



**B**IOGRAPHICAL  
**R**ECORD

The image shows the front cover of a book bound in dark, textured leather. The cover features a large, embossed circular design in the center. The title "Biographical Record" is printed in a gold, serif font. The letters "B" and "R" are significantly larger and more ornate, with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns integrated into their design. The words "IOGRAPHICAL" and "ECORD" are smaller and positioned to the right of the large letters. The entire title is set within a decorative gold border that includes a floral sprig at the top and a scroll at the bottom. The spine of the book is visible on the left side, showing some wear and a lighter-colored material.

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# BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

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THIS VOLUME CONTAINS

## Biographical Sketches

—OF—

LEADING CITIZENS

—OF—

SAUNDERS AND SARPY COUNTIES,  
NEBRASKA.

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“Biography is the only true history.”—Emerson.

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BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
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CHICAGO, ILL.  
1900.





## PREFACE

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HAVING brought to a successful termination our labors in Saunders and Sarpy Counties in compiling and editing the sketches herein contained, we desire, in presenting this Biographical Record to our patrons, to make a few remarks, necessarily brief, in regard to the value and importance of local works of this nature. We agree with Ralph Waldo Emerson that "Biography is the only true History," and also are of the opinion that a collection of the biographies of the leading men of a nation would give more interesting, as well as authentic, history of their country than any other that could be written. The value of such a production as this cannot be too highly estimated. With each succeeding year the haze of Obscurity removes more and more from our view the fast disappearing landmarks of the past, Oblivion sprinkles her dust of forgetfulness on men and their deeds, effectually concealing them from the public eye, and because of the many living objects which claim our attention, few of those who have been removed from the busy world linger long in our memory. Even the glorious achievements of the present age may not insure it from being lost in the glare of greater things to come, and so it is manifestly a duty to posterity for the men of the present time to preserve a record of their lives and a story of their progress from low and humble beginnings to great and noble deeds, in order that future generations may read the account of their successful struggles, and profit by their examples. A local history affords the best means of preserving ancestral history, and it also becomes, immediately upon its publication, a ready book of reference for those who have occasion to seek biographical data of the leading and early settled families. Names, dates and events are not easily remembered by the average man, so it behooves the generations now living, who wish to live in the memory of their descendants, to write their own records, making them full and broad in scope, and minute in detail, and insure their preservation by having them put in printed form. We firmly believe that in these collated personal memoirs will be found as true and as faithful a record of Saunders and Sarpy Counties as may be obtained anywhere, for the very sufficient

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reason that their growth and development are identified with that of the men who have made them what they are today—the representative, leading men, whose personal sketches it has been a pleasure to us to write and give a place in this volume. From the time when the hand of civilized man had not yet violated the virgin soil of the rolling prairies with desecrating plough, to the present period of activity in all branches of industry, we may read in the histories of the counties' leading men, and of their ancestors, the steady growth and development which has been going on here for over half a century, and bids fair to continue for centuries to come. A hundred years from now, whatever records of the present time are then extant, having withstood the ravages of time and the ceaseless war of the elements, will be viewed with an absorbing interest, equalling, if not surpassing, that which is taken to-day in the history of the early settlements of America.

It has been our purpose in the preparation of this work to pass over no phase or portion of it slightly, but to give attention to the smallest points, and thus invest it with an air of accuracy, to be obtained in no other way. The result has amply justified the care that has been taken, for it is our honest belief that no more reliable production, under the circumstances, could have been compiled.

One feature of this work, to which we have given special prominence, and which we are sure will prove of extraordinary interest, is the collection of portraits of the representative and leading citizens, which appear throughout the volume. We have tried to represent the different spheres of industrial and professional activity as well as we might. To those who have been so uniformly obliging and have kindly interested themselves in the success of this work, volunteering information and data which have been very helpful to us in preparing this Biographical Record of Saunders and Sarpy Counties, we desire to express our grateful and profound acknowledgment of their valued services.

CHICAGO, ILL., September, 1900.

THE PUBLISHERS.

—————NOTE—————

All the biographical sketches published in this volume were submitted to their respective subjects, or to the subscribers, from whom the facts were primarily obtained, for their approval or correction before going to press; and a reasonable time was allowed in each case for the return of the type-written copies. Most of them were returned to us within the time allotted, or before the work was printed, after being corrected or revised; and these may therefore be regarded as reasonably accurate.

A few, however, were not returned to us; and, as we have no means of knowing whether they contain errors or not, we cannot vouch for their accuracy. In justice to our readers, and to render this work more valuable for reference purposes, we have indicated these uncorrected sketches by a small asterisk (\*), placed immediately after the name of the subject. They will all be found on the last pages of the book.

BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING CO.



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BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD  
SAUNDERS AND SARPY COUNTIES,  
NEBRASKA.

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HON. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN GOOD.



# Biographical Record

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## SAUNDERS AND SARPY COUNTIES.

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**F**ON. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN GOOD, judge of the district court of the Fifth Judicial District of Nebraska, has been the incumbent of that office since January 1, 1900, but in that short period, by his fairness and high sense of justice, he has become firmly established in the good will of the members of the bar, and of the public in general. He is a gentleman well qualified for the office, by reason of his natural fitness, his superior training and his valuable experience as a practitioner.

Judge Good was born near Bloomfield, Davis county, Iowa, April 2, 1860, and is a son of John Good, who was born in Ireland in 1813. The latter was married in that country in 1849, and soon after came to the United States, locating in the state of Ohio, for a brief period. He then spent two years in Wisconsin, living near the city of Sheboygan, and in 1859, he settled in Davis county, Iowa, near the town of Bloomfield, where he made his home until his death, in 1878. Mrs. Good survives him and still lives on the old home property in Davis

county. They reared the following children: Mary, James, John, Benjamin F., Miriam, George W., and William H.

Benjamin Franklin Good was reared on the farm, and received his education in the district schools, and in the Southern Iowa Normal School, at Bloomfield, being a member of the class of 1882. In the State University of Iowa he pursued a special course in languages and history. He then began his preparation for the bar, taking a complete course of study in the law department of the University of Iowa, from which he was graduated June 23, 1885. In August of the same year, he located in Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, and entered into partnership with E. E. Good, the firm name being Good & Good. This firm was known as an exceptionally strong combination of legal talent and they soon acquired a large, lucrative practice and an extended reputation. The partnership continued until January 1, 1900, when the subject hereof took his seat as judge of the Fifth Judicial District of Nebraska. Judge Good was elected on the Democratic

ticket—the party with which he has always affiliated. He was made a member of the faculty of the State University of Nebraska in 1892, and each year since that date has delivered a course of lectures on “Limitation of Actions.”

On June 11, 1890, Judge Good was joined in the bonds of matrimony with Jennie Jessen, a daughter of Andrew and Margaret (Martin) Jessen. Mrs. Jessen first came to Nebraska, in 1853, settling on a homestead which she took up, adjoining the place of J. Sterling Morton. She taught the first school in the state, it being held in a little log school house in Nebraska City. The first marriage certificate granted in Nebraska was for the marriage of Andrew Jessen to Margaret Martin. Judge Good and his wife are the parents of two children, namely: Anabel, who was born May 9, 1891, and Paul F., born March 16, 1893. Fraternaly, the Judge was a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 14, F. & A. M., of Bloomfield, but had his membership transferred to Lodge No. 59 at Wahoo, Nebraska, and served as master of the latter from 1890 to 1891. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, being one of the founders of the lodge at Wahoo, in 1888, and its first chancellor commander. A portrait of Judge Good is shown on a preceding page.

father, Wilson Reynolds, located within the borders of the county when the white men there were comparatively few.

Wilson Reynolds was a son of John Reynolds, and was born February 11, 1833, in Brown county, Ohio, but was reared in Illinois. Wilson Reynolds was married December 3, 1872, to Frances A. Jarvis, a daughter of Edward and Mary (Curtis) Jarvis. Edward Jarvis died a few years after his marriage, and Mrs. Jarvis became the wife of John Miller. In 1853, Wilson Reynolds located in Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he followed teaming between that locality and Denver, Colorado. Subsequently he took up a claim near the Sarpy Mills, which he sold a few years previous to his marriage. He served in the Union army throughout the Civil War—belonging to an Iowa regiment. Upon his return from the war he again spent his time in breaking the barren prairie, and in 1871 he traded 160 acres in Richland precinct for 120 acres where his family now resides. He set out shade and fruit trees, erected a fine barn and corn-cribs, and in 1892 built a handsome home. The buildings on the farm are in good condition and the land is richly cultivated—all of which is the result of his labors. He always kept about 30 head of cattle and about 60 hogs. His two sons, James W. and Albert J., and his widow now conduct the farm, and they have won a place in the ranks of the best farmers of Sarpy county.

