected and served as commissioner of highways one term, and for ten years has been township clerk and school treasurer. His interest in the public schools has been intensified by his experience as a teacher. He and his wife are members of the Rollo Congregational church, and in its work they take special delight. Previous to the organization of the church at Rollo, he was superintendent of the Sunday school at East Paw Paw, and is now serving in the same position in the church at Rollo, a position which he has satisfactorily filled for several years. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, holding membership with the lodge at Paw Paw. Thoroughly progressive, he is at all times willing to do all that he can to advance the interests of his native county and state. Few men are better known in the southern portion of De Kalb county, and none are more highly respected.

**A** RUDOLPH YOUNGGREN, of Younggren Brothers, resides on section 8, Shabbona township, where they are engaged in general farming and stock raising, having a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the home place, and another of eighty acres in Milan township, both valuable and well improved farms. They date their residence in De Kalb county since 1854, and on the farm where they now reside since 1861.

A. Rudolph Younggren is a native of Sweden, born in Jonkoping, January 20, 1852, while his brother, Gustavus M., first

saw the light of day on the Atlantic ocean, September 5, 1854. Their father, Emanuel Younggren, was also a native of Sweden, as was also their mother, Margaretha (Sandman) Younggren. The family emigrated to the New World in 1854, taking ship at Christina for Quebec, Canada, and on arriving at that city they came direct to De Kalb county, Illinois, and located first in Shabbona Center. Emanuel Younggren was a carpenter and joiner by trade, at which he worked in his native country for a time. For seven years previous to his coming to America he worked in a match factory at Jonkoping. On coming to De Kalb county, he worked at his trade of carpenter and joiner, in addition to looking after the home farm. In 1868 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 8, Shabbona township, on which he built a neat residence and various outbuildings. After his naturalization he was elected and served in a number of offices of honor and trust. By accident he lost his right hand, and was thus compelled to give up carpentering and much other work. He spent the last years of his life on the farm, and there died October 6, 1891. His wife survived him two years and passed away August 16, 1893. Their family comprised three sons and one daughter. Charles W., the eldest born, is engaged in fruit growing in Oregon. A. Rudolph is the subject of this sketch. G. M. is the partner of his brother in conducting the farm and in stock raising. Jennie and Melvina C. are deceased.

The Younggren brothers were reared on their present farm, which they helped to develop, and were educated in the common schools. After their father's death they succeeded to the homestead, together with the eighty-acre farm in Milan township, and

they are now considered as being among the most enterprising and substantial farmers of Shabbona township. In addition to the above described farms, they have recently purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Coffey county, Kansas. They are also breeders of high-grade Durham cattle and Poland China hogs, and own and keep for breeding purposes a pure-bred French Canadian draft horse. Politically the brothers are staunch Republicans, and A. Rudolph served two terms as commissioner of highways, and in 1897 was elected a member of the county board of supervisors, being chairman of the committee on printing, and a member of the committee of highways, and also of personal property. He joined the Odd Fellows lodge at Lee, and was a member while that lodge was in existence. He passed through all the chairs and represented his lodge two sessions in the grand lodge of the state. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Globe and Modern Woodmen of America, and is now serving as venerable consul of the Woodmen camp. He is well known throughout the county, in which he has resided for forty-four years, and wherever known he is respected for his integrity of character and personal worth.

**G**EORGE WILLIAM DUNTON, of the firm of Carnes & Dunton, Sycamore, Illinois, has won high rank in the legal profession and is regarded as one of the best attorneys in De Kalb county. He is a native of Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, born August 6, 1854, and is the son of William S. and Alvira (Baldwin) Dunton. His father is a native of Dorset, Bennington county, Vermont, born August 31, 1813,



GEORGE W. DUNTON.



and is the son of William B. and Huldah (Sykes) Dunton. William B. Dunton was also a native of the same state. His father was a surveyor and came from Connecticut to Vermont, locating in Bennington county. The Duntons were of English ancestry and the head of this family came over from England during Cromwell's time and settled in Boston.

William S. Dunton, the father of our subject, grew to manhood in his native state and received a common school education. He came to Illinois in 1846 and located at Belvidere, Boone county, where he has since continued to reside. He there first engaged in the mercantile business and at one time was engaged in the manufacture of plows, and also carried on farming. At the time of the organization of the national banking system he became a director of the First National Bank of Belvidere, and in 1866 was elected president of the same and held that responsible position for about twenty years, resigning on account of failing eyesight, but accepting the position of vice-president, which place he now holds. He has also been a director of the Second National Bank of Belvidere since its organization about 1884. In politics he is a Republican. Physically he is heavily built and of a naturally strong constitution. He is a man of even temperament, upright disposition and character. His wife was the daughter of David Baldwin and was a native of Dorset, Vermont. In religious belief she was a Universalist. They were the parents of four children, as follows: Wilbur, who died in childhood; Mary, now the wife of Samuel Kerr, an attorney of Chicago; Nellie, at home; and George W., our subject. William S. Dunton has one brother, George B., who lives at Belvidere,

and two sisters, Adeline, who married David Underhill, and Susan, who married Chauncey Borland.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Belvidere and after receiving his primary education in the public schools of that place entered the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City, in 1871, from which he was graduated in the classical course in 1875. He then entered the Union Law College of Chicago in the fall of 1875 and was graduated from that institution in June, 1877. Among the lecturers at that time in the college were V. B. Denslow, Harvey B. Hurd, Judge Lyman Trumbull, Senator J. R. Doolittle, James L. High and Judge Booth, together with Dr. N. S. Davis as lecturer on medical jurisprudence.

In the fall of 1877 Mr. Dunton commenced practice in Sycamore, forming a partnership with R. L. Devine, who was then one of the leading members of the bar of De Kalb county. His first few years in practice was mostly in preparing cases and drawing up pleadings for the causes. Typewriters were not then in use, and as Mr. Devine was a very busy man with an extensive practice, this duty devolved upon the junior partner. It was, however, a good drill, and in after years in practice it has been very useful to him. The partnership with Mr. Devine was dissolved in 1880, and Mr. Dunton continued alone until the fall of 1880, when he formed his present partnership with Duane J. Carnes. While in partnership with Mr. Devine they had a large general practice, in which they were very successful. While alone his practice was chiefly in chancery and business litigation and settling up of estates, in which he was especially adapted and successful.

Mr. Dunton was united in marriage

August 9, 1885, with Miss Levina S. Denton, a native of De Kalb county, Illinois, and a daughter of Solomon and Olive Denton, both natives of Dutchess county, New York. Her father, who was a farmer by occupation, died in 1864, but her mother is yet living. They had a family of seven children, Rebecca, Julia, Mary, Lavinia S., Gilbert H., Elizabeth and George, all of whom are living except the latter. To Mr. and Mrs. Duntun two children have been born, Martha A., born July 2, 1888, and Mary O., born March 18, 1892.

In politics Mr. Duntun is a Republican. He has been a member of the board of education, of which he was president for a time. In business he has been quite successful. He is a stockholder and director in the Sycamore National Bank. Mr. Duntun is held as a sound student of law and a safe, reliable counselor. His special forte is in chancery cases and probate, in preparing cases for trial, and drawing up pleadings. He has been connected with some of the most important cases in De Kalb county, and with his partner forms one of the strongest law firms in the county. He is a man of pleasing address and very popular.

**G**OTTLIEB F. HUEBER is one of the most substantial farmers in De Kalb county, and resides in section 3, Malta township. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, September 12, 1828, and is the son of Jacob and Philopene Colmer) Hueber, both natives of Germany, where their entire lives were passed, the former dying in 1833 and the latter in 1865. They were the parents of ten children, of whom our subject was fourth in order of birth.

In his native land, Gottlieb F. Hueber

grew to manhood and received a fairly good education. The news from the new world, which reached the fatherland, was of such a nature as to induce him to immigrate, and in 1850 he came to this country with Jacob Willrett, who has become wealthy and lives in De Kalb county, locating first in Pennsylvania, where he remained nearly two years. In 1855 he came to Illinois and located in Malta township, De Kalb county, where he purchased eighty acres of land in its primitive state. This he brought into subjection by plowing, and beautified it by the erection of commodious buildings. To the first eighty acres he added another eighty, upon which he now resides. Later he purchased a quarter-section on section 1, which was somewhat improved, but which he improved still more by applying to it his labor and genius. He afterwards purchased another eighty acres on section 3, which was also partially improved, and still later bought one hundred and twenty acres, which he has since sold to his son Frederick, who now resides upon it. Lately he purchased another eighty acres.

On the 31st of March, 1858, Mr. Hueber was joined in wedlock with Miss Elizabeth Heiderscheid, by whom he had twelve children, of whom the following are yet living: Elizabeth, Carrie W., John William, Frederick, Jacob, George Emanuel, Laura Margaret, Gottlieb David and William Nicholas. Mrs. Hueber was born in Luxemburg, Germany, February 20, 1829, and died March 22, 1898.

Mr. Hueber is a practical farmer in every respect. His stock is well cared for and of good blood, his buildings of modern construction, his fields clean and neat, while his fences are strong and secure. He has no hobby in his farming, but devotes







G. F. HUEBER.



MRS. G. F. HUEBER.



himself to a general line. He has been very successful in life, and has an abundance for the old age that is coming upon him. Religiously he is a member of the German Evangelical Association, of which his wife was also a member.

**GENERAL EVERELL FLETCHER DUTTON.** — Prominent among the business men of Sycamore is the subject of this sketch, who for many years has been closely identified with the history of the city, while his name is inseparably connected with its financial records. The banking interests are well represented by him, for he is to-day at the head of the Sycamore National Bank, the leading moneyed institution of this place. He is a man of keen discrimination and sound judgment, and his executive ability and excellent management have brought to the concern with which he is connected a high degree of success. The safe, conservative policy which he inaugurated commends itself to the judgment of all, and the success of the bank is certainly due in a large measure to him, and through it he has promoted the welfare of the city.

\* General Dutton is a native of New Hampshire, born in Sullivan county, January 4, 1838. His father, Hon. William P. Dutton, was a native of Charleston, New Hampshire, born August 1, 1817. He married Lucinda J. Blood, also a native of the same town and state, born January 28, 1818. They were married in 1835 and after remaining in their native state for nine years, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, they then resolved to come west. Accordingly, in 1844, they came to Illinois, locating first at St. Charles, Kane county,

and later removing to Du Page county and subsequently settling at Sycamore, De Kalb county, where, until 1857, the elder Dutton engaged in the mercantile trade, and was also the landlord of the Sycamore House, the leading hotel in the city. During the administration of President Pierce he held the office of postmaster at Sycamore. He was reared in the Jackson school of politics, and from his earliest manhood was plain and outspoken in his political views. The doctrines held by the abolitionists were very distasteful to him, and during the agitation of the freesoil question he went to Kansas to vigorously denounce those principles and confidently expected to be confirmed in his views, and that the report of his investigations there would undoubtedly strengthen the party, giving prestige to those views.

Of one thing it could be said of William P. Dutton, and that is that he was open to conviction. When he saw with his own eyes the terrible and sad condition of the people of that distracted country, he experienced a complete change of opinion, and there openly and unhesitatingly declared himself in favor of the free state idea, which he had previously so vigorously condemned. This course cost him his political position, the postoffice at Sycamore. Being then at liberty, he at once changed his residence, removing to Kansas, settling on a farm in Stanton, then Lykens county. Within a year after his arrival he was elected treasurer of the county, and was later re-elected, serving two terms. In 1859 he was chosen a member of the constitutional convention, which assembled at Wyandotte, and took an active part in forming the constitution. In 1861, when Kansas was admitted to the union, he was elected sheriff of his county, the name of which had then been changed

to Miami county. For the better performance of his duties he removed to Paola, the county seat, which continued to be his home until 1873. In 1863, he was re-elected sheriff and served his second term. During the war he was a conspicuous figure in Kansas affairs, and a strong supporter of the government, serving on the staff of the governor. In 1873, he returned to Illinois, and until 1876 he devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, when he returned to Paola, Kansas, where he resided until his death in 1888. His wife died at Sycamore, June 15, 1875. Besides our subject the children born to William P. and Lucinda J. Dutton, were Emma, who married Aaron K. Stiles, of Chicago; and Charles E., of Oakland, California. Everell Fletcher Dutton was eight years of age when his parents settled in Sycamore, and during the eleven years preceding his father's removal to Kansas, he assisted in the store and post-office and attended the public schools, closing his studies with a year at Mt. Morris, Illinois, and a similar period at Beloit, Wisconsin. After the removal of the family to Kansas, he assisted his father on the farm until 1858, when he returned to Sycamore, and served as deputy clerk under the Hon. A. K. Stiles, until April, 1861.

On the 18th of April, 1861, young Dutton responded to the call of President Lincoln for troops to aid in the suppression of the rebellion, and was mustered into the state service at Dixon, Illinois, May 10, and into the United States service May 24. His company was made a part of the Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Z. B. Mayo was elected captain of the company, which was known as Company F, and Mr. Dutton was chosen first lieutenant. On the 16th of June the regiment went to Casey-

ville, Illinois, to look after the secession element at that place, and, July 6, moved on to Rolla, Missouri. In August, Lieutenant Dutton was promoted to the command of his company, Captain Mayo having resigned. The regiment remained at Rolla till the last of October, doing, in addition to its regular military service, cavalry duty, looking after guerrillas and bushwhackers in and about that section of the country. From Rolla they moved by forced marches to Springfield, Missouri, making the one hundred and twenty miles in four days, and were placed in General Fremont's command, under whom the regiment remained until that general was superseded.

The Thirteenth was ordered back to Rolla, March 6, 1862, and was assigned to the command of General Curtis. It was then sent to Pea Ridge, marching at the rate of twenty-five miles per day. During this campaign the regiment suffered great hardships, being compelled for days to subsist on parched corn and whortleberries. Its campaign down the White River was especially hazardous and severe, suffering from cold and want of food, and then changing to intense heat with no water except from the cypress swamps abounding with reptiles and filth, many of the wells being poisoned as the troops approached. After three months experience of this character the regiment reached Helena, July 14, with half of its number sick. In August, Captain Dutton was sent home sick, and while there was commissioned major of the One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was raised in De Kalb and Du Page counties. On the 22d of September, he was transferred to that command, by order of the secretary of war, proceeding with

it a few days later to Louisville, Kentucky, where it was assigned to the army under General Rosecrans, then in camp near Bowling Green.

On the 11th of November, the brigade to which the One Hundred and Fifth was attached was ordered to Scottsville, Kentucky, and November 25th marched to Gallatin, Tennessee, where it went into winter quarters. On the 11th of December the regiment was moved to Tunnel Hill where it remained till February 1, 1863, when it rejoined its brigade at Gallatin, continuing there until the close of the spring. During these six months of arduous campaigning, Major Dutton had charge of the scouts of the brigade, some two hundred and fifty in number, and was almost constantly in the saddle. June 1, 1863, the regiment proceeded to Lavergne, and a month later to Murfreesboro. Later it was ordered back to Lavergne, and August 19 entered Fort Negley, at Nashville, where it remained until February, 1864.

While at Nashville, Major Dutton was made a member of the board constituted by the war department for the purpose of examining and assigning officers to the regiments of colored men, remaining on that duty till May 1st, when he rejoined his regiment, which was then assigned to the First Brigade, Third Division, Twentieth Army Corps, commanded by General Joseph Hooker, in which it served until the close of the war. In the battle of Resaca, the One Hundred and Fifth took a distinguished part, and for its gallantry was especially complimented. In the campaign through Georgia and the Carolinas, the regiment also won the most favorable distinction for its gallantry and achievements, and in the war reports had favorable mention. From July 13

to August 4, Major Dutton had command of the regiment, Colonel Dustin being absent. During this period the battle of Peach Tree Creek was fought (July 20), in which the One Hundred and Fifth was heavily engaged and had the honor of capturing the flag of the Twelfth Louisiana Regiment. The brigade was then commanded by General Harrison, afterwards president of the United States. The record of the regiment during the entire Atlanta campaign was specially brilliant, taking part in the battles of Resaca, Cassville, New Hope Church, Golgotha, Peach Tree Creek and Atlanta.

Early in August, 1864, Major Dutton was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and soon afterwards to the colonelcy, his senior officer, Col. Dustin, having been appointed brigadier general. From Atlanta the One Hundred and Fifth marched with Sherman to the sea, and from Savannah through the Carolinas to Goldsboro and Raleigh, thence through Richmond to Washington, participating in the battles of Lawtonville, Smiths Farm and Averysboro, the latter being fought March 15, 1865. During this last engagement, the One Hundred and Fifth drove the enemy from its works and captured two twelve-pound guns, which Col. Dutton and some of his men turned and fired on the retreating enemy.

For gallantry and meritorious services in the campaign in Georgia and the Carolinas and for distinguished services at the battle of Smiths Farm, North Carolina, Col. Dutton was breveted brigadier general of United States volunteers, with rank from March 15, 1865. He was mustered out of service at Washington, June 7, 1863, after a continuous service of four years and two months. Returning to Sycamore, in 1868, he was elected clerk of the circuit court

of De Kalb county, in which capacity he officiated for eight years. In the winter of 1877, during the session of the thirteenth general assembly of Illinois, he was elected clerk of the house. In 1878, he was elected clerk of the northern grand division of the Supreme Court of Illinois, which position he held until December 1, 1884, discharging the duties of the office in such a manner as to win the admiration of the court and bar.

In 1883, General Dutton became associated with the Sycamore National Bank, purchasing a large proportion of its stock, and on the death of J. S. Waterman became president, a position that he still holds. Naturally conservative, by his influence he has added strength to the bank and secured the confidence of the entire community. Few banks have a better reputation than the Sycamore National, which has always been a successful institution and, has gained in popularity under the wise administration of General Dutton and his associates. In addition to his banking interests, the General has large real estate holdings, and in addition to much farming land in De Kalb county, he owns large tracts in other northwestern states. Success has crowned him in all his business interests.

General Dutton was united in marriage at Sycamore, Illinois, December 31, 1863, with Miss Rosma Adelphe Paine, a native of Herkimer county, New York, and a daughter of Harmon and Clarinda (Van Horn) Paine, the former born at German Flats, Herkimer county, New York, July 25, 1822, and the latter at Springfield, New York, February 26, 1824. Her parents moved to Sycamore, in 1853, and for many years her father was proprietor of Paine's Hotel at that place. Of late years he has

been engaged in agricultural pursuits. The great-grandfather of Mrs. Dutton, Thomas Van Horn, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war with the rank of lieutenant. By reason of this fact Mrs. Dutton has become a member of the Daughters of the Revolution. To Mr. and Mrs. Dutton two sons have been born. George Everell, who was born May 8, 1868, graduated at Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois, and is now associated with his father in the banking business at Sycamore. William Paine was born April 25, 1872, and is at present finishing his education at Harvard University.

Following in the footsteps of his father, and strengthened by the lessons of the Civil war, General Dutton has ever been an earnest Republican, and has rendered valuable services to his party, which have been duly appreciated. Religiously both he and his wife affiliate with the Universalist church, in the work of which they take an active part.

JOHN KING, who for more than a third of a century has been station agent at Cortland, Illinois, is a native of Pemberton, Burlington county, New Jersey, born November 28, 1834, and is the son of William and Margaret (Pippit) King, both of whom were natives of New Jersey, and were the parents of seven children, three of whom died in infancy and one, Isaiah, after reaching maturity. He was a Methodist Episcopal minister and was secretary of the Methodist Episcopal conference in his native state. The living are John, Elizabeth and Margaret. The paternal grandfather, William King, was a native of England, and emigrated to this country when quite young, locating in New Jersey. The father was a



carpenter by trade, and lived to be over eighty years of age.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native town and county and educated in its public schools. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age, and then like many others came west with a view of bettering his condition in life. While yet in the east he learned the carpenter's trade with his father, and in 1856 took up his residence in Morrison, Whiteside county, Illinois, where he worked at his trade a few years, and then entered the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company as a clerk. In 1864 he took the agency at Cortland, Illinois, where he has since continued to reside in the faithful discharge of his duties for a period of over thirty-four years as station and express agent.

In 1866 Mr. King was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Pierce, a native of Delaware county, New York, and a daughter of Isaac and Eunice (Judd) Pierce. By this union there are three children: Millie, Mary and Margaret.

In politics Mr. King is a gold Democrat, believing in the principles advocated by the old leaders of the party, and that honesty in monetary matters should govern as well as honesty in other things. He is now president of the board of trustees of the village, and treasurer of the school board. He has also served as a member of the county board of supervisors with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. He and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church. In addition to his other property, he is the owner of one hundred and thirty acres of land near the village of Cortland, which is under a high state of cultivation and which yields an abundant increase

for the toil and labor expended on it. Socially Mr. King and his family are greatly esteemed and highly honored in the community which has so long been their home.

EDWIN HAIT, the present efficient supervisor of Franklin township, and a heavy stock dealer of Kirkland, is a native of the township, born December 2, 1853, and is the son of Jonas and Emeline (Shattuck) Hait, both natives of New York state, and who were the parents of three children, Mary, Edwin and Emma. Desiring to better his condition in life, Jonas Hait came to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1836, and took up a claim of three hundred and twenty acres, in what is now Franklin and Kingston townships, and which he purchased as soon as the land came into market. He at once set about the improvement of the place, and in due time had a good, productive farm. He was not, however, long to enjoy the fruits of his labor, for he died in 1858, at the age of forty-five years. He was a good man and well respected in the community, and served his township as supervisor for a number of years.

The subject of this sketch was born on the farm which his father located in 1836, and there grew to manhood, and has spent his entire life in farming and stock dealing. His education was obtained in the district schools, and the knowledge therein obtained has been supplemented by reading and contact with the world. On the 29th of December, 1875, he was united in marriage with Miss Ida J. Rote, also a native of Franklin township, and a daughter of Hixon Rote, a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer of De Kalb county. By this union three

children were born, two of whom died in infancy. The living one is Morris.

In politics Mr. Hait is a Republican, and has voted the party ticket since attaining his majority. He has ever taken an active interest in political affairs, and has been for some years one of the leaders of the party in Franklin township. He is at present a member of the village board of Kirkland, as well as supervisor of the township. For a number of years he has served as school director in the old Lacy district, and has freely given of his time to advance the interests of the public schools. He has one hundred and sixty acres of fine land, which was the old Hait homestead. For some years he has been engaged in stock-dealing, buying and shipping to the eastern markets, and has built up a good trade. A very popular man, he has many friends throughout the county.

**WILLIAM W. WYLDE** is a substantial farmer residing in the village of Genoa. He is a native of Somersetshire, England, born February 28, 1841, and is the son of William and Maria (Webb) Wylde, both of whom were natives of the same country. They emigrated to the United States in the fall of 1843, and came directly west, locating in Spring township, Boone county, Illinois, where they resided eight years. They then moved into the city of Belvidere, where the father died at the age of forty-four years. He was the son of John Wylde, who came to America with him and who survived him two years, dying in 1857, when about eighty-one years of age. After the death of her husband Mrs. Maria Wylde was again united in marriage, her second union being with George Harding. She is still living in Bel-

videre, at the age of eighty-one years. She does all her own house work, including washing, ironing and baking, and each Sunday she walks one mile to church.

The subject of this sketch had limited school privileges, and at the age of twelve years assumed his own support. He worked as a farm hand until twenty-one years of age, having been placed with a man who promised to care for him the nine years until he attained his majority and give him in the end three hundred and fifty dollars. The man failed, and he got nothing for all his years of labor. At the age of twenty-one he commenced life anew and worked by the month for two years, saved his money and purchased a farm of one hundred acres near Genoa, on which he lived until removing to the village in 1891. He was always economical and a good manager, and in due time had saved enough to buy another farm of one hundred and sixty acres lying some forty rods from his first farm. He now rents the larger farm, but personally attends to the cultivation of the smaller one. For some time he has been engaged in dairy farming, keeping from thirty to thirty-five head of milch cows. On his two farms he has made many improvements, built a dwelling on each, together with two barns, and has also drained them with thirty thousand feet of tile. Frequently he has planted orchards, but has never met with success in the raising of fruit.

Mr. Wylde has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Martha Thompson, a native of McHenry county, Illinois, who died in 1892, at the age of forty-two years. On the 2nd of January, 1896, he married Mrs. Cornelia Bunnell, widow of Sherman Bunnell, by whom she had one daughter, Hazel Blanche. Mrs. Wylde was

born in Genoa township, and is a daughter of David and Mary (Babcock) Davis, the latter being a daughter of William H. and Cornelia (Hogeboom) Babcock. William Babcock was the son of Abram and Susan (Lee) Babcock, the latter being a relative of General Robert E. Lee. Cornelia Hogeboom was the daughter of Andrew and Julia (Distant) Hogeboom, who were among the first settlers of Hampshire township, Kane county, Illinois. David Davis was the son of Alfred C. Davis. By trade he was a carpenter and builder, and died in 1880, at the age of forty years. To our subject and wife a son has been born, Donovan Oscar.

In the spring of 1898, Mr. Wylde began the erection of one of the largest and finest residences in Genoa. It is of pleasing architecture, well arranged, light and airy, and has eleven large rooms. In politics Mr. Wylde is a Republican, and has served as supervisor of his township and in minor township offices. He is a spiritualist in belief, being a medium and having the unknown power to heal, a power which he cannot explain, but merely knows it exists.

**J**OHNS GREEN, one of De Kalb county's representative and thriving farmers, owns and operates a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, located on sections 4 and 5, Shabbona township. He was born March 30, 1857, in Monroe county, New York, and is the son of Peter and Catherine (Kies) Green, whose family comprised three children: William E., John and Elizabeth.

Moved by a desire to better his condition, and learning the prospects held out in the west, where the same effort as was exerted in Monroe county, New York, would shortly result in ownership of choice land in

Illinois, Peter Green brought his family to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1864, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land. He immediately set about further improving his property by the erection of buildings, setting out orchards and shade trees, tiling the land, and continued to cultivate the place until 1881, when he moved to the village of Shabbona, and lived a retired life until his death, July 21, 1890, leaving a widow, who survived him several years and who died December 21, 1896.

John Green came west with his parents to De Kalb county, Illinois, in the spring of 1864, and has since been identified with its growth and prosperity. He was but seven years of age on his arrival here and grew to manhood in the old homestead, and received his education in the district school in the neighborhood. After his school days were over he took up the pursuit of farming, working with and aiding his father in the many duties and responsibilities their avocation exacted.

Mr. Green was married September 13, 1881, to Miss Catherine Erbes, daughter of George Erbes, a prominent and highly respected farmer living a few miles west of the town of Lee, Lee county, Illinois. By this union they became the parents of a happy family of five bright children, all of whom are attending school in the neighborhood.

Mr. Green has always been identified with the Republican party, advocating its principles, and voting the party ticket, national, state and county. He has never held nor sought office, his private affairs and responsibilities being of such nature as to claim his whole attention. In educational affairs the growth and development of the

public school system have always received his sympathy and support, and his efforts in this direction take form in the discharge of the duties of school director, an office which he now holds.

Since coming to De Kalb county, a boy of seven years, Mr. Green has witnessed the progress of events which year by year have taken place, resulting in a complete transformation. Where existed the raw prairies are now the fertile fields; the rude cabin has given way to homes of stater aspect and proportions, and wild nature exhibits in every detail the civilizing influences which individual effort and industry have resulted in making the state of Illinois foremost among the agricultural states of the Union. A combination of effort has effected these changes, and like other enterprising and industrious men, John Green has contributed his full share. He has but lately added by purchase one hundred and sixty acres of the old homestead, and his interests consist of three hundred and twenty acres of De Kalb county's most fertile land. He is one of the county's popular and esteemed citizens, his integrity, industry and well regulated habits inviting and fostering the respect and confidence of those who know him.

**A**BRAM ELLWOOD was for some years one of Sycamore's best known citizens, one whose life record is a commendable one. Only those lives are worth recording that have been potential factors in the public progress, in promoting the general welfare, or advancing the educational or moral interests of the community. Abram Ellwood was ever faithful to his duties of citizenship, and by the successful

conduct of his business interests not only promoted his individual success, but also promoted the general prosperity. In his life's span of forty-seven years, he accomplished much and left behind an honorable record worthy of perpetuation. He was a man of the highest respectability, and those who were most intimately associated with him speak in unqualified terms of his sterling integrity, his honor in business affairs and his fidelity to all the duties of public and private life.

Mr. Ellwood was born in Scotia, Schenectady county, New York, March 26, 1850, and was the son of Reuben and Eleanor (Vedder) Ellwood, the former a native of Minden, Montgomery county, New York, and the latter of Schenectady. Reuben Ellwood, the father, was for years one of the leading manufacturers of De Kalb county, was well known throughout the state and nation, and for two terms served his district as a member of the United States house of representatives. His death occurred July 1, 1885, while his wife survived him about ten years.

In the public schools of Sycamore Abram Ellwood received his primary education. He then attended a military college at Poughkeepsie, New York, where he remained until the age of sixteen years, when he began life for himself, at once displaying that energy, independence and self-reliance that burned out the fires of his life many years before his time. Being a sturdy youth, he secures a position as brakeman on the railroad, and was thus employed two years, then went south and assumed a more responsible position, that of contractor on the New Orleans, Mobile and Texas Railroad, afterward serving as passenger conductor on this line. Notwith-



ABRAM ELLWOOD.



standing that he was but eighteen years old, he displayed executive ability far beyond his years. He was next on the Milwaukee & Northern Railroad as constructor, with headquarters at Green Bay, Wisconsin. Later he was United States mail agent, on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, from which he was transferred to the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, between Chicago and Cedar Rapids. His last run in the mail service was between Chicago and Cincinnati.

On the 3d of January, 1876, Mr. Ellwood was united in marriage at Manchester, New Hampshire, with Miss Emma L. Garvin, a native of Chichester, New Hampshire, and a daughter of Jesse and Eunice (Leavitt) Garvin, the former a native of Garvin Falls, New Hampshire, and the latter of Chichester, in the same state, and the daughter of Jonathan Leavitt. To this union there were five children, four of whom are now living,—Mildred G., Sallie E., E. Eleanor and A. Leonard. Reuben, Jr., died at the age of three and a half years.

In the fall of 1877, our subject became associated with his father in the manufacturing business in Sycamore, under the firm name of the R. Ellwood Manufacturing Company. This connection was continued until the fall of 1880, when he engaged in the manufacture of wire fence stretchers, which he successfully conducted for four years. In December, 1884, that business was consolidated with the R. Ellwood Manufacturing Company, and he was made manager for the entire business. After the death of the father he purchased the entire stock and plant and continued the business under the firm name of the Abram Ellwood Company. He perfected many of the machines in his plant, and succeeded in build-

ing up a very extensive trade, and employed a large number of men. His success attracted the attention of the citizens of other places, and he was offered a bonus of thirty-five thousand dollars if he would remove the plant to De Kalb. This offer he accepted, and in 1892 removed to De Kalb, looking after the erection of buildings from his own plans, which made one of the most complete manufacturing concerns in the country.

In the fall of 1896 Mr. Ellwood formed a stock company, in order that he might relieve himself of much of the hard work that was gradually breaking him down. He was a man of wonderful energy, who did honestly everything that he undertook, and the excessive mental strain required in the prosecution of his business hastened, if not entirely induced, his death. A short time prior to his death, he took up quarters at the sanitarium, Battle Creek, Michigan, but it was of no avail, the disease being too far advanced. He died November 11, 1897, while yet in the prime of life and usefulness, a martyr to self-imposed duty. From a small beginning he had developed the business to one of large proportions, employing from seventy-five to one hundred men, to whom he ever showed the greatest kindness and consideration. Politically he was a Republican, but never a partisan. Because of his business ability, rather than his political training, he was called upon to serve as alderman of the city, and also as its mayor, serving in the latter position from 1889 to 1891. A friend of education, he served for some years as a member of the school board to the entire satisfaction of the people. Before his death he became a communicant of the Congregational church, and was faithful to the last, dying in the full assurance of faith and in the hope

of a resurrection and a remission of loved ones beyond the grave. Mrs. Ellwood and her two oldest children are also members of the same church. Fraternally, Mr. Ellwood was a Mason of high standing.

**SAMUEL PETERSON**, contractor and builder, residing in De Kalb, is a native of Sweden, born in 1855, and is the son of John and Mary Peterson, both natives of the same country, who emigrated to the United States in 1869, locating in De Kalb township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where some of their relatives had previously located. John Peterson was a cooper by trade, and followed that occupation during his entire residence in De Kalb. His death occurred in 1892, his wife preceding him to their heavenly home some twenty-one years, dying in 1871. Their family consisted of eight children, five of whom are yet living.

Samuel Peterson, our subject, was fourteen years of age when he came with his parents to this country. For about five years after his arrival he worked on various farms. His father and a brother being mechanics, he associated himself with them and soon learned the carpenter's trade, which he has followed continuously to the present time. He is a first-class workman, and has done much of the best work in De Kalb for the past twenty years. He keeps under his supervision twenty men, representing the various trades employed in the construction and completion of dwellings. In 1896 he erected thirty-one houses in De Kalb, a greater number than was ever built by one man in any previous year.

In 1883 Mr. Peterson married Miss Christine Peterson, a native of Sweden,

born July 7, 1862, and the daughter of John Peterson, also a native of Sweden, who removed to this country about 1869. By this union six children were born: Edna G., August 1, 1884; Roy M., October 7, 1886; Earl R., October 10, 1889; Irving, August 4, 1891; Ruth L., July 19, 1894; and Anna M., September 16, 1897.

By his industry and gentlemanly deportment, Mr. Peterson has endeared himself to the people of De Kalb and built for himself not only an extensive business, but a name that will last. He has been fortunate in his business ventures and is the owner of a number of lots in the city, on which he has built neat and comfortable residences, and has now thirty-one buildings under his care, with a monthly revenue from this source of over three hundred dollars. The estimation in which he is held by the people is shown by his election as alderman for the fourth year, an office he fills with credit to himself and honor to those whom he represents. Like every clear-headed man, who looks into the future and plans for emergencies which cannot be averted, he has for several years carried for himself and wife heavy insurance policies. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church, of which body his wife is also a member.

**EDWARD B. POWERS**, a leading and influential farmer, residing on section 33, Paw Paw township, owns and cultivates a farm of two hundred acres in the home place, and one hundred and sixty in another farm. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, September 16, 1841. His father, Norman H. Powers, and his grandfather Powers were natives of Vermont. The



latter was a hunter of repute, with a family of seventeen children. He removed from Vermont with his family, to New York, in an early day, and there Norman Powers grew to manhood. Early in the thirties, when a young man, he went west, and settled in La Salle county, Illinois, and later returned east, and in Canada married Catherine Hart, a native of Scotland, and a daughter of James Hart, also a native of Scotland, who was for many years a veterinary surgeon in the English army, and who settled in Canada after leaving the service.

Immediately after his marriage, Norman Powers returned with his bride to La Salle county and located in what is now Earl township, where he improved a farm, which he later sold, and purchased the place where his son now resides. He entered this land with a soldier's warrant, and it comprised one hundred and sixty acres in its native state. There was not a house in sight when he purchased the place. He bought an old frame house, which he moved on the tract, and there resided while erecting a more comfortable residence. All the lumber used in the house, he hauled from Chicago. As soon as located, he at once commenced the improvement of the farm, the first year putting in a crop of five acres of corn. At that time wild game, geese, ducks and prairie chickens, were in abundance, and they ate up almost the entire crop. In the spring of 1852, he started with an ox team, in company with four men, for California, making the overland trip, and spent about two years in getting out ship timbers; while there he was fairly successful, but was glad to return to his Illinois farm. He returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama, to New York, and from there by rail to his home. After his return he was elected supervisor

of his township, and held several other minor official positions. In 1861, he enlisted in Company I, Fourth Illinois Cavalry, and with his regiment went to the front. At the battle of Pittsburg Landing he was wounded by a piece of shell, and permanently disabled. He was therefore discharged, returned home, and later gave up the farm and removed to Earlville, Illinois, where he resided some three or four years, then went to Scranton, Iowa, and died at the residence of a daughter, June 7, 1882. His wife survived him a number of years and passed away April 6, 1896. They were the parents of two sons and three daughters, Edward B., our subject being the first born. Christie is the wife of Hon. H. M. Boardman, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Susan A. is the wife of J. E. Moss, of Scranton, Iowa. Elizabeth died in April, 1861, at the age of twelve years. Horace E. is a lawyer by profession and is engaged in practice at Scranton, Iowa.

Edward B. Powers grew to manhood on the home farm, where he received very limited educational advantages. After his father was discharged and returned home from the army, he enlisted, August 15, 1862, joining his father's old company and regiment. His father returned home on Saturday night, and on the following Tuesday he enlisted and joined the regiment at Trenton, Tennessee. With his regiment he engaged in scouting duty, and in the fall of 1862, at Chestnut Bluffs, Tennessee, he was taken prisoner by the enemy and held for about eighteen hours, when he was paroled and returned to his regiment. After his exchange, he served until the close of the war, and was discharged at Springfield, Illinois, in July, 1865. When he enlisted he left the harvest field with the wheat uncut and the

reaper in the field, where it remained until the next spring, when it was pulled out in order to plant a new crop. The war sentiment in his neighborhood at that time was very strong, and nearly every able-bodied man enlisted.

After his discharge, Mr. Powers returned home and worked for various farmers until the fall of 1867, when he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on section 28, Paw Paw township, a partially improved place. On the first of December, 1867, in De Kalb county, he married Miss Nancy A. Weddell, born in Paw Paw township, and a daughter of W. B. Weddell, one of the early settlers of the county. By this union there were three children. Katie C. grew to mature years and died single at the age of twenty-one years. Agnes G. also grew to womanhood, and died when nineteen years old. Beth A. is a student of the home schools.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Powers began their domestic life on a farm, which he purchased but a short time previous, and there resided for eight years, and then returned to the old home farm. Since removing to the old homestead he has made many improvements on the two farms, including over seventeen miles of tiling. In addition to general farming he has been engaged in breeding and dealing in Shorthorn cattle, and annually feeds and ships several car loads of cattle and hogs.

Politically Mr. Powers is a Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant in 1868. He has ever taken an active interest in local politics, and has served two years as assessor of his township, and for twenty years has been school trustee and director, and clerk of his school district for the same length of time. He and his

wife are members of the Congregational church at Rolla, and are highly esteemed for their real worth. Fraternally he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. A life-long resident of La Salle and De Kalb counties, he has witnessed their growth and development, and has worked with others for the accomplishment of the general good of his county and country.

ALBERT S. KINSLOE, the present efficient county clerk of De Kalb county, Illinois, is a veteran of the war for the union, with a record of nearly four years of faithful service. He was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, in December, 1840, and is the son of Dr. Lemuel and Isabella (Thompson) Kinsloe. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1808, and was a son of James Kinsloe, who was a native of Scotland. Dr. Kinsloe was a practicing physician, and came west in the spring of 1854, locating at Ross' Grove, De Kalb county. He died in 1870. In politics he was a Republican, and religiously a member of the Associate Reformed (Presbyterian) church. He was a man of medium height, mild disposition, firm in character and strict in his religious views. His wife was born at Spruce Creek, Pennsylvania, and was of Irish ancestry. She was a member of the same church as her husband. Her death occurred in 1872. They were the parents of four children—Albert S., our subject; Allen G., deceased; Clara T., deceased; and Harris E., residing at Corsicana, Texas.

The subject of this sketch resided in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, until about five years of age when his parents removed to Juniata county, in the same

state. On the removal of his parents to De Kalb county, Illinois, he accompanied them and was educated in the public schools, finishing his school life in the academy at East Paw Paw, Illinois. He was living with his parents at Earlville, Illinois, and engaged in clerking, at the commencement of the Civil war and enlisted April 26, 1861, as a member of Company D, Twenty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered into the service at Chicago, and with his regiment in June following went to Quincy, Illinois, thence to Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis, Missouri, and later to Jefferson City, in the same state. The next move was to Lexington, Missouri, where the regiment was captured by General Price. Being sick at the time, Mr. Kinsloe was not taken prisoner. The regiment was released on parole and was sent to Benton Barracks, Missouri, where it was discharged by order of General Fremont October 8, 1861.

On being discharged Mr. Kinsloe returned to Earlville and on November 26, 1861, re-enlisted in Company D, Fifty-third Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was recruited at Earlville, and of which he was elected and commissioned second lieutenant. The regiment first went into camp at Ottawa, Illinois, and from there it was sent to Camp Douglas, near Chicago, where it remained until early in the spring of 1862, when it was sent to Cairo and from there to Savannah, Tennessee. From Savannah they moved to Pittsburg Landing, reaching there the second day of the battle. From Pittsburg Landing they marched to Corinth and from there to Memphis, where the regiment was engaged in maneuvering about that section, and doing scout duty for some time. On the way to Memphis they

stopped at Grand Junction, Tennessee, Holly Springs, La Grange, Moscow and Germantown, arriving at Memphis in July, 1862.

On the sixth of September, 1862, the regiment left Memphis and marched to Bolivar. October 5th, 1862, they were engaged in fighting Price between Bolivar and Corinth, and were with Grant on his march down through Mississippi to Oxford, that state, and after the surrender at Holly Springs they fell back with Grant's army and went to Memphis. Later they went down the river to Young's Point, opposite Vicksburg, then up the Yazoo to Snyder's Bluff, from where they marched to a position on the left of the lines in rear of Vicksburg, and were there engaged until the surrender, July 4, 1863. Our subject next took part in following General Johnston, and participated in the fight at Jackson, July 12, 1863. After this, his command returned to Vicksburg and from there went to Natchez, but again returned to Vicksburg when it entered on and took part in the Meridian campaign.

Subsequently returning to Vicksburg, the regiment veteranized, and the men were granted furloughs to visit their homes. At the expiration of the furlough the regiment re-united at St. Louis and there took transports for Clifton, Tennessee, from there they marched across the country by way of Huntsville, Georgia, striking the Georgia Central Railroad at Kingston. Their next march was south to Allatoona, where they halted until the army moving on Atlanta crossed the Chatahoochie river. Lieutenant Kinsloe took part in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged until the fall of Atlanta. His regiment was on the left where the brave McPherson fell.

After the fall of Atlanta, Lieutenant Kinsloe was detailed on the staff of General Potts, as acting assistant adjutant-general, First Brigade, Fourth Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, in which capacity he served until he was mustered out March 31, 1865. Enlisting as a private, he was promoted to second lieutenant, to take rank from January 1, 1862; to first lieutenant, to take rank from August 6, 1863, and to captain, January 31, 1865. Returning to his home in Earlville, Captain Kinsloe engaged in the grocery business for a time, then went to Neponset, Bureau county, Illinois, and remained there until the fall of 1868, when he removed to Malta, Illinois, where he lived until 1892, when he took up his residence in Sycamore. When he went to Malta, Captain Kinsloe went into the produce business, and was also agent of the American Express Company. In 1873 he was appointed postmaster at Malta, which position he held for thirteen years. While residing there he was a member of the board of education for twelve years, a part of which time he was president of the board. In 1886, he was elected county treasurer, and served the full term of four years. In 1890, he was elected county clerk, and re-elected in 1894, and at this writing has received the nomination for the third time.

Mr. Kinsloe was united in marriage December 29, 1865, to Miss Caroline W. Cook, daughter of Nelson and Lucretia (Ives) Cook, both of whom were natives of Connecticut, where she was also born. Their children were George H., Lola, Lucretia, Delos, Caroline, Friend M., Artie, Eliza, Adelbert and Lymian, all of whom are yet living. To Mr. and Mrs. Kinsloe one child was born, Nora B., now the wife of C. P. Underwood, living at Danberry, Nebraska.

They are the parents of the following children: Homer, Carrie, Hazel, Edna, Ruth and Nancy. Of the number Carrie is deceased.

Religiously Mrs. Kinsloe is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically Captain Kinsloe is a Republican, and fraternally is a member of the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Grand Army of the Republic. He has served several terms as commander of his post. He has ever taken an active part in political matters, and has served frequently as delegate to the various conventions of his party, and in June, 1898, was a delegate to the state convention. He has ever been and is now one of the most popular officials in De Kalb county. At the county convention in 1894, and also in 1898, he received the nomination by acclamation. He is always at his post of duty, accommodating to all, and efficient in the discharge of his responsible duties. He is a man of warm heart, sympathetic and popular with all who know him.

**H**ENRY N. PERKINS, who is living a retired life in Genoa, is a well-known citizen of the place and of De Kalb county. He was born in Columbia county, New York, August 12, 1833. His father, Horatio N. Perkins, was born in Grotton, Connecticut, November 13, 1808, and removed to Columbia county, New York, where he married Eliza Wallace, a native of that county and a daughter of William and Betsy (Stacey) Wallace, her father being a soldier in the war of 1812. Her mother spent the last years of her life in Genoa, with her daughter, and died at the age of sixty-seven years.

In 1837, Horatio N. Perkins moved with his family to De Kalb county, Illinois, and located in Genoa, where our subject was reared. When he came to Genoa he had the foresight to secure a large amount of land which he believed would some day be very valuable. At the time of his death he had nearly five hundred acres of as fine land as any in the township, leaving an estate to the amount of more than fifty thousand dollars. He died in 1888, at the age of seventy-nine years. In 1843, he built the Pacific Hotel in Genoa, which has been in existence from that time to the present. He continued to operate the hotel until 1854, when he retired to his farm, where he remained until about 1872, when he returned to Genoa, and there resided during the remainder of his life. He was the son of James Perkins, a farmer who lived and died in New York state, his death occurring at the age of ninety-three years.

Henry N. Perkins was but four years of age when he came with his parents to Genoa. His education was obtained in the old log schoolhouse, near the present site of the village, with the addition of two terms at Mt. Morris Academy. He remained with his father until the age of twenty-two years, when he began farming for himself in Genoa township, on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres deeded him by his father. In 1866 he sold the farm and went into the mercantile business at Genoa, keeping a general store. In that line he continued until 1882, when he sold, and for two years lived a retired life. In 1884 he opened a hardware store, in partnership with his son, but in 1888 retired, leaving his son sole proprietor.

Mr. Perkins was married February 28, 1855, to Margaret Stiles, born in Feeleys-

burg, Canada, and who died in Genoa, March 26, 1880. They became the parents of five children, one of whom died in early childhood. Horatio A. is now engaged in the hardware business at Genoa and is an enterprising business man, at present serving as township clerk. He married Sarah Holroyd, a daughter of Stephen Holroyd, and they have now two children, a son and a daughter. Marian married Charles Stott, of Des Plaines, Illinois, and they have one daughter. Mary married Frank E. White, who is operating our subject's farm in Martin county, Minnesota. They have five children. Jennie married Newton Stanley, who is engaged in farming in Riley township, McHenry county, Illinois. They have three children. Since retiring from the mercantile business, Mr. Perkins has given personal supervision to his farm of two hundred and forty acres, lying partly in the village of Genoa. He has twenty acres of timber land on the Kishwaukee river, near Genoa. In addition he has a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Martin county, Minnesota, on which his daughter lives. The farm is well improved, having a comfortable house, good barns and outbuildings, and is well drained. Since coming into possession of his present farm in Genoa, Mr. Perkins has rebuilt the house, making additions to it, improved and repaired the barns, and has laid three miles of tiling. He has also sunk a deep well and erected a good windmill, and in all has a very valuable place. In politics he is a Republican, and for many years was a member of the village board, serving five terms as president of the board. For ten years he was a member of the county board of supervisors, and has served as town clerk, and held other minor offices. During the Civil war

he was a member of the Union League. As a citizen he is thoroughly representative of the business interests of his adopted town and county.

**J**OHN MCGIRR, a leading and influential farmer of Afton township, De Kalb county, Illinois, is a native of the township, born August 7, 1857, and is the son of John and Mary (Powers) McGirr, both natives of Ireland, the father from county Dublin, and the mother from county Waterford, who were the parents of twelve children, six of whom are deceased. The living are Dennis, John, Rose, Patrick, Theresa and Ella. In 1850 John McGirr, Sr., came to America, and first settled in St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, where he remained until 1853, when he came to De Kalb county, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of government land, which he improved and to which he added from time to time until he had six hundred and fifteen acres of valuable farming lands. He was an industrious and enterprising man, and was quite successful in all his business undertakings.

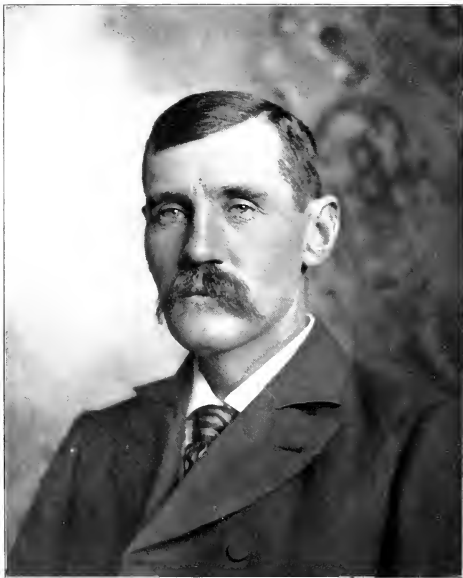
The subject of this sketch was reared in his native township, and educated in its public schools. His entire life has been spent in farming, with the exception of about three years in the stock and grain business at Cortland and DeKalb. In 1881 he made his first purchase of land, buying two hundred acres where he now resides. To this he has since added eighty acres, and also has one hundred and sixty acres in Milan township, making his farming lands comprise four hundred and forty acres, all of which is improved and under a high state of cultivation.

On the 14th of November, 1882, Mr. McGirr married Hannah Redman, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1859, and the daughter of Muri Redman, who came to De Kalb county in 1871, and by this union there were four children born—three are living: Murt D., Lewis and Elizabeth, all of whom yet remain under the parental roof. One child, J. F., is deceased. Religiously Mr McGirr and his family are connected with the Roman Catholic church. Politically he is a Democrat, having voted that party ticket since attaining his majority. He was elected road commissioner in 1891, re-elected in 1894 and in 1897. That he makes an efficient officer is shown by his continued re-election. He has also served as a member of the board of school trustees with satisfaction to his fellow-citizens. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In a social way he is greatly esteemed and has many friends throughout De Kalb county.

**T**HOMAS RENWICK, who owns and operates a fine farm on section 2, South Grove township, is a native of Dumfries county, Scotland, born April 29, 1834, and is the son of Walter and Mary (Weil) Renwick, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of England. They were the parents of sixteen children, of whom our subject was fourteenth in order of birth. The family came from Scotland to America in 1835, and located first in Canada, where the father engaged in farming until 1845, when he came to Illinois, located first in Kane county and later coming to Cortland township, De Kalb county, and from there to Pierce township.

The subject of this sketch was in his





JOHN MCGIRR.





MRS. JOHN MCGIRR.



infancy when he accompanied his parents to Canada, and was but eleven years of age when he came with them to Illinois. His education was obtained principally in the common schools of this state. He started in life for himself at the age of eighteen years, working on a farm by the month at ten dollars. On the 9th day of March, 1864, he married Lucy A. Ramsey, a native of South Grove township, De Kalb county, and a daughter of George Ramsey, who was born in Pennsylvania, and a farmer by occupation who came to Illinois in 1838, first locating in Monroe township, Ogle county, Illinois, where she was born. By this union three children have been born: Bessie, Lucy O., and Thomas J.

Starting in life without a cent and receiving no aid from any source, Mr. Renwick has made a success and has now seven hundred and twenty acres of as fine land as there is in De Kalb county, all being well improved, with good buildings and properly drained. In politics he is an ardent Republican and has held the office of road commissioner. As a man he enjoys the utmost confidence and respect of all who know him.

**P**PETER MILLER is one of the substantial farmers of De Kalb county, and resides upon section 24, Shabbona township, but is now living retired. For fifty-three years he has been a resident of the county, arriving here June 7, 1845. He is a native of Columbia county, New York, born February 21, 1816, and is the son of Simeon Miller, who was a farmer of Columbia county, and who served as a soldier during the war of 1812. He married Betsy Bedell, with whom he later moved to Cayuga coun-

ty, New York, where his death occurred in 1824. His wife survived him a number of years, and reared their family of six sons and six daughters, of whom our subject and his brother Robert are the only survivors. Robert Miller is a retired farmer and now living near Milledgeville, Iowa. The Miller family are of German ancestry, the first of the family settling in New York in the pioneer days of that state.

The subject of this sketch grew to mature years in Cayuga county, New York, his boyhood and youth being spent on a farm, his education being received in the common schools, which he attended but a few weeks during the winter months. He was married in the town of Victory, Cayuga county, New York, February 25, 1841, to Elizabeth Quilhot, a native of Cayuga county, and a daughter of Henry and Hannah (Van Allen) Quilhot, and a sister of Peter V. Quilhot, whose sketch appears in this work.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Miller commenced their domestic life in the village of Victory, where he engaged in the hotel business for about three years. He then came west to Illinois, and took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Shabbona township, De Kalb county, after which he returned to his home in New York. In 1845 he came with his family to the county, by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo, thence across the lakes to Chicago, and by teams to Shabbona. On the place was a small log house, in which they lived for a few years while opening up the farm. The country was then all new, and for the first two years they experienced all the hardships and privations of pioneer life. In 1856, the old log house gave place to a neat and substantial residence and as the years went by, barns and other outbuildings were erected,

and the place was transformed into the substantial farm which is seen to-day.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have had five children, of whom two are now living. Two of their children died in infancy, and one, Peter V., at the age of about ten years. The living are Mary Elizabeth and Minard S. The former is now the wife of Dr. Stewart, of Chicago. Minard S. grew to manhood in his native township, and at Kansas City, Missouri, June 30, 1881, married Clara E. Adams, a native of Illinois, born at Normal, and a daughter of R. P. Adams, of Illinois, who was a soldier in the Civil war, serving through the entire service. After his discharge he joined his wife in Warren county, Indiana, where they resided some years, then removed to Kansas, finally locating at Dodge City, in that state. Mrs. Miller was educated in Indiana, and later was for two years a teacher in Dodge City, Kansas. Minard S. Miller and wife commenced their domestic life on the farm where they now reside. However, he was for two years engaged in the livery business in Rochelle, Illinois. They have two children, Flossie May and Francis Peter.

In early manhood our subject was identified with the Democratic party, but for reason of his liberty loving principles, he became identified with the Republican party. Office holding has never been to his taste, and he has invariably declined when any office was tendered him. With the growth and prosperity of De Kalb county, he has been identified for more than half a century. He is well known, especially throughout the southern section of the county, and has many friends who have the utmost confidence in him as a man and citizen, and who will be pleased to read this sketch in the biographical record of the county.

CHARLES H. CROSBY, deceased, was for years a representative of the business and commercial interests of Sycamore. He was born in Belvidere, Illinois, February 27, 1844, and was the son of Frederick and Parmelia (Sweet) Crosby, the former a native of New York state and a miller by trade, who came west at an early day and located at Belvidere, Illinois. His death occurred November 20, 1846, having been born at Dudley, Massachusetts, May 30, 1815, son of Nathaniel Crosby. He was the grandson of Rev. Pearson Crosby and great-grandson of Stephen Crosby.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native city, and received his education in its public schools. In his youth he began clerking in a store in Belvidere, where he received a good business training. In 1872 he came to Sycamore, where he engaged in business for himself in the line of men's furnishing goods, in which he continued until his death, April 3, 1893. Previous to his leaving Belvidere in October, 1870, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Wing, a native of Cortland, New York, and second in a family of seven children born to Joseph and Sarah (Johnson) Wing, the latter being a daughter of Samuel Johnson and a native of New York. Joseph Wing was likewise a native of New York; his father was David Wing, who married Desire Vincent. They became the parents of seven children. They are descended from John Wing, who first came to Boston in 1632, from England, and later settled at Lynn in the early colonial period. To Mr. and Mrs. Crosby two children were born: Grace A. and Harold. The latter died December 8, 1893. The former is yet living, and resides with her mother in Sycamore. Mrs. Crosby and her daughter are members

of the Congregational church, in which they are actively interested.

Fraternally Mr. Crosby was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and politically was a Republican. For several years he served as city clerk of Sycamore. A man of good business ability, enterprising in all things, the community lost an excellent business man, and the wife and daughter a loving husband and father.

**C**HARLES E. DOANE, after a third of a century of hard labor upon the farm, is now living a retired life in the village of Malta. He was born in De Kalb, St. Lawrence county, New York, July 13, 1838, and is the son of Chauncey and Asenath (White) Doane, the former a native of Connecticut, and the latter of Massachusetts. By occupation Chauncey Doane was a farmer, and confined himself to agricultural pursuits during his entire life. About 1820, he removed from Connecticut to New York, where he purchased about six hundred acres of land, all of which was in timber and which he cleared up during his life. The wood he burned, and the ashes he sold for chemical purposes. In this way he paid for his land and its clearing. He was a man of much push and energy, honest and upright to a fault, but a man that always wanted what belonged to him. He was born in 1799, and had just reached his majority when he removed from his native state to New York. His death occurred in the latter state in 1864, while his wife survived him some eleven years, dying in 1875, at the age of seventy-five years. Their family consisted of twelve children, seven of whom are living, three now residing in the village of Malta, De Kalb county, Illinois.

Charles E. Doane is the seventh in order of birth in the family of his parents. He was reared and educated at De Kalb, St. Lawrence county, New York, and remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and located in South Grove township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land, upon which he erected buildings and made other improvements, which materially advanced its value. This farm he operated as a general farmer up to 1898, when he purchased several lots in Malta, upon one of which he resides in a comfortable home.

On the 6th of January, 1861, Mr. Doane was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Monroe, a native of New York, born in 1842, and a daughter of Thomas and Catherine Monroe, the former a native of Canada and the latter of New York. By this union there are six children, of whom Cora May, Byron C., Kittie and Emma are deceased. The living are Malcolm M. and Carrie. The former married Miss Eliza Hallet, and operates the old homestead. Carrie married Jacob Willrett, and they reside in Malta township. The father of Mrs. Doane died in early life, while his wife still survives him and is now living at the age of seventy-seven years.

Politically Mr. Doane is a Democrat, and a firm believer in the principles of the party. He has been honored with many of the township offices, the duties of which he has faithfully discharged.

**G**EORGE OLMSTEAD is a retired farmer and carpenter residing on section 21, Genoa township. He was born at Davenport, Delaware county, New York,

December 7, 1833, and is the son of John Olmstead, who lived and died in that county, at the age of fifty-eight years. He was also a farmer and followed shoemaking to a limited extent. He was a son of Anson and Charity (Merrill) Olmstead, who were natives of England. John Olmstead married Sarah A. Cook, who died at the age of eighty-two years. They became the parents of eleven children, of whom our subject was third in order of birth. Sarah A. Cook was a daughter of John and Sarah (Utter) Cook, who attained the ages of eighty-five and ninety-five, respectively.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native county, where he remained until April, 1855. He attended a few terms of school during the winter months, in country districts, until the age of thirteen years, since which time he has daily done a man's labor, and notwithstanding his many years of arduous toil he is still hale and hearty. At the age of thirteen he began working out on farms, doing a man's work in hay or grain fields, but receiving only a boy's pay—three dollars and a half a month. He continued in farm work by the month until he came west in 1855. From his New York home he came direct to Genoa, Illinois, and worked at carpenter work until 1857. He then rented a farm, and continued renting some eight or nine years, and then purchased a farm of forty acres in Genoa township. He later sold this and moved to Livingston county, Illinois, where he resided six years, having purchased a farm of eighty acres of raw prairie land, which he very much improved. Mr. Olmstead was married in Genoa township, to Miss Mary B. Bartholomew, a native of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of John and Jerusha (Evert) Bartholomew. By

this union five children were born, three of whom are living. Henry died at the age of one month. Eugene Herbert married Etta Wooster, by whom he has two children. John married Clara Love, and they have two children. Lucy and Catherine were twins, the latter now being deceased. Lucy married Leonard Durham, and they have one child.

On the 12th of September, 1872, Mr. Olmstead sold his Livingston county farm, and October 17, of the same year, purchased a part of his present farm, to which he removed and where he has since continued to reside. He added to his original purchase, until he has now a farm of one hundred and sixty-five acres, as fine a body of land as one would wish to see. Since 1886 he has retired from farming, leasing the farm to his son, and giving his entire attention to his trade, that of carpentering. In politics he is a Republican. For forty-seven years he has been an active and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, having a love for the Master's cause.

**JOHN LAWRENCE** is a retired farmer residing in the city of Sycamore, Illinois. He is a native of England, born in the village of Thurnham, near Lancaster, July 10, 1830. Until twelve years of age he attended school, provided by the benevolence of a daughter of Squire Dalton, a gentleman of large landed estates, who, but for his Catholic faith, would have held the title of nobility. The school was above the usual grade in those days, was free to all residing in that vicinity, and was supported entirely by means furnished by this benevolent young lady after her father's death.

Robert Lawrence, the father of our subject, was also a native of Thurnham, Eng-

land, and was a common laborer, who for many years was employed on canal boats running from Galasemdock to Kendall, a business at which our subject also worked from the time he was old enough to work, until coming to America in 1850. Robert Lawrence spent his entire life in his native shire and died about 1865 at the age of seventy-five years. He was a lifelong member of the established Church of England and married Jane Thronton, a native of the same village, who died when about fifty years old. To them were born nine children, three of whom came to America. Edward is now living in Elgin. William retired to Elgin to spend the remainder of his life in ease, but died in Burlington, Illinois, while visiting his old farm. John is the subject of this sketch.

The three sons, leaving the mother country, sailed from Liverpool, March 17, 1850, on the vessel *Centurian*, and were thirty-three days on the voyage, encountered one severe storm and landed in New York. The three brothers came directly west, and, locating at St. Charles, Illinois, engaged in whatever work they could find to do for two years. Our subject worked for the railroad company around the depot, was for a time helper to masons, building in the town, and with his brothers leased a quarry, where they worked when not otherwise employed, thus losing no time and having stone ready for delivery when purchasers came. During this time Mr. Lawrence often worked for eighty-seven and a half cents a day, boarding himself. He later took a trip south, seeking work and prospecting for some good place in which to locate. Finding none, however, he returned to St. Charles and on the 31st of August, 1853, was united in marriage with Miss Ann Marshall, born in Clif-

ton, Nottinghamshire, England, October 11, 1828, and who came to America with two of her brothers, John and Thomas, in 1851, the three taking up their residence in St. Charles. In 1848 her brothers, William and George, came to America, and in 1852 her parents and youngest sister followed. Mrs. Lawrence is the daughter of William and Mary (Bingham) Marshall, the latter born in Saxelby, Lincolnshire, England, and who died at the age of ninety years. She was a daughter of George and Jane (Job) Bingham. The former served for some years in the British army and died at the age of seventy-five years. The latter died when about forty years old. William Marshall was born in Dunham, Nottinghamshire, England, in 1789, and died in 1876. He was the son of George Marshall, a teacher and highly educated man, who died in England, when about seventy-five years old. The name of his wife is not definitely known, but probably was Miss Newbeld. Of their eleven children, eight came to America.

To our subject and wife eight children have been born. Jennie married Alexander Evans. Clara is deceased. William is also deceased. Thomas resides in Chicago, where he is engaged in the commission business. John M., who married Mary Mosher, lives in Chicago and they have three children, Rupert, George and Ruth. Emma married Charles Wall, a grocer residing in Chicago. They have two children, Raymond and Willard. George married Mertie Rowe and they reside in Galesville, Wisconsin. They have one daughter, Hazel. Clara May died in infancy.

Immediately after his marriage Mr. Lawrence purchased a farm at Charter Grove, Sycamore township, De Kalb coun-

ty, on which he resided for seven years. He then sold out and purchased three hundred and twenty acres on sections 16 and 17, Burlington township, Kane county, Illinois, which was his home until May, 1886, when he retired from active life, moved to Sycamore, and with his good wife is getting the best out of the world in the evening of life. Both are hale and hearty, giving promise of many more years of useful life. In politics he is a Republican, and while residing in Kane county served as road master, school director and trustee. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. As a farmer he was progressive, thrifty and energetic, and always had his farm under a high state of cultivation.

**BROWN & BROWN**, bankers of Genoa, Illinois, are well known throughout De Kalb and adjoining counties, being among the live business men of the place. They are sons of Jeremiah Libby Brown, who for many years was one of the most prominent citizens of Genoa township, a native of Scarborough, Maine, born April 17, 1805. He was the son of Benjamin Brown, who was probably a native of Scotland. Jeremiah L. Brown married Ruth Libby, and in 1837 came to De Kalb county, Illinois, where later his death occurred.

Jeremiah L. Brown, the father of our subject, attended the common schools of his native state during the winter terms until the age of eighteen years. He then ran away to sea on a whaling vessel, and was gone three years, during which time he never heard a word from home. Soon after his return, he removed with his parents to the town of Hope, Hamilton county, New

York, and on the 17th of August, 1830, married Judith Richardson, of Johnstown, New York, who died March 4, 1848. By that union seven children were born—Julia A., James P., Judith, Esther E., Abigail J., Ruth S. and Jeremiah W. Of these Julia A. and Ruth S. are deceased. The second union of Jeremiah L. Brown was solemnized May 2, 1850, when he married Eliza A. Jackman, born May 26, 1825, a daughter of Abner and Mary Jackman, of Sycamore township. By this last union were born Emma R., Dillon S., Charles A. and Lizzie M.

By way of the canal and lakes, Jeremiah L. Brown came west in 1836, and settled first in Peoria, Peoria county, Illinois, but returned east and in 1837 again came west, driving through by team from New York, coming direct to Genoa township, De Kalb county, reaching Genoa at sunset, September 20, 1837. By trade he was a shoemaker, which occupation he followed in the east, but on coming to De Kalb county took up land on section 30, Genoa township, and there followed agricultural pursuits. He became a successful farmer and soon acquired over a section of land. Three years before his arrival white men had hardly set foot in De Kalb county. The country was in its native wildness and Indians roamed at will over its prairies and through the timber, engaged in their regular hunting expeditions. In local affairs Mr. Brown became quite prominent and was kept in office by his neighbors the greater part of the time. He was a man of superior education, and because of that fact his services were in demand. For many terms he served as one of the county board of supervisors. In early life he was an Abolitionist, and when the Republican party was formed attached



himself to it and became an earnest advocate of its principles until his death, January 5, 1882. Well known and highly respected, his death left a void in the county.

Dillon S. Brown, senior member of the banking house of Brown & Brown, Genoa, was born May 12, 1852, on the old home farm in Genoa township, where he grew to manhood. His primary education was obtained in the schools of Genoa and Sycamore, after which he entered the Illinois State University, at Champaign, from which he graduated in 1875, in a class of thirty-seven persons. He then attended McGill Veterinary College, at Montreal, Canada, from which he was graduated in 1877. After following his profession in Sycamore some two or three years, he formed a partnership with H. H. Slater, in the general mercantile business at Genoa. After the expiration of one year he withdrew from that firm, and forming a partnership with his brother, Charles A., began the banking business in Genoa, in which line he has since continued with gratifying success.

Dillon S. Brown was married May 16, 1878, to Miss Emily E. Pond, a native of Pennsylvania, and daughter of Americus H. Pond, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. By this union five children have been born, two of whom died in infancy, and Claude in early childhood. The living are Earl and Baird, pupils of the Genoa schools.

Fraternally Mr. Brown is a member of the Masonic order, and in politics he is a thorough Republican, believing in protection and reciprocity. For some years he was a member of the village board of trustees and for a time was president of the same. He was also a member of the board of education of Genoa, giving of his time to advance the

educational interests of the place. At present he is a member of the county board of supervisors, an office which he has filled in a most satisfactory manner.

Charles A. Brown, junior member of the firm of Brown & Brown, was born on the home farm in Genoa township, January 12, 1858. His education was obtained in the common schools and in the high schools at Genoa, from which he was graduated in 1881 after pursuing a four-years course. He then went to Chicago, where he studied one term in Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, and then returned home and engaged in farming a few months until the banking firm of Brown & Brown was formed, since which time he has given almost his undivided attention to his banking interests.

Charles A. Brown was married in June, 1889, to Miss Ada M. Olmstead, a native of Genoa township, and a daughter of A. H. and Rebecca J. (Eichler) Olmstead. By this union three children have been born: Loyal, Gladys and Lorine. Fraternally Mr. Brown is a member of Genoa Lodge, A. F. & A. M., in which he has served as secretary and worshipful master, and which he has represented in the grand lodge of the state. In politics he is a Republican. The only offices which he has held have been that of township treasurer and village trustee.

While there is much truth in the stricture made upon the modern scrambler for the almighty dollar who seeks to accumulate vast fortunes by selfish and unscrupulous means, there is nothing more worthy of praise than the quiet and steady pursuit of some honest calling, which enables men to acquire a home and competence. The firm of Brown & Brown is one to whose energy and foresight the village of Genoa and northern De

Kalb county is indebted for many improvements. While they are prosperous business men, and have given close attention to their private affairs, they have never forgotten or ignored that bond of common interest which should unite the people of every community, and they have ever been ready to promote progress in every line.

**WILLIAM HUBBARD**, after more than half a century of honest toil on a farm in De Kalb township, is now living a retired life in the city of De Kalb, Illinois. He is a native of Cortland, Cortland county, New York, born April 21, 1823, and is the son of Joel and Clarinda Hubbard, natives of Massachusetts and Connecticut respectively. Joel Hubbard was a shoemaker by trade, and a man of some note in his native county. He was born September 5, 1788, and died in Michigan, March 25, 1838. His wife was born November 14, 1785, and died in New York, March 28, 1827. Their family consisted of eight children: Palmira, born October 3, 1809; Forona, March 23, 1811; Lanson, June 22, 1813; Henry, May 18, 1815; Alfred, March 22, 1817; Fanny, May 4, 1820; William, as above stated; and Ansel, November 7, 1825. Of these Fanny died February 15, 1822.

William Hubbard is seventh in order of birth, and was only four years of age when his mother died, and but fifteen years old when he came to De Kalb county in 1838, locating in De Kalb township. With an elder brother he walked from Michigan to De Kalb, Illinois, but remained one summer at Sugar Grove, Illinois. His education, begun in the common schools of the east, was completed in the district schools

of De Kalb county, which he attended for two years after his arrival. Soon after leaving school he made a purchase of ninety acres of land from the government which he reclaimed and beautified, making of it one of the most productive farms in De Kalb township. This land he retained for about fifty-five years, the best, happiest and most profitable days of his life.

On the 26th of May, 1850, he married Miss Nancy Churchill, daughter of David and Anna Churchill, by whom he has had three children, two yet living: Joel W., born March 9, 1851; and Elma A., October 28, 1852. Edgar, born June 14, 1854, died June 9, 1880. Mrs. Hubbard was born in Geneseo county, New York, January 25, 1824. Her parents, David and Anna Churchill, were natives of Vermont, the former dying at the age of seventy-four years and the latter when forty-four years old.

In 1897, Mr. Hubbard sold his farm and removed to the city of De Kalb, that he might spend his remaining days in ease and comfort. He is worthy of the rest, and no man stands higher in the estimation of his fellow citizens.

**FORREST REEVES HAMMOND** is a well-known farmer residing in Sycamore, Illinois. The Hammond family is one of the oldest of colonial families and took part in the stirring times during the early settlement remote from the coast. Our subject is descended from one of three brothers from England, who settled on what was known as Canaan Mountain, Pennsylvania. Some of the family settled in Tioga county and others in Chemung county, New York. During the Indian wars prior to the Revolution

the Hammonds were great sufferers. Several of them were taken prisoners at the time of the Wyoming massacre. One of them, Laban Hammond, a great uncle of our subject, with fourteen others, was placed in a circle to be executed by an Indian queen. After the first one was tomahawked the uncle sprang up, beat his way through the crowd and escaped, while the others were all killed. In March of the following year with two others he was again captured. While an old Indian who was guarding the prisoners was replenishing the fire Laban killed five of his captors and then struck another across the neck while on his knees, leaving him, as he supposed, dead. He made good his escape the second time. Years afterwards, seeing an Indian with a stiff neck and head bent down, he asked him how it happened and the laconic reply received was: "Yankee, Wyoming." He thought best not to inform the Indian that he was the Yankee.

Our subject's great-grandparents, Oliver and Mary Hammond, were born near the middle of the eighteenth century, the former December 25, 1759, and the latter May 4, 1761. The first named died at the age of forty-five, while the latter attained the good old age of seventy-nine years. They were pioneers in the wilds of Pennsylvania, suffered terrors from Indian depredations on the frontier and passed through the stirring scenes of the Revolution.

Lebbeus Hammond, the grandfather of our subject, was born December 6, 1786, married Cynthia P. Matthewson, who was born July 25, 1786. An interesting anecdote is related of her courage, as part of the family traditions. When she was only eleven years of age a man near her father's house cut his leg with an adze and was

bleeding to death. There was a surgeon across the river, the bridge was washed away and the river was higher than it was ever known. No man would volunteer to go for the doctor. Her father said that he knew Cynthia would do it and asked her if she would undertake to cross the river. She replied that she would if he would let her ride "Pomp," her favorite horse. Permission was granted and her father cautioned her in returning to ride up stream to a certain point, where she would find a safe landing on the west bank. On reaching the doctor's and stating her errand he refused to cross the river with her, remarking, "Let the man die; I will not cross in such a flood." She ridiculed him, asking him if he could not do what she had done. He finally consented to go and started into the stream near by. She told him her father's directions, rode in front, the doctor following, and both safely landed. The doctor arrived in time to save the man's life. When asked if she was not afraid, she replied that she was not, as she knew that Pomp could stay on top of the water and she could stay on top of him.

Our subject's father, also named Lebbeus Hammond, was born June 8, 1830, at Palmyra, Wayne county, New York, and came west in the spring of 1854, and died April 25, 1855. He married Mary Reeves, who died about 1867 at the age of thirty-four years, leaving two children, Cynthia Philuria and Forrest Reeves.

The subject of this sketch was born in Sycamore township a few weeks after the arrival of the family. His mother died when he was but twelve years of age, and having remarried after the death of her first husband, he lived with his stepfather and received his education in the district school,

supplemented by one year in the schools of Sycamore. At the age of twenty-one he came into possession of his father's farm of one hundred and twenty-two and a half acres, on sections 16, 21 and 22, to which he later added twenty-eight and a half acres, making him a fine tract of one hundred and fifty-one acres. For some years he has been engaged in dairy farming, usually keeping about forty head of milch cows. In December, 1890, he removed to Sycamore but still gives his personal attention to the farm.

On the 17th of May, 1879, Mr. Hammond was united in marriage at Sycamore, with Miss S. Frances Hamilton, who was born in De Kalb township between the cities of Sycamore and De Kalb, and is a daughter of Oscar and Catilina (Johnson) Hamilton. By this union three children have been born: Elmer D., Lloyd I. and Harry H.

In politics Mr. Hammond is a Republican, and while residing in the country served as school director. Fraternally he is a member of Sycamore Lodge, Order of Foresters.

**C**HARLES H. MORDOFF, M. D., of Genoa, Illinois, is a well known and successful physician and surgeon who has been in active practice in that village for about seventeen years. He traces his ancestry back to James Mordoff, Sr., a native of Scotland, who came to America prior to the Revolutionary war, and settled in Kingston, Canada, where he died June 17, 1789. His wife lived to be one hundred and seventeen years old. Their son, also named James, born in Kingston, Canada, May 12, 1762, died at the age of fifty-nine years, eight months and twenty days. About

1790 he moved from Canada to New York, where his last days were spent. He was a man of good education, and it was said of him that he was "neither priest nor lawyer, but a learned man." He married Lois Charters, who was born December 17, 1790, and who died at the age of ninety-seven years, in western New York. Their son, James Mordoff, Jr., one of twelve children, was born in New York, April 24, 1795. He married Polly Dunn, and came west in May, 1845, locating in Boone county, Illinois.

George J. Mordoff, the son of James Mordoff, Jr., was fifth in a family of six children. He was born in Portage, Wyoming county, New York, March 26, 1831, and came west with his parents in 1845, coming overland by wagons. It was a long, weary trip, and all were well pleased on their arrival in Boone county. With his parents he continued to reside until after he attained his majority. He was married in Belvidere, Illinois, May 2, 1854, to Miss Sarah Whitman, a native of Chautauqua county, New York, born in September, 1832. Her father, Charles Whitman, was born in Bennington, Vermont, January 4, 1800. At the age of twenty-five he went to New York, where, in 1824, at Fort Miller, he married Mary Ann Jakeway, a daughter of Charles Jakeway. In 1836, they came west and located in Boone county, Illinois. George J. Mordoff continued to reside in Boone county until 1884, when he removed to Genoa, to make his home with our subject. He was a well-known veterinary surgeon, and for many years practiced his profession in Boone and De Kalb counties.

Charles H. Mordoff is the only child born to George J. and Sarah (Whitman) Mordoff. He was born near Belvidere,

Boone county, Illinois, July 22, 1856. After attending the district school he entered the high school at Belvidere, from which he was graduated in the spring of 1873. He early showed a decided taste for the medical profession and at the age of twelve years, in an irregular way, he began reading medicine. After his graduation from the high school for two years he read medicine with Dr. F. S. Whitman, of Belvidere, and later entered the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1881. On the 31st of January, 1882, he located in Genoa, where he has since remained, having built up a large practice which extends for many miles around. In politics he is a Republican and fraternally a member of Genoa Lodge, No. 768, I. O. O. F.; Ellwood Encampment, No. 173, of Sycamore; Canton Truman, No. 2, of Sycamore; and Sarah Rebecca, No. 134, of Sycamore; Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 283, K. of P., of Genoa; Genoa Camp No. 163, M. W. A.; Royal Neighbors, of Genoa; and of the Oriental Order of the Magi, of Chicago. Formerly he was a member of the Knights of the Globe. Professionally he is a member of the Illinois Homeopathic Medical Society and the American Institute of Homeopathy. As a citizen he stands high in the estimation of the people.

**J**OHN MILLER, who is now living a retired life in the village of Fairdale, is a native of Oneida county, New York, born February 9, 1818, and is the son of John and Mary (Crill) Miller, both natives of Herkimer county, New York. They were the parents of twelve children, as follows: Thomas, Mary, Catherine, John, Daniel, Margaret, Elizabeth, James, Henry, Nancy,

Julia A. and Chester A. The paternal grandfather, John Miller, who was a native of Germany, came to America prior to the Revolutionary war, and was a soldier in that war. The maternal grandfather, Thomas Crill, was also a native of Germany, who came to America before the Revolutionary war, and assisted in the struggle for independence.

In his native county and state the subject of this sketch grew to manhood, and received a limited education in the schools of that early day. In 1844 he came to Illinois, located in Ogle county, where he first purchased eighty acres of government land, to which he later added another eighty acres. That tract he improved until it was one of the best in Ogle county. On the 18th of November, 1847, he married Mary E. Warren, a native of Delaware, and they commenced their domestic life on the farm which he had purchased some three years previously. They there continued to reside, a period of forty-two years, when Mrs. Miller was called to her reward, her death occurring June 9, 1889, at the age of sixty-five years.

After the death of his wife, Mr. Miller sold his farm and moved to Fairdale, where he is now living a retired life. He is a member of the Christian church, of which body his wife was also a member. In politics he is a Republican, and while in Ogle county held the office of road commissioner and school director.

Elizabeth McBride, the sister of Mr. Miller, who is now acting as his housekeeper, was also born in Oneida county, New York, April 25, 1824. In 1846 she came with her parents to Ogle county, Illinois, and in 1851 married James McBride, a native of New York state, by whom she had seven children,

nive of whom are living, George, Elizabeth, Alice, Grant and Cora. The deceased are Leona and Lucy F. Her husband died in Iowa in 1874, at the age of sixty years.

**M** D. SHIPMAN, of the firm of Bradt & Shipman, of De Kalb, Illinois, is one of the leading business men of that city. He is a native of Cortland county, New York, and was born on the 11th of June, 1848. He is the son of Dr. J. A. and Azubah (Hunter) Shipman, both of whom were born in New York state.

Dr. J. A. Shipman was a skilled physician and a man whose influence for good was felt not only within the large circle of his own patronage, but all through his acquaintances far and near. In 1853 he removed to Bureau county, Illinois, where he successfully practiced his profession. In 1868 he moved to De Kalb, Illinois, from which place he removed in 1873, to Henry county, from Henry county to Prairie City, Illinois. Here he resided for the remainder of his days, respected as a citizen, trusted as a physician, and honored as a gentleman of the highest order. Dr. Shipman passed to his reward March 6, 1885, at the age of seventy-three years, while his wife's demise had occurred many years before when they were residents of De Kalb. She was fifty-two years of age at the time of her death. Their family consisted of five children, two of whom are now living, Mrs. Mattie Macklin of this city, and M. D., the subject of this sketch.

M. D. Shipman is second in order of birth. He received his early schooling in the district schools of Bureau county and high school of De Kalb, and subsequently attended the Northwestern University at

Evanston, Illinois. At the conclusion of his school days in 1872, he became associated with C. E. Bradt in the manufacture and sale of gloves at wholesale. Their factory is on Sixth near Main street, De Kalb. The same firm is also extensively engaged in the manufacture of delivery wagons and patent glove fasteners, at Gloversville, New York, under the firm name of Shipman, Bradt & Co., which business has grown to a great extent. Mr. Shipman has the entire confidence of the citizens of De Kalb. He has been elected to the presidency of the board of education, and is president of the Electric Light Company of De Kalb. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a worthy trustee.

On the 20th of December, 1882, Mr. Shipman was united in marriage with Miss Jennie B. Bradt, daughter of A. and Amy A. Bradt, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. To this union has been born three children: Andrew, born in 1883; Louise, in 1885; and Orville, in 1888. Mr. Shipman has descended from a noble line of ancestors, whose skill, loyalty and patriotism has been handed down to posterity by the pen of the historian. His grandfather, Daniel Shipman, was the father of five physicians of wide influence and practice in New York and Illinois. Daniel Shipman was an early settler of Saybrook, and was a Presbyterian minister of the old school. He was especially distinguished for his industry and strict integrity. His wife, the grandmother of our subject, was Sarah Eastman, a daughter of Dr. Azariah Eastman, an eminent physician of his day, and who creditably bore the armor of his profession for nearly seventy years. Dr. Eastman was a lineal descendant of the Franklins, and a relation of the illustrious statesman and philosopher.

Three of Daniel Shipman's brothers and granduncles of our subject, were actively engaged in the Revolutionary war, and at one time were taken prisoners by the British and held as such in a prison ship at Brooklyn, New York. They were early settlers in Connecticut, and were of English descent. The Hunters on the mother's side were of Scotch extraction, a people noted for their nobleness of character.

**A** CHARLES DOANE, marble dealer of Sycamore, is a native of De Kalb county, born in South Grove township, August 2, 1855, and resided in that township until the age of twelve years, when he moved with his parents to Malta. He received a good common-school education, with instruction in some of the higher branches, and for some years taught school during the winter months and worked at his trade of carpenter during the summer. He is the son of Joseph E. and Margaret (Murphy) Doane, the former a native of St. Lawrence county, New York, born December 18, 1835, and the latter a native of Ireland, who came to America with her parents at the age of two years. Joseph E. Doane came west in 1854, and settled in South Grove township, De Kalb county, Illinois. He was by trade a carpenter and an excellent and energetic workman, always commanding higher wages than others. On coming to De Kalb county he purchased a farm in South Grove township, and later purchased his present farm of three hundred and thirty-four and a half acres adjoining the village of Malta. To Joseph E. Doane and wife seven children were born: Virginia L., now the wife of Rev. Cass Davis, of Sterling, Illinois; A. Charles, our

subject; Leslie A., who is farming in Wisconsin; William D., who is mining in Colorado; Dorothy M., a fine vocalist, who resides at home; Seymour G., who is rail-roading in Wyoming; and Agnes K., wife of W. I. Collins, of Malta.

In the spring of 1879, our subject went to Colorado, and located eighteen miles north of Leadville, where he remained three and a half years, prospecting and mining. This not proving profitable, he returned to Illinois in the fall of 1882, and taught school during the winter of 1882-83. In the spring of 1883 he went to Dakota, but not being satisfied, he returned to Malta, where he worked at carpentering and farming for five years. From Malta he went to Chicago, where he worked five months in a factory, then for four years at his trade. In August, 1896, he came to Sycamore and engaged in the marble business. He knew nothing whatever of that line of trade, but soon adjusted himself to it, and has now a thorough understanding of the business. With characteristic energy he soon built up a large trade, which is constantly increasing. His greatest endeavor has been to make his reputation for reliable work and material, and a name equal to that of his father for probity and honesty.

Mr. Doane has been twice married,—first in 1886, with Miss Jennie Earl, who died within a year after their marriage. His second union was with Miss Jeannette Morey, the wedding ceremony being celebrated in Malta township in 1888. She is the daughter of Ariel S. and Elizabeth (Van Vlack) Morey. The former is a native of Herkimer county, New York, born May 24, 1840, and who came west when a boy with his parents, Smith and Jeannette (Smith) Morey. Smith Morey was the son of Jesse

Morey. Mrs. Elizabeth Morey is the daughter of William and Maria (Oliver) Van Vlack. Ariel Morey and wife are the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Doane is second in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Doane have two sons, Harry and Milo, now attending the home school.

Mr. and Mrs. Doane are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they are actively engaged. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Home Forum, while Mrs. Doane is a member of the Daughters of the Globe and Home Forum. Mr. Doane comes of a musical family, and is himself a musician of more than ordinary ability. For four years he was the leader of the Malta band, and under his leadership the band had an excellent reputation throughout northern Illinois.

**R**ICHARD B. PROCTOR, an enterprising farmer of Franklin township, is a native of Knox county, Ohio, born September 29, 1827, and is the son of Thomas and Eliza (Norton) Proctor, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were the parents of four children, Elizabeth, Mary A., Richard B. and Watie Jane, all of whom are deceased save our subject. The paternal grandfather, Richard Proctor, was a native of England prior to the Revolutionary war, and settled in Pennsylvania. In an early day Thomas Proctor, the father, removed from his Pennsylvania home to Knox county, Ohio, and there engaged in farming. He, however, lived but a short time after his arrival, and died November 11, 1829, at the age of thirty-five years. His widow later married Dr. Andrew Shephard, a native

of New York, and in 1836 they came to Illinois and located in Ogle county. Three years later they removed to De Kalb county, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of government land, the farm on which our subject now resides. Both the Doctor and his wife died upon that farm.

The subject of this sketch came to Illinois with his mother and stepfather, and with them continued to reside. He was reared upon the farm and received his education in the common district school. On the 12th of March, 1856, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah C. Lyon, and by this union there are twelve children, three of whom died in infancy. The living are Lizzie, Willis, Ada, Arthur, Clara, Ernest, Clark, Ralph and Glenn. Of these, Ada married Rev. Dr. John Butcher, a native of England, and with him spent ten years in India, where he was engaged in missionary work. The Doctor is a highly educated man, a fine worker, and is now located at Palatine, Illinois. Clark is a physician located in Des Moines, Iowa. Willis is a professor in the college at Kirksville, Missouri. Clara is also a physician, and is a graduate of the Albion, Michigan, College; is now at Kirksville, Missouri. Ralph is on the home farm, while Glenn is attending school.

The maternal grandfather, Isaac Norton, Jr., was a native of Long Island, New York, and was a tailor by trade. His father, Rev. Isaac Norton, Sr., was a native of England, who came to America before the Revolution, and during that struggle was a chaplain in the army. He was also chaplain in the halls of congress at Philadelphia. Religiously he was a Baptist. His death occurred at the age of ninety-two years. Rev. Isaac Norton, Jr., was



also a Baptist minister, and died at Byron, Illinois, at the age of eighty-seven years. Two uncles of our subject, Isaac and Bartlett Norton, were soldiers in the war of 1812. Few families have a better record for patriotism than that of the Nortons.

In politics Mr. Proctor is a Prohibitionist, believing firmly in the principles of that party. For thirteen years he served as school trustee. A member of the Methodist Episcopal church, he takes an active interest in the work, giving of his time and means to advance the cause of religion and morality. He has been a very successful farmer, and has now four hundred and seventeen acres of well improved land. No man in Franklin township is held in higher esteem.

**G**EORGE E. SISLEY, postmaster of Genoa and editor of the Genoa Issue, was born in Chicago, Illinois, April 3, 1865, and is the son of William and Anna (Lyman) Sisley, both natives of New York, and who were the parents of four children as follows: William L., a merchant of Hampshire, Illinois; Lyman A., a mining broker, in Butte, Montana; Emma L., wife of Charles H. Backus, of Hampshire, Illinois; and George E., our subject. The mother died in Hampshire about 1887.

George E. Sisley removed with his parents to Geneva, when quite young, and there grew to manhood, receiving his education in the public schools of that city. Entering the office of the Geneva Republican he spent four years in learning the printer's trade. He then went to Elgin, Illinois, where he remained one year, working at his trade, and from there went to Hampshire, Illinois, and started the Hampshire Register, with which he was connected until

1890. In that year he went to Port Townsend, Washington, where he remained a year and a half. Returning east, he was employed at his trade in Chicago during the World's Fair. In March, 1894, he came to Genoa and purchased the Genoa Issue, of which he has since been editor and publisher.