Wilson Reynolds was the father of six children, who were named as follows: James W., Catherine N., Albert J., Fannie M., Mattie C.,

**J**AMES W. REYNOLDS is a well-to-do and up-to-date farmer and a worthy representative of one of the early pioneer settlers of Sarpy county, Nebraska, as his

and Mary J., deceased. Mr. Reynolds passed from this life September 11, 1897, and his death was deeply deplored by both his family, who knew him as a kind and loving husband and father, and by his many acquaintances throughout the county, who esteemed him as a good neighbor and a generous and whole-souled man. He was a faithful worker in the Methodist church, of which he became a member in 1859. In politics he was a Republican and served nine years as a school director.

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**E**DWARD J. UPJOHN is a prosperous and intelligent farmer residing in Laplatte precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, and is a descendant of one of the early pioneer settlers of the county. He was born in Plainwell, Michigan, in 1852, where he was also reared and schooled, and he is a son of Dr. Erastus N. Upjohn.

Dr. Erastus N. Upjohn was a native of England, and upon his arrival in this country he located at Rochester, New York, where he followed his profession for a score of years; from there he went to Michigan, where he spent another twenty years, and in 1854 he went to Sarpy county, Nebraska. He homesteaded a farm near Springfield, in that county, which is now owned by J. Forkner, and afterward bought 160 acres from John Enoch, and, while he pursued his profession, his sons improved the farm. He died in 1880, aged seventy-two years. His wife was Myra Thompson, a daughter of Dr. Thompson. After Mr. Up-

john's death, she wedded Richard H. Hogeboon, but she is now a widow, residing at Laplatte. To Dr. Upjohn and his wife were born the following children: Erastus N., Edward J., William C., a physician; Eliza J., and Marcus T.

Edward J. Upjohn came to Nebraska with his parents, and now owns 90 acres of the old homestead. He carries on mainly grain raising. Upon his farm he has made many improvements, such as putting up a fine house and a good barn. He raises from 50 to 60 bushels of corn to the acre, and from 35 to 50 bushels of oats. He is a conscientious worker, and among his fellow farmers he is known as a good, peaceful neighbor and citizen. He was joined in marriage with Frances Robertson, a daughter of Theodore H. Robertson, who was an early settler of Sarpy county, coming from Ohio. To this happy union five children have been born: Ida, Bertha, Julia, William and Edward J., Jr. Politically the subject of this sketch is a Democrat and has served as assessor, road supervisor and member of the school board.

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**R**ICHARD DANIELL is a prominent and representative farmer of Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he has spent many years engaged in stock raising, in which he has attained a high degree of success. He makes a specialty of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, and is one of the largest cattle raisers in his section of the state. It is probable that

he brought the first thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle into the state of Nebraska which were shipped in on cars. He has one of the best farms in Sarpy county, which is now in charge of his son, Thomas R. Daniell. Richard Daniell's success in life is due entirely to his own energy and constant, persevering industry, as, when he started out in life in this country, he worked as a day laborer. He is a good business man, and through fair and honest dealing commands the respect and confidence of all who know him. He is a native of England, having been born in Devonshire, in 1830.

"Uncle Dick," as he is more familiarly known, received his early schooling in his native town, and his early youth was spent in learning the trade of a butcher. This trade he followed in Devonshire, until 1852, when he came to the United States in the hope of bettering his finances. At first he settled among the Germans in Pennsylvania, where prospects were anything but bright at the outset. He finally secured a position on the railroad with the grading gang, of which he soon became "boss," and after he had worked in that capacity nine months he went to Canada, where he followed his trade for three years. During that short period, by the strictest economy, he succeeded in laying aside a portion of his hard earned salary. Upon going to Kalamazoo, Michigan, he opened a butcher's shop of his own, besides devoting much time to the shipping of cattle. Until 1867 he conducted a profitable business, but in that year he disposed of his business and property there and moved to Sarpy county, Nebraska, bringing with him

some fine thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, the moving of which cost him \$1,300. As he was undecided as to whether he would locate there permanently, he rented a place for the first year, but in 1868 he purchased 120 acres, of Aaron Alfred, of which only 40 acres had been broken. He later bought 160 acres from Mr. Smith, which had been pre-empted by R. Anderson; 160 acres which was pre-empted by Judge Ferguson; 80 acres from Mr. Myers, which was pre-empted by Mr. Thompson; and 160 acres from Mr. J. Watson. All of this property is included in one farm, and on it he has a fine residence, in which he lives; a home for his son; and mammoth feed stables, granaries and stock yards. He has a three-acre orchard and several acres of second growth trees, which resemble a park. He feeds about 200 cattle for the market each year, and besides he sells about 60 thoroughbred Shorthorn bulls per year, the price per head ranging from \$100 to \$500. When Mr. Daniell commenced feeding cattle he was told by a substantial and well-to-do farmer that every bit of grain used in feeding cattle was just that much thrown away, but the subject hereof has demonstrated that cattle raising is one of the most profitable enterprises in which a farmer can engage.

Mr. Daniell's first wife was Harriet Osler, who died, aged thirty-five years, and his second union was with Mrs. Annie Gladhill, who had one son, T. E. Gladhill, a prominent farmer of Sarpy county, who was reared and started out in life by Mr. Daniell. The second marriage resulted in the birth of one son, Thomas R., who now manages the farm. Thomas R. Daniell

married Ruth Gates, by whom he has six children: Mildred, Irene, Gertrude, Isola, Richard, and Amos.

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**F**RANCIS E. CALDWELL is the owner and operator of a saw and grist mill in Laplatte precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, and in addition to carrying on a profitable business in that line he is also engaged in farming. Mr. Caldwell is a good business man, and his honest and upright business methods have brought trade from points many miles away. He is a native of Jefferson county, New York, and a son of Roswell and Marietta (Watson) Caldwell. His father was a leather dealer for many years, in which line he was quite successful.

Francis E. Caldwell was reared and schooled in Michigan, and when a lad of seventeen years he commenced working around a saw mill, assisting in cutting the huge timbers that grew in that state. In 1855 he crossed the Missouri River into the territory of Nebraska and secured a position in the Larimer Mills, near Laplatte. While there he helped to turn out the lumber to be used in the building of the first capitol of Nebraska, and he also helped to get out the lumber to be used in the erection of the first church in Omaha. The church stood on Ninth street and was of the Catholic denomination. In 1866 Mr. Caldwell bought of his mother a tract of 80 acres, which was pre-empted by her brother, Charles Watson, and left to her upon his death, in 1859. Although

previous to that time he had taken up a claim in Cass county, Nebraska, he began to make many improvements on the property purchased from his mother. He first put out cottonwood slips, which in the course of fifteen years grew to be trees three feet in diameter. In 1882 he built a grist mill 30 by 30 feet in dimensions, which was run by a steam engine of 11 horse power, and, in 1884, he added a sawmill 16 by 50 feet in size. Both mills are largely patronized, as they are the only ones in his vicinity. The grist mill has a capacity of 300 bushels per day, but it is very seldom that so much grain is received. Mr. Caldwell is meeting with deserved success in his present business, and is one of the substantial men of his community.

Mr. Caldwell was joined in marriage with Eveline Irwin, a daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Irwin, of Woodstock, Ohio. No two of Sarpy county's pioneers are better preserved and retain their early vigor more notably than Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell. The subject of this sketch is a Republican in politics and has served as road supervisor. Socially he is a Mason, belonging to Nebraska Lodge, No. 1, and served ten consecutive years as master. He also belongs to Bellevue Chapter, of Omaha.

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**T**HOMAS BERTON HOLMAN, a retired citizen of Laplatte, is one of the early settlers of Sarpy county, Nebraska, within whose borders he has resided since 1859, and he has done his share toward developing it

from bare prairie into fine fertile fields, so that it now ranks among the best agricultural counties in the state. Until 1895 he labored constantly but in that year he retired from active life—though he still owns his farm—and he is now spending his last days in comfort and happiness. He was born in Hannibal, Marion county, Missouri, in 1839, and is a son of Thomas and Sarah (Musgrove) Holman. Thomas Holman was also a farmer.

Thomas Berton Holman, the subject of this sketch, was born and reared on a farm, and in 1859 he left home to go to Pike's Peak, Colorado, but on arriving at Omaha, Nebraska, in the middle of December, he decided to spend the winter there. During that winter he worked in a shingle mill, and then carried on a freighting business from Omaha, Plattsmouth and Nebraska City to Denver, Colorado. He continued in that occupation until 1866, when he bought 160 acres of land in Laplatte precinct, in sections 24, 25 and 26. In 1866 he put up a neat house and planted seed for a grove; some of the trees from that seed have grown to be 18 inches in diameter. Most of them are maple, but the few cottonwood slips he set out have grown to be three feet in diameter. In the early days he and Mr. S. B. Bachelder bought a saw mill, which they moved from the river to Elk Horn, near Gretna, and there operated it for nearly two years. Upon giving it up, Mr. Holman devoted his entire attention to general farming and stock raising. He always kept about 80 head of cattle and about 100 hogs. From his orchard, which consisted of about 300 trees,

he raised a large quantity of choice fruit. Mr. Holman was one of the most substantial and progressive farmers of his community. Throughout the county he has a wide acquaintance, who know him as a good neighbor and loyal citizen—always willing to lend a helping hand and always using his influence in behalf of worthy enterprises.

Mr. Holman was joined in marriage with Amanda Jane Ingersoll, and they had four children, namely: Hallie Thomas, deceased; Bertie James, a farmer, who married Emma Knolkee and has two children, Mildred and Ralph; Lizzie, deceased; and Inez, living at home. In 1884 the subject of this sketch served as assessor, road supervisor, justice of the peace, and on the school board. He and his family are Methodists. In 1895 Mr. Holman helped to organize the State Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, of South Omaha, of which he has since served as president, and of which B. F. Stauffer is secretary, and Eugene Curtie is treasurer.

ANTON CHAPEK, proprietor of the general merchandise store at Morse Bluff, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Bohemia, September 7, 1859. He is a son of Matthias Chapek, deceased, and Katherine (Hurt) Chapek, living in Colfax county, Nebraska. Up to his twenty-first year he attended the public schools, and also learned the trade of furniture and cabinet making.

In 1880 Mr. Chapek came to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio, where

he worked at his trade two years. He afterward worked in the blast furnaces in Cleveland. On March 19, 1884, he moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, and rented a farm, which he conducted successfully for three years. He then sold out, quit farming and engaged in the furniture business. At the end of four years he again sold out, purchased a farm, and followed agricultural pursuits about four years. Then he traded the farm for the general merchandise business which he now conducts. He is credited with having the leading general merchandise store in his section of Saunders county.

In 1886 Mr. Chapek married Josie Vavra, a daughter of Frank and Barbara Vavra. They have two children, Julia Ann, aged thirteen years, and Hobart Anton, aged four years. Mr. Chapek is a member of the Lutheran church, and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

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**S**ILAS SHIRLEY has been one of Sarpy county's industrious and enterprising farmers since 1867, in which year he bought 40 acres of land in Laplatte precinct from Peter Lewis, and he has devoted his entire time to the development of that tract ever since its purchase. At the time he became the possessor of this property, the land had been improved but little, and it had only a small frame house. He has since remodeled and enlarged the house, besides erecting a good barn and several outbuildings, and he has also made a wonderful improvement by the cul-

tivation of the soil. One of the largest yields of oats in Sarpy county is the record of 83 bushels to the acre, held by our subject; his average yield, however, is 50 bushels to the acre. He has a fine grove of shade trees around his house and has, besides, a good orchard and a vineyard.

Mr. Shirley was born in Ontario county, New York, in 1829, and is a son of Philander Shirley, who was a farmer until his death in Seneca county, and married Charlotte A., a daughter of James M. and Laura R. (Kinney) Wilkinson, who moved to Bellevue, Nebraska, in 1856. Her father ran a stage formerly and was later probate judge in Butler county, Nebraska. He died, aged seventy-three years, nine months and one day. His wife was sixty-two years, one month and twenty-five days old at the time of her death. They were the parents of the following children: Abbie B., Maria S., Charlotte A., Emily N., William, John C., and James F. D. Although Silas Shirley and his wife are the parents of no children, they have nevertheless reared several, and when one has grown up and started out to face the world, Mr. and Mrs. Shirley were ever ready to make a happy home for another.

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**R**EV. DAVID RAMSEY KERR, Ph. D., D. D., stands prominently to the fore among the well known educators of Nebraska. As president of Bellevue College, a department of the University of Omaha, he has shown exceptional executive ability, and

has assisted materially in placing it on a stable foundation, and making it one of the leading educational institutions of the West. Its curriculum has been elevated to a standard equal to those of the heavily endowed Eastern universities. The college is of a denominational character, having been established by the Presbyterian churches of Nebraska, and receives the liberal support of that sect.

At the session of the Presbyterian Synod of Nebraska, at Omaha, October 10, 1879, the Presbytery of Kearney memorialized the Synod on the subject of an institution for higher education, to be controlled by the Synod. A special committee was appointed to report at the next meeting. This committee reported to the Synod, at Brownville, Nebraska, October 14, 1880, recommending that the Synodical College be located at Bellevue. After full consideration Bellevue College was established by a vote of the Synod October 16, 1880, as the Synodical College of Nebraska. The offer of the Hon. Henry T. Clarke to donate 264 acres of land situated at Bellevue, with a college building costing \$25,000 erected thereon, was accepted, and the cornerstone of Clarke Hall, the first college building, was laid July 4, 1883. The college was opened for classes September 10, 1883, with 14 students, Rev. William J. Bollman in charge of classes and Rev. F. S. Blayney acting president. The Rev. William W. Harsha, D.D., LL.D., was elected to the presidency of the college October 11, 1883, and took charge at the opening of the second year, September 9, 1884, when Clarke Hall was dedicated. Dr. Harsha resigned from the presi-

dency at the close of the fifth year, June 14, 1888, and was succeeded by Rev. Francis S. Blayney, Ph.D., who became president at the opening of the sixth year, September 14, 1888. The first class, consisting of three members, was graduated June 13, 1889. President Blayney resigned at the close of the first term of the seventh year. The Rev. David R. Kerr, Ph.D., D.D., took charge as president January 2, 1890, taking the oath of office April 27, following, and becoming the first inaugurated president of the college. Lowrie Hall, a very attractive home for young ladies, was erected at once, and was dedicated June 10, 1890. By action of the board of trustees, June 9, 1891, which was duly recorded, the corporation of Bellevue College was changed to that of the University of Omaha. The object of the college, as specified in the articles of incorporation, is to promote liberal education in Letters, Science, Philosophy, Arts, Law, Medicine, Theology, and other departments of knowledge. The professional departments of the university are located at Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. William Rankin recently gave to Bellevue College 56 acres of land and lots in the village, increasing the holdings of the institution to 320 acres, 30 village lots and two dwellings. The land is cultivated for the support of the school. In recent years Philadelphia Hall and Rankin Hall have been built, both being modern buildings. Rankin Hall is the president's home; Lowrie and Philadelphia Halls are used as dormitories for girls and boys, and have a capacity of 40 each. At the present time they are crowded, and the college is commencing to build an-







CHARLES PERKEY.

other hall. There are in attendance about 100 students, and ten instructors are employed. The college is located on Elk Hill at an elevation of 300 feet above the river level, and commands a beautiful view of the valley below. The president resides in a handsome eight-room cottage, located on Elk Hill, and modern in all its conveniences. There are two 220-foot tubular wells located on the place, which supply an abundance of water for the large reservoir. In connection with the school Mr. Kerr has established an industrial department, in which 20 students can work their way through college.