Mr. Sisley was married June 23, 1891, at Hampshire, Illinois, with Miss Gertrude Schoonmaker, daughter of Michael J. and Florence (Webb) Schoonmaker, the former a native of Fairdale, Oswego county, New York, born October 24, 1836, and who died May 5, 1897. He was the son of Michael and Kate (Van Alstine) Schoonmaker, and came west about 1856, locating first at Marengo, Illinois. In his youth he learned the carpenter's trade, which occupation he followed until his death. He lived a few years in various towns in Iowa and Illinois, removing to Hampshire, Illinois, in 1874, where the remainder of his life was spent. During the Civil war he served as a member of Company K, Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was married July 4, 1866, in Marengo, Illinois, to Miss Florence Webb, born in Forrest, New York, and a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Mead) Webb, the latter a daughter of Amos and Phebe (Ashley) Mead. By trade Frederick Webb was a carpenter, and came west and settled in Marengo, Illinois, where his death occurred at the age of seventy-three years. He was a son of Bliss and Flora Webb. Of the eight children born to Michael J. and Florence Schoonmaker, Mrs. Sisley is second in order of birth. To Mr. and Mrs. Sisley one son has been born, George Raymond.

Mr. Sisley is very fond of athletic sports, and he is an enthusiastic wheel-

man. Fraternally he is a member of Genoa Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and of Sycamore Chapter, R. A. M. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen of America. As a citizen he is thoroughly alive to the best interests of his adopted city and county, and through the columns of his paper advocates every measure for the public good. In politics he is a thorough Republican and as a reward for services rendered his party, was appointed postmaster of Genoa in November, 1897. He was also city treasurer in 1899.

**HARRISON MACKEY**, for many years one of the leading citizens of Mayfield township, residing on section 11, where he had a fine farm of over five hundred acres of land, was a native of New York, born in Ulster county, April 22, 1813, and was the son of Levi and Rebecca (Scott) Mackey, also natives of New York, who there spent their entire lives. The Mackeys are of German ancestry, the first of the name settling in New York at a very early day. Levi and Rebecca Mackey were the parents of eight children—John, Julia A., Griffin, Gilman, Harriet, Harrison, Thorn M. and Mary J. The father died about 1858 and the mother in June, 1838.

The subject of this sketch remained at home until about fifteen years of age, when he went to Orange county, New York, for the purpose of learning the blacksmith's trade. After serving an apprenticeship of about four years, he went to New Jersey and worked as a journeyman about one year, and then spent several months in his native county, returning to Orange county, where he commenced business for himself

at his trade and continued for six years. The great west was now being rapidly settled, and, like many others, he determined to seek his fortune in the Prairie state. In the spring of 1839 he came to Mayfield township and located upon section 11, where he opened up a farm and there spent the remainder of his life.

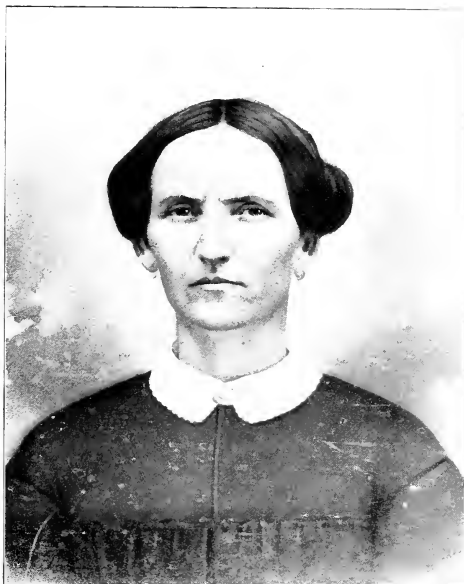
Mr. Mackey was first married in Orange county, New York, about 1834, to Miss Mary Hall, a native of Sullivan county, New York, and by this union there were three children: Julia A. was the wife of J. O. Westlake. She died April 8, 1869. Mary R. married H. H. Coleman, and they reside in Sycamore. Eliza J. married J. E. Parker, and they also live in Sycamore. Mrs. Mackey died in Mayfield township January 22, 1856, and Mr. Mackey was again married in New York state, June 18, 1857, to Mrs. Eliza (Bond) Westlake, widow of Benjamin Westlake, who died in Orange county, New York, November 18, 1853. By her former marriage she became the mother of seven children—David B., Milton G., Hannah E., Mary A., Charlotte W., John O. and Morris H. Milton G. died when nearly twenty-one years of age. Mrs. Mackey was born in Orange county, New York, December 1, 1811, and died in Mayfield township, De Kalb county, Illinois, July 8, 1888, and was buried in the cemetery at Sycamore. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which her husband was an attendant.

In addition to general farming, in which he was quite successful, Mr. Mackey engaged in dairying for a time and also in stock raising. He became quite prominent in the affairs of the township and held many local offices. Politically, he was thoroughly independent, voting for the one he consid-





HARRISON MACKEY.



MRS. MARY HALL MACKEY.



ered the best man, regardless of party. A pioneer of the county, he was instrumental in its growth and development and did all that he could to advance its material interest. As a citizen he was thoroughly progressive, and as a neighbor he was kind and obliging, ever ready to render a favor. His death occurred upon the old home farm August 22, 1890, and his remains were laid to rest in the old family graveyard in Mayfield township.

**C**HARLES E. BRADT, a well known business man of De Kalb, Illinois, and a member of the firm of Bradt & Shipman, glove manufacturers, has spent almost his entire life in De Kalb county. He is a native of Gloversville, Fulton county, New York, born January 27, 1852, and is the son of Andrew and Amy A. (Sweet) Bradt, both of whom were born in the town of Ephratah, Fulton county, New York, the former May 15, 1824, and the latter January 20, 1828. They became the parents of nine children, five of whom are deceased. The living are Charles E., Jennie S., Samuel E. and Laura Luella.

Andrew Bradt is the son of Anthony J. and Hannah (Peek) Bradt, both natives of the state of New York. He was reared on a farm, educated in the district schools and at the age of seventeen commenced teaching in his native township, a profession he followed for several winters while during the summer seasons he worked upon the farm. His marriage with Miss Amy Ann Sweet was celebrated January 31, 1848. Eight years later he came west and purchased one hundred and forty acres of land in sections 23 and 24, De Kalb township, where he en-

gaged in agricultural pursuits. For several winters he engaged in selling gloves and mittens to dealers in northern Illinois, purchasing his stock from the manufactories at Gloversville and Johnston, New York. In 1870, in company with his son, he started a glove factory in De Kalb but two years later disposed of his interest. He was the first man to introduce glove making northwest of Chicago and the first to sell them in the same territory. A local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, he has been instrumental in building it up in De Kalb. He is a man of sterling worth, well known and highly honored by all.

Charles E. Bradt, our subject, grew to manhood in De Kalb county, and received his primary education in the district schools. He later attended the Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, where he completed his school life. After leaving school he succeeded his father in business, and in 1872 formed a co-partnership with M. D. Shipman, which relation still continues. For more than a quarter of a century they have been engaged in the manufacture of gloves and have a extensive business throughout the Northwest, employing at certain seasons several traveling salesmen. With Mr. Shipman, he is also engaged in the manufacture of delivery wagons, under the firm name of Shipman & Bradt. This business has grown to quite extensive proportions and has been fairly profitable in their hands.

On the 4th of September, 1885, Mr. Bradt was united in marriage with Miss Alice K. Hopkins, a native of De Kalb county and a daughter of Thomas M. and Julia A. (Hawken) Hopkins, the former a native of Washington county, New York, and the latter of St. Louis, Missouri. Her

latter was for many years a well known attorney in De Kalb, but is now deceased.

Mr. Bradt is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of De Kalb, and is one of the official board. He is quite active in church work, and is a firm believer in the Christian religion. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge at De Kalb, of the Knight Templars at Sycamore, and the Mystic Shrine at Chicago. Politically he is a Republican, and has been a member of the city council, taking an active interest in its proceedings, and working for the best interests of the city which has so long been his home. He has also served as a member of the school board, taking great interest in educational affairs. As a citizen he is thoroughly progressive, ready at all times to do his full share in advancing the material interests of his city and county.

CHARLES C. POND, who is engaged in the insurance business at Sycamore, traces his ancestry back to early colonial days. The first known of the family in America was Samuel Pond, of Windsor, Connecticut. His son, Samuel, the earliest ancestor of our subject positively known, is supposed from a number of corroborating circumstances to be the second of his children. The latter had a son born in 1679, whom he also named Samuel. The next in line was Philip, born in 1706, whose son, Daniel, born in 1726, was known as the patriarch because of his large family of seventeen children, the greater number of whom grew to maturity. He moved with his entire family to Poultney, Vermont, when that region was a wilderness, and there acquired a fine estate, Pond Hill, near the place, being named in his honor. William Pond, the

son of Daniel, born in 1763, married Ruth Wood. He served in the Revolutionary war, and died in 1838. Harry Pond, son of William, was born in Lenox, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in 1798, and removed with his father's family to Poultney, Vermont, where he died. He married Lovina Hollebeak, a native of Ticonderoga county, New York. Their son, Americus H. Pond, was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, January 30, 1831, and finished his education in Grand River Institute in Ashtabula county, Ohio.

In 1851, Americus H. Pond came west and located in Genoa township, where he began life for himself. During the first winter he taught school for eighteen dollars per month, a sum that seems paltry to teachers of to-day. For a number of years he rented land, it seeming almost impossible for him to get a substantial start in life. He bought his first land in 1859, a tract of one hundred and twenty acres, which he sold in 1865 and bought his present farm, which now consists of nearly three hundred acres of the finest land in northern Illinois. He is a man of whom all speak in the highest terms of praise, and has frequently been urged to represent his district in the house or state senate, but prefers to be a private citizen. He married Amy Hollebeak, a daughter of Ruloff and Electa (Ames) Hollebeak. The wedding ceremony was performed January 24, 1852. Ruloff Hollebeak was the son of Abram Hollebeak, whose father was one of three brothers who came from Holland in colonial days.

Charles C. Pond is the oldest son of Americus H. and Amy Pond, and was born in Sycamore township, De Kalb county, Illinois, December 24, 1856. His parents removed to Genoa township, three years later,



where he was reared and attended the district schools, which was followed by a course in the Sycamore schools, and one year in Rock River Seminary at Mt. Morris, Illinois. After completing his studies he taught school for five winters, working on a farm the remaining seasons of the year.

On the 30th of September, 1880, Mr. Pond was united in marriage with Miss Rosetta Harned, a native of Mayfield township, De Kalb county, and a daughter of Edmund B. Harned, born in Smithtown, Suffolk county, Long Island, July 13, 1829. He was the son of Hosea Harned, also a native of Smithtown, Long Island, born in 1798, and who married Rosetta Brown, a native of the same place, born in 1799. Jacob Harned, the father of Hosea, was born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, and soon after the Revolutionary war settled on a tract of one thousand acres of land, on Long Island, where his family was born. He died there in 1824, when about seventy-five years old. The name was originally Harne, but the spelling was changed by the addition of the letter d. Hosea Harned, in 1832, moved with his family to Ohio, by way of the Hudson river, from Sandy Hook to Troy, thence by canal to Buffalo, and lake to Ohio. He settled in Geauga county, but in 1851 came to Illinois.

Edmund B. Harned married Susan Sivwright, a native of Nova Scotia, born January 6, 1833, and a daughter of James M. Sivwright, born in Windsor, Nova Scotia, in 1778, and who died at the age of seventy-four years. He emigrated to the States in 1844, and located in Mayfield township, De Kalb county, Illinois. He was the son of James Sivwright, a native of Scotland, born near Aberdeen, and who served in the British army against the Americans and was

in the battle of Bunker Hill. He remained in America after the war, and married Susan Dalrymple, a native of northern Ireland, whose family were originally from France. She died at the age of one hundred and five years. James M. Sivwright married Prudence Eaton, a native of Nova Scotia, born in 1806, and a daughter of David and Eunice (Wells) Eaton.

Soon after his marriage, Mr. Pond removed to Sycamore, where he engaged in the jewelry business for six years, having as partners at different times, Messrs. Bacon, Warren and Meeker. In the spring of 1888 he sold his jewelry stock, and in the fall of the same year began a successful career in the insurance business. For about eight years he was a special agent adjusting claims through Illinois and Iowa, at the same time conducting a local office in Sycamore. On the 1st day of May, 1898, he retired from the adjusting business, and has since given his entire time to the Sycamore office, representing many of the most substantial fire insurance companies doing business in this state.

To Mr. and Mrs. Pond two children have been born, Ethel C. and Amy S. Mrs. Pond is a devoted member of the Congregational church. Fraternally he is a Mason and holds membership with the blue lodge, chapter and commandery at Sycamore. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is a Republican.

**E**DWARD M. DELANA, of Cortland, Illinois, is a business man of recognized ability, and the owner of four large creameries, which use the product of many farmers and which turn out a large amount of

butter and cheese that finds a ready sale in Chicago and other markets. He is a native of St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, born July 20, 1850, and is the son of Patrick and Henrietta (Keegan) Delana, both natives of Ireland, and who were the parents of five children, one of whom, Thomas is now deceased. The living are Mary, James H., William and Edward M. The father came to the United States from Ireland at an early day and located first in the village of St. Charles, Illinois, and afterwards removed to a farm where our subject was born and reared, receiving his education in the common schools.

In his youth Mr. Delana learned the butter and cheese trade, with which he has since been connected and in which he has been quite successful. In June, 1887, he was united in marriage with Miss Ella Keenan, a native of De Kalb county, by whom he has had two children, Edward and George.

The family are members of the Catholic church, and in politics he is a Democrat. He has served as school director and trustee. He is a man that is esteemed, not alone by the friends and neighbors around him, but also by his employees in the various factories, and the public in general.

**REV. WILLIAM HUTCHINSON SMITH**, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, Genoa, Illinois, was born four miles from Rome, in the town of Western, Oneida county, New York, June 16, 1829, and is the son of Edward B. Smith, born in Whitestown, Chautauqua county, New York, and the grandson of William Smith, who married Lydia Cleghorn. On

the 26th of October, 1825, Edward B. Smith married Harriet Hutchinson, born May 7, 1804, and a daughter of Dr. Zenas Hutchinson, who was president of the first medical society formed in New York and who removed from that state to Connecticut. He was born November 21, 1770, at Lebanon, Connecticut, and was the son of Paul and Susanna (Sprague) Hutchinson. The wife of Dr. Zenas Hutchinson was Fannie Smith, born in Scotland, September 17, 1780, and a daughter of Tyler Smith.

The subject of this sketch lived in his native county, until 1850, in the meantime attending the district schools, and later spending two years in the Rome Academy. He then taught school one term and in March, 1850, came west to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he remained about six months and from there went to Branch county, south of Coldwater, and later spent eighteen months at Adrian and the same length of time at Allegan, Michigan. While at Adrian, on the 4th of May, 1853, he married Mary Elizabeth St. John, a native of Palmyra, New York, and daughter of Rev. Marshall St. John, of the Methodist Episcopal church, a native of Vermont, who died in 1852 at the age of forty-five years. His wife was Mary Catherine Brodock, a native of Pennsylvania. Of their four children Mrs. Smith was first in order of birth. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith ten children have been born. Willard Marshall is an attorney residing in La Salle, Illinois. Ida Z. at home. Seymour E. resides at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Charles Anderson died at the age of one year. Cornelia E. is a teacher in the public schools of Richmond, Illinois. Harriet H. is a teacher at Austin, Illinois. Morris S. is with Barnard & Co., Chicago. He married Nellie Keiter, and they have

two children, Paul and Ruth. Albert G. married Gertrude Lytle, and they reside at Palatine, Illinois. Grace C. married Frank T. Parsons, and their children are Winfield and Donald. They reside at Williams' Bay, Wisconsin. Frank A. married Nellie Julian and they have one child, Kenneth.

In the fall of 1855, Mr. Smith went to Aurora, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for a short time and then secured railroad work at Galesburg, but retained his home in Aurora for two years. In the fall of 1857 he went to Lee county, Illinois, on a farm near Mulligan's Grove, and taught school at West Brooklyn. In 1858 he was licensed as a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church, and in the fall of 1859, joined the Rock River conference. He was first stationed at Polo, Illinois, and from there went to Fulton City. In the fall of 1862, he became captain of the Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, the regiment being assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. It was in various engagements, first at Nashville, with General Porter, and then at Stone River, Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, on the march from Chattanooga to Blue Springs, in the battle of Dalton, and also at Buzard's Roost. Having contracted a severe cold, he was discharged after eighteen months' service and returned to his home.

By the Rock River conference he was assigned to Dixon, Illinois, and later sent to Aurora, where he took charge of Jennings Seminary. Leaving that institution he accepted a charge at Newark, Kendall county, and the following year was at Sandwich. In the fall of 1866 he went to Polo, Illinois, during which time he erected the church building at that place, and was then three years at Sterling. From there he went to La Salle, where he remained two years, in

the meantime building a house of worship. After being at Mendota two years he was elected presiding elder and served four years. He was next assigned the church at De Kalb, where he remained one year, and was then sent to Rockford for three years. From Rockford he went to Marengo for two years, after which he was at Paw Paw two years, Hinckley two years, Richmond and Hebron two years, and Palatine four years, erecting a fine church at the latter place. In the fall of 1890 he was assigned to Genoa, where he still remains. Mr. Smith has fine architectural talent and has furnished plans for the Methodist Episcopal church at Oregon, Illinois, and Plattville, Wisconsin, which plans were copied by the church at Waterloo, Dakota. In politics Mr. Smith is a Republican, and fraternally is a member of the G. A. R. post at Rockford, and Rock River Lodge, No. 612, at Sterling, Illinois. As a minister of the gospel he has been very successful and instrumental in bringing many souls into the kingdom of Christ.

JOEL W. CLARK, proprietor of the Malta Hotel, Malta, Illinois, was born in Clarksburg, Massachusetts, January 9, 1837, and is the son of Benjamin W. and Lovina (Ketchum) Clark, both also natives of Clarksburg, Massachusetts, the former being the son of Salsey Clark, of the same place. The Clarks were numbered among the first settlers in Massachusetts, and were prominent farmers in that part of the state in which they lived. They are of English extraction. Salsey Clark in particular was a man of wide influence, the very town in which he was born taking its name from him. He served in the state legislature of

Massachusetts where his ability was recognized by all.

Benjamin W. Clark removed with his family to Illinois about 1858, locating in DuPage county, where the family remained a short time, when they removed to De Kalb county, where the father died in 1863, at the age of fifty-two years, his wife surviving him many years, dying in 1890, at the age of seventy-four years. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and were loyal to the Master's cause. They were the parents of five children, of whom four are yet living. He also served in the legislature of Massachusetts.

Joel W. Clark spent his boyhood in his native town and county, and in its public schools received his education. He remained at home until fifteen years of age, at which time he came west to DuPage county, Illinois, where his uncle, Levi Ketchum, then resided, and with whom he lived three years. This was previous to the removal of his parents. It was in 1856, during the Fremont and Buchanan campaign, that he removed to De Kalb county, where he remained until 1865, and then went to Lee county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, to which he soon added an additional seventy acres, all of which was in a good state of cultivation. On that farm he resided until March, 1898, when, in partnership with his nephew, L. Clark, he took possession of the Malta Hotel, buying out William Vanarchdale. Mr. Clark repaired and remodeled the house, putting in new furniture and renovating it from garret to cellar, making it neat and comfortable, one in which the traveling public can take delight.

Mr. Clark has been twice married, his

first union being with Miss Maria Ketchum, daughter of Jesse and Sarah Ketchum, and they were united January 9, 1858. She was born in DuPage county. By this union there were three children: Orian L., born July 19, 1860, died September 26, 1861; Walter C., born June 22, 1867, died March 5, 1872; Lulu M., born July 24, 1878, is yet living. On the 22d of March, 1895, he was joined in marriage with Miss Lizzie Johnston, daughter of John and Ann Johnston, and by this union there is one child, Helen Lovina, born February 2, 1896. Mrs. Clark comes of a long-lived race, her grandparents now living at the advanced age of one hundred and five years in the north of Ireland are hale and hearty.

**HENRY WOLF**, a veteran of the war for the Union, who for three years served his adopted country faithfully, as a member of the One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, now resides upon a fine farm of four hundred and forty-six acres of well-improved land in section 25, Franklin township. He is a native of Norfolk, England, born February 3, 1837, and is the son of William and Mary Wolf, both of whom were also natives of Norfolk, England. They were the parents of eleven children, George, William, John, James, Abraham, Henry, Isaac, Charles, Maria, Sophia and Sarah. Of these all are deceased save William, Abraham, Henry and Sophia.

The boyhood and youth of our subject was spent in his native land, where he received a very limited education. With a desire to better his condition in life, he concluded to try his fortunes in the new world, and in 1856 left his native land and came

direct to Kirkland, De Kalb county, Illinois. On his arrival he secured work on various farms and continued to be thus employed by the month for about six years, in the meantime attending the public schools during the winter, thus receiving a pretty fair education. His adopted country was now in the midst of a struggle for its life, and his sympathies being with the down-trodden and oppressed, he enlisted at Kingston, Illinois, August 2, 1862, in Company C, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, a regiment that has a proud record for service in the war. With his regiment he was in the battles of Resaca, Atlanta, Mt. Hickory, Bentonville and various minor engagements. After the Atlanta campaign, his regiment was with Sherman on the march to the sea, and at the conclusion of the war was in the grand review at Washington. It was discharged June 6, 1865, at Washington, D. C.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Worf returned to De Kalb county, and again worked by the month, and saving his hard earnings, in 1882, he purchased two hundred and six acres of land in Kingston township, which he sold. His present farm comprises two hundred and forty acres, which is highly improved and one of the best in Franklin township.

On the 14th of October, 1879, Mr. Worf was united in marriage with Miss Susan Zubler, a native of Pennsylvania, and by this union there are three children, Bessie, Charles and Alta. Their home life is a happy one. Mr. Worf still maintains his interest in his war record, and is now a member of Barnes Post, G. A. R. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in the blue lodge at Kingston, and in the command-

ery at Sycamore. In politics he is an ardent Republican, having given his support to that party since his arrival in this country. He landed here during the first presidential campaign of that party, and identifying himself with it, has continued to vote the party ticket. While it took him some years to obtain his first real start in life, since acquiring his first tract of land he has been very successful, and is now numbered among the well-to-do and wide-awake farmers of De Kalb county.

**S**AMUEL QUIST, contractor and builder, Sycamore, Illinois, forms one of that large number of citizens of Sweden who are among the most desirable emigrants that make up our cosmopolitan population. Ever since the first settlement made by the Swedes in Delaware, they have been a worthy factor in western civilization. Being thrifty and energetic, they soon become in sympathy with American institutions, and are true patriots, willing to do all they can in defense of their adopted country.

Samuel Quist was born near the town of Swengungen, Sweden, October 8, 1850, and is the son of Swenig and Annette (Anderson) Quist, both of whom were natives of the same country, the father being born in 1811. He came to America a few years after our subject, with whom he now makes his home. Swenig and Annette Quist were the parents of four sons and four daughters. The paternal grandfather was Gus Nelson, who after service in the army in a war with Germany was given the surname of Quist, which has since been the family name.

In his native country our subject grew to manhood and attended the parochial schools between the ages of seven and four-

teen, at which time he was confirmed in the Lutheran church. From fifteen to twenty-one he worked on his father's farm. As soon as he arrived at maturity he determined to emigrate to America, and therefore sailed from Gothburg, Sweden, for Hull, England, crossed to Liverpool and sailed for New York, landing in that city the later part of April, 1871. From New York he came directly west and secured work for five months on a farm in Cook county, Illinois. Soon afterwards he went to Chicago to learn the trade of carpenter, and there worked for three years. He then came to Sycamore, Illinois, and for nine years worked for Jacob Deiley, and then entered into partnership with him, which was continued for two years and then dissolved. For the succeeding two years he was in partnership with his brother, John Lunquist, and William Anderson. He then bought Mr. Anderson's interest, but remained two years longer in partnership with his other partner. In 1894 that copartnership was dissolved, since which time our subject has carried on the business alone. Since 1875 Mr. Quist has been constantly engaged at his trade, and on the greater number of fine buildings in Sycamore he was either employed or acted as contractor and builder. He has now a well equipped shop with steam power, circular and band saws, and turning lathes, molding machines, etc. He is prepared to do the finest inside and outside work, and employs from fifteen to thirty men.

On the 3d of July, 1877, Mr. Quist was united in marriage at Sycamore, with Miss Ida Bolne, born in Smolen, Sweden, and who came to America in 1869 with her two brothers, sailing from Copenhagen in August, by way of Hull and Liverpool, Eng-

land, to New York. She is the daughter of Swen M. Bolne, who married Guenella Peterson, a daughter of Pierre and Dorthea (Anderson) Peterson.

Mr. and Mrs. Quist live in a beautiful home erected by himself, on corner of Locust and Ottawa streets in the fall of 1886. They are both members of the Swedish Lutheran church, and in politics he is a Republican, and fraternally a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. As a citizen he is enterprising and stands high in the estimation of his fellow citizens.

**J**OHAN F. SHOOP is one of the enterprising farmers of Malta township, and resides on section 22, where he has a highly productive farm. He was born in Pierce township, De Kalb county, Illinois, February 6, 1857, and is the son of Solomon and Catherine (Eberly) Shoop, both natives of Pennsylvania, but of German descent. They were married in Pennsylvania, where they resided for a number of years and where the husband and father engaged in tilling the soil, the family being held in high esteem by their fellow citizens. In 1848 they removed west, locating in Pierce township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in its natural state. This land he improved by the erection of substantial buildings and outhouses and in due time had as good a farm as was in the township. To his first purchase he added one hundred and sixty acres in addition, which he disposed of in a few years, but retained his original farm. Solomon and Catherine Shoop were members of the German Evangelical church, and stood well in the esteem of the community, dying at a ripe old age,





JOHN F. SHOOP.





MRS. J. F. SHOOP.



the former at Pierceville, De Kalb county, in March, 1886, and the latter at Hinckley, February 28, 1892. They were the parents of twelve children, nine of whom grew to maturity, and eight of the number now living.

John F. Shoop was seventh in order of birth and grew to manhood on the old farm in Pierce township, receiving his education in the schools of Pierceville. He remained at home until he reached his majority, when he engaged in farming at various points in the county. He was married in October, 1882, to Miss Margaret Wendeburg, who was born at Pierceville, Illinois, December 10, 1860, and the daughter of George and Elizabeth Wendeburg. By this union one son has been born, Elmer J., April 14, 1887.

In 1882 Mr. Shoop removed to Malta township, where he rented land for one year, and then purchased eighty acres of improved land on which he resided six years and which he worked in a profitable manner. Having a chance to sell and make a good profit on his investment he disposed of that farm and purchased a larger one adjacent to the village of Malta, containing one hundred and sixty-three and a half acres, on which he now resides.

Mr. and Mrs. Shoop are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church in which he has held the office of trustee and steward very acceptably for a number of years. They are both alive to every christian work and never hesitate to do their duty in advancing the Master's cause. A good farmer, a loyal citizen and an obliging neighbor, Mr. Shoop has been honored with several township offices, which he has conscientiously filled to his own credit and the people's good.

HERMAN G. LOSSMAN, a dairyman residing on De Kalb avenue, Sycamore, was born in Anclam, province of Pomerania, Germany, January 11, 1852, and is the son of Adolph Lossman, also a native of Pomerania, Germany. From the age of six years, until fourteen years old, he attended the public schools in his native village, and then went to sea and for sixteen years was a sailor on the ocean and sailed all over the known globe in every continent, visiting almost every country, including China, Japan, the Indies, Africa, North and South America, the Mediterranean coast, White Sea, in Arctic waters, and in Iceland. During this time he served his three years in the German navy, acquitting himself with credit. In 1882 he quit the sea and worked one year with his father on a small boat on the Peene river in Germany. In 1883 he left his native land for America, and in due time landed at New York, from which place he came to Sycamore, where a brother and an uncle had previously located. For twelve years he worked in the canning factory at Sycamore, five years of which time he was employed as foreman. Resigning his position in the factory, he established his present business as milk dealer, purchasing from the farmers and retailing throughout the city. He began in a small way, but by his fair dealing his business rapidly increased, and he now runs two wagons, disposing of eighty gallons of milk per day.

Mr. Lossman was married in Anclam, Province of Pomerania, Germany, March 24, 1882, to Miss Bertha Arndt, who was also born in that village and a daughter of John and Mary (Arndt) Arndt, both of whom spent their entire lives in the old country. Of the five children born to our subject and

wife, William, who is his father's helper in the milk business, was born in Germany. Frank, George, Anna and Emma were born in Sycamore. Mr. and Mrs. Lossman were reared in the Lutheran faith, but are now members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sycamore. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is a Republican. Thrifty, enterprising and energetic, he has been fairly successful since coming to Sycamore, and now owns a neat residence at the west end of De Kalb avenue, with a good outfit of wagons, horses, etc., necessary for the transaction of his business.

**MALCOLM McMURCHY**, the present supervisor of South Grove township, is a fairly well known citizen of the county and is a practical farmer, one who has made a success of his chosen vocation. He was born in Kane county, Illinois, November 3, 1850, and is the son of Malcolm and Jeannette (Renwick) McMurchy, both of whom were natives of Scotland and who were the parents of six children, as follows: Daniel, Walter, John, Malcolm, Mary and Agnes.

Malcolm McMurchy, Sr., was reared in his native land and there learned the carpenter's trade, an occupation which he followed exclusively while yet residing in his native land. In an early day he crossed the ocean to Canada, and in 1845 came to Kane county and there worked at his trade. On the 29th of March, 1842, he married Jeannette Renwick, a daughter of Walter Renwick, both of whom were natives of Scotland. William Renwick, the paternal great-grandfather of our subject, was a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and was

also a farmer by occupation. He emigrated to America with his family and in De Kalb county, Illinois, engaged in farming, a vocation at which he continued until his death at the age of eighty years. Malcolm McMurchy, Sr., came to De Kalb county in 1850, and located on his farm where our subject now resides in 1863, and there died, February 14, 1865, at the age of sixty years.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on his father's farm and has made farming his life work. He received a common-school education and by reading and observation has since become a well-informed man. He has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the old McMurchy homestead, which he has well improved and kept under the highest state of cultivation. He is quite prominent in his township and for three terms served as road commissioner, and in the spring of 1898 was elected supervisor of his township. In politics he is a thorough Republican and has voted with that party since attaining his majority. Fraternally he is a Mason, holding membership with the lodge at Creston.

**JAMES M. ORPUT**, wagon-maker and tank-builder, Malta, Illinois, was the first man to transact business in the village and one of its first settlers, building the first house in Malta in September, 1856. He is a native of Homer township, Loraine county, Ohio, born December 8, 1824, and is the son of Richard and Reliefie (Hatch) Orput, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of New York. They removed to Illinois in 1837, arriving in De Kalb county October 8 and stopping over night on the prairie between what is now Sycamore and South Grove. They lost the trail and dark-

ness set in and were obliged to wait for the coming day. In their company was a man who had been there the year previous, and when daylight came he recognized Orput Grove a short distance away, it having been purchased the previous year by Mr. Orput but had not been occupied. With his family he settled at Orput Grove, but two years later returned to Ohio, for the benefit of his health and there died about 1840. His family remained at the Grove until 1850 when the sons began to separate and provide for themselves.

On leaving home our subject learned the wheelwright and carpenter's trade, and in 1852 he married Miss Almira Krill, a daughter of James and Susan Krill, by whom he had three children, Charles, Frank and Nelson. In the spring of 1856 he removed to Malta and engaged in the grain business. At this time he was the owner of eight hundred and sixty acres of land in De Kalb county, some of which he worked in addition to carrying on the grain business. About this time his wife became seriously ill with an incurable malady which was a heavy expense to him. In 1860 his three children were stricken and died, two of them, Charles and Frank, within nine days of each other, while Nelson died six months previously. His wife followed December 28, 1861, aged twenty-six years.

While engaged in the grain business the Civil war broke out, causing a depreciation in value, by which Mr. Orput lost some twenty-two thousand dollars. This loss, combined with the loss of his family, and the expense necessarily attached to it, caused him to fail financially, but he yet remained an honest man. His large tract of land was sold to meet the demands of creditors. He continued, however, in the grain business,

buying and selling, and trying in every way to earn an honest dollar.

In 1863 Mr. Orput married Miss Maria Rogers, who was born in 1840 and the daughter of Richard Rogers, and to them three children were born, James M., Kittie and Grace. In 1876 James M., and Kittie, died within three months of each other. In February, 1880, Mrs. Maria Orput died and in May, 1888, Mr. Orput married Mrs. Elizabeth Trowbridge, widow of Charles Trowbridge.

Mr. Orput continued in the grain business until 1870, since which time he has been engaged in his present line. He is of an inventive turn of mind and invented a harvesting machine which he secured by letters patent in 1859. In 1872 he patented an equalizer on a wagon, which he improved one year later. In 1879 he invented another equalizer, in no way related to the first, both of which proved practical. In 1884 he patented a road scraper. He is also the inventor of many other devices which are both novel and useful. He owns his own workshop and the dwelling in which he lives. No man is held in higher esteem by his fellow citizens, and notwithstanding his reverses he looks young at the age of seventy-four years.

**G**EOORGE H. STANLEY, who after years of arduous labor upon the farm is now living retired in the village of Genoa, was born in the town of Smyrna, Chenango county, New York, August 29, 1829. His father, Dyer D. Stanley, was born in Oswego county, New York, August 3, 1805. He was a farmer all his life, and in 1845 emigrated to Illinois, and later retired from active work, making his home with our sub-

ject, until his death, March 9, 1890, in his eighty-fifth year. He was the son of Dyer D. Stanley, Sr., who married a Miss Hawley, from Cherry Valley, New York. The Stanleys are of Puritan origin, the first of the name coming over in the Mayflower. Dyer D. Stanley, the father of our subject, married Belinda Pease, a native of Enfield, Hartford county, Connecticut, born August 13, 1807, and who died at our subject's home in Genoa, January 31, 1887. When quite young, her parents moved to Madison county, New York, where she grew to womanhood. She was the daughter of Jesse and Abigail (Larned) Pease, both of Holland descent. Her mother died in March, 1857. To Dyer D. and Belinda Stanley eight children were born as follows: Mrs. Melissa Henry, living in Carroll county, Missouri; George H., our subject; Leroy J., living in Antelope county, Nebraska; Thomas, of Topeka, Kansas; Mrs. Abigail White, of Antelope county, Nebraska; Newton H., who was killed in the battle of Little Blue, October 21, 1864; and Willis Jemay, who died in infancy.

In his native town, Mr. Stanley lived until the age of sixteen years, in the meantime attending the subscription schools, in which the teacher boarded around. In 1845, he came west with the family, by canal to Buffalo, and by boat to Southport, driving from there to Belvidere, locating on a farm of two hundred and forty acres, in Spring township, Boone county. With his father he remained until of age, when he commenced learning the carpenter's trade, an occupation which he followed for some years. He began farming on rented land, in Boone county, and he continued to rent for six years. He then purchased a farm in McHenry county, consisting of two hun-

dred acres, to which he later added one hundred and sixty acres, giving him as fine a farm as any in Riley township. On the first farm, he built the house, barns and other outbuildings, but on the second farm the buildings were already erected. Both farms are well drained, with many rods of tiling, and every acre is under a high state of cultivation. While actively engaged in farming, he devoted himself principally to raising grain and stock, but for some years was engaged in dairying, keeping about sixty head of milch cows.

Mr. Stanley was married May 31, 1857, in Tiskilwa, Illinois, to Miss Mary A. Fall, born near Chesterfield, Morgan county, Ohio, and a daughter of Moses Fall, a native of Maine, born May 30, 1797. He moved to Ohio with his parents when a boy and died there. The family later moved to Peoria county. He was the son of Aaron Fall, a soldier in the Revolutionary war, who saw seven years of hard service and was at the fall of Quebec. Aaron Fall married Sallie Bickford, a native of Maine, who died when about sixty years old, her husband being eighty-nine years old at his death. For a time they lived in what is now West Virginia, and then moved to Ohio, where they both died. Moses Fall married Eliza Briggs, born in Massachusetts on the South Coast, near Long Island. She was a daughter of Stephen Briggs, of English descent, who married Zelpha Attwood, a native of New England. To Moses and Eliza Falls seven children were born, three of whom are yet living—Mrs. Lucy Bartlett, of Sheffield, Illinois, Mrs. Sarah Lackey, of Stark county, Illinois, and Mrs. Stanley.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stanley one son was born, Harvey Newton, born in Spring town-

ship, Boone county, Illinois, September 23, 1864. After attending the schools of McHenry county, he entered the high school of Genoa, from which he was graduated. For several years he engaged in teaching, and then entered the State Normal School at Normal, Illinois, where he spent one year and a half, after which he again engaged in teaching. In the spring of 1889 he commenced farming in Riley township on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres where he still continues to reside. He was married in Genoa in November, 1888, to Miss Jennie Perkins, a daughter of H. A. Perkins of Genoa, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Four children have been born to them, of whom Henry, the first born, is now deceased. The living are Frank, Howard and Harry.

In the spring of 1884, Mr. Stanley retired from active farming, removed to Genoa, and has since been taking life easy. At various times in his life he has been something of a traveler. He has found work for a time at various employments in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and in fact every state touched by the Mississippi river. He has worked in the pineries and has rafted lumber. He spent one year in Louisiana and Mississippi working at his trade. In 1859 he made a trip overland to Colorado. In politics he is a Prohibitionist and has held nearly all of the minor township offices. Religiously he and his family are connected with the Methodist Episcopal church. Few men have more warm friends than the subject of this sketch.

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**J**OHAN H. LARSON, a native of La Salle county, Illinois, born February 14, 1847, now resides on section 3, Paw

Paw township, De Kalb county, his farms consisting of five hundred and twenty acres, all of which is under cultivation and highly improved. His father, Lars Larson, was a native of Norway, and who there spent his boyhood and youth, coming to the United States a young man. He first located in New York, where he remained a short time, and then came west to La Salle county, Illinois, where he made a permanent location. He married in La Salle county Miss Caroline Hulverson, a native of Norway, who there grew to womanhood, and who came to this country with her mother and step-father. On locating in La Salle county Mr. Larson purchased one hundred and forty acres of land, and later bought thirty acres of timber. His first house was a little log shanty, ten by twelve feet, in which he lived while making his first improvements on the place. The farm under his management became a well-cultivated place, and he there lived, dying in 1850. He was one of the honored pioneers of the county. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1888, at the age of eighty-four years. They were the parents of two sons and one daughter: Martha, Oliver and John H.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in La Salle county, and as the opportunity was afforded him attended the common schools. He remained with his mother until twenty years of age, with the exception of five years just after the mother's second marriage. Arriving at mature years, he bought a tract of seventy acres, which was partially improved, and there farmed for nine years. He then purchased one hundred and fifty-six acres on section 3, Paw Paw township, comprising part of his present farm. The farm was an improved

one, but he has greatly added to its value and appearance by the erection of a number of outbuildings, wind-pump, and well tiling the place. In 1878 he purchased sixty acres adjoining. From time to time he added to his possessions until he now has five hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land, which brings him in annually a goodly income.

On the 8th of January, 1868, in Dodge county, Minnesota, Mr. Larson was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Stevenson, a native of Illinois, born in La Salle county, and a daughter of Sjur Stevenson, a native of Norway and a pioneer of La Salle county. By this union there were seven children, one of whom died in infancy. The living are Edwin, Frank, Albert, Nellie, Emma and John.

Politically Mr. Larson is a lifelong Republican, casting his first presidential vote for General Grant in 1868. He has served six years as commissioner of highways, and for twenty years was a member of the school board. He and his wife are attendants of the Lutheran church, in which faith they were both reared. They are well-known and highly-respected citizens of De Kalb county, where the greater part of their lives has been spent.

**JOHN D. McCLELLAND**, liveryman, whose place of business is on Fourth street, De Kalb, Illinois, has one of the best equipped establishments in the city. His stables are clean, well lighted, with thorough ventilation, and in every way comfortable. He was born June 8, 1847, in Kane county, Illinois, and is the son of George W. and Jane H. (Walker) McClelland, both natives of Erie, Crawford county, Pennsylvania,

the former born March 16, 1822, and the latter November 7, 1824.

George W. McClelland was a prosperous farmer, and removed from Erie, Pennsylvania, to Illinois, arriving in Kane county November 28, 1843, the same year in which he was married, and for a short time resided at Burlington, Illinois. In 1857 he removed with his family to Kingston, De Kalb county, where he purchased a farm of one hundred acres, eighty acres of which was in prairie and the remainder in timber. This place he improved, erecting on it suitable buildings and placing it under a high state of cultivation. His death was the result of an accident. He was kicked by a horse and died August 12, 1873. His widow and four out of a family of five children survive him. Their names are John D., Sarah J., McCollom, Tina A. and George A. Fraternally, he was a member of the Masonic order and by that order his funeral services were conducted. He was a man held in high esteem by all who knew him, respected for his intrinsic worth, a loving father, an affectionate husband and a loyal citizen.

John D. McClelland, our subject, was reared and educated in Kingston township, alternating between the farm and the school room until he reached his majority. He lived at home until about 1876, when he turned his attention to various pursuits, which he followed for about ten years. In 1886 he removed to De Kalb, where he engaged in the livery business, forming a partnership with George Holmes, whose interest he purchased the same year. Soon after, however, he formed a partnership with M. Hanrahan and in 1888 sold his interest to Mr. Hanrahan. Later he and his brother George purchased the interest of Orlando Carter in his livery business on Third street, where



they continued four years with marked success. At the expiration of this time he purchased his brother's interest and continued the business alone in that location for one year. He then purchased a lot on Fourth street, on which he erected suitable barns to accommodate his rapidly increasing business.

On the 7th of December, 1894, Mr. McClelland was united in marriage with Miss Mollie Starks, a daughter of James and Sarah Starks. They have now one child, Reed, born December 11, 1897. Politically Mr. McClelland is a Republican and fraternally a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is an excellent judge of horses, and has some of the finest and most stylish rigs to be found in the city. He is a genial and courteous gentleman, who always endeavors to please and is thoroughly acquainted with his business.

**W**ILLIAM H. KEENE, who resides on section 4, Victor township, but who is practically living a retired life, came to De Kalb county in the spring of 1849. He was born March 4, 1820, in Esperance, Schoharie county, New York, and is the son of Bartholomew Keene, a native of Gilderland, New York, who was a nail-maker by trade, but who followed the occupation of farming for a short time, and who for a period of eighteen years and four months kept the toll bridge across the Schoharie river at Esperance. Bartholomew Keene was married three times, his first wife living but a short time. He then married Fanny Van Schoover, who was the mother of our subject, and after her death he married Esther Slingerland. Bartholomew Keene came west in the winter of

1843, coming through Canada and Chicago to the Fox river in Kane county. There our subject rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he lived until the fall of 1848. He is the only survivor of a family of nine children.

In his native state, William H. Keene grew to manhood and on the 17th of October, 1848, was united in marriage with Miss Emily Pulver, a native of Gilderland, New York, and a daughter of Richard and Katie Pulver. Immediately after marriage, he brought his bride to De Kalb county and purchased forty-six acres of wild land in Victor township, and also a claim right of one hundred and sixty acres, which he later entered. He now has a valuable farm of two hundred and eighty acres, which he has well improved, having an excellent dwelling, two large barns, various other out-buildings, and is surrounded with a fine smooth wire fence, and well drained.

Mr. and Mrs. Keene are the parents of eight children, as follows: Marcus, deceased; Julia, who married S. L. Brewer, a farmer living in Kansas, is now deceased; Martha, residing at home, and acting as housekeeper for her father; George M., a farmer, who married Malinda Merritt, and is living in Victor township; Nancy, who married Jonathan Davis, a farmer of Victor township; Lewis Adelbert, living at home and operating the home farm; Laura, who married C. Clifford, who is engaged in the butcher business in Leland; and Louis, who is now deceased.

Mr. Keene for many years has been a raiser of shorthorn cattle, and has now some of the finest in the state. He is also engaged in raising Berkshire hogs and Shropshire sheep. He generally ships his own stock, and in this business has been quite

successful. Politically, he is a Democrat, and has served his township in various local offices. For about eight years he served as road commissioner, and was school trustee for a number of years. He has also served as supervisor of his township, and during one term of the circuit court was foreman of the grand jury. A strong temperance man, he has been identified with the Good Templars for some years.

After a happy wedded life of nearly fifty years, Mrs. Keene was called to her reward June 28, 1898. She was a woman of excellent character, a loving wife and an affectionate mother, a good neighbor and a friend to all. Her death was sincerely mourned, not alone by the family but by many friends in De Kalb and La Salle counties. As already stated, Mr. Keene is living practically a retired life. He has done his work well, aiding in developing the county and state, and where known is held in high esteem.



CLARK L. BARBER, deceased, was one of the pioneers of De Kalb county and a man well known throughout its length and breadth. He was born in the town of Pike, Wyoming county, New York, June 29, 1814. His parents, Levi C. and Sallie (Rood) Barber, were natives of Vermont, who, as pioneers, settled in Pike township in 1811. Levi C. Barber bought land of the Holland Purchase Company four miles east of Pike Hollow, but in the wilderness. Here he erected a log house, in which our subject was born, cleared a farm and made considerable advancement toward the establishment of a comfortable home, but in February, 1835, started for the Prairie state with horses and sleigh.

Arriving in De Kalb county, he took a claim on section 15, of what is now De Kalb township. He was accompanied by his two eldest sons, Lyman and Henry, who also took claims, and afterwards entered entered the land when the Government had surveyed it and placed it on the market. This was their home until the death of the father, which occurred in 1859. He was a stirring man, full of energy and enterprise, and for several years served as sheriff of Allegany county, New York. He was twice married, and by his first wife his children were Lyman, Harry, Clark L., Amelia, Pollie and Adelia. The first four are now deceased. Amelia is the wife of Luman Huntley, of Dixon, Illinois. His second wife was Mrs. Hannah Brownwell, by whom he had three children. Adelia is the wife of Franklin Burr, of Lincoln, Nebraska, whose son, Charles C., was a member of the Nebraska state senate. W. B. is now a resident of De Kalb. Laura E., the wife of Clark Carter, is now deceased.

Clark L. Barber, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in his native town, being reared to farm life. In 1836, accompanied by two sisters, he started to meet their father in the prairie state. Leaving his sisters in Chicago, he made his way on foot for that part of Kane county now included in De Kalb, where he met the father. He first made a claim one mile north of De Kalb on what is now called Geneva lake, but he abandoned it and took one on section 15 and 18, in what is now De Kalb township. Here he built a log house, having a chimney constructed of sticks and mud, making the roof with "shakes," split from oak timber, and the floor of puncheon. From this rude beginning he improved the place to its present fine condi-



C. L. BARBER.



tion, the farm containing two hundred acres. In 1883 he sold his original farm and traveled extensively in Kansas and Nebraska. In Chase county, Nebraska, he purchased a farm of four hundred acres, and in the same year he bought a large farm in Iroquois county, Illinois.

In May, 1839, Mr. Barber was united in marriage with Miss Mary M. Spring, a native of New York, born May 5, 1823, and the daughter of Samuel and Lament Spring. By this union twelve children were born, two of whom are now living, Mrs. Jacob Crawford, born November 12, 1840; and Mrs. Newcombe Crawford, born September 6, 1846.

Mr. Barber died March 12, 1892. He was a man greatly esteemed and filled several offices of honor and trust in both township and county. For six years he was deputy sheriff, and for several years was assessor of De Kalb township. He was a Mason of high integrity and also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**W**ALTER M. FORWARD, senior member of the firm of Forward & McGuire, plumbers of Sycamore, was born at Brighton, Ontario, Canada, September 30, 1855. His father, Reuben H. Forward, was a native of Watertown, New York, born October 24, 1823, and who moved to Canada about 1845, and there on the 30th of April, 1846, married Miss Margaret Spencer, a native of Brighton, Ontario, born March 5, 1824, and a daughter of Richard and Pauline (Kingsbury) Spencer, both natives of England. Richard Spencer's mother was a Miss Richards, and Pauline Kingsbury's mother was a Miss Otis. Richard H. and Margaret Forward were the parents

of five children, three of whom are now living: Imogene, wife of Joseph A. Kemp, of Colburn, Canada; James W. and Walter M. The father died in 1857 in Ohio while away from home on a business trip. The mother died in Canada December 2, 1897.

The subject of this sketch attended school in Brighton until seventeen years of age, and in his native town commenced learning the tinner's trade. In the latter part of August, 1872, he went to Beloit, Wisconsin, where he finished his trade. On the 6th of July, 1874, he went to Chicago, in time to see the great July fire, and there worked in a shop on Madison street until November of the same year, when he came to Sycamore and worked for Captain Whittemore until August of the following year. Returning to Chicago, he remained until April, 1879, with the exception of the summer season of 1877, when he was employed at South Bend, Indiana. In March, 1879, he went to Rockford, Illinois, where he remained four years and then again came to Sycamore, and for four years was with Haight Brothers. He began business for himself in July, 1887, being the junior member of the firm of Buell & Forward. That partnership continued one year, when he formed a partnership with Haight Brothers under the firm name of W. M. Forward & Company, that partnership existing until 1896. Since January, 1897, he has been in partnership with Francis W. McGuire, their place of business being on Maple street.

Mr. Forward was married in Sycamore, July 10, 1879, to Ida M. Rowley, a native of Sycamore, and fifth in a family of seven children born to John W. and Louisa T. (Beebe) Rowley. Her father was born in Belvidere, New Jersey, August 11, 1822,

and came to De Kalb county in 1844, locating at Sycamore where he engaged in his trade of carpenter and contractor. He was a son of Louis and Phebe (Wallace) Rowley, the former a native of Amsterdam, New York, and the latter of Scotland. Lewis Rowley died in 1848 at the age of eighty years. Louisa F. Beebe was a native of Jefferson county, New York, and a daughter of John Beebe, who was born in Connecticut, and who married Sarah Clark, a daughter of John Clark, whose wife was a Miss Calkins. John Beebe was a son of John Beebe, Sr., who married a Miss Clark. John Beebe came west in 1844 and purchased a farm near Shabbona Grove.

To our subject and wife four children have been born. Edward J. died at the age of five years. Ferd W., Harry and Ruth all yet reside at home. In politics Mr. Forward is a Republican, while he and his wife are members of the Congregational church. Fraternally he is a Mason and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Maccabees and Knights of the Globe. For two years he served as alderman of his ward, and in every relation of life he has shown himself an enterprising and thorough-going business man.

**D**AVID M. GIBBS, for nearly thirty years a successful teacher in the public schools of Illinois, but now living a retired life in the village of Genoa, was born near Cooperstown, Otsego county, New York, May 5, 1839. His father, Alanson D. Gibbs, was born in Massachusetts, January 8, 1803, and moved to Otsego county, New York, in boyhood and there grew to manhood and married Sophronia Main, a

native of the state of New York, born April 20, 1809, and who died March 20, 1895. Her father was a soldier in the war of 1812 and was in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. From New York, later in life, Alanson D. Gibbs moved with his family to Illinois and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Kingston township, De Kalb county, where his death occurred March 4, 1885. In early life he was a Democrat, but on account of its free soil principles he became a Republican on the organization of that party. Alanson D. and Sophronia Gibbs were the parents of seven children. Eustacia is now the wife of J. S. Brown, of Kingston, Illinois. Dewight lives in Topeka, Kansas. Benjamin S. lives in Franklin township, De Kalb county. David M. is the subject of this sketch. Parker T. is now living in Boone county, Iowa. Mercy, deceased, was the wife of Ozias A. Sperry, now of Kansas. Ammi is a carpenter living in the village of Kingston, De Kalb county.

The subject of this sketch came west with his parents, reaching Belvidere, Illinois, May 18, 1845. They drove through from Cooperstown to Utica, New York, and from there by canal to Buffalo, and the lakes to Chicago. From the latter place they came by team to Belvidere. The family lived some months near Belvidere, when the father bought one hundred and twenty acres in Kingston township, De Kalb county. David M. was but six years of age on his arrival in De Kalb county, and until eighteen years of age attended the district school. He was a good student and being large for his age secured a school, and from the time he was eighteen for some years taught school during the winter months in De Kalb and Boone counties, and worked on farms during the summer months.

Mr. Gibbs was married January 1, 1861, in Belvidere, Illinois, to Julia Ann Slater, born in Bainbridge, Chenango county, New York, June 6, 1842, and a daughter of Joseph and Sallie (Silvius) Slater. The latter was born near Bethlehem, Northampton county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Henry Silvius, who married a Miss Schriver. Joseph Slater was born in Vermont, in 1811, and died in 1847. When a child, he removed from Massachusetts to Washington county, New York, and later moved westward to Chenango county, where his death occurred. His widow later married U. S. Hollembeak, and removed with him to Boone county, Illinois, in 1852, where the family was reared and principally educated. Joseph Slater was a son of Israel Slater, one of the Green Mountain boys that were in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. By trade Joseph Slater was a shoemaker, but also acquired a knowledge of several handicrafts, being an expert mill-wright. It was while erecting a mill in Pennsylvania, that he met and married Sallie Silvius. His sons were also ingenious, and of an inventive turn of mind. Oscar, a cooper by trade, invented and manufactured many of the tools used in his trade, which enabled him to turn out much more work than other workmen. Joseph and Sallie Slater were the parents of six children. Lydia, deceased, married William Axtell of Hamilton, Delaware county, New York. Almon died at the age of eleven years. Louisa married Seth Blood, and lives at Park Rapids, Iowa. Oscar is deceased. Julia A. is the wife of our subject. One, an infant, died unnamed.

In the spring following his marriage, Mr. Gibbs rented a farm, and for three years engaged in farming. During the spring and summer seasons, and in winter was en-

gaged in teaching. In the fall of 1864, he enlisted at Marengo, Illinois, in the Thirtieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, joining the regiment in time to be with Sherman on the march to the sea, and in the grand review at Washington. He was discharged and mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, in July, 1865.

Returning home, Mr. Gibbs continued farming and teaching until 1867, when he and his wife entered the State Normal School, at Normal, Illinois, taking a three years' course. On graduating from that institution, both were secured to teach at Rosamond, Christian county, Illinois, and gave such excellent satisfaction to an intellectual and discriminating community, that they were retained seven years and might have remained longer. In 1877 they came to Genoa and took charge of the schools, and thoroughly graded the same, and there remained for eight years. Patrons were loth to lose their services, but constant and conscientious work made a rest necessary. For two years Mr. Gibbs conducted a dairy farm, on a tract of fifty acres, which he owns adjoining the village of Genoa, after which they taught two years in the Kirkland schools. They were again prevailed upon to accept the Genoa schools, but after three years retired permanently from the profession, which they had adorned for more than twenty years. They have a loving regard for all who have gone out from under their instruction, most of their graduates now filling positions of honor and trust. Among the number are judges, lawyers, teachers, electricians, bookkeepers, bankers and managers of various institutions.

Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs are natural-born teachers, both beginning at an early age. After their marriage they taught twenty

years together in the same school, and now retired from active work they are taking life easy. Both are fond of music and books, in which they take great delight. They own four acres in the village, on which is a small fruit garden where many choice varieties of fruit are cultivated. They yet retain their dairy farm of fifty acres, on the northern line of the village, which is occupied by a tenant. They are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Gibbs is a local preacher of marked ability, often supplying vacant pulpits. Politically he is a Prohibitionist, though often voting the Republican ticket.

CHARLES H. SALISBURY is the confidential secretary and managing accountant of Jacob Haish. The real benefactors of our race, and the renowned in history, are too often distinct and separate characters. The pen of the historian and biographer loved to delineate bold and striking features, to dwell upon startling incidents born of the passions and impulses of men, leaving unchronicled those nobler deeds that spring from the noblest elements of true human greatness. The hero of a hundred battlefields may furnish volumes for history, and his eager biographer gathers the material and erects to his memory a pyramid, while noble and honorable men, who faithfully and well perform their duties, often fail to secure a conspicuous niche in the temple of fame. It is therefore no less a duty than a privilege, when one has honored his calling, commanded the esteem and admiration of his friends and the respect of his enemies, to pay at least some tribute of respect in recording a few simple facts.

The subject of this biography was born at Barton, Vermont, July 23, 1841, and is the son of Henry and Caroline M. (Butler) Salisbury, both of English parentage. In 1856, when but fifteen years of age, our subject removed from the east to White Rock, Ogle county, Illinois, where he made a stay of a few months, and in the fall of the same year came to De Kalb county, Illinois, his time being spent alternately on the farm, in the store and in the school room. In 1859, he completed his course at Professor Webb's Academy, but subsequently attended various institutions of learning, which fitted him for a larger field of usefulness.

When Jacob Haish first commenced business in De Kalb he employed Mr. Salisbury, who remained with him until the winter opening of school. In the spring of 1861, he was appointed assistant postmaster under Ira V. Randall, and served until August 6, 1862, when his nation's call was heard, and he offered his services to his country. On that date he was enrolled as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Fifth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was immediately appointed first sergeant of his company. For nearly three years he served his country, and participated in the battles fought from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and was in the celebrated march to the sea and from Savannah to Raleigh, North Carolina, where the main body of Sherman's army was encamped when peace was declared. He was never absent a day from the company, except on special duty. At frequent intervals he commanded the company in important engagements, and was in full command during the march to the sea, and through the Carolinas. For meritorious services, he was breveted lieutenant. He was honorably



discharged at Chicago, Illinois, June 7, 1865, after faithfully serving in one of the severest contests known to history.

On receiving his discharge, Mr. Salisbury returned to De Kalb, and in the winter of 1865-6 he engaged with Mr. Haish, who at that time was a lumber dealer, contractor and builder. From that time to the present, by his urbane deportment, his familiar, yet respectful address and gentlemanly courtesy, he has proved himself an indispensable factor to his employer. To his tact, practical experience and business capacity may be attributed the clock-work accuracy with which the Haish Manufacturing Company's business has been carried to its present proportions. During the long and fiery litigation through which the Haish Manufacturing Company passed the pen and pencil of our subject were frequently brought into requisition for advertising purposes. In the draughting of cartoons and in his readiness to dash off burlesque poetry, he has had few superiors. The fight between the different barb wire manufacturers was very intense, and every effort was made by each to push his wire to the front. In one of his advertisements Mr. Salisbury says:

"Well, perhaps you may be dreaming,  
Perhaps you're in a whirl;  
Yet somehow Haish's fence is winning  
The plaudits of the world."

Some of the opponents of Mr. Haish tried to have a little fun at his expense, because of the fact that he was a "Dutchman." In reply to this Mr. Salisbury writes:

"The June bug has gaudy wings,  
The lightning bug has fame;  
The 'Dutchman' has no wings at all  
But he gets there just the same."

These rhymes, written by Mr. Salisbury,

which were often accompanied by cartoons, created great interest throughout the country and brought the Haish barb wire into considerable prominence. Many were the conjectures made as to who was the writer of the rhymes and the draughtsman of the cartoons, and to this day few people know who was the author.

On the 1st of May, 1876, Mr. Salisbury was united in marriage with Miss Laura M., a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Oliver and Lamira Wilder. Fraternally he is a Mason and has attained the Knight Templar degree.

Probably at no other vocation in life are the sterling qualities of character, the perseverance and stability of purpose and clearness and perception of mind called into requisition than the one which Mr. Salisbury has filled and is now filling. At an early age he was cast upon his own resources, but with willing hands and active brain, with the future illumed with hope, and undaunted by the difficulties which beset every young man on the threshold of life, he resolved upon making life a success. By virtue of those inherent and intrinsic qualities which are in his nature and that are wholly incompatible with failure, he has gained his present position and enjoys the full confidence of his employer and the respect of his fellowmen.

WILLIAM R. MOON is a well-known farmer, residing in Franklin township, on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which is always kept under the highest state of cultivation. He is a native of the township, born on the farm where he now resides, December 26, 1852, and is the son of Thomas and Ellen Moon, both natives of

England, and the parents of five children, James, John, Ann, Thomas and William. Our subject also has one half brother, Edward Gardner, and two half sisters, Ellen and Jane Moon. In his native land Thomas Moon learned the carpenter's trade, but, to his mind, the opportunities for advancement were slim, indeed. The possibilities of the new world were open before him, and he felt that in this new country he could do better for himself and family, and therefore, in 1850, set sail for New York, from which place he came direct to De Kalb county, Illinois, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of government land, where his son now lives. He at once went to work for the improvement of the place, and in due time his farm was such as to compare favorably with those of his neighbors surrounding him. He continued to work faithfully upon that farm until death claimed him at the age of fifty-eight years.

On the old home farm, where he was born, our subject grew to manhood, and when old enough to follow the plow or handle the hoe he was given his task of farm labor. In the neighborhood schools he obtained his education, attending principally in the winter months or as the opportunity was afforded him. On the 29th of November, 1880, he was united in marriage with Miss Lila R. Johnson, a native of De Kalb county, and by this union there are two children, Lavun and Lula, both of whom are under the parental roof and students in the public schools. In politics Mr. Moon is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. While he does not give as much of his time to the party as some others, he yet has at heart its best interests, believing its principles are for the public good. For some

years he has been a school director, and has endeavored to discharge its duties faithfully. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of the Globe. As a farmer he is practical, yet ever ready to adopt any measure that will tend to improve his place. As a citizen, he is held in the highest esteem, and has many friends in De Kalb and adjoining counties.

**N**ATHAN S. RICHARDS has been a resident of Sycamore since 1855. He was born in the town of Marcy, Oneida county, New York, September 18, 1828. He is of Welch parentage, and is the son of Richard and Alice (Owens) Richards, both of whom were natives of Wales. The former, who was born about 1805, came to America with his parents when about eight years old. His entire life was spent on the farm, and his death occurred in New York, in 1892. His father, William Richards, located on a farm in New York, where he died at an advanced age. His wife came to America when she was but a year old.

The subject of this sketch attended the district schools as the opportunity was afforded him until the age of fourteen years. He worked on his father's farm until seventeen years old, when he went to Waterville, New York, to learn the blacksmith's trade, and there remained about six years. In 1851 he came west, and located in Chicago, where he worked one year, going from thence to Jackson, Michigan, where for some time he was an instructor in the blacksmith shops of the penitentiary at that place. He next went to Aurora, Illinois, remained there a few months, and then went to Huntley, McHenry county, and was there for one year. In 1855 he removed to Sycamore.

more, and worked about eighteen years in his first shops, located near where his present shop stands. He built his present large, three-story shop in 1872, and at first engaged in the manufacture of wagons, buggies and sleighs, and various farm implements. In later years factory products have displaced shop work, so that most of his time is now spent in repair work, horseshoeing, etc.

In 1854, at St. Charles, Illinois, Mr. Richards was united in marriage with Miss Ruth Baxter, a native of New York, and a daughter of Elihu Baxter. She died in 1896, at the age of sixty-eight years, leaving three children, Mary, Lydia and Charles. The first named married Elzy Ferguson, a farmer of Mayfield township, by whom she has had four children, three yet living. Lydia married Leonard Pierce, a farmer of Cortland township, and they have two children. Charles is a good practical blacksmith, having his forge in Mayfield township. Religiously, Mr. Richards is a Congregationalist and in politics, a Republican. Fraternally, he is a Mason of forty years standing.

**F**RANCIS WILLIAM McGUIRE, junior member of the firm of Forward A. McGuire, plumbers of Sycamore, was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, August 1, 1861, and is second in a family of seven children born to Edwin and Johanna (Kane) McGuire. The former was born in Canada, January, 1836, and is now engaged in business in Rockford, Illinois. The latter was born in Ireland in 1839, and came to America with her parents in 1845.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native city, and attended the

grammar and high schools of Beloit, until the age of eighteen years, when he commenced learning the tinner's trade in his father's shop. After completing his trade he remained with his father until the age of twenty-three years, at which time he went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he continued to work at his trade for four years. In 1892, he went to Rockford, Illinois, and there remained four years, coming to Sycamore in 1896 and working at journeyman work from April, 1896, till January, 1897, when he formed a partnership with W. M. Forward, in a general plumbing and tinning business, sheet metal work, etc.

Mr. McGuire was married in Beloit, Wisconsin, October 15, 1887, to Miss Louise Beimer, a native of New Munster, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Rudolph and Christina (Elfers) Beimer, both of whom were natives of Burgsteinford, Germany. The latter died in 1873, at the age of forty-five years, and the former in 1881, at the age of sixty-seven years. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom Mrs. McGuire was tenth in order of birth. By occupation he was a farmer, and a hard-working, honest man. To our subject and wife four children have been born—Jessie, Leslie, Joseph and Clifton.

In politics Mr. McGuire is an independent Republican, voting the party ticket on all national issues, but exercising his right to vote for the best man regardless of party in local issues. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of the Maccabees, while Mrs. McGuire is a member of the Daughters of the Globe. Both are highly esteemed, and although they have been residents of Sycamore but a short time, they have made many warm friends.

**J**OSEPH F. GLIDDEN. Often do we hear it said of those who have attained distinguished honors by reason of a well spent and successful life that they were men who rose to eminence through adventitious circumstances, and yet to such carping criticism and lack of appreciation there needs be made but the one statement that fortunate environments encompass nearly every man at some stage in his career, but the strong man and the successful man is he who realizes that the proper moment has come, that the present and not the future holds his opportunity. The man who makes use of the Now and not the To Be is the one who passes on the high way of life others who started out ahead of him and reaches the goal of prosperity far in advance of them. It is this quality in Mr. Glidden that has made him a leader in the business world and won him a name in connection with the industrial interests of the country that is known throughout the United States.

The salient points in his life history are as follows: He was born January 18, 1813, in Charleston, Sullivan county, New Hampshire, his parents being David and Polly (Hurd) Glidden, also natives of that state. During the infancy of our subject they removed to a farm in Orleans county, New York, where they remained until 1844, when they emigrated westward. After a short residence in Ogle county, Illinois, they came to DeKalb county, spending the rest of their days in the home of their son, Joseph F., who rewarded them for their care of him in boyhood by untiring devotion to their comforts and needs.

On the home farm in New York our subject was reared and his ample training in the fields through the summer months was supplemented by mental training in the

school room during the winter season. He also studied algebra and the classics in addition to the common English branches, hoping to pursue a collegiate course, but that plan was finally abandoned. He, however, studied for a time in Middlebury Academy, in Genesee county, and in the seminary at Lima, New York. After teaching school for some time he returned to farming as a more congenial occupation and operated rented land. He had no money to buy, but he knew that in the Mississippi valley there stretched acre after acre of broad prairie hitherto uncultivated, and with the hope of securing a farm of his own he came to Illinois in the fall of 1842. Leaving the Empire state he proceeded to Detroit with two threshing machines of primitive construction and spent thirty days on the wheat farms of Michigan, operating his threshers with the assistance of his brother, Willard, and two other men. He subsequently shipped his machines to Chicago and then to De Kalb county, where he followed threshing two years. In the winter after his arrival he purchased six hundred acres of land on section 22, De Kalb township, a mile west of the village, and at once began to develop and improve it. He still owns that property which he has made one of the finest farms in Illinois, its boundaries having been extended until it comprises more than eight hundred acres, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation, while substantial buildings and other modern accessories indicate the practical and progressive spirit of the owner. Other lands were purchased by Mr. Glidden as his capital has increased and he now owns over fifteen hundred acres, wherefrom he derives a good income. He has always been interested in the raising of fine stock and in con-



J. F. GLIDDEN.



nection with H. B. Sanborn is the owner of a cattle ranch in Texas, where they are herding about sixteen thousand head of cattle. They own two hundred and eighty sections of land, covering two hundred and eighty square miles of territory and requiring one hundred and fifty miles of fencing. This has now been turned over to his daughter, Mrs. Bush, who owns one hundred thousand acres.

But it is in connection with the invention of barb wire that Mr. Glidden is best known to the world. His name in that connection is widely familiar. The lack of timber in Illinois made lumber for fencing very expensive and how to obtain fencing material at a low price was a problem which presented itself to many without solution. Some attempted to obviate the difficulty with only partial success. As early as 1867 barb wire had been invented, but it was imperfect and further study and labor were required to make it a marketable commodity. Mr. Glidden was a practical agriculturist. His own broad acres required fencing and occasioned his study of the subject. Careful thought, investigation and experiment followed, and October, 1873, he applied for a patent, which was granted the next spring. He did not here end his labors but continued his work of improvements and tested the utility of his invention by the use of his fencing on his own farm. The barbs were cut by hand and afterward the parts of an old coffee mill were extemporized as a machine for coiling them about the wire. When a piece twenty or thirty feet long had been barbed, a smooth wire was placed beside it and one pair of ends was fastened to a tree and the other attached to the axle of a grindstone, which by turning with a crank gave it the required

twist. Having secured his patents Mr. Glidden entered into partnership with I. L. Ellwood, a hardware merchant of De Kalb and a practical man of affairs, who was placed in charge of the business management, operations being begun under the firm name of Glidden & Ellwood. There is no doubt, however, that Mr. Glidden is the inventor of the perfected barb wire now in use. He applied for his patent in 1873, his claim was acknowledged and he secured it. He sold his interest in 1876, but continued to draw his royalties until 1891. He has been the inventor of all essential features of barb wire machines now in use, and to him is due the great credit for bringing to the people of the west a cheap and serviceable substitute for the stone, rail or wooden fences once in use. As time passed the business grew and was removed from the farm to the village, where a small factory was established, and here the improvement was made of using horse power to do the twisting, the barbs being slipped on to one end of the wire and then placed the proper distance apart by hand. In 1875 the company built the first part of the old brick shop, put in a small steam engine, which was made to do the twisting, and Mr. Glidden and T. W. Vaughn obtained a patent for some devices for barbing and spooling that proved of efficient aid to the workmen.

In 1876 Mr. Glidden sold his interest in the business to the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company, of Worcester, Massachusetts, and the effectiveness and utility of the new invention having been fully demonstrated the business increased with astonishing rapidity. Mr. Glidden has realized a fortune from his invention, obtaining a large royalty until 1891. Business cares,

however, he has never laid aside. Indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature, and he still devotes many hours each day to the superintendence of his business interests. He is the owner of the De Kalb Roller Mills, has been vice-president of the De Kalb National Bank since its organization in 1883, and is the proprietor of the Glidden House, making a very genial and popular landlord. He has carried forward to successful completion all that he has undertaken in the business world. His business methods have ever commended him to the confidence of the public, for he never swerves from the strict path of honesty, and his success has been won along the lines of unflagging industry and enterprise, guided by sound judgment and careful management. His relation with his employes had ever been one of friendly interest, and he is quick to recognize true worth in a man, no matter how humble his station in life. He is ever willing to aid the industrious and his industries have been such as promote the public prosperity as well as advance individual success.

His deep interest in public affairs and the welfare of the community was shown by his liberal donation of sixty-four acres of land to the normal school, provided the institution was located in De Kalb. This land was a part of his old homestead and had been entered by him from the government when Indians still crossed it with their trails. At the suggestion of Jacob Haish, and in the presence of about one hundred and fifty citizens, Mr. Glidden broke the soil with a lead pencil preparatory to building, as this little utensil was considered emblematic of literature and education. He has always voted the Democratic ticket and is loyal and staunch in support of the principles of his party, on whose ticket he was

elected county sheriff in 1852, being the last Democratic official of the county.

Mr. Glidden has been twice married. He was married in 1837, in Clarendon, New York, to Clarissa Foster, and when he started westward he left his wife and two children in New York, but both of the latter died before Mrs. Glidden came to the west. She died in Ogle county, in June, 1843, and a daughter born at that time died in early infancy. The children of that marriage were Virgil, Homer and Clarissa. In October, 1851, in Kane county, Illinois, Mr. Glidden wedded Lucinda, daughter of Henry Warne, and they have one daughter, Elva Frances, wife of W. H. Bush, a merchant of Chicago. Mrs. Glidden died in 1895. Mr. Glidden is a man of domestic tastes and his home has ever been to him the dearest spot on earth. The interests of his wife and daughter were always paramount with him, and friendship is always inviolable. In those finer traits of character which attract and endear man to man in ties of friendship, which triumph over misfortune and shine brightest in the hour of adversity, in these qualities he is royally endowed. Few men have more devoted friends than he, and none excel him in unselfish devotion and unswerving fidelity to the worthy recipients of his confidence and friendship. While his invention has won him world-wide fame, these qualities have gained him the respect and warm regard of all whom he has met personally and as one of Illinois' most prominent and worthy citizens he may well be numbered.

GEORGE H. CLAPSADDLE, residing on section 24, Paw Paw township, is the owner of a valuable farm of one hundred



and sixty acres and is numbered among the settlers of De Kalb county of 1840. He was born in Herkimer county, New York, in the town of Frankfort, March 17, 1821, and is the son of George A. Clapsaddle, also a native of Herkimer county, born March 31, 1782, and the grandson of Andrew Clapsaddle, of German parentage. The last named grew to manhood in Herkimer county and there reared his family. His son, George A., was born on the old homestead and there grew to manhood, and in the second war with Great Britain served his country faithfully and well, and was in the engagement at Sackett's Harbor. He was married in Herkimer county to Nancy Bellinger, also a native of Herkimer county and a daughter of Esquire Bellinger, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. A brother of George A. Clapsaddle was also a soldier in the war of 1812 and was killed in battle.

In his native county George A. Clapsaddle was engaged in farming, and there reared his family. He came west to Illinois in later years and joined his children here and with them spent his declining years, dying December 23, 1859. His remains were returned to Herkimer county, New York, and laid beside those of his wife, who died there September 10, 1838. They had a family of eight children, five sons and three daughters, who grew to mature years. Of these George H. and Frederick are the only survivors. Elizabeth married Lucas Terpening, and they were early settlers of De Kalb county, but both are now deceased. Jacob came west and settled in Du Page county, Illinois, about 1842, and later moved to Iowa, where his death occurred. Mary married Jeremiah Terpening and settled in De Kalb county, but both are now deceased. Peter G. never came west, but spent his en-

tire life in Herkimer county. George H. is the subject of this review. Andrew came to De Kalb county in 1848 and here his death occurred. Frederick also settled in De Kalb county and now owns a farm in Paw Paw township. Nancy died in Paw Paw township, a single lady.

George H. Clapsaddle spent his boyhood and youth in his native county, where he received a fair common-school education. In his youth he learned the shoemaker's trade, serving an apprenticeship of two years. He then worked at his trade as a journeyman some eight or ten years, usually, however, working on the canal in the summer and at his trade in the winter. In 1849 he came to De Kalb county, locating on a farm where he now resides, land which his brother Andrew entered the year previous. Erecting a house upon the place he there resided with his brother Andrew, the two keeping "bach" while opening up their farms, Andrew's farm being on the opposite side of the road.

Mr. Clapsaddle returned to his native state, and in Erie county, October 1, 1855, married Miss Clarissa Snook, a native of Madison county, New York, and returning with his young bride, they commenced their domestic life on the farm which he had already opened up. After a period of forty years, Mrs. Clapsaddle was called to her reward, dying October 26, 1885, and her remains were laid to rest in the Victor cemetery. She was the mother of five children, three of whom are deceased, two dying in infancy and one, Viola L., at the age of fifteen years. The living are Leila M., at home, and Alva A., who is engaged in farming in Paw Paw township. He was married in Earlville, La Salle county, February 18, 1897, to Hannah M. Anderson, a native

of La Salle county, born and reared in Leland, and a daughter of Andrew and Eliza Anderson. They have now one daughter, Leila Louise.

Politically Mr. Clapsaddle is a Jacksonian Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for James K. Polk in 1844. His son also votes the Democratic ticket. The only office that Mr. Clapsaddle has held has been that of school director, as his tastes has never run in the direction of office holding. In the forty-nine years in which he has resided here he has made many friends who esteemed him for his sterling worth.

**NATHANIEL G. TRUBY**, the leading harnessmaker of Sycamore, was born in North Lima, Columbiana county, Ohio, January 13, 1851. His father, Joseph Truby, was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, July 26, 1820. He was a man of great natural ability, self-educated in Latin and Greek, and for seventeen years was a minister in the Evangelical Association. He began preaching at the age of nineteen while clerking in his cousin's store, in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, filling local pulpits on Sundays. His first regular station was at Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained one year, going from thence to Mercer county, Pennsylvania, being in the Erie circuit for two years, and then in the Harmony circuit, Butler county, Pennsylvania, for two years. His health failing him, he was transferred to the Columbiana county, Ohio, circuit, where he remained one year, during which time our subject was born. He then returned to the Erie circuit for two years, then again in the Columbiana county, Ohio, circuit one year, and then to Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, for two years. His

health failing rapidly, he retired from active service, went to Venango county to the home of his wife's parents to recuperate, and there died, April 25, 1856. He married Miss Hannah King, born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, June 25, 1825, and a daughter of Samuel King, a carpenter and builder of Venango county, Pennsylvania, who came from Schuylkill county, where he was born, August 20, 1792. Soon after his marriage he settled in Venango county and died there at the age of fifty-eight years. He married Barbara Gilger, born August 30, 1798, in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, and who died at the age of eighty-three years.

Rev. Joseph Truby was the son of Phillip Truby, who was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, and who, after his marriage, moved to Grant, Starke county, Ohio. He was a blacksmith by trade and died at the residence of his son in Elkhart, Indiana, when more than seventy years of age. After the death of her husband Mrs. Joseph Truby married Abraham Niebel, now a resident of Sycamore, Illinois. To our subject's parents four children were born, two of whom are living, Samuel, in Maple Park, Illinois, and Nathaniel G., our subject.

The early years of our subject were spent in the various towns in which his father was stationed. After the latter's death he lived in Venango county for some years, where he attended the public schools for eight years. After the removal of his mother to Forreston, Illinois, he attended the public schools for one year. At the age of fifteen he began learning the trade of harnessmaker and was engaged in that business for three years in Forreston, Illinois. From there he went to Davis, Stephenson county,

Illinois, where he worked as a journeyman one year, and then purchased a shop and business, which he continued for one year, then sold, and for another year clerked in a store in Davis.

It is seldom a man quits a trade to pursue a course of study, but our subject inherited his father's love for learning, and went to Mt. Union, Ohio, College, where he took a two years course, graduating in the commercial department. He then went to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he was employed as bookkeeper in a grocery store, and then for one year was with the Pittsburg Chain and Car Link Company. He then went into the oil business at Bradford, Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1881, becoming an expert in the business. By reason of his knowledge of the business he was called to Russia, where he was engaged as an oil expert for three years in the Caucasus, on the coast of the Black Sea, for a French corporation. He prospected into Turkish Asia, located wells, installed complete plants, built pipe lines, and instituted telegraph and telephone service, and also put in electrical appliances. The company was on a grand scale, with high salaried officers and twenty office men to do the work which one man could well have done. The company failing, our subject came home in the winter of 1885, and in 1886 located in Sycamore, being influenced by the brother in Maple Park to locate here.

Mr. Truby was married October 10, 1882, in Emlenton, Pennsylvania, to Miss Estella Dreibelbis, born in Emlenton, and a daughter of Jacob and Ellen (Hildeman) Dreibelbis. By this union there was one daughter, Ethel. Mrs. Truby died May 3, 1887, and in Sycamore, December 7, 1892,

Mr. Truby married Mrs. Amanda B. Dean, widow of Charles A. Dean and daughter of Peter and Sarah Brown. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican and fraternally a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of the Globe.

**WARREN DECKER**, of South Grove township, is a veteran of the Civil war. He was born in Crawford county, Ohio, August 21, 1839, and is the son of James A. and Margaret (Vanderhoof) Decker, both of whom were natives of New Jersey and who were the parents of ten children, six of whom are deceased. The living are William, Warren, Charles W. and Idella. The paternal grandfather, Aaron Decker, was a native of Ohio, and came with his parents to De Kalb county in 1844, locating in South Grove township where James A. Decker, the father, acquired over five hundred acres of good land. He became quite a prominent man in the township, and served as supervisor, assessor, road commissioner and school director. He was a very successful farmer. His death occurred at the age of forty-two years.

On the farm in South Grove township our subject grew to manhood, and received his education in the district school while helping with the farm work. In South Grove township, August 8, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, to serve three years or during the war. With his regiment he participated in the various campaigns and battles under Sherman, and was in the march to the sea, and later in the grand review at Washington, at the close

of the war. He was discharged at Washington, D. C., June 16, 1865.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Decker returned to his home in De Kalb county and resumed his labors upon the farm. Previous to his entering the service, however, on the 11th of June, 1862, he was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Davenport, a native of New York state and a daughter of Abraham M. and Margaret (Hammond) Davenport, both natives of Jefferson county, New York, and who were the parents of ten children, four of whom are deceased. The living are Caroline, Elizabeth, Adeline, Harriet, Nellie and Olive. To Mr. and Mrs. Decker seven children have been born, of whom Alma is deceased. The living are: James, Ella, Benjamin, Mertie, Jennie and Delos.

Fraternally Mr. Decker is a member of General Hurlbut Post, No. 586, G. A. R., and politically is a staunch Republican. His fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres is kept under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Decker is well known and universally respected.

**G**URDEN C. ROWEN is a farmer residing near the village of Genoa, where he has a fine farm of one hundred and fifty acres of choice land. He was born in the town of Batavia, Genesee county, New York, August 5, 1837. His father, William H. Rowen, was born in Washington county, New York, December 3, 1796, and died April 4, 1880. He was twice married, his first union being with Betsy Gorham, who was born May 17, 1801, and died February 23, 1859. She was the mother of nine children, as follows: Stephen G., of Franklin township; James, deceased; Boyd, de-

ceased; Warren, deceased; Theron, residing in Kirkland, Illinois; John C., living in Colorado; Mary Ann, wife of Henry Grout, of Kirkland; Gurden C., our subject; and Perry, deceased. His second union was with Maria Caswell, who bore him two children: William, residing in Oregon, Illinois, and Samuel G., of Kirkland, Illinois. In politics William H. Rowen was originally a Whig, but later in life a Republican. He was a member of the Christian church. His father was James Rowen, who came to Illinois in 1843, and died in Franklin township at the age of eighty years.

Gurden C. Rowen came west with his parents in September, 1842. They drove through from New York to Chicago, and from there went to Racine and on to Janesville, Wisconsin, where they wintered. In June, 1846, they came to Franklin township, De Kalb county, and there made permanent settlement. In the district schools of that township our subject obtained his education, attending principally during the winter months, and assisting in farm work the remainder of the year.

In February, 1860, with four brothers, Mr. Rowen started overland to Pike's Peak, and was two months on the way. A few months experience was all that he desired, and he returned home in September of the same year. He remained under the parental roof until the fall of 1863, and then went to Nebraska with a view of locating, but made no permanent settlement. In 1868 he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land lying in Boone and McHenry counties, and there built a barn and made many other improvements. While he cultivated the place, he did not take up his residence there until some years later. He was united in marriage in Spring

township, Boone county, Illinois, October 9, 1873, with Miss Gertrude C. Randolph, a native of that township, and a daughter of Edmund F. Randolph, one of the first settlers on Boone's Prairie. It was on his farm that the first reaper, an old McCormick, was operated in Boone county. Mr. Randolph was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, near Meadville, December 8, 1808, and died November 19, 1878, in Boone county, Illinois. He was the son of Edward F. Randolph, who died December 30, 1867, at the age of ninety-eight years, and who served in the war of 1812. He had a very strong constitution and was hale and hearty in extreme old age. Edmund F. Randolph married Mary T. Hoffman, born in Beaver Creek township, Washington county, Maryland, September 26, 1819, of German parents. They were the parents of eight children, Anna E., John F., Julia A., William F., Gertrude C., Edmund J., Eugenie F. and Clayton F.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Rowen moved to his farm, and there resided until 1880, when he moved to Genoa township, De Kalb county, Illinois, and has here since continued to reside. He first purchased thirty acres of land, where his house now stands, to which he has since added one hundred and twenty acres. In addition to general farming, he is engaged in dairying, keeping about twenty cows, and selling the product to the creamery. Since locating he has rebuilt the house and barns and made many substantial improvements.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rowen three children have been born, Floyd R., and Forrest H., who was drowned in 1892, and Marjorie M., who is yet at home. In politics Mr. Rowen is a Prohibitionist. He has held the

position of school director, because of his interest in public schools. He is a man of good business ability and is one of the directors in the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company.

**W**ILLIAM GOFF is a retired farmer residing in the village of Kirkland. It is said to be a good thing to be well born, and it can certainly be said of Mr. Goff that he was well born, being descendants of Revolutionary heroes, on both paternal and maternal sides. He is a native of Maine, born December 8, 1822, and is the son of Edward and Hannah (Dill) Goff, both of whom were also natives of the Pine Tree state. They were the parents of nine children—John, Cyrus, Edward, Jr., William, Joel, Stephen, James, May and Ann. Of the number all are deceased with the exception of our subject. The paternal grandfather, Bartlett Goff, was a native of Scotland, who emigrated to this country prior to the Revolutionary war. His sympathies were upon the side of the Colonists in their struggle for independence, and that sympathy was manifested by years of service in the war. Long after independence was declared and the United States became a free and independent nation, he was granted a pension for his services, which was continued during the remainder of his life.

William Goff grew to manhood on the home farm in Maine, and there received a limited education in the schools of that early day. In his youth he went into the lumber camps, and was engaged in lumbering and coasting in his native state until he was twenty-three years of age. News of the boundless opportunities afforded the enterprising man on the broad prairies of Illi-

ness, had penetrated the forests of Maine, and he here determined to try his fortune. In the spring of 1846, he came to De Kalb county, and commenced work as a day laborer, continuing to be thus employed for some time. On the 15th of April, 1848, he was united in marriage with Miss Philanca K. Sargent, a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Henry and Sarah (Churchill) Sargent, both natives of the Green Mountain state, who were the parents of seven children—Almond, Leonard, Azuba, Philanca, Caroline, Alonzo and Calvin. The grandfather of Mrs. Goff was Timothy Sargent, a native of Vermont, who came to De Kalb county, in an early day, and purchased a large tract of land. He here spent the remainder of his life.

To our subject and wife eight children were born, five of whom died in infancy. Those living are William A., Belle V. and Vilora A. In 1897, Mr. Goff sold his farm, erected a nice residence in Kirkland, and is now living a retired life. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and has served as road commissioner and constable of Franklin township. He is a highly-honored citizen of the township, and his friends are numerous throughout the county.

**CAPTAIN JAMES N. SHAFTER**, the present efficient sheriff of De Kalb county, is a veteran of the Civil war. He was born in Galesburg, Michigan, July 7, 1841, and is the son of Hugh M. Shafter, born in Townsend, Vermont, in 1814, and the grandson of William Rufus Shafter, also a native of Vermont, who spent his entire life in his native state, and during his active business career engaged in merchandising. He was three times married, his first and

second wife being sisters. His death occurred in 1863 at a very advanced age.

Hugh M. Shafter grew to manhood in his native state, and married Eliza Sumner, also a native of Townsend, Vermont, and a daughter of Mathias Sumner, a farmer and cabinet maker who married Sarah Barry, also of the Green Mountain state. In 1833 he came west and settled near Galesburg, Michigan, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres and there resided until his death. Hugh M. and Eliza Shafter became the parents of five children: William Rufus, the famous commander of the Cuban army of invasion, whose name has been immortalized by the heroic deeds of himself and men in the siege and capture of Santiago. Eliza Ann, who is now deceased, married Job H. Aldrich, who was killed at the battle of Nashville in the Civil war. James N. and John, twins, the former being the subject of this sketch, while the latter is now customs agent for the Mexican Central Railroad, at Eagle Pass, Texas. Payne died at the age of six weeks.

James N. Shafter grew to manhood in his native county and state and there made his home until 1879. He attended the district schools till the age of twenty, in the meantime assisting his father in the cultivation of the farm. In 1864, at Galesburg, Michigan, he was united in marriage with Miss Helen Foote, a native of Galesburg, Michigan, and a daughter of Milo Foote, who was one of the early settlers of that place. Two children came to bless this union, Mollie and Jessie. The former married Harry Courtwright, of Downers Grove, Du Page county, Illinois, and they have one son, Harry. The latter daughter is the wife of James Tooley, of San Francisco,



CAPT. JAMES N. SHAFTER.





California, and they have one daughter, Grace.

Shortly after his marriage Mr. Shafter was commissioned first lieutenant of Company B, Seventeenth United States Colored Infantry, later being promoted to rank of captain of Company E, same regiment, with which company and regiment he served until mustered out of the service at Nashville, Tennessee, April 25, 1866. The regiment was organized at Nashville, Tennessee, and was intended as an experiment to see if colored troops would act well in battle and what sort of soldiers could be made of them. They participated in the battle of Nashville and showed by their actions that they could be trusted under fire of the enemy.

After being mustered out of service Captain Shafter returned to his old home, where he engaged in farming on the old homestead until 1879. He then went to Iowa, and spent some six or seven months looking up a location. Not finding anything to suit him, in 1880 he came to Sandwich, De Kalb county, Illinois, and was soon afterwards made city marshal, in which position he served four years. He then became a traveling salesman for the Sandwich Manufacturing Company, and was in the employ of that company until 1894, when he was elected sheriff of De Kalb county, which office he has filled to the eminent satisfaction of his constituents, which is evidenced by their nominating him for the office of county treasurer in the summer of 1898, to which office he will doubtless be elected.