Rev. David Ramsey Kerr was born at Cadiz, Harrison county, Ohio, in 1850, and received his education at Franklin College, graduating with the class of 1874. He had taught school, whereby he secured the means which enabled him to obtain an education. He then took a theological course in the Presbyterian Seminary, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and was ordained a minister on April 26, 1876. He followed his calling at Jamestown, Pennsylvania, for a time, and was then located at Mercer, Pennsylvania, until 1887. In that year he removed to Omaha, where he was pastor of the Southwest Presbyterian Church for three years, when he received and accepted the call to be president of Bellevue College. He was united in marriage with Martha S. Hill, of Steubenville, Ohio, and they are the parents of the following children: Willis Holmes, who graduated from Bellevue College with the class of 1900; James Frederick; Mary Sherrard; David Ramsey, Jr.; Julia Carrick; and Robert Hill.

CHARLES PERKEY, who as president of the First National Bank of Wahoo, Nebraska, is well known throughout Saunders county, has been actively identified with many public enterprises of that city, and has been an important factor in promoting the best interests of the community. He is a public spirited citizen, the growth and development of Wahoo ever being foremost in his thoughts. As a business man he possesses exceptional ability, and the First National Bank under his skillful direction has become one of the most substantial banking institutions of the state of Nebraska.

Mr. Perkey was born at Georgetown, Columbia County, Ohio, where he attended the public schools. He subsequently took a thorough course of study in Garfield College, and, in 1861, entered the Union army. He enlisted in Company H, 7th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served fifteen months. In the fall of 1862 he re-enlisted at Massillon, Ohio, in Company A, 104th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served with honor until the close of the war, holding the rank of first lieutenant at the time he was mustered out. In 1866 he went west, to the state of Nebraska, locating at Desoto, Washington county. In 1868 he removed to Cedar Bluffs, Saunders county, and engaged in agricultural pursuits, until 1877, when he was made deputy county treasurer and moved to Wahoo. He served two terms in this office, until the fall of 1881, when he was elected county treasurer, and served as such until 1886; he also filled various minor offices. In 1886 he was elected

vice-president of the Saunders County National Bank, and on January 11, 1887, was made president of the First National Bank of Wahoo. The last named institution was organized in January, 1876, by Henry Anderson as a private bank, and was conducted in a small frame building, whose dimensions were 18 by 30 feet. In February, 1880, John M. Griffith became a junior partner, the capital stock was increased to \$20,000, and they engaged in general banking, insurance and land business. The growth of the bank was such as to require new quarters, and in 1881 a handsome brick building 44 by 70 feet in dimensions and two stories high, was built, the first floor being devoted to the bank and the second floor to office apartments. In addition to the general banking rooms there is a room for directors and a large fireproof vault, with a time lock. On November 9, 1885, the institution was made a national bank, with Andrew Blackstead as president, and he was succeeded by Charles Perkey, the subject hereof. It is the only national bank of Saunders county, and has a capital stock of \$80,000 and a surplus of \$10,500. There is a real estate and loan department, and L. J. Kudrna is the accountant. Mr. Perkey, aside from his banking interests, is part owner in conjunction with Killian & Straton, of the Wahoo Opera House, the finest opera house in the county.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Josephine M. Dunn, of Blair, Nebraska, who died leaving two children, Lucille and Mildred. He formed a second matrimonial alliance, wedding Mrs. E. M. Paine, of

Denver, Colorado. Fraternally Mr. Perkey is a member of Lodge 59, A. F. & A. M., of Wahoo, of which he is past master. In religious views he is liberal. His portrait appears on another page in proximity to this.

CHARLES EDWARD SMITH, whose long life has been notable for untiring industry, marked by many interesting episodes, was one of the very first settlers of Sarpy county, Nebraska. He located there as early as 1854, encountered all the hardships incident to pioneer life, and has witnessed the wonderful transition from a wild prairie to a land of beautiful homes, busy towns and highly cultivated farms. He is now eighty-two years of age, but with an iron constitution, developed by years of early toil, he bears his years in a remarkable manner, having the strength and agility of a man many years his junior.

Mr. Smith was born two miles from Newport, in the state of Rhode Island, March 13, 1818, and is a son of Edward Smith. At the age of sixteen years he began sailing and made four voyages on a whaler in the Atlantic and Indian oceans, and one to Australia. In 1849, with others, he bought a sailing vessel and went around the "Horn" to California, the voyage consuming six months. He then followed mining there for a period of two years, after which he returned to his home in the East on a steamer, going by way of Nicaragua. In 1853 he went west, and located in council Bluffs, Iowa, with the intention of driving

cattle from the eastern markets to the mountains, in company with Mr. Lockwood, Mr. Gilmore, and others. They decided to locate in Sarpy county, Nebraska, and, beginning at the river, laid out their claims. The subject of this sketch was the third to locate a claim, acquiring the 320 acres on which he now resides. He built a log house in 1864, and set out fruit and shade trees; he has now an excellent orchard of three acres. Some of his trees have grown to be the largest in the county, one cottonwood tree measuring four feet in diameter. His land yields heavily, averaging 40 bushels of corn and 30 bushels of oats to the acre. The farm is well stocked with cattle, hogs and horses—all of high grade. He has met with great success during all the years of his active career, and is a prosperous man. He is a man of pleasing character and numbers his friends by the score throughout the county. Although now living in practical retirement he still oversees his property.

Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Hannah Thurston, who died at the age of thirty-five years, and they were the parents of four children, as follows: Cassius M. Clay, deceased; Charles Sumner, a railroad man, of Montana, who married Nellie Douglas, and has four children,—Douglas, Arthur, Park, and Walter; Walter, deceased; and William, a carpenter, who married Dena Nelson, and has four children,—Eddie, Gertrude, Evelyn (deceased), and Ralph. Mr. Smith married again—his second wife being Mrs. Augusta Hotchkiss, widow of Samuel J. Hotchkiss, who died,

leaving a daughter, Ida M., who became the wife of H. S. Smith, by whom she has three children—Nellie, Fred, and Mabel. By his second marriage the subject hereof is the father of four children: Julius Jay, who has charge of the home farm; Irving Edward, an insurance agent of Salt Lake City, who married Julia Cheney, and has one son,—Reuel; Hannah Thurston, station agent and postmistress at Avery, Nebraska; and Paul P., a farmer, who married Rose B. Ray, and has one son, Owen. Religiously, Mr. Smith is an adherent of the Baptist faith. Politically, he is a Prohibitionist.

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**W**ILLIAM A. SCHWENCK, one of the rising young farmers and stock raisers of Sarpy county, Nebraska, is a son of David and Mary (Sump) Schwenck.

David Schwenck was a native of Germany, and throughout his early life he was a rope maker by trade. Upon coming to this country he settled in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1864, at which time he was a very poor man, but by constant perseverance he succeeded in amassing a moderate fortune before his death. The first two years he worked as a day laborer, but with considerable economy he succeeded in saving enough of his money to go into the saloon business, at which he continued three years. In 1876 he sold out, and from Mr. Hamilton, of Omaha, he purchased 320 acres of land in the southwest corner of section 30, lacking but \$1,000 of having enough to pay for his place. Two years later he sold 100 acres

of this land. There were no improvements upon the place, and his first work was to erect a house, which stood until 1882, when it was destroyed by fire. He afterward built the one in which his son, William, now resides, and in 1890 he built the handsome home now owned by his wife. He was very successful in carrying on farming, and soon became the owner of a large tract of land. At the time of his death, however, he had sold all but 70 acres, upon which he spent his latter years in quiet retirement. He passed from this life in 1899, aged seventy-one years, and his death was deeply deplored by his large circle of friends throughout the community. As a result of his marriage with Mary Sump, the following children were born: Dora, who is the wife of Edward Custer, of New York City; Henry, who is a sheep ranchman in the West; Ella, who is the wife of G. A. Massion, of Omaha; William A.; Carrie, who is the wife of J. M. MacMeadows, of Paris, Illinois; and Agnes, who is the wife of J. L. Hines, of Sarpy county.