Captain Shafter's second marriage was in Sandwich, in 1875, when he wedded Nancy, widow of Alexander Edmurn, and a daughter of John and Rachel Hayward.

They resided in Sandwich from 1880 until the election of the Captain as sheriff of the county in 1894, when they removed to Sycamore, where they yet reside.

In politics Captain Shafter is a staunch Republican, and fraternally is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery in Sycamore. He is also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a well known sportsman, and is fond of trap or live bird shooting. It is said that he will travel farther to participate in a match, and will get more enjoyment out of it, than probably any other man in De Kalb county. He is the possessor of many trophies that he has won by his skill as a marksman.

While a citizen of the county comparatively a short time, Captain Shafter is well known and his friends are legion. A thorough patriot, he has shown his devotion to his country by imperiling his life upon the field of battle, and, while now in civil life, the honor and integrity of his country is as dear to his heart as in the days of the Civil war, when the brightest and best of our country went out in their youth and in the prime of life that the Union might be saved. As a citizen he stands ready to do his duty in whatever position he may be called to fill. In the office of sheriff of the county he carefully guarded the interests of the people against the criminal class, and in the treasurer's office he will show the same watchful care in safely keeping the trust committed to his hands.

**EDWIN TOWNSEND**, who resides on section 14, Mayfield township, is a native of De Kalb county, born on the farm

where he now resides November 11, 1838. His father, Charles Townsend, was born in Schoharie county, New York, of which county the grandfather, Joshua Townsend, was an early settler. The latter was a member of an artillery company during the war of 1812, but was never in active service. From Schoharie county he moved to Sullivan county, New York, at an early day, where he cleared a tract of land and opened up a farm. Charles Townsend there grew to manhood and married Phebe Nichols, a daughter of Reuben and Meroy Nichols, natives of Connecticut. In 1830 Joshua Townsend came to De Kalb county, Illinois, purchased a claim and returned to Sullivan county, New York, but four years later again came to De Kalb county, making his home with his sons. In 1837 Charles Townsend came through with a wagon and was six weeks on the road. He located on a portion of the claim purchased by his father, and in company with his father and brother Stephen opened up and developed the farm, all working together for several years, after which they divided the claim. Charles Townsend kept the place where our subject now resides, owning a little more than two hundred acres. He remained on the farm and continued its improvement until his death, about 1880. His wife survived him about one year, dying in 1881, and both were laid to rest in the Mayfield cemetery. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom grew to mature years, except two, and all born on the farm in Mayfield township, with the exception of Mary Ann, who was born in Sullivan county, New York. She grew to womanhood and married Oscar Schmadt, but is now deceased. Edwin, the subject of this sketch, was next in order of birth. Francis is a

farmer residing in Butler county, Iowa. Clarissa is the wife of Henry Osborn, a farmer of Mayfield township. Erastus resides in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Harrison is a farmer residing in Perry, Iowa. Caroline is the wife of S. G. Smith, a farmer of Mayfield township. Charles M. is a farmer residing in Bremer county, Iowa.

Edwin Townsend grew to manhood on the old home farm and remained with his father until he attained his majority. His education was attained in the common schools of his township, supplemented by two winter terms in a select school at Sycamore. After attaining his majority he worked one summer for a cousin on his farm and then took possession of a portion of the farm he now owns. In March, 1865, he enlisted in the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, joining his regiment in the east part of Mississippi and continued with it until the close of the war, scouting in Mississippi and Alabama and doing guard duty. He was discharged at Selma, Alabama, in November, 1865.

Returning home Mr. Townsend resumed farming, and on the 20th of January, 1867, at Cedar Falls, Iowa, he was united in marriage with Miss Lorinda M. French, a native of De Kalb county, Illinois, born in Sycamore, and a daughter of Sumner French, who was a pioneer of De Kalb county, locating in Sycamore in 1835. About 1862, Mr. Townsend had purchased eighty acres of his present farm, and after his marriage, they commenced their domestic life on that place, and there continued to reside until 1880. After the father's death, he purchased the old homestead, comprising one hundred and forty-two acres, and now has a valuable farm of two hundred and twenty-two acres, all of which is

under cultivation and well improved in every respect.

Mr. and Mrs. Townsend are the parents of seven children: Charles S. is married and engaged in farming in Mayfield township. Orisa S. is the wife of Samuel Bickford, of Kewanee, Illinois. Leona yet resides at home, as also Olive, Nellie, George and Glen.

Politically Mr. Townsend is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He has taken an active part in local politics, and is often sent as a delegate to the various conventions of his party. For two years he served as commissioner of highways, was township trustee a number of years, and in 1895 was elected a member of the county board of supervisors, and re-elected in 1898, and is now serving his second term. Among the committees of which he has been a member are public buildings and grounds, Canada thistle, revenue and assessment, re-funding of taxes, etc. He has also served as a member of the school board for several years. Religiously Mrs. Townsend is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally he is a member of the Grand Army post at Sycamore. A life-long resident of De Kalb county, he is entitled to honor for the good that he has done in developing the county, giving it a rank second to none in this state.

**B**AILEY ROSETTE, editor and proprietor of the De Kalb Advertiser, is a native of De Kalb county, born in Paw Paw township. He is a son of William E. and Elizabeth (Breese) Rosette, both natives of New Jersey, the former being of

French extraction, who was born in this country a short time after the arrival of his parents. They were among the early pioneers of De Kalb county, locating in Paw Paw township about 1841. In early life William E. Rosette learned the harness-maker's trade, at which he worked a number of years. Later, however, he turned his attention to farming, which vocation he followed during the remainder of his life. He died in 1880, while his wife survived him four years, dying in 1884. The family consisted of ten children, six of whom are living, two of the number being editors. The father lived an upright life, and received the respect of all who knew him.

Bailey Rosette is the youngest of the family. He was reared and educated in the village of Paw Paw, where he completed his literary course in the seminary at that place. His time alternated between the schoolroom and the farm until he reached his twentieth year, when he went to De Kalb, Illinois, and entered the printing office of the Glidden Publishing Company, where he remained ten years. In November, 1895, he opened a job printing office on Main street which proved so successful that in March, 1898, he began the publication of the De Kalb Advertiser. This lively paper, though young, enjoys a large and increasing patronage, and takes rank among the leading local papers of the county. Its editor is a wide-awake man who thoroughly understands his business, and seems to be in harmony with it.

On November 26, 1889, Mr. Rosette was joined in marriage with Miss Minnie Smith, daughter of John and Ann Smith, of Clinton, Iowa. By this union there is one child, Breese Rosette, born June 28, 1892.

Fraternally Mr. Rosette is a member of

the Knights of the Globe, Royal Arcanum, Modern Woodmen of America, and Knights of Pythias. As a citizen he advocates every enterprise for the public good.

**WILLIAM WITTER**, who has a fine farm on sections 3 and 10, Franklin township, traces his ancestry to his great-grandfather, Joseph Witter, Sr., a native of Germany, who came to America in colonial days, locating in Massachusetts, where he followed farming during his entire life. His son, John Witter, Jr., was a native of Massachusetts, where he also followed the occupation of a farmer. During the war of 1812 he served faithfully and well as a soldier. His son, Dr. Joseph Witter, was also a native of Massachusetts, but who removed to the state of Ohio when a young man and there engaged in the practice of medicine. He later moved to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where he continued in practice. He married Miss Esther Overocker, a native of New York, and they became the parents of four children: William, Milo, Catherine and Sarah. Of these the two last named are deceased. From Ohio, Dr. Witter moved with his family to Michigan in 1837, and located on a farm near Ann Arbor.

William Witter was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, February 21, 1821. Before leaving his native state, he acquired a limited education in the common schools. He was sixteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Washtenaw county, Michigan, and he there remained until 1843, when he came to Illinois and located in Boone county, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of government land, which he proceeded to develop into a pro-

ductive farm. He continued a resident of Boone county until 1886, in the meanwhile giving his attention exclusively to farming. Since that time he has lived a retired life in the village of Kirkland.

On the 18th of November, 1846, Mr. Witter was united in marriage with Julia A. Shirley, a native of Ohio, and by this union were three children: Joseph C., Ellen E. and Mary A. For thirty-seven Mrs. Witter was an invalid, and during the last twenty-five years of her life she was unable to walk a step. Death came to her relief June 4, 1889, at the age of sixty-four years.

The maternal grandfather of our subject, Adam Overocker, was a native of Germany, who came to America before the Revolutionary war. In that war he served as a soldier, and after its close was made a pensioner, which pension was continued until his death.

Politically Mr. Witter was originally a Whig, casting his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison. Because of his liberty views he drifted into the Republican party on its organization, and with that party has since continued to act. While never desiring public office, he has served as road commissioner, to the satisfaction of those residing with his district. He is a member of the Congregational church, with which body his wife was also identified. A Christian man, he endeavors to live up to the teachings of the golden rule, and so live as to merit the respect of his fellow citizens.

**CHRISTIAN J. OHLMACHER**, one of the leading plumbers of Sycamore, Illinois, was born near Frankfort-on-the-

Main, Province of Nassau, Germany, June 14, 1844. He began his school life in Germany and there attended school some eighteen months, when in 1851 his parents sailed for America. The family went down the Rhine to Rotterdam, from which place they went to London, where they were joined by the father, Henry Ohlmacher, who had fled the country, having participated in the revolution of 1848. He escaped to Switzerland and thence made his way to London, where he waited for his family. He served with the German troops under Wellington at the battle of Waterloo, and was with the army that marched into Paris, where, at Castle Hugenot, his brother, a fine marksman, jumped on the wall to bring down a French officer. He succeeded, but received a bullet through his own head. The paternal grandfather, Phillip Ohlmacher, was a shepherd in Germany and there lived and died.

Henry Ohlmacher, the father, was by trade a gilder of metals, such as swords, guns, etc., a work at that time done by hand instead of electricity as now done. He married Catherine Priestersbach, who was born in Nassau, Germany, and an only child of her parents. They became the parents of six sons and four daughters, seven of whom are yet living. On coming to this country the family located in the suburbs of Sandusky, Ohio, where the father purchased a small farm and there lived and died in 1873, when about seventy-six years old. His wife died at the age of eighty-six years.

The subject of this sketch attended the Sandusky schools until the age of fourteen years, when he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, to drive an express wagon for his brother and there remained three years. From Cincinnati he went to Aurora, Illinois, where sev-

eral of his brothers were then living, and there learned the tinner's trade, serving until twenty-one years old. Returning to Sandusky, Ohio, he remained eighteen months, and then came back to Aurora, Illinois, where he was in the hardware business from 1868 to 1874. In the latter year he sold out and came to Sycamore, Illinois, and served as foreman in the shops of Captain Whittemore for more than twenty years. In the summer of 1897 he opened an establishment of his own, where he does all kinds of tin and sheet metal work and plumbing, having a well furnished shop with all the necessary appliances for doing the highest grade of work.

In 1864 Mr. Ohlmacher was united in marriage at Sandusky, Ohio, with Miss Anna Scherer, a native of Portsmouth, Ohio, and a daughter of John Scherer who was born in Germany. By this union nine children have been born. (1) Albert, who grew to manhood in Aurora and Sycamore, and after receiving his education in the public schools read medicine with Dr. Nesbitt, then spent one year at Rush Medical College, Chicago, but was later graduated from the Chicago Medical College. After his graduation he located at Gallipolis, Ohio, where he commenced the practice of his profession. He is now one of the foremost bacteriologists in the country. In the summer of 1897 he visited the hospitals and colleges in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Washington, making special study of antitoxin and reduced the time of perfecting the serum from six months to three weeks, which called forth complimentary and congratulatory notices in all the leading medical journals of the country. He married Miss Grace Peck, of Sycamore, Illinois, and they have two children, Horace and Albert.

(2) Fred, who is in business in Lockport, Illinois, married Miss Blanche Paddock, and they have two children, Vera and Florence. (3) Dora, and (4) William, are deceased. (5) Lillian is in the employ of Johnson & King, dry goods merchants of Sycamore. (6) Joseph is now a medical student in the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons. (7) Henry is deceased. (8) Annie is a teacher in the public schools of Sycamore. (9) Winfield is learning his father's trade.

In politics Mr. Ohlmacher is an independent Democrat, and has served as alderman in Sycamore for several terms. He is now superintendent of the city water works, a position he is well qualified to fill. Fraternally he is a Mason, having membership in the blue lodge, chapter and commandery, and has represented the order in the grand lodge. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, has filled all the chairs of his lodge, and has represented it in the grand lodge. He was formerly a member of the Knights of Pythias, when the order had a lodge in Sycamore. An expert workman, good business man, public spirited and enterprising, he has many friends in Sycamore and throughout De Kalb county.

**KENDALL JACKMAN**, who is engaged in the lumber business at Genoa, Illinois, is one of the representative business men of the place. He was born at Chautauqua, Franklin county, New York, September 22, 1824, and is the son of Abner and Mary (Kendall) Jackman, the former a native of Weathersfield, Vermont, born in 1800, and who died in De Kalb county, in November, 1851. When a young man, he moved to

Franklin county, New York, and in 1834 came to Illinois and bought a farm near Plainfield. In 1836, he bought a farm of two hundred acres in Sycamore township, and there spent the remainder of his life. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a strong abolitionist. For several years he served as justice of the peace. His wife survived him many years, dying when seventy years old. They were the parents of seven children as follows: Kendall, Mrs. Eliza A. Brown, Martin Luther, Mrs. Armenia Nichols, Mrs. Louisa A. Brown, Mrs. Hattie DePue, and Mrs. Mary A. Field.

Kendall Jackson was ten years old when he accompanied his parents to Illinois. While yet residing in New York, he attended the district school, and on coming to Sycamore township he attended school in the first log school-house built in the township. When he attained his majority, he commenced working for himself, at ten dollars per month, on various farms in the neighborhood, and continued to be thus employed for two years. At times he worked in a hay field at fifty cents per day. He was married in Sycamore township, October 10, 1847, to Miss Ann C. Hunt, a native of New Jersey, and a daughter of Hedges and Sarah (Stark) Hunt. By this union two children were born, Frank H. and Vesper, the latter being deceased. Frank H. grew to manhood, and first married Eva Guernsey, by whom he had one daughter, Eveline. His second marriage was with Letitia Van Alstine, a daughter of William Van Alstine, and they have one son, William.

After his marriage, Mr. Jackman rented land and commenced farming for himself. His outfit consisted of two steers and an old

cart. After renting for a year or two, he purchased forty acres in Sycamore township, to which he added from time to time until he had a large and finely improved farm. He continued to reside upon that place, engaged in farming, until 1878, when he moved to the village of Genoa and commenced dealing in coal, wood, grain, stock and farm machinery. He continued in business alone for eight years, when he took his sons into partnership with him, and they have since continued in business under the firm name of Jackman & Sons.

In politics Mr. Jackman is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since its organization. For fifteen years he served his township as supervisor, and that he discharged the duties of the office satisfactorily is attested by the long-continued service. He has been a master Mason for twenty-five years. Mr. Jackman arrived in De Kalb county before the Indians had left, and has witnessed the development of this garden spot of the continent from a wilderness to its present highly-cultivated condition. He first lived in a log house, and went twenty-five or thirty miles to mill. The country was open, no fences having been erected, and he could ride over it in any direction. Few houses were in sight from even the highest point of land.

**THOMAS S. CORKINGS**, deceased, was a native of Lincolnshire, England, born in 1830, and was the son of William and Mary Corkings, both of whom were also natives of England. In 1848, when but eighteen years old, he came to the United States and located in Niagara county, New York. The following year his parents also emigrated to this country, and after remain-

ing in Niagara county about two years, they removed to Belvidere, Illinois, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits, and for several years successfully carried on a farm in Boone county. Later he removed to De Kalb, where he engaged in the brewing business, in which he continued a number of years, when he sold his interest, in 1872, to our subject. After a few years of retired life he died at De Kalb, and was soon followed by his wife.

Thomas Corkings was fourth in a family of six children, and was reared and educated in his native country. For some years after his arrival in the United States he followed farming, but in 1872, as stated, he purchased his father's interest in a brewery at De Kalb, and successfully conducted it until 1884, after which he engaged in no special line of business.

On the 30th of June, 1863, Mr. Corkings married Miss Sarah A. Garlick, a native of Canada, born November 16, 1843, and a daughter of Joseph and Eliza Garlick, natives of England, but of Scotch descent, who emigrated to Canada and later to the United States. By this union were three children, two of whom are living, George and Joseph W. In 1873 they adopted another child, Nellie, born in De Kalb.

Fraternally Mr. Corkings was a Mason, being a member of the blue lodge at De Kalb and the commandery at Sycamore. He was a man of rare business talents, keen perceptions and broad ideas. He held the office of alderman for a time to the credit of those who elected him. He died in February, 1896, at the age of sixty-two years. In his death the wife lost a loving husband, the children an affectionate father and the community one of its most enterprising citizens.

**H**ORACE HASKINS, who resides upon section 34, Genoa township, is one of the most successful farmers and financiers in De Kalb county. He was born near Henderson Harbor, in Jefferson county, New York, on the borders of Lake Ontario, November 17, 1820. His father, John Haskins, was a native of New York, born February 13, 1781. He was a farmer and fisherman, depending mostly upon the lake for his sustenance. His wife, Mary Tolman, was born August 28, 1783. Her ancestors came to America in the Mayflower. John and Mary (Tolman) Haskins were the parents of thirteen children, of whom our subject was tenth in order of birth. They never came west, but died in the county which had so long been their home, the father in 1856 and the mother in 1825. He served in the war of 1812. The paternal grandfather, John Haskins, Sr., was a farmer by occupation, and it is supposed that he served in the Revolutionary war.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native county, and assisted his father in fishing and working a small piece of ground. He began life under very unfavorable conditions, but was always handy with tools, and early in life learned the cabinet-maker's trade, and for a time engaged in the manufacture of trunks, from which he derived some little income. He was a shrewd trader even in his boyhood, and followed the Yankee boy's bent of trading jack-knives, taking a poor knife, sharpening and polishing it, then trading for another one, getting "boot." In this way he made enough to pay tuition in the primitive schools, and also pay his father's taxes, which, by the way, were less than a dollar. After securing an arithmetic, he attended school but eleven days, from the fact that

being so handy with his knife he was asked by the teacher to make and mend all the pens, which were then made entirely of quill, and being too obliging for his own good he was kept busy helping the teacher.

When but five years of age Mr. Haskins lost his mother, and his father later married a widow who had children by a former husband, thus increasing the family to twenty-two, which was entirely too many mouths to feed on the small income that could be derived from fishing and working the small place. In view of this fact, our subject determined to improve his fortunes in the west. On March 11, 1841, when but little more than twenty years old, he married Miss Polly Maria Beebe, born in the town of Loraine, Jefferson county, New York, June 17, 1820, and a daughter of John Beebe, a cabinet maker by trade, who married Sallie Clark, daughter of John Clark. By this union there were three children: James Harvey, who died on the lake during the emigration of the family; Mary Elizabeth, wife of John Haines, of New Hampshire; and Martha Minerva, wife of Daniel Beebe, residing on our subject's farm near Charter Grove station, De Kalb county, Illinois. Mr. Haskins adopted Horace Clarence Haskins, July 27, 1870, as his son. He was born May 4, 1866. When grown to manhood he married Clara Vogel, and they have three children, Nora, James H. and Pearl. They live in the village of Charter Grove.

The father-in-law of our subject decided to come west with him, and Mr. Haskins assisted in the building of a boat, at Henderson's Harbor, that was to make its maiden trip to Chicago in 1844. After finishing the boat the father-in-law sold his farm, and joining our subject, they both







HORACE HASKINS.



MRS. HORACE HASKINS.



came west with their families. It was a long voyage, their vessel being detained one week in the Welland canal, where the young son of our subject was taken sick, and growing worse, he died in the straits of Mackinac, and was buried at Milwaukee. He landed at Chicago with but five dollars and thirty-seven and a half cents and from that place went to St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, where he got work but was nearly cheated out of his wages. After remaining in St. Charles a few weeks he started for De Kalb county, and passed through Burlington township, Kane county, July 4, 1844. His first settlement was made in Sycamore township, where he rented a farm of Elihu Wright, and then worked for another party for a pair of young steers, and traded until he got another pair. In trading he always came out just a little ahead. His first purchase of land was forty acres of timber, the title of which was defective owing to a prior claim. He gave up half to get a clear title to the remainder. That twenty acres yet remains in his possession. Finally he bought forty acres in his wife's name, in Genoa township, and forty acres just west in his own name, where he has since resided, a period of more than fifty years.

Later Mr. Haskins purchased the Jonathan Perry farm in Sycamore township, in partnership with another man. Having to make most of the payments, he finally got a division of the land, and soon had a clear title to one hundred and sixty-two and a half acres, on which one of his daughters now resides. During the early days he borrowed money at thirty-three and a third per cent. interest, and for a short time borrowed some at one hundred per cent. interest. In his business management he has been wonderfully successful, being a man of fine

judgment and quick to see advantages in a purchase. He has now two hundred and fifty acres in De Kalb county, sixty acres in Sac county, Iowa, nearly one thousand acres in Madison county, Nebraska, about seven miles from Madison, the county seat. Recently he sold one hundred and sixty acres in Michigan. He has made many improvements in land owned by him, built many houses and barns, erected numerous windmills, and supplied each farm with improved implements. While living on his first rented farm in 1844, he bought in Chicago and brought to De Kalb county, the first steel scouring plow ever brought to the county, wooden mold boards being used prior to that time.

On the 11th of March, 1891, Mr. and Mrs. Haskins celebrated their golden wedding, many guests being received from Sycamore and surrounding points. Old friends who have lived through changes of the country, from a waving sea of prairie grass to a garden of plenty, and who were able to recall many interesting scenes of the long ago. Four years later, however, on the 9th of April, 1895, Mrs. Haskins was called to her final rest.

A few years since Mr. Haskins re-visited his old home in New York, and, like Rip Van Winkle, he knew no one and was unknown. The old mill and dam were gone, the Baptist church of the hill side, which he saw built, had disappeared and the only trace of his father's old homestead was a decaying gatepost which he had set out more than half a century ago. In politics Mr. Haskins is a Republican, but has never had time for public office; a man of unusual executive ability, his success has been great and he is now living to enjoy the fruits of a life well spent.

HENRY B. GURLER, dairyman, is considered by Americans and Canadians to be the best authority on dairying in America. He was born in Chesterfield, Cheshire county, New Hampshire, May 21, 1849. His parents, Benjamin and Harriet (Hopkins) Gurler, soon afterwards removed to Keene, New Hampshire, where they resided until 1856, when they came to De Kalb county, and settled on section 32, De Kalb township. They were both natives of New England, the former born in Massachusetts and the latter in New Hampshire. The Gurlers are of Welsh extraction, while the Hopkins are of English. Benjamin Gurler was a mechanic, but later in life abandoned it for the cultivation of the soil. On coming to De Kalb township he purchased a farm of one hundred and seventy acres, which was partially improved, and there remained peacefully and honorably until old age advanced the pace, and in 1883 he retired from active life and removed to the city of De Kalb, where his death occurred in his eighty-third year. His wife died in her seventy-sixth year.

Henry B. Gurler was the first born in the family of five children, four of whom are yet living. In his native state he received his education and there remained until his sixteenth year, when he accompanied his parents to De Kalb county. He lived on the home farm and assisted in its cultivation, while teaching school two winter terms, until he attained his majority. The war for the Union was then in progress and he offered his services to his country, enlisting in the Forty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company K, under Captain J. D. Butts. After experiencing some of the hardships incident to war life in Missouri, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama,

he was honorably discharged on account of disability in September, 1862. In May, 1864, he re-enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Thirty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was commissioned second lieutenant and was placed on garrison duty in Kentucky, where he remained until October of the same year and was again honorably discharged.

Returning home, Lieutenant Gurler engaged in general merchandizing in De Kalb, in which he continued until 1868, when he returned to the farm. He soon purchased a farm on section 5, Alton township, which he improved and which is now one of the finest farms in the township. In 1870 he began dairying in a small way, his business gradually growing until it has reached phenomenal dimensions. On commencing the business he kept a strict account of all his expenditures, experiments made and the results of each. His knowledge thus gained was in due time given to the world and his ability and authority upon all questions pertaining to the dairy business was recognized throughout the length and breadth of the land.

In 1882 Mr. Gurler removed from his farm to the city of De Kalb, where he enjoys the pleasures and comforts of a fine home. It was about this time that he embarked in the creamery business proper, forming a co-partnership with his brother George and H. H. Hopkins, of Hinckley, Illinois. This co-partnership was continued until January 1, 1896, when it was dissolved by mutual consent and the business divided among the members of the firm. Mr. Gurler has now two creameries and two milk stations, one of his creameries being at De Kalb and the other at Five Corners. During the entire time in which he has been engaged in

the business, he has given it his personal supervision, every part of it coming under his eye, nothing being too trivial for his notice, hence his success.

In 1891 Professor W. A. Henry, of the Wisconsin Agricultural College, implored him to take charge of the dairy department in that institution—the first dairy school in America. He accepted the position, and was instructor for one term. The state of Vermont next sought his services for her agricultural college, where he served as instructor two terms. In 1893 the Pennsylvania Agricultural College engaged his valuable services, with which he continued three terms. All this time his home business was making rapid strides, and his reputation extended far and near. A new enterprise was now thrust upon him. There was a demand for pure milk in Chicago for infants and invalids, leading physicians of the city demanding it in their practice. Mr. Gurler undertook to supply the demand. With many misgivings, he commenced the shipment of "certified milk." He was encouraged by those who knew him in this enterprise, one of the professors in an institution where he was an instructor in previous years, writing him "that if anybody can furnish pure milk, you can." The following named doctors have certified to the purity of the milk: W. S. Christopher, Fernand Henrotin, Frank S. Johnson, Lester E. Frankenthal, A. C. Cottin, Professor Walter S. Haines, and nearly fifty others, all of Chicago. The business has become enormous.

In 1893 Mr. Gurler was induced to issue a work on dairying by the authorities of those agricultural colleges with which he came in touch. This book is the result of his own personal experience in the dairy

business, and is of inestimable value, not only to dairymen but to any man who keeps a milk cow. Its appropriate name is "American Dairying." This work has been highly recommended by the press and also by all the highest dairy authorities in the country. Of this work, John B. Hand, proprietor of The Dairy, 144 Fleet street, London, England, says: "The excellent practical treatise on dairying, farming and the management of creameries by H. B. Gurler, is of extreme value, well written, abounding in information. I have nothing but praise for the book, from which I shall take the liberty of quoting as opportunity offers." The work is highly recommended by Professor W. A. Henry, Dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, who says: "This work cannot help proving a genuine addition to our limited list of agricultural books of real merit." Professor H. J. Waters, professor in the Pennsylvania Agricultural College, says: "It was during his engagement with the dairy school of the Pennsylvania State College that Mr. Gurler was finally induced to put in book form the results of his years of experience, careful thought and research in dairying. \* \* \* I note with great pleasure the favorable impression it is making and the great attention it is attracting." D. W. Wilson, secretary of the National Dairy Union, writes: "The great advantage of this work at the present time, it seems to me, will be the fact that Mr. Gurler has been at the front in all the progress and advancement of the dairy for the last twenty-five years." Many other agricultural papers mention the clear, concise and unambiguous terms used by Mr. Gurler. The following are words of praise from ex-Governor Hoard:

"One of the most notable things in connection with practical dairying during the present (1895) year is the publication of a practical treatise on that subject by a man of wide experience, trained judgment and skilled common sense. It treats every phase of the question from the breeding and selection of the cow to the final marketing of the finished product. " " " We have read the book with great care—much of it more than once—and the more we read it the better we liked it. As a literary production it is almost equal to Grant's Memoirs, so unaffected is its diction, so direct and simple its sentences, so candid in every utterance. He writes of what he knows, of what he has seen and tried, and unlike many writers of books, he has the rare gift of omitting the superfluous and uncertain. Having been in personal business contact with every branch of the subject for many years—growing the fodder, feeding and milking the cows, creaming the milk and churning and marketing the butter in the private dairy and in the creamery—his experience as an instructor in the dairy schools of Wisconsin, Vermont and Pennsylvania has taught him what to say and how to say it. The result is that he has given us the best book on dairying that has ever written, not too learned or technical for the beginner, nor too verbose or commonplace for the scientist, the expert or the editor. The publishers (J. H. Sanders Publishing Company, Chicago) have done their part well, as well in the matter of price (one dollar) as in typography and press work. At least ten thousand dairy farmers and butter makers should read this book during the coming winter."

Henry B. Gurler was one of the board of reviewing judges for dairying machinery at the Columbian Exposition. He was also

judge of the butter in the breed contest at the same exposition. No man was better fitted for the positions and no man gave better satisfaction. More than once Mr. Gurler's rare discriminating powers were tested in that the same butter was presented for competition under two names, or, in other words, the same man would send two packages, one to compete with the other. In each case Mr. Gurler would detect the fraud and classify the butter where it belonged. He was twice elected president of the Illinois Dairy Association, refusing to take a third term. For several years he was treasurer of the Northwestern Dairy Association at the time ex-Governor Hoard was its president. He has represented the dairy interests of Illinois on the Experiment Station Board of Control continuously since its organization under the Hatch law in 1880.

Not only is Mr. Gurler authority on dairying, but also on buildings where cows are kept. The representatives of the Wisconsin Experimental and Agricultural Station, after visiting the United States and Canada for ideas to incorporate in their new barns and cow stables, patterned after those of Mr. Gurler.

On the 27th of March, 1867, Mr. Gurler was united in marriage with Miss Selenia Rolfe, a native of England and a daughter of George Rolfe, of De Kalb county. By this union were three children, two of whom are now living: Stella E., now Mrs. Lundberg, and Lulu May.

Fraternally Mr. Gurler is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was the first commander of Merritt Simonds Post, No. 283. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the blue lodge and chapter at De Kalb. While residing in Afton



township he served as a member of the board of school trustees and since removing to De Kalb has served as a member of the board of education, and also as a member of the city council. In whatever position he has been called on to fill, he has discharged the duties faithfully and well. As a business man he has met with unqualified success and as a citizen he is held in the highest esteem.

**EUGENE O. DONNELLY**, who resides upon a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 8, Afton township, De Kalb county, Illinois, is a native of the city of Dublin, Ireland, born January 1, 1852, and is the son of John and Sarah (Farrell) Donnelly, both of whom were also natives of the Green Isle. They were the parents of two children, Eugene O., our subject, and Mary, who married George Nelson and now resides in Osage county, Kansas. In 1864 the family came to America and located in De Kalb county, Illinois, where the father followed agricultural pursuits.

Our subject was but twelve years of age when he accompanied his parents to the United States and during his minority assisted in the cultivation of the home farm, and as the opportunity was afforded him attending the district schools. On the 10th of January, 1883, he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Horan, a native of Pierce township, De Kalb county, Illinois, and by this union are three children, Mary, John and Sarah. Soon after his marriage he purchased the farm on which he now resides and began its further improvement. His wife, who was a consistent member of the Catholic church, died in 1889. On the

3rd of April, 1893, Mr. Donnelly was again married, choosing as his companion Mrs. Elizabeth (Lyons) Findley, a native of De Kalb county, and they have now three children, Martin, Elizabeth and Eugene.

In politics Mr. Donnelly is a Democrat. He has been honored by his fellow citizens with various township offices, including commissioner of highways, a position which he has held several terms. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and religiously is a Catholic. As a farmer he has been quite successful and ever keeps his farm under a high state of cultivation, making of it one of the best in the township. As a citizen he is deservedly held in high esteem.

**SILAS R. CAMPBELL**, deceased, who for many years was a well-known farmer in Sycamore township, was born in Chenango county, New York, March 31, 1833, and was the son of John R. and Clarinda (Marvin) Campbell, who came from New York to De Kalb county, about 1853, the former dying in Sycamore township, at the age of eighty-one years, and the latter when eighty-two years old.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native state, where he was educated in the common schools. He came with his parents in 1853, and remained with them until after he attained his majority. He was twice married, his first union being with Mrs. Mary Hammond, who died in 1866. They were the parents of four children, all of whom are deceased.

The second union of Mr. Campbell was solemnized January 1, 1868, when he mar-

ried Miss Phoebe Catherine Winans, a native of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, born August 13, 1844, and a daughter of Isaac and Betsy (Christy) Winans, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Her father came west in 1846, and settled in Mayfield township, where he lived one year, and then removed to another farm in the same township, a little farther west, where he remained some six or eight years. He then moved to the city of Sycamore, and there resided some two or three years, after which he purchased a farm on section 24, Sycamore township, and there resided until his death in the spring of 1861, when about fifty years old. His wife survived him many years, dying in Burlington township, Kane county, July 1, 1898, at the age of eighty-eight years. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: Philetus P., living in Kane county; James D., deceased; Harriet M., wife of Gilbert Van Dusen; Edward R., living in Marengo, Illinois; Clark A., residing in Sycamore; Phoebe C., widow of our subject; George W., who died in Mayfield township, De Kalb county; Thirza J., wife of Thomas Fathergill; Jeremiah O., residing in Marengo, Illinois; and Susan, who died in childhood.

To our subject and wife five children have been born. (1) Rufus Allen, born March 10, 1869, died October 9, 1897. Fraternally he was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. (2) Leon Murray, born July 22, 1870, married Alice Olsen, by whom he has two children, Esther May and Helen Irene. He is now engaged in farming in Sycamore township. (3) Libbie Angeline, born August 10, 1873, married Robert J. J. Montgomery, and they have two children, Robert J. J. and William McKinley. They reside in Kane county, Illinois.

(4) Mary Maude married Harry Drew, and they reside on the farm with Mrs. Campbell.

(5) Horace Wilson, at present living in Colorado, working for the Chicago Portrait Company. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

In politics Mr. Campbell was a Republican, but not specially active part in political affairs. He was a man that devoted his attention to his farming interests, and to the welfare of his family. His death in January, 1885, was mourned by a large circle of friends. Mrs. Campbell, who still remains upon the farm, is a woman that is greatly esteemed. She is a member of the Charter Grove Methodist Episcopal church, and also of the Daughters of the Globe, and Ladies of the Maccabees.

NELSON SIVWRIGHT, now living a retired life on his farm in section 15, Mayfield township, has been a resident of De Kalb county since 1848. He is a native of Nova Scotia, born November 26, 1839, and is the son of Alexander Sivwright, also a native of Nova Scotia, born February 22, 1800. His grandfather, James Sivwright, was a native of Scotland, and, in 1776, enlisted in the British army, and served against the Americans in the Revolutionary war. He was with the British in the battle of Bunker Hill, and was later taken prisoner in Connecticut, and held for eighteen months, when he was exchanged and fought against the French in the West Indies. Subsequently he settled in Nova Scotia, and there married.

Alexander Sivwright was reared in his native country and there married Mary Kilcup, also a native of Nova Scotia. While residing in his native land he engaged in

farming for some years. Desiring to better his condition in life, he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1848, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 15, Mayfield township, forty acres of which had been broken, and a log house had been erected on the place. On that farm he continued to reside during the remainder of his life, his death occurring August 22, 1886. His wife died July 18, 1885, and both were laid to rest in the Mayfield cemetery. Of their five children, Nelson and his brother James are the only survivors.

Nelson Sivwright came to De Kalb county, a lad of nine years, and assisted in the cultivation of the home farm until after he attained his majority, receiving a very limited education. After arriving at mature years, he continued working with his father for several years, and on the 18th of June, 1868, he was united in marriage with Miss Lucinda Lucas, a native of Ogle county, Illinois, and a daughter of Annas Lucas, a pioneer of that county, who made settlement there in 1837 and engaged in agricultural pursuits. The maiden name of Mrs. Sivwright's grandmother was Susan White, and she traces her ancestry back to one White who came over in the Mayflower. Mrs. Lucas has a silver watch brought over by her original ancestor. The watch has a slip on case showing that it was repaired in London in 1600, and has been an heirloom in the family all these years.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sivwright commenced their domestic life on the old homestead and as the years went by he added to the original eighty by purchasing the interests of other heirs, and he has now two hundred and thirteen acres, all well improved and valuable land. For years he was regarded as one of the most

enterprising and successful farmers in the township. To Mr. and Mrs. Sivwright two children were born, Alice and John G. The former married Herman Rand, a farmer of Mayfield township, while the latter yet remains at home, and is a student of the home schools. Politically Mr. Sivwright was formerly a Republican, but on account of his interest in the temperance cause he has for several years been an advocate and an earnest supporter of the Prohibition party. He served twenty-three consecutive years as justice of the peace, three consecutive years as supervisor, and was later re-elected to the latter office and served two additional terms. While on the board he was for a time chairman of the committee on fees and salaries, and served on the committee for equalizing assessments and was on other important committees. For several years he served as township trustee. He has always given his support and influence to secure good schools and good teachers. Religiously he is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church, with which he has been connected for forty years. His wife is also a member of that body and for some years they were very active in the church work. A well-known resident of Mayfield township, he is highly respected for his many excellent qualities and his desire to be always found in the right.

**A**BRAM D. GRAVES is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 30, Franklin township. He is a native of Maine, born April 25, 1826, and is the son of Nathaniel and Anna J. (Young) Graves, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Lewiston, Maine. They were the parents of nine

children: Abraham D., Andrew J., Julia L., Julius H., Anna Augusta, Elvira T., Vesta A., Hannah, and Nathaniel Franklin. The paternal grandfather, Nathaniel Graves, was also a native of Massachusetts, and by trade was a blacksmith. He moved to Maine in 1790, where his death occurred at the age of sixty years. The maternal grandfather, Rev. Abraham D. Young, was a native of Maine, a farmer and minister in the Christian church. The Graves are of English descent, and were early settlers in America.

In his native state our subject spent his boyhood and youth, and received a limited education in the common schools. In 1845 he came to Illinois with his parents, who stopped in Boone county till the following spring. In 1846 he accompanied them to Ogle county, and in 1848 came with them to De Kalb county, when they located on the farm where he yet resides. Nathaniel Graves, the father, was for years a prominent citizen of Franklin township, where he served as road commissioner and in other local offices. He is still living at the age of ninety-seven years. After coming to Illinois our subject followed teaching for about twelve years, receiving at first a compensation of ten dollars per month. That salary was obtained during the winters of 1845-6. On the 13th of April, 1850, he married Miss Salina L. Churchill, a native of New York and a daughter of Oliver and Pantha L. (Andrews) Churchill, both natives of New York, and who were the parents of six children, the first dying in infancy. The others were Salina, Stephen D., Charles C., Edwin and Darwin. Of these Stephen D. and Darwin are deceased. To our subject and wife eight children were born, Eveline S., Fred E., Pantha L.,

Charles S., Nathaniel A., Amos C., Bert E. and John.

For about five years, after coming to De Kalb county, Mr. Graves engaged in breaking prairie during the spring and summer seasons and followed teaching during the winter. He then followed farming and teaching for some years, but of late has given his time exclusively to his farming operations. His farm of one hundred and sixty acres is always kept under the highest state of cultivation, and shows that it is controlled by a master mind. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and has served as township assessor one year, township clerk ten years, and township treasurer sixteen years. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In every position called upon to fill, he has discharged the duties to the entire satisfaction of those interested.

**NORMAN C. WARREN**, residing in the city of Sycamore, was born in the town of Jordanville, Herkimer county, New York, June 9, 1835. His father, Russell Warren, was born in the town of Warren, Herkimer county, New York, February 4, 1799. He married Sophia H. Cleland, also a native of New York, born June 14, 1798. Their marriage was solemnized February 6, 1818. She was a daughter of Norman and Wealthy Cleland. Her death occurred March 30, 1837. Russell Warren was by occupation a farmer, and in politics he was a staunch Whig. He died in Jordanville, New York, October 1, 1850. He was the son of Lemuel Warren, a farmer born March 23, 1769, and who married Rachel Wodell. To Russell and Sophia H. Warren six children were born, four daughters and two



N. C. WARREN.



sions, viz.: Wealthy M. J. Albert, Harriet A., Francis C., Marrietta S., of whom our subject was the last, and is now the only one living.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native state, and at Charlotteville, Schoharie county, New York, and at Cooperston, Otsego county, received his education. In his youth he commenced clerking in a store in Herkimer county, at which occupation he continued until the fall of 1855, when he came to Sycamore and went into the grocery business, continuing in that line until 1862, at the same time dealing in boots and shoes. He then went into the produce business, which proved unusually successful. He continued in that business until about 1886, and had an interest in a hardware business at the same time under the firm name of Warren & Ellwood which he later sold.

Mr. Warren was married in Sycamore, May 8, 1862, to Miss Addie B. Brown, a native of Sycamore and a daughter of Charles and Caroline (Dodge) Brown, the former a native of German Flats, Herkimer county, New York, born January 14, 1812, and who died in Sycamore July 9, 1895. (See sketch of Charles Brown on another page of this work.) By this union one son was born, Albert S., who attended the Sycamore schools, finishing his education at the Fairbault, Minnesota, Military College and Beloit College, at Beloit, Wisconsin. He is at present residing in St. Louis, Missouri, in the employ of the Crane Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of elevators and agricultural implements.

Since 1886 Mr. Warren has in a measure retired from active business but still has interests in various lines, being at present the president of the Hughes County Bank

in Blunt, South Dakota, where he also owns fifteen hundred acres of fine farming lands. He has also a fine farm near Sycamore, to which he gives personal attention. In politics he is a Republican, and although he takes an active interest in political affairs he has had no desire for office holding, but, however, he was once prevailed upon to serve two years as alderman from his ward.

For nearly half a century Mr. Warren has been a resident of De Kalb county. Coming in his youth and with but little capital, with a persistence born of a resolute purpose, he has succeeded well in life. As a business man he has ever been enterprising, and has almost intuitively been able to foresee the situation and be upon the right side of the market.

**R**UBEN J. HOLCOMB, ex-sheriff, and now deputy sheriff of De Kalb county, was born in the town of Machias, Cattaraugus county, New York, September 27, 1839, and came to De Kalb county, Illinois, with his parents in 1842. There were seven families in the party coming through from New York and they were six weeks on the road, arriving on the 16th of June. Notwithstanding his tender age, many incidents of the trip are remembered by our subject. At the time of his arrival there were only six or seven houses in Sycamore.

The Holcomb family in America trace their descent to Thomas Holcomb, who came from London, England, to America about two hundred and fifty years ago. Orator Holcomb, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Danbury, Connecticut. He married Hannah Terry, also a native of Connecticut, and shortly after their marriage they moved to Erie county, New

York, and later, in 1805, to the town of Canandagua, Genesee county, New York, where he reared a large family. He came west in 1842 with his sons and shortly afterwards died, being the first to be interred in the new Sycamore cemetery. He died at the age of seventy-five years. Shortly after his death his wife returned to New York, where later her death occurred.

Fleming Holcomb, the father of our subject, was born in Genesee county, New York, and there married Louisa Stone, a native of Pollett, Vermont, and a daughter of Hiram and Ann (Long) Stone. They became the parents of seven children, four of whom are yet living. Maurice, who at one time served as sheriff of De Kalb county, now resides in Fargo, North Dakota. Reuben J. is the subject of this sketch. Orator S., who is also an ex-sheriff of De Kalb county, makes his home in Sycamore. Ellen is now the wife of Arthur M. Start, and they now reside in Chicago. One son, Lynus, was killed at the battle of Averysboro, North Carolina, during the Civil war.

By trade Fleming Holcomb was a shoemaker, which occupation he followed in connection with farming, during almost his entire life. In coming to Illinois, it was his intention to engage in farming, but as money was scarce in this new country, he made his trade a source of revenue by manufacturing boots and shoes for the settlers. He continued to work at his trade until his family insisted on his abandoning it by reason of his feeble health. He was a man of strong will and kept working at his bench long after he should have abandoned it. On arriving in De Kalb county, he purchased a claim of one hundred and twenty acres, eighty acres of which he held until his death. In politics he was a Re-

publican, and religiously a Universalist in belief and a regular attendant at church. A strong temperance man, he was for some time associated with the Good Templars. During his entire life it is said that he was never guilty of using profane language. He died at the age of fifty-five years.

The subject of this sketch attended the district schools until the age of fourteen years, in addition to which he attended one term at a select school in Sycamore, under Dr. Woodward. When of age, he took a trip through central Illinois, in search of a better location, but found none better than De Kalb county. Returning to Sycamore, he clerked in a store until the fall of 1861, and spent the following winter at school. In the spring of 1862 he engaged as a clerk in a grocery store, where he remained until the August following, when he enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into the service at Dixon, Illinois, and later sent to Chicago, where the regiment drilled for a few weeks. It was then sent to Louisville, Kentucky, and joined in the race after Morgan's cavalry. His first battle was at Burnt Hickory, Georgia. With his regiment he was then in the Atlanta campaign and with Sherman on the march to the sea. He was at Raleigh, North Carolina, when Lee surrendered. The regiment was then ordered to Washington and was in the grand review. It was mustered out at Chicago in July, 1865. Before being discharged our subject received permission to come home and see his father who was then lying very ill. He returned to Chicago where he was discharged and again returned home, his father dying a few weeks after.

Just previous to his enlistment, on the 27th of August, 1862, at Sycamore, Illinois,



Mr. Holcomb was united in marriage with Miss Corinna Boardman, who was born near Dundee, Kane county, Illinois, and a daughter of Daniel and Tryphena (Mason) Boardman. By this union five children have been born, of whom Charles, the first born, and Zada B. and Bertie F. are deceased. Jessie M. married George P. Fulkerson, a machinist in the sewing machine factory at Belvidere, Illinois. Minerva E. is housekeeper for her father.

On coming home from the service, Mr. Holcomb worked for a lumber firm in Sycamore until the spring of 1866, when he engaged in the lumber trade himself, in which he continued until the fall of 1867, when he became deputy in the sheriff's office under his brother. He served as deputy under each succeeding sheriff until he himself was elected to the office in 1872. He was re-elected in 1874, 1876 and 1878, since which time he has served as deputy, with the exception of one term when Mr. Ostrander was sheriff. He is one of the best posted men in the county, and has been over every mile of road in every township, knows all the leading men in the county, and during his long term of thirty-one years in the sheriff's office has made many friends. He is a detective of recognized ability and has run to earth many criminals. At one time he was employed by the authorities in Texas to take charge of a case, bringing a murderer to justice. He went to Wyoming and as a cowboy traveled over the territory, found his man, arrested and took him back where he was tried and convicted.

WILLIAM B. WEDDELL is now living a retired life in the village of Rollo, De Kalb county. He is a native of

Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, born March 8, 1824, and is a son of Jesse Weddell, a native of the same county and state, born in 1778, and who was a soldier in the war of 1812. The paternal grandfather, Peter Weddell, was also a native of Pennsylvania, locating in Westmoreland county in 1757. The Weddell family were early settlers of eastern Pennsylvania, where Peter Weddell spent the greater part of his time in hunting. Jesse Weddell was reared in Westmoreland county, and there married Nancy Davis, also a native of that county. He was a prominent farmer in Westmoreland county, where he was well known. In the fall of 1831 he moved to Elkhart county, Indiana, becoming one of the first settlers of that county. In 1828 he came west looking for a location, and was on the present site of Chicago. Liking that country better, he settled in Elkhart county, Indiana, and there died in 1838, when our subject was a lad of fourteen years. After his death the widow reared the family and gave them the best opportunity for advancement in life that the country afforded. They were the parents of five sons and four daughters, all of whom, with the exception of the youngest son, growing to man and womanhood. Of these, two sons and two daughters are yet living, James E. resides in Elkhart county, Indiana. Agnes Hedges resides in Aspen, Colorado. Mrs. Elizabeth Barnard resides in Georgetown, Colorado. William B. is the subject of this review.

William B. Weddell was reared in Elkhart county, Indiana, and there remained until 1850, when he came to De Kalb county and purchased the land where he now resides, entering two hundred and forty acres with a land warrant. After making his location he returned to Elkhart county

and there married, January 2, 1850, Agnes G. Vail, a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Charles and Nancy (Jeffries) Vail, both of whom were also natives of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and early settlers of Elkhart county, Indiana. Soon after his marriage Mr. Weddell settled in De Kalb county and built a small house, which in due time gave place to a more pretentious one. From time to time he added to his possessions until he was the owner of four hundred and forty acres, all in one farm, and was one of the most active farmers and stock raisers in De Kalb county. On his farm he laid out the village of Rollo and has since built a large, neat and substantial residence, in which the family now reside.

Mrs. Weddell died November 16, 1881, leaving three children. Nancy Ann is the wife of E. B. Powers, a farmer of Paw Paw township. Charles V. is one of the substantial farmers of the township and owns and operates a farm adjoining that of his father. Mrs. Elma Agnes Fraser is a widow residing in Rollo. Mr. Weddell has one great-grandson, Meffm C. Bullis, born May 15, 1898, in Paw Paw township, De Kalb county. For his second wife Mr. Weddell, October 29, 1889, married Mrs. Cleora Burns, *ne* Hyde, a native of Vermont. Her father, Jonathan Hyde, was also a native of Vermont, born at Bennington, of English ancestry, the family dating back to William Hyde, who settled in Connecticut in 1637, and died in Norwich, that state. Jonathan Hyde married Phebe P. Fillmore, a native of Norwich, Connecticut. They were married in Clinton county, New York, but after their marriage resided in Vermont a number of years, but in 1835 returned to Clinton county, New York, where they remained

until 1845 and then came west and in 1846 settled in Paw Paw township, De Kalb county, where he spent the last years of his life, dying about 1864. He was a prominent man in this county and held several local positions of trust and honor. Mrs. Weddell was educated in Chazy, Clinton county, New York, where she engaged in teaching. She came to Illinois in 1847, where she continued teaching for about three years. In 1849 she gave her hand in marriage to Thomas Burns, who was an early settler from Cayuga county, New York. He entered land and opened up a farm in Paw Paw township and there remained until 1852, when he removed to California, taking the overland route. He located in Eldorado county, and for some years engaged in mining and fruit raising. He died there in 1875. They were the parents of six children. Ellen Cleora died at the age of eighteen years. Mary C. is the wife of Charles Worth, of Aurora, Illinois. Thomas Elliott died at the age of eighteen years. Agnes is the wife of Charles Goeble, of California. Margaret is the wife of William Shry, of California. Robert Simeon married, and now resides in Paw Paw township. After residing in California for thirty years, in 1882, Mrs. Burns returned to De Kalb county, and as stated was united in marriage with Mr. Weddell.

Politically Mr. Weddell was originally a Whig, and cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor. He supported Fremont in 1856 and has since been an earnest advocate of Republican principles. He has never desired official position, but served twelve years as a commissioner of highways. In the fall of 1892, in company with his wife, he made a trip to California and Oregon, where they spent about two

months visiting on the Pacific slope. They are both active members of the Rollo Congregational church, Mr. Weddell being one of the original members when the church was organized in 1864. He was one of the trustees of the church and gave the lot on which the house of worship was erected. He was made a Master Mason about 1863, at Paw Paw, and is now an Ancient Mason. Both he and his wife are held in the highest esteem by all who know them.

**SHUBAEL TERRY ARMSTRONG**, circuit clerk of De Kalb county, was born in Chautauqua county, New York, December 14, 1834, and is the son of Dr. Thomas and Johanna (Terry) Armstrong, both of Washington county, New York. David Armstrong, the paternal grandfather, was a native of the North of Ireland, born in 1763. He came to America in 1800, and here married Elizabeth Creighton in America, but of Scotch parentage. He died in De Kalb county, at the age of ninety-eight years. All through his life he followed the vocation of a farmer. Thomas Armstrong, the father, was born May 8, 1806. Graduating from the Medical College of Buffalo, New York, he practiced his profession during the remainder of his life. While yet residing in New York, he served in the United States volunteers to prevent Americans from joining the insurgents during the patriot war in Canada. His wife, Johanna Terry, was a daughter of Shubael and Rebecca (Hathaway) Terry, who lived to be sixty-six and eighty-eight years respectively. The Terrys first came to America in 1660 and passed with honor through the colonial period, some of whom doubtlessly took an active part in the colonial wars.

Dr. Armstrong died in Sandwich, Illinois, in October, 1888, at the age of eighty-two years. His wife died when but sixty-six years old.

Shortly after the birth of our subject, the family moved to Erie county, New York, where they lived until he was seventeen years old. After attending the common schools in Erie county, he finished his education in the academies at Springville and Fredonia, New York. In 1852 the family removed to Rock county, Wisconsin. By lake they went from Buffalo to Detroit on the first passenger trip of the famous steamer, Lady Elgin, that later went down on Lake Michigan, with her hundreds of passengers. From Detroit they went to Chicago on the first passenger train running into that city from the east. From Chicago they went to Milwaukee by lake, thence to Rock county by wagon. In the family of Dr. and Mrs. Armstrong were six children, four of whom are now living: William, living in Hickory county, Missouri; Shubael T., our subject; David, living in Kansas City, Missouri; and Anna, wife of Solon White, of Sandwich, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch remained at home until his marriage, in Rock county, Wisconsin, December 14, 1855, to Miss Eunice E. Richardson, a native of Cattaraugus county, New York, and a daughter of John K. and Eunice Thompson (Curtis) Richardson, the former born in Washington county, New York, July 29, 1799. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and came west during the early settlement of Wisconsin, locating in Rock county. He was a Universalist in religious belief. During the war of 1812 he served his country faithfully and well. His death occurred September 15, 1876. He was the son of David Rich-

ardson, who died of typhoid fever in 1813, at the age of seventy-seven years. The wife of the latter was a Miss Sweetland, who died in 1820. Eunice Thompson Curtis was born near Bennington, Vermont, in 1805, and died in Rock county, Wisconsin, at the age of eighty-one years. She was the daughter of Zerubabel Curtis, who settled in an early day near the village of Malone, New York, that place now covering the site of his old farm. Zerubabel Curtis married Esther Thompson, a native of Scotland, who attained the age of ninety-eight years. He also served in the war of 1812, and was in the battle of Plattsburg.

Soon after his marriage, Mr. Armstrong moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he engaged in railroading and civil engineering for the Northwestern Railway and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. In 1861 he went to California, as mining engineer and was employed at the famous Comstock mine, the Reese River mine and other noted mines. In December, 1864, he returned to Rock county, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1868, and then moved to Milan township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for four years, teaching school during the winter months. In 1872 he moved to Sycamore, where he engaged in surveying and railroad civil engineering. He also served for a considerable length of time as deputy county clerk and deputy county treasurer. In 1890 he was elected circuit clerk and re-elected in 1892 and 1894, a position which he still holds, to the satisfaction of every one having business with the office.

To Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong seven children have been born. Hattie G. is the wife of Albert A. Bishop, of Sibley, Iowa. Loretta May is an artist of fine ability and a

teacher in the art department at Waterman Hall. In the summer of 1898 she studied in the College of Design in Chicago, and also under private teachers. Anna is deceased. Elizabeth is the wife of Harry H. Everitt, now of Chicago, who was for a number of years a teacher of physical culture in the State University at Champaign, Illinois. Carlotta is the wife of Park Richmond, a business man of Chicago. Nevada is serving as deputy under her father in the office of circuit court. Arthur is deceased.

Politically Mr. Armstrong has been a life-long Republican, having attained his majority in time to cast his vote for the first presidential nominee of the party, General John C. Fremont. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership with the subordinate lodge, encampment, and unformed rank of Patriarchs Militant. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity and has always taken a prominent part in conferring the degrees, being an excellent lecturer. As an official he is always accommodating and ever ready to confer a favor upon any one having business with the office. As a citizen he is enterprising and his friends are many throughout De Kalb county and wherever known.

**G**EORGE J. MAURER, who is a retired farmer residing in the village of Malta, was born in Germany October 13, 1835, and is the son of Frederick and Christine Maurer, both of whom were natives of Germany, where they resided until death. They were people of respectability and worthy of the esteem they enjoyed. The former died in 1840 and the latter in 1853. She

was his second wife and our subject was second in order of birth by the last union.

George J. Maurer remained at home in his native land until seventeen years of age, in the meantime receiving a fairly good education, and learning the trade of shoemaker, which he followed more or less at various times after his emigration to America in 1852. He left Germany October 6, of that year, by way of Havre, France, and arrived in New York forty-seven days later. He then went to Rome, Oneida county, New York, where his brother, John, was then residing, and there remained three years, six months of which time he worked at his trade. In 1855 he came west and located in Pierce township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1856 he went to Big Rock township, Kane county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming two years, then returned to De Kalb county, where he spent two years in Clinton township. In 1866 he purchased eighty acres of land, which he improved and on which he resided for a number of years, selling the same to Thomas Delbridge in 1863. The same year he purchased one hundred and thirty acres, to which twelve years later he added forty-eight acres, making him a valuable farm which he now owns on section 5, Malta township.

On December 20, 1862, Mr. Maurer married Miss Mary Deily, born in Cook county, Illinois, January 13, 1841, and a daughter of John and Barbara Deily, both of whom were natives of Germany, who came to this country with their respective parents about 1830. Her father was born June 11, 1816, and died in 1846, while her mother was born in 1819, and is still living. By this union six children were born, of

whom four are yet living: Frank E., Ida M., Helen and Arthur B. The latter is now in Cuba engaged in the Spanish-American war. The deceased children were Philip and Elizabeth B.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurer are members of the German Evangelical church, but attend the Methodist Episcopal church in Malta, there being no church of their choice at that place. They are worthy people and held in high esteem. Mr. Maurer is a first-class farmer in every respect, and all that he has he acquired by hard work, economy and honesty. He is truly a self-made man.

GEORGE CLARK, a retired farmer, is now residing in the city of De Kalb, where he is serving as justice of the peace. He is one of the few living pioneers of the county, which has been his home since 1842, a period of fifty-six long years. He was born at Royalton, Windsor county, Vermont, December 16, 1832, and is the son of Arunah and Clarissa (Robinson) Clark, both of whom were also natives of Vermont. By trade Arunah Clark was a carpenter, and in his younger days followed that vocation. With his family he removed west in 1842, and settled in De Kalb township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he purchased one hundred and seventy-one acres of land in its natural state, but which had been settled on by a "squatter" before it was surveyed by the general government. While the squatter had no legal claim, his right was always respected to the extent of his improvements, and he received a recompense to that amount. The father made many improvements on the land, but it was left to his son, the subject of this sketch, to make it complete. He was a highly re-

respected man in the community, and was honored by being elected justice of the peace, as well as to other township offices, all of which he filled in the most creditable manner. He died from the effects of a fall in 1868, when in his eighty-second year. His wife's death occurred in the following year. He was twice married and had seven children by the two marriages, our subject being the second by the last union.

George Clark was but ten years of age when he accompanied his parents to De Kalb county, and in the schools of De Kalb and Sycamore he obtained his education. When old enough to labor upon the farm he was given his daily task, and continued to assist in the cultivation of the home farm until after he attained his majority, when he took full control of the place. The father enjoyed life, remaining on the old home, while the son bore all the responsibilities. He thus passed his life peacefully and quietly away, as already stated.

The experience of our subject is much as other early settlers of De Kalb county. He well remembers seeing the Indians on their ponies passing along the trail that led by the farm, while their arrow-heads and other implements of war and hunting are found in abundance on his farm. He was united in marriage February 18, 1858, with Miss Sarah J. Cartwright, a native of De Kalb county, born in 1841, on what is now the county farm, but which at that time belonged to her father, James Cartwright, one of the pioneers of De Kalb county. By this union two children have been born: James A. and Florence J. The former is a practicing physician and surgeon at Chicago. The latter, after taking a full course at Normal, Illinois, has been teaching school in De Kalb.

After residing upon his farm for fifty

years, in 1892 Mr. Clark removed to the city of De Kalb, where he enjoys the full confidence of his fellow citizens, who have elected him to the office of the justice of the peace. Politically he is a Republican, and is a firm believer in the principles of the party. His long residence in De Kalb county has brought him in contact with many of its best citizens, and wherever best known he is the most highly esteemed.

SAMUEL H. STILES is a retired farmer and capitalist residing in Genoa. He was born in the town of Naples, Ontario county, New York, January 5, 1829, and is the son of Epaphroditus and Roxanna (Lincoln) Stiles, the latter born near Saratoga, New York, and a daughter of Henry Lincoln, who participated in the taking of Fort Ticonderoga. Epaphroditus Stiles was a large farmer and merchant, who had studied law and engaged to some extent in local practice. For many years he was a justice of the peace and held other official positions. He died when our subject was but five years of age. His father, Samuel Stiles, who was of Scotch and English descent, served in the Revolutionary war and lost a leg in the service. He lived to be a very old man. Of the seven children of the parents of our subject, two only are living, Samuel H. and Eliza, wife of J. H. Wood, of Salem, Oregon.

Samuel H. Stiles was reared in his native county, and attended the subscription schools at a time when the school-house was built of logs, with puncheon floor and benches. Teachers were hardly up to the grade now required and usually received a salary of but ten dollars per month. At the age of fifteen he began life for himself, working a farm on





SAMUEL H. STILES.





MRS. S. H. STILES.



shares. In November, 1849, in North Brewster, New York, he was united in marriage with Charlotte Sherratt, a native of Pen Yan, New York, who died in November 1886. The newly discovered gold mines of California, were then attracting attention throughout the whole country, and with others he was taken with the "gold fever". In the spring of 1850, he sold his stock and farm implements, and turned all his personal property into cash, and started for the New Eldorado. Going to New York, he was attracted by the handbills of Parker H. French, who proposed to conduct a train to California by way of Texas, in a very short specified time. Joining the company of Mr. French he started with him, but the expedition was subjected to repeated delays from the beginning. They landed at Havana, where they remained one day, was three days at New Orleans, and one day at Galveston, finally reaching Port Lavaca. Here instead of finding teams and spring wagons as promised, the party had to wait until three hundred wild mules were broken to drive, which consumed three weeks. They were then delayed at San Antonio three weeks, the Apache Indians outside giving them no little concern. One delay after another occurring, and it being seen that their trip would be indefinitely delayed, the party took possession of the train, ousting French at the Rio Grand, and crossed over into Mexican territory, where our subject was robbed of fifty dollars. From this time on the sufferings of the party were most intense, sufferings through which it was almost impossible to come out alive.

Securing a Mexican guide and forty days provisions, Mr. Stiles was one of a small party who attempted to cross the desert in-

dependently of the others. Their guide got lost, and four days they were without water. They made their way back to El Paso, Texas, more dead than alive. They did not despair, however, but continued their journey, traveling some fourteen hundred miles in old Mexico, finally making their way to Mazatland, from which place they sailed to San Francisco, being ten months and seven days since leaving New York. He started with five hundred dollars and arrived with two dollars, one of which he spent for a loaf of bread.

With his cousin Hiram, Mr. Stiles went to church the following Sunday night, and when the service was over he stood under a street light to see if he could not find some familiar face. He did not watch in vain, but soon found a friend who took him and his cousin to his home, and the next day found them work in a store, the proceeds of which replenished their depleted finances. Rival companies were then running boats to Sacramento, and they secured passage to the latter place for one dollar. From there they worked their passage to Marysville, fifty miles further up the river, where they secured work. From Marysville they proceeded to Bidwell Bar, on the south fork of Feather river, and from there to Onion Valley. After six months hard labor, he felt that he had enough of it, and returned home by way of the Isthmus of Panama, being seventeen days from San Francisco to Panama. From Aspinwall he took the steamer Illinois, on her first return trip to New York. Landing at Norfolk, he went from there to Philadelphia, where he deposited his gold dust at the mint, receiving seven hundred and thirty-five dollars and thirty-four cents.

After a season's recuperating, at his old

home, having had the Panama fever, Mr. Stiles made a prospecting tour through Illinois, spending one year. Returning east, he later gave Iowa his attention, but failed to find a desirable location. He then bought a farm in New York, but in 1855 sold out and came to Illinois for permanent settlement. He first located in Kingston township, De Kalb county, where he yet owns three hundred and twenty acres, one of the finest improved farms in the state, with a residence larger than most city residences, large barns and commodious outbuildings. He lived on the farm until the fall of 1884, when he removed to Genoa, built a large residence, one of the best in the village, and is now living retired. He has fruits of all kinds in profusion, with fine garden, flowers, etc. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Stiles was married, December 14, 1887, to Elizabeth E. Williams, daughter of Chet Williams, whose father was a major in the Revolutionary war. The wife of Chet Williams was Miss Sally Harper, who died at the age of eighty years. She was the daughter of Joseph and Esther (Dean) Harper, her father being a soldier in the war of 1812.

Mr. and Mrs. Stiles are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Genoa, and they take a lively interest in its work. In politics he is a Republican, with strong prohibition leanings. He has held many minor township offices, and is regarded as one of De Kalb county's most estimable citizens.

**L**ORENZO DOW EVANS, residing on section 2, Sycamore township, has been a resident of De Kalb county for more than sixty years. He was born in Ashe county, North Carolina, February 9, 1834, and is

the son of Benjamin Evans, also a native of Ashe county, North Carolina, born February 21, 1811, and who died in Sycamore township, February 5, 1854, while yet in the prime of life. He was the son of William and Ala (Mitchell) Evans, the former a faithful soldier in the war of 1812. Benjamin Evans married Frances Perry, a daughter of William Perry, also a soldier of the war of 1812, who married a Miss Dean.

The fall after the birth of our subject, his parents moved to Illinois, coming by wagon through Kentucky and Indiana, crossing the Ohio river at Louisville, Kentucky, and the Wabash river at Vincennes, Indiana. They remained the first winter at Hennepin, Putnam county, but decided to remove a little farther north, and in the spring of 1835 located at Plano, Kendall county, where they remained three years. They then moved to Charter Grove, De Kalb county, and located on the farm now occupied by James Devine, where they remained three years, removing from thence to the Will King farm. At that time there were few dwellings to be seen, with the exception of log houses. Our subject attended school in an old log house, usually during a term of three months in winter. A part of the time he walked two and a half miles to the school-house, returning each evening. He afterward attended school six weeks in a frame school-house in Genoa township.

Before Mr. Evans attained his majority his father died, leaving him to manage the farm. He remained with his mother until of age, when part of the farm of six hundred acres was set off to him for his own use. Since 1859 he has lived on his present farm, which comprises one hundred and ninety-five acres of prairie land and twenty-

two and a half acres of timber. The farm lies partly in Genoa township. All the improvements now to be seen upon the farm were placed by our subject, including the large house, barns and outbuildings, windmill and orchard. He has about two miles of tiling.

Mr. Evans was married in Sycamore April 26, 1857, to Miss Mary Jewel, born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, March 5, 1836, and who came west with her parents in 1837. Her father, Eli G. Jewel, a blacksmith by trade, was born in Vermont, but spent his boyhood and youth in Cattaraugus county, New York, going from thence to Ohio, when a young man. From Ohio he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, driving through with teams, settling first in the country near Sycamore. At that time the Indians were still in the country and timid mothers were often frightened by their coming to the house for food and helping themselves. Later he moved into Sycamore, where he set up a forge and for a time worked at his trade, but, giving it up, he removed near Fort Lincoln, Kansas, settling on a farm, where his death occurred in 1862, at the age of about fifty-six years. His wife was Deborah Rockwood, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Armah Rockwood. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are living, and of these Mrs. Evans was second in order of birth. Eli G. Jewel was the son of Joshua and Abigail (Gilbert) Jewel, who moved from Vermont to Cattaraugus county, New York, where he died at the age of seventy-eight years. Eli G. Jewel made two trips to California, first in 1850, when he crossed the plains and returned by sea. His second trip was made in 1852, going and coming by water.

To our subject and wife nine children have been born, of whom four died in infancy. Those growing to maturity are Frances, May, Elmer, Leroy and Nellie. Elmer married Osia Sellers, living in Genoa, and they had two children, Merrill Leroy and Ray Adrian. Elmer died July 8, 1898. Leroy is a telegraph operator at Apple River, Illinois. In politics Mr. Evans is a Republican. That he is a friend of the public schools is shown from the fact that he has been a school director, more or less, since attaining his majority. The many wonderful changes that have been made in De Kalb county since he became a citizen can scarcely be realized, even by those who have been most active in its transformation. Among the pioneers who deserve credit for what has been done L. Dow Evans stands among the first.

**N**ATHANIEL S. KELLOGG, of Franklin township, who is actively engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 17, was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, July 29, 1829. He is a son of John and Sarah (Hubbard) Kellogg, both natives of Massachusetts. Of their two children, Nathaniel is our subject, and John J. is deceased. The paternal great-grandfather Kellogg was a native of Scotland, who emigrated to this country prior to the Revolutionary war. His son, Nathaniel Kellogg, Sr., the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Connecticut, a farmer by occupation, and was in the Revolutionary war. John Kellogg, the father, was for some years adjutant-general of the state militia, of Massachusetts, and was actively engaged in the Civil war. In 1838, he came west with his family, and located near Pekin, Tazewell county, Illinois. He

later returned to Massachusetts, but being dissatisfied came again to Illinois and settled in Tazewell county, where he remained about two years. He then removed to McLean county, Illinois, and ran a general store for about twenty-five years. He was quite a prominent man in McLean county, and was justice of the peace for thirty-three years, being the oldest justice of the peace in the state. He died at the age of eighty-six years.

Nathaniel S. Kellogg was reared and educated in Massachusetts. After receiving his primary education, he entered the college at Lenox, Massachusetts, and pursued a three years course. He then taught one term in Massachusetts, after which he came to Illinois, in 1845, and located in Delevan township, Tazewell county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1855, he bought six hundred and forty acres in McLean county, in section 22, town 22, a tract of government land, for which he paid about fifteen dollars per acre. That land he sold in the fall of 1864.

On the 7th of November, 1847, Mr. Kellogg was united in marriage with Miss Alma L. Baird, a native of Becket, Massachusetts, and a daughter of Kendall and Lucinda (Chaffee) Baird, both of whom were also natives of Becket, Massachusetts, and the parents of six children, Prentice C., Aba, Alma L., Fred K., Kate and George K. To our subject and wife three children were born, John K., Kate L. and Prentice F.

Since his marriage Mr. Kellogg has been engaged in various lines of business. For a time he was in the butcher business and a dealer in stock in Rockford. He then traveled for a St. Joseph, Missouri, woolen

goods manufactory, for two years, through Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa, and for a clothing firm in Rockford, five years, and for a Beloit, Wisconsin, clothing firm, two years. Among various political offices that he has held are those of school director and road commissioner. In politics he is a Republican, a strong believer in the principles of the party. It is, however, as an agriculturalist that he is best known, his farm being always kept in good condition and under a high state of cultivation.

**B**RIGHAM P. BEMIS, deceased, was one of De Kalb township's most worthy citizens, who in life resided on his farm in section 33. He was a native of Massachusetts, born May 25, 1829, and was the son of Benjamin Bemis, who followed farming during his entire life and who never came west. His death and that of his wife occurred in the east. The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent in his native state, and his education was received in the public schools. He was an early settler of Kane county, Illinois, locating at Sugar Grove, Kane county, where he lived some years, engaging in farming. In 1856, he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and purchased a farm of fifty acres in section 33, De Kalb township, upon which his widow now lives.

On the 27th of March, 1855, Mr. Bemis was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Duffy, a native of Ohio, born in 1830, and a daughter of James and Lydia Duffy. Her mother died when she was but three years old, and her father marrying again, removed to Illinois, in 1841, where his death occurred in 1873. He was married three times, and had sixteen children, Mrs. Bemis being third in order of birth by the first

wife. She was but eleven years of age when she came to De Kalb county, and here her entire life has since been spent. To Mr. and Mrs. Bemis five children were born, four of whom are now living: Frank W., Frederick J., William W. and Burt P. Two of these sons are prosperous business men in De Kalb.

For some years prior to his death Mr. Bemis was in ill health. In 1882 he took a trip to Florida, to regain his lost vigor, but his trip was without avail, death coming to his relief, on April 5, of the same year, in Jacksonville, Florida. Fraternally he was a Mason in good standing and lived up to the principles taught by that ancient and worthy order. Politically he was a Republican. A loving husband, an indulgent father, and a worthy citizen, who treated his neighbors kindly, his death was sincerely mourned by all.

**I**RA EVANS, who resides on section 2, Sycamore township, was born in Charter Grove within a few rods of his present residence on the old homestead, where his parents, Benjamin and Frances (Perry) Evans, settled in the fall of 1838, his birth occurring January 18, 1841. His parents were natives of Ashe county, North Carolina. While they considered the Old North state in many respects a desirable place to live, they yet believed that the opportunities for advancement and for the further improvement of their children would be much greater in the Prairie state, and they therefore determined to make this their home. Leaving their native state with what has been termed a prairie schooner, they passed through the states of Kentucky and Indiana, and in the fall of 1834 made a stop at Hennepin, Put-

nam county, Illinois, where they remained a few months, going from thence to Plano, Kendall county, finally locating in Sycamore township, where they made a permanent settlement. Selecting a tract of land in section 3, they commenced its improvement, and at the death of the father, which occurred early in the '50s, he was the owner of six hundred acres of fine land, the great part of which was under cultivation.

Our subject was but a boy when his father died, and he remained with his mother until after he reached his majority, assisting in the cultivation of the home farm. His education was obtained principally in the old log school-house, with its primitive furniture and massive fire place. He was married July 20, 1862, to Miss Nancy Divine, eldest daughter of Eleazer and Sallie A. (Sherbey) Divine, an extended account of whom appears elsewhere in this work. She was born in Sullivan county, New York, in the town of Grahamville, but came with her parents to De Kalb county when a child, and here grew to womanhood. By this union two children were born, Milton D. and Luella.

Immediately after marriage Mr. Evans began farming on one hundred and sixty-two acres, section 2, Sycamore township, his portion of his father's estate. He there still continues to reside, and there his children were born. Many improvements have been made upon the place since it came into his possession, including the present fine modern frame house of tasteful architecture. In politics he is an earnest Republican, and has served as road commissioner three years and for many years was school director. A life long resident of De Kalb county, he has gone in and out among the people doing the work at hand cheerfully and well,

and is one of the few living pioneers who have witnessed the change in the country from a vast wilderness to the most productive section of the union.

**P**HILLIP F. PLAPP, a farmer residing on section 28, Malta township, De Kalb county, Illinois, was born in Pierce township, this county, March 17, 1855, and is the son of Jacob F. and Elizabeth B. Plapp, both of whom were natives of Germany. Jacob Plapp came to this country when he was about eighteen years of age, while his wife accompanied her parents to this country in 1830, when she was but eleven years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Plapp first located in Ohio, and later came to De Kalb county, Illinois, settling in Pierce township, where he died in 1885. His wife survives him at the age of eighty-three years. In their family were eleven children, nine of whom are yet living.

Phillip F. Plapp grew to manhood in his native township and was educated in its public schools. When he reached his majority he began to work out on farms, and built for himself a reputation for honesty and industry, two principles which he has observed all through life, and which must be the warp and woof of every successful enterprise. On November 4, 1880, he was united in marriage with Miss Lucy A. Delbridge, born in De Kalb, May 14, 1860, and a daughter of Thomas and Ellen (Collmore) Delbridge. By this union five children have been born: Althia M., October 8, 1881, Alfred E., January 17, 1885, and who died in April of the same year; Winifred V., February 14, 1886; Mabel E., September 19, 1888, and Clarence T., December 21, 1890.

On January 1, 1883, Mr. Plapp bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Ogle county, where he resided for fourteen years. During his residence there he succeeded by the practice of hard labor and economy, in accumulating a nice sum, besides improving his farm, enabling him to dispose of the same at a considerable advance on the purchase price, thus giving him the means of purchasing a larger and better farm in Malta township, De Kalb county, which he did in 1897. His Malta farm consists of two hundred and forty acres, is well situated and well improved, and with Mr. Plapp's methods of working, will be a golden spot in beauty and productiveness. Politically Mr. Plapp is a Republican, and his popularity has been such that he has been called upon to fill various township offices, which he has done to the satisfaction of all concerned. Mrs. Plapp has been a consistent member of the Congregational church for the past twenty years.

**E**DGAR M. PHELPS, contracting painter of Sycamore, was born in Genoa township, De Kalb county, Illinois, November 25, 1841. His father, William Phelps, was a well-known builder and contractor in the early history of De Kalb county. He first settled in Genoa township on a farm, and in 1844 moved to the village of Genoa, where he remained until 1848, and then moved to Sycamore, having secured the contract for the erection of a new courthouse. He married Elizabeth Hollembeak, a daughter of Ruloff W. and Electa (Ames) Hollembeak, the former a native of Shoreham, Vermont, and a son of Abraham and Lovina (Lord) Hollembeak, who were also natives of Vermont. The father of



Abraham Hollebeak was a native of Holland and was one of three brothers to found the family in this country. Electa Ames was a daughter of Barnabas Ames, who was also a native of Vermont. The paternal grandfather, William Phelps, Sr., married Cynthia Marston. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and died when forty-eight years of age.

After the completion of the courthouse, William Phelps, the father, purchased a steam sawmill, which had been in operation in St. Charles, Kane county, and moved the same to Sycamore and commenced the milling business. While running the mill he received injuries which so seriously crippled him that he was unable to continue the business. He later sold the mill, and was elected constable and collector, a do-all office at that time, and served one term. He was later elected sheriff of the county, and served satisfactorily for two years. He was of an inventive turn of mind, and invented and patented a churn that he manufactured and which became quite popular. Models of several of his inventions are now in the patent office at Washington.

The subject of this sketch was but seven years of age when he accompanied his parents to Sycamore, and he has since resided at the county seat. He attended the public schools in Sycamore until the age of fourteen years, for a time being a student in the old school-house that stood at the corner of Main and Sycamore streets. After school days, he found work on farms in the townships surrounding Sycamore, until after the Civil war commenced. He enlisted in August, 1862, at Sycamore, and was mustered into the service September 2, at Dixon, Illinois, as a member of Company A, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer In-

fantry. With his regiment he was in the battles of Resaca and New Hope Church, was then in the Atlanta campaign and in the battles at Savannah, Columbia, Averysboro, and Bentonville, North Carolina. He was with his regiment at Raleigh, North Carolina, when Lee surrendered. After the close of the campaign, those who were not able to stand the march from the battlefields through Richmond and Virginia, to Washington, were sent around by boat. Mr. Phelps having a large carbuncle on his back was among the number sent by water to the Capital, where he participated in the Grand Review. He was mustered out at Chicago, June 10, 1865.

On receiving his discharge Mr. Phelps returned to his home in Sycamore and learned the painter's trade with a brother, and was with him for some four or five years, when he began contracting for himself and has continued in the business to the present time. His work is principally confined to the northern part of De Kalb county and he employs from three to twelve men. He has painted many of the most prominent public and private buildings in the vicinity of Sycamore.

Mr. Phelps was married November 23, 1867, in Linnville township, Ogle county, Illinois, to Miss Martha Jinks, born in Coventry, England, June 14, 1847. Her father, William Jinks, was born at Rugby, England, where his wife, Ann Kidsley, was also born and where they were married. They came to America in 1852, sailing from Liverpool to New York. He came directly west to Ogle county, Illinois, and located in Linnville township, where a brother then resided. After living in Linnville township some six months he moved to Kingston, where he engaged in the blacksmith trade

for five years. During this time he studied veterinary surgery, and when he left Kingston he moved to his farm of eighty acres in Linnville township and practiced until he retired.

To Mr. and Mrs. Phelps four children have been born. Ada is the wife of George P. Blanchard, of Sycamore, and they have three children, James Edgar, Merle and Barbara. Ella, Lizzie and Edgar William yet remain at home. In politics Mr. Phelps is a Republican, his first presidential vote being cast for Abraham Lincoln. He has never been an office seeker, but served two terms as township collector. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was formerly a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Phelps is a member of the Universalist church.

**JAMES H. MOORE**, who resides on section 35, Genoa township, was born December 29, 1835, and is well known as the first white child born in the township. He is the son of Voranus Emory and Sylvia (Madison) Moore, the former a native of Palmer, Massachusetts, and the latter of Trumbull county, Ohio, and a daughter of Thomas Madison, a farmer by occupation, born in Ohio, who came west in 1835, with the father of our subject, and took up a claim where the village of Genoa now stands, built a log tavern, the first in the township, and kept the same for many years. He was the first justice of the peace in the township. Later he sold his property in Genoa, and went to Texas, where his death occurred. Voranus E. Moore came to De Kalb county in the fall of 1835, and was the first to commence housekeeping in

Genoa township. He located a claim south of the present village of Genoa, where the Illinois Central depot now stands. He took up a claim of one hundred and three acres, and first built his cabin near the river, and later erected a frame residence on the site of the Illinois Central depot. When the land came into market, he purchased the claim and there resided until 1863, when he sold out and moved to McLean county, locating near Bloomington, where his death occurred in 1880. The paternal grandfather, Gideon Moore, was also a native of Palmer, Massachusetts. By occupation he was a farmer and gardener in his native state. Later in life he came to Illinois, where his death occurred at the age of ninety-six years, four months and ten days. He had a brother who lived to be one hundred and four years old.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native township, received his education in the old log school-house, attending school during three months in the winter. The first school-house was erected near the present farm of our subject. Pupils attended the school from Mayfield, Sycamore, Kingston and Genoa townships, some of the pupils walking three or four miles to the school and returning each day. Mr. Moore attended the school from the time he was six years of age until he was twenty years old. He worked on neighboring farms every season, raking in the harvest fields when cradles were used. He was one of a family of six children, four of whom are yet living. Clarissa married Lysander Tupper and lives in Oregon. John H. is the subject of this sketch. Henry and Jonathan F. live at Charter Grove.

When he attained his majority, Mr. Moore went to Kansas and took up a claim,



JAMES H. MOORE.



and later returned and on the 3rd of February, 1858, at Sycamore, was united in marriage with Miss Adelaine Miller, a native of Newton Falls, Ohio, who came west in 1845 with her parents. After his marriage he rented his father's farm, and continued renting other farms until the fall of 1867, when he purchased one hundred and twenty acres where he now resides, together with five acres of timber, in Charter Grove. In 1887 his wife died, leaving four children. Adelbert is the present city marshal of Hampshire, Illinois. Lillie married Henry Bartlett, and they reside near Charles City, Iowa. Alfred is a carpenter residing in Genoa. William is a farmer of Genoa township.

The second marriage of Mr. Moore was in 1888, when he wedded Mrs. Mary Cramer, widow of Nathan Cramer, and a daughter of Clark Henderson, a native of Vermont and a farmer by occupation, who died at the age of fifty-five years, in Barry county, Michigan. He was the son of Truman Henderson. His wife was Mary Dake, also a native of Vermont and a daughter of Benjamin and Polly Dake. Clark and Mary Henderson were the parents of ten children, four of whom are now living. By her first marriage Mrs. Moore had one son, William Henry Cramer. By her union with Mr. Moore, she became the mother of two sons, James Henry and Voranus Emory.

In politics Mr. Moore is a Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont. He has satisfactorily filled several of the minor township offices. Religiously he is a member of the Advent Christian church. In addition to his general farming he is engaged in dairying, having twenty-five head of milch cows. For eight years he shipped to Chicago and for

two years has been selling to the creamery at Charter Grove. He is a good and honorable man, and his friends are many.

ORRIN MERRITT, senior member of the firm of Merritt & Hadsall, contractors and builders, Genoa, was born in Concord township, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, September 27, 1831. His father, Calvin Merritt, was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, and moved to Ohio in an early day while that state was yet on the frontier. In 1844 he came to Illinois and purchased a farm at Shattuck's Grove, Boone county, to which he added three hundred and twenty acres of fine land. On that farm he lived until after the death of his wife, and about 1870 sold it, and made his home with his children during the remainder of his life, dying when upwards of eighty years of age. In politics he was a life-long Democrat, and was honored with several minor township offices. He married Eliza Shattuck, born about six miles from Oswego, New York, in 1805, and a daughter of Caleb and Amelia Shattuck, also natives of New York. She died in 1851. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Mrs. Louisa Herrick, Mrs. Delilah Hinman, Orrin, Mrs. Esther Ingraham, Mrs. Selinda Harris, Girden, Mrs. Rosetta Conover, and Mrs. Josephine Landreth. The paternal grandfather, Moses Merritt, moved from Massachusetts to Ohio, where he died at the age of sixty-five years. His occupation was that of a farmer during his entire life.

The subject of this sketch attended the district schools in his native state until the age of twelve years, and then spent one year in a private school at Cleveland, Ohio. He accompanied the family from Ohio to Shat-

tuck's Grove, near Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, where they arrived in July, 1844. They came by lakes from Cleveland to Chicago, and by teams to Shattuck's Grove, and were three weeks *en route*. Arriving here our subject entered school in Belvidere, which he attended until fifteen years old. He began life for himself at the age of sixteen years, working during the winter months in the pineries in the south and spending his summers at home. He would go to the pineries in the fall, where he would spend seven months chopping wood for steamboats. In the fall of 1849 he went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent eight years learning the trade of ship carpenter, at which he worked a portion of the time as journeyman. Returning to Illinois, he bought a farm near Shattuck's Grove, which he cultivated for six years. He then went to Chicago, and for four years was engaged in ship building, and three years in the car shops of the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1877, he came to Genoa, and for eleven years followed contracting and building alone. Since 1888 he has been in partnership with John Hadsall, and they are now the most substantial builders in Genoa.

Mr. Merritt was married February 7, 1850, near Shattuck's Grove, to Miss Mary Wilson, a native of Upper Canada, born in October, 1834, and a daughter of Thomas Wilson, born in Lower Canada, and who served in the war of 1812. He came to Illinois in 1844, locating near Shattuck's Grove, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying when past eighty-one years. One of his sons served in the war for the Union. His father was Christopher Wilson. To Mr. and Mrs. Merritt four children have been born—Albert, Andrew, Hattie and Henry. The first named is now deceased.

Henry has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Cora Atwood, by whom he has three children, Albert, Jennie and Mary. His second union was with Miss Nettie Thompson and they have two children, Orrin and Harry.

In politics Mr. Merritt is an independent Democrat, in national elections usually voting his party ticket, and in local elections for the best man. Fraternally he is a member of Genoa Lodge, No. 768, I. O. O. F., and of Ellwood Encampment at Sycamore. He has never been an office seeker nor an office holder, serving only as a member of the village board. Enterprising and progressive, he endeavors to do what will best advance the interest of his adopted town and county.

PETER RAMER, a retired farmer residing in the village of Hinkley, has been a resident of Illinois since 1846, and for many years was one of the most successful farmers in De Kalb county. He was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, August 4, 1830, and is the son of Henry Ramer, a native of the same county and state, born August 8, 1804. The paternal grandfather was likewise a native of Pennsylvania, while the family are of German descent. Henry Ramer grew to manhood in his native county, and there married Susanna Troup, a native of Perry county, Pennsylvania, born November 2, 1808. The early life of Henry Ramer was spent on a farm, and he chose the occupation of farming for a life work. In 1832 he moved to Richland county, Ohio, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, and there continued until 1846, when he came to Illinois, first locating in Du Page county, where he remained

three years, and then came to De Kalb county, settling in Pierce township. He there purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres and at once commenced the development of the place. Not a house was in sight in any direction, although it was not many years before neighbors began to settle around them. He later purchased one hundred and sixty acres additional, making him a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres. The improvements that he made were all first class, and on that farm he spent the last years of his life, dying April 30, 1881, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife died January 9, 1877.

Peter Ramer, our subject, was the oldest son of a family of seven sons and three daughters born to his parents, all of whom grew to mature years. He assisted his father in clearing and opening up the Ohio farm, and also in breaking the land and developing the farm in De Kalb county. He remained with his parents as a dutiful son until after attaining his majority. He earned his first dollar after the age of twenty-one years by mowing for a neighbor. He was married in De Kalb county, July 30, 1853, to Elizabeth Garlach, a native of Germany, who came when a child with her parents to the United States, her father becoming one of the early settlers of De Kalb county. After his marriage he rented for one year, and then bought eighty acres of raw prairie land in Pierce township, built a small house and strawbarn and began farming in earnest. He later bought eighty acres adjoining, giving him a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he resided for many years. In due time the small dwelling house gave place to a more pretentious one, the straw barn to a large frame one, with plenty of shed room for stock. He also purchased

one hundred and sixty acres additional, making his farm comprise three hundred and twenty acres.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ramer seven children were born, as follows: Wilhelmina, wife of Adolphus Harter, of Aurora, Illinois; Elihu B., a farmer, of Squaw Grove township; Frankie, wife of Elias Myers, a farmer of Pierce township, residing on the old homestead; Grant, a farmer, of Paw Paw township; Ella, who is now housekeeper for her father, and two who died in childhood. The mother of these children died July 26, 1892, leaving many friends to mourn her loss.

Mr. Ramer has been a life-long Republican, casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, followed by Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and every presidential nominee of the party to the present time. He has been honored by his fellow citizens with several offices of honor and trust and in every position has discharged the duties in a most satisfactory manner. In 1890 he rented his farm, purchased property in Hinckley and removed to that village, where he has since lived retired. He is one of the official members of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he has been connected for forty years. For forty-nine years he has been a resident of Illinois and in the great changes that have been made he has done his part.

**J**OHN HELSON, a retired farmer residing in the city of Sycamore, was born in the town of Plymouth, Devonshire, England, November 24, 1819. His father, John Helson Sr., was born in the parish of Braidwood, Widger, Devonshire, England, about 1790, and died at the age of seventy-four years. In his young manhood he was

a workman in the limestone quarries, and about 1823 was nearly killed by a premature blast, a piece being cut out of his face. After that he engaged in general work as a common laborer. His wife, Mary Harris, a daughter of Joseph Harris, was born near Plymouth, Devonshire, England, and died when about forty-five years old.

In his boyhood and youth our subject worked on a farm in Devonshire, but from the age of twenty-one years, for a period of nine years, he worked in the mines in Cornwall. Leaving that employment he came to the United States, sailing from Plymouth in the vessel *Cordelia*, a three masted ship, leaving April 4, 1848, and landing in Quebec, Canada, after a voyage of six weeks and three days. From Quebec he went to Erie, Pennsylvania, by lake, and from there to New Castle, by the old Pittsburg & Erie canal, where he remained from June, 1848, until the spring of 1851. Leaving New Castle he came to Illinois and purchased a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, lying partly in Kane and De Kalb counties. He later added to his original purchase until he had two hundred and seventy-five acres of well improved land. In the spring of 1851 he moved his family to Sycamore township, and, leaving them, went to the Lake Superior copper mines and remained there until the fall of 1852, when he returned to his family and remained with them until the spring of 1853, when he again returned to the mines and remained there until the fall of 1854. Returning home he then engaged in farming until the fall of 1870, when he came to Sycamore, and has since been living retired.

Mr. Helson was married in St. Clear parish, Devonshire, England, to Miss Elizabeth Jane, daughter of William and Cath-

erine (John) Jane. By this union seven children have been born: George John, residing on a farm in Sycamore township; May Jane, wife of W. W. London; Elizabeth, wife of William Shuey, of Sycamore township; Richard John, residing in Iowa; Louisa, wife of William Seamans, of Sycamore; Catherine, wife of Nicholas Johnson, of Sycamore; and Thomas, of the firm of Briggs, Helson & Olson. Mrs. Helson died June 22, 1896. She was a member of the M. E. church.

William W. London, the son-in-law of Mr. Helson, of whom mention has been made, was born in Grampian Hills township, Fairfield county, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1841, and is the son of Richard W. and Sarah Ann (Estes) London, both of whom were natives of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. He came west with his parents in 1855, arriving in De Kalb county March 6, of that year. His father purchased a farm of eighty acres in Mayfield township, which he later sold, and purchased one on the west line of the city of Sycamore, where he lived seven years, then sold and bought eighty-six acres in Cortland township, which he later rented, and moving to Sycamore resided there until his death, February 1, 1880. William W. remained at home until he attained his majority when he rented a farm for three years, then married, and rented other farms for four years, and later purchased land and continued farming until the spring of 1895, when he removed to Sycamore and is now living retired. His present farm in Mayfield township consists of one hundred and eighty acres.

In 1870 Mr. Helson purchased residence property on Cross street, Sycamore, to which he removed, but has since given to



his daughter, Mrs. London, with whom he makes his home. For many years he was a member of the United Brethern church, but is now a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics is a Republican, although with strong prohibition tendencies. He has held the office of road commissioner and school director the greater part of the time since residing in the county. He was offered the supervisorship and other offices, but refused to accept.

**A**ARON MOWERS, of Franklin township, is a self-made man, one of the best farmers in De Kalb county, and now owns and operates a farm of six hundred and forty acres. He is a native of Herkimer county, New York, born May 10, 1823, and is the son of John G. and Catherine (Buell) Mowers, both natives of New York state, who were the parents of six children—Giddie, Eliza, Sina and Maria (twins), Levi and Aaron. Of these our subject is the only survivor. The paternal grandfather, George Mowers, was also a native of New York state, and a soldier in the Revolutionary war, for services in which, during the last years of his life, he drew a pension. By occupation he was a farmer. His death occurred at a very advanced age.

Aaron Mowers was reared on the home farm in his native state and educated in its public schools. In March, 1851, he married Margaret Rickard, a native of Herkimer county, New York, and a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Oak) Rickard, both natives of the same state. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom are deceased, Nancy, Peter, John and Phebe. The living are Margaret, David, Louisa, Alva and Eliza. The paternal grandfather

of Mrs. Mowers was Peter Rickard, who was likewise a native of Herkimer county, New York, a farmer by occupation and who lived to an advanced age. To Mr. and Mrs. Mowers seven children have been born—Fayette, Harvey, James, Mary, Charlie, Allan and Lizzie, the last named being deceased.

About one year after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Mowers came to De Kalb county and located in South Grove township, on section 17, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of government land at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. He at once commenced the improvement of the same, and, as his means increased, added to the area of his land, until he has now six hundred and forty acres, worth on an average seventy-five dollars per acre. In all his farming operations he has met with success, and is now numbered among the most substantial farmers of the county. In politics he is an enthusiastic Republican and has served as road commissioner three years. His residence in Fairdale is a neat and attractive one, and he can well afford to live in ease and retirement, enjoying the fruits of years of honest toil.

**C**ARL BURTON CRAWFORD, one of the leading business men of Genoa and a dealer in groceries, was born in Genoa township, March 27, 1865. His father, Alexander Crawford, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, December 22, 1822, and in the spring of 1828 accompanied his parents to Richmond county, Ohio, and there resided until 1839. On the first of November of that year the family left Ohio and reached Genoa, Illinois, the 24th of the same month, driving through by wagon.

His father settled first in Sycamore township, where he bought a claim, but later sold it and went to Iowa, where he died in 1867. Alexander Crawford, Jr., remained in Illinois when his parents moved west. He here married, December 25, 1845, Miss Laura Shurtleff, a native of Canada and a daughter of David and Ruth (Knapp) Shurtleff, her father being a son of Ichabod Shurtleff. They became the parents of five children. Mrs. Theresa Smith, Henry, Howard, Everhard and Carl. The paternal grandfather, Alexander Crawford, Sr., married Rachel Kidd, a daughter of William Kidd and a native of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. She died in Sycamore township. The paternal great-grandfather, David Crawford, who married a Miss Wickham, was a native of Pennsylvania and there spent his entire life.

The subject of this sketch attended the Genoa schools until the age of seventeen years, and for six or seven years clerked in his father's store. In 1894 the father retired from business and was succeeded by his sons, one of whom took charge of the dry goods and our subject the grocery department. He now carries a complete line of staple and fancy groceries and has an excellent trade. He was married in Genoa in 1880 to Miss Luella Baldwin, a native of Genoa and a daughter of William Clark Baldwin. They have become the parents of five children: Vernon, Vellma, Frank, Arla and Ione, the last named being deceased.

In politics Mr. Crawford is a Republican and has served as a member of the village board one term and township collector one term. Fraternally he is a Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Old Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of the Globe.

REV. W. S. GRANGE, pastor of the Congregational church of Malta, Illinois, was born in Eldredsville, Sullivan county, Pennsylvania, April 7, 1857, and is the son of John W. and Eliza (Vough) Grange, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a farmer of respectability and prominence in his county and died in August, 1897. He was of English extraction, while his wife was of Scotch descent. She survives him and resides on the farm in Sullivan county, Pennsylvania. Their family consisted of eleven children, nine of whom are yet living. One of their sons is an attorney at Wheaton, Illinois. Each of the sons and two of the daughters have been teachers in the public schools, a fact that speaks well for their parents and well as for their own ambition in that line.

The subject of this sketch is third in order of birth, and was reared and received his primary education in the common schools of his native township. Subsequently he attended Groveland Seminary, in Dodge county, Minnesota, and afterward took a special course at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois. On leaving college, he entered the Chicago Theological Seminary, from which he was graduated in 1892. Four years previous to this, however, he was ordained to the ministry at Dayton, Iowa.

Shortly after being graduated from the Theological Seminary in 1892, Mr. Grange assumed his first pastorate, taking charge of the Congregational church at Atkinson, Illinois. During his pastorate of this church he succeeded in purchasing from the Presbyterians a building in the country which formed a mission field for his church. He improved the property of his own church by adding a lecture room and pastor's study. During this pleasant pastorate, his congre-

gation almost doubled, and his membership increased very nearly in the same proportion.

It was during his residence in Atkinson that Mr. Grange saw the necessity of having files for sermons and clippings. He put his mind to work on this matter and, being a practical man, he has brought out as a result of his concentration of thought, one of the most useful files for all kinds of business that is in the market to-day. These files cases are indorsed by such men as Rev. Fred Brown, La Harpe, Illinois; Rev. Marion D. Shutler, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Rev. Cyrus Northrup, president of the University of Minnesota; Rev. William Stevens Perry, Bishop of Iowa, and many others. The business of manufacturing these files has grown on his hands very largely and as the files become known it will still more largely increase.

On the 23d of April, 1884, Mr. Grange was united in marriage with Miss Florence Douglas, a native of Minnesota, born in 1868, and a daughter of Henry and Mary Douglas. By this union four children have been born, three of whom are now living: Earl, Ross and John. Mrs. Grange departed this life September 23, 1892, dying in the full assurance of faith. For his second wife, on June 19, 1893, Mr. Grange married Miss Helen Tibbetts, a native of Dodge county, Minnesota, and daughter of Thomas J. and Helen Tibbetts.

In 1896 Mr. Grange moved to Wheaton, Illinois, where he remained for about nine months. From Wheaton he was called to Malta, where he now enjoys the pleasant and profitable pastorate with the full confidence and respect of his parishoners. Besides being pastor of the church, Mr. Grange is pursuing his business of file mak-

ing. Although he has resided in Malta a comparatively short time he has made many friends and his influence is very great.

**W**ILLIAM L. KING, a farmer residing on section 3, Sycamore township, was born on the farm where he now resides December 7, 1872, and was the only son of Alfred and Mary Belinda (Evans) King, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. When seven years of age, the family moved to a farm one-half mile north in Genoa township, and on that farm and one adjoining, owned by his father, he remained until his marriage, in the spring of 1894. In the district schools he obtained his education, attending principally in the winter months until twenty years of age. He has grown up on the farm and has always given his attention to agricultural pursuits. At the age of twenty he rented his father's place one season, then married and came to his present farm, which consists of one hundred and thirty-seven acres.

Mr. King was married February 21, 1894, to Miss Julia Mary Whitacre, a daughter of Edwin A. and Susan (Warner) Whitacre, both of whom are natives of Muncie township, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, the former born December 2, 1844, and the latter June 28, 1844. They were married in Pennsylvania in 1868, and there resided until 1873, when they removed to Spring township, Boone county, Illinois, where they resided until February, 1884, when they came to Sycamore township, De Kalb county, where Mr. Whitacre has a farm of two hundred and four acres. They were the parents of six children: James, Julia Mary, Alfred, Arthur, William and Leslie.

To Mr. and Mrs. King one child has

been born. Dorothy They reside in a pleasant home where Mr. King is engaged in general farming. Since taking possession of the farm, he has put in tiling and has rebuilt the house, erected outbuildings and made considerable repairing. The place is in good condition, and the farm is a very productive one. In politics Mr. King is a Republican.

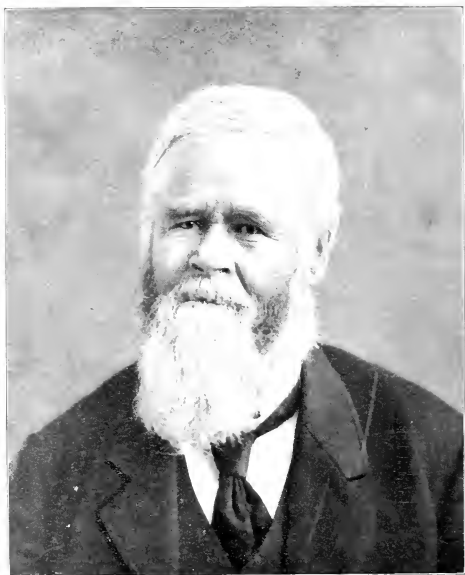
**ARAMONT NOBLE HOLLEMBEAK** is a well-known retired farmer residing in Genoa, one of the few living pioneers of De Kalb county. He was born in the town of Warsaw, Genesee county, New York, February 5, 1816, and is the son of Ruloff W. Hollembeak, who was born in Shoreham, Vermont, about 1785. He was a hatter by trade, and moved to Genesee county, New York, prior to 1816, and later moved to Crawford county, Pennsylvania. His death occurred in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, in 1830, at the age of forty-five years. He married Electa Ames, a daughter of Barnabas Ames, who married a Miss Noble. The Ames' are an old New England family. To Ruloff W. and Electa Hollembeak, nine children were born, two of whom died in infancy. Those attaining maturity were: Electa, Betsy, Aramont N., Alfred, Abram, William, and Amy. Of these, Electa, Betsy, Alfred and Abram are deceased. The paternal grandfather, Abraham Hollembeak, was a native of Vermont, and when a young man moved to Canada, and later to Crawford county, Pennsylvania, where he died when about ninety years old. His wife was Miss Lovina Lord. Ruloff W. Hollembeak was a descendant of one of three brothers, John,

Clark and George, who came from Holland prior to the Revolutionary war.

The subject of this sketch was about six years old when his parents moved to Beaver, Crawford county, Pennsylvania. His father died when he was about fourteen years of age, and he continued under the parental roof until the age of sixteen years, when he went to Comeant Lake, Pennsylvania, where he served an apprenticeship of three years in learning the wagonmaker's trade. He then returned to Comeant, Ohio, and worked about three years, and from there went to his old home in Pennsylvania. On the 12th of January, 1838, in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, he was united in marriage with Miss Parmelia Decker, Elder Jesse Church officiating. She is a native of Manchester, Genesee county, New York, born May 17, 1817, and a daughter of Frederick and Amy (Barney) Decker. She emigrated to Crawford county, Pennsylvania, with her mother, her father having died in New York.

Immediately after his marriage Mr. Hollembeak came to Boone county, Illinois, and spent the winter at Shattuck's Grove. Leaving his wife at the Grove he went to Chicago and found work at his trade during the winter. On his return in the spring he built a log house on his claim, of one hundred and sixty acres, which was in De Kalb county, and that season broke twenty acres. Mr. Hollembeak has still his patent from the government, the land never having been transferred. In his log cabin he put up a bench, using the house for a shop as well as dwelling. In an early day Mr. Hollembeak had quite a reputation for curing poll evil in horses. On that farm he resided until 1877, and during the intervening years, like all other settlers, had his





A. N. HOLLEMBEAK.



MRS. A. N. HOLLEMBEAK.





seasons of prosperity and seasons of adversity. On the whole he has, however, done better than most men who began as he did with nothing but willing hands and strong heart for capital. Being of an ingenious turn of mind he has invented and taken out patents on barb wire and various other devices, including a wind mill, which he manufactured for a number of years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hollembeak six children have been born. (1) Delia Ann married Frederick Totten and they have three children, Charles, William and Etta. Charles married Zeni P. Ploss and has had four children, George, Fern, Ruth and Frank, deceased. William married Ella Sheely, and they have five children, Ethel, Flossie, Frederick, Annie and Grace. William died in July, 1898. Etta married Frank Champlain, and their three children are Blanche, William and Louie. (2) Alfred S. married Blanche Cohoon. (3) Henry C. first married Emily Sackville, and they had two children, Emily, deceased, and Oscar. His second union was with Millie Noble. (4) Emily married George Ide, and their children were Harry and Ralph, both deceased. (5) Ruloff W. married Emma Brown, and their children are Harry and Roy. (6) Ralph D. married Lily Brown, and they have one child living, Helen.

In 1877 Mr. Hollembeak erected a comfortable cottage in Genoa where he moved with his family, and has since been living quietly at peace with the world. Mr. and Mrs. Hollembeak, are Spiritualists in religious belief. In politics he is a Republican, and in times passed took an active interest in political affairs. He served as supervisor of his township two-terms, several terms as assessor, and also held other minor offices, and served six years as police

justice in Genoa. For about forty years he has been a member of the Masonic lodge at Genoa.

On the 12th of January, 1898, Mr. and Mrs. Hollembeak celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. About thirty relatives were present to partake of the festivities. The day was spent in an enjoyable manner and all had a glorious good time. An elaborate dinner was served, the tables fairly groaning under the load of good things.

At one table the host and hostess sat with their own family as follows: Mrs. A. N. Pond, Mr. Hollembeak's sister; William Hollembeak, his brother; Edgar Phelps, son of his sister, Betsey Phelps, and Mrs. Gardner, daughter of his sister, Mrs. Farr. The children sat at the table as they did when they were all living at home. Delia Ann and Alfred sat next their father, while Ralph, Yuluff and Emily were placed next to their mother in the order of their ages, the line being broken by the absence of Henry. Delia Ann is the oldest and Ralph the youngest child. On this table an elegant cake was placed in which sixty candles were burning, emblematic of the number of years of connubial bliss. The other table was surrounded by the rest of the relatives.

The reception room was beautifully decorated with evergreen, flowers, etc., presenting a very pretty appearance. On the east wall over the parlor door were the words "welcome," on the south wall the words "1838-Anniversary-1898" and on the west "Sixtieth." As a token of respect the relatives presented Mr. and Mrs. Hollembeak with a handsomely made oak extension table and their own children gave them a beautiful set of dining-room chairs. It was indeed a pleasant and most unusual

affair and those who were in attendance will long remember it as one of the happiest events of their lives. About dusk the guests departed for their respective homes after wishing the host and hostess many happy returns of the day.

Those present were: Messrs. and Mesdames William Hollembeak, Edgar, Phelps, Frank Hollembeak, Abram Hollembeak, George Blanchard and the Misses Eva Phelp and Grace Hollembeak, of Sycamore; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hollembeak and daughter, of Elgin; Messrs. and Mesdames A. H. Pond, D. S. Brown, A. R. Cohoon, A. Cohoon, Gardner and Ralph Hollembeak, of Genoa; Mr. and Mrs. Will Pond, of De Kalb.

**J**OHNS TISCHHOUSER, contractor and builder, resides on De Kalb avenue, Sycamore, Illinois, is a native of Switzerland, born in the village of Sevelen, Canton St. Gallen, December 29, 1849, and is the son of John and Rosa (Gedint) Tischhouser, the former born in Russia, but was reared in Canton St. Gallen, Switzerland, August 15, 1813, and the latter in Canton Grau-Buenden, Switzerland. The paternal grandfather, Simon Tischhouser, learned the confectioner's trade in Brussels and Antwerp, worked many years in England, came to America, and made his way to St. Louis, where he built and operated the first baker's oven in the city, or village as it was then. He recrossed the Atlantic, worked for a time in Spain, then went to Italy, and later joined the army of Napoleon. He was in the Russian campaign, was captured, and later joined the Russian army, and in due time was commissioned captain, a position he held for eight years, and then retired on a pension. He was six feet six inches in

height, was never sick, never needed glasses, teeth good until his death, heavy head of hair, and very powerful and vigorous during his entire life. He died at the age of ninety-nine years and seven months.

John Tischhouser, the father of our subject, studied veterinary surgery seven years in Switzerland, after which he practiced the profession there until coming to America, and on his arrival here resumed practice, and continued the same until his death. He died at the residence of a daughter in Michigan in 1894. Like his father before him, he was an exceedingly strong man and could easily carry seven hundred pounds weight. In height he was six feet four inches, and weighed two hundred and fifty pounds. His wife, Rosa Gedint, was the daughter of Casper Gedint, who in middle life was accidentally killed in the forest on the mountain side by a log rolling on him. His wife, Catherina, died in Switzerland at the age of seventy-eight years. Mrs. Rosa Tischhouser died in 1871. She was the mother of seven children, six of whom are yet living.

John Tischhouser, our subject, lived in Switzerland until the age of sixteen years, and there received his education in the public schools. Leaving home, he went to Antwerp by rail, thence by canal to the sea, and embarked April 6, 1865, in a three-masted sailing vessel, for the United States. In mid-ocean his vessel spoke a steamer conveying news of Lincoln's assassination. Our subject was so delighted to see a vessel with other human beings—anything from land—that he climbed the mast to watch it as long as visible. Passengers were not allowed in the riggings, but Mr. Tischhouser being a venturesome youth, climbed to the top of the mast and took a gold ball from

it. He was arrested by a sailor and taken before the captain, but so won his favor that he was not punished, and the captain became a good friend to him during the rest of the voyage. It was a stormy passage, and their vessel was driven nearly to the coast of Greenland. Its masts were blown away, supplies of food ran low, and water was very scarce and very foul—worse than pond water—yet passengers would have been glad to steal even a pint of it had guards not been kept over the water barrels.

After a voyage of one hundred and four days and four days in quarantine, landed at Castle Garden, New York, June 13, 1865. After a few days spent in New York, by rail he came west to Chicago where he secured work as hostler in a hotel at thirty dollars a month, a munificent income to a foreign born boy. The work kept him up nearly all night, and was too fatiguing, so he quit and worked in a brick yard for a time on Goose Island at two dollars and a half per day, and thought himself a millionaire. He next went to Kane county, Illinois, and worked on a farm near Dundee the greater part of the year at twenty-five dollars per month. Being a large and strong youth and a good worker he always commanded the highest wages. From Dundee he went to Davenport, Iowa, and worked on the farm of a fellow countryman at good wages and then went with some friends to St. Louis, and from there to southern Illinois where he worked in a saw mill for about eighteen months, after which he spent nearly a year in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and from the latter state returned to Wisconsin, and at Oshkosh worked two summers and spent one winter in saw mills and a lumber camp.

From the saw mills and lumber camps

of Wisconsin he crossed the plains and spent about a year in Oregon and California, then returned east, and at Des Moines, Iowa, worked one year on the water tower, and while there had an exciting experience, narrowly escaping death by stepping off the river bridge a few seconds before it went down under the weight of some six hundred and forty ponies that stampeded, nearly the entire number getting on the bridge at once, instead of a few at a time, as it was intended should be done. From Des Moines he went to West Bend, Wisconsin, where during the next four years he finished learning the carpenter's trade which he had previously begun. After spending two years at Kenosha, Wisconsin, he went to Chicago where he remained until April, 1875, when he removed to Sycamore, Illinois, where he has since continued to reside, engaged in contracting and building. Since removing to Sycamore he has erected eighty-seven barns in the country, thirty-two residences in the city of Sycamore, fourteen residences in the country near by, and about twenty residences, stores and school-houses in Rockford, Belvidere, Kirkland, Kingston, Hampshire and other surrounding towns. For Joseph Glidden, near De Kalb, he erected one of the largest barns in the state, being sixty-five by one hundred and fifty feet. At Kenosha, Wisconsin, he built a barn sixty-four by two hundred feet, with an extension for mill purposes.

Mr. Tischhouser was united in marriage January 2, 1872, with Miss Louisa Claire Leech, a native of Kenosha, Wisconsin, and a daughter of John E. Leech, of Lancaster, England, who married a Miss Turner, of Yorkshire, England, and a daughter of Abraham Turner. By this union there are seven children: Arthur, a gradu-

ate of the Sycamore high school, and now foreman in the can factory; Delford Lee, working in the factory under his brother; Rosa May and Millie Edna, at home; John, deceased; Clarence Raymond and John Edward, at home. Fraternally Mr. Tischhouser is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the National Union. In politics he is a Democrat, and is now serving as alderman of the city.

**A**RTHUR ALLISON is numbered among the young and progressive farmers of De Kalb county. He is a native of Franklin township, born on the farm where he now resides October 10, 1869. His father, James T. Allison, was born in Burnside township, Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1832. The paternal grandparents, Andrew and Mary (Lee) Allison, were both natives of Pennsylvania and the parents of four children, of whom James T. is the sole survivor. He was left an orphan when but two years old by the death of his mother, and resided with his father until ten years of age and then made his home with his grandfather, Jacob Lee, until he was eighteen years old, his education being received in the district schools of his native state. In 1855 he came to Illinois and settled in Boone county, where he worked by the day and month. He made his first purchase of land in 1861, buying a tract of forty acres, to which he kept adding as his means increased until he has now one hundred and sixty acres of well cultivated land. He was married on the 20th of September, 1860, to Margaret Wood, a native of Canada, and to them were born three children, Elizabeth, John F. and Arthur. The two sons now run the home farm.

Elizabeth married Charles Miner, a merchant of Kirkland. For twelve years James C. Allison served as school director and was five years road commissioner. In politics he is a Republican.

On the home farm Arthur Allison grew to manhood and attended school at Kirkland for two years after leaving his district school. He then entered the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company and was fireman on an engine for five years. On the 7th of July, 1892, he married Myrtle Byers, a daughter of A. B. Byers, of South Grove township, De Kalb county, and they have one daughter, Ruth E.

Mr. and Mrs. Allison have a farm of one hundred and twenty acres of good land, a portion of her father's estate. They reside, however, on his father's farm, where he is engaged in general farming and stock raising. In politics he is an ardent Republican.

**H**ENRY H. SLATER, who is engaged in the general mercantile business at Genoa, Illinois, is one of the best known citizens in the northern part of De Kalb county. He was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, October 31, 1838, and is the son of Samuel Slater, and the grandson of Henry Slater, who spent his entire life in New Jersey, and who died when about seventy-five years of age. The family are of Scotch descent. Samuel Slater was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, in 1816. He married Rhoda Burroughs a daughter of Timothy and Phebe (Green) Burroughs, the latter being a daughter of Joseph Green of New Jersey, who married Elizabeth Gillis, a native of Ireland, who came to America when about fourteen years old. Timothy Burroughs was a great-grandson of John Burroughs,

who moved from Long Island to Trenton, New Jersey, and was one of the first sheriffs of that county. He was followed by his son John, and the latter by a son of the same name, who was the father of Timothy. The third John served in the Revolutionary war, and on that account was a pensioner of the general government. His death occurred in 1835, when about eighty-five years old. He married Rhoda Hendrickson, a daughter of Thomas Hendrickson. They became the parents of five children, of whom Rhoda, the mother of our subject, was fourth in order of birth. She and the youngest of the family, the now venerable Isaac I. Burroughs, are the only survivors. Mrs. Rhoda Burroughs lived to be ninety years of age. Of the children born to Samuel and Rhoda Slater, two survive, our subject and Martha, wife of Chauncey D. Flint, an engineer of Chicago.

Henry H. Slater spent his boyhood in his native state, and there remained until sixteen years of age. His education was obtained in the district school and in a private school in Warren county, New Jersey. On coming to Illinois, he went with his father to a farm two and a half miles east of Genoa, and worked with him until the age of twenty-one years, when his father gave him a farm which he proceeded to cultivate, and in which he continued until the second year of the war for the Union. He enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Genoa, September 2, 1872, and was mustered in with his regiment at Dixon, and was soon afterwards sent to the front. The regiment joined the main army at Louisville, Kentucky, and the first battle in which it was engaged was at Resaca, Georgia. It was later in the Atlanta campaign, and with

Sherman on the march to the sea. While at Raleigh, North Carolina, they heard the news of the surrender of Lee and the fall of Richmond. The regiment then marched through Richmond, Virginia, and after viewing the battle grounds, proceeded to Washington, where it participated in the Grand Review. It was mustered out at Washington, and discharged at Chicago, in June, 1865.

Returning home Mr. Slater opened a general store in Genoa, later adding a stock of drugs. In 1870 he disposed of his store and went into business at Gardner, Illinois, but in 1873 returned to Genoa and again entered into the mercantile business. In 1876 he built a large brick store room and later took his son into partnership. The son is now deceased and the firm name is now H. H. Slater.

Mr. Slater was married January 23, 1867, in Genoa, to Miss Amaretta B. Stiles, born in Fraleysburg, Canada, just across the line from Vermont, and a daughter of Asahel Stiles, a native of Benson, Vermont, born August 14, 1797, and died in Genoa February 7, 1883. He came to Illinois in November, 1848, coming by canal and lakes to Chicago and by teams to De Kalb county, locating in Sycamore township, three miles south of Genoa. He was one of the builders of the court house in Sycamore and was by trade a carpenter. His son, Aaron K. Stiles, was county clerk of De Kalb county for twelve years. Asahel Stiles married Fannie Smith, a native of Sudbury, Vermont, a daughter of Enoch and Mary (Wilson) Smith, natives of England. To our subject and wife two children were born, Samuel and Margaret. The former was for a time in business with his father, but is now deceased.

Fraternally Mr. Slater is a member of the Masonic lodge at Genoa, and also of the Grand Army of the Republic. Well known throughout the county, he is a man who has many warm friends and as a business man has always been enterprising and up with the times.

**JONAS INGMANSON** is now living retired in the city of Sycamore. He was born March 19, 1828, in the province of Smolen, Sweden, and is the son of Ingman and Elna (Johnson) Swanson, both of whom were natives of Sweden. The father died when our subject was but one year old, and the mother when he was but sixteen years of age. He was thus left to be brought up by relatives. Until the age of thirteen he was taught by a private teacher, a lady who passed from house to house, hearing recitations and giving instructions. In 1841 the state school system extended to Smolen, and our subject attended the public school until his fifteenth year, when he was confirmed.

At the age of sixteen our subject commenced to learn engineering, and from that time until 1857 he ran a boat on a small lake near his birth place. It was while thus employed that the only accident that ever befell him occurred. During a violent storm, April 11, 1852, the machinery became misplaced, and in his efforts to get it right, the boat pitched in a rough sea, and his left hand was caught in the gearing, severing two fingers. During his twenty years in charge of engines in Sweden, he never had the slightest accident to machinery or engines. During the construction of the first railroad in Sweden, he was employed in the works, and for six years ran an engine on the road. Later he went to Gottenberg,

and was employed as an engineer in a saw mill until his emigration to America.

On July 18, 1870, Mr. Ingmanson sailed from Malme, for New Castle, England, thence went by rail to Liverpool, where he took a vessel on the Inman line, for New York. Arriving in the latter city, he came direct to Sycamore, where a brother had preceded him, reaching here August 9, 1870, being nearly a month after sailing from Malme. He secured what labor he could find for a time, then for a year ran an engine for the Reuben Ellwood Manufacturing Company. After the great Chicago fire, he went to that city, and for six or seven months, received the high wages paid for labor after the disaster. On returning to Sycamore, he worked in the Marsh Harvester Works for a time, and later ran an engine for the Russell Manufacturing Company.

Leaving the employ of the latter company, Mr. Ingmanson went to Rockford, Illinois, and established a Paint Manufacturing Company, which he operated for four years. He then returned to Sycamore for a short time, and then moved to Chicago, to be near his children, who were all employed there. After remaining in Chicago four years, he again returned to Sycamore, and established the Russell Varnish and Color Company, which he conducted some three or four years. He then ran an engine for the Patton Manufacturing Company two years, since which time he has lived retired in his comfortable home in Sycamore. According to Swedish custom, he takes his last name from his father's first name.

Mr. Ingmanson was married in Kristianstad, Sweden, April 3, 1862, to Miss Elsie Junson, who was born on the old family estate, known as the Holma District Scone,

province of Usbue, and a daughter of Juns and Elna (Nelson) Larson. By this union there are nine children, seven of whom are living. Emma married Mongue Selberg, a blacksmith and machinist, by whom she has three children, Oscar, Benjamin and Clarence. Albert, who is a machinist by trade, married Tessie Randall, since deceased, and is now living with his parents. Emil, also a machinist by trade, married Ella Johnson and has now a position in a wholesale house in Chicago. Emily married Edwin Nelson, a molder by trade. Jennie and Augusta hold positions in mercantile establishments in Chicago. Esther, a graduate of the Sycamore schools, yet remains at home.

In politics Mr. Ingmanson is a Republican, while he and his family are members of the Episcopal church. He is a distant relative of Christine Nillson, the celebrated Swedish singer. His brother, Andrew Ingmanson, first discovered the possibilities of her voice, and gave financial aid to secure her first instruction. When in this country, on one of her annual tours, she was solicited to give concerts in Sycamore to help the Swedish Lutheran church, but would not consent. Mr. Ingmanson then visited her in Chicago, the result being two concerts in Sycamore which resulted in a large profit for the church.

**J**OSEPH EDMOND PARKER is a well known citizen of Sycamore. He was born in Spencer county, Indiana, July 14, 1845, and is the son of Henry N. and Mary Ann (Stillwell) Parker, the former a native of Ontario county, New York, and the latter of Campbell county, Kentucky. Henry

Parker was born in October, 1814, and was the son of James and Sarah (Hobbs) Parker, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, who died in New York, many years ago. Henry N. Parker had five brothers and one sister. The latter, Louisa, married Robert Graham, but both are now deceased. Lorenzo Dow, a Methodist minister, now deceased. He was named after Lorenzo Dow, who was a cousin of J. E. Parker's grandfather. Charles is still living and is a resident of Liberty, Labette county, Kansas. The deceased are Parley, Orison and Russell.

In 1839, Henry N. Parker moved from his native state to Indiana, where he engaged in farming and where he resided until 1852, when he came to DeKalb county, Illinois, and located in Kingston. Purchasing a farm, he operated the same until his death, May 2, 1898. For many years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was an active worker in that body. Politically, he was a Republican from the organization of the party. Physically, he was a large, well built man, six feet, two inches in height. His wife, Mary Ann Stillwell, is the daughter of Joseph Stillwell, a native of Kentucky. Her parents died in Kentucky, and Shelbyville, Illinois, respectively. Religiously she is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Eight children were born to Henry N. and Mary A. Parker, as follows: Martha, who died in infancy; Sarah Ann, wife of J. D. Woolsey, living in the township of Sycamore; Louisa, wife of Volaski Hix, deceased, living in the city of Sycamore; John R., residing in Chicago; Martha J., a teacher in the public schools of Chicago; Mary Adelaine, wife of Harry Hawks, of Freeport, Illinois; and Fannie,

wife of Walter Poust, living on the old homestead.

The subject of this sketch was eight years old when he accompanied his parents to Kingston, DeKalb county, Illinois, and on the home farm grew to manhood, while receiving his education in the district schools. At the age of twenty-two years he began farming for himself on land leased of his father. He continued to be thus employed for about ten years, when he accepted a position with the Ellwood Manufacturing Company of Sycamore, with which company he remained for about fifteen years, having charge of the packing and shipping and also of the collections. Having learned the carpenter's trade in his youth, on leaving the Ellwood Manufacturing Company, he engaged at his trade for a time, but is now living a retired life.

In September, 1869, Mr. Parker was united in marriage with Miss Mary Jane Parker, born in New York, and a daughter of John and Mary (Anderson) Parker, natives of Ireland, who came in their youth with their parents from the old country. She died in June, 1887, bearing one son, Samuel Fay, who is employed in the office of the True Republican at Sycamore, Illinois. Mr. Parker was married the second time, April 7, 1892, to Eliza Jane Mackey, a daughter of Harrison and Mary (Hall) Mackey. Her father was a native of Ulster county, New York, and by trade was a blacksmith, which he followed in early life. On coming west in the spring of 1839 he located in Mayfield township, De Kalb county, where he began farming and where his death occurred August 22, 1890. His wife, Mary, died January 22, 1856. They had three children as follows: Mary R., now Mrs. H. H. Coleman, of Sycamore;

Eliza Jane, wife of our subject, and Julia Ann, who married John Westlake, and died April 8, 1869. (See Sketch of Harrison Mackey.)

When he engaged with the Ellwood Manufacturing Company, Mr. Parker removed to Sycamore, which has since been his home. He is now living on Main street in a good, comfortable dwelling house, which he has remodeled and which is situated on an attractive ground. Mrs. Parker is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Sycamore. Politically he is a Republican, and fraternally a member of Sycamore Lodge, No. 134, A. F. & A. M., Sycamore Chapter, No. 49, R. A. M., and Sycamore Commandery, No. 15, K. T. For many years he has taken an active part in this order and has served as a delegate to the various grand bodies. He has been worshipful master of the blue lodge, and eminent commander of the commandery.

**CAPTAIN WILLIAM VAN WERT**, who resides on section 9, Franklin township, is not only a veteran of the war for the Union, but comes of good old Revolutionary stock, his great-grandfather, Eldred Van Wert, being a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Eldred Van Wert was a cousin to Isaac Van Wert, who captured Major André. The Van Werts are of Holland-Dutch ancestry, and were early settlers of the state of New York, where Eldred Van Wert was born. His son, Abraham Van Wert, a farmer by occupation, was also a native of that state. Hugh Van Wert, the father of our subject, married Sarah Robins, who was also a native of New York. They became the parents of six children, of whom William and Thomas







CAPT. WILLIAM VAN WERT.



MRS. WILLIAM VAN WERT.



R. are the only survivors. The deceased were Jacob, Susan, Benjamin and Henry. Hugh Van Wert in early life was a farmer and followed agricultural pursuits in his native state. In 1846 he removed to Michigan and settled on a farm in Hillsdale county. He there read medicine and was admitted to practice, and has since followed that profession. He served during the Civil war for a term of two years and was wounded at the battle of South Mountain. He died in Hillsdale county, Michigan, September 28, 1898, at the age of ninety years. For some years he drew a pension of seventeen dollars per month for services in the Civil war.

William Van Wert is a native of Saratoga county, New York, born April 29, 1839. He was but six years of age when he accompanied his parents to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he grew to manhood and received his education in the district schools. On the 20th of April, 1861, at La Porte, Indiana, he enlisted in Company F, Ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under the first call for three months' men. At the expiration of his term of service he enlisted in Company C, Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry at La Porte, Indiana, to serve three years or during the war. He was first made a sergeant of his company, afterward promoted first lieutenant, and later commissioned captain. His regiment was in very active service during almost his entire term of enlistment, and with it he participated in the battles of Phillippi, West Virginia; Shiloh, Stone River, Buzzard Roost, Resaca, all the battles of the Atlanta campaign; Columbia, Tennessee; Franklin, Nashville, Wise Fork, together with various skirmishes. At the battle of Shiloh Captain Van Wert was badly wound-

ed, and because of that wound he now draws a pension of twenty dollars per month. With his regiment he was discharged, September 27, 1865, at Salisbury, North Carolina.

After his discharge, Captain Van Wert returned to La Porte, Indiana, and then engaged in farming until the fall of 1867, when he removed to Boone county, Illinois, and worked on farms by the month for a time. On the 20th of February, 1868, he married Elizabeth A. Shirley, a native of Winnebago county, Illinois, and a daughter of Lewis and Lucinda (Keith) Shirley, both natives of Richland county, Ohio, who came to Illinois, in 1840, and settled on government land, an eighty-acre tract of which they secured at a dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. That tract was only the beginning, Mr. Shirley acquiring before his death over one thousand acres of good land. He died in Cherry Valley, Winnebago county, May 13, 1898. The Shirley family were also patriotic, some of the ancestry of Mr. Shirley serving in the Revolutionary war and in the second war with Great Britain.

In 1875, Captain Van Wert came to De Kalb county, and purchased the farm where he now resides, consisting of one hundred acres of good tillable land. He has been fairly successful in his farming operations, being practical in all his methods. His interest the Civil war is kept alive by membership in Thomas Humphrey Post, No. 530, G. A. R., at Kirkland. He is also a member of Kirkland Camp, No. 141, M. W. A., of Kirkland. In politics he is an enthusiastic Republican, believing firmly in the principles of the party, and acting up to his convictions by giving earnest support to its candidates.

JACOB GIVENS is one of the old and substantial farmers of Malta township, his farm being located on section 34. He was born in Charleston, Montgomery county, New York, April 12, 1815, and is the son of Joseph and Rachel (Stewart) Givens. By occupation Joseph Givens was a miller in early life, but in later years abandoned it for agricultural pursuits. He removed from Charleston to Otsego county, New York, where he purchased a farm, upon which he spent the remainder of his life. He was a man of pure morals and upright principles, whose life was governed by the golden rule. He died in 1838, at the age of seventy-three years, his wife having preceded him, dying in 1833, at the age of fifty-six years. Their family consisted of ten children, and Jacob is the only surviving member.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Otsego county, New York, where he received a fairly good education for the time. He remained under the parental roof until after he attained his majority, assisting in the cultivation of the home farm. When twenty-two years of age, he commenced working out by the day and month. On the 16th of December, 1841, he was united in marriage with Miss Deborah Stewart, a daughter of Daniel and Hannah Stewart. About two years after this event he bought his first farm of fifty acres in Chemung county, New York, where he remained thirteen years, during which time nine children were born, two of whom died in infancy. Those that grew to mature years were Christopher, born June 4, 1843; Loren G., June 9, 1845; Sarah A., April 26, 1847; Albert and Adelbert, twins, July 14, 1848; Harriet E., February 28, 1853; and Clarence F., August 9, 1855. Of these Loren G.,

died June 24, 1860, and Harriet E., June 21, 1895.

In 1855 Mr. Given sold his farm in Chemung county, New York, and in the following year removed to Illinois, locating at Shabbona Grove, De Kalb county. After his removal two more children were born, Fidelia A., January 1, 1858, and Laura E., November 1, 1861. After working on a farm in Shabbona Grove for four years, Mr. Given removed to Malta, Illinois, where he lived about three years, and then purchased his present farm of eighty acres which is very pleasantly situated. Here he has conducted farming on general principles, not running to any special line. Besides the home farm, he owns one hundred and twenty acres of land in Dakota. Mrs. Givens, who was born at Cayuta, New York, February 14, 1818, died at Malta, May 1, 1895, aged seventy-seven years. Mr. Givens has never united with any local church, but is an honest, upright and conscientious man. Politically he is a Republican.

D. BROWN, mayor of the city of De Kalb, is one of her choice and trusted citizens. From 1879 to the present time he has held important offices in the city, and has never shrunk from duty, never overlooked trifles as too insignificant to be noticed, nor never faltered in the pursuit of that which inhaled the interest of the people who placed him in office. His motto has ever been, not only the greatest good to the greatest number, but the greatest good to all.

Mr. Brown is well born and is the son of C. M. and Catherine A. (De Pue) Brown, and was born at Belvidere, New Jersey, August 26, 1845. His parents were both na-

tives of New Jersey, his father born in Chester and his mother in Belvidere. The former was of English extraction and the latter of Holland and French parentage. C. M. Brown was one of Belvidere's prominent business men, and in his younger days acquired his knowledge of the mercantile business in the city of Newark, New Jersey. With his family he removed from Belvidere, New Jersey, to Sycamore, Illinois, in 1841, and there engaged in the mercantile business until 1859, at which time he was elected circuit clerk and recorder of De Kalb county. This position he held and its duties he faithfully and conscientiously discharged for four years. At the expiration of this period he removed to Chicago, where he engaged in the stove and heading business, which he successfully pursued until 1870, when he returned to Sycamore, where he died in March of the same year. C. M. Brown was twice married, his first wife, Catherine, the mother of D. D. Brown, dying in 1849, when the latter was but four years of age. For his second wife he married Miss Louise A. Jackman, a native of New York, who survived him, and by whom he had three children, two yet living—Fred C., of San Antonia, Texas, and M. L., a commission merchant of Chicago. The De Poes were people noted for their intelligence and influence. The youngest brother of Mrs. Brown, Abraham De Pue, was paymaster in the navy, while her eldest brother, David A. De Pue, is judge of one of the courts in Newark, New Jersey.

D. D. Brown was reared and educated at Sycamore, but took a course at Valparaiso, Indiana. At the conclusion of his school days he entered the dry-goods store of Rogers & Wild, where he proved himself an efficient and faithful employee. About this

time the dark and stormy days of the Rebellion were on us. Our nation's honor was at stake and men were needed. In obedience to the call Mr. Brown enlisted in 1864 (his age preventing him from an earlier enlistment), and served as a member of Company F, One Hundred and Thirty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, O. M. Bunnell, captain, and T. J. Pickett, colonel. With his regiment he served in the Army of the Tennessee, with which they were connected until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged at Chicago and returned to his home.

On his return to civil life Mr. Brown entered into the employ of his father, who was at that time engaged in the stove and heading business at Chicago, and there remained one year. In 1867 he obtained a position as captain of a passenger steamboat plying between Paducah, Kentucky, and Eastport, Tennessee. In 1868 he returned to Sycamore, where he engaged with George P. Wilde, a member of the firm for which he worked previous to the war. In the spring of 1874 he formed a co-partnership with C. A. Tindall, of De Kalb, under the firm name of Tindall & Brown, in the mercantile business, and two years later purchased his partner's interest and took entire charge of the business, in which he continued until 1883, when he sold to Charles Reed, of Elburn. At this time he formed another partnership with P. G. Young in the lumber business, which they extensively and successfully pursued under the firm name of Brown & Young. In the spring of 1892 he sold his interest to Mr. Young, since which time he has been engaged as shipping clerk with the Superior Barb Wire Company, afterwards changed to the Ellwood Wire and Nail Company,

and which has now been absorbed by the American Steel & Wire Company.

On the 8th of February, 1872, Mr. Brown was united in marriage with Miss Alice E. Ellwood, a daughter of Hiram and Sarah (Dygart) Ellwood, and by this union two children were born, Zaida E., July 29, 1878, and Sarah Louise, November 27, 1881. Mrs. Brown was born at Herkimer, New York, October 19, 1851. Her education was begun in the public schools of De Kalb, and completed in Xavier's Academy, Chicago. She is a refined and highly educated lady, and a member of the Eastern Star.

Mr. Brown is a decided Republican and has been actively interested in the administration of the municipal affairs of De Kalb. He was elected alderman in 1879 and served faithfully and well in said office. After serving three terms as alderman, in 1883, he was elected mayor of the city and served four years. In 1891 and in 1892 he was elected and served as fire marshal of the city. In 1895 he was again elected to the office of mayor and re-elected in 1897, and is yet filling the position.

Mr. Brown has the entire confidence, not only of his political associates, but of the entire city of De Kalb. His spotless character, his upright life, his amiable and sociable disposition, make him a desirable companion, and increase his already numerous friends, who are willing to place their interests in his hands. He is prominent in the Masonic fraternity, and like all good fellows, who have deservedly traveled the way before him, has had conferred upon him the thirty-second degree. He is also a member of the Royal Arcanum and the G. A. R. Post, at De Kalb, in the latter of which he was commander in 1897. In

1887 he broadened his mind, and added to his already extensive knowledge, by an extended tour through Europe, visiting England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, France and Italy.

LEVI S. HODGE, deceased, was for many years a well-known citizen of De Kalb county. He was born in Chicago, Broome county, New York, December 20, 1815, and was reared in his native state and there resided until 1853, when he came west. When a young man he read medicine, but abandoned the medical profession for that of the law, which he practiced some years in his native state and after coming to Sycamore, Illinois. He was twice married, first to Harriet Davis, by whom he had five children, only one now surviving, Levi Hodge, of Sitka, Alaska. His second union was with Mrs. Adelia A. Holroyd, widow of James Holroyd, the wedding ceremony being celebrated September 20, 1890.

Mrs. Hodge was born in Mingoquinon Prairie, St. Joseph county, Michigan, in 1837. She is the daughter of Daniel M. Thurston, a native of Broome county, New York, born in August, 1820, and a son of Daniel Thurston. He came to Michigan when three years of age, and to Illinois in 1840, residing for the first two years in Chicago. In 1842 he came to De Kalb county and located in Kingston township, where he engaged in farming for eight years, and selling out purchased a farm in Genoa township, where he remained five years. He then went back to Michigan, and there lived five years, but again returned to Genoa township, where he rented a farm one year



and then went to Bremer county, Iowa, where he remained four years. From Bremer county he moved to Fort Scott, Kansas, but returned to Iowa and died in Butler county. He married Melissa D. Phelps, daughter of William and Cynthia Phelps. She was probably born in Pennsylvania and died at the age of seventy years.

Mrs. Hodge first married in Genoa township, July 4, 1855, James Holroyd, who was born near Petersborough, Canada, in 1820, and died in 1881. He was the son of William and Mary (Anson) Holroyd, natives of Leeds, Yorkshire, England, who emigrated to Canada in the spring of 1820. William Holroyd was the son of Benjamin, a gentleman farmer in England, who married Grace Hardwick. By her first marriage Mrs. Hodge became the mother of five children. (1) Maggie D. is the wife of Frank J. Drake, of Kingston township, by whom she has six children: Alta, Edna, Jennie, Warren, Birdie and Marie. (2) Grace B. married Ira Westover, and they have eight children: Fannie, Byron, Eva, May, Benjamin, Frank, William and Edith. They reside in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa. (3) Herbert H. married Frankie Hawks, and they reside in Kingston, Illinois. (4) Albert J. married Belle Thurlby, and they have one daughter, Myrtle. Their residence is in Martin county, Minnesota. Guy W. married Nellie McAvoy, and is engaged in the implement business in Sycamore.

Levi S. Hodge was a very prosperous man and was the owner of several farms in De Kalb county. For four years prior to his death he served as justice of the peace. He died February 25, 1897, leaving many friends in Sycamore and De Kalb county to mourn his loss. Mrs. Hodge is a member

of the Congregational church of Sycamore and also of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, in both of which she takes a very active part. She is of an artistic turn of mind and has some fine portrait work of members of her own family.

**HENRY** KLINE, a substantial farmer and one of the early settlers of De Kalb county, resides on section 8, Franklin township. He is a native of Richland county, Ohio, born March 4, 1822, and is the son of Jacob and Susan (Keith) Kline, both natives of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania. They were the parents of ten children, John, Adam, William, Jacob, Michael, Henry, Simon, Jackson, Margaret and Matilda. All are deceased but Simon and our subject. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Kline, was also a native of Pennsylvania and a farmer by occupation. In an early day Jacob Kline moved with his family to Richland county, Ohio, and there our subject was reared and educated. In 1846 he came to Illinois and worked by the day on farms in Boone county. On the 22d of November, 1847, he married Maria Keith, a native of Morgan county, Ohio, and a daughter of Bolser and Lucy (Smith) Keith, the former a native of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of New York state. Of their family of ten children one died in infancy. Those who lived to maturity were Phebe, Michael, Lucinda, Rhoda, Maria, Margaret, Bolser, Benjamin and Charlotte. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Kline, Peter Keith, was a native of Germany and came to America in an early day. Mrs. Kline came west with her parents in 1837 to Winnebago county, Illinois, where her father purchased one hundred

and twenty acres of government land, to which he later added, giving him a large and excellent farm.

For some years Mr. Kline worked at the mason's and carpenter's trade, but of late years he has given his attention exclusively to farming. He purchased the farm where he now resides, consisting of one hundred and thirty acres, on section 8, Franklin township, in 1851. The improvements which have been made upon it are quite extensive and the farm is now one of the best in the township. To Mr. and Mrs. Kline six children were born, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are Margaret A., Bolser, Jacob and Libby. Mr. and Mrs. Kline are members of the United Brethren church and in politics he is an independent, voting for men rather than party. While he came to this country with but little means, by his industry, assisted by his good wife, he is now in comfortable circumstances and has the utmost respect of all who know him.

**REV. ALVARO ALLEN CROCKER**, of Genoa, Illinois, was born on the Indian reservation, northwest of Batavia, Genesee county, New York, April 27, 1826. His father, Rev. Allen Crocker, was born in Shutesbury, Massachusetts, April 14, 1793, and died February 7, 1871. He began preaching at the age of sixteen, and was a minister of wonderful power, and considered one of the finest sermonizers in the Christian denomination in northern Illinois, as strong in his ministry as Peter Cartwright. He was in active service in the ministry for over sixty years. About seven years before his death he suffered a stroke of paralysis, and at end of that time received two strokes

in one day. He served in the war of 1812. Allen Crocker was a son of Rev. Theophilus Crocker, a native of Shutesbury, one of the best known ministers in western New York. He was quite famous in his day, and an extended sketch of his life is found in History of the Ministry of Western New York. He had a great memory and could repeat the book of Revelations entire and whole chapters in the Gospel. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and also in the war of 1812. In stature he was quite large, and weighed about two hundred pounds. He died at the age of ninety two years. The family in this country are descended from three brothers, who came from England in colonial days. For generations the family have been deeply religious, a number of them including two brothers of Allen Crocker, Alfred and Orrin, being in the ministry.

Allen Crocker married Sophronia Tacles, born July 15, 1804, near Wyoming, New York. Their marriage was solmized May 26, 1825. She was a daughter of Alexander Tacles, a farmer by occupation and one of the first settlers of Allen's Creek, in Wyoming county, New York. He was born in Massachusetts, and was of Scotch descent. He married Philena Howard, born November 26, 1765, their marriage being celebrated April 16, 1800. The Tacles went from Massachusetts to New York, settling in Wyoming county, when it was all heavily timbered land. Mrs. Allen Crocker was a well educated woman, a graduate of Wyoming Academy, after which she engaged in teaching until after her marriage. She became the mother of six children, three of whom survive, our subject and Philena, widow of Samuel Stephens; Elvira, widow of Gilbert Maxfield.

When our subject was thirteen years of age the family moved from New York to Ohio and for two years resided five miles west of Oberlin and two years one and one-half miles south of Euclid where his father had a charge. They then moved back to Genesee county, New York, locating at Bethany Center, where they remained two years, and then resided one year six miles west of Rochester, New York, from which place in 1844 our subject emigrated to Ogle county, New York, his father following in the spring of 1845. In the spring of 1846, Mr. Crocker came to Genoa, and having secured a certificate, engaged in teaching, an occupation in which he continued for nine years, five of which he taught in De Kalb county, and four in McHenry county. He studied theology at Meadville, Pennsylvania, in the Christian and Unitarian Academy, and was ordained to the ministry in the spring of 1857, in the Christian Chapel, at Belvidere, Illinois, and for thirty years after filled pulpits in various churches near his home. He bought a farm three miles north of Genoa, which was his home until he retired from active life in 1882. He has since had no regular charge, but frequently fills pulpits in emergency, and presides at weddings and funerals whenever called upon.

Mr. Crocker was married January 1, 1856, three miles north of Genoa, to Susannah Buck, born in Shrewsbury township, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Peter Buck, a native of Muncy, Pennsylvania, who came west in 1855, locating near Genoa, where his death occurred at the age of sixty-six years and seven months. In his native state he engaged in farming and in lumbering, having sixteen hundred acres of land in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. He came west with a view

of affording better opportunities for his children, and bought farms for each of his five sons in Ogle county, and a farm of five hundred acres for himself, near Marengo. Peter Buck was a son of Henry Buck, a farmer and miller in Pennsylvania, who in early life was by trade a shoemaker, but who died when Peter was ten years old. He married Mary Rothamal, a native of Holland. Peter Buck married Louisa Holmes, born in the town of Shrewsbury, New Jersey, and who removed with her parents in girlhood to Shrewsbury township, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of John and Mary (Knott) Holmes, who traces their ancestry to Thomas Holmes, who came to America with William Penn. Of the fifteen children born to Peter Buck and wife, seven survive.

To Mr. and Mrs. Crocker three children have been born. (1) Ellery Channing, born November 4, 1857, was educated in the common schools, and after completing his education taught school some five or six years. After reading law at Sycamore, with Joseph Stephens, he was admitted to the bar, and for several years was engaged in practice at Sycamore. He married Minnehaha Steele, by whom he has one son, Loyal Ellery. He now resides in Charles Mix county, South Dakota, near Yankton, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, and leases seventeen hundred acres from the Indians. (2) Jennie Virginia married Edward Wilcox, of Elgin, by whom she had one son, Ellery. Mr. Wilcox is now deceased. (3) Ora married Fred Smith, secretary of the Stover Bicycle Company, of Freeport, Illinois.

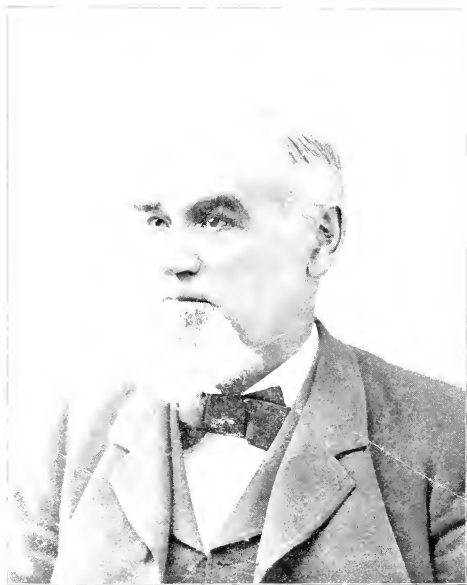
In politics Mr. Crocker is a Republican, and an earnest advocate of the principles of the party. For many years he served as

road commissioner, and also as school director of his district. Until 1867 he was a member of the Christian church, since which time he has been connected with the Regular Adventists. He was a member of the conference of northern Illinois until he retired from active service, in 1890. He is a voluminous writer for the religious press, his specialty being in writing and expounding prophecy and translation. Fraternally he has been a member of the Masonic lodge at Genoa.

**HON. LUTHER LOWELL**, ex-judge of the county and probate courts of De Kalb county, comes of one of the best known families in America. The family is one of the oldest in this country as well as in England. About the year 1300, if not earlier, Walter and William Lowle (as the name was then spelled) resided at Yeardeley, England. Between them and Percival Lowle are nine generations, of whom a record exists, giving names of each and dates of birth. Percival Lowle, who was born in England in 1571, emigrated to the American colonies in 1639 with Rebecca, his wife, and settled in Massachusetts. John Lowle, son of Percival, was also born in England. He emigrated with his wife, Mary, and four children in 1639, and died in 1647. His son Benjamin, born at Newbury, Massachusetts, September 12, 1642, married Ruth Woodman, of Newbury, Massachusetts, October 17, 1666. With their son, John Lowell, came the change in the spelling of the name. His birth occurred at Newbury, Massachusetts, February 22, 1683. He first married Mary Davis, and after her death married Sarah L. Bailey in 1729. His son David, born January 12, 1716, at

Haverhill, Massachusetts, married Mary Blood, of Mason, New Hampshire. David's son Peter, born December 28, 1752, at Groton, Massachusetts, died in 1840 at Dempster, New Hampshire. He served through the Revolutionary war as a member of Captain Ezra Towner's company, in Colonel James Reed's regiment. He married Eunice Funk and to them was born in 1793 Martin Luther Lowell, the father of our subject, who died in Sycamore in 1884, at the ripe old age of ninety-one years. He was a farmer by occupation, and about 1831 moved from Brookfield, Vermont, to Morel, Vermont, and in 1845 to Bristol in the same state. He married Malinda C. Laporte, who was born June 6, 1798, in New Jersey. Ten of their children reached mature life. After his children had become established in the west he made his home with them and died as already stated.

Luther Lowell, of this sketch, was born in Brookfield, Vermont, May 14, 1827, and was sixth in order of birth in the family of thirteen children born to his parents. After attending the district schools he entered Hinesburg Academy and, owing to sharp competition, tuition and board being very low in various places where academies had been established, he was offered good board at one dollar per week and changed to Spaulding's Academy at Bakersfield. He began teaching at the age of eighteen years, being large and well developed for his age. Entering the college at Middlebury, Vermont, he graduated in 1851 with the degree of A. B., and in 1854 received that of A. M. A friend teaching at Ellicottville, New York, about fifty miles south of Buffalo, desiring to return to college, secured the school for our subject, who taught it in the winter of 1851-2. He was then offered the



HON. LUTHER LOWELL.



principalship of the Rutland Academy and served that school for two years. He was next professor of Latin, Greek and rhetoric in the academy at Flushing, Long Island, and while there had as a pupil Cornelius Vanderbilt.

While teaching at Flushing, Mr. Lowell had the misfortune to step off the landing in the dark, and falling down the stairway to the floor, had his arm broken. About this time his sister's husband, who had been living in De Kalb county, died, and for a change of air and to help his sister, he came west, arriving at Sycamore, September 29, 1856. Before coming west he had commenced to read law, and arriving here, he entered the law office of Mayo & James, and continued his reading under their instruction, until April, 1857, when he was admitted to the bar for practice in the various courts of Illinois. In his first year's practice he experienced great inconvenience on account of the panic of 1857. That panic, however, later brought him much business in the legal line. Soon after being admitted to the bar, he formed a partnership with Mayo & James, which continued a few months, when he formed a partnership with Mr. James and Chauncey Ellwood, which lasted about two years, when the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Lowell associated with himself, J. Frank Meeker, now a prominent attorney in the west.

On the 20th of February, 1859, at Sycamore, Illinois, Mr. Lowell was united in marriage with Miss Ann P. James, who was born May 1, 1833, and the daughter of Levi and Cyrene (Batchelder) James. No children came to bless their union, but he and his wife reared to mature years Lavinia S., now wife of George W. Dunton, with whom the Judge makes his home, and Gil-

bert H. Denton. The latter studied law under the instruction of his adopted father, and is now in the manufacturing business in Denver, Colorado.

In 1869 Mr. Lowell was elected to the position of county judge, to which he was re-elected in 1873. On the expiration of his second official term, January 1, 1878, he formed a partnership with D. J. Carnes, which existed until April 3, 1883, when the Judge was elected to fill a vacancy in the position he had formerly held, made by the resignation of Hon. S. B. Stinson, of Sandwiche, Illinois.

In his long professional career, Judge Lowell has much to be proud of. He has been eminently successful in the trial of cases, rarely losing a cause he espoused, and his arduous labors have brought him a liberal competency. His professional cares have been free from trickery and questionable practices, so often resorted to by members of the bar. His mind is analytical, logical and inductive. With a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the fundamental principles of law, he combines a familiarity with statutory law, and a sober, clear judgment, which makes him not only a formidable adversary in legal combat, but has given the distinction of being a very able jurist. While upon the bench, he showed his peculiar fitness for the position by his cool and even temperament, never being swayed by any of the tricks of the profession, and when his judgment was rendered, it was always found to be correct in law, as well as in sound common sense.

Judge Lowell has ever been a voracious reader, and his fine library and excellent selection of books shows the bent of his mind. He has taken the Cincinnati Tribune since 1863, and the Atlantic Monthly since the

same time. Securing the previous numbers he now has a complete set of the Monthly, comprising eighty volumes, which by his will, at his death, goes to the public library of Sycamore.

**W**ILLIAM WATSON, who resides on section 26, Paw Paw township, has been a resident of De Kalb county since 1851, a period of forty-seven years. He was born in Sussex, England, April 18, 1818, and is the son of William Watson, Sr., also a native of Sussex, England, who there married Elizabeth Jarrett, a native of the same county, and in 1828 emigrated with his family to the *New World*, taking passage in a sailing vessel from London, and being about one month on the ocean, a very quick passage for those days. He settled in Albany, New York, where he found employment in a ship yard, and there spent the remainder of his life.

Our subject was but ten years of age when he accompanied his parents across the water, and in Albany, New York, grew to manhood. In 1838, when but twenty years old, he married Agnes Ferguson, a native of Ireland, of Scotch and English descent. Her father, William Ferguson, was of Scotch descent, while her mother was of English parentage. After his marriage he moved to Oswego, New York, where he learned his trade, that of carpenter and joiner, and was employed in his trade until 1851, when he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, joining some old neighbors from New York, among whom was George C. Cooper, who located here some three years previously. His first purchase was seventy acres of unimproved land, on which he erected a small house, and commenced the

improvement of the place. For about two years he worked at his trade in connection with farming, and later purchased eighty acres adjoining the home place, making him a valuable farm of one hundred and fifty acres.

To Mr. and Mrs. Watson, six children were born, four of whom are yet living. One died in infancy, and Elizabeth N. grew to womanhood, and died when about twenty-eight years of age. The living are Robert T., a farmer of Victor township; William, married, and residing in California, where he is engaged in the apiary business; Edward M., married, and residing on the old home farm; and James, a farmer of Paw Paw township. Edward M. married Ann Hare, a native of De Kalb county, by whom he has three living children. One died at the age of nine years. The living are James, Ezra G. and May.

Politically Mr. Watson is a stanch Republican. In early life he was a Democrat, and cast his first presidential ballot for James K. Polk. He voted for Fremont in 1856, and has cast his presidential ballot for every nominee of the party from that time to the present. He has never sought nor would he ever hold office. His son, Edward M., is also a stanch Republican. For almost half a century he has been a resident of De Kalb county. When he came to the county it was little better than a wilderness, and he has lived to see it take rank among the best of the great Prairie state.

**M**YRON M. DEAN is one of the younger farmers of De Kalb county, and resides on section 3, Sycamore township, where he is engaged in general farming and



stock raising. He was born in Genoa township, a short distance from his present residence, November 4, 1864, and is the son of Divine Dean, born in Sullivan county, New York, December 14, 1834, and who died September 16, 1897. Divine Dean grew to manhood in his native state, and came west at the age of twenty-one years. Three years later he married Lucinda Evans, a native of De Kalb county, born in Charter Grove, September 11, 1838, and a daughter of Benjamin and Frances (Perry) Evans. Benjamin Evans was the son of William and Ola (Mitchell) Evans. Frances Perry was a daughter of William and Charity (Dean) Perry, the former a native of Ashe county, North Carolina, born October 20, 1782, and who died in Virginia at the age of ninety-two years. William Perry was the son of Ebenzer and Christina Perry, and Charity Dean was a daughter of Jacob and Frances Dean.

Myron M. Dean was reared on the home farm, and began his education in the district schools, then attended the Sycamore high schools for two years, the Paw Paw seminary one year, and the Genoa high school for two winters. He lived in Sycamore the greater part of the time, from 1875 to 1879, and it was during this period that he attended the Sycamore high school. Later he resided at Anamosa, Iowa, for nearly two years, then returned to Sycamore, and subsequently removed to his present farm. He remained with his father until after attaining his majority, then worked for various farmers for a year and a half, after which he rented his father's farm, until the latter's death in September, 1897, since which time he has continued to rent the estate, consisting of one hundred and forty acres of excellent farming land. As a

stock farmer he has met with success, buying and feeding for the general market.

Mr. Dean was married in Genoa, Illinois, to Miss Lenna Z. Brown, a native of Genoa township, and a daughter of James P. and Susan Brown, of whose family a more extended account is found elsewhere in this work. By this union two children have been born, Jessie and Earl. In politics Mr. Dean is thoroughly independent, voting for men, not party.

**J**OHAN S. AMES is the owner of a farm comprising one hundred and sixteen and a quarter acres in section 32, Shabbona township. He was born in Norfolk, England, June 29, 1848, and is the son of William and Ann (Smith) Ames, both natives of England, where their entire lives were spent, both dying when about ninety years of age. He grew to manhood in Norfolk and Suffolk, and in his boyhood had fair common-school advantages. He was reared on a farm and later was employed on the public works. He was married in Suffolk, October 11, 1868, to Eliza Levell, a native of Suffolk, England, and a daughter of James Levell, who was a contractor on the public works, and also engaged in office work, being a man of fine education. Mr. and Mrs. Ames attended the same school and grew to man and womanhood in the same locality.

Mr. and Mrs. Ames commenced their domestic life in Suffolk, where he ran a small store which he continued a few years, then sold out and in 1874 came to the United States. Landing at New York, they came direct to De Kalb county, Illinois, where some English friends were residing, and through whose influence they came to

this country. On their arrival Mr. Ames went to work on the farm by the day and month at Greentown and there resided for three years. He then rented a farm in Shabbona township for eight years, and in 1885 purchased the farm where they now reside. The place was slightly improved, but since locating here he has added to the improvements already made by tiling the land and the erection of a dwelling house and various outbuildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Ames are the parents of four children. Anna is the wife of Dave Ferguson, a farmer of Shabbona township. Charles J. married and engaged in farming in Shabbona township. Nettie M. is a well-educated young lady and a teacher in the public schools of De Kalb county. George A. is a young man residing at home and assisting in the cultivation of the home farm.

In 1884 Mr. Ames cast his first presidential vote for James G. Blaine, and has since given his support to the men and measures of the Republican party. Averse to office holding, he has yet been prevailed upon to serve as director in his school district, being a staunch advocate of good schools. While not members, Mr. and Mrs. Ames are attendants of the West Shabbona Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally they are both members of the Home Forum.

**HENRY EUHUS** is one of that great number of men who came from the fatherland to free America, that they might have an opportunity to better their condition in life, and who by their industry and thrift, have added greatly to the material wealth of the country. He was born in Hanover, Prussia, Germany, November 4, 1842, and is the son of Jacob and Mary

(Mylker) Euhus, both natives of the same country. Jacob Euhus was a soldier in the Prussian army for ten years, and had his nose and one ear shot off in battle. In 1855 he left his native land for America, and was seven weeks on the ocean. Landing at New Orleans, from there he came up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, then to Dubuque, Iowa, and from there to Freeport, Illinois, where he was accidentally killed on the railroad, leaving a widow and son in a strange land. The widow later married again, choosing for her husband John Ackert, also a native of Germany. He enlisted in Company F, Forty-fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Cherry Valley, Illinois, and was killed in battle at Fort Henry. His widow later received a pension, and two hundred dollars back pay. Henry Euhus was the only son of Jacob and Mary Euhus, and was thirteen years old when he accompanied his parents to the United States. His education was obtained in his native land, having only the privilege of attending school for two months after his arrival in this country. The sudden death of his father rendered it necessary that he should make a living for himself. He grew to manhood in Winnebago county, and on the 10th of January, 1866, married Miss Rosetta Miller, a native of Switzerland, and a daughter of Rudolph and Elizabeth (Leshner) Miller, both natives of the same country, and who were the parents of but two children, Malissa and Rosetta. Mrs. Euhus came to the United States in 1859, with her parents, who first located in Portsmouth, Ohio, and in 1860 came to De Kalb county, Illinois.

To Mr. and Mrs. Euhus twelve children have been born, four of whom died in infancy. Those living are John, William,

Lizzie, Emma, Fred, Elmer, Joseph and Hattie. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a Republican. Mr. Euhus started in life without a cent, and for years worked by the month for various farmers and others, and it required some years of toil before he was enabled to make his first purchase of land. In 1867 he purchased forty acres in Franklin township, near Kirkland, on section 14, and at once commenced its improvement. From time to time he added to his possessions until he has now two hundred and thirty acres, all of which is under the highest state of cultivation, with improvements in keeping with the day and age.

**A**LFRID KING, deceased, was a well-known citizen of Genoa township, residing on section 34. He was born in the town of Braceville, Trumbull county, Ohio, May 24, 1848, and was the son of William King, born June 6, 1817, in Essex county, New York, and the grandson of Reuben and Roxina (De Wolf) King, both natives of Massachusetts, who in an early day moved to New York. William King married Mrs. Hannah (Dowd) Miller, widow of William Miller, and a native of New York, born December 12, 1817. Of their five children, Alfred was third in order of birth. William King died at Tilden, Madison county, Nebraska, May 5, 1888.

Alfred King came to Illinois at the age of five years, and was reared on the old homestead taken up by his father on section 3, Genoa township. His education was obtained in the district schools, and he began farming for himself at the age of eighteen years. He first rented some land,

but soon purchased eighty acres, with some assistance received from his father. He later sold that tract and put the money out at interest and lost it all, and thus had to begin with nothing again. He soon bought a farm in Genoa township, where Mrs. King now resides, and later a farm adjoining, giving him two hundred and forty-eight acres in Genoa township, together with thirty acres of timber land in Sycamore township. He became quite prosperous and a very highly respected man. In politics he was a Republican, and served for many years as a school director. At the time of his death, which occurred July 31, 1897, he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and took great interest in the Sunday-school work, being a teacher in the school.

Alfred King was twice married, first with Mary Belinda Evans, daughter of Benjamin and Francis (Perry) Evans, and to them were born one son, William L. King, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. His second union was with Miss Fannie Hunt and the marriage ceremony was celebrated June 14, 1882. She was born in Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois, but resided the most of her life near Morris, Grundy county, Illinois, her education being received in the district school, and a select school at Morris, Illinois. She taught school for many terms in Grundy county. She is a daughter of Peleg T. Hunt, born in the town of West Lebanon, Columbia county, New York, August 10, 1823, and who went to Rensselaer county with his parents in the summer of 1836, where he attended the district school until the age of twenty-one years. His father, William F. Hunt, was also a native of Columbia county, born in February, 1798, and died in March, 1866, in Grundy county, Illinois.

William F. Hunt was a son of Capt. William Hunt, a farmer, born in Norwich, Connecticut, in 1768 and died in 1853. His wife was Susanna Fellows, born in 1768 and died in 1854. His title of captain was derived from service in the war of 1812, as commander of a militia company. William F. Hunt married Betsy Tabor, born in Rensselaer, New York, in September, 1791, and a daughter of Gresham Tabor, who married Anna Finch, a daughter of Joseph Finch. Mrs. Betsy Hunt died in 1878. Peleg T. Hunt was married in Nassau, Rensselaer county, New York, December 3, 1846, to Mary Cummings, a native of that town and county, born February 9, 1827, and a daughter of Russell D. and Sophia (Thomas) Cummings, her father being a son of Abel Cummings, and her mother a daughter of Silas and Chloe (Very) Thomas. To Peleg T. and Mary Hunt four children were born, as follows: George W., a grain dealer of Charter Grove; Mrs. Leonora J. Hutchinson, of Joliet, Illinois; Mrs. Frances King, widow of our subject; and Mrs. Emma L. Hutchinson, of Joliet.

To Mr. and Mrs. King three children were born: Howard Hunt, Harvey Elbert and Edna Jeannette. Mrs. King, who is a woman of superior ability, is yet carrying on the home farm. She is well known and has many friends in Genoa and Sycamore townships.

**J** E. STOTT, dealer in real estate and the efficient mayor of Genoa, was born in Maine township, Cook county, Illinois, May 2, 1846. His father, Uriah Stott, was a native of Yorkshire, England, born in 1826, and who came to America in 1843, coming direct to Cook county, Illinois,

where he purchased the farm on which our subject was born. He married Elizabeth M. Thornton, also a native of Yorkshire, England, who was killed in a runaway at Rand's bridge, over the Des Plaines river, in Cook county. This was in August, 1884, her death occurring when she was sixty-eight years old. By trade Uriah Stott was a tailor and clothier, but engaged in farming in Cook county. In politics he was a Republican, and held many of the local offices in that county. He was a Quaker by birth, but united with the Methodist Episcopal church, in which faith he died. After the death of his wife he retired from active business life and moved to Rockford, Illinois, where his death occurred January 13, 1892. With his wife he twice visited his native land after coming to America, but both returned to die in their new home. They were the parents of five children: William T., of Barrington, Illinois; J. E., our subject; Joseph W., of Des Plaines, Illinois; Elizabeth Ann, who died at the age of thirteen years, and Charles, residing at Des Plaines.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on his father's farm in Cook county and attended the district school until the age of eighteen years. He then spent two years in Danforth's Commercial College in Chicago, after which he clerked in a grocery store in that city for a short time. In the spring of 1866, in partnership with a brother, he engaged in merchandising in Chicago, and later removed to Barrington, Cook county, where he continued in the mercantile business until 1875. He then moved to Genoa and engaged in merchandising, in which he continued until 1884, when he sold out, since which time he has been in the real-estate business and has

handled much local real estate, while dealing quite extensively in southern and western lands. In 1892 he laid out forty-eight acres, which comprises Stott's addition to Genoa. He has a farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres near the village, in which his sons are interested in the breeding of Shetland ponies and registered stock. He is also interested in Chicago real estate and has some fine holdings in that city.

Mr. Stott was married in Fremont Center, Lake county, Illinois, October 30, 1872, to Miss Josephine M. Millard, of that place, born December 11, 1849, and a daughter of Johnson and Arvilla M. (Houghton) Millard, the latter now living in Wauconda, Lake county, Illinois, at the age of sixty-eight years. Johnson Millard was a native of Vermont, and in 1850 crossed the plains to California, where he remained five years. His death occurred in October, 1882. To our subject and wife eight children have been born, all of whom are yet living. Frank H. is employed in the office of the Swiss consul in Chicago. Gilbert E. read law with Stephens & Early, of Sycamore, was admitted to the bar, June 7, 1897, since which time he has been engaged in practice in Genoa. Grace E., James R., Zoe A., Alfred W., Paul E. and Marcus Victor, yet remain at home.

In politics Mr. Stott is a thorough Republican, and takes an active interest in political affairs. He was township treasurer while residing in Barrington, and since coming to Genoa has served some fifteen years as a member of the board of education. For the past six years he has been mayor of the village, the duties of which office he discharges faithfully and to the satisfaction of all. Fraternally he is a member of Odd Fellows, including the Rebecca degree, the

Knights of the Maccabees, and Modern Woodmen of America. As an official he has the best interests of his town at heart, and freely gives of his time to advance its material interests.

LESTER J. BROWNE, one of the younger and highly esteemed farmers of De Kalb county, owns and cultivates an excellent piece of farm land situated on section 11, Milan township, and comprising one hundred and twenty acres. In improvements, yield and fertility, his property ranks with the best in the county. The residence and outbuildings are thoroughly modern, and all the improvements, such as fencing, tiling, and abundance of shade trees, indicate a pride and interest in its possession.

Mr. Browne is a native of De Kalb county, born on the farm where he now resides, July 29, 1860. His father, Nathaniel Browne, was reared and educated within three miles of Londonderry, Ireland, and comes from a family celebrated for their educational attainments, culture and integrity. His brother, William, a highly respected citizen and leading property owner of De Kalb county, is a Methodist preacher of high repute throughout this section, and another brother, who now cultivates the home farm in Ireland, studied and graduated in law and for several years was a successful practitioner. Nathaniel was the oldest member of the family, and by English law the right of primogeniture gave him at his father's death all right and title to the father's property, which was considerable. Being both young and ambitious and desiring to see the world, and be the builder of his own fortunes, he relinquished all claim to his prospective inheritance, and with his

brother, William, came to America in 1855 and located on a quarter section in Milan township, De Kalb county, Illinois. At that time the country was thinly settled, but with persistence born of determination, a healthful vigor and industrious habits, he set about cultivating the wild prairie lands, making such improvements as his means and facilities afforded. On the death of Nathaniel Browne, April 19, 1896, his farm land, consisting of two hundred acres, was bequeathed to his son, Lester J., and his daughter, Mrs. W. H. Smith, the former securing one hundred and twenty acres, and the latter eighty acres. The mother now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Smith, in Milan township.

Lester J. Browne's school days covered the period of his life up to twenty years of age. After an elementary education, secured in the neighboring district schools, he entered Jennings Seminary at Aurora and for a period studied to acquire a liberal education. Leaving the seminary he returned to the farm and began in earnest the life of a farmer. On the 22d of February, 1890, he married an estimable lady, Miss Sarah G. Smith, daughter of Henry W. Smith, a well-to-do retired farmer residing at De Kalb. They are the parents of three children, Leslie N., Henry W., deceased, and William C.

Appreciating educational advantages, and fully alive to the fact that the standard of citizenship is raised through and by means of the school room, Mr. Browne has at all times given the public schools his ardent support. His activity in this direction is best understood when it is known that nearly all the intervening years since his majority he has, in his capacity of school director, given close attention to educational affairs.

Mr. Browne is a member of the Republican party, and his ballot is cast in the indorsement of its principles and for the nominees of the conventions of his party, whether national, state or county. Following the traditions and convictions of his ancestors, he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and responds promptly to its support by active co-operation in all its work. He is of a quiet and retiring disposition, affable in address and manners, and is one of De Kalb county's younger farmers whose probity and honorable methods find recognition in the esteem in which he is held and spoken of by all who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

ARCHIE G. KENNEDY, an attorney residing in De Kalb, where he is engaged in the active practice of law, was born in Midway, Washington county, Pennsylvania, August 24, 1866, and is the son of Rev. David S. and Nancy W. (Kelly) Kennedy, the former a native of Coitsville, Mahoning county, Ohio, born April 25, 1834, the latter being a native of Indiana, Indiana county, Pennsylvania. David S. Kennedy received his education in Poland Academy, Ohio, and Westminster College, Pennsylvania, graduating from the latter institution in the class of 1858, his wife also graduating in the same class. He received his theological training at the Allegheny Theological Seminary, completing the course in 1861. The degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by Parsons College, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in 1884. His work in the ministry covered a period of thirty-seven years in the United Presbyterian church. David S. Kennedy and family moved to De Kalb county in December, 1878, locating in



A. G. KENNEDY.





Somonauk township, where he assumed charge of the Somonauk U. P. church. He held the charge until December, 1893, when he retired from ministry and moved to Chicago where he remained until March, 1898, when he returned to De Kalb county. He was a man of superior talents, a deep thinker and a fluent speaker. His death occurred May 17, 1898.

His family consisted of ten children, five girls, namely: Sarah Elizabeth, Bell, Mary, Tillie and Annie Margretta, and five boys, namely: Harry, Reid, Archie G., James B. and Thomas W. Seven of these children are still living, Bell, Mary and James B. having preceded their father to their final rest; Harry, in February, 1898, went to Mariopol, Russia, where he is now superintendent of the interests of the Nicolopol Mariopol Mining and Metallurgical Company; Reid is mayor of Homestead, Pennsylvania; Sarah E. is married to Thomas C. Hare and resides in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania; Tillie occupies a position in Chicago and Annie M. and Thomas W. reside with their mother in Victor township, this county.

The subject of this sketch, Archie G. Kennedy, has received an unusually thorough and liberal education, in addition to his excellent home training. He commenced his school education in Sewickley, Pennsylvania; later he attended the high school at Sandwich, Illinois, and from 1882 to 1884 he attended the State Normal School at Normal, Illinois. He then went to Dakota, where he was engaged as a civil engineer, but returned in the fall of 1884. In 1884-6 he taught school in De Kalb county, and in the fall of the latter year entered Monmouth College, where he spent two years. In 1888 he went to

Homestead, Pennsylvania, where for two years he was employed in the Carnegie Steel Works. He then returned to Monmouth College, where he completed his course and graduated with high honors in June, 1892. After graduating he came to De Kalb county and read law with Carnes & Dunton, prominent attorneys of Sycamore, and took charge of their branch office at De Kalb. He was admitted to the bar June 19, 1894, after passing an examination before the appellate court at Ottawa, which was later confirmed by the supreme court.

After his admission to the bar Mr. Kennedy continued with Carnes & Dunton until January 1, 1895, at which time a partnership was formed with W. L. Pond, which relation lasted until June 1, 1897, when Mr. Pond was elected county judge. Mr. Kennedy is one of De Kalb county's promising attorneys, and has that material in him by birth, training and education which makes successful as well as useful and honorable men. His patronage keeps pace with his growth in favor.

**M**ARSHALL STARK, deceased.—Wherever there is pioneer work to be done, men of energy and ability are required, and success or failure depends upon the degree of those qualities that is possessed. In wresting the land from its natural wildness, in fitting it for the habitation of men, in developing the natural resources of the community in which they live, few if any have contributed more largely than Marshall Stark, one of the pioneers of De Kalb county, who has left a name honored and revered. He came to the county in the vanguard of civilization, and by his energy and industry, and the exercise of fine busi-

ness judgment, he accumulated a comfortable fortune, giving his children a start in life far beyond that which he possessed.

Marshall Stark was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, August 12, 1813, and was reared in his native county, where he received a good practical common school education, and for a time engaged in teaching. He was the son of Oliver and Betsy (Dixon) Stark, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, descendants from old New England stock, springing from the same parent stem as General Stark of Bennington fame. On attaining his majority, in the summer of 1834, he came west, and located a claim near Rockford, Winnebago county, Illinois, but made no permanent settlement. Returning to Pennsylvania, he taught school during the succeeding winter, and there remained until the spring of 1837, when he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, located a claim on what is now sections 20 and 21, Sycamore township, which he purchased from the general government as soon as the land came into market. On his arrival he built a log house near the timber and began improving his land.

In the fall of 1841, Mr. Stark re-visited his Pennsylvania home, and on the 5th of October he married Miss Louisa Tyler, a native of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, born December 16, 1820, in the town of Dimock, and the daughter of Royal and Mary Southwick Tyler. A few weeks later he brought his young bride to his new home, and in the log cabin they lived for three years, when he erected a comfortable frame house, which was their happy home for many long years. From that time he began that prosperous career that stamped him one of De Kalb county's most energetic and thrifty men. No little credit for his

success in life was due to his faithful wife, who, coming from the refined east, contented herself in the lowly cabin, making it as comfortable as possible under the circumstances, and who naturally stepped from that humble abode to the more pretentious one. She was ever a helpmeet to him, indeed, and possessed many of the same qualities with which he was endowed. Few women have ever shown more energy and executive ability than Mrs. Stark. During the trip of her husband through the country, by her vigorous management affairs at home went on as smoothly as if the head of the house was there. By 1848 Mr. Stark had risen to sufficient prominence to be called upon to fill the office of sheriff of the county, which position he filled for three years. During his incumbency of the office he opened a hotel in Sycamore which he conducted for six years, and then returned to the farm, which was his home during the remainder of his life. By the citizens of his township he was honored with several local offices, serving as assessor, school commissioner and supervisor, and was a member of the county board at the time of his death.

Mr. Stark was a man of versatile business qualifications. While farming was his principal business through life, he became interested in the stock and grain business and for years was engaged in buying and selling, doing a large and profitable business. Later in life he turned his attention to the lumber trade, spending two winters in the pineries of Michigan. In partnership with his son Theron, he opened a large lumber yard in Sycamore and developed an extensive and profitable business.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stark ten children were born: Harmon M. is a farmer resid-

ing in Kingston township. Martha S. married Hosea W. Atwood, and lives in Jasper county, Iowa. Mary E. married Curtis Harris, of Genoa township. Jefferson O., Henry J., and Theron M. comprise the firm of Stark Bros., dealers in grain, hay and stock, at Sycamore, Illinois. Ada L. married James Maitland, and they reside in Sycamore township. Ella A. married A. W. Brower, of Sycamore. Emma J. married Charles Wiggins, of Story county, Iowa. Hattie M. married Burton W. Lee, of Sycamore township.

Of the ten children, all survive, and it was the parents' pleasure to see them all well married and settled in life. It was a comfort to both in their last moments to have all their children around their bedside, and to have a last look upon each well-loved face ere Death claimed his own. Mr. Stark was called to his rest December 26, 1882, while Mrs. Stark died July 1, 1892. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Sycamore—having contributed very materially to its erection, also assisted in building two other churches in this locality.

**HENRY KOCH**, a representative farmer of Franklin township, and founder of the village of Fairdale, was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1835, and is a son of Freerdick and Julia (Speilman) Koch, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Germany, who came with her parents to America when but eight years old, being eight weeks on the ocean. Frederick and Julia Koch were the parents of ten children,—Henry, Mary, Jacob, John, Washington, Isaac, Levi, Fred and Amanda, one died in infancy. The paternal

grandfather, Fred Koch, was a native of Pennsylvania, while the great-grandfather came from Ireland.

In 1848 Fred Koch came with his family to De Kalb county, Illinois, arriving here on the 18th of May. He first purchased eighty acres just across the line in Ogle county, and kept adding to his original tract until he had over eight hundred acres of good farm land. To each of his sons, as they left the parental home, he gave eighty acres of land. Success followed him in all his undertakings, and, although he came to the state with but five hundred dollars, by his industry and economical habits he became a man of wealth. He is still living at the age of eighty-seven years.

The subject of this sketch was thirteen years old when he accompanied his parents to Illinois. He grew to manhood on the farm and did his full share in its cultivation and in the general improvement. His education was but limited and confined to the common schools. On the 1st of January, 1863, he was united in marriage with Miss Julia Rickard, a native of Herkimer county, New York, and a daughter of Jacob Rickard, who came to Illinois and located in Ogle county in a very early day. By this union there are four children, George, Jeannette, Wallace and Frederick Earl.

In all his business operations Mr. Koch has had the same success that has attended his father. On his farm is located the village of Fairdale, which he had surveyed and platted in May, 1875. In politics he is a Democrat, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. Thoroughly enterprising and a practical farmer, he endeavors to keep abreast of the times. Well known and respected by all, he is one of De Kalb county's best citizens.

JOHN HADSALL, junior member of the firm of Merritt & Hadsall, contractors and builders of Genoa, was born in Riley township, McHenry county, Illinois, September 9, 1849. His father, Edwin Hadsall, was born in North Moreland, Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1815, and died on his farm in Riley township, McHenry county, Illinois, May 17, 1887. He remained in his native county until the age of thirty years, when he came west to Illinois, driving through from Pennsylvania, with his wife and three children. They left their Pennsylvania home April 26, 1846, and reached McHenry county May 26, 1846. They settled on Coon creek, where the father purchased one hundred and twenty acres, but added to his possessions until he had three hundred and eighty acres at the time of his death. In his youth he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked before coming to Illinois. Edwin Hadsall married Elizabeth Daily, a native of Wyoming county and a daughter of Jonathan Daily, who married a Miss Fitch. They became the parents of nine children, three of whom were born in Pennsylvania and the remainder in Illinois. The children are Mrs. Millie Hewett, who is now deceased; Mrs. Myra Flick, of Los Angeles, California; George, a contractor in Chicago, John, our subject; Charles residing near Los Angeles, California; James, in business in Rockford; Elmer, living near Mason City, Iowa; Rose residing in Mayfield township, De Kalb county, Illinois; and Mrs. Lena McCafferty, of Rockford, Illinois.