Mr. Schwenck's early schooling, which he received in the primary schools of his native town, was later supplemented by a course in the Fremont Normal School, from which institution he was graduated in 1891. Upon leaving school he rented his father's farm until 1897, when he bought the north 108 acres. This piece of property is under a good state of cultivation as a result of his own and his father's work, and no better farm can be found in Sarpy county than the one owned and operated by the subject of this sketch. He has raised five

tons of alfalfa to the acre, 75 bushels of corn per acre, and 50 bushels of oats per acre, all of which goes to prove the excellent condition of his land. Stock raising occupies much of his attention—as he always has about 60 head of Hereford cattle, and about 50 head of Poland-China hogs. For the past ten years he has raised fancy-bred chickens, many of which proved to be premium winners, but at present he has mostly Wyandotte chickens. He is undoubtedly one of the most progressive and up-to-date farmers of his community, and throughout the county he has any number of warm friends.

Mr. Schwenck was joined in marriage with Meda Hines, a daughter of John Hines, living near Manchester, Iowa. Both he and his wife are Presbyterians, though Mr. Schwenck was reared a Lutheran. Politically, he is a staunch Democrat.

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CHARLES L. SHARP, one of the substantial and enterprising business men of Papillion, Nebraska, is proprietor of a hotel, restaurant, and confectionery store. He was born in Cass county, Nebraska, August 8, 1869, and is a son of Joseph G. and Amanda J. (Rager) Sharp, both of whom are now residing in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Sharp was reared to agricultural pursuits, and until thirteen years of age he attended the district schools of his native county. He then went to work in a livery stable, but shortly afterward became a railroad contractor, which business he followed thirteen years.

The following four years he was engaged in watermelon farming in Cass county, but at the end of that time he sold out to engage in his present business. The subject hereof is a popular, wide-awake business man, and he is one of the leading citizens of Papillion.

Mr. Sharp was united in marriage in 1888 with Mollie Betts, a daughter of J. B. and Laura (Butts) Betts of Cass county, and they have a family of six children, as follows: Myrtle May, aged ten years; Charles L., aged eight years; Josie, aged six years; Earl, aged four years; Pearl, aged two years; and Grace, a babe of two months. In politics, Mr. Sharp is a strong Democrat, and takes an active part in public affairs.

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**G**EORGE M. MULLINS is a man whose good judgment, learning and sterling honesty have won for him a place among the prominent attorneys of Sarpy county, Nebraska. He was born in North Londonderry, New Hampshire, February 4, 1865, and is a son of Simon and Harriet (Cheney) Mullins, both now living in North Londonderry.

Mr. Mullins remained at home until he became of age, attending the public schools and fitting himself for college, in the Pinkerton Academy at Derry, New Hampshire. He then entered the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, from which he graduated June 25, 1885. On June 16, 1886, he located in Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he

taught in the public schools four years. From 1890 to 1893 he was principal of the Millard School, in Douglas county, and while occupying that position he read law. He was admitted to practice in 1893, and on August 1 of that year he entered into active practice in the office of C. L. Hover, of Papillion. He remained with Mr. Hover one year when he established an office of his own. He has devoted considerable attention to commercial, real estate and probate law, on which he is recognized as an authority, and he has made an enviable reputation for himself among the leading attorneys of Papillion.

Mr. Mullins was joined in marriage in October, 1890, with Mary A. Cain, a daughter of Richard M. and Frances (Whittington) Cain, of Sarpy county, and they have three children, namely: Simon Marion, aged eight years; Ida Lucile, aged six years; and Louise Frances, a babe. Politically, the subject of this sketch is a staunch Democrat.

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**H**ENRY CORDES is one of the thrifty and well-to-do farmers of Sarpy county, Nebraska, who started out in the wide world a comparatively poor boy. The success with which he has met is due to his own untiring energy and determination to succeed. He was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1843, and is a son of Peter Cordes. He received his early schooling in his native town, and during his early life he followed various pursuits; in 1869 he came to the United States. Upon his

arrival he went directly to Sarpy county, where he worked as a day laborer on a farm, and saved his earnings until he had enough to purchase 80 acres of land from Isaac Hoff. He at once put up a small house, and set out a lot of shade trees and about two acres of fruit trees. He labored diligently in improving his land all he could, and in the course of a few years he had as good a farm as could be found in Sarpy county. As his efforts were being crowned with success his earnings were invested in more farming land, and he purchased an adjoining 40 acres from L. Meyers. He has a fine barn 24 by 32 feet in dimensions, a good granary, and several first-class out-buildings. He keeps about 60 head of cattle at all times, and several hundred head of hogs; he sometimes raises from 60 to 80 bushels of corn to the acre, and has raised 60 bushels of oats per acre. Mr. Cordes is a hard and thorough worker, and is deserving of the success which he has attained. He is a good neighbor and citizen, and has many warm friends in Bellevue precinct.

Henry Cordes was joined in wedlock with Catherine Petersen, and to them have been born the following children: Annie, Hugo, William, Henry, Almira, George, Eddie, Gustave, Adele, Tena, Harry, and Sophia. The eldest daughter, Annie, is the wife of Hans Harmsen, and they have three children—Theodore, Catherine, and Walter. The subject of this sketch has served on the school board, and for the past sixteen years he has been organist at the Lutheran church, of which he and his family are members.

ANDREW H. FRICKE, the owner of several fine farms in Sarpy and Douglas counties, Nebraska, is now living in quiet retirement, having spent many successful years in tilling the soil. He is a descendant of sturdy German stock, having been born in Walldorf, Germany, May 27, 1853. He is a son of Henry and Anna (Steffen) Fricke, the former having died while on the way to Nebraska, while the latter now resides with her son Andrew H.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of eleven years when his parents came to the United States, and settled near Richmond, Jefferson county, Ohio, where the father spent two years in carrying on agricultural pursuits. In 1867 they moved to Sarpy county, Nebraska, where Henry Fricke homesteaded 80 acres of land,—the west half of the northwest quarter of section 16, township 14, range 12. On this piece of property Andrew H. Fricke now resides. At first the family lived in a small house which Henry Fricke had erected, but they have lived in their present fine residence since 1885. Stock raising and general farming were Mr. Fricke's pursuits for many years, and as his efforts met with success his earnings were used in the purchase of additional land. He now owns the following farms: 160 acres in Douglas county, adjoining the homestead; 160 acres described as the southeast quarter of section 22, township 14, range 12; and 160 acres described as the southeast quarter of section 20, township 14, range 12. His farms are in a good state of cultivation—the result of his own labor—and with the exception of the 40 acres



around the homestead he rents all his property.

In November, 1886, Mr. Fricke was united in marriage with Minnie Hemsted, a daughter of Charles and Rosa (Gruber) Hemsted, of Dubuque, Iowa, both of whom are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Fricke two children have been born, namely: Ida, aged twelve years; and Emil, aged nine years. Mr. Fricke is a staunch Republican in politics, and his fellow citizens have honored him several times with the office of precinct assessor and road supervisor. Mrs. Fricke is a member of the Methodist church.

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**G**EORGE SCHRAM, a successful tiller of the soil, is one of the self-made men of Sarpy county, Nebraska, as through his own industry and thrifty habits he has succeeded in acquiring 500 acres of choice farming land. He was born in Bavaria on January 9, 1855. He is a son of John and Katherine (Oppel) Schram. The former also lives in Sarpy county, and the latter is deceased.

Until George Schram was seventeen years of age he worked upon his father's farm in Bavaria, and at the same time spent his spare hours in attending the district schools. In 1871 he and his sister came to the United States. He settled near Waterloo, Iowa, where he worked on a farm for five years. He located in Sarpy county in 1876, and has become one of the most influential and highly respected farmers within its bounds. He at once purchased a farm, and with his earnings he bought more land from time to time until he is now the

owner of 500 acres—300 acres of which he rents out while he cultivates the remainder. He devotes considerable attention to stock raising, and his farm is one of the best tilled in Sarpy county. He has a handsome residence which is surrounded by a magnificent orchard of 600 trees, consisting of apple, cherry, peach and plum; the outbuildings on his farm are all in good condition.

Mr. Schram was married in 1880 to Mary Klensch, a daughter of Peter and Katherine (Schuetz) Klensch—the former being deceased, while the latter lives in Los Angeles, California. Eight children have been born to this union, namely: Katie, aged eighteen years; Maggie, aged seventeen years; Peter, aged fourteen years; Nettie, aged eleven years; George, aged eight years; Leonard, aged seven years; Josephine, aged four years; and Conrad, aged one year. Politically, Mr. Schram is a Democrat. Religiously, he and his family belong to the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Schram has four brothers and two sisters residing in Sarpy county, namely: Henry, Robert, Valentine, Michael, Maggie, the wife of August Kline, and Linda, the wife of Louis Fredericks.