The paternal grandfather, Amos Hadsall was born in what is now Wyoming county, but then Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, in 1791, and died in Kansas in 1868, at the residence of his son, Charles. He

was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade, and was a fier in the war of 1812, being with Scott at Niagara. He kept his old life until his death. The paternal great-grandfather, Jonathan Hadsall, with a brother James, were all that were left of a family of ten children, the father, mother and eight children being killed by Indians in the Wyoming massacre. All the men were working in a cornfield at the time of the massacre, but two of the boys escaped. They went to Connecticut from where the family came and there resided until after the war, then returned to Wyoming county, secured their father's farm and both reared large families. The Hadsalls were partisans of Roger Williams and left Massachusetts with him for Rhode Island, and later went to Connecticut and from there to Pennsylvania. Amos Hadsall married a Miss Parks, and of their five children, Edwin, the father of our subject, was the first.

The subject of this sketch, after attending the district schools in Riley township, McHenry county, spent five years in the Sycamore grammar and high schools and one year at the State University at Champaign. He began teaching at the age of eighteen, before completing his education. In all he has taught some twenty-two years. For four years prior to going to Champaign he was engaged in teaching. He taught nine years in Buck district, Riley township, McHenry county; two years in the Java district in the same township; eight years in his home district; two years in the Pleasant Hill district, Mayfield township, De Kalb county, and one year in the Ney district, De Kalb county. His many years in the same nearby districts attest his proficiency as an educator.

Mr. Hadsall was married September 9,

1874, in Sycamore, to Miss Celesta Bennett, a native of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of John and Lovina (Corson) Bennett, who came west in 1868 and settled in Riley township, McHenry county, Illinois, where the father died in the spring of 1891. To Mr. and Mrs. Hadsall two children have been born, Amory D. and Gracie Belle.

In the spring of 1888 Mr. Hadsall came to Genoa and associated himself with Mr. Merritt in contracting and building, having worked at the carpenter's trade in summers before coming to Genoa. Since the partnership has been formed the business has been largely increased and large contracts taken. Fraternally Mr. Hadsall is a member of the Masonic order, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of the Maccabees. In politics he is an independent Democrat, and when on the farm was collector five years and was a supervisor seven years and was a prominent candidate for county superintendent of schools in 1898.

**GURDON H. DENNIS** is a farmer residing on section 1, De Kalb township, De Kalb county, Illinois. He was born in Eagle township, Allegany county, New York, December 31, 1831, and is the son of George W. and Phebe (Partridge) Dennis, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Connecticut. The Dennis family are of English parentage, while the Partridges are of French descent.

George W. Dennis was by trade a carpenter, and a first-class workman. He removed west with his family of ten children in July, 1844, locating in Mayfield township,

De Kalb county, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres on which a primitive log-house had been erected, and about twenty acres under the plow. This farm he improved and increased its boundaries by adding forty acres more, then twenty of timber. For some years after coming west he devoted the greater portion of his time to his trade, but as age advanced he turned his attention exclusively to agricultural pursuits. He was a man of considerable ability, and in his younger days taught school. Religiously he was a Universalist. He lived to be over seventy-six years of age. His wife died in about 1861, at the age of fifty-six years.

In the the family of George W. and Phebe Dennis were ten children, of whom our subject was fifth in order of birth. He was twelve years old when he arrived with his parents in Mayfield township, and fourteen when he left the parental roof to hew out his own destiny. After working out for three years, and when but seventeen years old, he purchased a farm of eighty acres of wild prairie land, which he at once began to cultivate, and for which he paid in two years. He worked on his farm and for other persons alternately, till he reached his twenty-third year, when he wearied of living a bachelor's life on the farm. Therefore, on the 29th of August, 1855, he was united in marriage with Miss Louise Osterhout, a native of Mayfield township, born December 7, 1838, and a daughter of Albert and Polly Osterhout. By this union six children were born: Fremont A., May 6, 1857; Nettie A., January 22, 1859; Mary E., April 6, 1861; Carrie B., December 10, 1864; Mina L., September 13, 1866, and who died August 3, 1872; Amos H., May 18, 1869, and who died in September, 1895.

Immediately after marriage, Mr. Dennis located on his farm, where he resided for twenty-five years. In 1880, he sold that farm, and removed to North Sycamore, where he remained two years, then went to Poweshiek county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and fifty-five acres, on which he lived four years. In 1886 he exchanged that farm for his present one of one hundred and seventy-four acres in section 1, De Kalb township.

The second marriage of Mr. Dennis was solemnized March 16, 1880, when he married Miss Edith Chatfield, a daughter of Robert Chatfield, who was a native of England. She came to this country in 1878. By this union three children were born: Grace C., January 13, 1881; Robert G., April 15, 1882; and Myrtle T., November 21, 1892. Mrs. Dennis was born in London, England, November 10, 1851. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Dennis are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Both enjoy the respect of all their friends and neighbors.

**C**HARLES V. WEDDELL, a prosperous farmer residing on section 20, Paw Paw township, is the owner of seven hundred and thirty acres, lying in sections 18, 20 and 21, all of which is under cultivation. He is a native of Paw Paw township, born on the family homestead August 8, 1853, and is the son of W. B. and Agnes G. Weddell, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He grew to manhood on the old home place, which adjoins the farm where he now resides. His primary education was obtained in the common schools, after which he entered the Paw Paw Teachers' Institute and Classical Seminary, and later attended Jennings Seminary at Aurora, Illi-

nois, completing his literary education in the college at Naperville, Illinois. He remained with his father on the farm, assisting in the work until he attained his majority.

On the 29th of March, 1877, in Paw Paw township, Mr. Weddell was united in marriage with Miss Mary Nisbet, a daughter of Matthew and Agnes Nisbet, who were among the early settlers of Paw Paw township, and who were natives of Scotland and New York, respectively. By this union three children have been born. Nellie V. is now the wife of Harvey Bullis, a farmer of Paw Paw township. Christain L. is a student in Wheaton College. One died in infancy.

Soon after his marriage, Mr. Weddell moved to the farm where he now resides, but which at that time comprised but eighty acres, on which was a small frame house. In this house he resided for two years, while making further improvements upon the place. He then built a more substantial residence, and from time to time added to the area of his farm until he has now seven hundred and thirty acres, which in reality comprises four farms, with four sets of buildings. His farms are well drained with many miles of tiling. Orchard, forest and ornamental trees abound, and he has not only one of the best but one of the neatest farms in De Kalb county. In addition to general farming, for about sixteen years he has been engaged in breeding and dealing in Durham cattle and Norman horses. He also buys and feeds about three carloads of cattle and three carloads of hogs annually, which he ships to Chicago markets.

The first presidential ballot cast by Mr. Weddell was in 1876 for Rutherford B. Hayes. From that time to the present he has been an uncompromising Republican,

and while he would never accept office, he has assisted others and contributed of his time and means for the success of the party. He and his wife are members of the Rollo Congregational church, in the work of which both are greatly interested, Mr. Weddell being a member of the official board. For four years Mrs. Weddell has been an invalid and not able to walk, notwithstanding, she is always cheerful and in good spirits.

In connection with Robert Hampton, Mr. Weddell was instrumental in securing the present location of the village of Rollo. By their united efforts it was secured for its present location, after another had been already decided upon some two miles further south. It took very prompt and active work by Mr. Weddell and others to have the change made. But once determined upon, he was not the man to give up the struggle, but worked earnestly and faithfully with satisfactory results to himself and associates. A man of excellent business and executive ability, his sound judgment, unflagging enterprise and capable management have brought to him a well merited success. He is a worthy representative of that class of citizens who lead quiet, industrious, honest and useful lives, and who constitute the best portion of a community. In manner he is pleasant and cordial, which, combined with his sterling worth, makes him one of the popular citizens of the county.

**JAMES MAITLAND** is one of the substantial farmers of De Kalb county, his farm being located in section 35, Sycamore township. He was born in Darlington, Northumberland county, Canada, February 28, 1849. His father, James Maitland, Sr., was a Highlander, born in Argyleshire, Scot-

land, July 20, 1812, and who emigrated to Canada in 1835, locating near Darlington. He was a carpenter and ship builder by trade, and about 1854 moved to Colburn, Canada, where he was employed at his trade at Cole's wharf some eight years. He then returned to Darlington where he engaged in farming until 1868, when he removed to Malta, Illinois, where he again worked at his trade. He first married Mary Brown, of Darlington, and in 1841 married Miss Sarah Renwick, who was the mother of our subject. She was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, April 16, 1822, and who came to America in 1835, her parents settling near Darlington, Canada. She was the daughter of Walter and Mary (Guthrie) Renwick, also natives of Scotland. Her death occurred in Sycamore, Illinois, September 12, 1894. The paternal grandfather, William Maitland, was a native of Scotland, where his death occurred in 1814.

The subject of this sketch was about five years old when the family moved to Colburn, and he there attended school until about the age of fourteen years, when they removed five miles northeast of Colburn, where he resided until coming to Illinois in 1868. He arrived at Malta, November 14, and for one year worked on a farm. He was then employed on various farms in the neighborhood for three years, at the expiration of which time he went to Sycamore and worked with a hay press and at his trade for a time, and for three seasons engaged in running a threshing machine. He was married in Sycamore, October 14, 1874, to Miss Ada L. Stark, a native of De Kalb county, and a daughter of Marshall Stark, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. By this union two children have been born: Howard Henry, who died at the age of four

years and eight months, and Everitt P. They have adopted Herbert Harmon Stark, one of the sons of Harmon M. Stark, the eldest brother of Mrs. Maitland.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Maitland began farming one mile north of Sycamore on a farm of his father-in-law, and there resided one year. Removing to Kingston he there engaged in farming two years, and then returned to his father-in-law's farm, which he operated eight years. He then rented his present farm for two years, having an option for its purchase. He bought it in 1892, the farm comprising two hundred and ten acres, every foot of it tillable land. It is well improved and has between five and six miles of tiling. In addition to general farming Mr. Maitland engages in dairying to some extent, usually keeping from eighteen to twenty cows. His barn is one of the most substantial in the county, being what is known as a truss barn, and is thirty-six by sixty-four feet. A well one hundred and four feet deep gives an un-failing supply of pure water. He has two orchards on the place, covering about three acres of land, on which he raises apples, peaches, plums, pears, cherries and small fruit in abundance.

In politics Mr. Maitland is a Republican, and has served as road commissioner and school director for some years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the subordinate lodge, encampment, and canton of Patriarchs Militant. He has passed all the chairs in the subordinate lodge and encampment, serving as noble grand and chief patriarch. He has also been grand representative for seven years. As a citizen he is enterprising and progressive, and his farm shows the work of a master hand.

AUSTIN V. PIERCE, a farmer residing on section 13, Kingston township, is a native of Du Page county, Illinois, born January 12, 1859, and is the son of James T. and Sarah L. (Blank) Pierce, both of whom were natives of New York state, who removed to Du Page county, Illinois, in 1835. They were pioneers of that county and in the course of a few years after his coming to the county he was the owner of two hundred and fifty acres of land, which he purchased of the government and which he improved to a high degree. He was honored with many of the offices of the township, offices which he held with profit, not to himself, but to the township. In politics he was a Douglas Democrat. While coming west with no financial means, when life's journey was ended he had plenty to leave behind him. He died in 1895 at the age of seventy-four years; his wife survives him at the age of seventy years. Their family consisted of eight children, all of whom are living, our subject being the first born.

Austin V. Pierce was reared and educated in Du Page county and has always followed the vocation of a farmer. He resided at home until he reached his twenty-seventh year, at which time he rented a farm and began life for himself. He continued to rent farms for a few years, but in 1883 came to De Kalb county and purchased his present farm, which contains two hundred acres and is well located on a commanding eminence with good drainage, and, under the practical management of Mr. Pierce, it is growing more productive and becoming more beautiful.

On the 22d of March, 1875, Mr. Pierce was united in marriage with Miss Della Coon, a native of Steuben county, New







A. V. PIERCE.



MRS. A. V. PIERCE.



York, born October 13, 1856, and a daughter of William and Jane Coon, both of whom are now deceased. Five children were born of this union: Clayton in 1877, Garfield in 1881, Etha in 1883, Charles in 1885 and Mabel in 1890.

Since residing upon his present place Mr. Pierce has built a beautiful house with all the modern improvements of the day. His grounds are neatly kept, indicating the refinement and taste of its owner and of the family. For some years he has given his attention almost exclusively to dairy farming. For his choice herd of Durham and Holstein cattle he has erected a commodious barn, which is well ventilated and conveniently constructed. His house and barns were erected in 1893 and 1895. Mr. Pierce is a practical man of business and keeps abreast of the times. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of the Globe. Politically he is a Republican and always takes an active interest in the success of his party.

**R**ALPH N. WILKINSON, the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and fifteen acres in section 28, Mayfield township, is a native of De Kalb county, born on the farm where he now resides, August 28, 1858. His father, Robert Wilkinson, was a native of England, born in Stockton in 1829. John Wilkinson, the paternal grandfather, was also a native of England and removed to Canada about 1831. He resided there a number of years and about 1848 came to DeKalb county and located in Mayfield township, where he purchased a farm of about two hundred acres, which comprised a part of the place now owned by our subject.

Robert Wilkinson, the father, assisted in developing the old homestead, and later, in Mayfield township, married Julia E. Mace, a native of England and a daughter of William Mace, also a native of that country, who came to the United States in 1850, locating in South Grove township, De Kalb county. After his marriage, Robert Wilkinson located on a farm where his son now resides, and at once commenced its improvement. He had a farm of three hundred and eighty-one acres, and became one of the most prosperous farmers in Mayfield township. In 1875 he rented the farm, made a trip to Europe for his health, returned and bought a lumber yard in Sycamore and carried on the business a few months until his death, December 7, 1875. His wife survived him a number of years and met her death by accident on the streets of Sycamore, September 21, 1897, at the age of seventy years.

The subject of this sketch is one of a family of two sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to mature years and all married but one. He grew to manhood on the farm and was educated in the common schools and the Sycamore High School. After his father's death he remained on the farm one year, then went to Sycamore and for two years attended school in that city, then returned and took charge of the farm work. Later he purchased the interest of other heirs in the homestead and became sole proprietor of the farm, and has since been engaged in general farming, feeding and dealing in stock, shipping annually some two or three cars from his farm. He is also engaged to a limited extent in dairying. Since taking possession of the farm, he has made many improvements, which show the practical character of the man.

Mr. Wilkinson was married at Maple Park, Kane county, Illinois, November 13, 1879, to Miss Hattie Henneghan, a daughter of Manley and Elizabeth Henneghan, early settlers of De Kalb county, both now deceased. Mrs. Wilkinson was reared and educated in Sycamore. By this union their is one son, David S., now a student in the Aurora Business College. Politically, Mr. Wilkinson is a Jeffersonian Democrat, his first presidential ballot being cast in 1880 for General Winfield S. Hancock. He has taken an active part in local politics and local campaigns, serving as a delegate to various county and congressional conventions. He was elected justice of the peace in 1893 and re-elected in 1897, and has transacted the business of that important office in a very satisfactory manner. For eighteen years he has been a member of the school board, having always manifested an interest in the public school system and in securing good schools for his district. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of the Globe, being a charter member of the order in Sycamore, and has served through all the chairs. A lifelong resident of the county and township, he has labored earnestly and faithfully not only in the discharge of his own private affairs, but for the public good.

**G**EORGE W. WELCH is a farmer residing on section 27, Malta township, and is one of De Kalb county's promising young farmers. He was born in Malta township on the farm where he now resides, in 1873, and is the son of James and Mary (Watson) Welch, both natives of Ireland, who emigrated to this country in 1854. On their arrival in America they came directly

to De Kalb county, which has since continued to be their home. They are people of respectability and have by hard labor and economy secured for themselves sufficient means for their coming old age. James Welch is the owner of a neat city property in De Kalb, where he and his wife reside, and in addition is the owner of a farm upon which our subject resides and which will eventually fall to him.

George W. Welch grew to manhood upon the old homestead and was educated in the public schools of Malta, where he showed great proficiency in the various branches taught therein. Previous and subsequent to his school days he engaged in agricultural pursuits, and has always made his home upon the farm where he now resides. He makes no specialty of any particular line of farming, but succeeds in raising a general crop in abundance. On September 11, 1895, he married Miss Lyda Delbridge, who was born in Malta, De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1874, and the daughter of Thomas and Ellen Delbridge, both of whom are natives of England and are numbered among the substantial people of Malta. To Mr. and Mrs. Welch one child has been born, Earl D., March 30, 1897. Both Mr. and Mrs. Welch are members of the Congregational church, in which they take special interest. Fraternally he is a worthy member of the Knights of Pythias.

**J**OHAN N. HILL, who resides on section 25, Paw Paw township, owns and cultivates a farm of eighty acres of valuable and well improved land, three and a half miles from the village of Leland. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, April 9, 1857, and is the son of N. J. Hill, a native

of Norway, whose sketch may be found in this work. With his parents he resided until twenty-one years of age, during which time he assisted in the cultivation of the home farm, and attended the district school. When he attained his majority he commenced life for himself by renting the farm of eighty acres which he now owns, and boarding with his parents while engaged in its cultivation.

On the 7th of February, 1884, Mr. Hill was united in marriage with Miss Anna Watne, a native of Norway, and a daughter of Tobias Watne, also a native of that country. By this union seven children have been born—Nora, Jessie, Amos, Theodore, Albert, Mamy and Esther, all of whom yet remain at home, and five of the number attending the home school.

Mr. Hill purchased his present farm in 1886, and has here since continued to reside, engaged in general farming. He has been fairly successful in all that he has done, and feels that he has no reason to complain. He is a member of the Lutheran church, of which body his wife is also a member. In politics he is a Republican, but has never cared for office, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests and to his family. He is well known in the southwestern part of the county as a man whose word is as good as his bond.

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**SAMUEL STEPHENS**, deceased, was one of the pioneers of De Kalb county, who lived to see the great changes that were made in the development of the country. He was born at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, September 9, 1809, and was the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Stephens. The former died in 1834 and the latter in 1839.

When our subject was quite young his parents moved to Ohio, and later still farther west to Indiana. His boyhood and youth were spent in the three states and, as he was always on the frontier, his educational advantages were very limited. In 1837 he came to where Genoa now stands and took up a tract of land and there resided during the remainder of his life, dying August 14, 1891, at the age of eighty-two years.

Mr. Stephens was twice married, his first union being with Rebecca Patterson, who died October 25, 1851, leaving one son, Joseph B. Stephens, a prominent attorney of Sycamore. His second union was with Miss Philena Crocker, December 14, 1852, and by that union two children were born, but both are now deceased. Mrs. Stephens was born in Bethany, Genesee county, New York, January 1, 1830, and is a daughter of Rev. Allen Crocker, of whom further mention is made in the sketch of her brother, Rev. A. A. Crocker. At the age of sixteen years she came to Illinois and began teaching in a barn for lack of a schoolhouse. She became homesick in this new country and returned to New York on a visit, and after coming back to Illinois was thoroughly contented. On her marriage with Mr. Stephens she came to Genoa and has here since continued to reside. She is a devoted member of the Advent Christian church and is well posted in the scriptures.

Mr. Stephens was an enterprising man, liberal and broad-minded, always willing to assist others. He made two additions to the town and gave liberally to every public enterprise. When the railroad was being built through the place he gave of his means and assisted in the erection of the depot. He built the band stand in the park and gave the use of the grove for park purposes.

On the formation of the party he became a Republican and with that party affiliated for many years, but later in life was a strong and active Prohibitionist. For many years he served as justice of the peace and held other minor official positions. He was a member of Advent Christian church and a strong believer in the principles of that denomination.

**C**HARLES DAVIE is a farmer residing on section 8, Sycamore township. He was born in Cornwall, England, June 8, 1855, and is the son of James and Maria (Yoe) Davie, both of whom were natives of Cornwall, where they yet reside. The father is farming a leasehold which contains about one hundred and sixty acres, and is devoted to stock and grain and dairy products. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Order of Foresters. His wife is the daughter of John and Elizabeth Yoe. The paternal grandparents were James and Jane Davie, both of whom are now deceased. James and Maria Davie are the parents of five children, all sons. William is a blacksmith, residing in New Zealand. Charles is the subject of this sketch. John is engaged in farming in the town of St. Anstell, Cornwall, England. Arthur and Sidney Herbert yet reside with their parents.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native town and attended private schools until about the time of his emigration to America, in the meantime, however, assisting his father in the blacksmith shop. Early in June, 1882, he left his home in company with a friend, who was then on a visit to his native land, and sailing from Liverpool, he landed at Quebec, from

which place he came directly west to Chicago and from there to De Kalb. For thirteen years he worked on the farm of Mr. Triscott, in Sycamore township, during which time, however, he twice visited his native land, spending four months the first visit and six months in his last visit.

Mr. Davie was united in marriage October 23, 1895, with Miss Eunice Divine, since which time he has resided on his present farm of one hundred and forty-five acres, in section 8, Sycamore township, where he is engaged in general farming. In politics he is a Democrat, with which party he has acted since becoming a naturalized citizen. He is now serving as school director of his district. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

**G**EORGE L. TAYLOR is now living a retired life at Hinckley, Illinois, enjoying the fruits of years of former toil. He is a native of Illinois, born in Kane county, December 17, 1845, and is the son of Percy Taylor, a native of Vermont, born in 1801, and who grew to manhood in his native state, going from thence to New York when a young man, where, in St. Lawrence county, he married Miss Rebecca Lawrence. In 1836 he came west to Illinois and located in the township of Big Rock, Kane county, where he made claim to one hundred and sixty acres, which he cleared and on which he lived for forty years. In 1876 he moved to Aurora and there spent the last years of his life, dying in 1884 at the age of eighty-three years. His wife passed away in May, 1885. Of their family of two sons and five daughters, our subject and three daughters are the only ones living. Charles grew to manhood, married, located on a farm in



Blackberry township, Kane county, Illinois, where his death occurred. Mrs. Sarah Burt is a widow residing in De Kalb, Illinois. Mrs. Harriet Seavey is also a widow and now resides in Sugar Grove township, Kane county. Mrs. E. C. Whilden resides in Big Rock township, Kane county, her husband being one of the supervisors of that county.

George Taylor, our subject, grew to mature years on his father's farm in Big Rock township, Kane county, Illinois, and as soon as able he was required to do his share of farm work. His educational advantages were limited to the common school, yet, notwithstanding, he is to-day a well informed man. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-three years of age, when he was united in marriage in Sugar Grove township, Kane county, December 3, 1868, with Miss Mary Thompson, a native of Sugar Grove township, where she was reared and educated, and a daughter of Edward Thompson, a pioneer of Kane county, but a native of New York, who on coming west first located in Ottawa, Illinois, and later moved to Sugar Grove, Kane county.

After his marriage Mr. Taylor located on a farm, which he leased for a few years, and in 1876 purchased the old home farm which he operated for four years, then sold and purchased a farm near Waterman, De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1880, a place of one hundred and twenty acres. To that farm he moved and there resided for two years. While living there his wife passed away, dying May 28, 1881. He soon afterward sold the farm and on the 13th of December, 1883, in Kaneville, Illinois, was united in marriage to Mrs. Jennie Spencer, widow of James Spencer, and a sister of

his first wife. She is a native of New York, who came to Illinois when a child with her parents. By her first husband Mrs. Taylor has three children: Elmer, who is married and engaged in farming in Kaneville township, Kane county; Millie, wife of C. O. Dean, of Hinckley; and Hattie, young lady at home.

For about one year after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor resided at Kaneville, and in 1885 moved to Hinckley, where he purchased a residence lot, built a neat and substantial residence, into which they moved and where they have since continued to reside. Politically Mr. Taylor is identified with the Republican party and gives his earnest support to its men and measures. Since moving to Hinckley he has served as assessor of the township, and also on the village board, being two years a trustee, and one year president of the board. His entire life has been spent in Kane and De Kalb counties, and his acquaintance is extensive in both counties, and wherever known he has the confidence and respect of all. In his life he endeavors to live in accordance with the golden rule, doing as he would be done by.

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ELEAZER DIVINE, deceased, was born in the town of Grahamville, Sullivan county, New York, March 1, 1820. His father, David Divine, was also born in Sullivan county, January 6, 1800. He married Harriet Lowe, who died at the age of ninety-seven years. She was a daughter of Cornelius and Hannah (Hornbeak) Lowe, who both lived to a green old age. David Divine was engaged in farming and lumbering to a great extent in his native county. He died about 1866. The paternal grandfather, Eleazer Divine, married Lydia Betelbrunt,

and for many years was an inn keeper in Sullivan county. His death occurred when about seventy-five years old.

Eleazer Divine was reared in his native county and attended the district schools until the age of twenty years. He then bought a leasehold of one hundred acres, and afterward bought the fee simple to the land, and there engaged in farming for twelve years. In June, 1852, he came west and purchased three hundred acres at Charter Grove, De Kalb county, then returned to his eastern home, sold out, and moved with his family to De Kalb county in the fall of the same year. For the first few years after his arrival in De Kalb county he raised grain and stock, and was quite successful in his farming operations. As time passed he purchased more land, until he had six hundred acres, the greater part of which was under cultivation. During the latter years of his life, he traded in cattle and other live stock, buying and shipping to Chicago and other markets. In politics he was a Democrat. When he first settled in De Kalb county there was some open country, but the greater part was partially improved land.

Mr. Divine married Sallie Ann Sheely, who was born in Grahamville, Sullivan county, New York, September 26, 1822, and a daughter of Elisha Sheely, also a native of Sullivan county, who died in the early sixties, when eighty-four years old. By occupation he was a farmer, and cleared much timber land for agricultural purposes. He was the son of Conrad and Elizabeth (Hornbeak) Sheely, the latter dying in the twenties, a very old lady. Conrad Sheely settled in the wilderness, peeled tan bark for the market, and cut and marketed lumber, but did very little in agriculture. He died when about eighty years of age. Elisha

Sheely married Dorothy Grant, of Scotch descent, who died at the age of eighty-two years, two weeks after the death of her husband.

To Eleazer Divine and wife eight children were born, seven of whom are yet living. Nancy is the wife of Ira Evans, of Sycamore township. Mary married Richard Triscott, who is now deceased. David lives in Sycamore township. Frank resides at Charter Grove, Illinois. Samuel died in infancy. Eunice married Charles Davie, a sketch of whom appears in this work. James and John are twins, living at Charter Grove, on the old home place.

**W**ILLIAM H. MASON, who is operating a fine farm of two hundred and fifty-five acres in South Grove township, is a native of the Prairie state, born in Sycamore, February 11, 1859, and is the son of Henry B. and Lucy (Orput) Mason, the latter a native of Ohio. They were the parents of five children, of whom Anna and James L. are deceased. The living are Ida, Rosa L. and William H.

In his native city our subject spent his boyhood and when ten years old, accompanied by his parents, he removed to Atchison, Kansas. From there his father later went to Wyoming to prospect and was never again heard from. In 1877 he accompanied his mother on her return to Illinois, and with her located in Rockford, where he soon afterwards commenced work on a farm by the month, an occupation at which he continued for some years. On the 7th of October, 1885, he married Mary E. Cristman, a native of South Grove township and a daughter of Henry Cristman, an early

settler and prominent man of the township. By this union two children have been born, William C. and Bertha. By a former marriage Mrs. Mason had two children, L. M. and H. Berta. The latter died at the age of fourteen years.

Henry Cristman, the father of Mrs. Mason, married Louisa C. Pooler, by whom he had three children. Emily M. married Amos Willis, of Kingston township. Ida married Fred S. Goodrich, of South Grove township. Mary E. is the wife of our subject. Henry Cristman was born February 1, 1830, in Herkimer county, New York, where he grew to manhood and obtained his education in the common school. His parents were of German extraction and have long since been deceased. He was married December 29, 1853, to Louisa Pooler, born February 6, 1837, on the German Flats, in Herkimer county, and a daughter of Henry Pooler, a prominent citizen in that county, who later came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and located in Cortland township, where he purchased three hundred acres of land. About one year after his marriage Mr. Cristman came to De Kalb county and purchased one hundred and twenty-eight acres of improved land. From time to time he added to his possessions, until he had six hundred acres, all of which was under cultivation and devoted to general farming and stock raising. For some years, however, Mr. Cristman engaged in buying and shipping horses to the eastern markets and had a wide reputation as a judge of horses and stock generally. His death occurred January 4, 1883, in the prime of his life and usefulness. In politics he was a Republican and had held various responsible local positions. He was a popular man and his death was sincerely mourned by a large circle of

friends. Mrs. Cristman died October 26, 1896, at the age of fifty-nine years.

In politics Mr. Mason is a Republican, with which party he has been a life-long member. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**E**ZRA ABEL, who resides on section 29, Shabbona township, has been a resident of De Kalb county since November, 1852. He was born in the town of Westhaven, Rutland county, Vermont, April 13, 1830, and is the son of Ezra Abel, Sr., who was born in Swanton, Vermont, and a grandson of Asa Abel, of German parentage, and whose parents were pioneers of Vermont. Ezra Abel, Sr., grew to manhood in Vermont, and there married Susan Talmage, a native of that state, and later moved across Lake Champlain into New York, where he engaged in farming until his death, when only twenty-six years of age. Mrs. Abel later married Lyman Sherwood, and the family all came to Illinois in 1852.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in Washington county, New York, and in the public schools received a fair education. He there learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, at which he worked until his removal to Illinois and for the first three years after his arrival here. In 1853 he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land with a land warrant, and after the erection of a small house on the place, his step-father and his mother removed there, and he at once began to improve the place. He later built a large and substantial residence and a large barn, and as the years went by he set out an orchard, planted shade trees and transformed the place from

its wild state into one of the most productive farms in the county.

Mr. Abel has been twice married, first in February, 1854, to Miss Minerva Brown, a native of Ohio, who died in 1868, leaving two children. Ettie is now the wife of Charles G. Houghtby, a farmer who owns and operates a farm adjoining that of Mr. Abel. Harriet E. is the wife of W. M. Ellsworth, who is engaged in operating the Abel farm. Mr. Abel later married Clara Palm, a native of Ohio, who came to De Kalb county when but eight or nine years of age. They were married in 1871, and six years later Mrs. Abel was called to her reward, and, dying, left one daughter, Effie A., who yet resides at home.

The first presidential ballot of our subject was cast in 1856 for John C. Fremont, and he has never failed to vote the party ticket from that time to the present. For two terms he served as collector of his township, and has also served as highway commissioner. His influence has always been used in securing good schools, and for twenty years he served as a member of the school board. While not a member of any church, he is an attendant of the West Shabbona Methodist Episcopal church, and gives of his means to its support. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, a member of Shabbona Lodge. In the forty-six years that he has resided in De Kalb county, he has made many friends who esteem him for his genuine worth.

**H**IRAM F. BRANCH is one of the leading farmers of Kingston township, one thoroughly versed in all the branches of his vocation. His surroundings testify to the fact that he is abreast with the times. His

well arranged and fertile farm, with its fine herd of Jersey cattle, is located on section 10, Kingston township, about two miles north of the village of Kingston, where his birth occurred, July 27, 1843. His parents were Charles W. and Esther (Hait) Branch, the former a native of Vermont, born in 1812, and the latter of Delaware county, New York, born in 1815. Their marriage occurred in De Kalb county in 1838.

Charles W. Branch was a blacksmith by trade and a first-class mechanic in his day. He removed from Vermont to St. Lawrence county, New York, where he remained for some time, and in 1835 removed to Kingston township, De Kalb county, and located on the farm now owned and occupied by his son, our subject. The same year in which he came to the county he repaired to Warrenville, where he made his tools and then returned to his farm, or what was soon to be a farm. Erecting a shop he there hammered away the rest of his life. By hard work and close application to business he succeeded in building a home, a name and an influence, which has outlived himself, and will outlive other generations. He was not only a good mechanic, but a good and faithful citizen. He was honored by being appointed postmaster and serving as such for fifteen years. For several terms he served as supervisor of his township and was justice of the peace under six different governors, three of his commissions being from one governor. He was faithful in the discharge of every duty and conscientious in all his dealing with his fellow men. A man of few words, but many deeds, he was always willing to do what he could for the advancement of his adopted county. He was a strict anti-slavery man and a staunch Republican. His farm consisted of one hundred





HIRAM F. BRANCH.



MRS HIRAM F. BRANCH.





and sixty acres, upon which he made many improvements. Previous to his death he disposed of eighty acres of the original one hundred and sixty acres, and bought another eighty to make his farm more complete and to his liking. He died September 11, 1879, at the age of sixty-seven years, eight months and two days. His wife died November 18, 1854, at the age of thirty-nine years, seven months and sixteen days. Their family consisted of nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity, five yet living. Two of their sons were in the army in defense of the Union, William Henry and Edwin H. both losing their lives in the service, the former dying by disease in the hospital, and the latter by the bullet of the enemy in the battle of Tupello, Mississippi.

Hiram F. Branch is third in order of birth of the children born to his parents. He was reared in his native township and educated in the district schools. Farming has been his life-long vocation, and that he has made a good farmer all will testify. When he reached his majority he began to work his father's farm on the shares, and continued to do so for eleven years. After the lapse of this time he purchased the old homestead and to its area he has added at various times until he now owns two hundred and five acres of first class land. In 1897 he built a dwelling house of modern construction, beautiful and commodious, fitted with the improvements of the day. His barns and other outbuildings have been recently built and are convenient and well ventilated. His stock is well collected and of the best breed, and at present he is giving himself especially to dairy farming.

On the 6th of May, 1876, Mr. Branch was united in marriage with Miss Amy C.

Witter, daughter of William and Polly Witter, and to them four children have been born: Charles R., February 7, 1877; Lloyd H., January 22, 1879; Louise, December 5, 1880; and Polly E., February 25, 1883. Mrs. Branch was born in Boone county, Illinois, March 16, 1851, and is a highly esteemed lady, fully equipped by nature and training to gracefully govern her beautiful home. Politically Mr. Branch is a Republican, the principles of which party he has advocated since attaining his majority. Like his honored father before him, he enjoys the good will and esteem of his neighbors. He has been honored and trusted with the office of supervisor of his township for four years, and has held other minor local offices.

**W** MARSHALL SEBREE.—The state of Illinois owes its high standing among the sovereign commonwealths that make up the United States, to the high character and dauntless spirit of the settlers who made their homes within her borders in the early days. To their inspiration and work is due her progress in agriculture, manufacturing and the arts. They transformed the wilderness into fertile farms, established churches and schools in the savage wilds, and laid the foundation for the grand institutions of philanthropy and learning, which are the glory of the state at the present day. Among these brave and far-sighted pioneers, the Sebree family of De Kalb county deserves prominent mention.

W. Marshall Sebree dates his residence in De Kalb county from 1834. He was born in Floyd county, Indiana, February 7, 1833, and is the son of John S. Sebree, a

native of Virginia, born in 1808, and the grandson of Robert Sebree, a native of Virginia of English descent. Robert Sebree removed with his family from Virginia to Kentucky, becoming one of the pioneers of that state. For two years he and his son, John S. Sebree, ran a snag boat on the Mississippi river. The latter then went to Floyd county, Indiana, where he located, and there married Sarah Jane Bateman, a native of Indiana, but of German parentage, her father, William Bateman, being a native of Germany and one of the pioneer settlers of Indiana.

After his marriage John S. Sebree engaged in farming in Floyd county, Indiana, for two years, then came to De Kalb county, Illinois, locating in what is now Squaw Grove township, and being one of the very first settlers of the county. He took up a claim of about four hundred and eighty acres, on which he built a log house sixteen by eighteen feet, to which an addition was made the following year. On locating here there were no white settlers for miles around, and Indians were quite common through the country. The first winter after his arrival, he ran out of supplies, and started with a team for Bloomington for provisions to carry them through the remainder of the winter. The roads, if such they might be called, were perfectly horrible and the weather was fearfully bad. He was gone three weeks, during which time his wife was left with two small children. Before his return, she ran out of all kinds of provisions, and had but a small quantity of corn which she pounded into meal and grits with an iron wedge, in a hole in a stump. The return of her husband with supplies was hailed with great joy.

Mr. Sebree erected one of the first build-

ings in the county, near De Kalb. For years his house was made a place of entertainment by the traveling public. It being located on the old state road, he had many travelers to entertain him. The land to which he made claim he entered as soon as it came into market and in due time he had a large and valuable farm, the old log house giving place to a substantial brick residence. A large barn was erected with stone basement and for many years he was regarded as one of the most enterprising farmers in De Kalb county. On the old farm he passed his last days, dying in April, 1873, his wife surviving him a number of years, dying in October, 1887. Of their family of two sons and three daughters the subject of this sketch was first in order of birth. Matilda grew to womanhood, married, but is now deceased. James Harrison grew to manhood, married and died in 1872. Mary Alice also grew to womanhood, married and is now deceased. Ellen Augusta is the wife of S. V. Howell, a farmer and business man of De Kalb county.

The subject of this sketch was but one year old when he came with his parents to De Kalb county, and here his entire life has since been passed. He was educated in the pioneer schools and until after attaining his majority assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm. He was married September 26, 1855, to Miss Rosetta Donaldson, a native of Steubenville, Jefferson county, Ohio, born May 23, 1837, and the daughter of James and Jane (Cone) Donaldson, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of New York city. Her parents located in De Kalb county in 1846, and in less than two years her father died. Later her mother moved to Elgin, Illinois, where she reared her two children, giving them a

fair education, as there was no school near at that time.

After marriage Mr. Sebree located on a part of the old home place, but took charge of the farm and business and cared for his parents in their declining years. After the death of the father he succeeded to the entire estate and has since very much improved the farm, building a large and substantial residence, good barns and outbuildings and tiling about two miles. Success has crowned his efforts in life and in addition to the home place he has owned farms in Indiana, Iowa, Dakota and Kansas and also owned another farm in De Kalb county.

In addition to his general farming interests Mr. Sebree has been quite successful in his real-estate ventures. He also met with good success in breeding and dealing in Red Polled-Angus cattle and was a breeder and dealer in this stock for years. He has also engaged in raising fine horses, sheep, Poland China and Yorkshire hogs, and was well known throughout Illinois and the northwest as a breeder and dealer in fine stock. He has lent a helping hand to numerous enterprises calculated to advance the interests of his section of the country.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sebree five children have been born, one of whom is deceased. The living are Alice, wife of Fernando Slater, a farmer of De Kalb county; Nellie, wife of W. A. Fay, editor of the De Kalb Review; Effie, wife of A. J. Coster, a substantial farmer of De Kalb county; and Ray M., who owns and operates a part of the old farm. Mr. and Mrs. Sebree have also four grandchildren—Roy and Elva Slater, Earl Fay and Donald Coster.

Politically Mr. Sebree is thoroughly independent, casting his ballot for the one he considers the best man regardless of his

politics. For some years he served as commissioner of highways, and in his early manhood was elected and served as constable and township collector. He has been a friend of education and the public schools, and served some six or eight years as a member of the school board. Years ago he joined the Masonic lodge at Hincley, but has since been demitted. For sixty-four long years he has been a resident of De Kalb county, and is now the oldest living resident of the county. He is one of the few living pioneers who have witnessed the great changes that have been made in making the vast wilderness to blossom as the rose, and to make Illinois the most productive state in the Union and third in wealth and population. In the great changes that have been made he has taken no inconsiderable part, and is justly entitled to all the honors that can be conferred upon one who has endured the trials of pioneer life.

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FRED. T. ROBINSON, druggist, of Genoa, Illinois, was born in Keysville, New York, July 19, 1850, and is the son of Hiram Robinson, Sr., born in the north-eastern part of New York, December 31, 1819, and who died at the age of sixty-nine years. His entire life was spent in north-eastern New York, with the exception of five years in the early childhood of our subject. He married Aurilla Cutler, born in Jay, New York, April 22, 1822, and a daughter of John Cutler, Jr., who was a son of John Cutler, Sr., who married Catherine Priest, a daughter of John and Catherine (Williams) Priest. They became the parents of six children; Hiram, of Plattsburg, New York; Fred T., our subject; Dr. E. A., of

Genoa; Anna L.; Dr. John, of Plattsburg, New York; and Sarah.

The paternal grandfather, Hiram Robinson, Sr., settled in northern New York in the last century and was engaged in trading with the Indians in that state and in Canada. He married Marie Julia Subray, whose brother, Louis Subray, owned one of the largest stores in Montreal at that time. She was born in Paris, France, and was a well educated woman. The grandfather died when his son Hiram was only six years of age, and his wife three years later at the age of thirty-five years.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native state, and attended school in or near Keysville until the age of fourteen years. He then spent one year at Masson College, Terrebonne, near Montreal, and in an academy at Plattsburg, New York. After leaving school he clerked for a time at Saramac and Clayburg, New York, and in 1874 came west to Chicago where he again engaged as a clerk in a drug store, in the meantime studying pharmacy. In 1881 he came to Genoa where he formed a partnership with W. P. Van Alstine in the drug business, and in the meantime continuing his studies in pharmacy, graduating from the Chicago College of Pharmacy in 1885. He then bought his partner's interest in the store, since which time he has continued the business alone.

Mr. Robinson was first married in Genoa in 1879 to Miss Ada Van Alstine, who died in 1885, leaving one son, Frank Garfield. In 1886 he married Miss Anna McCormack, a daughter of Richard McCormack. She died in April, 1894, leaving one daughter, Hazel Frances. Fraternally Mr. Robinson is a member of Genoa Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; the chapter and commandery, of Sycamore;

more; the consistory of Freeport; the Tebala Temple, Mystic Shrine, at Rockford; the Eastern Star lodge of Genoa; the subordinate and Rebecca degree lodge, I. O. O. F., of Genoa, and the Knights of the Macca-bees.

In February, 1864, Mr. Robinson enlisted in the Sixteenth New York Cavalry, and served until 1866, principally in Virginia. He was in the engagements in the Wilderness, and at Culpeper Courthouse and upwards of fifty skirmishes. He enlisted as a bugler, but soon went into the ranks and served as orderly. His record was an excellent one.

**J**OHAN SULLIVAN GIBSON, deceased, was born in Warsaw, New York, in 1810. He was of Scotch and English descent, and in his youth learned the tinsmith's trade, an occupation which he followed during his entire life. He was twice married. By the first marriage there were six children, all deceased but one son, Arthur Vincent Gibson, a noted bass singer, and manager of an opera company in New York. Charles Gibson was a member of a band in the military service during the Civil war, and while yet in the service died of typhoid fever. Porter Gibson, also a member of the band, went through his term of service, but died shortly after the close of the war. His second union was in 1869, when he wedded Mrs. Harriet Marshall, widow of John Marshall, who died May 6, 1865, and who was a native of Nottinghamshire, England, born May 12, 1815, and who came to America in June, 1848, sailing from Liverpool and landing in New York, after a voyage of thirty-two days. By the Hudson river, the Erie canal and the great lakes he came west to

Chicago and from there to St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, and later located near Charter Grove, in De Kalb county. (For the genealogy of the Marshall family, see sketch of John Marshall on another page of this work.) After the death of Mr. Marshall his widow purchased residence property in Sycamore, to which she removed, and was there residing at the time of her marriage with Mr. Gibson. She then removed with him to Batavia, where she resided until his death, and then returned to her home in Sycamore, where she now lives.

Mrs. Gibson's maiden name was Harriet Ashley. She was born in the village of Cottonwood, Shropshire, England, about thirty miles east of Liverpool, June 15, 1826, and a daughter of William Ashley, a farmer of Shropshire, who was the son of Robert Ashley, of Crew Hall, England. William Ashley married Ann Fairclay, who died at the age of seventy-seven years. He also died at the age of seventy-seven years. They came to America early in 1848, accompanied by their family. Their daughter Harriet married George Marshall, February 29, 1848, a few weeks after her arrival in America. Mrs. Gibson has two sisters and a brother living in England, while another sister is living in Aurora, Illinois. She is quite a traveler, and spends much of her time in that way. She has passed one winter in California, one in Florida, visited much in Canada, and through the south, and in 1896 crossed the ocean and visited her old home in England.

John Sullivan Gibson for twenty-five years was with Meredith Brothers, hardware dealers in Batavia, and was with them until his death. He was an active man, of very strong mind, a fine singer and Christian gentleman, and for many years was a leader

in prayer-meeting. He was also a member of the Masonic order and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he was an ardent Republican, and was well posted on national affairs. His death resulted from paralysis, in 1882, at the age of seventy-two years.

**M**YRON E. LAKE is one of the younger and enterprising farmers of Paw Paw township, residing on section 25, where he has a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land. He was born on the farm where he now resides, which belongs to his father and contains one hundred and sixty acres, January 15, 1863, and is the son of Almon W. Lake, a native of Sterling, Cayuga county, New York, born October 13, 1829, and who is the son of John and Catherine (Van Tassel) Lake, the former of English and the latter of German parentage. The family moved to Illinois in 1840, and settled in Hancock county, taking up their residence there on the 31st of May. In 1845 they came to Paw Paw township, where John Lake entered eighty acres of land and where our subject now resides. Almon Lake worked by the month to get a start in life and pay for his first land. He was married in Paw Paw township, January 5, 1860, to Miss Mary E. Dennis, a native of Argyle township, Washington county, New York, born April 16, 1842, and a daughter of John and Margaret (McFarland) Dennis. On the farm which he had previously purchased, he took his young bride and they there resided until 1890, when he turned his farm over to his son, our subject, removed to Sandwich, purchased residence property

and is now living a retired life. He was one of the progressive farmers of the township and placed his farm under a high state of cultivation, with good improvements, including a good substantial residence, good barns, various outbuildings, fruit and ornamental trees.

Myron E. Lake grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated in the home schools. He remained with his father until twenty-two years of age, and in February, 1885, married Miss Ella M. Holmes, a daughter of George R. Holmes, then a substantial farmer in Paw Paw township, but who is now engaged in the livery business at De Kalb. By this union there are four children: Arthur H., Bessie May, Margaret and Frances. After marriage Mr. Lake worked a rented farm for one year, then returned to the home farm, where he has since continued to reside, and where success has crowned his efforts. In addition to general farming, he has engaged in stock-raising, feeding annually for the market about three carloads of stock. He has likewise engaged in the dairy business to some extent, an occupation which he has followed for some years.

Politically Mr. Lake has ever been a staunch Republican, and an earnest advocate of the principles of the party. He was elected and served one year as road commissioner, but has never desired public office. A believer in the public schools, he has used his influence to secure good schools and good teachers, and is now a member of the school board. Progressive in all things, he endeavors to do his work faithfully and well, and in his quiet life he enjoys the respect and confidence of the entire community, in which he has been a life-long resident.

JAMES HALLETT is a farmer residing on section 30, Mayfield township, and who came to De Kalb county in 1855. He is a native of England, born near Taunton, Somersetshire, September 7, 1833, and there resided until eighteen years of age, assisting in farm work, and at intervals attending the common schools, where he received a fair education. A young man of twenty-two years, he crossed the ocean and came direct to De Kalb county, locating in South Grove township, where he commenced work on a farm by the month, continuing in that occupation for seven years at two hundred dollars per year. His earnings were saved, and, loaning out the money, at the end of seven years, he had seventeen hundred dollars. He then returned to his native land, and remained at his old home in Somersetshire for two years assisting his father in farming and gardening.

The old country had but little attractions to our subject, after a seven years residence in the new world, and in the spring of 1865, he again crossed the ocean, and made his way to South Grove township, De Kalb county, and worked on a farm by the month for six months. Early in the spring of 1867, he bought a farm of eighty acres in Mayfield township, on which a small house had been erected and the place otherwise partially improved. Moving to the farm, he began its further improvement, and has since rebuilt and remodeled the house, built a good large barn, set out an orchard, and enclosed the farm with a well trimmed hedge fence, making it a very neat and attractive place, and it has always been kept under the highest state of cultivation.

In November, 1868, in De Kalb county, Mr. Hallett was united in marriage with Miss Mary Jane Hall, a native of Wiscon-

sin, born near the city of Madison. Her father was a native of Vermont, and one of the early settlers in Wisconsin, where Mrs. Hallett was principally reared. She died in October, 1890, leaving five children. Eliza is now the wife of Malcolm Doane, of South Grove township. Emily Jane is the wife of W. E. Cruikshank, a telegraph operator on the Illinois Central Railroad at Colvin Park, Illinois. John is a young man residing at home, and operating the farm. Sarah Belle and Olive May also reside at home. William Payne died at the age of nine years.

Politically Mr. Hallett is a Republican, a party into which he naturally drifted on his arrival in this country. After receiving his naturalization papers, Mr. Hallett cast his first presidential ballot for Rutherford B. Hayes. He and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church at South Grove, and contribute of their means to its support. They are well known in Sycamore and in the northern part of De Kalb county, and are among the most highly esteemed of the citizens of Mayfield township.

**J** P. REDMOND, a prosperous and enterprising farmer of De Kalb county, took up his residence within its precincts in 1872, and owns and operates a valuable and well improved farm of two hundred acres in sections 25 and 36, Milan township. He is the son of Murt and Elizabeth (Harris) Redmond, and was born in 1856, in Penn's Park, Bucks county, Pennsylvania. Murt Redmond was born in Ireland in 1826, and when twenty-four years of age came to the United States and settled in Penn's Park, Pennsylvania, where, in 1855, he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Harris, and gave

his time and attention to the cultivation of a small farm. It was there that all his eight children were born, of whom our subject is the oldest. Learning of the possibilities of Illinois, its fertile fields and splendid opportunities, in the spring of 1872 he moved with his family to Malta township, De Kalb county, Illinois, and, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of select land, proceeded to cultivate and improve it, and to-day it is an excellent piece of farm property. After a life full of industry and persevering efforts, which have been rewarded by successful results, he retired from active life in 1885, and lives in quiet, free from care and responsibility in De Kalb.

At the time of his father's removal west, J. P. Redmond was a youth of sixteen years and when not in school was assisting his father in the many labors that farm life impose. With an inborn thirst for knowledge, he was not content with the limited training acquired in the neighboring schools, and for several seasons he attended the higher graded schools of De Kalb, and supplemented this by a course of study at the Metropolitan Business College, Chicago. At the age of twenty-two years he began teaching in the district schools and served in this capacity for three years, to which were subsequently added several winter terms.

Mr. Redmond was united in marriage in June, 1887, with Miss Catherine Lyons, daughter of John Lyons, a prosperous farmer of Afton township, now retired and residing in Aurora. By this union there are four children, John, Elizabeth, Allen and Ruth. In 1895 he moved with his family from Malta township, where he had resided on the old homestead and cultivated the farm, to Milan township and purchased a tract of land consisting of two hundred acres, which

he now cultivates. This farm is well improved in outbuildings and fences, is thoroughly tiled, with an excellent orchard and an abundance of shade trees, is well stocked and is among the best pieces of farm property in De Kalb county.

With a laudable ambition to build for himself, Mr. Redmond has coupled industrious habits with a will and determination to overcome all obstacles thrown across the path to success. The result is apparent. He is still a young man and his start in life can not but lead up to greater and more far reaching opportunities. He is a man who thinks for himself, and this is especially so in all political matters, and at the election he votes his convictions independent of party. He has never sought political office nor preferment, his time and attention being engrossed in the many duties of his business, and its success was his sole and only absorbing desire.

With Mr. Redmond's attainments in matters educational, it is but natural that his sympathy and support go out to increase and improve the standard of education in the public school, and as an ardent supporter of popular education he is always to be relied on. He is a member of the De Kalb lodge, Knights of Pythias, and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is courteous and hospitable, and the esteem and popularity which are connected with his name are but the natural results of sincerity of purpose, thorough integrity and a kindly disposition.

**JAMES L. LITTLE**, residing on section 4, Kingston township has been engaged in farming for the greater part of his life. He was born in Aurora, Erie county, New

York, November 8, 1834, and is the son of Henry and Amy (Bingham) Little. Henry Little was a native of Washington county, New York, born in 1789 and his wife a native of Vermont, born in 1804. The Littles are of French extraction, while the Bingham were originally from England. Henry Little and wife moved to the west in 1845, landing in Milwaukee, May 10, of that year, coming over the Great Lakes to that city. They remained one year in Racine county, and in 1846 came to De Kalb county, locating in Kingston township, where they resided for the remainder of their lives. They took up a quarter section of wild land, which by hard work and close application to business they soon succeeded in subduing. He always followed agricultural pursuits, and understood farming in all its details. They owned considerable property, but gave much of it to the children, owning at the time of their death about eighty acres. Mr. Little passed away August 18, 1858, his wife surviving him many years, dying September 5, 1891. They were both devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Their family consisted of nine children as follows: Henry H., Amanda, Rachel, Lydia, James L., Sarah, Ann, Emma and Erastus.

James L. Little was reared and educated in Erie county, New York, and De Kalb county, Illinois. He resided under the parental roof until reaching his twenty-first anniversary, at which time he commenced life for himself. In course of time his uncle, Horace Bingham, gave him eighty acres, to which he added forty more, which would make, deducting for the railroad, one hundred and fourteen acres of excellent farming land, bordering on Boone county. Mr. Little is a practical farmer in the full sense





JAMES L. LITTLE.



of the term, and has been fairly successful in his life work. In political faith he is a Republican, and religiously a Baptist.

At the time of his arrival in De Kalb county there were yet many Indians. He well remembers breaking the virgin prairie and of many battles with the rattlesnakes which infested the long grass; also talks entertainingly of all the hardships and pleasures incident to pioneer life. In the fifty-two years of his residence in De Kalb county Mr. Little has earned the respect and esteem of the people among whom he has lived.

**A**LFRED L. CLARKE, who resides on section 29, Mayfield township, is a life-long resident of the county, being born in Mayfield township, July 20, 1855. His father, Rev. George Clarke, is a native of England, born in Walthamstoe, Essex county, February 2, 1823. He there grew to manhood, and received a classical education. He married, in Essex county, Louisa Lucy Munt, a daughter of Samuel Munt, and in 1846 emigrated to the United States with his young bride, and first located in Du Page county, Illinois. He was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and commenced preaching when but sixteen years of age. After locating in Du Page county he was a circuit rider for two years, his salary for that period not exceeding eighty dollars. In 1848 he came to De Kalb county and entered a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Mayfield township and commenced farm life. Success crowned his efforts from the beginning, and from time to time he added to his possessions until he was the owner of sixteen hundred acres of as fine land as can be found in

De Kalb county. While attending to his farming operations, he did not neglect the ministry of the Word, but served as a local preacher in the neighborhood during his entire residence there. In 1884 he turned over the old place to his son, George E., and moved to Chicago, where he is living practically a retired life, although dealing to some extent in real estate. For a few years after his removal to that city he was quite extensively engaged in the real estate business, and was fairly successful. His wife died on the old homestead in February, 1895, and her remains were laid to rest in the Brush Point cemetery, Mayfield township. Of their four children, William E. is a substantial farmer of Mayfield township; Alfred L. is the subject of this review; George E. owns and operates the old homestead; and Louisa L. is the wife of Orlando Drake. They also adopted a daughter, Alice B., who married William Beaman, but is now deceased.

Alfred L. Clarke grew to manhood on the old homestead, and was educated in the home schools. He remained with his parents until twenty-six years of age and materially assisted in the farm work. He was married in Sycamore, November 30, 1881, to Miss Ella A. Knipp, born in Rome, New York, and who came with her father, George Knipp, when a child of eight years, to Sycamore, Illinois, where he engaged in business. By this union there are three children—Ethel Pearl, Amelia Priscilla and Marcia Ella.

After his marriage Mr. Clarke located on the farm where he now resides, commencing on eighty acres, but has since added to the area of his farm until it now comprises three hundred and thirty acres and is one of the neatest and most home-

like places in De Kalb county. On the farm is a neat and substantial residence, which has lately been remodeled, large barns, good orchard, and the grounds ornamented with fine forest trees, flowers and shrubs. The house is heated with a furnace and hot and cold water is supplied to the various rooms, and in fact it has all the modern conveniences of the present day.

Politically Mr. Clarke is a lifelong Republican, his first presidential ballot being cast for U. S. Grant in 1876. From that time to the present the party has always had his earnest support, and while he cares nothing for official position, he manifests an active interest in the success of his party, attending its conventions and contributing of his means to its success. For a number of years he has served on the school board, a part of which time he has been its presiding officer. He and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church of Sycamore, in which faith they were reared. Both are well known and their home is the abode of hospitality.

**H**IRAM GILKERSON is a representative of the farming interests of De Kalb county, and resides on section 12, Genoa township. He was born on the farm where he now resides, October 15, 1853. His father, John Gilkerson, was born in Carlyle, England, November 16, 1816, and came to America in 1841. He sailed from Liverpool, landed at New York, and for seven years remained in Homer, Cortland county, working six years for Israel Boies. In 1848 he came west to Kane county, Illinois, and lived on the farm of a brother one year, and then purchased the farm where our subject now resides, in De Kalb county, adding

to his first purchase, however, until he was the owner of three hundred and sixty acres. He married Frances Elizabeth Williams, born July 8, 1832, in Grafton county, New Hampshire, and who came to De Kalb county with her parents about 1849. She is the daughter of Samuel and Pernel B. (Worth) Williams. They became the parents of three children: Hiram, our subject; John, residing with our subject; and Ida Mary, wife of W. S. Campbell, of Genoa township. The paternal grandparents, John and Mary (Twentyman) Gilkerson, also natives of England, came to America in 1840, where their death occurred. John Gilkerson died March 28, 1865, and his wife January 31, 1890.

Hiram Gilkerson grew to manhood on the home farm, and received his primary education in the district school, after which he attended schools in Marengo and Sycamore, and later entered the University of Illinois, at Champaign, from which he was graduated in 1877. Returning home from college, he took his place upon the farm, and on the 14th of October, 1877, near Waverly, Macoupin county, Illinois, he was united in marriage with Miss Portia Moffet, a native of Bell county, Texas, and a daughter of Dr. Chauncey and Amelia E. (Vancil) Moffet.

Dr. Moffet was born in the state of New York, and when four years of age accompanied his parents to Brussels, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He was the son of Hosea Moffet, who was also probably a native of New York. He was a graduate of the Ohio Medical College, and commenced the practice of his profession near Hillsboro, Illinois. In 1849 he took up his residence in Macoupin county, where he married, and one year later removed to Texas,

where he was residing at the outbreak of the Civil war. Because of his northern sympathy, his life was in danger, and leaving Texas he quietly made his way to Arkansas, where he was pressed into service by the guerrillas, and was in the battle of Waldron. He escaped from the rebels and went into the Union service, and was later discharged for disability and returned to Macoupin county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming.

Amelia E. Vancil, the wife of Dr. Moffet, and the mother of Mrs. Gilkerson, was a native of Macoupin county, and a daughter of Edmund C. Vancil, a well known capitalist, and one of the earliest settlers of that county, born in Kentucky in 1799. With his parents he moved to Logan county, Illinois, in 1817, and in 1822, soon after attaining his majority, went to Union county, Illinois, descending the Ohio river in a flat boat to Golconda. He remained there, however, but a short time and then went to Jackson county, where, after many discouragements, he thought best to make another removal and went to Sangamon county, Illinois, in the fall of 1827, and shortly afterwards moved to Macoupin county, where, by his energy, thrift and good judgment he became one of the wealthiest landowners in the county. He was married in Jackson county, Illinois, to Mary Byers, a daughter of Judge Byers of that county. On leaving Sangamon county he settled in Apple Creek township, Greene county, but which is now Macoupin county, and entered the third piece of land taken up in that township. There were then only seven or eight families in the entire county. In 1828 he moved to the farm which was his home for so many years. In securing his start he borrowed money at twenty-five per cent interest, not

an uncommon rate in those days. He had to go twenty miles to mill, sometimes having to wait two days for his turn. The nearest store was at Carrollton, thirty miles away. In the famous deep snow of 1830 he suffered some loss, but was not discouraged. In the spring of 1833 he built a mill, and a distillery in 1835. He was a man of unusual executive ability and business judgment. He died December 31, 1891, and his wife May 25, 1890.

After his marriage Mr. Gilkerson began farming for himself, and first purchased five hundred and sixty acres of land in Genoa township, to which he has since added until he has now eight hundred and eighty acres. On his farms are four dwellings, four large barns, several of which were built by himself. The land is drained by about fifteen miles of tiling; what was once swamp, is now fertile farming land.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gilkerson four children have been born: Aletha A., Francis E., Thomas John, and Portia E.; the first named is a graduate of the Marengo high school, in the class of 1898, and is now attending the University of Illinois, and the second will graduate in 1899. In politics Mr. Gilkerson is an independent Republican, and, by reason of his interest in the public schools, he has served as school director for nine years. A practical farmer and good business man, he has been uniformly successful.

**T**HEODORE D. DRISCOLL, a substantial farmer residing on section 11, South Grove township, has the honor of being the first white child born in the township, his birth occurring April 5, 1838, and on the farm where he now resides, and which has principally been his home for more than

sixty years. He is a son of William and Margaret (Losier) Driscoll, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were the parents of eight children, only two of whom are living, Elizabeth and Theodore D.

In 1836 William Driscoll left his native state and with his family came to De Kalb county and located in South Grove township, where he made claim to one hundred and forty acres, which he purchased when the land later came into market. His was the first claim made in the township by a permanent settler. At that time settlements were few and far between, the nearest mill being at Ottawa, fifty miles away. With ox team they hauled their wheat to the mill, and in fact used oxen for all purposes of travel. Three years after making his settlement William Driscoll died, leaving a widow and eight children to make their way alone in the world, and in a new country, with but few of the comforts obtained in the older states.

The subject of this sketch remained at home and assisted in the cultivation of the farm, in the meantime attending the primitive schools of this new country. In those schools he obtained a fair education, and is to-day a well-informed man and recognized as one of the best farmers in De Kalb county. In 1859, on attaining his majority, he came into possession of the old homestead, and from time to time he has added to its area, until he has now over eight hundred acres of well-improved and valuable land, together with a large amount of personal property.

Mr. Driscoll was married January 6, 1875, to Miss Harriet L. Tindall, also a native of South Grove township, and a daughter of Jesse Tindall, who was also one

of the pioneers of De Kalb county. Mrs. Driscoll was born January 21, 1843, and received a good education and for some years followed the profession of teacher prior to her marriage. Her parents, Jesse and Mary (Barber) Tindall, were natives of New Jersey and New York, respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll four children have been born: Jesse, Elizabeth, Harriet and Arthur.

In politics Mr. Driscoll is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. While he is a thoroughgoing Republican and gives of his time and means to advance the interest of his party, he has never himself been an office seeker. He has, however, been prevailed upon to accept some of the township offices and is at present township treasurer and school director. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which body his wife is also a member. A lifelong resident of the county he has done much to advance its growth and development. When he was born Indians were still numerous in the vicinity, but they have long since disappeared and the oldest inhabitant can scarcely realize that they were ever here. Villages, towns and cities have sprung up and nearly every acre of land has been placed under cultivation and evidences of thrift are everywhere at hand. To such men as Theodore Driscoll and his pioneer father the credit is due for the wonderful changes that have been made.

**J**OHNS MARSHALL, who is a prosperous farmer, residing on section 11, Sycamore township, was born in North Clifton, Nottinghamshire, England, September 21, 1825, and is the son of William and Mary

(Bingham) Marshall, the former born in the parish of Dunham, Nottinghamshire, England, in 1789. He was a farm laborer in England, and came to America in 1852, and lived with his sons until his death, in 1876. He was a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church in which he took great interest. He never became a naturalized citizen. His sympathies were with prohibition principles. His wife was born in the parish of Taxilby, Nottinghamshire, England, in 1790. She was a daughter of George Bingham, also a native of England, who died about 1830, when probably eighty years old. She died in 1881, in Sycamore township, at the age of ninety-one years. She was the mother of eleven children, five of whom are still living: William, residing in St. Charles, Illinois; John, our subject; Ann, wife of John Lawrence, of Sycamore; Thomas, residing in Sycamore township; and Melissa, wife of Edward Lawrence, of Elgin, Illinois.

John Marshall grew to manhood in his native country, and attended the subscription schools, when the opportunity was afforded him, until ten years of age. The school facilities in England at that time were not very good, especially for poor people. When grown he purchased many books, although at first he could not read very well. This was true even after he came to America. In his native land he worked as a farm laborer at forty cents a day. He kept a wife and two children on twelve pounds per year, the highest wages he ever received before coming to America. He was married in North Clifton, England, in 1848, to Eliza Baker, a daughter of William and Mary (Moody) Baker. Two children were born of this union, before they left their native land: Mary, who died at

the age of twelve years, and William, who died in infancy.

Realizing that England was no place for a poor man, Mr. Marshall determined on coming to America. With his family he sailed from Liverpool in the latter part of April, 1851, in the vessel Trumbull, and after a voyage of twenty-nine days landed at New York, where he took a boat up the Hudson river to Albany, and by canal went to Buffalo, and from there by the lakes to Chicago. For seven weeks he slept every night on the water. He finally reached St. Charles, Illinois, June 9, 1851. After working one week in a brick yard he secured work as a mason's helper in the erection of a large mill. He was a very strong man, and his employer wagered that he could wheel more stone on the building in one day than any other man. In England he had easily shouldered four bushels of wheat.

In the fall after his arrival Mr. Marshall hired to a merchant to work a small farm near St. Charles. He continued in that employment for three years, then rented a farm on shares for two years. He then came to Sycamore township and rented a farm on shares for eight years, and in 1865 purchased his present farm of one hundred and thirty acres. For a time he gave special attention to dairying, but of late has devoted his time more especially to stock and grain. All the buildings now upon the place were erected by him, including the dwelling, barn, granary, cornhouse, bay-house and woodhouse. His land is well drained with some five or six miles of tiling.

After their arrival in America, to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall five children were born. Jane died at the age of three years. Charles married Ann Westlake and they have four children—John Henry, Lester David, Eliza

Catherine and Merrill Westlake. They reside in Sycamore township. John died at the age of three years. George died when two months old. Emma Ann married Newton Darnell, and they have four children—George, Arthur, Nellie and Alice. They also reside in Sycamore township. The mother of these children died April 5, 1878, and Mr. Marshall was again married April 13, 1880, to Mary E. Slothower, a native of Frederick county, Maryland, born December 1, 1847, and a daughter of John D. and Sarah E. (Hartsook) Slothower, the latter a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Lookenbill) Hartsook. John D. Slothower was the son of Stephen Slothower, who married a Miss Diehl.

In politics Mr. Marshall is an uncompromising Prohibitionist and for some years held the office of road commissioner and also of school director. He is a member of the United Brethren church, in the work of which he has taken an active part.

**O**LE N. HILL resides on section 29, Victor township, where he operates a farm of one hundred and twenty acres of valuable and well-improved land, the farm lying within two and a half miles of the village of Leland. He is a native of De Kalb county, born November 7, 1806, and is the son of N. J. Hill, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. In the common schools of Victor township, he received his education and until he attained his majority assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm. He was married February 2, 1887, to Miss Elizabeth Hubbert, a native of Norway, and to them six children have been born, one of whom died in infancy. The living are Mabel M., Ella

O., Oscar N., Gertie and Elizabeth L., three of whom are attending the common schools.

Immediately after marriage, Mr. Hill rented a farm of one hundred acres in La Salle county, Illinois, which he worked one year, and then moved to an adjoining farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he cultivated for one year. Returning to De Kalb county he rented a farm of two hundred and four acres, which he cultivated two years, then moved to the old homestead, where he has since continued to reside. The family are members of the Lutheran church, and in politics he has always been a staunch Republican. While yet in the prime of life, Mr. Hill has shown good business ability, is a thoroughgoing practical farmer, and success will undoubtedly crown his efforts.

**A**MERICUS H. POND is a well known farmer of Genoa township, but now living a retired life. He traces his ancestry back to colonial days. The first known is Samuel Pond of Windsor, Connecticut, whose coming to America was in the earliest days of the colony. Samuel, the earliest ancestor of our subject positively known, from a number of corroborating circumstances, is supposed to be the second son of the first named. He had a son, born in 1679, whom he also named Samuel. The next in line was Phillip, born 1706, whose son Daniel, born in 1726, was known as the patriarch, because of his large family of seventeen children, most of whom lived to maturity. He moved with his family to Poultney, Vermont, when that region was a vast wilderness, and there acquired a large estate. Pond Hill, near that place, was



named in his honor. William, son of Daniel, born 1763, married Ruth Wood. He served in the Revolutionary war, and died in 1838. Harry Pond, son of William, was born in Lenox, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in 1798. He removed with his father's family to Poultney, later moved to New York state and from there to Springboro, Pennsylvania, where his death occurred. His wife was Lovina Hollemeak, a native of Ticonderoga county, New York. Their son, Americus H. Pond, is the subject of this sketch.

Americus H. Pond was born in Springboro, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, January 20, 1831. After attending the common schools he spent one year and a half in the Grand River Institute, at Austinburg, Ashtabula county, Ohio. In September, 1851, he came west and located in Genoa township, De Kalb county, Illinois. He began life for himself with nothing but his energy as capital. During his first winter in the county he taught school for eighteen dollars per month in South Grove.

On the 24th of January, 1852, Mr. Pond was united in marriage with Miss Amy N. Hollemeak, a daughter of Ruloff W. and Electa (Ames) Hollemeak. Ruloff was the son of Abraham Hollemeak, whose father was one of three brothers who came from Holland in colonial days. To Mr. and Mrs. Pond eight children have been born. Emily married Dillon S. Brown, of the firm of Brown & Brown, bankers, Genoa. Leon is deceased. Charles C. is engaged in the insurance business at Sycamore. Mary died in infancy. William L. is the present county judge of De Kalb county, and resides in the city of De Kalb. Harry is now living at Fayette, Iowa, and is a traveling salesman. Elizabeth married Henry S. Bur-

roughs, who is operating our subject's farm. George died in infancy.

For a number of years after his marriage Mr. Pond cultivated rented land, it seeming almost impossible for him to get a substantial start in life. His first purchase of land was in 1859, when he secured a tract of one hundred and twenty acres, which he greatly improved, and on which he resided until 1865, when he sold the same and purchased a part of his present fine farm, to which he added until he has now about three hundred acres of excellent farm land, which is under the highest state of cultivation. Politically he is a prohibitionist.

ANDREW LOVELL, who is practically a living a retired life on his farm in section 25, Sycamore township, was born in the town of Newfield, Tompkins county, New York, June 5, 1823. His father, James Lovell, was in Binghamton, New York, July 15, 1799, and died in Cortland township, De Kalb county, Illinois, April 6, 1878. By occupation he was a farmer, which vocation he followed all his life, although working for a time, in certain seasons of the year, at the Cooper's trade. He married Catherine Linderman, a native of Orange county, New York, born September 12, 1799, and a daughter of Ezekial Linderman. She died January 29, 1882.

The subject of this sketch remained in his native state, until in his sixteenth year, in the meantime receiving a limited education in the common schools. After reaching the age mentioned, he came west to St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, where he remained one year and a half, and then accompanied his parents to Ohio Grove, Cortland township, De Kalb county, and there

remained with them until the age of twenty-one years. He then went to Wisconsin, in the lumber regions, and for six or seven years was engaged in lumbering in that state, and during the summer farmed or worked at the cooper's trade in Cortland. About 1853, he occupied his present farm, where at one time he had three hundred acres, but has since sold all but one hundred and twenty acres. He established a creamery upon his place for the manufacture of butter and cheese, and continued that in connection with farming for some years. About 1888, he retired from active farm work.

On the 29th of November, 1849, in Cortland township, Mr. Lovell was united in marriage with Miss Sallie Ann Finley, born in the town of Burlington, Delaware county, Ohio, November 10, 1824, and a daughter of David and Mary (Lowrie) Finley. The former, a native of Virginia, born February 6, 1798, and died November 26, 1872. The latter, born July 28, 1796, and died March 9, 1856. To Mr. and Mrs. Lovell four children have been born: Addie, wife of William Stamm; Mary, wife of Alfred Stowe, a farmer of Cortland township; and Andrew, who married Lottie Varty, and is engaged in farming in Cortland township.

William Stamm was born in Watertown, Massachusetts, November 22, 1847, and moved from there to Milwaukee with his parents in 1848. In 1852 the family moved to California, leaving William with some friends on a farm, and he there remained until 1874. He then went to Milwaukee and worked in an agricultural implement manufactory for some six or seven years, going from there to Batavia, Illinois, where he spent four or five years working

on a farm and in a creamery. From Batavia he went to Montgomery, Illinois, where he remained three years, then came to Sycamore township and lived four and a half years, going from here to Rochester, Minnesota, for six years, returning to Sycamore township in September, 1894, and is now engaged in operating the farm and creamery of Mr. Lovell. He was married November 12, 1890. In politics he is a Republican.

Andrew Lovell is well known throughout De Kalb county as a man of good business ability, one thoroughly reliable in every respect. While he did not enter the service himself, two of his brothers assisted in maintaining the Union by service in the Civil war. In politics he is a thorough Republican.

**R**ALPH A. HOUCK is a retired farmer and engineer residing in Sandwich, Illinois, and who has been a resident of the state since 1843. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, in 1837, and is the son of Elijah and Lucy (McCune) Houck, the latter being a sister of Harvey McCune, a wealthy merchant and very popular man, who had a wide acquaintance throughout the whole country. Elijah Houck, the father, was by occupation a farmer, and a man of sterling integrity, with great vigor of mind. From Jefferson county, New York, in 1838, he removed to Chautanqua county, in the same state, and in 1843 came to Illinois, and located on a farm in Kane county, about four miles west of Geneva. That season was a very rainy one, and one long to be remembered. He took up about three hundred acres on Mill creek, and made of it one of the model farms of the county.



RALPH A. HOUCK.



Our subject owns one hundred and fifty acres of the same, all of which is finely improved with good pasture land and a bluff to protect the house and orchard. The farm he rents.

To Elijah and Lucy Houck seven children were born. Amanda married Dr. Sykes, and died in 1874, at the age of fifty years. She was a member of the Presbyterian church, one who greatly delighted in all church and benevolent work. Marvin married Parmelia Marks, and died in 1884, at the age of seventy-four years. Mary married Mr. Harding and died recently at the age of sixty years. She was a friend of the poor, and did much to relieve their sufferings. Araminda, unmarried, died at the age of thirty-five years. Alma, also unmarried, died at the age of thirty years. Sarah died unmarried at the age of twenty-seven years. Ralph A., the subject of this sketch, is the youngest of the family.

The subject of this biography came west in 1843, and received his education in the common schools, supplemented by instructions in a private school, taught by Richard Ellis, of Belleville, New York. John Paulton was another one of his teachers, who later became an eminent preacher of the gospel. His mother died when he was but two and a half years of age, but his father lived for many years afterwards, and gave special attention to his training. He died in 1880, at the age of seventy-four years. They were both members of the Presbyterian church and died in the full assurance of faith.

On coming to Sandwich, Mr. Houck engaged with the Sandwich Manufacturing Company as an engineer, and continued in that position for ten years, giving entire satisfaction to his employer. Previous to this,

however, he was the first engineer of the Sandwich Flouring Mills, and remained with that concern for ten years. He is the owner of considerable stock in the Sandwich Manufacturing Company, which is regarded as a good investment. In addition to his farm he owns a good house and four acres of land within the city limits of Sandwich, and there engages in gardening, giving the proceeds to the poor. On Thanksgiving day, 1897, he had teams distribute over one hundred bushels of potatoes among the deserving poor of his adopted city. He is a large hearted and generous man, and giving much to the Lord's poor. For the past twenty-one years he has donated to the Bible society from twenty to one hundred and fifty dollars per year. From the proceeds of these donations Bibles are furnished to many who could not afford their purchase. A worthy and prosperous citizen, much praise is accorded him for generous and timely gifts to widows and orphans and the poor generally. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was converted at a very early age.

EDWARD BYRO is among the younger of De Kalb county's farmers whose industry and good management have resulted in his ownership of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres thoroughly tiled and fenced, a neat and substantial residence and various outbuildings. His farm and residence is located on section 10, Milan township. He is a native of Stavanger, Norway, and was born April 20, 1860. It was there he was reared and educated and assisted his father in cultivating the home farm, until he arrived at the age of twenty-one years, when in 1881 he set out for Amer-

ica and after landing in New York came direct to Kendall county, Illinois, where for three years he was employed at farm work for several farmers. In 1884 he moved to Grundy county, Illinois, and for two years he worked by the month on the Hoge farm. Later he rented a part of the Hoge farm, and began its cultivation on his own account. He remained there until 1891, at which time his accumulated earnings, the result of hard work, strict economy and excellent management, which provided the means to purchase a farm for himself, and he accordingly moved to De Kalb county and purchased the farm on which he now resides.

Mr. Byro's father, Ole Byro, was a native of Stavanger, Norway, where he was reared and educated. He was a successful farmer and a man universally respected in the community. His wife was a Miss Ellen Serene Nessem, daughter of Ole Nessem, a farmer and native of Norway, who resided near the Byro family in the neighborhood of Stavanger. Edward Byro is the youngest of their family of three children, the others being Ellen and Ole. The eldest child, Ellen, married in Stavanger, Gunter Johnson, a shoemaker by trade, and at her death was the mother of two daughters. Ole is a prosperous farmer residing in Shabbona township, De Kalb county, Illinois.

Edward Byro married Miss Emily Johnson, daughter of Thomas and Bertha (Atletved) Johnson, a farmer residing near Stavanger, Norway. Her parents came to America in 1866, and settled in La Salle county, Illinois, where her father was employed, working on various farms by the month. Later he moved to Nebraska, but subsequently returned to Illinois locating in Lee county. They now reside on their own farm in Webster county, Iowa. Mrs. Byro

is one of a family of eight children, and was born in La Salle county, Illinois, April 21, 1868. Her education was received in the various schools in the localities in which at different times her parents resided. To Mr. and Mrs. Byro four children have been born—Ollie, Burt Elias, Severt Thurman and Alfred, all of whom are attending school.

Mr. Byro is an ardent Republican and cast his first presidential vote for Benjamin Harrison, and at all elections supports without qualification the nominees of his party. The entire family are members of the Lutheran church, and attend services at the chapel, located in the west part of the township. He deserves much credit for the progress that he has made and which after all is the reward of diligent and persevering effort. Starting in life in a strange country and unable to speak the language, he had much to contend with and many obstacles to overcome. He had determination and was always industrious, and these qualities with his excellent habits has enabled him to make material progress in acquiring valuable farm lands, and above all, in enjoying and possessing the esteem and well wishes and confidence of the general public.

**EZEKIEL NOBLE**, an old and highly respected citizen of Afton township, resides upon a farm which he purchased nearly half a century ago. He is a native of Rutland county, Vermont, born May 31, 1818, and is the son of Ezekiel and Hannah (Gates) Noble, who were also natives of Rutland county, and who were the parents of seven children, our subject being the only one of the number now living. The paternal grandfather, Captain David Noble,

was a native of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and served as a captain in the Revolutionary war. The family are descended from John Noble, who came from England to America in a very early day, locating in Massachusetts. The father of our subject followed the vocation of a farmer in Vermont, and died at the age of sixty-two years, honored and respected by all men.

Ezekial Noble, our subject, grew to manhood in his native county and state, and after passing through the common schools, attended a school at Castleton, Vermont, three years, and later read medicine for two years, but never engaged in practice. In 1840 he went to New York where he engaged in teaching for one year in the district schools. In 1842 he located at Owego, New York, where he engaged in the manufacture of woodenware with a fair degree of success. In 1854 he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and purchased the farm where he now resides, and has since given his attention to agricultural pursuits.

On the 7th of December, 1842, Mr. Noble was united in marriage with Miss Nancy A. Tyler, and to them were born eleven children, six of whom were deceased. The living are William M., Arthur G., Charles F., Horner E. and Mertie M. Mrs. Noble died November 3, 1874, at the age of fifty years. She was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, one whose hope was steadfast and who died in the hope of a resurrection and a life beyond the grave. Mr. Noble was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary E. Ingersoll, a native of New York. Their marriage was solemnized August 20, 1876.

Politically Mr. Noble is a Republican and has been an earnest advocate of the principles of the party since its organiza-

tion. He has been a leader in his party in Afton township and has often served as a delegate in its various conventions. For thirteen years he served as supervisor of Afton township, making a valuable member and serving on the most important committees. For more than thirty years he has served as justice of the peace and still holds the office, the duties of which he has discharged in a most satisfactory manner. He is now serving as township school trustee, a position he has held for three years. Religiously he is associated with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which body his wife is also a member, and they are both devoted to the Master's work. Mrs. Noble has held the office of secretary and treasurer of the County Sunday-school Association, and also is superintendent of the Afton Union Sunday school, and is the president of the W. C. T. U., and is very zealous in the work of the society.

**C** G. WILLRETT is a prosperous farmer, whose farm lies on section 1, Milan, and section 36, Malta township. He is a native of Germany, born August 6, 1866, and is the son of Frederick and Carrie Willrett, both natives of the same country, where their entire lives were spent. Their family consisted of six children, of whom our subject is fourth in order of birth. In his native land he remained until seventeen years of age, and there received his education in the public and parochial schools, and from the time he was able to assist, did his full share in the work of farming. In February, 1883, he came to the United States, and soon after his arrival went to Malta township, where he worked on a rented farm for one year. Continuing

farm work, he toiled year by year, laying by a certain sum yearly, and, being industrious and enterprising, success crowned his efforts, and he was enabled to purchase the farm of Peter Benson in the fall of 1893, and which comprised two hundred acres of well improved land.

On the 25th of June, 1892, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Gomel, also a native of Germany, born March 20, 1865, and the daughter of John and Fredericka (Gentner) Gomel. They have now three children, John, Elmer and Lizzie.

Mr. Willrett has followed farming during his entire life, and understands it in all its branches. In the old country he was trained to be methodical in his work, and since coming to this country he has endeavored to make use of the training received in early life. His farm is pleasantly situated, and every acre of it is thoroughly cultivated or used for stock purposes. He is loyal to his adopted country, and has already held some township offices, including road commissioner from 1896 to 1897.

**HENRY O. WHITMORE**, now living retired in the city of Sycamore, but who for many years was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Mayfield township, was born in the town of Pomfret, Windsor county, Vermont, October 18, 1843. His father, Enos Whitmore, was born in Weathersfield, Windsor county, Vermont, November 27, 1805, and there grew to manhood and acquired a common-school education. He was married April 7, 1839, to Miss Celina Reed, also a native of Windsor county, Vermont, born November 23, 1815. While in Vermont he was for several years proprietor of a woolen factory. In 1841 they moved from Weath-

ersfield to Pomfret, Vermont, and there remained until 1847, when they came to De Kalb county, Illinois, the father purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land on section 35, Mayfield township, where he built a good frame house and at once commenced the improvement of the farm. He there died May 1, 1877. His wife died August 16, 1861. Previous to his death, however, in 1867, he married Livonia Skeels, who died December 1, 1876. To Enos and Celina Whitmore five children were born—Louisa, Howard, Harrison, Henry O. and Lavina. Mrs. Whitmore was a daughter of Daniel Reed, who was probably a native of Vermont and who died there about 1850 at the age of sixty-five years. In politics Enos Whitmore was first a Whig, then an Abolitionist and later a Republican. While in the east he was a member of the Methodist church. During his life time he assisted his children in securing farms and property.

The subject of this sketch was but four years of age when he accompanied his parents to De Kalb county. He attended a select school taught by Miss Hapgood and also one by Dr. and Mrs. Woodward. At the age of eighteen years he began teaching, but in the following spring, February 26, 1862, in Sycamore he was united in marriage with Miss Esther V. Andrews, born in Glen Falls, Warren county, New York, October 28, 1844, and a daughter of Luman Andrews, also a native of the same county, born February 18, 1809, and who died September 10, 1864. By trade he was a carpenter and machinist and followed the trade of a millwright until his removal to De Kalb county, about 1848. His first wife died before his removal and he was again married. He followed his trade in De Kalb city, and while in Indiana placing machinery in a



mill his death occurred. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Whitmore was Allen Andrews, who was so named in honor of Ethan Allen, with whom his father, Christopher Allen, fought in the Revolutionary war. Christopher Andrews was born in 1749 and died in 1813. His wife was born 1753 and died in 1837. He was a licensed exhorter of the Methodist Episcopal church and traveled all through the Adirondack regions with his gun, hunting and exhorting. When old enough his son Allen accompanied him and also became an exhorter. Christopher Andrews enlisted with Ethan Allen in 1775, when twenty-six years old. He married Eleanor Brown, of Saratoga county, New York. Luman Andrews married Sophronia Collins, also a native of Warren county, New York, and a daughter of Joseph and Esther (Fuller) Collins, the latter from near Fort Edward, New York, the family being early settlers of Warren county. Joseph Collins died when about eighty-five years old and Esther Collins when ninety-three years old. Luman and Sophronia Andrews were the parents of ten children, only four of whom lived past infancy. There are only two now living, Mrs. Almira Button, of New York, and Mrs. Whitmore.

To Mr. and Mrs. Whitmore two children have been born Wallace W., born in Mayfield township, February 11, 1863, grew to manhood on the old home farm, and after attending the district schools, entered the high school at Sycamore, and later took a course in a business college in Chicago. He married Jessie E. Almy. He was justice of the peace for several years. In 1890 he became deputy county clerk, and has since lived in Sycamore. Cora C. grew to womanhood, and after attending the

Sycamore schools, entered Cumnock's School of Oratory, in Chicago, and after a two years' course for several years gave public readings. She was married in November, 1890, to Professor Clyde W. Votaw, a teacher of Greek and Biblical research in Northwestern University. They have one child, Claire. Just prior to her marriage, Mrs. Votaw taught elocution and reading in the Princeton High School.

Mr. Whitmore has been a farmer during his entire life. For eight weeks he was a traveling salesman for the Ellwoods, but the comforts of home were to him much greater than the pleasures of the road, and he therefore resigned. In politics he is a Republican and for several years was supervisor in Mayfield township, and has served in other minor offices. Fraternaly he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and religiously he and Mrs. Whitmore are members of the Universalist church.

WIL THOMAS, who is engaged in the grain, coal and live stock business at Clare Station, Mayfield township, first came to De Kalb county in 1883. He is a native of Iowa, born in Dallas county, October 24, 1858, and is the son of William Thomas, born in Vernon, Indiana, about 1837. The family are of Welsh descent, Andrew Thomas, the grandfather of our subject, locating in Jennings county, Indiana, at a very early day. In 1854 William Thomas located in Dallas county, Iowa, and there married Elizabeth Rhoades, a native of Ohio, but reared in Dallas county, Iowa, and a daughter of Daniel Rhoades, one of the early settlers of Dallas county. After his marriage he purchased a farm in Dallas county, remained there for some years, reared

his family, and later sold out and moved to southwestern Kansas, where his death occurred in August, 1887. His wife survives him and now resides with a son in De Kalb county. Of their five sons and four daughters who grew to mature years, all the sons and three of the daughters are yet living. In order of birth they are as follows: W. H., of this review; B. F., residing in Genoa, Illinois; D. M., a farmer of De Kalb county; L. T., also a farmer of De Kalb county; Cecil, wife of Thomas Baker, of Genoa; Celia, wife of Robert McPherson, of Clare; Fannie, wife of Charles Graham, of Sycamore; and Charles, of Sycamore. Effie grew to womanhood and married Arthur Brown, of Genoa, but is now deceased. After the father's death, the mother and children all came to De Kalb county, and all are now residing here.

In his native county, our subject grew to manhood, and in his boyhood and youth attended the common schools and assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm. He also learned the mason's trade in his youth, at which he worked in connection with farming, after arriving at mature years. He made his home with his parents until 1883, when he came to De Kalb county, and commenced work on a farm by the month. On the 19th of February, 1884, he was united in marriage, in De Kalb county, with Miss Ida H. Peterson, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, who came to this county when seventeen years of age. Her parents, who were also natives of Sweden, both died in their native land.

In 1885, Mr. Thomas rented a farm, which he operated for a time, and later purchased eighty acres north of Sycamore, which he continued to cultivate until 1893, when he sold and purchased a farm of two

hundred and forty-five acres on section 21, Mayfield township, to which he removed and began the further improvement of the place. In the past five years he has made some very substantial improvements in the place, tiling much of the land, fencing, and the erection of graneries, etc. On coming to the county he was possessed of but little means, but by his industry and thrifty habits is now in comfortable circumstances. For several years, in connection with general farming, he has engaged in buying, feeding and shipping stock. In the spring of 1898, he added grain and coal to his line of business, and is meeting with good success in every department of his work.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have two children, Irvin H. and Esther E. Politically he is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. He takes an active interest in political affairs, attending the conventions of his party, and doing all he can to advance its interests. In him the public school has a friend, and for nine years he served as a member of the school board, being president one term, and clerk two terms. He also served as township assessor one term. While residing in De Kalb county but fifteen years, his active business life has brought him in contact with many persons, and he is universally respected wherever known.

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**J**OHAN R. CORSON, who resides on section 9, Genoa township, is a native of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, born in Hughsville October 13, 1825. He is the son of Peter Corson, Jr., a native of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, born in 1797, and Margaret (McCarthy) Corson, born near Muncie Creek, in the same county, and a

daughter of Isaac and Martha (Figgles) McCarthy, who were of the Quaker faith. Peter Corson, Jr., was by trade a blacksmith and followed that vocation during his entire life. He was the father of fourteen children, of whom our subject was second in order of birth. His death occurred in 1847 in his native county. The paternal grandfather, Peter Corson, Sr., was by trade a shoemaker. He married a Miss Dudder.