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**H**ERMAN A. SANDER, a public spirited and popular citizen of Papillion, Sarpy county, Nebraska, is the leading merchant of his adopted city, and stands high in both business and social circles. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 27, 1867, and is a son of William (deceased)

and Mary (Fecht) Sander—the latter now living in Sarpy county, Nebraska.

In 1876 the family moved to Papillion, Nebraska, where Herman attended the public schools until he was fifteen years of age. Then the family moved to Omaha, and at the age of eighteen years he began work as clerk, being employed in various offices. For twelve years he was a trusted employee of the United States National Bank of Omaha. In 1897 he went to Papillion, Nebraska, embarked in the general merchandise business and is now conducting the largest and most popular store in the county.

Mr. Sander is a hustling and wide-awake business man, and his courteous manners and good business traits commended him to all with whom he comes in contact.

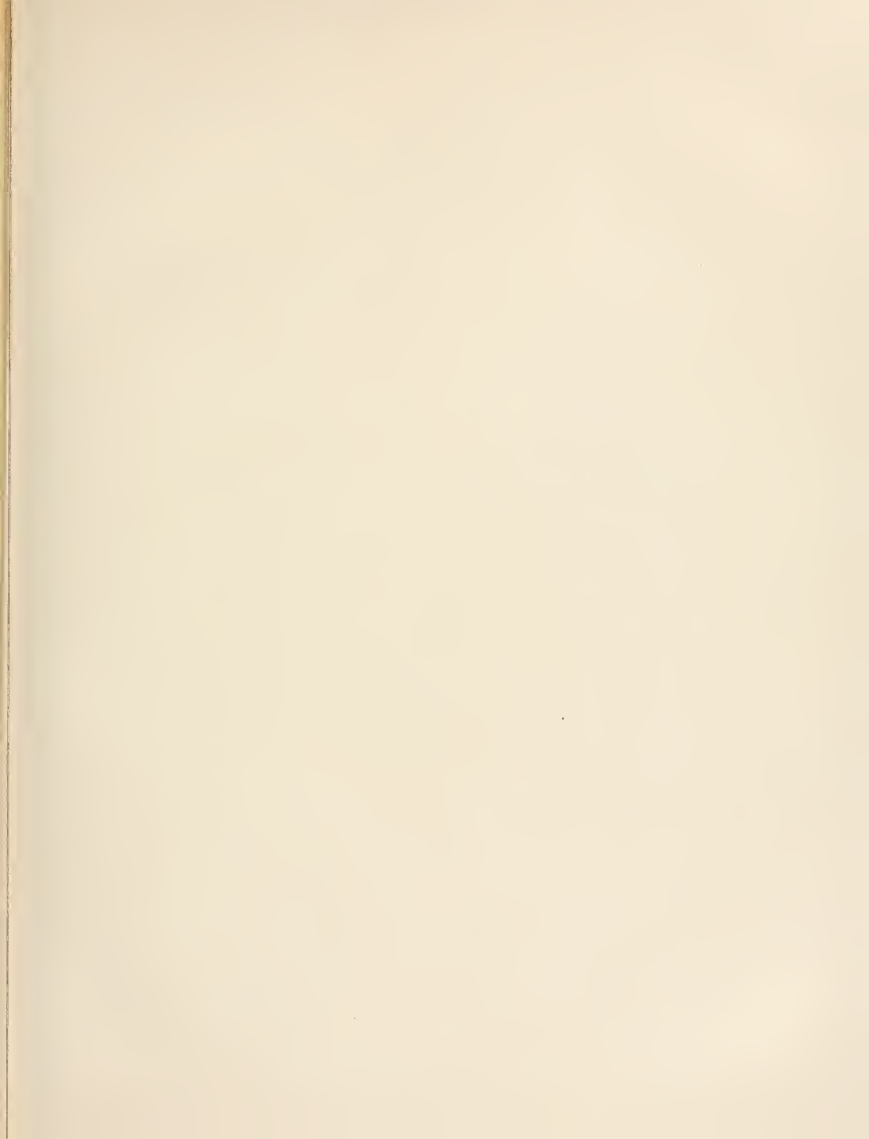
The subject of this brief sketch was married in 1894 to Pauline Zimmerman, a daughter of Gottlob (deceased) and Katherine (Elsasser) Zimmerman, and to them has been born one child—Marie, aged three years. Mr. Sander is a member of the Sarpy Lodge, I. O. O. F., and of the Royal Arcanum.

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**W**ILLIAM L. WILLIAMS, an extensive land owner of Sarpy county, Nebraska, successfully carried on farming for many years, but since 1892 he has been retired from active life, a respite of which he is well deserving after so many years of incessant labor. He was born September 22, 1835—his birthplace being in Delaware county,

Ohio—and he is a son of David and Elizabeth (Lewis) Williams, both of whom are now deceased.

Until he was eighteen years of age, the subject hereof worked during the summer months on his father's farm, while during the winters he improved his spare time by attending the district schools. After that he started to learn the trade of a carpenter, and when he moved to Johnson county, Iowa, he followed that trade in connection with farming for a period of ten years. He then left Iowa, and going to Omaha, Nebraska, he there pursued his trade for two years, after which he located in Sarpy county, and has since become one of its most esteemed and respected citizens. At first he followed his trade for two years, during which time he assisted in putting up the first frame house in Papillion, but subsequently he betook himself to farming, and purchased 120 acres in Fairview precinct. Farming and stock raising were his chief pursuits, and, as the country was new, he met with considerable difficulty, but, by reason of a determination to succeed his efforts were eventually crowned with success. He lived in a small house, 16 by 24 feet in dimensions, and after dwelling on his first purchase for three and one-half years, he traded it for 160 acres of land in section 12, township 13, range 11. Having good success, he was afterward enabled to buy 160 acres in section 13, township 13, range 11, and his home residence in section 27, township 14, range 12. He has a fine home, and his farms are highly improved, as a result of his own toil. He is widely known throughout his adopted county





WALTER FLEMING.

as a conscientious and upright farmer and a good citizen.

April 2, 1873, Mr. Williams was joined in marriage with Zoa Jarvis, of Canada, a daughter of John Jarvis, and to this union the following children have been born: Mary, aged twenty-six years; and Lillie, aged twenty years. In 1891 Mr. Williams moved to Papillion, where he erected his present fine home, and since 1892 he has been enjoying the pleasures of a well earned fortune. His present home is surrounded by a fine orchard of apple, plum, peach and cherry trees.

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**W**ALTER FLEMING, of Morse Bluff, Saunders county, Nebraska, president of the Morse Bluff Bank, was born near London, Canada, December 12, 1842. He is a son of Robert and Christina (Beattie) Fleming, the former deceased, the latter now living in Saunders county.

Like most boys of the neighborhood, he worked on his father's farm while attending the public school. After leaving the district schools he took a course in a commercial college. He worked on his father's farm until 1868, when he moved to Saunders county. He took up a homestead, entered a quarter section of land and immediately engaged in farming. Not being overburdened with money, he put up a cottonwood shanty and had a dug-out for a barn. Two years afterward he put up a 10 by 12 foot house, in which he lived until 1883, when he built his present residence. He now has one of the finest farms and orchards in Saunders

county. Over 400 apple, pear, and cherry trees, now in full bearing, present a beautiful sight. His property consists of the south half of the northeast quarter of section 4, the southeast quarter of section 4, the northwest quarter of section 10 and the west half of the southwest quarter of section 9,—480 acres in all.

In October, 1872, Mr. Fleming married Julia Wheeler, of Iowa. Mrs. Fleming is a daughter of William and Sarah (Ballard) Wheeler. They have nine children, as follows: Ada M., born February 5, 1874; Agnes M. (deceased), born October 25, 1875; Thomas M., born February 6, 1877; Ethel M. (deceased), born November 16, 1878; Edna B. (deceased), born August 19, 1880; Lizzie A. (deceased), born November 23, 1882; Sarah E. (deceased), born May 26, 1884; Walter G., born April 16, 1887; and Robert H., born November 7, 1888.