John R. Corson grew to manhood in his native county, where he received his education in the district schools, attending during the winter months. Before the age of thirteen he had learned the blacksmith's trade in his father's shop, beginning so young that he had to stand on a step to blow the bellows. At the age of thirteen he was an expert horseshoer and, during the busy season, has made thirty-two horseshoes and two hundred nails in a night. He worked all day and had little sleep or rest. For a number of years the family moved from place to place and he accompanied them. At the age of twenty-one he left home and went to Culpeper county, Virginia, where he remained three months and then opened a shop at Tivola, Pennsylvania, where he remained six years. In the fall of 1855 he came to Illinois, and after spending a few months in Kane county, in the spring of 1856 he came to De Kalb county and bought his present farm, at which time one could not have cut a riding whip on the entire place, it all being covered with waving prairie grass.

On the 15th of February, 1849, in Muncie, Pennsylvania, Mr. Corson was united in marriage with Miss Sarah M. Craft, a native of Muncie, born January 8, 1831, and a daughter of Samuel Craft, a native of the same county, who married Margaret Hart-

man, a daughter of John and Margaret (Spring) Hartman, from near Reading, Berks county, Pennsylvania. Samuel Craft was the son of William Craft, a native of Connecticut, who married Sarah Alward. They became the parents of thirteen children, of whom four sons and three daughters are now living. To Mr. and Mrs. Corson six children have been born, the first dying in infancy unnamed. (2) Clara M. grew to womanhood and May 15, 1890, married David Piper, born near Rutland, Vermont, November 18, 1833. (3) Caroline C. married Robert M. Williams and now lives in Bedford, Iowa, and they have six children, Jennie E., Bertha M., Harry E., Earl, Sadie and Winifred. (4) Marietta married Albert Williams, now residing in Bedford, Iowa, and they have had five children, four of whom are living, Gracia L., Roy D., Dell and Carrie L. Sarah E. is deceased. (5) Charles is engaged in farming in McHenry county, Illinois. He married Caddie Patterson and they have had three children, two living, Maggie May and Guyla P. Myrtie B. is deceased. (6) Milton J. married Emma J. Patterson and they reside on the home farm. They have four children, Zada B., John D., George S. and Maynard D.

From raw prairie land, Mr. Corson developed a fine farm with groves and orchards, barns and outbuildings, and all of a substantial character. He built a shop on his place, and worked at his trade in connection with farming, until 1886, when he abandoned his trade, but still continued farming until 1890, since which time his son has carried on the farm, the shop being closed except for occasional repair work. Politically he is independent, but was formerly a Democrat. For many years he served as

school director, and was offered other township offices, but would never accept. For nineteen years a post office was retained at his residence, Mrs. Corson acting as postmistress. Religiously both are members of the New Methodist Episcopal church.

**HON. WESTEL W. SEDGWICK**, president of the Sedgwick Bank, of Sandwich, Illinois, was born in Oneida county, New York, June 7, 1827, and is the son of Dr. Samuel and Ruhama P. (Knight) Sedgwick, both of whom were natives of New York. Samuel Sedgwick was a physician and surgeon, and attended the medical school of Fairfield College, Fairfield, New York, which was presided over by Professor Willoughby, after whom our subject is named. Dr. Samuel Sedgwick had two brothers who were also practicing physicians. Dr. Elijah Sedgwick came west, locating in Elgin, Kane county, Illinois, where he engaged in practice for a short time, and then went into other business. Dr. Parker Sedgwick located at Bloomingdale, Du Page county, Illinois, where he built up a large practice, and was recognized among the best practitioners of his day and this part of the state.

Dr. Samuel Sedgwick, the father of our subject, commenced the practice of his profession at Black Creek, New York, from which place in 1837 he removed to Hartford, Licking county, Ohio, where he lived and engaged in practice for three years, then moved to East Union, Coshocton county, the same state, and was there four years in practice, during which time he served as postmaster of the village for two years under President Tyler. He then moved to Little Rock, Kendall county, Illi-

nois, where he continued to reside until his death about 1841, at the age of forty-five years. He was a member of the Congregational church and was much interested in religious work. His wife survived him many years, dying in Sandwich when eighty-three years old. In early life she united with the Congregational church, and was a devout member of that body for many years, but later in life, with her daughter, united with the Baptist church at Sandwich, in which faith she passed to her reward. When Dr. Samuel Sedgwick located at Little Rock, it was the most important town west of Aurora for some years. His practice extended a radius of twenty-five miles around Little Rock. In his family were seven children, of whom our subject was the eldest. The others were Elizabeth, widow of Oliver S. Hendee, of Sandwich; Sarah A., wife of William Brewer, residing in the west; Louisa J., who married James H. Lay, but is now deceased; Maria, who died in Sandwich, a single lady; James H., a prominent attorney of Peoria, Illinois; and one who died in infancy.

The subject of this sketch was reared in the various towns where his father resided. In his youth he read medicine under the instruction of his father, and later with his uncle Parker, at Bloomingdale, Illinois. Entering Rush Medical College, at Chicago, he pursued the course and was graduated from that institution in the class of 1848. Before graduating, however, he engaged in practice with his father, and was with him one year before the latter's death. That year was known as the sickly season, with fever and ague, typhoid and other fevers being quite prevalent. The father and son had all they could possibly do. The winter following the father took down



*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*



with typhoid fever, from which he never recovered. Our subject continued and retained both his own and his father's practice. He continued to follow his profession until 1857, at Little Rock, and then moved to Sandwich, where he practiced for a short time, then read law and was admitted to the bar about 1862. For several years he engaged in active practice of that profession and yet gives attention to office practice, but does not engage in the trial of causes owing to ill health.

In 1884 Mr. Sedgwick began the banking business, purchasing the private bank of Calver Brothers. While the bank is a private institution, with no stated capital, our subject has seventy-five thousand dollars invested in the business. At present he is the president of the concern, with S. P. Sedgwick, as cashier, and C. F. Sedgwick, assistant cashier. The bank has the confidence of the people of Sandwich, and does a safe and reliable business with a good line of deposits.

On the 7th of June, 1848, his twenty-first birthday, Dr. Sedgwick was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Toombs, daughter of William Toombs, a resident of Little Rock, where he was engaged in the hotel business for a number of years. He was from Michigan and located in Little Rock about 1846. By this union nine children were born, of whom three died in early childhood. The others are: Agnes, at home; Caroline Gertrude, wife of Webster M. Dyas, and they have one child, Clair, who with his mother resides in Detroit, Michigan; S. P., cashier of the Sedgwick Bank, who married Bessie Robertson, by whom he has three children—Ray H., Westel W. and Marjorie; Harvey, who died at the age of fifteen years; Charles F.,

assistant cashier of the Sedgwick Bank, who married Anna Patterson, by whom he has one child—Marie; and Jennie May, wife of Eugene Hill, residing in Chicago. The mother, who was a consistent member of the Sandwich Presbyterian church, died in 1895, at the age of sixty-seven years. The Doctor was again married February 22, 1898, to Miss Vina Scudder, whose parents died before her recollection.

Dr. Sedgwick is a member of the Presbyterian church, being an elder in the church at Sandwich. In politics he has usually voted the Republican ticket, but is inclined to vote independently. In 1862 he was elected a member of the legislature and served one term. In 1869 he was elected a member of the constitutional convention, which formed the present constitution, which was adopted in 1870. When Sandwich was incorporated as a city he was elected its first mayor and served several terms. He is recognized as one of the sound and reliable business men of De Kalb county, and his many admirable qualities have tended to make him a favorite with all classes. As a public man he has won an enviable reputation, and as a private citizen he is greatly esteemed, having the confidence of the entire community.

**DENNIS** MCGIRR, who resides upon a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land on section 26, and owns one hundred and sixty acres on section 25, Afton township, and which comprises a part of the old McGirr homestead, is a native of that township, born March 2, 1855, and is the son of John and Mary (Powers) McGirr, of whom further mention is made in the sketch of John McGirr, found

elsewhere in this work. In his native township he grew to manhood, and was educated in the district schools. From the time old enough to use the hoe and handle the plow, he has done his full share of farm work. He is now recognized as one of the most enterprising and practical farmers of the township. He was married November 26, 1891, to Miss Sarah Gallagher, a native of Pierce township, and a daughter of Thomas and Sarah Gallagher, natives of Ireland. Four children have been born of this union, two of whom died in infancy. The living are Mary and Emmet F.

Religiously Mr. McGirr and his wife are members of the Roman Catholic church, and believe strongly in its teachings and are devoted to the work set before them. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and in politics he is a Democrat. For four years he has served acceptably as assessor of the township, doing his best in the assessment of all property, both real and personal, to render exact justice to all alike.

**R**ICHARD F. JONES, residing on section 18, Mayfield township, is one of the most enterprising farmers of De Kalb county, of which he has been a resident since June, 1880. He is a native of Ireland, born in county Wicklow, some forty-eight years ago. In his native county he grew to manhood, and received a good common school education. His boyhood and youth were spent on the farm, and he grew up a practical farmer, which is evidenced by the success attending him later in life. His native land did not give him the opportunities that he desired for advancement in life, and he therefore determined

to come to the United States. In 1880, he took ship at Liverpool for New York, and came direct by way of Chicago to Sycamore, and commenced work on the farm by the month in Mayfield township, a farm adjoining the one where he now resides. The next year he rented a farm of two hundred acres, which he operated one year, and then purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty-four acres, on which he located, and there resided for several years. After making some permanent improvements on the place, he sold it at a nice advance. He then rented the farm where he now resides, comprising three hundred and twenty-six acres. He also rented other lands, and is one of the largest farmers in Mayfield township.

In addition to general farming, Mr. Jones engages in breeding and feeding stock for the general market. He commenced in a small way, and increased the stock from year to year, and now feeds about two hundred head of hogs and about one hundred head of cattle. He is also engaged in the dairy business, milking from forty to fifty cows, being one of the largest milk producers in the township. In the spring of 1898 he sold twenty-three head of yearlings that averaged eleven hundred and eighteen pounds, a record hard to beat in the state. While residing on his own farm, he was engaged in breeding and dealing in Poland-China hogs, and was known as a breeder of pure-blooded stock, which he shipped over the state and as far west as Oregon. He has also raised some pure-grade Norman horses.

In 1880, just prior to leaving his native land, Mr. Jones was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Traynor, a native of Ireland, and their wedding journey was



their trip across the water to their Illinois home. This wife died in De Kalb county in 1885, leaving three daughters, Flora, Katie and Maude, all students of the home school. In 1887, Mr. Jones returned to Ireland, and after spending a few months in visiting friends, was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Piggott, also a native of Ireland, and with his bride returned to his western home. By this union there are six children, Lillie, Alice, William, Eva, Freddie and Hazel.

Politically Mr. Jones is a Republican, and secured his naturalization papers in time to cast his first presidential vote for General Harrison in 1888. He has never held office, nor has he ever desired official honors. He and his wife were reared in the Episcopal faith, and are members of the Episcopal church. While residing in the new world but a comparatively short time, Mr. Jones has been very active and is well known in Sycamore, and the northern half of De Kalb county, and has always maintained the respect and good will of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

**G**EORGE W. NESBITT, M. D., was forty years one of the most popular physicians and surgeons residing in Sycamore, or in the entire county. He was a native of New York, born in Attica, August 20, 1837, and was a son of Henry and Eleanor (Smyth) Nesbitt. The former a native of county Cavan, Ulster, Ireland, born in 1803, and the latter of Washington county, New York, born in the town of Argyle, in 1802. Her father was of Scottish birth, while her mother was a native of Connecticut, and was probably of German origin. After

his marriage, Henry Nesbitt settled in Attica, where he engaged in farming, and there died in June, 1883. His wife died in Wyoming county, New York, in 1862. They were the parents of eight children, of whom our subject was fourth in order of birth.

The boyhood and youth of our subject was spent upon the farm, and his primary education was obtained in neighboring schools. He later entered the Genesee and Wyoming Seminary, at Alexandria, Genesee county, New York, from which institution he was graduated with honors. He then came west, and at Genoa, Illinois, spent one winter engaged in teaching. In the following spring, he traveled quite extensively, and during the summer was with a government surveying party on the Red River of the North, operating principally in Minnesota. In the winter following he taught school in Boone county, Illinois, after which he went to Arkansas, and other states, and pursued the same vocation. It was at first his design to engage in the legal profession, and to that end he commenced reading law in the office and under the instruction of Hon. Charles Kellum, of Sycamore, but in 1860, he commenced the study of medicine, in the office of Dr. H. H. Rice, of Randolph county, Illinois, where he remained nearly a year, and then returned to Alexandria, New York, and continued his studies under the supervision of Dr. H. B. Miller. Later he attended lectures at the Buffalo Medical College, from which he was graduated February 21, 1865. He then entered into business with Dr. G. W. McCray, of Buffalo, New York, in the wholesale and retail drug trade, and at the same time engaged in the practice of his profession.

In the fall of 1866 he sold his interest in the drug business and began a prospecting tour with a view of securing a permanent location. By lake and canal he went to Pittsburg, thence by river to St. Louis, and then through various states of the South, remaining a few days or weeks at a place. Returning to St. Louis, he traveled on horseback through Illinois, finally reaching Sycamore, where he wisely concluded to remain. He at once opened an office, and soon established a reputation as a physician and surgeon second to none in northern Illinois. Shortly after locating in Sycamore, he was in front of Waterman's store when a box of soldiers' clothes was opened. The war having closed a large quantity of army clothing was thrown upon the market, and one case had been purchased by Sycamore dealers. In a spirit of fun Dr. Nesbitt mounted the box, and being a fluent speaker, delivered a patriotic address, and then began to auction off one suit of the clothes. He was surprisingly successful, and soon sold the entire shipment, the unexpected result of a joke. He was then engaged by the firm to sell elsewhere, and was in partnership with them in this branch of business for about six months, as long as the supply lasted. He did a thriving business, and declared that he made money faster than at any period of his life.

In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Nesbitt engaged in the breeding of fine stock, and at one time had a fine string of thoroughbreds, but foreseeing a falling off in demand and price of stock, sold a portion and traded the balance for twelve hundred acres of land in Kansas. He named his ranch Bally Haise, in honor of his father's birth place in Ireland.

On the 23rd of June, 1864, at Buffalo,

New York, Dr. Nesbitt was united in marriage with Miss Mary H. Davis, a native of Chippewa, Canada, and by this union three children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The living are George W., Jr., and John B. The former was born March 13, 1869, in Sycamore, and grew to manhood in his native city, attending its public schools and graduating from the high school. Reading medicine under the instruction of his father, he later attended the Chicago Medical College, from which he graduated April 22, 1892. He immediately began practice with his father, and succeeded to the practice after his father's death. He was married August 16, 1894, to Miss Cora Whittemore, a native of Sycamore, and a daughter of Captain H. C. Whittemore, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. The Doctor is a member of the Masonic order, and in politics is thoroughly independent. He is now examiner for the Equitable, New York Mutual and New York Life Insurance Companies. As a physician he stands high in the estimation of the people, and retains the practice of his lamented father. John B. Nesbitt was born in Sycamore, January 31, 1873, and after receiving his education in the Sycamore schools, attended the Chicago Medical College, from which he was graduated in June, 1897. After his graduation he formed a partnership with his brother, and the two have now an extensive practice. In politics he is also independent.

Dr. Nesbitt was well read in medical literature, and as a lecturer and contributor to the medical press, had an excellent reputation. He was a member of the Illinois State Medical Society, and also of the American Medical Association, in both of which he took an active part, contributing to them many valuable papers. For two

years he served as vice-president of the State Medical Society. Fraternally he was a Mason, and in the work of the order took an especial interest. His death occurred at his late home in Sycamore, April 29, 1894. Thus passed away a well beloved physician, whose many years of faithful toil in his profession made his name a household word throughout De Kalb county and northern Illinois. His influence and efforts were not confined to professional lines only, for in all the varied activities of our common life he took a helpful part, as a loyal citizen, devoting his abilities to the cause of progress. At the time of his death he was mayor of Sycamore. Dr. Nesbitt was a man whose death was felt as a loss among all classes as well as to his devoted wife and sons.

**C**HARLES P. BENSON, of South Grove township, is a prosperous farmer and the owner of three hundred acres of arable land, which he keeps under a high state of cultivation. He is a native of Ogle county, Illinois, born October 12, 1859, and is the son of Robert P. and Mary (Wesley) Benson, the former a native of Cumberland county, England, and the latter of Hanover, Germany. They were the parents of three children, Charles P., John W. and Lena M.

In 1826, Robert Benson left his native land, crossed the ocean, and for thirteen years made his home in Canada, coming from that country to De Kalb county, Illinois, and locating in Sycamore. He later engaged in railroad building as a contractor on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway. Subsequently he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of government land in Ogle county, Illinois, and at once com-

menced its improvement. He was an industrious man and a practical farmer, and was fairly successful in life. He became quite prominent in his township, and served in various local offices. On the Ogle county farm he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1881, at the age of seventy-two years.

On the farm in Ogle county, our subject grew to manhood, and after obtaining his primary education in the district schools, spent some eighteen months in Wheaton College, thus giving him a good practical education. Reared to farm life, he has continued that occupation up to the present time. On the 15th of September, 1881, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna M. Crozier, a native of New York state, and by this union three children have been born, Earl W., Robert I. and Orva M.

In politics Mr. Benson is independent, voting for the man he thinks best qualified to fill the office. He has not sought office for himself and cares for none. He was however elected road commissioner in 1893, for a term of three years, and re-elected in 1896. Fraternally he is a Mason, and also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and of the Knights of the Globe. As a farmer he is regarded as one of the best in South Grove township, and as a citizen he is highly esteemed.

**A**LVA F. POST, who for a period of nearly forty years has been one of the active enterprising farmers of De Kalb county, but who, since 1887, has been living a retired life in the village of Shabbona, is numbered among the settlers of 1851. He was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, April 20, 1826. His father, John

Post, was a native of Vermont, who, when a young man, moved to New York, and located in St. Lawrence county, where he married Jerusha Fuller, a daughter of Jacob Fuller. He lived but a few years after marriage, dying in 1828. His widow, the mother of our subject, some years later married David Hamilton, who subsequently removed to Illinois, becoming a pioneer settler of De Kalb county.

The subject of this sketch was thrown upon his own resources at an early age. He went to work on a farm for a very small compensation, working during the summer months and attending the common schools during the winter months. He saved his earnings and was thus enabled to attend a seminary, where, by diligent study, he secured a fair education and taught his first school when but eighteen years of age. He then worked on the farm during the spring and summer months, attended the seminary in the fall and engaged in teaching during the winter months. Believing he could better himself he came west, landing in Chicago, April 10, 1851, but did not remain in the city, going from there to Sugar Grove township, Kane county, Illinois, where he worked on a farm the summer following. In the fall of that year he came to De Kalb county and secured the school at Pritchard's Grove, which he taught during the winter of 1851-2. In the spring of 1852 he commenced teaching at Shabbona Grove, continuing until the spring of 1853, or for a term of fourteen months; he then engaged in carpentering work, and followed that trade for several years during the summer months, teaching in the winter. He taught twenty-two terms of school, and was considered one of the best teachers in De Kalb county.

In the fall of 1859 Mr. Post rented a farm in Lee county, and engaged in agricultural pursuits, and there spent some six years. In 1865 he purchased his first piece of land, a place of ninety acres, on which was a small house and barn, and a few acres placed under the plow. Locating on that farm he began its further improvement, and from time to time purchased more land, and now owns a good farm of two hundred and fifty-four acres, lying about three miles from the village of Shabbona. After living thereon for twenty-two years he removed to the village. The farm is under the very best improvements, with two miles of neat and well-trimmed hedge fence and eighteen hundred rods of tiling. Commencing life in limited circumstances, he has succeeded reasonably well, and in addition to his farm has a good dwelling house and a number of lots in the village of Shabbona, together with considerable personal property.

Mr. Post was united in marriage in Kane county, Illinois, April 26, 1854, to Miss Marietta Hoselton, a native of New York, born in Jefferson county, and daughter of Hanford and Dorcas (Perry) Hoselton, also natives of New York. She was reared and educated in Cleveland, Ohio, and previous to her marriage was engaged in teaching in Kane county. There are five children by this union. Ida is now the wife of A. J. Chandler, of Plymouth county, Iowa. Emery married and engaged in farming in Plymouth county, Iowa. Elma D. is the wife of B. L. Greenfield, a substantial farmer of Shabbona township, now operating the Post homestead. Mabel is the wife of William Kennedy, also a substantial farmer of Shabbona township. Eddie died in early childhood.

Mr. Post cast his first presidential vote,

in 1848, for General Zachary Taylor, and was identified with the Whig party until its dissolution, since which time he has been an earnest and enthusiastic Republican. An old teacher, it may naturally be surmised that he is a friend of education. While residing in Lee county he served as township trustee and has been a member of the school board for many years. On his arrival in De Kalb county he found much of the county in its native state and has chased wolves over the prairies. He has witnessed cities and villages spring up, and in the development of the country has done his full share. He and his wife are members of the Shabbona Congregational church, in the work of which they take special interest.

**L**ORENZO ROBINSON, a farmer residing on section 4, Genoa township, was born near Barrington, Cook county, Illinois, March 9, 1853, and was reared in his native township, attending the district schools until sixteen years of age. He continued working for his parents until twenty-two years of age, when he came to Genoa township and worked for a time on the farm where he now resides. He was married July 8, 1878, to Mrs. Priscilla Corson, widow of Daniel B. Corson. After his marriage he continued to operate the farm until 1886, when he moved to Hand county, South Dakota, where he resided until 1890 and then returned to the farm in Genoa township, where he has since continued to reside. He is a son of Coleman Robinson, born in New York in 1829, and who died in 1889 in the village of Hampshire, Kane county, Illinois. His wife was Elizabeth McGilvery, who died in 1875 at the age of

forty years. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom are yet living. In politics Mr. Robinson is a Republican and has served as road commissioner and school director. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Priscilla Robinson was born in Franklin township, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1836, and was one of a family of thirteen children born to Samuel and Margaret (Hartman) Craft, from Berks county, Pennsylvania, the latter a daughter of John and Margaret (Spring) Hartman. Samuel Craft was born about 1808 and died in Pennsylvania when about seventy-eight years old. By trade he was a miller. The family originally came from Connecticut, but located in Pennsylvania at an early day. The paternal grandfather, William Craft, married Sarah Alward. By trade he was a miller. During the Revolutionary war the Indians planned a raid upon the settlement at Wyoming, which was later carried out, resulting in the Wyoming massacre. By a friendly Indian, who came to him at his mill, William Craft was warned of the intended raid and so escaped with his family to the fort.

Priscilla Craft was first married in Chenango township, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, April 20, 1854, to Daniel B. Corson, born March 15, 1830, and who died January 22, 1876. He was the son of John and Elizabeth (Buck) Corson, the latter being a daughter of Peter Buck. John Corson was a son of Peter Corson, Sr. By trade Daniel B. Corson was a blacksmith, learning the same from his brother-in-law, Joseph Green. For a time he worked with his cousin, John R. Corson, but on coming to Illinois he engaged exclusively in agricultural pursuits.

By her first marriage Mrs. Robinson became the mother of eight children. (1) Arloa married Scott Waite, of Pingree Grove, Kane county, Illinois, and they have two children, Nellie and Frank. The former is now the wife of Harry Pierce, of Des Moines, Iowa. (2) Norman Edgar and (3) Estella were buried in one grave, the former dying when three years of age and the latter when four months old. (4) Lizzie died at the age of four years. (5) Corwin C. lives in Bedford, Iowa. He married Coral Walker. (6) George married Myra Shook, and with their two children, Mabel E. and Beulah C., they reside in McHenry county. (7) Joseph L. married Emma Reid, and they have one son, Vernon J. Their home is in McHenry county. (8) Nellie I. died at the age of three years. By her second union Mrs. Robinson had one daughter, Mary J., who died at the age of three years. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are members of the Ney Methodist Episcopal church.

**J**OHAN BETZ, an active business man of Somonauk, engaged in the lumber trade, and also in the sale of agricultural implements, wagons, carriages, etc., was born in Erdbach, Nassau, Germany, February 23, 1831, and is the son of Jost Henry and Anna Margaritta (Winkel) Betz, both of whom were natives of Germany, who there lived and died, the former in 1845, at the age of fifty-two years, and the latter in 1854, also aged fifty-two years. By trade the father was a blacksmith and also followed farming. He was a member of the Evangelical church, of which body his wife was also a member. They were very good people, and inherited many excellent traits of character from their

ancestors. They were noted for their piety and integrity, and had a host of friends. Of their family of seven children, our subject was third in order of birth. The others were Carl Henry, who never came to America, but who died in Bicken, Germany, his death resulting from an accident by his falling from a fruit tree; Wilhelmina, who married Henry Nas, but is now deceased; Christina, who died at the age of eighteen years; Margaret, who came with our subject to America, married William Heun, and now resides in Iowa; John Henry, living in the old country, with a family of six children, of whom one, Adolph, came to the United States in 1889, and now makes his home with our subject, and assists in his business; and August, who died with consumption, when about twenty years old.

John Betz, our subject, was educated in the common schools of his native land, and is now a well informed man, having been a student during his entire life. He never learned any trade, as is common with his fellow countrymen, but worked on the farm in his youth. His father dying when he was but sixteen years of age, he managed the farm until his mother's death, when the home place was sold. In the spring of 1854, he emigrated to America, embarking in a sailing vessel at Antwerp, and being forty-two days on the water. He had fairly good sailing, and a pretty good time on the way, arriving in New York City, August 16, 1854. For five weeks he remained in the vicinity of New York, partly with relatives, and then came west to Chicago, landing there with ten shillings in his pockets, and all America before him. Securing employment in a blind, door and sash factory, he worked there about six weeks, when he slipped from a board, and lit with his right





JOHN BETZ.





MRS. JOHN BETZ.



foot in boiling water, scalding the foot and ankle in a painful way, and which laid him up for ten weeks. When well enough he came to Somonauk with a friend, who contributed a part of his fare. Peter Schaffman was the friend, and a good friend he was indeed.

Arriving in Somonauk he had not a cent and for one year could do little or nothing, being sick the greater portion of the time. But he worked as best he could, a part of the time for brick and stone masons and on the farm of Joseph Dickson, of Sandwich, and also for another farmer north of Somonauk. At this time a farm in the neighborhood was offered for sale, its owner living in Chicago. John Lewis, the farmer for whom our subject was then working, sent him to Chicago to buy the farm, which was to be divided between them. On going to the city he received an offer from Bowen Brothers, wholesale dry-goods dealers, as a clerk, which position he accepted and so let the farm go. The farm is still there, but the farmer has long since gone to his reward. Before he died our subject worked for him for a length of time, the farmer having forgiven him for not making the purchase, and they became the best of friends. After remaining with Bowen Brothers for one year Mr. Betz went to Burlington, Iowa, where he secured work in Rand's lumber yard. While there he was united in marriage with Miss Barbara Koeth, of Chicago, but a native of Germany, who came with her parents to the United States when but eight years of age, the family locating in Rochester, New York. The date of their marriage was July 23, 1857. In the fall of 1857 Mr. Betz, being in ill health, concluded to once more make Somonauk his home. The hard times of 1857

was now on and no work was to be obtained. In the old country he had learned to make willow baskets and the idea came to him that he might take up this occupation in Somonauk and thus keep the wolf from the door. Beginning their manufacture he continued in the same for thirteen winters, disposing of his wares principally in the neighborhood, but sending some to Chicago. In the summers he worked by the day for the farmers and was four summers on the railroad track as a common hand, after which he took contracts for making fences for farmers and also erected a fence in Clinton township, on the Chicago & Iowa Railroad. After this he worked three months for carpenters, but, not getting his pay, he began carpentering and contracting on his own account. This he did for four years, then commenced the lumber business with a cash capital of one hundred dollars. In one year he was four thousand four hundred dollars in debt, and this caused him many a sleepless night. However, by energy, industry and economy, and the excellent help of his good wife, he pulled through, paid the debts and continued the business. He has been very fortunate and is to-day considered one of the most substantial business men, not only of Somonauk, but of the southern portion of De Kalb county. About 1885 he added an agricultural and machinery department to his business, together with wagons, carriages and buggies, and later paints and oils have been added. He keeps two salesmen regularly and also a workmen, while his nephew does the outside work and he the office work of the business.

Mr. and Mrs. Betz have no children of their own, but in 1870, they adopted Ida Harmon, who later married John Rhein-

gruber, and they reside in Chicago where he is employed as a detective on the railroad. Mr. and Mrs. Betz, as well as their adopted daughter and her husband, are members of the Lutheran church. In politics Mr. Betz is a Republican. In 1854 he read Uncle Tom's Cabin in the German language, and on coming to America that had much to do in settling his political faith.

Mr. and Mrs. Betz are justly numbered among the influential people of Somonauk. They are worthy and kind hearted, and are now enjoying a well earned prosperity in the evening of their lives. Their home is a beautiful one, and they dispense a delightful hospitality to their large circle of friends. Having proved himself an excellent man of business, Mr. Betz can now well afford to enjoy the fruits of his industry, surrounded by the comforts and luxuries which his own hands have earned. For some years he has at certain seasons visited the Pacific coast, including the Yellowstone Park, and other places of interest. A few years since he visited New Orleans and while there attended the lumbermen's excursion along the coast, and formed many pleasant and most serviceable acquaintances. His good wife was his traveling companion, and they had a most excellent time. They have both seen and had many of the ups and downs of life, but by their good management have secured a competency in their decline of life.

**F**RANCIS M. COLES, who resides on section 26, South Grove township, is a native of Somersetshire, England, born December 15, 1845, and is a son of George M. and Harriet H. (Prescott) Coles, both natives of the same shire in England, and who

were the parents of seven children, Henry, John, James, George, Francis M., Harriet and Frederick. By occupation the father was a farmer, and dealer in fine horses in his native land.

In his native country our subject grew to manhood, remaining under the parental roof until he was twenty years of age, and receiving a fairly good education in the common schools. Like thousands of others in the Old World who had heard of the New, with its unlimited opportunities to advance in life, he determined to come to this favored land and when but twenty years old crossed the ocean alone and coming direct to De Kalb county secured employment of a farm at twenty-five dollars per month. He continued in various employment until 1885, and up to that time had traveled almost throughout the entire United States. On the 4th of March, 1885, he married Mrs. Mary A. Rich, widow of Thomas Rich, who was a native of Somersetshire, England. She is a daughter of John and Martha Burstan, both of whom were also natives of Somersetshire, England, and who were the parents of nine children, four of whom are living, William, Charles, Mary A., and George. Mrs. Coles was married to her first husband, Thomas Rich, January 26, 1870, and at once came with him to South Grove township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. His death occurred on the farm, June 13, 1884, at the age of fifty-six years.

After his marriage, Mr. Coles took up his residence on the farm of his wife, where they have since continued to reside. They have added a forty-acre tract to the original farm and it now comprises one hundred and

sixty acres of fine productive land. In politics Mr. Coles is a staunch Republican, and is a member of the Church of England, of which body his wife is also a member. Fraternally he is a Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge, chapter and commandery, and also of the Eastern Star. In the latter body his wife is also a member. He is likewise a member of the Maccabees.

**JABEZ CAMPBELL**, who resides on section 21, Sycamore township, where he is engaged in general farming, was born in Chenango county, New York, in the town of Greene, May 5, 1844, and is the son of John R. and Clarinda (Marvin) Campbell, the former a native of Delaware county, New York, born in November, 1810, and died in October, 1891, and the latter born in Connecticut in 1810, and died in 1892. They were the parents of ten children, four of whom are living: James L., of Sycamore; Abigail, widow of John Black, residing in Sycamore; Jabez, and Almira, wife of Clark A. Winans, of East State street, Sycamore. In politics John R. Campbell was originally a Whig, and later a Republican. The paternal grandfather, Jabez Campbell, born in one of the eastern states, was of Scotch descent. He died in Chenango county, New York, when probably eighty years of age.

The subject of this sketch came west in 1853, with his parents. While yet residing in New York, he attended the district schools, and again after his removal to De Kalb county. For ten years after the arrival of the family in De Kalb county, the father rented land, and in 1863, he made his first purchase of seventy acres, to which he later added forty acres more. In addi-

tion he became the owner of several houses and lots in De Kalb. Our subject remained with his parents until he attained his majority. He was married in Crystal Lake, Illinois, March 24, 1867, to Mary L. Hoffman, a native of Nunda, Illinois, born April 18, 1848, and a daughter of David S. Hoffman, a native of Cayuga county, New York, born June 10, 1825. He was twice married. His first union being with Valonia G. Stanard, a native of Vermont, who died in 1857, leaving one child, Mary L., now Mrs. Campbell. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Campbell, Colonel William Hoffman, was born in Cayuga county, New York, about 1773. He was the son of Mathias Hoffman, a native of Germany. He was married August 20, 1814, in Cayuga county, New York, to Lovilla Sears, born June 10, 1773. From Cayuga county he moved to Livingston county, New York, in 1826, and there resided until 1837, when he moved west to McHenry county, Illinois, where his death occurred.

To Mr. and Mrs. Campbell seven children were born, five of whom are living. Stewart married Emma Nichols, and they have one child, Lewis. They make their home in Mayfield township. Minnie married Bert Gustavison, and they reside in Sycamore township. Lettie married William Graham, of Mayfield township, who is now serving as school director and road commissioner, and who is a Republican in politics. They have two children, Violet and Irene. Cora and John Ernest yet reside at home.

In October, 1864, Mr. Campbell enlisted in Company B, Thirty-first Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He joined the regiment in the south and his first battle was near Atlanta. With his regiment he

was through the Atlanta campaign, and on the march to the sea. The regiment was near Raleigh, North Carolina, when the news of Lee's surrender was proclaimed. They were then ordered through Richmond to Washington, where they participated in the grand review. From Washington the regiment was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, where it was mustered out, but received its discharge at Springfield, in August, 1865. Returning to his home after receiving his discharge, Mr. Campbell worked for his father one year, then married and began life for himself. He purchased a farm near his father's, and has since bought the old homestead. He is engaged in general farming, and has no cause to regret having chosen the vocation of a farmer for his life work.

**JAMES NISBET**, whose residence is on section 27, Paw Paw township, but whose farm of three hundred and twenty acres, lies in sections 21, 22, 27 and 28, is a native of Paw Paw township, born on the old family homestead, October 28, 1853. He is the son of Matthew Nisbet, a native of Scotland, born in Glasgow, in 1818, and who there grew to manhood, and emigrated to the New World about 1839, locating first in Canada, and who later traveled through Iowa and finally located in De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1841. He entered a tract of two hundred acres, to which he added till his farm comprised seven hundred and twenty-five acres in Paw Paw township, on which he located and which he thoroughly improved. He was married in Paw Paw township to Miss Nancy Harper, a native of New York, who came with her parents to De Kalb county, after arriving at mature years. On his farm Matthew Nis-

bet built a stone house and there reared his family, dying March 23, 1873. His wife survives him and yet resides in the old home. They had a family of three sons and three daughters. Elizabeth is the wife of James Harper, a farmer of Paw Paw township. Isabella is the wife of William Hyde, of Bedford, Iowa. William is a farmer residing in Paw Paw township. Mary is the wife of C. V. Weddell, of Paw Paw township. Lawrence owns and operates the home farm. James is the subject of this sketch.

On the home farm James Nisbet grew to manhood, and in the neighborhood schools received his education. He remained with his father, assisting in the farm work, until the latter's death, and when in his twentieth year, March 3, 1873, was united in marriage with Miss Lemira J. Bartlett, a daughter of E. O. Bartlett, of Paw Paw township. She was reared in the township and educated in the Paw Paw Seminary. Two children came to bless their union, Dora B. and Ethel.

After his marriage, Mr. Nisbet moved to the place where he now resides. His father had given him eighty acres of land and he bought an adjoining eighty acres on which was an old house, and which was partially improved. He has since purchased one hundred and sixty acres, giving him a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, the greater part of which is now under a high state of cultivation. The farm is well drained, having some four or five miles of tiling, and is a most valuable place. He annually feeds for the market from four to six carloads of stock, and in all his farming operations he is quite successful. He cast his first presidential ballot for R. B. Hayes in 1876, and has since been an earnest sup-

porter of the Republican party. He is now filling the position of commissioner of highways, an office which he is well qualified to fill. He has also served as township trustee in a satisfactory manner. Taking an active interest in local politics, he has often represented his township in the various conventions of his party. A progressive farmer, he keeps up with the times, and his place is well supplied with all the labor saving appliances known to the farming community.

**H**ALVOR KITTELSON, who resides on section 32, Milan township, but who is living a retired life, came to De Kalb county in 1860. He is a native of Norway, born April 6, 1836, and grew to manhood in his native country, being reared on a farm. In the common schools of the old country he received a limited education, his knowledge of English being acquired after the removal to this country. He was married in Norway in 1860 to Miss Julia Hillison, also a native of Norway, and born in the same neighborhood as that of her husband. Soon after their marriage they bid farewell to their friends and set sail for the New World. Arriving in New York they came direct to Illinois and located in La Salle county, where Mr. Kittelson rented land and engaged in farming. After raising three crops, in 1863 he came to De Kalb county and bought eighty acres, which comprises a part of the farm on which he now resides. His industrious habits and strict economy enabled him a little later to purchase one hundred and sixty acres, which is now occupied by his son Henry. He also purchased eighty acres on section 31, but has sold forty acres of the home farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Kittelson are the parents of four children. Cora resides at home. Henry is married and is engaged in farming in Milan township. Isbell is married and engaged in farming in Lee county. Julia is the wife of Martin Ruddell, of Milan township. The family are all industrious and, like their parents, have been successful in their chosen avocation. Politically, Mr. Kittelson is a strong Republican and has given his support to that party during his entire residence in this country. The entire family are members of the Lutheran church, in which faith they were reared. All are well known and highly respected in the community in which they have so long resided.

**M**AJOR JOHN W. BURST, a veteran of the Civil war, and one who has a national reputation among his comrades, now residing in the city of Sycamore, was born in Meredith, Delaware county, New York, July 29, 1843, and is the son of Jacob C. and Olive A. (Comstock) Burst, both of whom were natives of Schoharie county, New York. By occupation the father was a farmer, which vocation he followed during his entire life. His death occurred in his native state about 1880. Politically he was a Democrat until 1860, after which time he was an enthusiastic Republican. The mother was a daughter of Ebenezer and Hannah (Snook) Comstock. Her father being a soldier in the Mexican war. The paternal grandfather, John I. Burst, was also a native of Schoharie county, and there married Sarah Luckey. Her sisters, while at Poughkeepsie, met and entertained LaFayette on his visit to America. An uncle of John I. Burst, Jacob Burst, was an offi-

cer in the Revolutionary war. The family are of Holland descent.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native state, and received his education in the Ferguson Academy and in the Charlotte Academy, which he attended until the age of fourteen years. He then went to New York city, making his home with an uncle, attending to his collections, while at the same time going to school. In the fall of 1860 he came to De Kalb county, and stopped at Kirkland, where relatives were then living. During the winter following he worked in the store of Mr. Ryder, at Belvidere.

The election of Abraham Lincoln resulted in the Civil war, and under the first call for three hundred thousand men, Mr. Burst enlisted May 15, 1861, in Company D, Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into the service as a private at Freeport, Illinois. The regiment was first sent to Alton, where it was in camp for a time, after which it was sent to Mexico, Missouri. Here Mr. Burst first met General Grant. While there he was poisoned by some insect, which crossed his face while sleeping, resulting in the loss of the use of his eyes for some time. He was sent home and suffered greatly through the winter, and was not able to use his eyes until the summer of 1862, having been discharged in December, 1861.

On the 10th of August, 1862, Mr. Burst re-enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into the service at Dixon, Illinois, September 2, 1862. The regiment was then sent to Chicago for a few days, and from there to Louisville, Kentucky, and later to Frankfort, in the same state. By a forced march, it went to Lexington, and

was in the chase after Morgan. Returning to Lexington, it was later at Bowling Green, Hartsville, Galatin, and then to Tunnel Hill, where it guarded the tunnel during the greater part of the winter. Returning to Galatin, it was then sent to Nashville, and on to La Vergne and Murphysborough. It was then sent back to La Vergne and Nashville, and from the latter place started to join Sherman at Chattanooga. Crossing the Cumberland mountains it went by the way of the Wauhatchie valley, near the line of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, crossing the river at Stephenson, Alabama. It took position in the Wauhatchie valley, under the point of Lookout Mountain. The regiment was next in Sherman's campaign to Atlanta, crossing Chickamauga Valley, by Gordon's Mills, near Rockey Face Gap, through Snake Creek Gap, to Resaca, facing Johnson's army. The regiment lay under fire May 14, 1864. On the 15th the Twelfth Corps was ordered around to the left of Resaca, where they formed and made an advance, under heavy fire of the main body of Johnson's army. They forced the enemy back behind the breastworks, and captured the redoubt in which there were four fine brass cannon. The regiment was engaged in fighting the entire day, the enemy leaving during the night.

Moving on with the army, the next engagement participated in by the regiment was at Cassville, Georgia, where the enemy was driven from its position. Johnson's army here divided, a part going towards Rome, and the remainder towards Dallas. On the 25th of May the regiment was in the engagement at New Hope Church, and skirmishing for position, moving by right and left flank, the division in which the



One Hundred and Fifth was attached, engaging the enemy about 6 P. M. Shortly after the battle commenced, our subject had his leg shot off by a shell, which struck him before it exploded. His leg was amputated in the field hospital, and the next day he was taken across the mountains forty-five miles to Kingston, Georgia. The second morning he was placed on a train in a freight car, and taken to Chattanooga. On arriving there, he was at once carried into the receiving tent, and the wound was examined. Gangrene had set in, and he was ordered to the gangrene ward. Another amputation was promptly made, but the wound never healed, and a third amputation was made after his arrival home. He was sent home about the middle of July, 1864, again being sent in a cattle car, in which he went from Chattanooga to Nashville. Here he was placed in the officers' hospital, and later sent home.

Major Burst went into service as a private, and was then orderly-sergeant for six months, and served as second lieutenant one year and first lieutenant one year. He was commissioned captain, but never mustered, the commission being received after the loss of his leg. After recovering from his wound, Major Burst was appointed postal clerk in the railway mail service. This was in the spring of 1865, and he served in that position until the fall of 1866, when he was appointed postmaster of Sycamore. After serving four years as postmaster, he returned in 1871 to the railway mail service, with which he was connected until 1886, when he resigned during the administration of President Cleveland. In the spring of 1887, he was appointed by Governor Oglesby, warehouse registrar at Chicago, and served during his administra-

tion, and two years under Governor Fifer. At the request of Jeremiah Rusk, secretary of agriculture, he was appointed by Secretary Foster, of the treasury, inspector of immigration in Chicago, and served until 1893, when he resigned at the request of President Cleveland. In 1894, he was quartermaster-general of the G. A. R., and in 1895 and 1896, he was connected with the passenger department of the Chicago & Great Western Railroad. In the fall of 1896, he was one of the "wrecks of the Rebellion," a party organized by General Alger, and composed of Generals Howard, Sickles, Stewart, Marden, Corporal Tanner and Major Burst. They made a tour of thirteen states in the interests of William McKinley. After McKinley became president Major Burst was again appointed inspector of immigration at Chicago, which office he is still filling.

On the 28th of March, 1871, Major Burst was united in marriage with Lettice Ann Mayo, born in Sycamore, and a daughter of Judge Edward L. and Emily K. (Holden) Mayo, both of whom were natives of Vermont, and among the early settlers of De Kalb. Judge Mayo was born in 1807, and died in 1877, at the age of seventy years. For some years he was judge of the county court of De Kalb county, and was one of the leading lawyers of the county. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Burst were Larnard and Thirza (Marcey) Mayo, and the maternal grandparents were Josiah and Betsy (Leland) Holden. To Major and Mrs. Burst three children were born: Edward M., of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work; Bessie M., wife of Henry W. Prentice, an attorney of De Kalb; and Bertha C., at home.

In politics Major Burst is a staunch Re-

publican. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has held every office in the national organization with the exception of commander. Four times he was a prominent candidate for the latter office, and could have been elected if he would have bound himself by promises to appoint certain members to office. He assisted in organizing the Grand Army, and was a member of Ransom Post, of Chicago, the third post organized in the United States. In 1868 the organization went to pieces, and in 1869 it was re-organized as a non-political organization, and its growth was so rapid that in 1870 it had six hundred thousand members. Potter Post No. 12, of Sycamore, was organized by Major Burst. For six years he was a member of the National G. A. R. pension committee, and assisted in drafting pension bills, especially the bill passed in June, 1890, which has resulted in greater benefit to soldiers than any bill passed since the war.

ALVIN P. BURNHAM, who resides on section 21, Victor township, some four and a half miles north of Leland, where he owns a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, has been a resident of De Kalb county since 1855. He was born near Portland, Maine, May 15, 1836, and is the son of Bain Burnham, a native of the same state and county, born in 1799, and the grandson of Moses Burnham, also a native of Maine. The family is of English descent, four brothers emigrating from England in the 17th century, one locating in Maine, another in Massachusetts, the third in New Hampshire, and the fourth in New York. Moses Burnham was a pioneer of Androscoggin county, Maine, where he

made a home in the wilderness and reared his family. Bain Burnham was there reared and married Eliza Haskell, also a native of the same county and state, and a daughter of Squire Haskell. They reared their family in their native county, but later came west and joined one of their sons in De Kalb county, Illinois, and here spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in Dwight, at the residence of a daughter in 1870. His wife survived him a few years, dying in 1875. Of their four sons and two daughters, all grew to mature years. J. H. grew to manhood, remained in Maine, where his death occurred. Emma H. married Frederick Lakin, of Maine, and later they came to De Kalb county and now reside at Sandwich. Octavia married J. M. Smith, settled in Dwight and there died. Alvin P. is the subject of this review. Sumner was a member of the One Hundred and Fourth Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in battle at Huntsville, Tennessee, in 1864. John was also a soldier in the Civil war, serving in a regiment from Maine, and died in a hospital of disease contracted while in the service.

Alvin P. Burnham was nineteen years of age when he left his native state and came to Illinois. He attended the common schools of his native state, and also the North Bridgeton Academy, receiving a fairly good education. He came direct to Leland, Illinois, and there spent the season and for four or five years worked by the month for various farmers. In the fall of 1860, in La Salle county, he married Cynthia P. Morton, a native of Maine, but mostly reared and educated in Lynn, Massachusetts, coming west with her father, George Morton, in 1856, the family locating in La Salle county. She there engaged

in teaching, in which occupation she continued until her marriage. By this union there was one daughter, Clara M., now the wife of Charles G. Arnold, a native of De Kalb county, and a man of good education, and good business qualities. Mrs. Arnold is also well educated, and in addition to the common schools of the neighborhood, attended the high school in Leland. They now reside on the Burnham farm.

After marriage Mr. Burnham rented land in La Salle county some four or five years then moved to Livingston county, and purchased a farm of one hundred and six acres which he cultivated until 1868, when he sold out and came to De Kalb county and purchased the farm where he now resides. It was a partially improved farm, but has been greatly changed since coming into possession of its present owner who has built two good residences, good barns, and various outbuildings, enclosing it with a neat and well trimmed hedge fence, and beautifying it by shade and ornamental trees. In addition to general farming he has made a specialty of breeding and dealing in standard bred horse, mostly English draft horses, and has followed that business for some years, and in it meeting with good success. Politically Mr. Burnham is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since its organization, and has voted for each of its presidential nominees. In 1872 he was elected assessor of Victor township, and by re-election has now served continuously for twenty-six years. He has also served for some years as a member of the school board, giving much of his time to advance the interests of the public schools. He is well known in both La Salle and De Kalb counties, and where best known he is the most highly es-

teemed. His long continued service as assessor shows the confidence in which he is held by the citizens of Victor township.

FRANK E. HILLS, who resides in Sycamore, but is secretary, manager and principal owner of the Abram Ellwood Manufacturing Company, De Kalb, Illinois, was born in Middletown, October 24, 1843. His father, Lorenzo R. Hills, was born at Martinsburg, Lewis county, New York, January 28, 1812, and died at Sandwich, Illinois, December 22, 1889. He was a carpenter and builder by trade, an occupation which he followed during his entire life. For a time he resided in Connecticut, but in 1853, removed to Plainfield, Illinois, and in 1863, to Sandwich. He was a leading builder and contractor, and erected most of the largest buildings that were constructed in the places where he resided during his active career. He married Mary A. Frary, born in Haverhill, New Hampshire, in the beautiful Connecticut Valley, July 23, 1814, and the daughter of Elisha Frary, then residing in Haverhill. She died in De Kalb county, February 6, 1878. The paternal grandfather of our subject was Russell Hills, a carpenter and builder, who married Lucretia Robins, and died at Martinsburg, New York.

Frank E. Hills moved with his parents from Middletown, Connecticut, to Plainfield, Will county, Illinois, where he lived ten years. He attended the common schools in both Middletown, Connecticut, and Plainfield, Illinois, and was a pupil for one year in Clark Seminary, at Aurora, where his literary education was completed. The war for the Union was then in progress, and our subject enlisted in August, 1862, at

Plainfield, in Company D, One Hundredth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with his regiment went south, the regiment becoming a part of the Army of the Cumberland. He was in the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Franklin, and Nashville, Tennessee, and in the entire Atlanta campaign. After the expiration of his term of service, he was mustered out at Chicago.

After leaving the service, Mr. Hills joined the family at Sandwich, where they had moved in 1863. He then again took up the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for two years. He was then employed as bookkeeper in a hardware store until 1875, when he was elected corresponding secretary of the Sandwich Enterprise Company, remaining with that institution until 1878, when he became associated with the Reuben Ellwood Manufacturing Company at Sycamore, with which he was connected until 1890. When General Dustin resigned the office of circuit clerk at that time, Mr. Hills was appointed to fill the vacancy. From 1892 to 1896, he was engrossing clerk of the state senate. Since the latter date he has been secretary and manager of the A. Ellwood Manufacturing Company, at De Kalb.

Mr. Hills was married in Sandwich, Illinois, January 4, 1867, to Miss Mantie Suddoth, a native of Delaware county, Ohio, and a daughter of Robert and Sarah (Baxter) Suddoth, natives of Culpeper county, Virginia. Her father was a well-educated man and during his young manhood had charge of a large plantation and many slaves of his father, Robert Henry Suddoth, near Culpeper Courthouse. Some years before the war he moved to Delaware county, Ohio, and later to Plainfield, Will county, Illinois,

and still later to Sandwich, Illinois, where he died in 1861. To Mr. and Mrs. Hills four children have been born, Hattie Belle, Alberta Vermelle, Frank Robins and Harry Preston. The first named died at the age of twenty-two months, and the last named in 1895 at the age of eighteen years.

In politics Mr. Hills is a thorough Republican and has ever taken an active interest in political affairs, or as much as his business interests would permit. He is a Mason and holds membership with the blue lodge, chapter of Sandwich and commandery at Sycamore. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Grand Army of the Republic. Thoroughly progressive, a good business manager and with fine executive ability, he has been enabled to rise to a position of authority and placed at the head of one of the most important manufacturing institutions in De Kalb county. He is ever ready to champion anything that will advance the best interests of his adopted city and county, and this fact commends him to all business and professional men, those on whose efforts the country relies for its growth and well being.

**W**H. WRIGHT, mayor of Somonauk, and assistant cashier of the Somonauk Bank, was born in the village October 28, 1862, and is the son of Thomas J. and Lois M. (Gage) Wright, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. He was reared in the village, and after completing a course in its public schools, was engaged in farm work some five years. In 1890 he returned to the village and took his present position as assistant cashier of the Somonauk Bank, which position he has filled ever since. He was elected clerk of the village

and held the office two terms, and was then elected village trustee and served one term. In April, 1898, he was elected mayor of the village and is now serving as such official. Mr. Wright was married March 10, 1888, to Miss Nettie Moore, daughter of John W. and Amaretta (Hupp) Moore, who came to this section of the state from the east, and who are yet living, the father being an extensive farmer in La Salle county. By this union was one child, La Verne, who died at the age of six months. Before her marriage Mrs. Wright was a successful teacher in the schools of the county. She departed this life at the age of twenty-three years, her death being mourned, not alone by the sorrowing husband, but by many friends in De Kalb and La Salle counties.

Mr. Wright is a member of Somonauk Lodge, No. 646, A. F. & A. M., and of Sandwich chapter, R. A. M. In politics he is a Democrat. As a business man, he is regarded as one of the most prominent and worthy in De Kalb county, and is entitled to the honors bestowed upon him by the official position which he has been called on to fill.

**PETER POULSON** is one of the large number who have come to this free land from Sweden and have assisted in the development of much of the new country. He now resides on a fine farm in Franklin township, which is the result of his own industry and thrifty habits. He was born in Sweden March 25, 1843, and is the son of Paul and Ellen (Larson) Poulson, both natives of Sweden and who were the parents of seven children—Joseph, Peter, Andrew, John, Betsy, Hannah and Christian. Of these Andrew and Christian are deceased. Paul Anderson has followed the occupation

of a farmer during his entire life. He never left his native land. In his native country Peter Poulson grew to manhood and was educated in the parochial schools. With the aim of bettering his condition in life, he came to the United States in 1868, coming direct from New York to Rockford, Illinois, where he arrived November 4, 1868. His first employment in this country was at street paving at Rockford, and then upon a farm, where he worked by the day. In 1880 he bought eighty-five acres, a portion of the land comprised in his present farm, and has since been engaged in farming for himself. On the 13th of April, 1880, he married Mary Johnson, having returned to his native land with that object in view. With his young bride he again came to De Kalb county and at once commenced the improvement of his farm. On his first arrival in this country he had but a five-dollar gold piece and with this capital he went to work and success has crowned his efforts.

Mr. and Mrs. Poulson have seven children living, as follows: Sophia, Alo, Alfred, Robert, Amiel, Rosa and Pearl. Six children are deceased—Freda, Earnest, Estes, Amelia and two unnamed. Mr. and Mrs. Poulson are members of the Swedish Lutheran church, and in politics he is a Republican. In the spring of 1889 he was elected road commissioner for a term of three years, and has three times been re-elected and is serving his fourth term. The confidence reposed in him by his friends and neighbors is shown by his continued re-election.

**L. P. HARVEY**, residing at Clare Station, Mayfield township, has been actively engaged in the manufacture of butter for the past sixteen years. He is a native of

Canada, born near Montreal, July 24, 1844, and is the son of Gardner Harvey, also a native of Canada, and the grandson of L. P. Harvey, a native of Massachusetts. The Harvey family are of Scotch ancestry, the original ancestor coming to this country from the vicinity of Glasgow, in the seventeenth century, and locating in Massachusetts. L. P. Harvey, Sr., removed from Massachusetts to Canada at quite an early day and there engaged in the milling business, manufacturing both flour and lumber. He built five flouring mills and seven sawmills, and also owned and operated a distillery and a large farm.

Gardner Harvey was reared in Canada, and there married Miss Lydia Boynton, her father being also a miller and farmer. After their marriage in 1858, they moved to Portage county, Wisconsin, where he built a sawmill and engaged in the manufacture of lumber, remaining there some five or six years, then moving to Amherst, Wisconsin, where he spent some years, and later moved to Florida, where he engaged in orange growing some twelve years. Selling out, he returned to Wisconsin and died in Amherst, in January, 1898. His wife yet survives him.

The subject of this sketch remained in Canada until sixteen years of age, engaged with his father in the mill and assisting in cultivating the home farm. While residing in his native country, he had good school privileges of which he made good use, and after his removal to Wisconsin, he attended the common schools of that state, and later spent one year in a business college at Milwaukee. In his youth he had some experience as a clerk in a mercantile establishment and after completing his studies he engaged in the general mercantile business at Am-

herst, Wisconsin, and there continued three years, meeting with fair success. Selling out, he was in the employ of the Wisconsin Central Railroad for four years as agent and telegraph operator. From Amherst he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and located at Kingston, where he engaged in the milling, flour and feed business, in which he continued four years. In 1882 he commenced work in a creamery for other parties at Colvin Park, Illinois, and continued to be thus employed until 1892, when he went to Clare Station, and bought out an established business which he still continues to operate. In 1897 he purchased the creamery at Esmond, Illinois, and is now operating both creameries, manufacturing on an average five hundred and fifty pounds daily during the entire year. He pays the farmers for milk from two thousand five hundred dollars to three thousand dollars per month.

Mr. Harvey was united in marriage at Amherst, Wisconsin, December 24, 1869, with Miss Eliza Loing, a native of Boone county, Illinois, and a daughter of Stanton Loing, a pioneer of Boone county, from New York. By this union there are three children: Heber is a practical buttermaker and is managing the creamery at Esmond. Mary and Walter yet remain at home, the latter assisting in the Clare creamery. They lost one son, Herbert, who died at the age of two years.

The first presidential vote cast by Mr. Harvey was in 1868, for General U. S. Grant, since which time he has been an earnest advocate of the principles of the Republican party. While always refusing official position, he has yet been prevailed upon to serve as a member of the school board. Religiously Mrs. Harvey is identi-

fied with the Baptists, being a member of the Baptist church. While neither a pioneer nor an old settler of De Kalb county, Mr. Harvey is yet well known and has many friends in the county as well as in the adjoining county of Boone.

**H**OX, BYRON F. WYMAN is a retired farmer residing on section 39, Sycamore township. He was born on the farm where he now resides, March 10, 1839. His father, Ralph Wyman, was born in 1813 at Wethersfield, Windsor county, Vermont, and was the son of Asa and Sallie (Searles) Wyman, the former a native of Townsend, Massachusetts, who came west in 1856, and died at the age of seventy-five years. His wife, who was a daughter of Joseph and Abigail (Patton) Searles, both of whom were natives of Townsend, Massachusetts, attained the age of ninety-one years. The Wymans are of German origin and are descendants of two brothers, Weymann, who left Germany and sojourned for a time in Wales, but finally came to America. John Weymann, a tanner by trade, married Sarah Nutt. Francis Weymann, also a tanner, first married Judith Pierce, and later Abigail Reid, and lived in Massachusetts the latter half of the seventeenth century. Asa Wyman was born in Townsend, Middlesex county, Massachusetts, and was the son of Elijah Wyman, who died January 21, 1789, at the age of forty-two years. He married Abigail Wetherby, who died September 12, 1825, at the age of seventy-two years. Elijah Wyman was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and the gun which he carried was long in possession of his son, Asa.

Ralph Wyman, the father of our subject, when two years of age, accompanied his

parents from Wethersfield, Vermont, to Worcester, Massachusetts, and in a few years to Middletown, Vermont. In 1836 he came west and settled on the farm where our subject now resides, but, in 1837, returned to Massachusetts, and there married Susan Dayton, born in Vermont, in November, 1818, and a daughter of William Dayton, also a native of Vermont. Immediately after his marriage he brought his bride to his new home, and they resided upon the farm until 1860, when they moved to the city of Sycamore. After his removal he followed various occupations, being interested in a store for a time, then in a lumber yard, took contracts for erecting several buildings, and traded and speculated in store. His death occurred in 1864. His wife survived him and died at the age of seventy-four years. The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm and received his primary education in the district schools. He later attended the schools at Sycamore and De Kalb, and Rock River Seminary at Mount Morris, Illinois. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted, May 24, 1861, in Company F, Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until June 18, 1864. He was mustered into the service at Dixon, Illinois, and was in camp at Caseyville, Illinois, for a time, the regiment going from thence to Rollo, Missouri, and later, while on the way to Springfield, Missouri, was in several engagements at Lynn Creek and at Wet Glaze. Afterward the regiment was sent to the aid of General Seigel at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, after which it made a long march through Arkansas (engaging the enemy several times), to Hulma, on the Mississippi river, and was then in the siege of Vicksburg. After the capture of Vicksburg, it was in the

operations around Jackson, Mississippi, Brandon, and assisted in the capture of Arkansas Post, Arkansas. It was in action at Cherokee, Cane Creek and Tuscumbia, Alabama; Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Ringold Pass, Georgia, and at Madison Station, Alabama, which was the last engagement in which he participated. His term of service having expired, he was discharged at Springfield, Illinois, June 18, 1864. He held the office of sergeant, and was wounded twice while in the service.

On receiving his discharge, Mr. Wyman returned home, and for a short time clerked in a grocery store in Sycamore. He then returned to the old home farm, which with the exception of four or five years, has since been his home. He was married October 19, 1865, at Bear Creek, Wisconsin, to Miss Nettie S. Lowell, born in Moretown, Vermont, and daughter of Martin L. Lowell, a native of Lemster, New Hampshire. By this union there are seven children. Ralph L. graduated from the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, married Kate A. Russell, and is now practicing law in Chicago. Luther Everett is a graduate of Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois, and is now chief clerk in a stock broker's office, Chicago. Frank E. and Bernard A. have been running the home farm since 1893, and dealing in farm produce in Sycamore. Vincent D. is a graduate of the Sycamore high school, and is now engaged in the practice of law in Chicago. Edmond S. and Cecil L. are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Wyman has been a frequent contributor to the agricultural journals of the country, and for many years was secretary of the De Kalb County Agricultural Fair association, and has for a number of years

been statistical correspondent for the agricultural department at Washington. He is vice-president of the Kingston Mutual Insurance Company, a county corporation carrying one million five hundred thousand dollars of risk. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Grand Army of the Republic. In politics he is a Republican, and for fourteen years was one of the supervisors of Sycamore township. From 1891 to 1894, he was a member of the Illinois Board of World's Fair Commissioners, and for four years was a member of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture. He is a thoroughly posted man in agricultural matters, was one of the organizers of the De Kalb County Farmers' Institute, was many years its secretary, and was the first director of institutes for the congressional district in which he resides. He has frequent invitations to go to different parts of the state to assist in institute and convention work, and is well and favorably known throughout the state. He is also well known as a breeder of registered Jersey cattle. He has given considerable attention to horticultural matters, and his farm is well stocked with many varieties of fruit.

**W** W. WOODBURY, superintendent of schools, Sandwich, Illinois, is an educator of superior ability. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, September 19, 1858, and is the son of John H. and Laura A. (Smith) Woodbury, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Pennsylvania. In 1844, when a boy of ten years of age, the father came west locating first in Wisconsin, where he remained until



eighteen years of age, when he came to Illinois and located in La Salle county. His parents both died before his leaving Wisconsin. After remaining in La Salle county for a time, he later moved to Shabbona township, De Kalb county. He is a man of fine ability, well known throughout La Salle and De Kalb counties. Since the organization of the Republican party, he has been identified with it, although naturally independent in political affairs. His first presidential vote was cast for General John C. Fremont. His wife died in 1890, at the age of about fifty-seven years. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for many years, and quite a devout woman. They were the parents of four children, of whom our subject is the oldest. The others are E. O., residing in north-western Iowa; A. J., who is operating the old home farm, and Minnie, wife of M. J. Ladd, superintendent of schools at Warren, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on his father's farm and attended the public schools of the immediate vicinity. Later he took a course at the Teachers' Institute and Classical Seminary, at Paw Paw, Illinois. He also received special training in various lines of study at the Chicago University and Wisconsin State University. In 1879 he began teaching in the common schools of the state, and in 1888 was made principal of the grammar schools of Sandwich, and in 1894 was elected to his present position as superintendent of its city schools, which position he has since continued to hold. At the present time he has twelve teachers under him, and the schools are well graded, having a four years course of study, fitting the students for entry into the freshman class of the State University.

In 1897 a class of eight pupils was graduated, and in 1898 a class of eleven pupils.

In 1895 Mr. Woodbury was united in marriage with Miss Nellie G. Forsythe, daughter of William and Frances (Coleman) Forsythe. For about seven years, Mrs. Woodbury was a teacher in the Sandwich schools, and was recognized as one of the best. Both Mr. and Mrs. Woodbury are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is filling the position of elder. Both are active in Sunday-school work, and are teachers in the Presbyterian Sunday school of Sandwich. Fraternaly he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

The lives and efforts of both Mr. and Mrs. Woodbury have been exceedingly useful to the city of Sandwich, where they have been educators of pronounced ability, where they are deservedly held in high esteem, their services giving a very high degree of satisfaction. They both possess that refinement and culture which is acquired only by close kinship with books and the best they contain.

**J**OHNS GRAY, a retired farmer residing on section 5, Genoa township, was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, June 2, 1810. He is the son of Jacob Gray, who was left an orphan boy and reared by German people. He was himself of German origin, the name being originally spelled Krah. He married Christina Bartoe, a daughter of John Bartoe, who married a Miss Beaver. Jacob Gray died at the age of fifty-six years, while his wife lived to be seventy-five years old.

John Gray was reared in his native county and continued under his father's con-

trol until twenty-one years of age. When eleven years of age he commenced working out for others, receiving only his board and very scanty clothing. He then received four dollars a month for a year, and the following year five dollars a month, and six dollars a month for the succeeding year. From 1832 to 1834 he worked at home, but in the summer of 1834 again went out to service, at nine dollars per month. In 1835 he built furnaces at eighteen dollars per month, and in 1836 worked at Mauch Chunk on the railroad. In 1837 he was engaged in work in a brickyard, and in 1838 worked in a stillhouse.

On the 28th of December, 1838, Mr. Gray was united in marriage with Susanna Fague, a daughter of George and Elizabeth Corson Fague, by whom he had eight children, three of his daughters being married and living near the old home in Pennsylvania. After his marriage Mr. Gray continued to work in a distillery in Union county, Pennsylvania, until 1842, when he returned to Lycoming county and purchased one hundred and twenty-seven acres of partially wild timber land in Wolf township, which he cleared, selling the wood and lumber and making a good farm. On that place he resided until the spring of 1874, his wife having died in October, 1871. His second union was celebrated December 10, 1874, when he married Mrs. Jerusha Buck, widow of Daniel Buck, who was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, June 2, 1816, and who was by occupation a farmer and dealer in lumber and timber land.

Daniel Buck was the son of Peter and Susannah (Holmes) Buck, the latter a daughter of John and Mary (Knott) Holmes. Peter Buck was the son of Henry and Catherine (Rotharmal) Buck. Daniel Buck

married Jerusha Craft, born in Kenawah county, Virginia, October 14, 1823, and a daughter of Samuel Craft, born June 3, 1800, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, and who died March 8, 1872. By trade he was a miller, but followed the occupation of a farmer for many years. He was quite prominent in his county and served some years as constable and sheriff. He was the son of William Craft, who married Sarah Alward, whose mother was Priscilla Taylor, a native of England. Samuel Craft spent his entire life in Pennsylvania, with the exception of four years in Virginia, at the time Mrs. Gray was born.

To Daniel and Jerusha Buck were born five children: (1) Alfred married Mary Josephine Simmons, by whom he had eight children, six of whom are living, Sarah E., Glenn, Cora, Flora B., Walter W. and Roy. He is engaged in farming on a portion of the old home farm on section 4. (2) Ellis was a member of Company B, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, and died at Harwood Hospital, Washington, D. C., April 28, 1864, from typhoid fever. (3) Nesbitt died in 1860, at the age of thirteen years. (4) George married Mary Flick and resides on section 5, a portion of his mother's farm. He is the present township assessor. (5) Charles died in infancy.

In 1849 Daniel Buck came with his family to De Kalb county and located on section 4, Genoa township. Two years before he brought his family here he purchased four hundred acres of land, a part of which he afterwards sold, but from time to time purchased other tracts until his farm comprised five hundred and twenty acres, together with ten acres of timber. After a useful life he died March 3, 1873.

After his second marriage Mr. Gray

purchased a mountain tract and followed lumbering for some years. In 1882 he sold his Pennsylvania home and came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and has since been living upon the farm of his wife on section 4. Although he has lived in the county comparatively a short time he is well known and highly respected.

**A**LPHA J. COSTER, of Hinckley, Illinois, is a representative of the younger business men and farmers of De Kalb county. He owns and operates a farm of two hundred acres, a part of which lies within the village limits of Hinckley, Squaw Grove township. He is a native of De Kalb county, born on the old homestead, and in the house where he now resides, March 30, 1865, and is the son of J. C. Coster, one of the honored old settlers and substantial men of the county, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. On the old farm he grew to manhood, and as his age permitted, assisted in the cultivation of the farm, and in farm work generally. His primary education was obtained in the public schools of Hinckley, and later he attended a seminary at Sugar Grove, Kane county.

After completing his studies Mr. Coster resumed work upon the home farm, and assisted his father until he arrived at mature years. He was united in marriage at Hinckley, February 23, 1892, to Miss Effie May Sebree, a daughter of W. M. Sebree, one of the honored pioneers and now the oldest living resident of De Kalb county (see sketch of Mr. Sebree elsewhere in this work). Mrs. Coster was reared in Squaw Grove township, and received her education in the schools of Hinckley and Aurora, Illinois.

She took a thorough commercial course and training in Aurora, and was bookkeeper for the Hinckley Creamery Company for three years previous to her marriage.

After marriage Mr. Coster rented a portion of the old home farm, located there, and at once commenced life for himself. Three years later he purchased two hundred acres of the place, including the old home residence. In addition to general farming he was engaged in the dairy business for eleven years, and, since 1895, has been engaged in running a milk wagon, supplying the people of Hinckley with milk, and has worked up a nice trade in this line.

Mr. and Mrs. Coster have one son, Donald Redfield. In politics Mr. Coster has been a Republican since attaining his majority. Office holding has no charm for him, but he has served one term as trustee of the village of Hinckley. Fraternally he is a Mason, holding membership with the blue lodge at Hinckley, the chapter at Sandwich, and the commandery at Aurora, Illinois. He and his wife are charter members of the Eastern Star. Mr. Coster is past master of Hinckley lodge, while he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is one of the most successful farmers in Squaw Grove township, and is a man of good business ability, sterling character and worth, and he and his wife stand high socially in the community which has been their home during their entire lives.

**D**R. JOHN C. DAVID, physician and surgeon, Sandwich, Illinois, is well known throughout De Kalb and adjoining counties as a physician of acknowledged skill and ability. The world has little use for the misanthrope. The universal truth

of brotherhood is widely recognized, also that he serves God best who serves his fellowmen. There is no profession or line of business that calls for greater self-sacrifice or more devoted attention than the medical profession, and the successful physician is he who, through love of his fellowmen, gives his time and attention to the relief of suffering humanity.

Dr. David was born in Carbondale, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, December 5, 1848, and is the son of James B. and Caroline (Snider) David, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York. The father was a mechanic and for some years was engaged in the tannery business and in the manufacture of carriages. He was a quiet, unassuming man, pleasant and affable, and had many warm friends by whom he was honored with various local offices, including sheriff of his county. Religiously he was a Presbyterian. In 1855 he came to Newark, Kendall county, Illinois, with his family, and there resided a short time, then moved to a farm and later to Sandwich, Illinois, where his death occurred about 1868, at the age of sixty-three years. His wife survived him for many years, dying when eighty-six years old. She was a great lover of home, reared a large family and was an excellent woman in every respect, her only desire being that she might be a mother in a quiet, happy home. She was a sweet-spirited woman, with an irresistible influence for all that was noble and good.

To James B. and Caroline David ten children were born, one of whom, Emily, died at the age of four months. The others are all yet living: Dr. D. R. is engaged in the practice of dentistry at Sandwich, Illinois. Endora is the widow of Norman Griswold, of Sandwich. Oliver is a me-

chanic residing in Oliphant, Pennsylvania. Almira is the widow of George Robinson and resides in California. Harriet is the widow of John Rice and resides in Buchanan, Michigan. Caroline is the wife of James Flood and resides in Michigan City, Indiana. Bradford resides in Fulton, Whiteside county, Illinois. Emma is the wife of Mr. Elson, and resides in Berrien Springs, Michigan. John C., our subject, completes the family.

The subject of this sketch remained on the home farm until sixteen years of age, when he came to Sandwich, Illinois, which has since continued to be his home. He began to read medicine under Dr. Clark, of Sandwich, and later attended Hahnemann Medical College, at Chicago, and was graduated in the class of 1876. For two years prior to his graduation, he engaged in practice, being called to the assistance of his preceptor, who was in ill health, and he was detained longer than he supposed was necessary, and therefore could not get away in order that he might complete his course. For some years he was engaged alone in practice, and then for four years was in partnership with Dr. Culver, and they engaged in practice under the firm name of David & Culver, but in 1898 the partnership was dissolved, since which time he has been alone.

Dr. David was united in marriage in 1892 with Miss Mae Stone, of Chicago, but from Syracuse, New York. Her parents were English people. Both the Doctor and his wife are members of the Congregational church. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery, also of the Mystic Shrine, Chicago. In politics he is a Republican. As a physician he is well read and stands high

in his profession. In his various relations of domestic, civil and professional life, his actions have been characterized by the same intelligence and cordiality, which have deservedly gained for him a good name and a high position in the regard of his fellow citizens.

**J**OHAN W. BLEE, attorney and banker, and also president of the Western Supply Company, of Ottumwa, Iowa, resides in the city of Sandwich, Illinois. He was born in Montour county, Pennsylvania, September 29, 1849, and is the son of Joseph M. and Euphemia H. (Sproule) Blee, both natives of Pennsylvania. By occupation he was a farmer in Pennsylvania, which occupation he continued after his settlement in Illinois, in 1854. On coming to the state he located in Wyoming township, Lee county, where he made his home during the remainder of his life. His death was caused by an accident received in a runaway. Few men were better known throughout Lee and adjoining counties. For many years he was an elder in the Presbyterian church. A friend of education, he was on the school board nearly all his life and had much to do with educational affairs in the neighborhood where he resided. A strong Democrat in his political views, he had great influence in the counsels of his party. He was in the convention that nominated Stephen A. Douglas for president in 1860. He was very active in his way, was a fine conversationalist and a great favorite with children. He was born March 12, 1818, and died January 16, 1873. His widow is still living in Santa Anna, California, and was seventy-nine years old May 30, 1898. Her powers of body and mind are well preserved. She is

a lifelong member of the Presbyterian church and has always been active in church and benevolent work. Her grandfather Sproule came to this country in 1770, as a young man, located in Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the mercantile business. He married Euphemia Marshall, a relative of Chief Justice Marshall. The maternal grandfather of our subject served in the war of the Revolution and from silver earned as a soldier he had a spoon manufactured, which is now in the possession of our subject and was made about 1787. Of the four children born to Joseph M. and Euphemia H. Blee, Teresa A. is the wife of W. C. Bryant and resides in Santa Anna, California. Charles M. resides in Los Angeles, California. James H. resides on the old home farm in Lee county, Illinois. John W. is the subject of our sketch.

On the home farm in Lee county, our subject spent his boyhood and youth. During the war he offered his services to his country, but on account of his youth was rejected. In 1865 he entered the academy at Mendota, Illinois, where he spent three years in preparation for college. He then entered the University of Chicago, which he attended two years, after which he began teaching and doing newspaper work, at the same time pursuing his studies in civil engineering, which was the first professional studying he did. He followed engineering for one year under the city engineer of Chicago, and was later on the construction work of a railroad. On account of physical disability, he was compelled to abandon that profession, and in the spring of 1872 began the study of law, entering the law department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated in the class of 1874. He then applied and was admitted

to practice before the supreme court of Illinois, in June, 1874. The same year he engaged in practice in Chicago where he continued four years, then returned to his old home in Lee county, where he remained until 1880 engaged in active practice, and then opened an office in Earlville, Illinois, and the same year entered the service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad as real estate and right-of-way attorney, continuing with that road and others until 1892, when he was appointed special examiner and attorney for the department of the currency by Hon. James H. Eckels, who was comptroller of the currency under President Cleveland. His chief took the position a comparatively unknown man, but left it after the expiration of his four years term one of the best known financiers in the United States. He is now president of the Commercial National Bank, of Chicago. With Mr. Eckels, our subject served during his entire term, and traveled nearly one hundred and ninety thousand miles by rail, visiting and looking after insolvent banks, his work being largely in that line.

Mr. Blee has never held an elective office, but made a very good canvass in 1886, as the Democratic candidate for the state senate in the Nineteenth senatorial district against Hon. John D. Crabtree, and in 1890 was a candidate for congress in the Seventh Illinois district, against Hon. T. J. Henderson, of Princeton. He was defeated in both instances, as the districts were overwhelmingly Republican, but he made a good race, however. He has ever been active as a campaigner, and in the councils of his party his views always command respect. He served as a delegate in every Democratic state convention from 1874 to 1894, inclu-

sive, and was a delegate to the Democratic national convention of 1884, and an alternate in the same in 1888 and 1892. After entering the United States service he was not so active in political affairs, owing to his duties as a national administrative officer. His life work has been of a very diverse character, and he is now engaged in promoting some extensive railroad improvements and assisting in investments for New York and Chicago capitalists in the vicinity of Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. Blee was united in marriage November 17, 1887, with Miss Helen M. Ingersoll, daughter of Cornelius J. and Esther L. (Waterman) Ingersoll, both of whom were natives of Oneida county, New York, but who were married at Lisben, Illinois, where they resided on a farm, until the father's death in 1867. Soon after the death of the father, the mother moved with her family to Sandwich, where she is yet living, a devout and conscientious member of the Congregational church. Mrs. Blee's only sister is Harriet, wife of I. M. Cooper, of Sandwich, while her eldest brother, E. L. Ingersoll, resides in Sandwich, and Charles at Fairbury, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the Rock Island Railway service. To Mr. and Mrs. Blee two children were born, twins, Gerald J. and Gladys E.

Fraternally Mr. Blee is a Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge, chapter and commandery, and also of the Mystic Shrine. He is likewise a member of the Knights of Pythias. While not members, he and his wife are attendants and active supporters of the Presbyterian church. As a business man he possesses superior qualifications, and in the many positions in which he has been called to fill, he has exhibited an executive ability that justifies the confi-

dence reposed in him. He is active and enthusiastic, a hard and zealous worker in what he undertakes, and is one of Sandwich's most highly esteemed and valued citizens. He has one of the finest residences in Sandwich, and with a wife, who is a lady of culture and pleasing presence, and children who are the parents' joy and pride, it may be said that he has a model, happy home.

**J**OHAN D. ROBERTS, one of De Kalb county's highly prosperous and successful farmers, is the owner of over twelve hundred acres of valuable farm land in the township of Clinton, resides in the township of Afton, where he gives his personal attention to the cultivation of eight hundred and thirty-two acres of choice farm property which is located on sections 30, 31 and 32, the property of his wife and her two sons.

Mr. Roberts was born July 7, 1850, in the township of Sugar Grove, Kane county, Illinois, on what is now known as the Jones farm. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Humphrey Roberts, Sr., was a native Wales, and there married Mary Owens, and in 1832 came to the United States, settling in Oneida county, New York, where his death occurred in June, 1854. His wife survived some years, and died in Wyoming county, New York, December 28, 1867. They had a family of eight children, of whom Humphrey, the father of our subject, was the youngest. The latter was but nine years of age when he accompanied his parents across the water, and grew to manhood in Oneida county, New York, remaining with his parents until after he reached his majority. He was married in Oneida county, January 7, 1846, and about one year

later came west, locating in Sugar Grove township, Kane county, Illinois, where he followed farming for ten years. In 1857 he came to De Kalb county, and settled upon a quarter section of land in Clinton township, which he had purchased some six years previously. For twenty-five years he remained upon that farm, then built a fine residence in Waterman, Illinois, and removing to that village he lived a retired life. He was one of Illinois' highly esteemed citizens, a man who led an active life, and whose well known integrity and established reputation won for him the regard and confidence of all who knew him. During the Civil war he assisted the war department materially in securing recruits and organizing companies, and his services in this respect won for him the recognition and praise of those in authority. He became a very prosperous man, and a large land owner, the village of Waterman being platted on land which he formerly owned. His death occurred in the village of Waterman in 1887. His wife was a Miss Catherine Jones, an estimable lady, a native of Oneida county, New York, and a daughter of William Jones, a leading business man of that county. She lived to a ripe old age, and died in 1897, at her home in Waterman.

The subject of this sketch came to De Kalb county with his parents and their family of six children. He was then a lad of nine years, and at the neighboring schools in the country he received his elementary education, which, judging from his successful life, he has made the best use. Farming has been his life work, although about 1870 he abandoned farm life and its duties for a time and engaged in the lumber business at Waterman, which he successfully conducted for two years. At the end of

that time he sold out the lumber yard, and purchased a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Clinton township, to which he removed and began its cultivation. From time to time he added to his possessions, until he has now over twelve hundred acres in Clinton township, comprising five highly improved farms. He deals extensively in horses and cattle, and his excellent and discerning judgment in this line has enabled him to build up a business of more than ordinary pretensions.

On the 5th of January, 1895, Mr. Roberts married Mrs. Belle Broughton, *ne* Beers, the widow of Chauncey W. Broughton, and the daughter of Charles and Mary A. Beers. By her first marriage she has two children, Charles B., who is employed in one of the offices of Swift & Company of Chicago, and Chauncey W., Jr., at home. On his marriage with Mrs. Broughton, he removed from Clinton to Afton township, to look after the farm property of his wife, amounting to eight hundred and thirty-two acres of excellent and well improved land. By a former marriage Mr. Roberts has two children, Wilder Humphery and Grace M. The former is engaged in farming and stock raising in Clinton township, while the latter is engaged in the millinery business in Waterman.

Mr. Roberts has all through life been an unflinching and stanch Republican, voting at all times for the nominee of the party, national, state and county. He has never indicated his desire to hold office, his many interests occupying his time and attention. However, by reason of his knowledge of values of both real and personal property, he was prevailed upon to serve as assessor of his township a term of years and filled that position satisfactorily to all concerned, and

has been school director for twenty-six years, and is still serving in that capacity.

Mr. Roberts is in every respect a self-made man, and what he possesses is the direct result of hard work, persevering efforts, an indomitable will, a natural and inborn estimate of values, coupled with excellent judgment in mercantile and business affairs. Born in the neighboring county of Kane, reared and living all his life in the county of De Kalb, Mr. Roberts has witnessed the various phases of transformation, which have converted the wild fields of prairie into that fertility and productiveness to be seen on every hand and has contributed his efforts to bring about that wonderful change.

JOHN WATSON, who came to De Kalb county in February, 1857, and who for years was actively engaged in farming, is now living retired in the village of Shabbona. He was born near Boyleston, Worcester county, Massachusetts, August 9, 1833, and is the son of John Watson, Sr., also a native of Massachusetts, born in Princeton, and the grandson of Colonel Jacob Watson, a native of Scotland, who came to the United States a young man and who served as a colonel in the war of 1812. John Watson, Sr., grew to manhood in Princeton, Massachusetts, and there learned the tanner and currier trade, but later engaged in the manufacture of lumber, a business which he carried on extensively for some years. He was married in Princeton to Miss Harriet Esterbrook, also a native of the Bay state. After living an active business life he was called to his reward in 1842. He was a prominent man in Worcester county, which he represented in the



legislature of his state for one term. His wife survived him some years. They had a family of four sons and three daughters, of whom our subject and one of his sisters, Mary A., wife of C. J. Parker, of Worcester, Massachusetts, are the only survivors.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he received a limited education. In his youth he learned the cutter's trade in a boot and shoe manufactory and followed that trade a number of years. He was foreman of the shop at Millbury, Massachusetts, for four years and had the entire charge of the cutting department. At Bolton, Massachusetts, he engaged in the same trade for one year. In 1857 he came west and joined a brother, William Watson, who located in Shabbona township, De Kalb county, some two or three years previously. On his arrival he rented a farm in Shabbona township and for five years was a renter, during which time he succeeded in accumulating a little money, and in 1860 purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land on section 28, Milan township. He at once began its improvement and, as his means increased, added to the area of the farm until it comprised three hundred and twenty acres. He also acquired another half section, which later he sold. For some years he engaged in buying and selling farm land, as the opportunity presented itself, in which he felt sure of a reasonable profit in the investment. He also engaged in buying and shipping stock, in which line of business he continued a few years. In 1881 he moved to the village of Shabbona, where he continued for a time to deal in stock and also to some extent in real estate. Since his removal to the village, in addition to his dwelling house, he has erected a large busi-

ness house and hotel, which he still owns. In all probability he has done as much as any other man in improving and developing the village, and has stimulated its industries by loaning money to various parties for building and other purposes.

In October, 1856, Mr. Watson was united in marriage in Worcester, Massachusetts, to Miss Emily E. Joslyn, a native of Connecticut, but reared in Worcester, Massachusetts, and a daughter of Albro Joslyn, who died when she was a child. By this union there are nine children: Ellen E. is the wife of Wells F. Spencer, a farmer of Clinton township, De Kalb county. Charles E. is married, and is engaged in business in Rockford, Illinois. Martha J. is the wife of Walter Wilson, and they reside on the Watson farm in Milan township. Mary is a well-educated lady, and is engaged in teaching in De Kalb county. Frank S. died at the age of twenty-one years; William at seventeen; Lillie A. at twenty; John A. at nineteen, and Flossie when two years old.

Politically Mr. Watson was formerly identified with the Republican party, but for the past five years has been a supporter of the Prohibition party. In 1896 he was a delegate to the state convention at Springfield and was also a delegate to the convention at Peoria in 1898. By his fellow citizens he has been honored with various positions of honor and trust, serving as school director for years and as township trustee six years while residing in the country. Since his removal to the village he has served on the village board for six years as trustee. He is well known throughout the county as a man of sterling character, one in whom the people can trust.

EDWARD F. LEDOYT, who is efficiently serving as postmaster of Sandwich, Illinois, traces his ancestry back several generations, being a descendant of one of five brothers who came from France with La Fayette and served with him in the Revolutionary war, locating at its close in Holland, Massachusetts. His father is a descendant of the Webbers, one of whom was the first governor of Virginia. On his mother's side he is from the Hamilton family, the renowned Alexander Hamilton being a relative.

Edward F. Ledoyt was born in De Kalb county, Illinois, June 30, 1864, and is the son of John and Louisa (Howe) Ledoyt, the former a native of Connecticut, and the latter of Massachusetts. In 1858, the father with his family located on a farm north of Sandwich, and for some years was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is now and has been for some years, foreman of the molding department of the Sandwich Manufacturing Company. Fraternally he is a member of the Illinois Mutual Aid Society, and religiously he is a Congregationalist, his wife being a member of the same church. Of their four children, our subject is the oldest. Emma Louisa is now the wife of C. M. Yearley, a merchant residing in East Galesburg, Illinois. Everett J. is the manager of a store in Sandwich. Eva May is deputy postmistress at Sandwich. When our subject was but three years of age, he accompanied his parents to Milford, Massachusetts, and returned with them to Sandwich three years later. In the public schools of Sandwich he received his education, and in his youth learned the trade of molder, which he followed four years. He then went into business, running a news stand in the postoffice building, and under G. H.

Robertson was made assistant postmaster, serving with him two years. On the retirement of Mr. Robertson, and the appointment of Mr. Jaycox he was continued as assistant postmaster and served with him four years, during which time he continued his mercantile business. For six years he was city clerk of Sandwich, and was thus engaged during the building of the electric light plant and the improvements made in paving the streets. On the 7th of February, 1898, he was appointed postmaster of Sandwich and took possession of the office, April 1, 1898. For the transaction of the business of the office he has two assistants, Miss Eva May Ledoyt and Winifred Haymond, two of the most accommodating and efficient assistants found in the state.

In addition to the duties devolving upon him as postmaster, Mr. Ledoyt carries on a general bakery and restaurant, keeping a neat and attractive stock in a building of which he is the owner. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but takes no specially active part in the work of his lodge. He has been active in politics since attaining his majority, and was secretary of the Republican county central committee for six years, when he resigned. As a delegate he attends the various county and state conventions, and was among the number that attended the state convention in June, 1898, with nominated candidates for the various state offices. He was a delegate and voted for Joseph Fifer, when he was nominated for governor of Illinois. He is one of the busy, energetic men of the county, and is a man of rare ability, being public-spirited and liberal in his views and actions. He has done much toward the advancement of the community in which he resides, and is justly rec-

ognized as a representative citizen. As postmaster he is accommodating and efficient, never giving the patrons of the office just cause for complaint. He impresses a stranger as a man of good business qualifications, and in short the right man in the right place.

**T**HOMAS J. WRIGHT, banker and hardware merchant of Somonauk, Illinois, was born in Genesee county, New York, August 24, 1830, and is the son of Levi and Arathusa (Brigham) Wright, both of whom were natives of Vermont. By occupation Levi Wright was a farmer, and gave almost his entire time and attention to farming interests, although he at times held office. In 1843, he came with his family to Illinois, and located in La Salle county, his farm, however, extending into De Kalb county. He bought a tract of government land, and also eighty acres which had been entered by another person. This land is now owned by the subject of this sketch. The Wright family lived in the Genesee river valley for a time, and later moved to Monroe county, New York, before coming west. He was a pioneer in this part of the state, and was a man of excellent business qualifications, well known and highly respected among a large circle of friends. He served in the war of 1812, and was taken prisoner, but never exchanged. For services rendered in that war he received a pension. After his removal to La Salle county, Illinois, he served as a member of the board of supervisors for more than fifteen years. His death occurred November 2, 1865, at the age of seventy-three years. He was twice married, and by his union with Arathusa Brigham, there were six children, as

follows: Charles S., a resident of Monroe county, New York; Stephen D., a retired farmer residing in Somonauk; Andrew J., who resides at Fort Dodge, Iowa; Clarissa, wife of George Bark, a farmer of De Kalb county; Louisa, wife of William Bark, of De Kalb county; and Thomas J., our subject. His second marriage was with Esther Whitmore. By this marriage there were six children.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm, and attended the district schools both in New York and Illinois. He was but thirteen years old when he accompanied his parents to this state, and since that time his entire life has been spent here. He knows much of the hardships and deprivations incident to pioneer life. From 1843 to 1880, he continued on the farm, and was a very successful farmer. In the latter year he removed to Somonauk, and commenced the banking business, which he has followed until the present time. While a private bank, it is organized with C. V. Stevens, as president; Thomas J. Wright, cashier; and W. H. Wright, assistant cashier. The first president was John Clark, and during his administration our subject was vice-president. On the death of Mr. Clark in 1891, the bank was re-organized, since which time Mr. Wright has been cashier.