Mr. Fleming is a Republican in politics, and filled the position of county superintendent of schools in 1871 and 1872, and was county commissioner in 1884, 1885 and 1886. He is president of the bank at Morse Bluff, and a member of Doric Lodge, No. 76, K. of P. A portrait of Mr. Fleming, executed from a recent photograph, is presented on a foregoing page.

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**J**OHAN A. BOSTROM, one of the progressive citizens of Saunders county, Nebraska, is extensively engaged in farming and stock raising in Mariposa precinct.

Mr. Bostrom was born in Sweden, in 1853, and is a son of Olof and Anna (Bruse) Bostrom, who had six children as follows: Emma, Peter, Olof E., John A., the subject hereof, Gustaf, and Josephine. Emma is the wife of Adolph Pollack, lives near Colon, Saunders county, and has one child, Alma (Larson), of Omaha. Peter married Minnie Pollack, who died in 1895, leaving three sons and one daughter, namely: Herman, Hjalma, Hul-dah, and Axel. They all reside with their father on his homestead on the north half of the southeast quarter of section 24, township 15, range 6. Olof E., who homesteaded in section 18, township 15, range 7, was interested in a store at Malmo, and is now deceased. John A. is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. Gustaf lives on the old homestead, and also owns 40 acres in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 19, township 15, range 7. He married Hannah Peterson, by whom he has seven children: Alphine, Edith, Oscar, Alma, Emily, Amy, and a small baby. Josephine, deceased, was the wife of Gustaf Breddenberg, of Malmo, and left two children, Emfrid and Ernest.

Olof Bostrom, father of the subject hereof, came to America with his family in 1868, and at an early day located in Saunders county, Nebraska. He was entirely without means when he began, but grew to be one of the most prosperous farmers in his community.

John A. Bostrom was reared and mentally trained in his native country, and came to America in 1868, with his parents. His first work was upon the farm homesteaded by his

father in Saunders county, and now owned by his brother Gustaf. While still at home, he purchased railroad land, the south half of the northwest quarter of section 25, township 15, range 6—and afterward bought the 40 acres north of that property. In 1889, he purchased the east half of the northeast quarter of section 26, township 15, range 6. He first built a house, 14 by 22 feet, one and a half stories, and to this he has since built an addition. His first barn, 16 by 26 feet, was built in 1883. Subsequently a cattle shed was built, 12 by 16 feet, and a double corn crib, 26 by 40 feet. He first planted cottonwood and willow trees along the boundary line of the place, and they are now full grown. He has a number of black walnut trees, and an orchard of about 200 fruit trees. He has 65 acres in pasture, and has been engaged in raising stock, making a specialty of Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs. He is a firm believer in thoroughbred stock, and has none but high grade upon his farm. He has a fine thoroughbred bull, weighing 1,800 pounds, and has sold several young bulls to prominent farmers in his vicinity. The water for the place is furnished by a 65-foot well, equipped with a windmill. Mr. Bostrom is a modern farmer in every sense of the word and what he has gained in the world is the result of his individual efforts, as he received no assistance whatever in starting life on his own account.

On November 18, 1881, Mr. Bostrom was united in marriage with Ida Thobroe, a daughter of Olof and Oleanna (Larson) Thobroe, who came from Norway with her parents in

1869, Mr. Thobroe taking a homestead in Pohocco precinct, Saunders county. Mrs. Bostrom is one of eight children, as follows: Louis, deceased, who was a druggist, of Laramie City, Wyoming; Margaret, of Laramie City, Wyoming; Henry, who is on the board of trade at Bloomington, Illinois; Jennie, of Omaha; Mary, of San Diego, California; Ida; Anna, of Salt Lake City; and Bertha, of Laramie City. The subject of this sketch had eight children, five of whom are living: Mabel, aged seventeen years, Arvid, Annette, Henry, and Emma. In politics Mr. Bostrom is a Populist. He is a member of the Swedish Covenant, or Mission, church, whose edifice was built about 1875.



**J**OHN LARSON, one of the successful and highly respected farmers of Saunders county, Nebraska, is a native of Sweden, and was born in 1834, a son of Jacob Larson. He received his intellectual training in his native land, and came to America in 1868. He settled 100 miles west of Omaha, and worked on the Union Pacific Railroad. In the spring of 1869 he went to Missouri, where he worked for five months. He then took a place which had been pre-empted by another, in Nebraska, the farm containing 80 acres, which was located as follows: Southwest quarter of northeast quarter, and northwest quarter of southeast quarter of section 32, township 15, range 6. His first building was a dug-out, 12 by 14 feet. In 1873 he was married to Katie

Carlson. He set out trees on the west line and about the buildings, and, in 1882, built a comfortable house. In 1893 he erected a large stable and granary. He has two wells 35 feet deep. The creek, which gives a fine supply of water, is fringed with heavy timber, which furnishes plenty of fuel the year round.

Mr. Larson also bought 80 acres of land of the railroad company in 1875 at \$5 and \$6 per acre. This land is the east half of the northwest quarter of section 5, township 14, range 6, all of which is extensively cultivated, but which contains no buildings.

Mr. Larson and his wife are the parents of three children, namely: Ida, now Mrs. John Wallis, who lives with her parents, and has two children, Florence and Violet; and Arthur and Dora, who are at home. Mr. Larson is a Populist in politics. The family attend the Baptist church. The subject of this sketch is very well known and is very popular among the Swedish people in the community.



**A**LFRED ANDERSON, one of the earliest settlers of Saunders county, Nebraska, and a highly respected farmer of that section, is a native of Sweden, and was born in 1833, a son of Andrew Anderson. He grew to manhood and received his mental training in his native country. In the year 1868 Mr. Anderson came to America, and after spending a few days in Chicago went west, where he worked for some time on the B. & M. R. R. R.

Mr. Anderson located in Saunders county in 1870, where he settled on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 30, township 15, range 6. Six years later he pre-empted the 80 acres just south of his claim, making his present farm 160 acres. His first house was of sod, 12 by 14 feet, and the barn was made of wood. To the barn he has added considerably, until it is now 64 by 26 feet. In 1882 he built a frame house, 26 by 24 feet, and in 1888 he lost the same by fire. Subsequently he built a smaller, though good, substantial house, and in 1898 he built several outbuildings, such as hog and cow sheds. The farm is well fenced in, and as Mr. Anderson is one of the best farmers in his section and takes great pride in the care and management of his farm, giving it all of his attention, he has just cause to be proud of the neat and attractive appearance which it presents. In 1885 he set out a fine grove which protects the north side of the buildings. He has fine wells and a good windmill. Becoming too old to work the farm himself, he has rented most of the land on shares to Oscar Headlund, who has lived in Saunders county since 1888.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1859, while in Sweden, and the children born to him in that country were: Theodore, born in 1860, now living with his family in Lincoln, Nebraska; Albertina, now Mrs. Olson, of Wahoo; and Pauline, who married Mr. Sampson, a shoemaker of Lincoln. Mr. Anderson was again married in September, 1888, to Mary Headlund. Three children came to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, whose names and ages are

as follows: Wilhelmina, who is eleven years old; Gustaf, aged ten years; and Annie, aged eight years. The family attend the Lutheran church of Malmo, and are in school district No. 24.

JAMES A. REED was born in New Jersey, in 1853, and is a son of James S. and Eleanor (Vorhees) Reed. His father was a carpenter by trade and during the son's infancy moved to Wisconsin.

At the age of seven years young Reed acquired the rudiments of an education in the district schools of Winnebago county, Wisconsin, six miles north of Oshkosh. While going to school he employed himself during Saturdays and vacations at work on his father's farm. Thus he continued to study and work, until he attained his majority, which was in 1874.

In the same year Mr. Reed was united in marriage with Sarah Miracle, of Winnebago county. He began farming for himself, and cultivated on shares a farm with his father-in-law. The cheap, rich farming lands of the West had for some time attracted his attention. He had a longing to own a farm of his own. In that new region he decided to cast his fortune. Accordingly, in 1879, he moved to Saunders county, Nebraska. There he purchased a school lease from M. S. Wollon, and afterward bought the land from the state. It comprises 80 acres, being the west half of the northwest quarter of section 36.