Mr. Wright was married in March, 1856, to Miss Lois M. Gage, a daughter of Alvarus and Eucla (Brigham) Gage. The former died in Somonauk, in 1887, at the age of eighty-four years. His wife died January 20, 1898, at the age of ninety-two years. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church for many years. Mrs. Wright is the only survivor of their four children. To Mr. and Mrs. Wright four children have been born, as follows: (1)

Ellen D. is the wife of C. E. Hess, who resides in Somonauk. They have two children, Lucille and Ione. (2) William H. is the assistant cashier of the bank at Somonauk. He married Nettie Moore, who departed this life in 1889. He is also mayor of Somonauk, and was city clerk several years. (3) Edward resides on the home farm, which consists of three hundred and fifty acres. He married Anna M. Hunt, and has two children, Raymond and Ethel Orlean. (4) Clara is the wife of Frank Edgett, and they reside at Earlville, Illinois. They have one child, Paul Wright.

Fraternally Mr. Wright is a member of the Masonic order, holding membership in blue lodge and chapter. In politics he is independent, voting for the men he considers best qualified to fill the various offices. For many years he was connected with the school board, and also town treasurer for four years continuously. He is quite active in public affairs, and takes a commendable interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his town and county. For several years he served as a member of the board of supervisors, and in every position held it is needless to say that he discharged the duties incumbent on him with his customary efficiency, thereby strengthening the already high regard universally entertained for him, by those who knew him as an honest, upright and thorough-going business man, deservedly held high in esteem by all.

**H**UGH McQUEEN, deceased, was for about thirty years a well known citizen of South Grove township. He was born in the lowlands of Scotland, about twelve miles from Ayr, the home of Robert Burns, July 29, 1829, and was the son of

Francis and Mary (McMillen, McQueen, both also natives of Scotland and who were the parents of two children, Hugh and Peter. When but three years old the father of our subject died, and when ten years old he commenced life for himself, working as a day laborer on farms, at which occupation he continued for some years. Through the aid of friends he received a fair education and later became a well informed man. At the early age of eighteen years he was united in marriage June 7, 1847, in Ayrshire, to Jane McKenzie, a native of the same shire, born June 25, 1827, and the daughter of John and Ellen (Key) McKenzie, who were also natives of the same country, and the parents of six children: John, William, Mary, Jane, Ellen and Isabella. To Mr. and Mrs. McQueen ten children were born, three of whom are deceased. The living are: John, Hugh, Jr., Mary, Ellen, (2nd) Frank, Jane and William A. The deceased are: Jane, Elizabeth and Ellen.

For about twenty years after his marriage Mr. McQueen engaged in the brick and tile trade in his native country. He then determined to come to America and in August, 1867, sailed with his family from Glasgow, and landed at New York. They at once came direct to De Kalb county, Illinois, where the parents of Mrs. McQueen had settled some years previously. After living upon rented land for about four years, Mr. McQueen purchased one hundred and sixty acres, and at once commenced life in earnest, improving the estate, and from time to time making additions to it, until he was the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of as fine land as any in De Kalb county. He was very successful in his farming operations, and for a time made a specialty of the raising of Shorthorn and

Durham cattle, and was ranked among the leading breeders in the county. He also engaged in breeding Berkshire hogs, and later the Poland-China variety.

In politics he was a staunch Republican, with which party he acted from the time he became a naturalized citizen. In his native land he was a member of the Scotch Presbyterian church, but on coming to De Kalb county, united with the Congregationalists. He was a deeply religious man, one of good qualities of both head and heart. His death occurred January 12, 1897, at the age of sixty-eight years, and his remains were laid to rest in the cemetery in Malta township. His widow is yet living, and is also a member of the Congregationalist church. Like her, husband she is held in the highest esteem.

**EDWIN L. FLEWELLIN**, who came to De Kalb county in 1861, and who owns a valuable farm of two hundred and forty-three acres in Paw Paw township, is now living a retired life at Shabbona Grove. He is a native of Westchester county, New York, born March 11, 1835, and there grew to manhood, attending the common schools during the winter and assisting in cultivating the home farm during the summer months. He remained with his father on the home farm until he attained his majority. He was married in Westchester county, June 4, 1856, to Miss Jane Creswell, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, who came to America when a young lady.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Flewellin commenced their domestic life on a farm in Westchester county, and there remained a few years. In 1861 they came to De Kalb county, Illinois, where Mr. Fle-

wellin purchased a partially improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and, moving to the place, commenced its cultivation, and there resided a few years. Later he purchased eighty-three acres just across the road, and, moving to that farm, there resided until the death of his wife, who passed to her reward, February 15, 1896. He then turned the farm over to his son, and, moving to the village of Shabbona Grove, has since lived a retired life, enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

To Mr. and Mrs. Flewellin seven children were born: Anna is the wife of Henry Mosely, a farmer of Thompson, Ohio. Robert is a grain dealer and merchant residing in the village of Shabbona Grove. Isen resides in East Paw Paw, where he is engaged in farming. Jennie is the wife of Edwin George, of Leland, Illinois. Horace C. is in partnership with his brother in the mercantile business at Shabbona Grove. Estella is the wife of Charles Holmes, a farmer of Paw Paw township. Edwin L. is operating the old homestead.

Politically Mr. Flewellin is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. He was twenty-one years old the year in which the Republican party made its first nomination for president, and cast his ballot for the nominee. Office holding was never to his liking and he therefore never held any. The family are members of the Congregational church of Shabbona Grove, and all are highly esteemed for their worth's sake.

**WILLIAM T. MILLER**, M.D., physician and surgeon, residing in Sandwich, Illinois, was born in Tioga county, New York, October 12, 1858, and is the son of Dr. J.

J. and Catherine (DeCudres) Miller, both of whom are natives of New York. The father is still engaged in the practice of his profession at Amsterdam, New York. He takes little interest in politics, but acts with the Republican party. His birth occurred October 3, 1834, and he was united in marriage with Catherine De Cudres, October 26, 1854. She was born October 4, 1835, and died in 1882. Religiously she was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was very active in church and Sunday-school work. She was also an active member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and for some years was president of the local union. She was a woman of much literary ability and during the war was a contributor to the Atlantic Monthly. Her father, Marcus A. De Cudres, resides on Sherman avenue, Evanston, Illinois, at the advanced age of ninety-eight years. He is a prominent member of the First Methodist Episcopal church of that city, and is well preserved in body and mind. His wife died many years ago. Of their children, Lewis now resides in Pawnee City, Nebraska. During the Civil war he was a member of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, the regiment that carried with them the eagle, "Old Abe". In the battle of Gettysburg, he suffered the loss of an arm. Like other members of the family, he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. For the past fifteen years he has been county clerk of Pawnee county, Nebraska, a position which he fills in a most satisfactory manner. Adolphus is a resident of Ellsworth, Kansas. Elizabeth is the wife of Rev. A. C. Smith, of the Wyoming, New York, conference, of the Methodist Episcopal church. Kosa died young. Powers and James died while serving their country

in the Civil war. The latter died of dysentery in Tennessee, while Powers died from exposure while fighting the Indians on the plains.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Andrew Miller, was born in Hamilton county, Pennsylvania, August 5, 1794. He was the son of Christian Miller, who emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania. The maternal great-great-grandfather came from France during the French revolution. He was a member of the aristocracy, and had to leave on account of the uprising of the common people. He was stowed away between bales of cotton, and thus saved himself from being a victim of the guillotine.

The subject of this sketch was the only child of his parents and was reared in town and received his primary education in the public schools. He later attended Union College at Schenectady, New York, from which he was graduated in the class of '78. After graduating in the literary department he entered the medical department of the same college, from which he was graduated in 1881. He then began practice at East Albany, New York, where he remained some years, and in 1894 went to Berlin, Germany, and took a special course of one year. From Germany he came to Sandwich, where he has since continued, having built up an extensive practice. For ten years he was an officer on the board of health, while yet living in New York, and was local surgeon for the Susquebanna Railroad for the same period of time. He was also demonstrator of physiology in the hospital school of nurses, New York.

Dr. Miller was married June 28, 1895, in Berlin, Germany, to Miss Estrid Clement, a daughter of Jordan P. and Anna

(Harnsleth) Clement. Her father died December 3, 1895, in New York, at the age of fifty-five years. Her mother is yet living in Aarhus, Denmark. They were the parents of three children—Ulrikka Dagmar, Estrid and Carlos. Jordan P. Clement was a glove manufacturer in Aarhus, Denmark, and the glove which takes his name has yet a wide sale and is one of the best known gloves in the market.

Dr. Miller is a Mason, a member of Cobleskill Lodge, No. 394, A. F. & A. M., of New York, and of the chapter, No. 229. He was for some years worshipful master of the former and high priest of the latter. He is also a member of Temple Commandery, No. 14, in Albany, New York. For a time he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is now a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of the Globe, being examining physician in each order. In politics he is a Republican, and takes an active interest in political affairs. As a physician he ranks high in the profession, being a well read and successful practitioner.

**JAMES T. POWELL**, who, after a long and busy life, is now living retired in the village of Somonauk, was born in Watertown, a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts, October 17, 1823, and is the son of Howell and Mary Ann Powell, natives of Wales and England, respectively, but who came to the United States early in the present century. While residing in the east the father engaged in gardening, but on coming west, in the fall of 1837, he engaged in general farming, which occupation he continued during the remainder of his life, dying in his seventy-fifth year. On coming to Illi-

nois he located in La Salle county, where he purchased government land, and in due time developed a fine farm. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and their house was a stopping place and home of the itinerant ministry. The family were known in a radius of many miles and were of good report, such people as gave character to the pioneer community of which they were an active and prominent part. For many years the good wife was an invalid.

The subject of this sketch was the youngest of five children born to Howell and Mary Ann Powell, the others being Jane, who married Joshua Rhodes, both now being deceased; Mary Ann, who married Samuel Warner, and both are now deceased; William, who is engaged in gardening near Mendota, Illinois; and Eliza, who married Thomas Gransden, both now being deceased.

On the home farm our subject grew to manhood, and from the fact that it was pioneer times, and that schools were not plentiful, he received but little education within the walls of the school room. His sister Eliza taught the school in a log school-house for many years. In 1849, in a company of twelve persons, he crossed the plains to California, traveling with ox teams to Salt Lake, and then used pack mules the rest of the way. They liked the mules because they went faster than the oxen, and it was therefore more satisfactory. They were four months on the way, and it can be well inferred that they experienced considerable hardships, although they met with no serious trouble. Two of their horses, however, were drowned in crossing Bear river; this was caused by trying to lead them across at the end of a lariat. When they

reached the swift current their heads were pulled under, and before they could be released they were drowned. Mr. Powell remained in California for nearly two years, and there engaged in mining, and did fairly well. Of the twelve men in the company crossing the plains, only three are now living, John Culmer, Edwin Breadsley and our subject. Mr. Powell was married in 1852, to Miss Ann Stafford, a native of New York, and by this union are two children living, Ida and Ella, both remaining at home. The wife and children are members of the Congregational church at Somonauk, in which they take a lively interest. Fraternally Mr. Powell is a Mason, holding membership with the blue lodge, chapter and commandery. In politics he is a thorough going Republican, and has been identified with the party since its organization. On returning from California, Mr. Powell again engaged in farming, which occupation he followed until 1862, when he moved to Somonauk, and has there since continued to reside. He is a well known citizen of the place and has the respect and confidence of the entire community.

**T**HOMAS PARKER, who resides on sections 5 and 8, De Kalb township, De Kalb county, Illinois, is a farmer who thoroughly understands his business. He was born in Wethersfield, Vermont, December 10, 1844, and is the son of James and Charlotte (Carnes) Parker. The former was a native of New York, born June 10, 1819, and who died May 25, 1875. His wife was born in Vermont March 21, 1822, and died November 8, 1889. James Parker was the son of Thomas and Thankful Parker, the latter being born November 15, 1790, and

who died January 18, 1865. The maternal grandmother, Persis Carnes, was born April 20, 1787, and died December 16, 1830. The great-grandfather, Jehuel Whittemore, was born in 1763 and died December 31, 1847. His wife was Polly Higgins.

James Parker was deprived of paternal aid when quite young and was compelled to work out by the month. In early life he moved to Vermont, where by his strict attention to the duties imposed upon him he soon won the confidence of his employers and in time became the head of a woolen factory. In commencing business he was first associated with his uncle, Enos Whittemore, but soon purchased the latter's interest and carried it on alone. In those early days, before the establishment of almshouses, the poor were taken care of by the township, one man being appointed to take charge of them. This office was filled by him for three years, beginning with 1849.

Later Mr. Parker removed to Illinois, locating in Mayfield township. He came by way of the lakes to Chicago, where he engaged a team to take him to his destination in De Kalb county, where his uncle then resided. Soon afterwards he purchased eighty acres of partially improved land, which under his excellent management soon developed into a first-class farm. He was a very prominent man in his day and held the office of supervisor for a number of years and was school trustee of his township for several terms. A consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, he served as class leader for some years. His marriage with Charlotte Carnes was celebrated March 4, 1841. Of their family of seven children six grew to maturity.

Thomas Parker, our subject, was second of the seven children of James and Char-



lotte Parker. He was reared and educated in Mayfield and Sycamore, and for a time engaged in teaching, but on account of his father's declining health, he was compelled to abandoned that profession, and give his attention to agricultural pursuits. In his twentieth year he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in its primitive state, and four years later purchased an additional eighty acres adjoining, which he worked to such an advantage as enabled him to meet his payments when due, and it was but a short time before his entire place was unincumbered. In 1898 he purchased a farm of twenty-one acres adjoining the city of De Kalb.

On the 4th of February, 1871, Mr. Parker was united in marriage with Miss Clara A. Helmer, who was born in Herkimer county, New York, February 20, 1851, and the daughter of Peter and Rosanna Helmer. Her father was the fourth son of Adam F. and Anna M. Helmer. Her great grandparents on her mother's side, Captain Henry and Catherine Harter, were taken prisoners in the French war of 1757. As the captives were crossing the St. Lawrence river in a birch bark canoe on their way to Canada, Mrs. Harter gave birth to a daughter. In process of time this daughter was adopted by the Indians, and was afterwards the wife of General Michael Myers. Adam Helmer, the grandfather, served his country under Washington, in the dark days of the Revolutionary war.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker commenced their domestic life upon the farm which he had purchased, and where they have since continued to reside, each year adding to the improvements of the preceding year, making their farm one of the most desirable in the township. Mr. Parker is a practical

farmer, believing in the utility of modern improvements, his farm being well supplied with all the latest improved machinery. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has been class leader for a number of years. For many years he was a member of the official board of the church, and has always taken great interest in its work.

JAMES BANKS is a practical farmer residing on section 18, De Kalb township. He is a native of county Longford, Ireland, born in 1834, and is the son of Thomas and Bridget Banks, both of whom were natives of the Green Isle. Thomas Banks was a prosperous farmer in his native land, and with his wife there lived and died. His family consisted of eight children, of whom our subject was fourth in order of birth.

James Banks was reared and educated in his native land, in the town of Ballenrue, county Longford, parish Cullmill, where he remained until the age of nineteen, when, with a view of bettering his condition in life, he emigrated to this country, locating first in Orange county, New York, where he remained some three years. Hearing of the great west and its boundless opportunities for the honest tiller of the soil, he determined on making a further journey, and in 1856 we find him in South Grove township, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he worked for W. M. Byers for ten years, after which he purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he lived and worked for three years. That farm he sold and purchased another farm of one hundred and sixty acres in De Kalb township, upon which some improvements had been made, which were very crude compared with those made by its

present owner. He has built, tiled, fenced and planted until his place presents a very beautiful appearance. Good fortune has not always attended him, but in a main he has been prosperous. In 1880 he had the misfortune to lose his barn by fire, sustaining thereby a great loss.

In 1863 Mr. Banks was united in marriage with Miss Kate McNamara, a native of county Clare, Ireland, and a daughter of Dennis and Catherine McNamara, both of whom were natives of Ireland. By this union two children were born: Mary, in 1865, and Thomas, in 1867. The family are strict Roman Catholics and are highly respected for their honesty and truthfulness, and whose characters are unimpeachable. Politically, Mr. Banks is a Democrat.

**JAMES HENRY HARMON**, a retired farmer residing in Somonauk, is a native of De Kalb county, born in Somonauk township, December 15, 1844, and is the son of Anthony and Elizabeth (Wilcox) Harmon, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of New York. The father came to De Kalb county in 1833, in his nineteenth year, and after coming here learned the trade of blacksmith, which occupation he followed in connection with farming and plowmaking during the remainder of his life. He was a man of much mechanical genius and a very useful man in the neighborhood. He was capable of making almost everything in demand on the farm or in the town. On coming to De Kalb county he drove an ox team for his father, killing game in abundance while on the way. His father took up a quarter-section of government land and at once began to make a home for the family. He lived in the tim-

ber, cutting and splitting rails with which to fence his farm. Few men were better known in the southern part of De Kalb county than Anthony Harmon, especially during pioneer times. Learning to manufacture plows, he supplied the neighborhood and farmers would often come to his shop from a distance of ten miles or more, starting at three o'clock in the morning in order to be the first in town to get their work done. His death occurred December 18, 1892, when seventy-seven years of age. For some years prior to his death he did no work, only that he might accommodate some good neighbor. He was once elected supervisor, when not aware that his name was even proposed for the office, but refused to serve, as office holding was not to his taste. While not a member of any church, he helped with his means to build all the churches in his town. His widow is still living in her seventy-seventh year. She is in good health and in the enjoyment of life, as much so as could be expected in one of her years. Formerly a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, she later united with the Baptist church, with which body she is now connected. Of the six children born to Anthony and Elizabeth Harmon, three died in early life: Hattie, Eleanor and one unnamed. The living are Amos W., James H. and George C. Amos W. first married Miss Rose, by whom he had three children: William Ellsworth, Luella and John. She died at the age of thirty-eight years; and by his second marriage he has two children, Nora and Herbert. George C. resides in the township of Victor on a farm. He married Margaret George, by whom he has six children: Anthony, Eleanor, Charles, Edith, Rachel and Minnie.

The subject of this sketch was reared on

the farm, and received his education in the common schools. At the age of twenty-one years, he commenced farming for himself, and that was his occupation until within the past five years, since which time he has been engaged exclusively in buying stock, a business that he has followed more or less for twenty-five years, purchasing both cattle and hogs for the eastern markets. He still owns the farm, one and a half miles north of Somonauk, consisting of two hundred and forty acres, which is well improved in every respect. On the farm he runs a dairy, keeping about seventeen head of milch cows.

Mr. Harmon was married January 17, 1865, to Miss Margaret Cain, a daughter of John and Mary Cain, both of whom were natives of Ireland, and who came to the United States in 1842, locating first in New York, from which state they removed to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1856. Here the father died in 1864, at the age of about seventy years. His wife is still living at the advanced age of ninety-four years. They were the parents of six children as follows: Samuel, who resides in the town of York, Nebraska; John, residing in Sandwich, Illinois; Eliza, who died in November, 1897, at the age of fifty-eight years; Margaret, wife of our subject; James, who resides on a farm near the United Presbyterian church in Somonauk township; and Joseph, who also resides on a farm in Somonauk township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harmon three children have been born. Emma Augusta died in 1880, at the age of twelve years. Elmer J., who married Miss Louisa Shaffman, resides on the old homestead. Edgar B. is in the employ of Carson, Pirie, Scott & Company, Chicago, with whom he has been

engaged for the past four years. Mr. Harmon is recognized as one of the most prominent farmers in De Kalb county, and as a citizen he is progressive and honorable and enjoys the high regard of his fellow men.

MAJOR F. BLISS, one of the enterprising farmers of Somonauk township, was born in Bristol, Massachusetts, November 6, 1837, and is the son of Otis and Charlotte (Dennis) Bliss, the former a native of Massachusetts, born January 20, 1802, and who died September 30, 1840. The latter was a native of Massachusetts, born June 22, 1811, and died June 10, 1898. Her parents were Major and Eunice Dennis, who came to this state in 1842, from Massachusetts, and here spent the remainder of their lives, both dying at an advanced age. Otis Bliss and Charlotte Dennis were married March 30, 1828, and after residing in the east some twelve years, came to De Kalb county, in 1840, where he entered government land, the patent to which is yet in possession of our subject. It is signed by President James K. Polk, and was given in 1845. The tract comprised one hundred and sixty acres, in addition to which he purchased a few acres of timber, which all felt that they must have. After residing here a few months he was taken with typhoid fever, from which he never recovered, his death taking place September 30, 1840. On locating here neighbors were few and far between. Otis and Charlotte Bliss were the parents of five children. Charlotte married Clement Brook, and died in Jasper county, Iowa, May 24, 1863, leaving a large family. She was born February 10, 1849. Fidelia K., born November 21, 1830, married Myr-

lin Carpenter, of Sandwich, Illinois, and died April 21, 1892, leaving four children. Lorena D., born October 14, 1832, married Samuel Orr, October 8, 1856. She resides in Sandwich, Illinois. William O., born February 13, 1835, is a retired farmer residing in Sandwich. Major F., our subject, is fifth in order of birth.

After the death of her husband, the mother of our subject married Thomas Brook, who was born November 21, 1791, and who served his country in the second war with Great Britain. By this second union she was the mother of four children as follows: Hannah W., born February 21, 1842, is a widow, and now resides in Santa Cruz, California. Jacob D., born June 3, 1844, is a resident of Pelton, California. Lucio, born July 16, 1848, died September 8, 1852. Lucius E., born May 22, 1851, died August 17, 1875.

Major F. Bliss, our subject, was reared on a farm, and has devoted almost his entire life to agricultural pursuits. He came west with the family in 1840, and is therefore one of the pioneers of the county. He has a very distinct recollection of the early days, and remembers when they attended church with ox-teams, religious services being held in the school-house. His father's house was the usual stopping place of all traveling ministers of the gospel. Our subject began life for himself in 1856, but made his first purchase of land in 1860. He is now one of the oldest farmers in the southern portion of the county.

Mr. Bliss was united in marriage August 21, 1862, with Miss Lydia Potter, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of Darius and Susan Potter, from New York state. By this union were six children. Hattie F. married F. H. Merwin, by whom she has

five children—Dwight, Paul, Ellen, Francis and Dorothy. They reside on the east side of Somonauk. Elmer F. is a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska. Alma F. is the wife of A. G. Merwin, and they reside in the village of Somonauk. Herbert died in 1878 at the age of four years, four months and fourteen days. Guy L. is taking a course at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. Lucia L., of the home circle, completes the family.

Mrs. Bliss is a member of the Baptist church. Politically Mr. Bliss is independent, voting for the man rather than the party. In 1881 Mr. Bliss was president of the Somonauk Mutual Fire Insurance Company, a private institution, which confines its business to Somonauk township. It has been in existence for twenty-two years, and has been very successfully and economically managed, affording a very low rate of insurance to the citizens of the township. He has been elected constable for the third time and is now filling that office. His farm of eighty acres of well improved land adjoins the corporate limits of Somonauk on the north. He devotes himself to both grain and stock farming, and has upon his place a good orchard, and small fruits of all kinds. For nearly sixty years he has resided in the vicinity of Somonauk, and it was thirteen years after he located here that the railroad was built.

**J**OHAN M. BLAIR has a fine farm of three hundred and forty-five acres on section 7, Milan township, where his birth occurred July 7, 1859. He is a son of William Blair, a native of Scotland, born in 1824, and who there grew to manhood, coming from thence to the United States in 1851, locating first in Kane county and

about eight years later moving to De Kalb county, where he purchased the land on which our subject now resides. On that place he lived until 1887, giving his attention to its proper cultivation and then moving to the village of Malta, where he is now living a retired life. He was married in St. Charles, Illinois, to Mary McNeal, also a native of Scotland, and they became the parents of three sons and three daughters, as follows: Robert is a contractor and builder residing in De Kalb, Illinois. John M. is the subject of this review. Mary J. is the wife of James Morehead, of Malta township. Alice D. is the wife of W. H. Morehead, of Chicago. W. D. is engaged in the commission business at Chicago. Edith is the wife of Frank McQueen, of South Grove, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm where he now resides, received his primary education in the common schools and later attended the Malta High School. He remained with his father until after he attained his majority and in Malta township, December 18, 1884, he was united in marriage to Miss Cora J. Kempson, a native of De Kalb county, and a daughter of Thomas Kempson, one of its pioneers. After their marriage they commenced their domestic life on the Blair farm, of which he took complete charge. In 1892 he purchased the Milan creamery, which he operated until April, 1898, and then rented the plant to the Spring Brook Creamery Company. In connection with general farming he has been engaged in breeding and raising fine stock. He has also fed and fattened for market a large number of hogs and sheep each year.

Politically Mr. Blair is a Republican, with which party he has acted since attaining

his majority. He was elected and served as assessor one term, and was then elected township trustee and re-elected, serving six consecutive years. In the spring of 1898 he was re-elected assessor for a term of two years. For twelve years he has been a member of the school board, of which he has served as district clerk for the entire time.

Mr. and Mrs. Blair have four children—Bessie Edith, Robert Ennis, Glenn Douglas and Cora May. Mr. and Mrs. Blair are members of the Congregational church at Malta, in which he is serving as trustee. They take an active interest in the church work and assist in maintaining a Sunday-school in their neighborhood. Fraternally Mr. Blair is a member of Malta lodge, No. 606, I. O. O. F., and has passed all the chairs, being now past grand of his lodge; is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, Wayside lodge, at Malta. He has resided in De Kalb county all his life, and has endeavored to do faithfully every duty imposed upon him, and by his friends and neighbors he is held in the highest esteem.

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JOHN W. ARNOLD has a well improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 14, Paw Paw township. He is a native of De Kalb county, born in Victor township, September 4, 1857, and is the son of Edward Arnold, a native of England, born in 1722, and who there grew to manhood, and in Lincolnshire, England, married Mary Tinsley, a native of that shire. With his bride he emigrated to the New World, about 1841, and came direct to Illinois, and settled first at Batavia, Kane county, and there resided several years, and later came to De Kalb county, locating in

Victor township, where he opened up a farm. When gold was discovered in California, he went overland to the New Eldorado, and there spent about eleven years in the mines. During that time, however, he came home and spent about six months. He was fairly successful in his mining operations, but returning to the old place in Victor township, he engaged in farming for several years. He subsequently removed to Iowa, and settled in Woodbury county, and there engaged in the milling business and there he now resides.

John W. Arnold grew to manhood in Victor township, and was educated in the common schools, together with two winters at the Somonauk High School. He remained on the home farm and assisted in its cultivation until he was twenty-five years of age. On the 22nd of April, 1882, he married Anna M. Harper, a native of Paw Paw township, born on the farm where she now resides. She is a daughter of Robert Harper, one of the early settlers of De Kalb county. Four children were born of their union—Ross H., Ralph D., Robert V., and Alice. After his marriage, Mr. Arnold rented a farm in Victor township, on which he resided two years, and then purchased a farm of eighty acres, which he cultivated for four years, then rented his present farm for two years. Selling his farm in Victor township he purchased the Robert Harper farm, and has here since continued to reside, actively engaged in general farming in connection with stock-raising, feeding and fattening for the market from one to two carloads of hogs annually. He is recognized as one of the successful farmers and stock feeders of the township.

Politically Mr. Arnold is a Republican, but as a temperance man he is a firm be-

liever in the principles of prohibition. Interested in the cause of education, he is now serving his third term as a member of the school board, and is its present president. A well-known citizen of De Kalb county, he is held in the highest esteem by those who know him.

**P**ROF. WARREN HUBBARD, principal of the Somonauk schools, Somonauk, Illinois, was born in De Kalb county, October 20, 1860, and is the son of Lorenzo and Mary (Wright) Hubbard, natives of Maine and New York, respectively. Lorenzo Hubbard came west about 1855, located on a farm in Victor township, De Kalb county, but removed to Northville township, La Salle county in 1881, and has made farming his life work. He came west a young man, married here, and reared his family. In his township he has been quite prominent and has held a number of minor offices. He is still living at the age of sixty-two years. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church, in which body he is an officer. The subject of this sketch is the oldest of their four children. Walter L. is a farmer residing in De Kalb county. He married Miss Kate Keyes, and they have one child, Jennie. Mary A. died in infancy. Lorenzo M. resides at home and assists in the management of the home farm. Prof. Hubbard was reared on the farm, and for some years assisted in its cultivation. His primary education was obtained in the public schools, but he later attended Jennings Seminary, at Aurora, Illinois, and had the benefit of the instruction of Dr. Martin E. Cady and other well known teachers. He began teaching when quite young, in the district schools

during the winter months, and assisted in the farm work in summer. As a professional teacher, he began first at Sandwich, where he was principal of the high school, 1890-91, being engaged to fill a vacancy. That position he resigned in order to accept the principalship of the Somonauk schools. He has now filled the position for seven years, and has given a most excellent degree of satisfaction. The schools have a prescribed course, and four teachers are employed in addition to Prof. Hubbard, who teaches in the high school. The present school board are S. E. Beelman, president; H. F. Hess, secretary; and H. E. White.

Prof. Hubbard was married January 1, 1884, to Miss Rosa Rehm, a native of De Kalb county. Mrs. Hubbard is the oldest of three children. John, her oldest brother, married Miss Harriet Gletty, and they reside in Iowa, where he is engaged in farming. George, her youngest brother, resides in Somonauk. To Prof. and Mrs. Hubbard have been born two daughters, Mary Grace and Helen B. They have also an adopted son, Bert.

Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard are Congregationalists, having membership in the Congregational church at Somonauk, in which he is serving as one of the deacons. He is also superintendent of the Sunday school, which has a membership of about one hundred and twenty. Fraternally he is a member of Somonauk Lodge, No. 646, A. F. & A. M., of Sandwich Chapter, No. 107, R. A. M., and also of the Modern Woodmen of America, being escort in the latter body. Both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star, in which Mrs. Hubbard holds the position of warder. In politics the Professor is thoroughly independ-

ent. As an educator he has done and is still doing excellent work. He is a good organizer, has much aptness as a teacher, and his services are appreciated by parents, pupils and patrons of the school. The public school principal is one of the important factors in civic life. The position needs brains, courage and an all around development. The authorities of the Somonauk school are to be congratulated for keeping the right man in the right place.

**JAMES M. SKINNER**, a retired farmer living in Somonauk, was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, December 6, 1843, and is the son of I. H. and Pollie Ann (Dickson) Skinner, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Pennsylvania. In his boyhood the father accompanied his parents from New Jersey to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming, and a little later moved to Ohio, but returned to Pennsylvania, and from there, in June, 1844, came to Illinois and located in La Salle county. On his arrival in La Salle county he purchased a tract of government land, opened up a farm, which he retained until shortly before his death, when he sold to his youngest son, Joseph, who, in 1897, sold to his older brother, George A., who still retains the home place. In 1881 the father retired from active work and moved to Somonauk, where his death occurred in 1887, when about eighty years old. His wife survived him some five years, dying in 1892 at the age of eighty-one years. They were originally members of the Protestant Methodist church, but later in life united with the Congregational church. The brothers and sisters of I. H. Skinner were Reuben, John, Cornelius, Jesse, Mary, Eliza,

and a sister who was drowned in the Susquehanna river. Of these, Jesse died when quite young, while the other brothers lived to be about eighty years old. Of the sisters, Eliza married Aaron Fox. The parents of Pollie Ann Skinner were George and Fannie Dickson, who came from Pennsylvania to Illinois, in 1844, about the same time the Skinners came. They were the parents of James, Robert, Joseph, Jane, Kezian, Pollie Ann and Sallie, all of whom are deceased except Joseph, who resides in Sandwich, Illinois.

I. H. and Pollie Ann Skinner were the parents of eleven children, of whom six are yet living, while two died in early childhood. The living are George Anson, who resides in La Salle county, where he is engaged in farming; Thomas, a farmer residing in Ida county, Iowa; Eldridge, who served in the war for the Union, and is now a retired farmer residing in Sandwich; James M., the subject of this sketch; Mary Ann, wife of William Corke, living on a farm in La Salle county; and Joseph, a farmer residing in Taylor county, Iowa. Of the deceased, Robert enlisted in May, 1861, in the Thirtieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, served under Grant at Vicksburg, and was mortally wounded by a minie ball in battle at Ringgold Gap, Georgia, and, after living nine days, passed away. His father was with him when he died, had the body embalmed at Nashville, and brought it to Northville township, La Salle county, and had it interred in the cemetery where other members of the family lie buried. He was wounded and taken prisoner on the first charge at Vicksburg, was paroled, and returned home. After being exchanged he rejoined his regiment, and was with it but a short time when stricken down. His age

at the time of death was twenty-six years. Howell, another son, died at the same age. John W. died at the age of eighteen years. Two children, Perry and Cynthia A., died in infancy.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm, and remained with his parents until February, 1865, when he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and did guard duty in east Tennessee, also at Memphis, Tennessee, and later in Georgia. He was discharged at Memphis, September 25, 1865. He stood the service very well, was never wounded or taken prisoner. The war closing, he returned to his farm, and engaged in farming on the shares, but later purchased and still owns a farm of two hundred and forty acres, in Northville township, La Salle county, a farm which is under a high state of cultivation, well improved in every way, and which is devoted to stock and grain purposes. At present it is rented, his tenant keeping a number of cows and sending the milk to the dairy.

Mr. Skinner has been twice married, first January 25, 1872, to Miss Mary Fox, a daughter of J. M. Fox. She was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died September 19, 1880, at the age of twenty-eight years. On the 2d of March, 1893, Mr. Skinner married Mrs. Altha Wright, widow of Carter E. Wright, who served his country in the war for the union, enlisting in 1862, in Company H, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He died January 20, 1890, at the age of forty-nine years.

Mrs. Skinner was the daughter of Levi Wright, and was sixth in a family of seven children. Martha died at the age of fourteen years. Mary is the widow of Lorenzo



Hubbard. William F. served in Company K, Forty-second Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, enlisting in May, 1861. He now resides in Somonauk. John H. enlisted in May, 1861, in the Thirteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, served with honor for three years, then re-enlisted in the One Hundredth and Fifty-Sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He died unmarried, January 18, 1893, at the age of forty-nine years. George M. D. resides in Somonauk, Illinois. James E. is a druggist residing in Geneseo, Illinois. Mrs. Skinner's father, Levi Wright, served in the war of 1812, and her paternal grandfather, Steven Wright, in the Revolutionary war. Her first marriage was in 1867, to Carter E. Wright, who was also a soldier in the war for the union, and who died in 1890.

Mrs. Skinner is a Daughter of the Revolution, and was a daughter of a soldier of the war of 1812, was the wife of a soldier of the late war, and is now the wife of one who participated in the war for the union. She also had two brothers in that war, and is to-day president of the Woman's Relief Corps, and also a member of the Eastern Star. Fraternally Mr. Skinner is a member of Carter E. Wright Post, No. 772, G. A. R., of Somonauk, of which he is now serving as adjutant. He is a good business man, takes an interest in all the enterprises of the community, and is one of De Kalb county's worthy and valued citizens. Politically he is a Republican.

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**E**NOCH P. ROWLEY, of Waterman, has been a resident of De Kalb county since 1869, and of the state since 1857. He is a native of New York, born in Rensselaer county, April 18, 1827. The Row-

leys are of English descent, the first of the name originally settling in New York. David Rowley, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Dutchess county, New York, and moved to Rensselaer county, when the county was little better than a wilderness. There he made his home in the forest from which he cut the timber, cultivated the ground and reared his family. Ashbel Rowley was the son of David Rowley, and the father of our subject. He was reared in Rensselaer county, and in the second war with Great Britain served his country as a member of one of the New York regiments. He married in Rensselaer county, Miss Betsy Tryon, a native of New York, born near the Hudson river. In 1856, he came west with his family, and settled near Kaneville, Kane county, where he spent the last years of his life, dying at the residence of one of his children, November 16, 1864. His wife died February 20, 1863.

In his native county, Enoch P. Rowley grew to manhood, spending his boyhood and youth on the farm. In early life he learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, and followed the business for a few years. He was married December 8, 1855, to Miss Joanna Marvin, who was born and reared in Rensselaer county, and a daughter of Peter D. Marvin, a member of one of the old-time families of that county. By this union there were nine children, seven of whom are yet living. Willis A., a contractor and builder, resides in Waterman. George W. resides in De Kalb, where he is engaged in contracting and building. James L., also a contractor and builder, resides in Waterman. Sidney is an engineer, but in his youth learned the carpenter's trade. Charlotte E. is the wife of Ira Kirk-

patrick, of Chicago. Frances Isabella is the wife of Harry Bradbury, a merchant and postmaster at Waterman. Julia A. is the wife of John Arnold, a farmer of Calhoun county, Iowa. Marvin E. died in infancy, and Grant M. died at the age of eight years, by a stroke of lightning.

In 1857, Mr. Rowley came to Illinois, and located near Kaneville, Kane county, joining his father, who had previously removed to that place. He there followed contracting and building for six years, then engaged in farming in Sugar Grove township for about five years, then went to the village of Sugar Grove, built a shop and residence, and there resided for nearly a year, then sold out and went to Kaneville, where he engaged in farming for six months. In 1869 he came to De Kalb county, and for two years leased his brother's farm near Waterman, after which he purchased a place of sixty-five acres in Clinton township, to which he later added seventy-five acres more, and then an additional forty, making a fine farm of one hundred and eighty acres. That land he cultivated for some years, then sold off one hundred acres, and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres adjoining. Later he sold off eighty acres, and after remaining on that farm four years longer, he sold and moved to Waterman, where he purchased four residence lots, and built on three of the lots neat and substantial residences. Two of these he afterwards sold, but purchased other residence lots and built more houses, adding greatly to the appearance of Waterman.

In March, 1898, Mr. Rowley purchased a stock of groceries and has since been engaged in the grocery business at Waterman. Since the organization of the Republican

party, he has advocated its principles and voted that party ticket. He was elected one of the highway commissioners of Clinton township and served six years, and during that entire time, served as treasurer of the board. He also served on the board of trustees in his township, and has been street commissioner in Waterman. Fraternally he is a Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge at Waterman, and the chapter at De Kalb. For eight years he served as worshipful master of the Waterman lodge. He and his wife are members of the Eastern Star lodge. Well known in De Kalb and Kane counties, Mr. Rowley has a host of friends in each.

**F**RANK R. SCOTT, who is engaged in farming on section 22, Genoa township, was born on the farm north of the one where he now resides, in November, 1863. His father, William Scott, was a native of New York, born October 15, 1826, and who came west in 1850, locating in De Kalb county. He married Harriet Beebe, in Genoa, also a native of New York, born January 9, 1827, and a daughter of William Beebe. They became the parents of five children, of whom three are yet living. Sarah married Isaiah Siglin. Emma Jane married Charles Tauglen, who died, and afterwards she married Charles Deardruff. Frank R. is the subject of this sketch. By trade William Scott was a mason, but made farming his principal business during the greater part of his life. He died on his farm in Genoa township, June 30, 1869. His parents lived to an advanced age, his mother dying when seventy-five years old, and his father at the age of ninety-seven years.

Frank R. Scott was reared on the farm, and attended the district school until the age of sixteen years, attending principally in the winter months. He began life for himself, however, when fifteen years old, and worked out for neighboring farmers for three years. When eighteen years he began farming for himself, and continued to be thus engaged until the fall of 1891, when he went to Chicago, and was employed as a teamster one year. He was then a street car conductor two years, at which time he came back to Genoa, and was janitor of the school house for two years. In 1896, he returned to the farm, where he has since continued to reside.

Mr. Scott was married in Sycamore, January 6, 1887, to Miss Catherine Baldwin, born in Hopewell township, Mercer county, New Jersey, and first in a family of five children born to Moses and Henrietta (Lowe) Baldwin, the latter being a daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Craft) Lowe. Moses Baldwin was born in Hopewell township, Mercer county, New Jersey, September 19, 1840, and is the son of John Baldwin, a farmer of Mercer county, New Jersey, who married Esther Abbott, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Danbury) Abbott. John Baldwin was the son of Moses and Mary (Beaks) Baldwin. In his native township, Moses Baldwin grew to manhood, and on the 22nd of December, 1862, enlisted in Company A, Third New Jersey Cavalry, and served about three years. He was in the seven days battle in the Wilderness, was at Spottsylvania Courthouse, Chickahominy river, siege of Petersburg, twenty-one days in the Shenandoah Valley, and in the battle at Winchester had three ribs broken and his skull bone broken at the same time. He was sent to the field hospital at Harper's

Ferry, and from there to hospitals in Washington, Port Tobacco and Poolville, Maryland. He was mustered out at Washington, and discharged at Trenton, New Jersey, August 2, 1865. He then resided in Trenton until 1884, engaged in his trade of shoemaker, and then came to Genoa, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he has since continued to reside.

To our subject and wife five children have been born—Minard R., Phila A., Lewis F., Henrietta, and Beth B. In politics Mr. Scott is a Republican, having voted that party ticket since attaining his majority. He is now serving as school director in his district.

CHARLES H. WHITE, postmaster of Somonauk and a retired farmer, was born in De Kalb county, July 2, 1859, and is the son of Thomas and Ann Eliza (Tucker) White, the father a native of Washington county, New York, born February 15, 1815. By trade he was a shoemaker and followed that occupation while residing in the east. In the spring of 1856 he came west and rented one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Somonauk township, and in 1859 purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 29. He there continued to reside during the remainder of his life, dying on the homestead, February 18, 1882. He was a hard worker, well and favorably known, had hosts of friends, was successful in business, and was of a disposition to make and keep friends. His wife was born in Washington county, New York, June 28, 1815. She was the only daughter in a family of ten children, one brother, William, now residing in Jo Daviess county, being the only survivor of that large family.

She was a member of the United Presbyterian church of Somonauk and was of a quiet, retiring disposition, making much of home and home surroundings. She was the mother of ten children, our subject being the youngest of the family. William, Julia and James died while the family yet resided in Washington county, New York. Puella married John A. Armstrong, but is now deceased. Her only child, Carrie A. Armstrong, was assistant postmaster of Somonauk for three years. She is now at Colorado Springs, Colorado. Robert died March 7, 1880, when about thirty years of age. He married Emily Manly, of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, who only lived six months after their marriage. Emily A. married W. J. Randles, of Clinton township, De Kalb county, Illinois. She died February 17, 1888, at the age of thirty-seven years, leaving four children, Mattie J., Leroy, Andrew and Anna. Martha and Mary were twins, the latter died when two years of age. Martha resides with her brothers, Charles H. and Hampton E. Hampton E. is a farmer and auctioneer, residing one mile north of Somonauk. He married Margaret E. Henry, and their children are Mary, Henry, William, Robert, Nettie and Eugene.

Our subject was born and reared on the farm on section 29, and his education was obtained in the common schools of the district and in the village of Somonauk. After leaving school he continued to assist his father on the farm, and after the latter's death he remained on the farm until he commenced business for himself, in 1885. In June of that year he had the finest lot of shorthorn Durham of any one in this section of the state. His health failing him, he was required to leave the farm,

and this to him was a sore trial, for the reason that he had been successful in the breeding of cattle and had become well known throughout the entire state. On leaving the farm he made the following announcement: "Owing to poor health I have rented my farm, and, therefore, will be obliged to sell at public auction my entire herd of forty-five thoroughbred shorthorn cattle. It is with deep regret that I offer this herd for sale that I have worked so faithfully to establish. It has been my aim to breed good, useful cattle, which would be profitable to the general farmer and breeder. This herd was exhibited in La Salle, Kendall, Kane and De Kalb counties, and never failed to carry off first honors, in competition with other shorthorns, Herefords and polled Angus cattle."

On the 29th of February, 1892, Mr. White moved to Somonauk, where for two seasons he was engaged with John Betz in canvassing and selling agricultural implements. On the 17th of October, 1893, he was commissioned postmaster of Somonauk and took charge of the office in December of the same year after having erected a new building and fitting it up for the purpose. The office is said to be one of the best fourth class postoffices on the line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. His first assistant was Miss Carrie Armstrong, who remained with him three years. Frank Girodat, who remained in the office one year and was succeeded by Miss Bulah Jones, who is now serving. At the close of his term a circular was distributed for his retention in office, and it was signed by nearly every patron of the office without reference to politics.

Mr. White was married January 3, 1883, to Miss Cornelia M. Marshall, a daughter

of James and Jeannette (Richey) Marshall, the latter being a daughter of Judge R. W. Richey, of Henderson county, Illinois. James Marshall was a native of South Carolina, born near Charleston and came with his parents, Alexander and Mary (McMillen) Marshall, to Henderson county, Illinois, where they located on a farm. He was born June 8, 1824, and died October 2, 1896. By occupation he was a farmer, and religiously he and his wife were members of the United Presbyterian church. She was born July 24, 1829, and yet resides on the home farm. Her brothers were Thomas G. and James H., while her sisters were Ann M. and Mary E. The former married John A. Marshall. The latter is a teacher in the public schools and has an excellent reputation as such.

Judge Richey held the office of county judge of Henderson county for seventeen years. The county was strongly Republican, and he a pronounced Democrat, but not an offensive one. He retained the office until failing health admonished him that he must give way and do less work. James A. Marshall, the father of Mrs. White, was one of seven children—Robert, Daniel, John, James A., Jane, Hugh and William. All are living with the exception of William and James A.

Mrs. White is one of eleven children, as follows: Viola M., wife of J. W. McClinton, residing in South Henderson, Illinois; James W., who died at the age of nineteen years; Mary H., wife of W. A. Speers, residing in Stronghurst, Illinois; Elizabeth, wife of Cecil McArthur, residing in South Henderson, Illinois; Cornelia M., wife of our subject; Louisa J., who died at the age of three years; Charles R., who resides near the old home and owning part of the

Marshall estate; John D., a farmer and stock raiser residing near Walton, Kansas; Florence V., who died at the age of twenty-seven years, Thomas, residing at home, and Hugh, residing at Stronghurst, where he is reading medicine.

To Mr. and Mrs. White two children have been born, Emma J. and Thomas M. The parents are members of the United Presbyterian church. Mr. White is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is president of the Home Forum, at Somonauk.

Mr. White still owns the old homestead on section 29, Somonauk township, together with a neat and homelike residence in the village and also the brick building in which the postoffice is kept. In connection with his postal work, he runs a stationery store and news depot. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 1895, he met with quite a loss by fire, having three barns, valued at two thousand five hundred dollars, together with a lot of grain, destroyed. The buildings have all been replaced and the farm is in excellent condition. The cause of the fire is unknown, but presumed to have been spontaneous combustion. It was a close call for the house, which would have been consumed had it not been for friends and good neighbors, to whose kindness he has always felt grateful.

C W. FALTZ, editor and proprietor of the Reveille, Somonauk, is a native of the village, born January 14, 1870, and is the son of Adolph and Bertha (Buser) Faltz, the former a native of Nassau, Germany, and the latter born near Barsal, Switzerland. The father who was born December 14, 1831, came a single man to

America in 1852, and settled in New York city where he remained sixteen years, before taking up his residence in Somonauk, Illinois. He left his native land on a sailing vessel, and was thirty-four days on the water. His mother and two of his brothers, Fred and Henry, came with him. Henry died in New York city when about fifty-seven years old, but Fred yet resides in Somonauk at the age of about seventy-four years. He was the first of the family to move to Somonauk, having spent but two years in New York. By trade Adolph Faltz was a carpenter and also a painter. He married Bertha Buser, December 24, 1861. She came across the water with her parents, John and Fannie Buser. Her father was a mechanic and inventor. One of his inventions was a numbering machine which was very valuable. More than forty models of his inventions are now on file at the patent office in Washington. He had a wonderful mechanical genius and worked in wood and all metals. His death occurred in New York when nearly seventy-four years old. In religion he and his wife were Lutherans. Her death occurred many years prior to that of her husband, when she was about forty-eight years of age. She was one of eight children, as follows: Nataline, who is unmarried and residing in New York city; Bertha, the mother of our subject; Fannie, the wife of Isaac Stillwell, residing in New York city; Fred, residing in New York city; Albert, also residing in the same city; Emma, who died when about twenty-five years old; Julia, wife of Martin Beam; and Mary, who is now deceased.

The paternal grandfather, Conrad Faltz, lived and died in the old country, his death occurring when the father of our subject

was but one year old. He was forty-eight years old at the time of his death. Mrs. Bertha A. Faltz was born May 25, 1838. She is a member of the Baptist church, while her husband is a member of the Lutheran church. They are the parents of five children. Fannie is a trained nurse, a graduate of the W. C. T. U. hospital of Chicago. She resides in Evanston, and is employed by the Women Club of that city. Hattie yet resides at home. Charles W. is the subject of this sketch. Albert Henry and Ada May yet reside at home. The latter is a graduate of the Somonauk High School and is preparing for a teacher.

Our subject was reared in Somonauk and graduated from the high school at the age of sixteen years. He learned the printing trade in Somonauk and later went to Rockford, Illinois, and subsequently to Elgin, Illinois, to get a more extensive knowledge of the business. At Rockford he was employed in the office of the Daily Gazette, and at Elgin was first with the Cook Publishing Company and later in the Daily News office, after which he was foreman of the Democrat. In January, 1892, he returned to Somonauk and purchased the office of the Reveille, being at that time the youngest publisher and proprietor of a newspaper within a radius of many miles. He was then just past twenty-one years of age. In the publication of the paper he has met with good success, while in the job line he is well prepared to do all kinds of printing in a most satisfactory manner.

Mr. Faltz was married August 20, 1890, to Miss Maria Py, a daughter of Sylvan and Mary (Henry) Py, the former a native of France and a farmer by occupation, who came to America with his father, Ferdinand

Py, who located near Portsmouth, Ohio. He had one sister, Adella, who married August Barlow, who died many years since. The family came across the water in a sailing vessel, having a very stormy passage and being sixty-three days on the water. Ferdinand Py died from injuries received in a runaway. Sylvan Py lived with his parents after his marriage and they all came to Lee county, Illinois, in 1862, soon after the marriage was celebrated. In Lee county Sylvan Py engaged in farming, which occupation he continued until his death in 1872, at the age of thirty-one years. He left five children. The eldest son was born in Lee county March 19, 1863. He married Miss Josie Ryan, of Amboy, Illinois, July 23, 1888, and died November 12, 1894, leaving two children, May Catherine and Francis Albert. By occupation he was a farmer. Eugene A. is a traveling salesman and resides in West Brooklyn, Lee county, Illinois. Eliza married Henry F. Gehant, a banker of West Brooklyn, Illinois, and they have four children, Oliver, Julian, Henry and an infant. Clementine died at the age of four years. Mrs. Faltz was next in order of birth. Mary Adella married Charles R. Frank and they have four children, Florence I., Irwin J., Claudius W. and Percy E. The mother of these children died January 31, 1890. She was born in France January 1, 1844, and accompanied her parents to America in 1850, and with them settled near Portsmouth, Ohio. After the death of her husband she remained on the farm in Lee county, but in 1875 married Claude Gehant, of Bradford, Lee county, Illinois. They became the parents of six children — Clementine, Edward, Louise, Josie, Victoria and Margaret. Of these Josie died at the age of nine years and

Clementine is now the wife of Alfred McRae and they have one child, Gladys.

To Mr. and Mrs. Faltz two children have been born, Harold A. and Gladys L. The latter, who was born April 22, 1892, died January, 1893. Religiously Mrs. Faltz is a Catholic. Fraternally Mr. Faltz is a member of the Knights of the Globe and Home Forum Benefit order at Somo-nauk. In politics he is a Democrat and takes an active interest in political affairs, being a frequent delegate to county conventions. Personally he is a man of genial nature and generous impulses and has a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who hold him in the highest regard.

WILLIAM HOYT, deceased, was one of the highly esteemed citizens of De Kalb township, a man true to the principles which he professed, not only in letter but in spirit. He believed in and carried out the golden rule all through his life. While he was a strong adherent of the Democratic party, he was never a partisan, but carefully read both sides of every question, giving credit where credit was due. Not only was he a close observer, but a deep thinker, and had a remarkable memory. He was born at Schenectady, Herkimer county, New York, July 4, 1826, and was the son of Louis S. and Almira Hoyt, both natives of New York state, the former born August 21, 1798, and the latter July 18, 1801.

Louis S. Hoyt came to De Kalb county in November, 1850, locating on section 5, De Kalb township, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres with some improvements. He further improved the place and on that farm passed the remainder of his life in peace and happiness.

He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he was a steward. He was quite philanthropically disposed, and in the early settlement of the county, when educational facilities were limited, he, together with a Mr. Moore, erected a school house with their own means and presented it to the district. Louis S. and Almira Hoyt were the parents of the following named children: Esther P., born October 13, 1824; William, July 4, 1826; Maltbie, May 6, 1830; Julia, July 29, 1831; Louis, April 7, 1834; Erskine, August 28, 1838; Susan G., April 12, 1840; and Hiram, November 22, 1843.

William Hoyt grew to manhood in his native county, and on the 6th of January, 1851, he was united in marriage with Miss Lydia Wolfe, a daughter of Benjamin and Susan Wolfe, and in July of the same year they removed to Sycamore, De Kalb county, Illinois, where they remained one year. In 1853 they removed to Michigan, where Mr. Hoyt engaged in the lumber business for eight years, and where, by his industry and enterprise, he accumulated considerable property. In 1861 they returned to De Kalb county and located on their farm in De Kalb township, where they remained until September, 1887, when they went to Chicago, that their children might have better school advantages, and especially to allow their younger son, Frank, an opportunity to fit himself for the bar. From Chicago they returned to their farm in 1891.

Mr. Hoyt was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was conscientious in all his dealings with his fellowmen. He died September 3, 1894, aged sixty-eight years, and his death was mourned not alone by his family, but by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. His widow, who was

born at Union, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, yet survives him at the age of sixty-five years. Their family consisted of the following named children: Sarah A., born December 14, 1851, died November 20, 1854; Laura A., born September 18, 1853, died January 25, 1861; Esther M., born August 27, 1857, died December 23, 1863; Benjamin L., born July 6, 1859; Frank W., December 24, 1864, and Susan E., August 19, 1871.

Benjamin L. Hoyt has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits and is a man who thoroughly understands his business. He was united in marriage December 19, 1882, with Miss Sarah Jane Scott, a daughter of Mary and William Scott. They have now three children—Frankie L., Sadie M., and Esther P.

Susan E., the youngest daughter, is a graduate of one of Chicago's best schools, and for a time engaged in teaching. She is a first-class musician and has given lessons in music with credit to herself and former teachers. On the 15th of May, 1894, she married James H. Scott, a worthy farmer, by whom she has one daughter, Lydia M.

Frank is a prominent attorney in Chicago who has met with good success in his chosen profession. After receiving his elementary education in the common schools he entered Wells College to fit himself for the position of teacher, and after the completion of his course taught school for two years. He then entered Union College of Law, in Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1889 with high honors. In the same year he was admitted to the bar. On March 17, 1891, he married Miss Elizabeth P. Pritchard, daughter of William and Prudence Pritchard, and to them two children have been born, William P. and Benjamin.



JOHN MORRISON, now living a retired life in the village of Waterman, was for years one of the substantial farmers of De Kalb county, of which he has been a resident since 1856. He is a native of Scotland, born in Perthshire, March 11, 1819, and is the son of William and Margaret (Coventry) Morrison, both of whom were natives of the same shire. In his native land our subject grew to manhood, and was educated in the private schools. The possibilities of the United States had been presented to him in his youth, and he determined on emigrating to the New World, with a view of bettering his condition in life. In 1841, accompanied by his brother Robert, he set sail and landing in New York, there resided for about ten years.

1852, Mr. Morrison came to the conclusion that he could do still better by moving west and that year he came to Illinois and located near Batavia, Kane county, where he had charge of the farm of Mr. Hoyt, a banker of Batavia. While residing there his parents, who had been furnished the means by their sons, John and Robert, also came from Scotland, and joined their children, residing with them and being cared for by them during the remainder of their lives. The father died at the age of eighty-eight years, and the mother when ninety-two years old.

In 1856, our subject came to De Kalb county and purchased a tract of land in Victor township, of which about twenty-five acres had been broken, and partially improved. With the aid of two carpenters, he erected a small frame house in one day and a half, into which he moved with his family, and there resided while further developing the farm. Later he built a more substantial residence and barn, together

with outbuildings, tiled the place, set out an orchard, and also forest and ornamental trees, and in due time had one of the most valuable farms in Victor township.

In February, 1852, just previous to his leaving New York, in Schenectady county, that state, Mr. Morrison was united in marriage with Miss Jane McGue, a native of New York, and a daughter of James McGue, a substantial farmer of that county, of Scotch parentage. There were two children by his marriage, Agnes and William. The former is now the wife of William Nelson, a worthy farmer of Victor township.

William Morrison, the son, was born in Kane county and reared in De Kalb, receiving his education in the public schools of the latter county. He married Miss Emma Higby, who was born and reared in Ottawa, Illinois, and a daughter of Mr. Higby, of Ottawa. They became the parents of three children, Ella, John and Willa. After his marriage he located on and took charge of the home farm, and was a successful farmer until his death, the result of an accident in November, 1888, by falling some twenty-eight feet from a haymow. He was a man of most exemplary habits, of upright character and worth, and in his death the aged father and loving wife met with a great loss, but had the heartfelt sympathy of a host of friends.

After the death of his son, John Morrison with his daughter-in-law remained on the farm and continued its cultivation until 1894, when he rented the place and they moved to Waterman, where they now reside. Politically Mr. Morrison has been a Republican since the organization of the party, but never desired, nor would he accept office. He is a member of the Somonauk United Presbyterian church, of which his wife, who

died January 1, 1888, was also a member. His faith in the doctrines and teachings of that church is steadfast and strong. Mrs. William Morrison is a member of the Waterman Presbyterian church. In the forty-six years in which he has been a resident of De Kalb county Mr. Morrison has witnessed some wonderful changes, and in its growth and development he has materially assisted. Success has in a measure crowned his efforts, and he is now enabled to live retired, enjoying the well earned rest secured by a long life of earnest toil.

**JOHN B. LABOLLE** is a retired farmer residing in Somonauk. He was born in Serena township, La Salle county, Illinois, September 14, 1857, and is the son of Augustine and Julia (Ferry) La Bolle, both natives of Alsace, Germany. By occupation Augustine La Bolle was a farmer, both in the old country and after his removal to America. He came to the United States in 1855, and was on the water sixty-eight days, meeting with some severe storms and the vessel having a collision with another one. After the collision they went to Cork, Ireland, the nearest repair station, and were there six weeks. They started from Havre, France, and landed in New York. After remaining a few days in the latter city, they came west to Ottawa, Illinois, which was their destination on starting. On arriving at Ottawa the father engaged work in a factory, where he remained a few months, then rented a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits. Later he purchased a quarter-section which he afterwards sold. He died at the age of fifty years. He and his wife were members of the Catholic church. The latter is yet living at the age of seventy-six

years and makes her home with our subject. They were the parents of five children, as follows: Mary, wife of Michael Carpenter, residing in Maple Park, Illinois; John B., our subject; Charles A., residing on a farm south of Somonauk, Joseph L., living on a farm near De Kalb; and Ellen, wife of George Decker, residing at West Pullman, Illinois.

On the home farm or subject grew to manhood and in the common schools of the neighborhood received his education. As soon as able he was set to work, and from that time on assisted in the cultivation of the farm. He was married December 7, 1880, to Miss Mary G. Mailander, a daughter of Conrad and Margueritta Mailander, natives of Germany, but who were married in this country. Conrad Mailander came to the United States in 1849, and his wife in 1850. She came with her parents, Mathias and Catherine Kuhlen, who settled in Long Grove, Kendall county. Mathias Kuhlen followed farming all his life. He was born in 1789, and died many years ago when about seventy years old. His wife Catherine was born June 9, 1791, and died at the advanced age of ninety-eight years, nine months and eight days. Both died in the faith of the Catholic church. They had six children, the oldest, Elizabeth, dying at an early age, before the family left Prussia. John was born in 1824, and served in the Civil war. He came home on a furlough, and eight days after his return to the army was instantly killed in one of the battles of the Atlanta campaign. Christian, born in 1827, died in Prussia in 1849. Margueritta, born March 1, 1831, was married to Conrad Mailander, in 1851, at Naperville, Illinois. Charles Joseph, born in 1841, enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was

mustered into the United States service September 6, 1862, the regiment being commanded by Colonel Van Arman. He was taken sick, died, and was buried in Georgia about a week before his brother John returned to the regiment. Henry, born January 1, 1834, died January 5, 1896.

Mrs. Mailander is the only survivor of that family. Conrad Mailander's parents were Henry and Mary Mailander, the latter dying when he was but two years of age. He was born August 26, 1822. Henry Mailander came to the United States in 1849, lived here a few years and returned to his native land, where his death occurred about 1858, when he was nearly eighty years of age. He had five children on coming to America, as follows: Peter, who died in Prussia; Peter William, who came to Peru, Illinois, in 1847, and there died; Mary, who married Henry Schmidt, died in Prussia; William, who lives in La Salle county, Illinois; and Conrad, the father-in-law of our subject.

To Conrad and Margueritta Mailander eight children were born, as follows: Henry, born March 10, 1852; Charles, born July 18, 1854; Caroline, now Mrs. Eugene Mathis, born March 1, 1856; Mary, born March 29, 1858; Louisa, now Mrs. Alfred Sower, born January 2, 1861; William, born February 22, 1864; Maggie, now Mrs. Christian Steinworth, born March 18, 1868; and Anna C., now Mrs. William Buckler, born February 22, 1870. The parents are yet living and make their home in Somonauk.

Mr. and Mrs. La Bolle are the parents of three children—William C., Ruby L. and Luella C. They are members of the Catholic church. Mr. La Bolle takes little interest in politics. He was formerly a Republican, but is now a Prohibitionist. The fam-

ily reside in a most handsome home on the south side of De Kalb street. Mr. La Bolle also owns another residence adjoining and both are in good repair and nicely shaded. As a farmer he has been a splendid success. For several years, in addition to his farm labor, he ran a threshing machine and did very much in that line. As a carpenter, a trade which he picked up from time to time, he has furnished plans and specifications for many of the buildings of Somonauk and surrounding country. He is pleasant and genial in manner, prominent in business circles and the success which has attended his efforts has been most justly and deservedly attained by his years of persevering labor.

GEORGE E. HUEBER, who resides on section 1, Malta township, is engaged in general farming, and is one of the most enterprising of the young farmers of Malta township. He was born in the township, January 24, 1864, and is the son of Gottlieb and Elizabeth (Heiderscheid) Hueber, both of whom were natives of Germany, who emigrated to this country in 1853, and of who mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

George E. Hueber is fourth in order of birth in his father's family. He was reared and educated in Malta township, where he attended the common schools. He has always confined himself to agricultural pursuits, and has been content to be an earnest and honest tiller of the soil. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-seven years of age, at which time, on the 25th of June, 1893, he was united in marriage with Miss Agnes Hoerneck, a native of Brunswick, Germany, born February 14, 1871, and a daughter of August and Minnie Hoer-

necke, both of whom are also natives of Germany. By this union two children have been born, Elizabeth in 1894, and Wilhelmina in 1898.

Politically Mr. Hueber is independent, caring nothing for the honors and emoluments of public office. He believes in voting for the best man, regardless of party affiliations. Religiously he is liberal.

**L**INCOLN WATSON, a prosperous and well-to-do farmer of Afton township, resides on section 17, on the farm where his birth occurred February 15, 1865. He is the son of William and Johanna M. (Curtis) Watson, both of whom were born near Worcester, Massachusetts, where they were married previous to their removal to De Kalb county, Illinois. They were the parents of five children, one, Flora, dying at the age of fifteen months. The living are Ella, Abbie, Lincoln and William.

William Watson, the father of our subject, followed the vocation of a farmer during almost his entire life. Previous to removing to Illinois he worked on a farm as foreman, receiving for his services twenty-five dollars per month. At the age of twenty-five years he came with his wife to De Kalb county, and soon afterwards purchased the farm where our subject now lives. He became quite prosperous and well-to-do, being industrious and methodical, and at the time of his death in 1885, he was the owner of about six hundred and forty acres of good land. His death occurred when he was fifty-seven years of age, and his loss was deeply lamented by his family and a large circle of friends throughout the county. In politics he was a Republican and religiously was a Second Ad-

ventist, believing firmly in the teachings of that church.

Lincoln Watson, our subject, grew to manhood upon the home farm, and later attended the district schools of his native township, entered the high school at Aurora, where he spent three years. Leaving the school-room he settled down to work upon the farm, and has since given his undivided attention to agricultural pursuits. On the 23d of December, 1886, he married Miss Lizzie E. Brown, a native of Milan township, De Kalb county, Illinois, and a daughter of Rev. William Brown, of De Kalb, Illinois. By this union there are three children—Reider W., Chauncey B. and John W.

Our subject owns about two hundred acres of the old Watson homestead which he cultivates in a very successful manner, devoting his time to general farming. In politics he is a Prohibitionist, believing firmly that in prohibition lies the safety of the republic. Religiously, like his father, he is a member of the Second Adventist church. As a citizen he is highly respected, enjoying the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

**A**LEXANDER HOWISON, who resides on section 31, Squaw Grove township, came to De Kalb county, in 1847, and has here since continued to reside, being numbered among the old settlers of the county. He is a native of Roxburyshire, Scotland, born November 22, 1827, and is the son of George and Margaret (Brown) Howison, both natives of the same shire. By trade George Howison was a weaver, which occupation he followed in his native land. In 1833, he emigrated to the United States,

locating first in Washington county, New York, where he remained fourteen years, and then came to Illinois, locating in Squaw Grove township, De Kalb county. Two of his sons, James and William, came to this county in 1845, and entered a tract of land on a portion of which the father located, but only lived about one year after his arrival, dying at the age of sixty-one years. His wife survived him many years, dying at the age of eighty four years. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter, all of whom are yet living, and well settled in life. James, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work, resides in Sandwich. William is a substantial citizen of Clinton township. Eliza is the wife of Alexander G. White, a farmer of De Kalb county. Alexander is the subject of this review. Robert is a farmer of Clinton township.

On a farm in Washington county, New York, our subject grew to manhood, and as the opportunity was afforded him, attended the public schools. He came west with the family in 1847, and remained with his father until after his death. The first year he worked with his brother, and the following year purchased a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, of his brother William, and commenced to improve the farm. He continued in that employment until 1852, when he went to California, taking passage on a vessel at New York, and going by way of Cape Horn, to San Francisco. On his arrival he went into the mines where he spent one year, and then engaged in gardening. After residing in that country for three and a half years, he returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama to New York, being fairly successful in his venture. After resting a brief time, he returned to his farm, which he continued to cultivate for some

years. In addition to his original purchase he also bought from his brother an adjoining place of one hundred and seventy-four acres, and a well improved farm in Victor township of two hundred acres.

In the fall of 1862 Mr. Howison was united in marriage with Miss Margaret McCleary, a native of Ohio, who came to De Kalb county when about eight years old, with her father, James McCleary, an early settler of the county. By this union there are three sons and two daughters—George, Jennie, Mary Jeanette, Archie and Ralph, all yet residing at home. Two are deceased Ann Elizabeth and Isabella C.

Politically Mr. Howison is identified with the Prohibition party, though formerly a Republican. He never desired nor would he accept office preferring to give his time and attention to his farming interests. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, of which his wife and children are also members. Success has crowned him in his efforts, and by his industry and economy, he has accumulated a competency, and is the owner of three valuable and well improved farms, and to-day is recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in De Kalb county and one in whom the people can trust for his strict integrity of character.

**L**EWIS BEND came to De Kalb county in the spring of 1858, and now resides on a fine farm of two hundred and fifty-seven acres, on section 29, Victor township. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, June 5, 1831, and is the son of William and Sarah (Watson) Bend, both of whom were natives of England, where their entire lives were spent, the father engaging in common labor. In his native shire our subject grew

to manhood on a farm, and received very limited educational advantages, and although he is now a very well informed man, the knowledge has since been acquired by reading and observation. From boyhood he had to make his own way in the world, and therefore he determined to come where the opportunities were greater than in his native land. On the 22nd of March, 1852, he took passage on a sailing vessel at Liverpool, bound for New York, in company with his brother Samuel.

Arriving at New York, the brothers went direct to Monroe county, in that state, and there secured work on a farm. Lewis remained there about one year and a half, and then came west to Batavia, Kane county, Illinois, where he spent the first winter in cutting timber, and the following spring went to work on a farm, and continued to work by the month for some three or four years. In 1858 he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, and rented a farm in Victor township, on which he resided for nine years. In 1866 he made his first purchase of land, a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, comprising a part of the farm on which he now resides. Some improvements had been made, but with characteristic energy he went to work and as the time passed by, further improvements were made and in 1870 he purchased ninety-seven acres additional, and has since built a large and substantial residence and large barns, together with sheds for the shelter of his stock. Everything about the place shows the taste of its owner, and that he has been industrious, making his farm one of the best in Victor township.

Mr. Bend was married in Ohio in 1854, to Miss Jane Sturgis, also a native of Lincolnshire, England. By this union there are twelve children, seven of whom are liv-

ing. Mary Ann is the wife of Thomas Wilson, a farmer of Victor township. Hester is the wife of Frank Wells, and they reside in Clay county, Iowa. Ella is the wife of Arthur Parkes, a farmer of Victor township. Lille and Amy are young ladies at home. Lewis grew to manhood, married, and settled in Nebraska, where his death occurred. John is married and now resides in Nebraska. Joseph remains at home and assists in carrying on the home farm. Mattie died after reaching womanhood. Lucy died at about the age of four years, while Ellen died in early childhood. The mother of these children has also passed to her reward, her death taking place in December, 1892.

Politically Mr. Bend is classed with that fast increasing number of men who vote as their conscience dictates, without regard to party. He has never desired nor would he ever hold office. Coming to this country without a dollar, he has by his industry and economy acquired a competency, and should he desire, he can rest easy during the remainder of his life.

EDWARD C. DAVIS is numbered among the young and enterprising farmers of Paw Paw township, owning and operating a well improved farm of two hundred and seventy-six acres on section 12, Paw Paw township. He was born on the old homestead where he now resides, June 23, 1870, and is the son of George Nelson Davis, also a native of De Kalb county, Illinois, born in 1840. The paternal grandfather, Albert Davis, was one of the pioneers of De Kalb county, coming here from Canada and locating in Victor township, where he entered land, opened up a farm and reared his family. George N. Davis grew to manhood

in Victor township and married Miss Annis Deming, a native of New York, and a daughter of Asa Deming, who was also an early settler of De Kalb county. Immediately after his marriage, he settled on eighty acres of the farm where his sons now reside. Erecting a small frame house, he at once commenced the improvement of the place and, as his means increased, purchased more land, until he was the owner of two hundred and seventy-six acres, all of which was under cultivation. He reared his family on that farm and there died in April, 1892. His wife survives him and resides in the village of Paw Paw. They were the parents of two sons and one daughter, of whom our subject is the eldest. Bertha grew to womanhood and is now the wife of Arthur Wells, of Paw Paw, Lee county. Earl resides with his mother in Paw Paw.

The subject of this sketch continued on the home farm until nineteen years of age, in the meantime assisting in its cultivation. He received a fairly good education in the school at Ross Grove. When nineteen years old he left home and commenced work at anything which came to hand. In January, 1891, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Bend, a native of Victor township, where she was reared and educated and a daughter of Richard Bend, now residing in Shabbona township. One daughter has come to bless their union, Grace Davis.

After his marriage Mr. Davis worked the Bend farm for one year, and after the death of his father, returned to the old homestead where he yet resides, engaged in farming and stock raising. Since taking possession of the old farm, he has built a substantial residence and various outbuildings, and has put the place under very substantial improvements. He has been uniformly

successful in that which he has undertaken, and being thoroughly enterprising and industrious, it is certain that success will still continue with him. Politically he is a Republican, and is now serving as commissioner of highways.

DWIGHT K. CROFOOT is entitled to distinction as one of the most progressive and enterprising men of Sandwich, having for years been identified with its commercial interests. Upon the commercial activity of a community depends its prosperity, and the men who are recognized as leading citizens are those who are, or have been, at the head of extensive business enterprises. Mr. Crofoot is a man of broad capabilities, who carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. He was born in Lewis county, New York, November 19, 1852, and is the son of R. D. and Hannah M. (Kent) Crofoot, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of New York. They were the parents of five children: Adelbert B., who is engaged in the wholesale boot and shoe trade in Peoria; Anna E., who died at the age of thirteen years; Dwight K., our subject; Ralph, who died at the age of four years; and one who died in infancy. The mother of these children died in January, 1897, at the age of eighty-three years. The father is still living, and resides in Sandwich, being now eighty-two years of age. He is an attendant of the Universalist church, of which faith he is a believer. His wife was also an attendant of that church.

Our subject spent his boyhood and youth in Turin, Lewis county, New York, and was educated in the common schools, although he attended a short time after com-

ing to Illinois. On leaving school he engaged as a clerk in a dry-goods store, and later, with his brother and C. H. Pratt, engaged in the same line of trade, under the firm name of Crofoot Bros. & Pratt. The latter retiring after a few years, the firm became Crofoot Bros & Manchester. Two years later, the brother of our subject withdrew from the firm, and the firm became Crofoot & Manchester. For twenty years it was one of the leading firms in Sandwich and had a very extensive trade. Our subject then sold out, and went into the Sedgwick Bank, as a supply for two weeks, but remained two years. In June, 1897, he was appointed assignee of the Sandwich Enterprise Company, and at present writing is still engaged in the business.

Mr. Crofoot was married in February, 1875, to Miss Minnie Chapman a native of New York and a daughter of S. M. Chapman, of LaSalle, Illinois. By this union six children have been born— Clara E., Ralph D., Olive, Hazel, Hannah M. and Doris K.

Religiously Mrs. Crofoot is a member of the Congregational church. In politics Mr. Crofoot is a Democrat, and has served his party as a delegate to various conventions. It is, however, as a business man and not as politician that he is so widely known. He is now the secretary of the cemetery association of Sandwich, which is an incorporated body. To Mr. Crofoot and George Culver, the president of the association, the credit is due for the beautiful appearance of the cemetery at Sandwich. He is one of the directors in the Sandwich Fair Association, and a stock holder in the butter factory. He has served his city as alderman, and for years has been a member of the school board, and in that position has done much in shaping educational affairs in Sandwich.

He is a man of more than ordinary ability, has broad and progressive views, and is well informed on general topics. He is of a frank and genial nature, cordial in manner, and is a man who makes friends of all who have dealings with him.

**HENRY OSBORN**, who has a well improved farm of seventy-five acres on sections 14 and 15, Mayfield township, came to De Kalb county in 1855, and has here since continued to reside. He is a native of England, born in Rutland county, August 25, 1834. His boyhood and youth were spent on the farm in his native county, and here had fair common school advantages while there remaining. In company with his brother, William, in 1853, he set sail for America, and landing in Quebec, Canada, went directly from there to Buffalo, New York, where he joined an older brother, who had settled in Erie county, that state. He at once went to work on a farm, and continued as a farm hand two summers, and during the winter of 1853-4 he attended school near Buffalo. In the fall of 1854 he came to De Kalb county where he joined his brother, William, who had preceded him. He again went to work on a farm by the month and continued to be thus employed for about thirteen years, in the meantime attending school a few winter terms. He was married in 1868 to Miss Hattie Bailey, a native of New York, where she was reared and educated, and a daughter of S. S. Bailey, who moved from New York to De Kalb county.

Just before his marriage Mr. Osborn purchased the farm where he now resides and located thereon. It was an improved farm, but he has since rebuilt the house and



barn and has made many substantial improvements on the place. Mrs. Osborn here died in November, 1883, and Mr. Osborn later married Mrs. Clarissa De Low, *née* Townsend, a sister of Edwin Townsend, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. By this union four children were born, three of whom are living, Hattie, Alice and Harry. Ella died at the age of eight years.

Mr. Osborn was elected and served as commissioner of highways for three years, and was township collector one term. For twenty-three years he served as a member of the school board, fifteen years of which time he was its clerk. By his long continued service is shown conclusively the interest which he has taken in the public schools and the confidence reposed in him by his friends and neighbors. Politically he is an earnest and steadfast Republican, a staunch advocate of the principles of the party, and one who does not hesitate to vote his party ticket. Mrs. Osborn is connected with the Advent Christian church; both are well known and highly respected by those who have formed their acquaintance.

**J**AMES BLAKE, deceased, was for many years the owner of a fine farm on sections 3 and 10, De Kalb township, and was numbered among the early settlers of the county. He was a native of England, born February 7, 1820, and came to this country with his parents, James and Mary Blake, when he was but nine years of age. They located at Akron, Ohio, and there remained until 1844, when they came to De Kalb county, Illinois. After residing here some years the father returned to his native land to restore his shattered health, but without

avail. His death occurred while on that visit, dying at his old home at the age of seventy years. His widow remained in De Kalb county, where she died at an advanced age.

James Blake, our subject, removed to De Kalb county two years prior to the time when his parents came. On his arrival he took up eighty acres of government land, for which he paid a dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, and at once erected a log house, but did not permanently settle on the claim until the second year after his arrival. For the first few years the times were hard with him, but in due time prosperity came. To his original purchase he added eighty acres previous to the Civil war, and during the war he purchased two hundred and forty acres. The last eighty acres that he purchased was in 1878.

He was united in marriage with Annie Sherd and they became the parents of nine children, of whom four are yet living: Viola Rice, Cassie, Albert and Mrs. Fuller. Albert is fourth in order of birth and was born in De Kalb county, March 14, 1854, and here he has always continued to reside. He was educated in the common schools of the county and was early given his task upon the farm. He was united in marriage December 14, 1875, with Miss Ellen Heath, a native of Herkimer county, New York, born January 6, 1854, and the daughter of William and Delilah Heath, who removed from Herkimer county, New York, to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1860, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Heath dying in August, 1875, and Mr. Heath February 8, 1898. To Albert and Ella Blake one child has been born, Clarence E., February 22, 1878. On the 25th of October, 1897, he was united in marriage with

Miss Maude M. Padd, of De Kalb township. Following in the footsteps of his father, Albert Blake is a practical and prosperous farmer.

Politically James Blake was a sound Democrat, and religiously a Presbyterian. He was an excellent farmer, a thorough business man, and a loyal citizen to the country of his adoption. He died on the old homestead, where he resided for more than half a century, June 17, 1898, at the age of seventy-eight years. His wife preceded him to their heavenly home, dying February 28, 1895. They were both greatly esteemed and well known in De Kalb and adjoining counties.

**G**EORGE WHITE is engaged in general farming and dairying on section 9, Genoa township. He was born on the farm where he now resides October 14, 1849. His father, John White, was a native of Bavaria, Germany, born March 5, 1815, and was the son of John and Barbara (Bamar) White, both of whom were also natives of Germany. In his native land John White grew to manhood and in 1846 came to America, sailing from Hamburg and being seven weeks on the voyage. He first located in Pennsylvania, where he remained three years and where his marriage with Miss Anna Margaret Hoffman was celebrated in the fall of 1846. She was also a native of Bavaria, Germany, and came from her native country on the same vessel with Mr. White. The name was originally spelled Weid and was changed to correspond with the pronunciation in America. To John and Anna M. White seven children were born: Charles was born in Pennsylvania and now lives in Delaware

county, Iowa, where he is engaged in farming; George is the subject of this sketch and was the first of the family born in De Kalb county; Maggie and Carrie, with our subject, are now owners of the old home farm; John is now living in Delaware county, Iowa; Henry lives in Butler county, Iowa; Mary married John Billhorn and lives in Iowa.

In 1849 John White came with his family to De Kalb county and purchased a farm of eighty acres in section 9, Genoa township, and at once commenced its improvement. He was an industrious and thrifty man and success crowned his efforts. From time to time he added to his possessions until he was the owner of two hundred and sixty acres, the greater portion of which was under cultivation. He continued to manage the farm until after the death of his wife, which occurred July 6, 1896, when he sold to his son George and daughters Maggie and Carrie, but continued to reside with them until his death, January 8, 1898. Both were good, Christian people and well respected.

George White grew to manhood on the home farm, and in winter attended the district schools until the age of eighteen years. He worked with his father until he attained his majority, after which he continued to work for him for wages until he purchased the place after the mother's death. The farm comprises two hundred and thirty acres of prairie land and about thirty acres of timber. It is devoted to general farming and dairy purposes. He milks about twenty cows, from which they manufacture butter, and having an established trade in private families, they dispose of all the product, receiving one cent per pound above the Elgin board of trade price. In politics Mr. White is

a Prohibitionist in sentiment, and has served several terms as school director. He is an attendant at the Ney M. E. church, and as a citizen has a well established reputation for honor and integrity.

**J**OHAN CARROLL came to De Kalb county in 1865 and now resides on section 7, Milan township, where he owns and operates a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He is a native of Ireland, born near the city of Wexford in 1828. Both his parents died when he was a child of eight years, from which time forward he was thrown on his own resources. He came to the United States in 1848 and first located in Columbia county, New York, about twelve miles from Hudson and only eight miles from the Hudson river at Kinderhook. He commenced work on a farm by the month, at which he continued for several years. He later worked eight years for Mr. Graves, a hatter of Kinderhook, and while there in 1858 was united in marriage with Mrs. Margaret McCambly, a widow lady from the north of Ireland, born in county Down. She was also an employe of Mr. Graves and was with him for fifteen years, being a specialist at hat trimming. While in the employment of Mr. Graves she made a cap for President Martin Van Buren.

In 1865 Mr. Carroll came to De Kalb county and purchased a farm in Milan township, where he now resides. The place was partially improved, but Mr. Carroll commenced its further improvement by the erection of a more substantial dwelling, large barns and other outbuildings. Under his management the farm has been improved

and made one of the most productive in Milan township.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll are the parents of two children. William, the eldest born, came to De Kalb county a lad of six years and grew to manhood on the farm, and received his education in the home schools, supplemented by two terms in the high school at Malta. He remained with his father, assisting in the farm work, until after attaining his majority. He was married in Chicago, Illinois, March 28, 1898, to Miss Mary Aman, a native of Switzerland, but reared in Chicago. After his marriage he returned to the old farm and is now assisting in its management. The daughter, Mary, is the wife of Frank Young, a farmer of Milan township. By her former marriage Mrs. Carroll has two children, John R., a business man of Chicago, and Rosa, wife of Theodore Dangle-mayer, of Westfield, Massachusetts.

Politically Mr. Carroll is a staunch Democrat and has been identified with that party since becoming a citizen of this country. Religiously he is a Catholic. For a third of a century he has been a resident of De Kalb county and is a well known and highly respected citizen.

**R**ICHARD W. BLANCHFIELD is a farmer residing on section 12, Sycamore township. He was born in St. Charles, Illinois, July 24, 1855, and is the son of John Blanchfield, a native of county Kilkenny, Ireland, born in 1809, and died in Sycamore township in 1874. He came to America about 1848 on a sailing vessel, and was six weeks in crossing the ocean. There was much sickness aboard and two-thirds of them died. They sailed from

Queenstown and landed at New York. From the latter place John Blanchfield came direct to Chicago, where he remained about one year, working on a railroad which was then under construction. He then moved to St. Charles, where he resided until 1857, and then purchased a farm lying in De Kalb and Kane counties, the residence being in De Kalb county. That farm he continued to improve and there resided until his death. He was a devout member of the Catholic church, and in politics he was a Democrat. For some years he was school director and road commissioner. He was a well educated man, having obtained his education in a college in his native county. He married Bridget Saunders, a daughter of Michael Saunders, who married a Miss Kern. Michael Saunders was engaged in the Irish Rebellion in 1798. He lived to an advanced age. Mrs. Blanchfield died in 1884 on the farm of our subject. John Blanchfield and wife were the parents of six daughters and three sons, as follows: Michael, deceased; James, residing in Calhoun county, Iowa; Sylvester, living in Alabama; Mrs. Sarah O'Gara, living in Wisconsin; Mrs. Mary Lynch, of Chicago; Mrs. Anna Quinlan, of Chicago; Lizzie, residing in Sycamore township; Richard W., our subject; and Mrs. Jane McKennon, of Elgin, Illinois.

The paternal grandfather, John Blanchfield, Sr., was born and died in Ireland. He was superintendent of estates and agent for large landed properties. His people had fine estates at the time of the rebellion in 1798, and, because of participation in that rebellion, the land was confiscated. John Blanchfield, Sr., was a lieutenant in the Rebel army. The family is one of the oldest in the north of Ireland. The matter of

confiscation of the lands of the Blanchfields is mentioned in history.

Richard W. Blanchfield was but two years old when his parents moved to De Kalb county. He grew to manhood on the farm, and attended the district schools, after leaving which he entered Bryant & Stratton's Business College, Chicago, where he took a two years course. Returning to the farm, he remained with his father until twenty-seven years of age. In 1882 the farm residence burned, and he went to Chicago where he worked for four years in a wholesale grocery house, his earnings being used in rebuilding the residence. While in the city his brother and wife ran the farm. On his return he took charge of the same, and has here since continued to reside, giving his attention to general farming and stock raising. In politics he is independent. Religiously he is a Catholic, and fraternally a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge in Elgin.

JESSE F. POPLIN, a farmer residing on section 28, Somonauk township, is a veteran of the Civil war. He was born in this township February 5, 1845, and is the son of William B. and Rachel (Harmon) Poplin, both natives of North Carolina, but who were married in Illinois, having come to this state with their respective parents. William Poplin came to Illinois about the year 1829, and it is said that he turned the first furrow in Somonauk township. For a time he worked by the month for the father of Senator Cullom. In 1834 he made claim to the land in section 28, on which he and our subject now live. In North Carolina he engaged in farming, and having heard of the excellent qualities of

Illinois land he determined on coming to this state. The Harmon family into which he married came about the same time. They were all good people from that hospitable Old North state, and gave tone and hospitality to the neighborhood where they located. They were pioneers, kind, clever, obliging and influential, and their latch string was always out. They were more than pleased when they received a visit from their neighbors, the nearest of whom were from three to five miles distance. Chicago, more than sixty miles away, was their market. After the Black Hawk war of 1832 the county began to fill up, and neighbors were more plenty and near. William Poplin was born December 23, 1809, while his wife was born August 26, 1811. They were married March 3, 1831, in good time to receive many frights from the wandering tribes of Indians and the calamity attendant on prairie fires. These good old people who were pioneers are still living, though with health somewhat impaired. They were for a time known by every resident of the county, and it is perhaps not much to say, by almost every resident of the four counties. When they located here there was not a railroad, telegraph, motor car, telephone, mower, reaper, automatic binder or sewing machine known in this state. Since that time things have changed. Then the runaway slaves at times sought shelter, a thing we can scarcely now believe. Surely our country has made history rapidly during the lives of some who are still on the stage of action.

The subject of this sketch is the youngest of six children. Sarah J., born October 13, 1832, died October 19, 1834. Harriet L., born January 25, 1836, was the first white child born in Somonauk township. She died March 7, 1887. She married

Herbert Cotton and they had two children, Clarence and Eva. Mary A., born September 10, 1838, was burned to death March 6, 1839. Rebecca C. is the wife of J. Henry, and they have two children. Fannie E. is the wife of C. V. Stevens, a banker of Somonauk, and their children are D. F. and Ida.

Jesie F. Poplin, our subject, was reared on the farm, and attended the district schools. On the 16th of August, 1862, when but seventeen years old, he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, his regiment being assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. With his regiment he participated in the battles of Resaca, Cassville, Burnt Hickory, Dallas Wood, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, and was then in the Atlanta campaign, and the march to the sea. At Lawtonville he was wounded, but remained with the division hospital. About thirty days later they struck Goldsboro, and later took part in the battles Averysboro and Bentonville. Proceeding with his regiment, he was in the grand review at Washington, and June 7, 1865, received his discharge, after having served two years and ten months. The wound he received in his arm still gives him trouble, and he now draws a pension.

Returning home after his discharge, Mr. Poplin resumed farming and has made that his life work. He was married April 11, 1866, to Miss Carrie C. Carr, a daughter of Stiles P. and Susan Carr, old settlers of Illinois. By this union there are two children, Theodore, who married Miss Adel Suydan, and Carl, who resides at home. These parents are members of the Baptist church, and fraternally he is a member of Somonauk Lodge, A. F. & A. M., Sandwich Chapter,

R. A. M., Aurora Commandery, K. T., and the Order of the Eastern Star of Somonauk, also the Modern Woodmen of America, Home Forum, and Somonauk Post, G. A. R. In each of the organizations he has held office, being worshipful master of the blue lodge of Masons, for three years. He was also commander of the post. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and cast his first president vote for U. S. Grant. He and his wife have ever been people of sterling worth and unquestionable integrity. He represents that class of good American citizens, who when the flag of our country was assailed, thought life itself, and all that life holds dear, not too good to sacrifice if necessary, that the laws of our country should be upheld and the nation saved. He did his part well as a soldier, and as a citizen he enjoys the respect and confidence of all.

**L**ORENZO C. SHAFFER is one of the prominent business men of Kingston, where he is engaged in the drug business. He was born in Earlville, Delaware county, Iowa, April 12, 1865, and is the son of Ira and Helen (Williams) Shaffer, both of whom were natives of Ohio, and who followed agricultural pursuits all their lives. The grandparents of our subject, on the mother's side, Chester and Sallie Williams, were born in 1800, and removing to Illinois in 1840, located in North Kingston, where Mr. Williams took up four hundred acres of government land, and upon which he built and immediately began to improve the land, and paved the way for his daughter, Mrs. Shaffer, who in after years resided upon that farm, but who is now living quietly in the village of Kingston, a worthy and highly respected lady. Her father, Chester Will-

iams, died in 1848, at the age of forty-eight years. She was born in Ohio, in 1836.

To the parents were born only one child, Lorenzo C., the subject of this sketch. He was reared and educated in Kingston, being but one year of age when brought by his mother to this county. After attending and graduating from the common schools of Kingston, he entered the Northwestern University of Chicago, and spent one year in the study of pharmacy. Previous to this, however, he was in the employ of Dr. J. H. Fellows, and after his return from the university, he bought the establishment of his former employer. He has since been continuously in the drug and grocery business, and his patronage has been equal to that of any other merchant in the place. He is in love with his vocation, and his gentlemanly deportment, his pleasing and affable manner, combined with strict adherence to business principles, make him a successful business man.

On the 26th of November, 1892, Mr. Shaffer was united in marriage with Miss Effie McCollom, a native of De Kalb county, born in Mayfield township, November 5, 1869, and a daughter of Isaac and Roxie McCollom. In addition to his regular business, Mr. Shaffer is secretary of the Kingston Creamery Company. In politics he is a Republican, and has served as a member of the town council for three years. He is a highly respected member of the Masonic fraternity, and also of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**W**ILLIAM VOSBURGH is a practical farmer residing on section 29, Kingston township. He was born in Canada, September 23, 1827, and is the son of John and

Mary (Martin) Vosburgh, both of whom were also natives of Canada. In 1868 the family came to the United States, and located at Belvidere, Illinois, where the mother died the same year. The father returned to Canada the following year, and there his death occurred shortly after his return. By occupation he was a farmer, and was an honest, upright man. He had been a faithful adherent of the established Church of England for fifty-four years. All those years his wife was also a member of the same church, and both died in peace. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom grew to maturity, and are now living at an advanced age.

William Vosburgh was fifth in order of birth, and was reared and educated in Canada. In 1856 he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Williams, a native of Canada, and by this union seven children were born: Emily J., John F., Anna, Elijah, Frank, Carrie and Ernest J. They are all farmers or wives of farmers. Mrs. Vosburgh died in 1896. She was a noble woman of spotless character and upright life, and her death was a great loss to family and friends.

In 1868, Mr. Vosburgh came to Illinois, in company with his parents, and located in Belvidere, Boone county, where he remained but a short time, and then moved to Franklin township, De Kalb county, and subsequently made some other moves, finally locating, in 1877, in Kingston township, where he purchased his present farm of eighty acres, upon which he still continues to reside. He is a practical farmer and a loyal citizen, and strongly advocates the principles of the Republican party. When in his native country he held to the same principles and voted them, but under an-

other name. No man in Kingston township is held in greater esteem than the subject of this sketch.

NICHOLAS WEBER is a farmer residing on section 33, Kingston township. He is a native of Luxemburg, Germany, born June 7, 1831, and is the son of Jacob and Catherine Weber, both of whom were natives of Germany. Jacob Weber was a practical farmer, and followed that vocation all his life, and died when comparatively a young man, October 8, 1843. His wife came to this country in 1864, and died in Chicago in 1869. Their family consisted of eighteen children, twelve of whom grew to maturity, and six came to this country. But three of the entire number are now living.

Nicholas Weber was reared and educated in Germany, where he remained until he was twenty-three years of age, when he emigrated to this country. He came directly to Mayfield township, De Kalb county, Illinois, and has remained in that township, and in Kingston, up to the present time. He was in this country but three years when he bought forty acres of land in its wild state. This was in 1857. That land he improved by the erection of buildings, fencing and tiling the same. To the first forty he added another forty acres which he owned in partnership with his brother Phillip. In 1866, he sold out his interest to his brother, and purchased eighty acres of his present farm, on which he has erected substantial buildings, and otherwise improved the place. To the original eighty he added twenty acres in Mayfield township, then ten acres of timber, and forty acres more of prairie land. With the exception

of twenty acres, his farm all lies in Kingston township. On October 1, 1863, Mr. Weber was united in marriage with Miss Harriet M. Knight, born in Columbus, Adams county, Illinois, June 5, 1840, and a daughter of Samuel and Mary Knight. Her father was born in Maryland, June 28, 1816, while her mother was born in Wilmington, Green county, Vermont, February 21, 1815. Both are now living in Mayfield township, De Kalb county, to which place they removed May 17, 1845, and where there have since resided. Their family numbered ten children, of whom six are now living. They are excellent people and members of the Christian church.

To Nicholas and Harriet M. Weber, six children have been born, four of whom are living. Inez L., born June 30, 1864, married Elmer Hadsall. Clara E., born February 3, 1866, married Henry King. Jerusha E., born July 13, 1867, died December 19, 1872. Amanda J., born September 20, 1869, married Wesley Slafter. Walter S., born November 1, 1873, married Miss Hannah Leonhardt, October 18, 1894, and a daughter of Charles Leonhardt, and they have two children: Louis C., born September 5, 1895; Jesse N., born August 27, 1898. Hattie A., born May 21, 1875, died November 15, 1889. No family in Kingston township is more highly respected than that of our subject.

**T**HOMAS CORNWALL, a retired farmer living in Sycamore, was born in the village of Mardin, Kent county, England, June 8, 1828. His father, William Cornwall, was born in the same town and county. He was a footman to gentlemen and died in 1830 when about thirty years old. The pa-

ternal grandfather, William Cornwall, Sr., was a farm workman and died when past four score years. His wife lived to be about the same age. William Cornwall married Fannie Bottin, by whom he had four children, our subject being the youngest. After his death his widow married Edward Waterman, who came to America in 1848 and died in Virginia about 1858. She died about one year later, leaving six children, four of whom were taken and reared by our subject. Thomas Cornwall grew to manhood in his native country and when old enough secured work as a chore boy, for which he received two pence a day. He later found work on a farm, at which he continued until coming to America in 1847. He sailed for America on the Queen of the West and was five weeks and two days on the ocean, landing in New York in December, 1847. Arriving there he borrowed two dollars and fifty cents to take him to Utica, from which place he walked to Waterville, sixteen miles, where two sisters were then living. The first work secured was in threshing grain with a flail, for which he received three cents per bushel for oats and five cents per bushel for rye. He could thresh about twenty bushels of oats per day. He well remembers the first threshing machine that he ever saw in New York.

In 1849 he returned to England and was there united in marriage with Eliza Ann Ewings, born in Kent county, England, a daughter of David Ewings. By this union there are six children, as follows: Thomas, now residing in Mt. Hope, Kansas; Byron, living on the old home farm in Kane county; William, a farmer of Harper, Kansas; Martha, wife of Henry Winter, of Sycamore; Alonzo, a stationary engineer in Sycamore; and Fred, a teamster residing in Sycamore.



Immediately after marriage Mr. Cornwall returned with his bride to the United States, and until 1858 was employed in various occupations in New York, and then came west to Sycamore, Illinois, and for one year was engaged as a day laborer. In the summer of 1859 he went to California, walking most of the way in company with a party of seven persons. He left Sycamore April 12, and reached Honey Lake valley August 5. He first went to work sawing logs at forty dollars per month and board, and later was engaged in repairing a ditch nine miles long, for which he received three dollars per day and board. He also had an interest in several mines, but none of them proved profitable. For one year he was employed on a salary of seven hundred and fifty dollars, but loaning his money to his employer he lost it all. Later he worked for another man, at fifty dollars per month, and at the end of three years returned to Sycamore with six hundred dollars.

Desiring a home, Mr. Cornwall purchased a small farm of thirty acres north of Sycamore, which he retained four years. Being unable to obtain any land adjoining, he sold the same and went to Campton township, Kane county, Illinois, where he purchased one hundred and twenty-eight acres, and there resided for nine years. He then purchased another farm of one hundred and thirty acres, giving him a total of two hundred and fifty-eight acres, on which he resided until 1885, when he rented the farm to his son Byron, and has later sold to him. On his first place he built two barns and a milk house and spent about one thousand dollars in tiling. He spent some three thousand dollars in building on the two farms. For twelve years he made butter, and of such superior quality that he always

obtained the highest prices, one winter receiving fifty cents per pound. He usually shipped to St. Louis, and at one of the fairs held in that city he took a premium of fifty dollars.

In 1885 Mr. Cornwall came to Sycamore and bought a residence on Maple street, where he has since continued to reside. In politics he is a Republican, and while residing in Campton township was a school director. As already stated, when his mother died he took the children by her second marriage and reared them as his own. He also reared two of his sister's children, and has now living with him his granddaughter Eva, his son Byron's oldest daughter by his first wife. He takes no great credit for what he has done, but, as he says, "simply does his duty." He never chewed or smoked. When seventeen, a large boy attempted to force a chew of tobacco in his mouth, and after a long struggle Mr. Cornwall got the fellow's arm in his teeth and held on until he cried enough.

**R**OBERT WILLIS is one of the most progressive and enterprising farmers of South Grove township, where he has a farm of seven hundred and twenty acres, which is well improved in every respect. He is a native of Somersetshire, England, born in 1838 and is the son of Henry and Sarah Willis, both natives of the same shire. When but two years old his parents died and he therefore never knew the loving care of a father or mother. He remained in his native land until he attained his majority, when he concluded to try his fortunes in the New World. In 1859 he set sail for the United States, and after landing in New York, came direct to South Grove township,

De Kalb county, where he worked one year on a farm by the month, after which he rented a farm and commenced farming on shares, at which he continued for eight years. He then purchased one hundred and twenty acres of partially improved land at twenty dollars per acre. With characteristic energy, he went to work to improve the place and as his means increased he purchased more land until he has now seven hundred and twenty acres, all of which is under cultivation.

Mr. Willis was united in marriage with Miss Maria Rich, also a native of England, and they now have two children, Frank and Albert, both residing at home, and assisting in the cultivation of the farm.

In politics Mr. Willis is a Democrat, and notwithstanding the excessive labors of the farm he has served as school trustee and filled other local official positions. He is a thorough believer in the free school system and has been willing to do his part in advancing the interests of the schools. He and his wife are members of the Church of England, in which body they were reared and in the faith of which they are steadfast. Coming to this country with but little means, but with that determination to succeed, success has crowned his efforts and he is now numbered among the wealthy farmers not only of South Grove township, but of the entire county of De Kalb. Both he and his wife are held in the highest esteem by all who know them.

**J**OHN ARNOLD, a retired farmer living in the village of Leland, is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Victor township, De Kalb county. He is a native of England, and is the son of John

and Alice (Alford) Arnold, also natives of England, and the grandson of William and Elizabeth Arnold, of the same country. John Arnold, Sr., came to the United States in 1851, and located in New York, where he resided for two years, and then came to Kane county, Illinois, where he rented a farm of three hundred acres, which he cultivated about three years, and then moved to Victor township, De Kalb county, where he continued farming until his death.

John Arnold, our subject, was born in Lincolnshire, England, December 11, 1823, and in his native shire grew to manhood, and on the 3rd of October, 1844, was united in marriage with Jane Palmer, also a native of Lincolnshire, born January 29, 1825. Immediately after his marriage, he opened a butcher shop in Dyke, England, which he continued to run until his emigration to the United States in 1851, when he crossed the ocean in company with his parents and with his family. For three years he remained in New York state, working at anything which he could find to do. In the fall of 1854 he came to Illinois and located in Kane county, where he engaged in farming on rented land, until 1858. He then moved to Victor township, De Kalb county, and purchased a farm of eighty acres, which he sold in 1865; he then bought one hundred and sixty acres. He became quite a successful farmer, and made many improvements upon the place. He was a raiser of full-blooded Durham cattle, Poland-China and Chester-White hogs, in all of which he met with success.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have six living children. William has been twice married, his first union being with Elizabeth Woodcock, and after her death, married Sarah Woodcock. They reside in Victor town-

ship, where he is engaged in farming. Joseph is single, and makes his home with his brother William, although he is the owner of a fine farm which he cultivates. Henry married Ellen Nicholson, by whom he has two children. They reside in Calhoun county, Iowa, where he is engaged in farming. John P. married Julia Rowley, and they reside in Calhoun county, Iowa, where he is also engaged in farming. Isaac married Ella Barnes, and they reside in Victor township, where he is engaged in farming. Charles, a farmer, married Clara Burnham, and they also reside in Victor township.

In politics Mr. Arnold was a Republican until the nomination of Cleveland in 1884, since which time he has voted the Democratic ticket. He is a well-known and highly respected citizen, and his friends are numerous in both De Kalb and La Salle counties.

**E**NOCH DARNELL, deceased, was a well-to-do farmer in De Kalb county. He was born in North Carolina, May 12, 1829. His father, John Darnell, and his grandfather, Benjamin Darnell, were people of prominence and respectability in their day and locality. John Darnell removed from North Carolina to Indiana, in 1832, and there remained two years, then removed to Kendall county, Illinois, locating near the Fox river. He remained there engaged in farming, until 1868, when he came to De Kalb county, and located in Afton township, where he purchased eighty acres of improved land. There he remained until his death November 3, 1878, at the age of fifty-eight years.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Kendall county, Illinois, and received a

limited education in its public schools. On the 1st of January, 1855, he was united in marriage with Cynthia A. Woods, a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, born November 23, 1823, and a daughter of David and Catherine Woods, who emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kendall county, Illinois, in 1846, at which place she met and married Mr. Darnell, and from which place she removed with him to De Kalb county. By this union two children were born; Newton, born December 5, 1858, grew to manhood, and married Miss Emma Marshall, January 1, 1888, and a daughter of John and Eliza Marshall, of Charter Grove, Illinois. She was born in De Kalb county. To this happy union four children have been born, George, Arthur, Nellie and Alice. Willis, born August 13, 1865, is yet single.

Enoch Darnell, like his namesake of old, was an exemplary man. He was a member of the United Brethren church, and was honorable in all his ways, practicing what he professed, and confessing that what he believed, always adhering strictly to the golden rule. His death occurred in 1878, while yet in the prime of life. Mrs. Darnell is a consistent member of the United Brethren church, and an estimable woman in character and life. Her sons work the home farm, but she still retains her claim to it, from which she draws her interest annually.

**P**ATRICK LEONARD, deceased, was a practical farmer, who resided on section 1, Kingston township, where he owned and operated a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He was born in Queens county, Ireland, in 1842, and was a son of John and Margaret Leonard, both of whom were

natives of the same country. The former died in Ireland, while in the prime of life, and in 1871, Mrs. Leonard emigrated to the United States and located in Rhode Island, with some relatives who preceded her. Of their family of five children, three are yet living, our subject being second in order of birth.

Patrick Leonard came to the United States in 1845, at the age of fifteen years. He located first in Boone county, Illinois, where he remained a few years, and then came to De Kalb county, locating in Sycamore, where he made himself useful as a farm hand and teamster. He proved himself a faithful employee in every respect, having the full confidence of his employers. In 1862, when his adopted country's honor was at stake, when so many of America's sons proved traitors and recreants, he willingly offered himself as a private soldier and was enrolled in Company A. One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served his adopted country faithfully and well, until his discharge at the close of the war.

On his return to civil life, Mr. Leonard located in Genoa township, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. On the 2nd of December, 1866, he was united in marriage with Miss Jeannette Strong, a native of Genoa, Illinois, born February 1, 1846, and a daughter of William and Sabrina Strong, both of whom came to this country in an early day, the latter in 1838, and the former about 1842. They were united in marriage in Genoa, in 1845, and there their family was reared. Mr. Strong was a native of Ohio, born July 24, 1817, and died August 30, 1889. His wife was born in Pennsylvania, March 30, 1825, and died March 26, 1886. To Mr. and Mrs. Leon-

ard eleven children were born, eight of whom are yet living—Henry, William, Alice, John, Joseph P., Jeannette, Charles and Sabrina.

Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Leonard purchased a farm on section 1, Kingston township, containing eighty acres, forty of which he subsequently sold. To the forty which he retained, he added one hundred and twenty acres more, all of which is now owned by his widow. Fraternally he was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, religiously a Roman Catholic, politically a Republican, and naturally a lover of freedom, liberty and equal rights, and an enemy to any government which enslaved men or held them in the bonds of tyranny. He died February 27, 1889, leaving a host of friends to lament his death.

ROBERT R. QUIGLEY is a farmer and carpenter residing on section 15, Kingston township. He was born in Portland, Chautauqua county, New York, August 1, 1834, and is the son of John and Amanda (Brainard) Quigley, both of whom were also natives of Portland, New York. In his youth, John Quigley learned the carpenter's trade, which occupation he followed in connection with farming during the latter part of his life. When a young man he was a sailor on the lakes, and commanded vessels on those waters, and was twice shipwrecked. He was in company with those who raised the hulls of the Lake Erie and Mayflower, vessels that were burned on the lake. A daring and courageous man, he won the favor of those who knew him. His father, John Quigley, Sr., was a native of Ireland, and served as a soldier in the war of 1812, dying at the age of one hundred and one

years, six months and six days. John Quigley, Jr., and his family came to Illinois, in 1861, making his home with his son, Robert R., who came at the same time, and located in Kingston township, on section 8, where he purchased a farm of fifty-five acres. During his residence there he followed the carpenter's trade extensively, his work being in demand all over the neighborhood where he resided. He died October 17, 1885, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife died November 21, 1889, also aged seventy-seven years. They were exemplary Christian people, the husband and father being an extremely close Bible student, and made good use of the knowledge thus obtained.

Robert R. Quigley was reared and educated at the place of his birth, and as his father was an expert with plane and saw, he, too, soon became proficient in the use of carpenter's tools, and during the life time of his father they worked together at their trade. At Dunkirk, New York, November 6, 1853, he was united in marriage with Miss Ann S. Lucas, a native of Genesee county, New York, born November 1, 1833, and a daughter of Eli and Mary Lucas. In 1861, as already stated, he came to De Kalb county, and followed his trade in connection with farming, until 1892, when he sold his farm, and removed to a small place, where, in the congenial companionship of his wife, he lives in peaceful retirement. They are both members of the Baptist church and worthy Christian people. By his fellow citizens, Mr. Quigley has been honored with various offices, serving as collector one term, school director seventeen years, constable four years, and road commissioner nine years. He is a man held in high esteem for his true worth and excellent character.

JAMES EDMUND ELLWOOD, postmaster of Sycamore, was born in Springfield, Otsego county, New York, April 26, 1831, and was ninth in a family of seven brothers and four sisters who have been prominently and intimately connected with the commercial and social life of Sycamore and De Kalb for many years. Truly brotherly in sentiment, as each younger one was ready to enter upon business life, the older ones always extended a helping hand and always stuck together in their business enterprises, and in fraternal intercourse the concord never being broken.

Abraham Ellwood, the father of our subject, was born in Montgomery county, New York, near Springfield Hollow, where his father left him a large, well stocked farm. Being quite young at the time he succeeded to the property, and being of a sympathetic nature, he endorsed heavily for a friend, losing nearly all his possessions, a part only being saved through the influence of a brother. With his brothers-in-law, he later secured a contract to build a part of the New York Central railroad, and subsequently contracted to widen and deepen a section of the Erie canal. Both contracts proved profitable, and put him on his feet again. He married Sarah De Long, born in the Mohawk Valley, New York, and a daughter of James and Lydia (Krankheit) De Long, the latter being a native of Holland, and one of the heirs to an old estate in that country. In 1855, with his wife, he came west with his son, Alonzo, who had been east buying goods, and liking the country, he concluded to remain. Leaving his wife, he returned to his old home, sold his property, and coming to Sycamore, they here spent their last days, he dying August 24, 1872, at the age of seventy-nine years,

nine months and seventeen days. His wife survived him, dying January 17, 1879, at the age of eighty-three years, ten months and twenty-six days.

When our subject was a small boy the family moved to Montgomery county, New York, and in 1843 to Iliou, Herkimer county, in the same state, where our subject resided two years. He then spent three years with a sister at Cherry Valley, New York, and two years with a brother, a broom manufacturer, at Schenectady, New York. He attended schools in the various places where he lived during his school age. At the age of twenty he took a five years lease on one hundred and sixty acres of land in Mohawk Flats for the purpose of cultivating broom corn. He sold his lease after one year and took a position with a brother in a grocery store at Frankford Lock, where he remained one year.

At the request of his brother, Reuben, who had previously been in Sycamore, Mr. Ellwood came to De Kalb county, arriving here April 7, 1855. With his brother, Reuben, they leased and planted one thousand acres in broom corn, but, it being a year of great prostration in business, the crop, which was sold in Philadelphia, was not so remunerative as anticipated. His brother then returned to New York, and the next year he alone raised about five hundred acres of broom corn, and then sold the buildings, machinery, etc., and in partnership with his brother, Chauncey, engaged in the general mercantile business at Sycamore. Three months later General Dustin came to Sycamore to visit Judge James, and feeling satisfied with the place, purchased Chauncey's interest in the store, and the firm of Ellwood & Dustin continued the business for three years, when General Dustin retired, that he

might enter the service of his country during the Rebellion, and our subject continued the business alone for one year, when Charles D. Bennett became a partner. Owing to the gradual and regular increase of values during the war, the business was very prosperous. In three years Mr. Ellwood bought his partner's interest, and for seventeen years ran the business alone and was very successful. About this time, in partnership with his brother, Alonzo, they erected a part of Central block on State street, where they went into business together and continued three years. Mr. Ellwood then sold to George M. Sivwright and invested in the stock of the R. Ellwood Manufacturing Company, from which he later withdrew. Since that time he has operated in western lands, and has now a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, well improved and stocked, in Iowa.

In 1851 Mr. Ellwood was united in marriage with Miss Lodeska H. Fellows, a native of Mindenville, Herkimer county, New York, and a daughter of Newton and Sarah (Stoddard) Fellows. By this union six children were born, four of whom died in infancy or early childhood. The living are: Sarah A. and James B. The former married B. W. Paine, and they have one son, James Claude Paine, a practicing physician and a graduate of the medical department of the Northwestern University, Chicago. He received his diploma in June, 1898. Before his graduation he had considerable experience in the hospitals of Chicago and charity practice in the city. He is now located in Peoria, Illinois. The son, James B., is holding an important position in the office of the Diamond Match Company, at Chicago. He is a graduate of the Sycamore High School, and also took a course

in the Illinois College at Jacksonville. He has traveled extensively over the United States, in the interest of the Diamond Match Company, and has spent two years in South America.

In politics Mr. Ellwood is a staunch Republican and has always taken an active part in political affairs, but has persistently refused office, city, county or state. For the last few years, having little to employ his time, and being accustomed to a life of business activity, he applied for the position of postmaster at Sycamore, received the appointment and took charge of the office October 1, 1898. For forty years he has been a member of the Masonic fraternity, and although he keeps his dues paid, he seldom attends the meetings of the lodge. His life has been an active one, and he is a thorough representative of the best interests of his adopted city and country.

**A** GATES WHITE, mayor of the city of Sandwich, Illinois, was born in Elmira, New York, March 2, 1841, and is the son of Seth M. and Sarah (Ray) White. The father, who was a farmer and blacksmith by occupation, first came west in 1854, remained two years, then returned to his native state, and in 1861 again came west, locating at Sandwich, where his death occurred March 20, 1891. He was born February 3, 1810. His wife, born August 12, 1815, in Orange county, New York, died August 31, 1892, in Sandwich, Illinois. They were married August 22, 1833, in the town of Southport, Chemung county, New York. They were originally members of the old-school Presbyterian church, but on coming to Sandwich became identified with

the Congregational church, in which faith they died.

Seth M. White was the son of Dr. Amos Gates White, a celebrated physician of Chemung county, New York, to which county he removed from Berkshire county, Massachusetts. The family traces their ancestry back to the seventeenth century, when one of the name came to America in the Mayflower. Dr. Amos G. White was born in Richmond, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, December 17, 1768, and died February 5, 1833, and was buried at Elmira, New York. His wife was Abigail Marvin, and they were married at Goshen, New York, February 2, 1798. She was a sister of General Marvin, of Revolutionary fame. His mother was a sister of General Gates, also a noted officer in the Revolution. General Seth Marvin, the father of Abigail, was a native of Orange county, New York, where his daughter was also born, April 23, 1778. She died at Seeley Creek, New York, July 30, 1816, and was buried at Elmira, New York. The children of Dr. White were as follows: (1) Emily A., born July 31, 1799, married Harvey Jones, of Elmira, New York. Their children were William, deceased; Austin, deceased; Frank, Edward and Elliott. The family moved to Marion, Iowa, in the '50s, and both parents are now deceased. (2) Elvira Green, born November 24, 1801, married Colonel Samuel Baker, of Elmira, New York, and the latter moved to Sun Prairie, near Madison, Wisconsin, and both are now deceased. Their family now reside in Wisconsin and Nebraska. (3) Marcus Aurelius, born December 28, 1803, died in the spring of 1884. He married Betsy McConnell, of Chemung county, New York, but she is now deceased. Their children were Amos, deceased; Emily

and Mary Ann. (4) Orlina Rebecca, born March 11, 1806, married Hunt M. Pomeroy. She died in the early '30s. Her only child was Marcus Mills Pomeroy, known the world over as "Brick Pomeroy." (5) Diana Hyde, born March 26, 1808, died unmarried. (6) Seth Marvin, the father of our subject, born February 3, 1810. (7) Alanson Austin, born October 24, 1811, died November 12, 1877, at the residence of our subject. (8) Sally Closson, born October 21, 1813, married Alpheus A. Sanderson. They moved to Red Wing, Minnesota, in the early '50s and both died there. Their children were Triphena, Mary, Charles, Seth, Loretta, Judge A. E., Helen, Marcus and Frank. (9) William Wells, born July 1, 1816, died November 12, of the same year.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm at Southport, New York. He was the only child of his parents that lived to maturity. In the country schools he obtained his education, and when quite young commenced railroading with the Williamsport & Almira Railway, serving one year as fireman. In 1858 he came west and located in Sandwich, where he learned the machinist trade, but engaged in farming and railroading for a time. Returning to New York he remained a short time, and in 1861 again came west and went into the machine shops at Sandwich and remained one year, finishing his trade. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as a private, served three years, and was discharged as a sergeant. He started from Louisville, marching through Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, joining Sherman at Murfreesboro, in the spring of 1863. He took part in the Atlanta campaign, and had

charge of a foraging party a part of the time. He was in nineteen hard-fought battles, and never missed but one fight in which his regiment took part, which was at Bentonville, North Carolina. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and was in the grand review at Washington, from which place he was sent to Chicago, and there mustered out.

The war closing, Mr. White went to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he was in the employ of Brick Pomeroy for a time. He then returned to Sandwich, and began grading, being foreman of a gang on the Fox River Railroad, now a part of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy system. He was next in charge of track laying, then ran a train as conductor for several years. He has served in all capacities, running an engine, conductor, train master and superintendent of the construction department of the building of the Texas & Pacific Railroad. While in the latter business he made his home at Dallas, Texas, where he built a street car line from the river to the Texas Central depot.

Returning from Texas in about 1872, he went to Indiana, in charge of grading a railroad, but was there only six months. He then came back to Sandwich, but soon afterward went to Kansas, as a conductor on the Sante Fe Railroad, making his home first at Florence, and later at Emporia. While residing in the latter city, he built a street car line. Leaving the Sante Fe after several years service, he moved to Fort Scott, Kansas, and was conductor on the Missouri Pacific Railway. Later he was train master on the same road, during the construction of a part of its system. In 1887 he returned to Illinois, and was conductor on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad for



nearly two years, running from Aurora to Savannah. Returning to Sandwich he entered the employ of the Sandwich Enterprise Company, serving that company for six years.

Mr. White was united in marriage April 19, 1867, with Miss Sarah A. Dean, daughter of Nelson A. Dean, then residing near Sandwich. Her death occurred some three years later. Mr. White was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary B. Sanders, *née* Yourt, daughter of Alexander Yourt. Religiously she is a member of the Presbyterian church in which she takes an active part.

Fraternally Mr. White is a Mason and has attained the Knight Templar degree. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Socially he is an honorary member of the Highland Association of Chicago, of which he was at one time president. This is an organization of Saxon and Celtic Unions. Politically Mr. White is a Republican. In 1895, he was elected mayor of Sandwich, receiving a good majority. In 1897 he was re-elected without opposition. During the three years of his incumbency, it is said that he has made more improvements than in twenty years preceding. New walks have been constructed, streets graded, electric lights introduced, and an opera house erected in that time. Progressive in all things he makes a No. 1 official.

**H**ON. REUBEN ELLWOOD, deceased, was for many years the most noted citizen of De Kalb county. He was born in Minden, Montgomery county, New York, February 17, 1821, and was the son of Abraham and Sarah (DeLong) Ellwood. His early life was spent in his native state, and

his primary education was obtained in the common schools, but it was in the school of experience that his education was principally received. He was a very vigorous and energetic youth, and desired to be something more than a common laborer during life, and to that end he struck out for the great west when only sixteen years old. In 1837 he came to De Kalb county and entered a claim to one hundred and sixty acres of land near Sycamore, and for four years worked for various farmers in the vicinity until he could prove up on his claim. He then returned to his old home in New York, where, after resting for a short time, he became a student in Cherry Valley Seminary for about six months.

Resolving upon a business career, Mr. Ellwood went to Glenville, Schenectady county, New York, and engaged in raising broom corn and in the manufacture of brooms, continuing in that line of business for about eight years. In 1857 he again came to De Kalb county and became associated with his brother, Alonzo, in the general hardware trade at Sycamore, and at the same time engaged in the real estate business. In 1870 he commenced the manufacture of agricultural implements at Sycamore, and in 1875 commenced the erection of the large buildings which were afterward used by the R. Ellwood Manufacturing Company, in which he invested about fifty thousand dollars. To the building up of that manufactory he gave his best energies, and it became one of Sycamore's most noted institutions. To other enterprises he gave of his time and means, believing in the beneficial effect of manufacturing institutions.

While yet residing in his native state Mr. Ellwood became interested in political affairs, and was elected a member of the

legislature of New York in 1851. On the organization of the Republican party he espoused its principles and was among his most earnest champions during the remainder of his life. On coming to De Kalb county his merits as a leader were soon recognized, and he became the first mayor of the city after its incorporation. In 1866 he was appointed United States assessor of internal revenue, and filled the position until it was abolished by law. In 1868 was the choice of the Republicans of De Kalb county for representative in congress. In 1882 he was nominated for congress and elected by a large majority, and re-elected in 1884, serving until his death in July, 1885. He made a very efficient member, and his death was the nation's loss.

Mr. Ellwood was married August 8, 1849, to Miss Eleanor Vedder, a native of Schenectady county, New York, and they became the parents of six children—Abram, Albert, Frank, Katie, Jennie and Alida.

**L**ERNED E. GLEASON, who is engaged in tilling the soil and leading the quiet and peaceful life of a farmer on section 5, Kingston township, was born in Girard, Erie county, Pennsylvania, September 15, 1836. He is the son of E. L. and Polly Ann (Spink) Gleason, the former born in Franklin county, Massachusetts, April 7, 1806, and the latter in Vermont, April 5, 1815.

E. L. Gleason was a man of rare talents, well qualified to fill positions of trust and honor. Being possessed of a good education, for a number of years he was engaged in teaching school. In 1840 he decided to come west and located in Boone county, Illinois, where he resided until his

death, which occurred March 1, 1887, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. He was a good, practical farmer and at the time of his death was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of finely cultivated land. In politics he was a staunch Republican, and served his township in the capacity of township trustee for a period of nine years to the entire satisfaction of ail concerned. E. L. Gleason and Polly Ann Spink were united in marriage June 2, 1833, and to them were born six children, four of whom yet survive: Amos H., Mary, Ellen and Lerner E. Amos H. is a graduate of Hillsdale College, where he took up the study of law, for a life work, and in 1874 was admitted to the bar.

Lerner E. Gleason, the subject of this review, was reared and educated in the common schools of Boone county, Illinois. He always resided at home and confined himself to agricultural pursuits, and when age began to tell on his father he took charge of the home place. Mr. Gleason removed from Boone to De Kalb county in 1867, where he purchased eighty acres of highly cultivated land. He pursues no special line, but engages in general farming. Of good business qualifications and practical farming ideas, he has made a success at the calling in which so many fail.

On January 7, 1876, Mr. Gleason was united in marriage with Miss Julia H. Crittenden, a daughter of P. S. and Maria L. Crittenden. To this union came one daughter, Katie L., born November 8, 1879, and whose death occurred August 3, 1881. Mrs. Gleason was born in Boone county, Illinois, September 29, 1847, and there received her education. Her parents were pioneers of Boone county, removing from the east in February, 1835, and coming direct to Illi-

nois. P. S. Crittenden taught school at that time and was also an instructor in vocal music. Religiously he and his wife were both members of the Baptist church, in which body he served as deacon for a number of years and was, in fact, one of the pillars of the church. In politics he was a Republican and held several township offices with credit. He died on the 31st of August, 1873, preceded three years by his wife, whose demise occurred April 14, 1870. Their family numbered nine, of whom five are yet living: Elmira, Rosalthe, Esther, Julia and Isaac. The latter is a lawyer of distinction and a graduate of Hillsdale College.

Politically our subject is a Republican and is a firm believer in the principles of that party. He has been elected to a number of local offices, fulfilling the trust in a highly satisfactory manner, among which is that of school board treasurer of the township for thirteen years, constable for eight years, justice of the peace sixteen years, school trustee six years, been pathmaster twenty years, and for the past ten years has been serving efficiently as the postmaster of Colvin Park. In these various offices, with their cares and petty annoyances, he has acquitted himself most creditably, discharging every duty in his usual faithful manner.

**W**ILLIAM A. DENNIS is engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business in Sandwich, Illinois, and is also a justice of the peace, a position which he has held for sixteen years. He is a native of De Kalb county, born on a farm in Somonauk township, September 26, 1852, and is the son of Major and Mary A. (Harmon) Dennis, the former a native of Mas-

sachusetts and the latter of North Carolina. By occupation, Major Dennis was a farmer, which vocation he followed during his entire life. In 1834 he came from his native state to Illinois, and settled on Somonauk Creek, Somonauk township, where he took up a tract of government land, which is now owned by our subject. That land he improved, and there resided until his death, which occurred January 10, 1856. His marriage with Mary A. Harmon was celebrated February 10, 1842. She was born March 28, 1817, and died June 25, 1897. In 1834, she accompanied her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Harmon, to De Kalb county, Illinois. Her parents were among the first settlers in Somonauk township, locating here about the time of the Blackhawk war. At that time the country was in its primitive state, and there was no grist mill for many miles. In order to obtain flour and meal, they would burn a hollow in a log or block of wood, into which the grain was put, and converted into flour by the use of an iron wedge for a pestle. Wild animals and Indians were always near them, the old Indian Chief, Shabbona, known in history as the white settlers' friend, being a frequent visitor to their home. If Indians chanced to visit the house at mealtime, they would simply say "eat," "eat," and help themselves. But always on the following day, some Indian would bring a mess of fish in payment, and for the purpose of trading for salt and other commodities. As Mrs. Dennis was conversant with the Pottawattomie language, this intercourse was not difficult. Mr. Dennis was a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in early days was very active in church. She was the mother of four children as follows: Waity O., wife of J. E. Baker, general

agent of the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company, by whom she has two children, Mattie and Leroy. Shepard, who married Myra Wallace, by whom he had one son, Edward, died at the age of twenty-six years, leaving his wife and son, who are still living. Rebecca, widow of C. S. Lewis, of Aurora. She has one daughter, Estella, principal in the shorthand department of the Palmer shorthand school. The subject of this sketch completes the family.

William A. Dennis grew to manhood on the farm in Somonauk township, and received his education in the common schools. The old homestead of his father he now owns, having purchased the interest of the other heirs. The farm consists of one hundred and twenty-one acres, well improved with orchard, good dwelling and various outbuildings. On the farm he resided until March, 1898, when he rented the place and moved to Sandwich, where he is now giving special attention to his loan and real estate business. He is also agent for some of the best insurance companies in the country, including the Niagara and Home of New York. He has built up quite an extensive business, and enjoys the confidence of his fellow men in a remarkable degree. For the past two years he has been a notary public.

Mr. Dennis was married March 29, 1882, at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Chicago, to Miss Maggie M. Wallace, a native of Jefferson county, New York, and a daughter of Hamilton and Mary Ann Wallace, of Scotch extraction. By this union six children have been born—Millie M., Carrie H., Minnie E., Cora, Blanche and Estella.

In politics Mr. Dennis is an ardent Republican, and fraternally a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. The family are attendants of the Methodist Episco-

pal church. He is a good lively business man, enterprising in all things, and believes in keeping abreast of the times.

**RICHARD L. DIVINE**, deceased, was one of the most popular attorneys that ever practiced at the De Kalb county bar. He was born in Fallsburg, Sullivan county, New York, September 27, 1832, and was the youngest of ten children born to James and Mehitable (Hall) Divine. His father was a native of the same town and county, to which place the grandfather of our subject moved in 1794. James Divine became a very prominent man in Sullivan county and filled various offices of honor and trust.

In his native county our subject spent his boyhood and youth, and in the common schools received his primary education, afterwards attending a select school taught by Henry R. Lowe at Fallsburg, after which he spent eight years in teaching in his native county, in the meantime studying law with George W. Lord, of Monticello, New York. In 1857 he was elected school commissioner of Sullivan county, but in the fall of that year came west to Michigan and engaged in teaching at Allegan. In the spring of 1858 he came to Sycamore and entered the office of Hon. E. L. Mayo, but in the winter following taught a term of school in Cortland township, and in March, 1860, was admitted to practice. Forming a partnership with Mr. Mayo he rapidly rose to prominence as a counsellor and advocate.

Mr. Divine was married at Sycamore, August 11, 1862, to Miss Susan S. Smith, a native of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, and a daughter of James M. and Martha (Lowell) Smith. By this union the following named children were born: Henry, Mary Beatrice,

Richard L., Gertrude A., James Joseph and Charles A.

Politically Mr. Divine was a Republican, and in 1872 was elected presidential elector, and in 1875 was elected mayor of Sycamore. In 1867, in partnership with Moses Dean and Daniel Pierce, he embarked in the banking business, which relation was continued four years, when he withdrew and formed a partnership with C. O. Boynton, and under the firm name of Divine & Boynton again engaged in the banking business, in which he continued until failing health necessitated his retirement. His death occurred August 22, 1882, and his death left a void in the community hard to fill. In social life he was the rarest of companions. No man had more warmer or truer friends.

**N** J. HILL.—No foreign element has become a more important part in our American citizenship than that furnished by Norway. The emigrants from that land have brought with them to the New World the stability, enterprise and perseverance characteristic of their people, and have fused these qualities with the progressiveness and indomitable spirit of the west. The subject of this sketch, who is now living a retired life in the village of Leland, was for years one of the active and enterprising farmers of Victor township who came to De Kalb county in 1861. He is a native of Norway, and is a son of Jens and Martha Hills, both of whom were also natives of Norway and came to this country in 1859, locating in De Kalb county, making their home with their sons. Our subject, however, preceded them to this country, coming in 1856, first locating in La Salle county, Illinois, where he engaged in

farming, working the land on shares. He continued to be thus occupied until 1861, when he purchased seventy-five acres of land in Victor township, to which he removed and began its cultivation. Later he added fifty acres and there resided until his removal to the village of Leland in 1891.

Mr. Hill was married in 1856 to Miss Mary Olson, a native of Norway, who also came to this country in 1856, and a daughter of Ole and Milin Olson, both natives of Norway, but are now deceased. By this union were four children, one of whom died in infancy. John grew to manhood, married Annie Tobis and lives in Paw Paw township, where he is engaged in farming. Martha married Martin Olson and they reside in Leland, Illinois. Ole is married and lives in Victor township where he is engaged in farming.

After moving to his farm, Mr. Hill made many improvements in the place, planting an orchard and setting out ornamental trees, tiling the land, and the erection of a substantial residence and good barns. Coming to this country with but limited means he has attained success in his chosen calling, and by his industry and thrifty habits is now enabled to live a retired life, enjoying the fruits of former toil. He and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the Lutheran church in which faith they were reared. They are well respected people and have many friends.

**F**RANK D. LOWMAN, editor and proprietor of the Sandwich Free Press, Sandwich, Illinois, was born in Somonauk, De Kalb county, Illinois, March 22, 1866, and is the son of John and Melissa (Davis) Lowman, the former a native of Pennsyl-

vania and the latter of New York. John Lowman was a tinner by trade, having served his apprenticeship at Harrisburg and at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, December 4, 1826. His father, the grandfather of our subject, died when he was but nine years of age, and he was then thrown on his own resources. In 1855 he came west, locating first in Ottawa, Illinois, where he remained some five years and then moved to Somonauk, where he resided until his death, October 10, 1897. He married Melissa Davis at Little Rock, Kendall county, April 26, 1865. His widow is yet living, an honored resident of Sandwich. She is a member of the Congregational church. Her parents, Joshua and Mahala Davis, are both still living at Somonauk, aged respectively eighty-six and eighty-two years. They came to Illinois in the '50s, where the father engaged in farming, but is now living a retired life. To John and Melissa Lowman four children were born, of whom our subject is the eldest. The others are Clara, wife of A. F. Kestermeier, of South Chicago, where he is engaged in running a department store. Katherine is the wife of W. M. Hay, a farmer in De Kalb county. John Earl resides at home.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the Somonauk High School, after which he entered the office of the Somonauk Reveille to learn the printing trade, and there continued for four years. He then worked in printing offices in Sandwich for a time and later was editor of the Plano News for three years. He bought the Free Press of Sandwich February 14, 1898, and has since been its editor and proprietor. The Free Press is one of the best local papers in northern Illinois and has gained a

large circulation and is fast becoming a popular and model paper. It is published weekly and presents a neat and attractive appearance. It is printed on a modern power press and the office from which it is issued is well equipped for job printing of every kind.

Fraternally Mr. Lowman is a member of the Masonic order and politically he is a Republican, taking great interest in political affairs. He is a man of good business qualifications and has a practical knowledge of every detail of his business. A man of fine physique, of a genial and generous nature, patriotic and public spirited.

REV. GILBERT H. ROBERTSON, D. D., of Sandwich, Illinois, is one of the most widely known men residing in De Kalb county. He was born in Washington county, New York, November 28, 1831, and is the son of Archibald and Anna (Robinson) Robertson, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Scotland, but who came to this country with her parents, when but six years of age. His paternal grandfather, William Robertson, was a native of Ireland, but of Scotch descent. He came to America about 1770. His wife was a Miss Livingston, and both families were quite prominent in the early history of Washington county, New York.

Archibald Robertson was a farmer, which occupation he followed his entire life. He never held or aspired to office, but gave his best endeavors to the farm and farming interests. He was reared in the Scotch Presbyterian church, and was a life-long member of the same. His family were brought up on the shorter catechism, as the epitome

of Christian doctrine. He died in 1850, at the age of seventy years. His wife, who was also a life-long member of the Scotch Presbyterian church, died in August, 1849, when about sixty years of age. Our subject is the youngest of their ten children. Of these five are yet living: Thomas, who now resides in Chicago, at the age of eighty-six years; Captain Duncan, who resides on the home farm; Jeannette, widow of Edward Law, resides in Missouri; Kate, widow of Alexander Lourie, resides in Keokuk, Iowa. The deceased are William, Archibald, Mary, Ann E. and John.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm, and after receiving his primary education in the public schools, entered Union College, Schenectady, New York, from which he was graduated in 1849. He later entered the Theological Seminary of the Associate Presbyterian church at Cansonsburg, Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in 1855. Leaving the seminary, he went out as a missionary through New York and Pennsylvania, and in 1858, the Associate and the Associate Reform Presbyterian churches having united a few days previously, he was ordained, being the first minister ordained in the United Presbyterian church. He then filled the pulpit of the Hebron Presbyterian church, in Hebron, Washington county, New York, for two years. In the spring of 1860, he accepted a call to the Park Presbyterian church, in Troy, New York, where he remained nearly five years, resigning because of failing health from disease incurred while serving the Christian commission during the famous battles of the wilderness and Spotsylvania. In the spring of 1865, he came to Sandwich, Illinois, arriving here the day before President Lincoln was assassinated.

The president was assassinated Friday night, April 14, 1865, and on Sunday night following he preached a memorial sermon by request of citizens, who had assembled in mass meeting. He took for his text, "And the children of Israel wept for Moses on the plains of Moab." The preaching of this sermon was a herculean task. The hall was filled to overflowing, and every expectation was at its height. Much was expected of the new minister, who had only arrived the previous Thursday. The attention was all that could be desired, and in due time the speaker who had begun to warm up, enthused the audience to such an extent that their highest expectations were more than realized. The meeting and that address were frequently spoken of for months and years.

After remaining in Sandwich about two years, Dr. Robertson went to Springfield, Illinois, as pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, and was there for four years.

In the summer of 1870 Dr. Robertson received and accepted a unanimous call from the Chestnut Street Presbyterian church, of Louisville, Kentucky, one of the largest and wealthiest churches in the state. During his pastorate in that city he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, from Danville College, Danville, Kentucky. In the winter of 1872-73, he became editor of the Louisville Daily and Weekly Commercial, the leading Republican paper of the state, of which General John M. Harlan, later one of the justices of the supreme court of the United States, was the leading owner.

In 1874 Dr. Robertson returned to Sandwich, and took charge of the Sandwich Gazette, and for nearly seventeen years

was its editor and publisher. He was then appointed deputy collector of revenue, with headquarters in Chicago. He had charge of the butterine department, looking after the seven factories then in operation in Chicago. The seven factories one month made between five and six million pounds of butterine. Their output was nearly forty million pounds per year. In addition to looking after the factories, he had charge of the wholesale and retail dealers, about fifteen hundred in number, who were each required to secure license for the sale of butterine. With the change of administration, he retired from that office.

Dr. Robertson was married May 30, 1859, to Miss Mary L. Beveridge, daughter of Rev. Thomas Beveridge, D. D., who for many years was the leading professor of the Theological Seminary, of the Associate and afterwards of the United Presbyterian church. Her paternal grandfather, Rev. Thomas Beveridge, came from Scotland, and was one of the first ministers in Washington county, New York, and until his death was pastor of the Cambridge church. Her mother belonged to the McKee family, many of whom are prominent citizens of the same county.

To Dr. and Mrs. Robertson three children have been born. William H. is the secretary of the Midland Elevator Company, on the Board of Trade, Chicago. He married Miss Fannie Schnelly, of Peoria, and they have one child, Dorothy. She was formerly a very successful teacher in the Sandwich public schools. Bessie is the wife of S. P. Sedgwick, cashier of the Sedgwick Bank of Sandwich, and they have three children: Ray, Westel and Marjorie. Harry is now in Missouri engaged in newspaper work. He has traveled extensively

in Australia, Sandwich Islands, and the United States.

Dr. Robertson in his various relations in private and public life, has always been the same earnest, upright, capable and courteous gentleman, winning and holding the confidence and esteem of all who know him. He has many amiable qualities and good business methods have tended to make him popular in all classes with whom he comes in contact. He and his most estimable wife are greatly beloved, and their influence for good can scarcely be overestimated. Earnest in all he undertakes, and possessing rare powers of exhortation, he can bring home to the hearts and conscience of his hearers their shortcomings as few public speakers can.

**G**EORGE W. MONTAGUE, who owns a farm of one hundred and sixty-two acres in section 20, Victor township, is now living a retired life in the village of Leland. He was born in Cromwell, Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, in 1827, and there grew to manhood and received a good common-school education. He is the son of Daniel and Jane (Clugage) Montague, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Pennsylvania. By occupation the father was a farmer, a vocation that he followed during his entire life.

In his youth, Mr. Montague learned the carpenter's trade, and followed that occupation until the breaking out of the war for the Union. In 1847, he came west and located at Little Rock, Kendall county, Illinois, which was his home for a number of years. He was united in marriage July 1, 1855, with Miss Mary Mulkey, a native of Ashe county, North Carolina, and a daughter



of William and Sarah (Cox) Mulkey, both of whom were also natives of the same state. There was but one child by this union, William A., who grew to manhood, and married Esther Scoval, and is now engaged in farming in Victor township. They have four children: Alice, Charles, Herbert and Jessie.

When the war for the union was in progress and men were in demand, Mr. Montague enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. With his regiment he was engaged in the battle of Chickasaw Bayou, the siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Jackson, Mississippi, Mission Ridge, and the Atlanta campaign. He was then in the march through Georgia and the Carolinas, and was discharged in June, 1865. A brother was also in the service.

On receiving his discharge, Mr. Montague returned to Little Rock, Illinois, and worked at his trade until 1868, when he purchased a farm of eighty acres, in Victor township, De Kalb county, where he has since continued to reside and to which, in 1877, he added eighty-two acres more. Since taking possession of the farm, he has made various improvements upon it, including a large barn, the erection of a fine windmill, and tiling the greater portion of it. He has proved himself a practical farmer, and has been quite successful in the business. For more than fifty years Mr. Montague has been a resident of northern Illinois, while his wife has resided here since 1834, at which time she was brought in early childhood by her parents to Kendall county. In the years that have come and gone they have witnessed many changes, and although their lives in many respects have been une-

ventful, they have yet done what they could in advancing the material interests of their adopted county and state. In all the years they have maintained the respect and good-will of their friends and neighbors.

**WARREN WEEDEN**, who has a valuable farm of one hundred and seventy-nine acres in section 32, Mayfield township, has been a resident of De Kalb county since April, 1855. He was born in the town of Hartland, Windsor county, Vermont, October 1, 1829. His father, Captain Samuel Weeden, was a native of the same town, county and state, born in 1792. His father, the grandfather of our subject, was Samuel Weeden, Sr., a native of Rhode Island, from which state he moved to Windsor county, Vermont. Captain Samuel Weeden grew to manhood in his native state, and there married Martha A. Cady, also a native of Windsor county, Vermont. They spent their entire lives in their native county, the Captain dying in Bridgewater, Vermont, in 1870, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife survived him a few years. His title of Captain was secured by service in the militia in the war of 1812, where he did good service. Of their family of seven sons and one daughter, all grew to mature years except the daughter, who died at the age of two years. Four of the sons yet survive.

Warren Weeden was reared in his native county, his primary education being received in the common schools, which was supplemented by several terms in a select school and academy. For several winters he was engaged in teaching in his native state, an occupation which he followed for a time after his removal to Illinois. In

1855 he came to De Kalb county, Illinois, arriving in Sycamore in April of that year. During the summer following he worked at carpentering and also during the season in the harvest fields. This he continued to do until the fall of 1858, when he returned to Vermont, and in Windsor county, November 6, 1858, he was united in marriage with Miss Frances S. Wood, a native of the same county, there reared and educated, and a daughter of Otis and Angelina Wood. Mrs. Weeden is a lady of good education and was a teacher in Vermont, and also taught a few terms after her removal to Illinois.

Immediately after their marriage the young couple came to De Kalb county, where Mr. Weeden engaged in teaching at Malta, during the following winter. In the spring he engaged in farming in the vicinity of Malta, and for two years was employed in farming and teaching in the winter. His wife also engaged in teaching, having a few scholars in their own home. In 1860 he removed to Mayfield township, where he rented a farm and also taught school during the winter. In 1862 he purchased eighty acres of the farm where he now resides, and locating thereon at once commenced its improvement. As his means increased, and the opportunity was afforded him, he added to his possessions until now he owns one hundred and seventy-nine acres, on which he has built a neat and substantial residence, good barn, granery, shop and other outbuildings, and otherwise improved the place.

To Mr. and Mrs. Weeden two children have been born. Angelina C. is now the wife of Samuel Weeden, a farmer of Mayfield township. Otis N. is a young man now residing in the state of Washington,

where he owns and operates a claim. Mr. and Mrs. Weeden have also reared and educated three children besides their own. Ira Farwell grew to manhood under their care, married, and is now engaged in farming in Mayfield township. Laura Farwell is now the wife of George Ray, and they reside near Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Nellie Perry yet remains with her foster parents.

Politically Mr. Weeden was originally an Abolitionist, and cast his first presidential ballot for John P. Hale. Since the organization of the Republican party, he has supported its men and measures. He has served as assessor of his township, and also as township trustee. His influence has always been on the side of the public school system, and for years he served as a member of the school board. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Universalist church at Sycamore. Coming to the county in very limited circumstances, by his industry, assisted by his good wife, he has acquired sufficient to enable them to live in comfortable circumstances during the remainder of their lives. No couple in Mayfield township are held in higher esteem than Mr. and Mrs. Weeden.

**A**D. WALLACE is a retired farmer, but an esteemed business man, living in Sandwich, Illinois. He was born in Earlville, La Salle county, Illinois, June 16, 1851. His father, Charles Wallace, was a native of Vermont, where he grew to manhood, and later moved to New York. He married Jeannette Wier in Ottawa, Illinois. In about 1840 he came to Illinois, locating in La Salle county and building the first frame house in Earlville. He was a carpenter by trade, but for some years engaged in

agricultural pursuits. On coming to the state he purchased some government land and later purchased from private parties other tracts, becoming the owner of considerable land in and near Earlville. On one of his farms was a log house, which was taken down a few years since and was the last of its kind within a radius of many miles. Connected with it were many stories and pleasant associations, endearing to those with whom they were familiar. He built a brick block in Earlville, which is now owned by our subject. Religiously, he was a Presbyterian, of which body his wife was also a member. He died in October, 1884, when about sixty-five years old. His wife survived him, dying in 1889 at the age of about sixty-four years. They were the parents of five children: Dr. A. C., who was born May 10, 1848, studied and practiced dentistry, and died in 1891; A. D., our subject; Gilbert; Charles, who died young; and George, who died of consumption when about nineteen years old.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm and received his education in the Earlville schools. After leaving school he traveled for a wholesale grocery house and was in the retail grocery trade in Earlville. On the 28th of January, 1875, he married Miss Delia A. Rogers, a daughter of Israel Rogers, of Sandwich. By this union are four children: Claude W., who was born December 10, 1877, died August 18, 1878, at the age of eight months and eight days; Mabel C., Lewis Earl and Ruth Jeannette, all of whom are at home.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Wallace moved to the farm, where he remained seven years, and in the spring of 1882 located in Sandwich, where he has since continued to reside. He has a beautiful home at 416

North West street. He is engaged in the real-estate business and is the owner of considerable property in Earlville and Sandwich, including the Wallace House and various dwellings and store buildings. He is also a large stockholder in the Sandwich Enterprise Company and in other corporations.

Religiously Mrs. Wallace is a member of the Latter Day Saints. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order. In politics he is a Republican, and takes considerable interest in political affairs. He has been alderman from his ward for two years, and has done much for the improvement of his adopted city, both officially and as a private citizen. He takes part in all enterprises which promise for the best welfare of the city. In the past year he has made much improvement in the Wallace House, in the way of repairs and putting in electric lights, etc. The success which has attended his efforts has been gained by the pursuit of honorable and enterprising methods, and he is justly regarded as one of the leading and representative business men of the city of Sandwich.

**M**MARTIN DODGE, a retired farmer residing in the city of De Kalb, is one of the respected, prominent and useful citizens of the county. He is a descendant of one of Vermont's best and most worthy citizens. His father, Abram Dodge, was a quiet, genial man of social habits, whose home was one of comfort. He removed from Vermont to Canada in 1808, where he remained five years, enduring all the hardships of pioneer life in that climate and at that date. He was married in Vermont, previous to his going to Canada, to Miss Elsie Cook, by whom

he had seven children, five of the number reaching maturity—Daniel, Thomas, Hannah, Louise and Martin. The latter is the only surviving member of the family. Hannah and Louise were women of rare intellectual ability, for whom nature and art did much in bringing out those beautiful traits of character which make humanity divine. They both taught schools and were successful educators. Louise taught until a short time before her death, which occurred in the twenty-seventh year of her age. Hannah taught for twenty years. Both were staunch supporters and members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Martin Dodge remained at home until after the death of his parents, which occurred in 1860. He has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Maria Priest, the accomplished daughter of Mr. Priest, a native of his own town and one of the wealthiest farmers living there. Mrs. Maria Dodge was a refined lady and educated in the public schools and at Black River Academy. She was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Three of her brothers were in the Civil war. One brother, a graduate of Tuft's College, Boston, Massachusetts, is now president of a college in New York. For his second wife, Mr. Dodge married at Mt. Holly, Vermont, April 8, 1874, Miss Anna Eliza Chase, daughter of Elijah and Tryphosa (Blodgett) Chase. While in Vermont Mr. Dodge held several offices of trust which he filled with marked ability. He is now a useful director of the First National Bank of De Kalb.

Abram Dodge, the father of our subject, died at Mt. Holly, Vermont, in 1865, at the age of eighty-seven years. His wife, Mrs. Elsie (Cook) Dodge, was a woman of rare qualities of mind. Her honored father,

Daniel Cook, was one of the brave men who in the Revolutionary war was willing to sacrifice his life for liberty and independence. Abram Dodge was the son of Daniel Dodge, of Scotch extraction, and who during the Revolutionary war was a noted scout on the American side and whose exploits turned the tide of war more than once against the British. He was one of the main factors in the capture of Burgoyne's army. His wife, Hannah Van Waland, was a sweet-dispositioned woman, whose last days were passed peacefully at Mt. Holly, where her death occurred at the advanced age of ninety-seven years.

Mrs. Anna Eliza (Chase) Dodge was born at Mt. Holly, Vermont, January 8, 1844. Her father, Elijah Chase, was a native of Athol, Massachusetts, born December 17, 1804. Her mother, Tryphosa Chase, was a native of Deerfield, Massachusetts, born April 7, 1808. They were married at Athol, Massachusetts, September 19, 1827, after which they removed to Mt. Holly, Vermont, where they resided until the death of Mr. Chase, which occurred April 5, 1872. In 1876 his widow removed to De Kalb county, Illinois, to make her home with Mrs. Dodge, and remained there until death took her hence August 21, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Chase were excellent people and their church relations were very dear to them. Mr. Chase was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and served as steward, his wife ably aiding him in his church work, being a member of the same body. Their home was one of sunshine and happiness, where love predominated. Everybody was welcome, and nearly everybody came.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Chase consisted of ten children, eight of whom grew

to maturity. Joseph was a prominent man, an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a man of unspotted character. Phillip E. and Ambrose P. were founders of a large manufacturing industry at Mt. Holly, and were very successful in their business. They were both soldiers in the Civil war, and fought bravely in defense of their country's integrity. Phillip was a member of Company A, Second Vermont Volunteer Infantry, and was deservedly promoted to the rank of captain. Ambrose was a member of the Twenty-first Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Phillip traveled extensively, and being a close observer of men and nature was a man of marked ability and social qualities, which made his companionship desirable. In church and politics he was a recognized leader in his faith, but he never sacrificed his religious principles for his politics, but brought his church influence into his political affairs. He served several terms in both branches of the legislature of his state. Notwithstanding his public and busy life, yet so true was he to his local church that he was always ready to give his time to advance its interest. His death occurred some years ago. Ambrose is now living in Rutland, Vermont. Susan married Henry Deckerman, and died in November, 1871, leaving two children, one of them, Charles I. Deckerman, being in the office of B. E. Ellwood at De Kalb. Edwin B. was also engaged in the Civil war, and belonged to the same regiment as did his brother Phillips. Eugene R. was engaged as shipping clerk in the establishment of his brothers, Phillips and Ambrose, but afterwards became a hotel keeper in his native town. He is now a resident of New Hampshire. Parna married Alexander Cheney, of Orange, Massa-

chusetts, and died two years later. Mrs. Dodge, the remaining member of the family, is an educated woman and was a successful teacher in the public schools of New England for fourteen years. No woman in De Kalb is better known or more highly esteemed than Mrs. Dodge for her many excellent traits of character. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is an active worker in the same.

Grandmother Blodgett for more than a quarter of a century was an inmate of the Chase home in Vermont, and blessed it with cheer, anecdote and love. In 1876 the mother of Mrs. Dodge came to reside with her, and continued with her until removed by death. She never grew old and ever added to the happiness of the home. Sweet and helpful always, old and young alike were charmed by her presence.

**I**SRAEL ROGERS, a retired farmer residing in Sandwich, Illinois, was born in Rensselaer county, New York, April 4, 1818. When nineteen years old he moved to Oneida county, New York, and four years later, in 1841, came west and settled in Kendall county where he pre-empted, and later purchased a large tract of land. His holdings at one time were about eleven hundred acres, all of which he has disposed of, his son owning three hundred and twenty acres which comprised his first purchase, and which is now very valuable. For some years he gave special attention to stock raising in addition to his general farm work, raising and feeding cattle more especially. In 1877 he left the farm, moved to Sandwich, and has since made that place his home. His father, David Rogers, came west somewhat later than our subject, but

also made his home in Kendall county, where he operated a small farm. His death occurred in November, 1883, while lacking a few months of being eighty-eight years old. His wife, Betsy Rogers, who was born April 18, 1799, died January 19, 1866. They were members of the Baptist church before their removal to Illinois, but on coming here united with the Latter Day Saints. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom our subject was the oldest. The others were David K., deceased; John A., deceased; A. Judson, now residing in Colorado; Mary V., widow of Ramson Partridge, residing in Sandwich; Silas M., a farmer residing in Ford county, Illinois; Sarah R., who married a Mr. Chase, both now being deceased; Loren D., residing in Sandwich; Parmelia J., wife of Aaron Rathbone, residing in Sandwich; Martha Ann, who married Elijah Graves, but is now deceased; Stephen B., residing in Sandwich; Alvina, wife of Robert Hevener, a farmer residing in Ford county, Illinois; Jane E., who married D. Serene—she is deceased; and Daniel H., who resides in Ford county.

Our subject is a direct descendant of John Rogers, who was burned at the stake in Smithfield, England, on account of his religious views, being a reformer as early as 1535. Mr. Rogers was married February 24, 1839, to Mahala Salsbury, and by this union there are six children: George W., who married Lydia Howard November 2, 1861, now resides in Independence, Iowa—she is now deceased. Lewis I. married Annette Lamphere, September 14, 1862, and they reside in Sandwich. Martha L. married Melvin Howard, October 29, 1861, and they removed to Iowa where her death occurred. Mary M. is the wife of James Darnell, and their marriage ceremony was cele-

brated December 2, 1868. Harriet A. married Charles Sprague, August 15, 1869. Delia A. married Albert Wallace, January 27, 1875. The mother of these children died September 22, 1892, when about sixty-six years of age. Mr. Rogers took for his second wife Rachel Trout, their marriage being solemnized October 16, 1893. She was the widow of George W. Trout.

Our subject and wife are members of the Latter Day Saints church, in which he is a presiding elder. He takes very little interest in politics, voting in an independent way. For some years he has acted as administrator of many estates and has invariably given satisfaction to all concerned.

**J**OHAN M. SCHOONMAKER, of Franklin township, is one of the best known and most enterprising farmers of De Kalb county. He was born in the town of Hannibal, New York, August 16, 1827, and is the son of John and Julia (Farnham) Schoonmaker, the former a native of Flat Bush, Long Island, and the latter of Shaftesbury, Vermont. The paternal grandfather, Martin Schoonmaker, was a native of Holland, who came to America before Revolutionary times and settled at Flat Bush, Long Island. From there he moved to Oswego county, New York, and opened up a farm in the heavy timber, and there his death occurred at the age of sixty-eight years. The mother of our subject was a descendant of the Farnhams that came to America in the Mayflower. She was a daughter of Amasa Farnham and was the youngest of a family of fourteen children, seven boys and seven girls. The sons were William, Amasa, Reuben, Samuel, Solomon, Moulton and Nathan.

John and Julia Schoonmaker, the parents of our subject, came to De Kalb county in June, 1845, and settled on a tract of eighty acres of government land near the present village of Fairdale, Franklin township. He there engaged in farming, meeting with fair success, and there continued to live during the remainder of his life, dying at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife died in 1849. They were the parents of four children,—Catherine, John M., Lydia M. and Susan.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native state, and when eighteen years of age accompanied his parents to De Kalb county, Illinois, and here he has since continued to reside, giving his time and attention to general farming. When his country was in sore distress and calling loudly for men, in August, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was sworn into the service of the United States for three years or during the war. With his regiment he went to Louisville, Kentucky, and from that place to the front with the main army. He was in the battle of Resaca, Cassville, Georgia, Kenesaw Mountain, and from there he was ordered back to Louisville, Kentucky. On the 28th of June, 1864, while in Louisville he was commissioned first lieutenant of a company of United States colored troops, and served with that company until he was finally mustered out of the service. He was in the following engagements: Fort Barham, Hatch's Run, and on the 5th of April charged the enemy's works at Petersburg. He followed Grant's army to Richmond, and was with Grant when Lee surrendered on the 9th of April, 1865. With his regiment he was sent to Texas to accept the

surrender of General Kirby Smith. Notwithstanding the war was ended, his regiment was retained in the service until the 27th of February, 1866, when it was mustered out at La Vaca, Texas. He then returned to his home in De Kalb county and engaged in farming.

On the 6th of September, 1848, Mr. Schoonmaker was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Miller, a daughter of John and Mary (Crill) Miller, both natives of Herkimer county, New York, and who were the parents of twelve children: Thomas, Pollie, Catherine, John, Daniel, Margaret, Betsy, Jonas, Nancy, Henry, Julia A. and Chester A. Of these Thomas, Pollie, Catherine, Daniel and Jonas are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Schoonmaker four children were born: Alice is now the wife of C. F. Meyer, of Franklin township; Elvora is the wife of B. A. Patten, of Silver Lake, Kansas; George F. resides on the old home farm; Dora is the wife of Benjamin Craig, of Irene, Boone county, Illinois.

In January, 1849, Mr. Schoonmaker purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, Franklin township, and still has that land in his possession. He later added to the tract, thirty acres of prairie and twenty acres of timber land. In 1880, he purchased a nice property in Fairdale, moved to the village and has since been engaged in general stock business, until within the past three years. He is now living a retired life. For fifty years he and his wife have spent their lives together, and she has been to him a helpmeet indeed. On the 6th of September, 1898, they celebrated their golden wedding, with ninety-five of their friends and relatives present. While in the army she successfully carried on the home farm. Both are members of the Meth-

odist Episcopal church, in which he has served as steward, trustee and class leader. In politics he is an out and out Prohibitionist.

**W**ILLIAM L. ELLWOOD.—Four of the greatest factors, energy, enterprise, brains and money, combined to place De Kalb in the front ranks of the live-stock interests of the United States. While much has been said, and rightfully, too, regarding her manufacturing enterprises, her live-stock interests are equally entitled to honorable mention. On the outskirts of this city is located the home farm and sale stables of the world-renowned Ellwood Green, the fame of which is based upon the fact that purchasers could find here animals not only of individual merit but of pure blood. When entering the field to supply the demand for first-class carriage and draught horses the reputation of Mr. Ellwood was at stake. He began to import horses from France, England and other countries in 1882, principally the French coach and Percheron draught horses.

One can hardly conceive of the magnitude of this enterprise and the capital invested in the business. There are four thousand acres divided into five farms, all under a high state of cultivation and devoted to the raising of the finest stock in the world. At all times from seven to nine hundred head of horses are kept upon these farms, and from three to five hundred head of cattle, besides other stock in proportion. In addition to his property in De Kalb county, Mr. Ellwood owns two hundred and eighty thousand acres of land in Mitchell, Lamb and Hockley counties, Texas, divided into ranches, which are fenced and

cross-fenced for the accommodation of twenty thousand head of cattle. The increase is between four and five thousand per annum, and as they mature to two and three years they are shipped to Chicago. Besides the cattle on these Texas ranches there are three hundred Percheron mares which have been shipped there, together with several pure blood stallions, and their offspring is brought to Illinois for development and sale. Mr. Ellwood has charge of this mammoth enterprise with a corps of assistants under him, but it is so admirably systematized that he is equal to the task.

William L. Ellwood was born in De Kalb, November 6, 1860, and is a son of Isaac L. Ellwood, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. His education was commenced and finished in his native city, having all the advantages of a college education by private instructors in his father's home. His interest in horse breeding began at the age of sixteen, since which time he has become proficient in the management of that noble animal,—man's best friend. He keeps a skillful veterinary surgeon and always has a full supply of drugs for all cases of sickness to which animals are liable.

In June, 1883, Mr. Ellwood was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Allen, who was born at Shabbona in 1864, a daughter of H. A. Allen. Two children have come to bless their union: Jean, born in August, 1885; and Harriet Eliza, in 1887.

**J**AMES HOWISON.—Among the many worthy substantial citizens of Sandwich, none deserved more honorable mention than the subject of this sketch, who was born in the lowlands of Scotland, and



is the son of George and Margaret (Brown) Howison. In 1828, when but fourteen years of age, he came with his father to the United States, that they might look up a home. Finding a suitable place in New York, they sent for the family, which came over the next year. In crossing the ocean, our subject was three months *en route*, encountering several storms during the time, but suffering no special damage. The same trip can now be made in six days, which is an illustration showing the progress made in seventy years. After residing in New York some ten years, our subject and his younger brother, William, visited what was then the far west, and finding the opportunities much greater for advancement, they reported their observations to the family, and all determined to come west. Leaving New York, in the spring of 1839, they came by way of the Erie canal and by lake to Chicago, which required eight days. They remained in Chicago but a short time, having no idea of the great city which in time was there to be built. The present great city was then but a small, insignificant village, but a good market for grain. From Chicago they came to the head of Somonauk creek, where they took up government land, and also bought the claim of another party of some four hundred acres, paying the government price of a dollar and a quarter an acre. In addition they bought ten acres of beautiful timber land, and the first winter engaged in getting out rails, stakes, posts and wood, all of which were for service on the new farm. With characteristic energy they went to work to improve the farm, but after residing there two years, the father passed to his reward, at the age of sixty-four years. His wife survived him some years, and died in her eighty-fourth

year. They were the parents of five children, of whom our subject is the oldest. The others were William, a farmer residing in Clinton township, De Kalb county, Illinois; Eliza, wife of Alexander White, residing on a farm near the United Presbyterian church in Somonauk township; Alexander, residing on the old homestead; and Robert, a farmer living near Waterman. Both parents were devout members of the Presbyterian church.

The subject of this sketch, as already stated, was fourteen years of age when he left Scotland. During his ten years residence in New York, he worked by the month for various parties, and on coming to De Kalb county, he assisted in opening up the farm, and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits, with the exception of the time spent in California. On the 11th of March, 1850, in company with William Patton, Mr. Hoag, James Blair and James Walker, he started overland for the New Eldorado. Mr. Walker died near the Lone Tree, while *en route*. That tree stands all alone, and is now pointed out from the Union Pacific railroad train, being the only tree within sight for many miles which can be seen with the naked eye. He was sick but a short time, but suffered very much. The other four got through all right to Weavertown, where the first diggings were located. They remained there, however, but a short time, and then went to Sacramento, where they laid in a supply of provisions, and then went to the diggings on Yuba river, where our subject hired out to a company for eight dollars per day. He remained there on the Yuba river during the greater part of the time while in California. After he had been in that state for two years, he was joined by his brother, Alex-

ander, and the two remained three years longer. During two summer seasons our subject worked on a ranch, for which he received one hundred and sixty dollars a month and board.

On going to California, Mr. Howison crossed the plains with three spans of horses and two covered wagons, and while *en route* saw buffalos by the million. This gave him a chance to see some of the outlines and boundaries of his adopted country, and an opportunity to realize what it was in roughing it while in the far west. With all the hardships incident to that primitive kind of life, there were afforded many scenes of pleasure and romance. When making up his mind to return, he chose to return by water, taking the Aspinwall line, by way of the Isthmus of Panama. The boat on which he took passage was shipwrecked by striking a rock. The passengers were rescued by the John L. Stephens, on which they continued their journey, arriving home in due time, and again taking up the occupation of farming.

Mr. Howison was married November 12, 1867, to Miss Mary Jane Kirkpatrick, a daughter of Richard and Julia Ann Kirkpatrick, and by this union one child was born, Charles, a graduate in architecture from the State University at Champaign in the class of '97. The parents of Mrs. Howison were natives of Perry county, Pennsylvania, and were married in 1832. In their family were nine children as follows: Isabella, widow of John Harter, who was killed by the cars in Waterman, where she now resides. Hannah E. is the wife of Robert Howison, and they reside in Waterman. Matilda, who married Amos McCaskey, died at the age of twenty-three years. Alvina is the wife of W. J. Walker, a farmer residing

in Kansas. Mary Jane is the wife of our subject. Julia A., wife of Robert Walker, resides in Sandwich. Rebecca is the wife of John Walker, a farmer residing in Morris county, Kansas. Jessie P. died in infancy. Isaac F. resides in Harper county, Kansas. The father of these children died September 3, 1871, at the age of seventy-four years; the mother was a woman of rare qualities of mind and heart, and many in the circle of her acquaintance remember her with tenderest recollections.

In 1879 Mr. Howison moved to Sandwich, where he is now living a retired life, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church in Sandwich, and in the work of the Master have always taken especial delight. In politics he has been a Republican, but he is quite independent, always casting his vote for those he considers best qualified for the office. A residence of sixty years in De Kalb county has brought him in contact with many of its best citizens, and no man is more highly esteemed.

**H**ON. HIRAM LOUCKS, ex-supervisor and member of the legislature, from De Kalb county, was born in Schoharie county, New York, May 26, 1824, but was reared in Madison county, in the same state. His parents were Abram and Elizabeth (Ten Eyck) Loucks, both of whom were natives of New York. By occupation the father was a farmer, one who cared nothing for office-holding, but gave his best endeavors to his farm and farming interest. His death occurred at the age of sixty-nine years, while his wife died at the age of seventy years.

The paternal grandfather of our subject,

John Loucks, took part in the Indian war, prior to the Revolution. His wife was Rebecca Burst, a daughter of Captain Burst, who was taken prisoner during the Revolutionary war, and was returned in the exchange of prisoners. The maternal grandfather, John Ten Eyck, married a Miss Simons, a daughter of David Simons, who was of a noted New York family.

Abaham Loucks in early life was a Lutheran, while his wife was a member of the Dutch Reformed church. Later they both united with the Presbyterian church, in which faith they died. They were the parents of eleven children as follows: Hiram, the subject of this sketch; Catherine, who married John Stewart, but is now deceased; Eliza, wife of Alexander Stewart, a brother of John, resides in Michigan; Ellen, who married Scott Duncan, but is now deceased; John, who resides on the old homestead in New York; Hazelious, who also resides on the old homestead; George, who resides in New York; Luther, residing in Michigan; Henry, who moved to Minnesota, where his death occurred; James, who lives in New York, and Joseph, of New York.

Our subject was reared to farm life, and followed that occupation in connection with lumbering for many years. In 1857, he came west, locating in Victor township, De Kalb county, Illinois where he opened up a farm of two hundred acres, which he improved and which he devoted to dairy, stock and grain purposes.

Mr. Loucks was married, in 1850, to Amanda Vosburg, daughter of Abram Vosburg, a resident of Columbia county, New York. By this union were five children. (1) Nelson, who resides on a farm in O'Brien county, Iowa, married Ida Wells, of Sandwich, and their children are Gertie, Celia,

Mary, Hiram and John. 2) Emogene married William Kay, and they reside in Shabbona, Illinois. They have one child, Elizabeth. (3) Anna, married Henry Severy, and they have one child, Frank. (4) James married Miss Wells, and they reside on a farm in O'Brien county, Iowa. (5) Henry, who resides on the old homestead, married Lillie Quillhot, and their children are Ione and Helen. The mother of these children, who was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, died at the age of thirty-nine years. Mr. Loucks was married, July 29, 1876, to Mrs. Anna M. Smith, widow of Capt. Henry L. Smith. She is the daughter of Rev. Israel and Sophronia (Mills) Shailer, her father being a minister of the Presbyterian church for many years in Ohio.

In politics Mr. Loucks is independent, though for many years he was a decided Republican. The first office that he ever held was that of school director and he served in that official position for fifteen years. He was commissioner of highways for seven years, and while residing in Victor township served as a member of the board of supervisors for eight years, and since his removal to Sandwich has served in the same office for nine years. He was elected a member of the legislature in 1881, re-elected in 1883, and served two sessions, taking a general interest in all questions before that body and being a valuable member. In 1883 he removed to Sandwich since which time he has been living practically a retired life. He is a man of deep convictions and positive in his views, which he voices with readiness. In his official positions, he gave a high degree of satisfaction as is evidenced in his re-election for a term of years to the same office. He has

been a successful man and is justly entitled to the respect which he enjoys as an honored, substantial and worthy citizen.

**F**RANK C. PATTEN, owner and manager of the Frank C. Patten Co., has had an unusually successful business career, showing industry and executive ability. He was born on a farm in Alton township, De Kalb county, Illinois, on October 10, 1867.

His father, Sylvester W. Patten, was born in Herkimer county, New York, in 1837, and spent his boyhood days in his native state, where he obtained his primary education in district schools. In 1850 his parents came to Illinois, and located in Boone county, where they remained a year or two and then came to De Kalb county, locating in South Grove township. Sylvester W. assisted his father in farming operations during summers, teaching school during the winter months until his marriage near Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, May 1, 1860, with Miss Elizabeth C. Coffin, a native of Delaware county, New York, born in 1839, and who came west with her parents, locating near Belvidere in 1845. She was a daughter of Jacob and Mary Anne (Hull) Coffin. Her paternal great-grandfather, John Coffin, was born in 1753 and married Mary Van-Tassel, of German descent, born in 1743. Their son, Isaac Coffin, was the father of Jacob, who was born in 1773.

The Coffin family were originally of Norman stock. The first to come to America was Tristram, who came with eight sons in 1642 and settled in Massachusetts near Haverhill. Tristram Coffin and others bought Nantucket Island. His eldest son settled near Albany and from him sprang John

Coffin, great-grandfather of Mrs. Sylvester W. Patten.

After his marriage Sylvester W. Patten bought a farm eight miles south of De Kalb and there resided until 1882, when he sold out and purchased another farm two miles northwest of De Kalb. On that farm he resided until 1892, when he removed to the city of De Kalb, where he has since continued to reside, now having charge of the Hinckley Brick & Tile Yards, one of the plants belonging to Patten Bros. Tile Co.

To Sylvester W. and Elizabeth C. Patten were born six children,—Mary L., a successful teacher in De Kalb; Emma L., the wife of Frank Greeley, of Waterman, Illinois; Frank C., the subject of this sketch; Edith S., a teacher in the public schools of Austin, Illinois; Alice C., teacher in the Bloomington High School; and Elizabeth M., a student in the State Normal School.

After attending district schools, Frank C. Patten entered the high school in De Kalb, from which he graduated in 1885. Immediately after graduating he entered the employ of Wm. Deering Co., of Chicago, remaining with this firm about one year. Desiring to go into business for himself, he returned to DeKalb, and starting a small shop began manufacturing sundries in a limited way. Owing to increase in business in 1887 he purchased a building and employed several hands to assist him. He pushed the business to such an extent that soon his building covered three and a half lots in the city and in 1891 had spread out over the entire block.

In addition to his manufacturing business, in 1889 Mr. Patten began contracting and building,—purchasing vacant property, subdividing and building. He built on his own account between seventy-five and a

hundred houses and on contract for others twice as many more. Few men of his age have ever undertaken and carried through to success such a work. Before twenty-five years of age he had erected more than two hundred and twenty-five buildings, while at the same time conducting his regular manufacturing business. In addition to residence work, he built school buildings at DeKalb, Maple Park, Elburn and Crossdale, employing draughtsmen, masons, carpenters, tinners, plumbers, painters, and paper hangers as well as laborers,—the combined pay roll of industries under his ownership going as high as three hundred and fifty men per day.

About this time Mr. Patten organized a tile company, which purchased and virtually re-built two large plants. These after a prosperous business career were disposed of to their present owners, the Patten Bros. Tile Co.

In 1893 he came to Sycamore and purchased the Marsh Harvester, and also the entire plant formerly owned by the R. Ellwood Manufacturing Co.,—business at this point being conducted under the name of the Frank C. Patten Co. This concern manufactures a general line of agricultural implements, well drilling machinery and gray iron casting, catering especially to heavy buyers, who have goods furnished under contract for their own trade.

Mr. Patten was married at the home of his bride's parents on a farm near Sycamore, to Miss Carrie C. Crane, a daughter of Frederick S. and Mary Anne (Bristol) Crane,—the latter a native of Genesee county, New York, and a daughter of Hiram and Sarah (Spink) Bristol. Frederick S. Crane was born in Wayne county, New York, in 1833, and came with his parents to Illinois in 1835. Here he grew to manhood

and in 1853 crossed the plains to California. On returning home, he purchased a farm near Naperville, where he resided until 1869, when, coming to DeKalb county, he purchased a farm of four hundred acres in Courtland township. This he sold in 1895, removing to Los Angeles, California.

Frederick S. Crane is the son of David and Catherine W. (Stolp) Crane, the latter a daughter of Frederick and Jeanette (Pepper) Stolp. Frederick being a soldier in the war of 1812. Both families are of Holland descent. The paternal grandparents were Zebina and Hannah (Gould) Crane.

**H**IRAM C. WILSON, now living a retired life in the village of Kirkland, is a native of Calhoun county, Michigan, born November 29, 1838, and is the son of Roger and Mary (Burdick) Wilson, the former a native of Yorkshire, England, and the latter of Cayuga county, New York. They were the parents of two children, Hiram C. and Elizabeth. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Wilson, was a native of Yorkshire, England, who came to America in 1810, and settled in Cayuga county, New York. By trade he was a shoemaker, an occupation which he followed during many years of his life. From Cayuga county, New York, Roger Wilson moved to Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1836, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of government land, all of which was heavily timbered. He cleared up a farm, and kept adding to his possessions, until he had over five hundred acres, the greater part of which was under cultivation. He sold out in 1863, and came to De Kalb county, and purchased, with his son, a farm of three

hundred and twenty acres on section 1, South Grove township.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Calhoun county, Michigan, and in the district schools received his primary education, after which he entered the college at Battle Creek, Michigan, which he attended for two terms. On the 6th of October, 1860, he married Stella M. Foster, a native of St. Lawrence county, New York, and a daughter of Dr. James and Susan Foster, also natives of the same county and state, who at an early day moved to Calhoun county, Michigan, and in 1882, to De Kalb county, Illinois. He read medicine in Albany, New York, where he was admitted to practice. For about forty-five years he practiced his profession in Michigan. On coming to De Kalb county, he made his home with our subject, where his death occurred in 1883, at the age of eighty-two years and six months. To Mr. and Mrs. Wilson six children have been born, as follows: Warren, Alice, Susie, Joy, Ira and Mabel.

In 1882, Mr. Wilson moved with his family, after selling his farm in South Grove township, and located in Kingston township, where he yet has a farm of two hundred and thirty-two acres of well improved land. After remaining upon that farm for many years, he rented the place and moved to the village of Kirkland, where he has nice residence property. In politics he is a Democrat, and has held various local offices, including that of school director. He is well respected and has many friends in De Kalb county.

**C**HARLES A. SCHNEIDER, who is engaged in the insurance business at Sandwich, is a well known citizen of Ger-

man birth. He was born in Anhalt, Dessau, Germany, December 11, 1825, and is the son of Christopher and Wilhelmina (Schuman) Schneider, who never came to America, but spent their entire lives in their native land, the father dying at the age of seventy-three years, and the mother at the age of seventy-five years. They were members of the Evangelical church, and were the parents of three children, of whom our subject was the oldest and the only one to come to America. August died in Saxony, after having served his time as a soldier in the German army. Wilhelmina is the widow of Carl Seeger, and is yet residing in Germany, although she has a son, Carl Seeger, residing in Sandwich.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native land and educated in its public schools. While liable for military duty in 1846, he was never called out for the reason there were no wars then in progress. In his youth he learned the tinner's trade, which occupation he followed in his native land, until he came to America in 1854. On arriving in this country he engaged as a deck hand on a vessel on Lake Superior, at the south end of St. Mary's canal, where he handled a wheelbarrow for two weeks; but not liking that kind of work, abandoned it and coming west to Chicago again engaged in work at his trade. He continued in Chicago for three years. Having a friend in Sandwich, Mr. Kleinschmidt, he came with him to that place and worked at his trade until 1884, when he engaged exclusively in the insurance business with which he has since been connected. He now represents eight different companies, among them being some of the best in the United States.

In 1861 Mr. Schneider returned to Ger-

many on a visit, and in 1864 married Sophia Bealman, a daughter of Stuart and Sophia Bealman. The latter died in Chicago at the age of sixty-nine years. By this union were born four children: Charles married Olivia Unger, and they now reside in Omaha, where he is engaged in the railway freight office of the Northwestern Railroad. Powell married Anna Bernard, and they reside in Sandwich. Mary is the wife of J. W. Arnold, and they also reside in Sandwich. Anna is the housekeeper for her father, her mother having died December, 1893, at the age of fifty-four years and four months. She was a devout member of the German Evangelical church, of which both her husband and family are also members.

When Mr. Schneider first came to the United States he took passage in a sailing

vessel and was forty-eight days on the water. For a time they met with heavy weather, and later it was so calm that their vessel would hardly move. This all regarded as worse than the heavy weather. On returning to the old country on his visit it did not require much time for him to make up his mind that the United States was a better place for a man of industry and enterprise, than the land of his birth. Since coming here he has been fairly successful in business, and has never regretted the step taken. He takes little interest in politics, preferring to give his attention to his business interests. In his various relations in public and private life he has always been the same earnest, upright, capable and courteous gentleman, winning the confidence and esteem of a large circle of friends.





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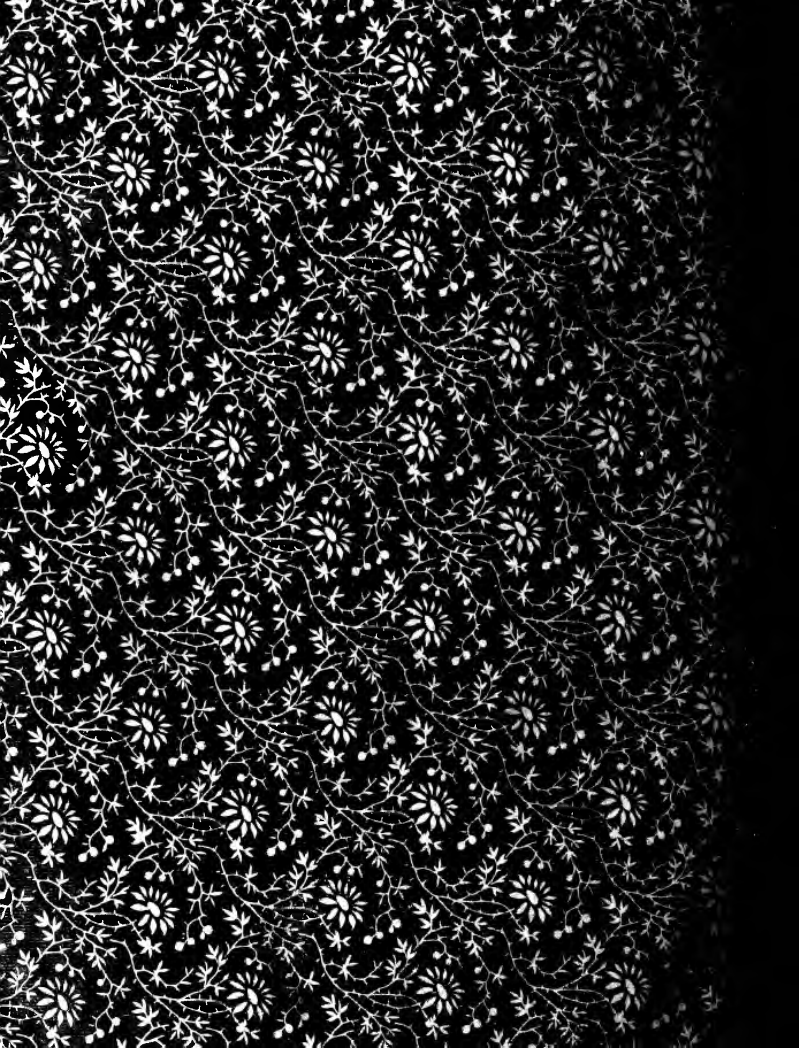














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