Mr. Reed has been an active citizen, putting



his shoulder to the wheel when any movement is in progress calculated to advance the interests of the community in which he lives. He is a Republican in politics, and, fraternally, a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Reed held the office of school director from 1879 to 1882.

PETER NYGREN, a farmer and general business man, well and favorably known in Saunders county, is a land owner in Mariposa precinct. In all things he is practical, never waiting for another to set the example, but always taking the lead and forcing his way to the front. When he arrived at Omaha, upon first coming to this country, he was indebted in the sum of \$200, but, discouraging as his circumstances were, he set to work with light heart and willing hands, paid off his debts and grew to be one of the most prosperous men of his community.

Mr. Nygren was born in Sweden, in 1844, and is a son of Nels and Eleanor Pearson. His father had a family of four sons and three daughters, all of the sons preceding their parents to this country, the latter coming in 1881. Nels Pearson died in 1884, and his widow returned to Sweden, where she died in 1898. The following children were born to them: Peter, the subject hereof; Nels, who lives in Valley county, Nebraska; Annie (Okason), who lives in Sweden; Chasty (Johnson), who lives in Sweden; Marie (Bankson), who also lives in Sweden; Hans, who was drowned while

bathing in a pond upon Peter Nygren's property; and John, who is married, and lives at Newman Grove. 1342281

The subject of this sketch has been shifting for himself since he was eight years old. At the age of seventeen years, he was apprenticed to a millwright named Rosenquist, for four years, and being a very apt workman became a finished mechanic by the time he reached his majority. He changed his name to Nygren, the meaning of which is a new limb or shoot from a tree. He came to America in 1868, and immediately located in Omaha, Nebraska. Having forgotten his certificate as a millwright, and being unable to talk English, he found it very difficult to obtain work at his trade. He worked in the harvest field and on the railroad, and afterward obtained employment in railroad shops at \$3.50 per day. He aided in the construction of the Omaha High School, and his expert workmanship was evidenced when engaged in putting the mammoth spire of that building in place. He had a force of men under him, and under his directions was accomplished the difficult task of putting in place, 180 feet from the ground, the heavy wrought iron spire, whose weight was 800 pounds. In 1871 he homesteaded the north half of the southwest quarter of section 28, township 15, range 6, in Saunders county. His first building was part frame and part dug-out, and he also had a dug-out for horses. He made many improvements upon the place, and in the fall of 1871 set out a row of walnut trees, which are now bearing. In addition to his farming he followed his trade to some ex-

tent. In 1878 or 1879, while in Colfax county, building a mill, his home was burned, and he returned to find that his family had saved their clothing and the household goods. Leaving the family with a neighbor, he returned to Colfax county, and completed the mill during the winter. In the spring he got twelve of his neighbors with teams to assist him, and hauled twelve loads of lumber from Fremont. Although a comparative stranger and having no money, the firm of Nye & Colson, of Fremont, took his word for the bill and let him have the lumber. He selected the site of the present structures on which to build, it being a broad knoll on the north end of his property, and there he built an L shaped house, the dimensions being 14 by 28 feet, 14 by 14 feet, and 14 feet high. His first frame barn burned in 1887, as the result of a cooker exploding. The cow sheds and other buildings which were burned were rebuilt at the same time. He has a great number of hives of bees (having started in 1882 with only two hives), and sells a large amount of honey. He has the only silo in use in his community, it being 25 feet deep, and air tight, keeping fodder fresh and green for spring use. He has a particularly fine tubular well, 153 feet deep, the water from which is drawn by a windmill. Surrounding the house is an excellent orchard of three acres of fruit trees, consisting mainly of apples, plums and cherries. To the west of the house is a fine fish pond, abounding in carp. In 1877 or 1878 he purchased 40 acres of railroad land west of his home property at \$6 per acre, and in 1886 he bought 80 acres just south of the

homestead of Mr. Rosenburg for \$20 per acre. He has a herd of cows and heifers, and, as an experiment, has them herded out west on shares of one-half of the increase.

In 1865 Mr. Nygren was united in marriage with Ellen Olson, a daughter of Olof Rasmusson, and they reared seven children: Emma M., Emily, Gusta, Hilma, Oscar, Oroph, and Axel. Emma M. is the wife of Charles Noreen, a farmer of Mariposa precinct, by whom she has three children, Elmer, Hilda, and Phemie. Emily is the wife of Axel Bearn, who lives near Wahoo, and has two children, Mabel and Robert. Gusta is the wife of G. Anderson, of Saunders county, and has two children, Roben and Herbert. Hilma is single, and lives in Omaha. Oscar is assisting in the work upon the farm. Oroph lives at home. Axel was but a month old when his mother died in 1888. In 1890 the subject of this sketch formed a second marriage, wedding Mrs. Mary Hokenson, a widow with three children, as follows: August, who works in an elevator at Malmo; Herman, living in Omaha; and Esther, who is at home. Mr. Nygren is a staunch Republican, and has served twelve years on the school board, the past two years as director in district No. 24; he has also been road overseer several terms. He is a faithful member of the Lutheran church, and an earnest temperance advocate. In addition to his farm work he has been identified with a number of business ventures, and is one of the most enterprising men in his section of the county. He is a man of high character and esteemed by all.

**A**NDREW ROSLUND, an able business man and farmer of Saunders county, Nebraska, is also extensively engaged in the manufacture of brooms on his farm in Mariposa precinct, an enterprise in which he has met with great success. He began in a very small way, and each year has added to his business and increased his output until, in 1899, he manufactured as high as 15,000 brooms, valued at \$2.25 per dozen.

Mr. Roslund was born in Smoland, in southern Sweden, forty-three (Swedish) miles south of Stockholm, in 1835, and is a son of John and Carrie (Anderson) Swanson. He is the oldest child and had one brother and three sisters, as follows: Magdalena, who died in Sweden; Swan, a resident of Sweden; Carrie (Anderson), of Polk county, Nebraska; and Annie, who married, and is living in Kansas.

The subject hereof was reared in Sweden, and there grew to manhood, learning the trade of a shoemaker. He came to America with his family in 1870, and located in Illinois, where he purchased a house for \$80. He lived in this with his family for six years, and when he decided to move to Saunders county, Nebraska, he was offered \$35 for it. This he refused, but instead tore the building apart, and shipped the joists, sills, and floors in the bottom of a car in which his stock was loaded, thereby saving \$75 when he built. He purchased 80 acres of railroad land—the west half of the northeast quarter of section 29, township 15, range 6—from the company agent at Fremont, for \$6 per acre. He built on the site of his present residence, the dimensions

being 20 by 14 feet, with 12-foot posts. He bought 40 acres east, and 80 acres in section 20—the east half of the southwest quarter—from Henry Safstrom, in 1885. Subsequently he bought the south half of the northeast quarter of section 31, where his son, Henry, now lives. He also owns a quarter section of land in Oak Creek precinct, between Touhy and Valparaiso. He purchased considerable other land, which he disposed of to good advantage. When first locating in the county, he followed his trade as a shoemaker, and also repaired harness as well. He began raising broom corn, which he had handled and cultivated while in Illinois, and now has about 20 acres under cultivation. He began the manufacture of brooms in 1889, buying out a man named Carlyle, who was in that business, and who continued for a time in the employ of Mr. Roslund. From a comparatively small beginning has grown an extensive and money-making business, the output increasing each year until, in 1899, it reached the handsome total of 15,000 brooms. He buys the handles by the carload, has two large buildings devoted to the work, and employs two skilled workmen during the season. He now rents a portion of his home farm and manages the remainder, employing a hand to do the work. He set out a fine grove of trees surrounding his house, whose dimensions are 32 by 36 feet, with 18-foot posts. It was built in 1892, and is one of the finest in that section. He also has a good orchard of five acres. There is a windmill midway between the house and shop, which conveys water by means of pipes to a large tank for watering cattle, and

everything is most conveniently arranged for successfully carrying on business.

In 1859, while living in Sweden, Mr. Roslund was united in marriage with Mary Magnusson, who is now sixty-nine years of age. They became the parents of the following children, the first four of whom were born in Sweden: Charles, Anna, Emma, Augusta, Henry, and Frank. Charles, of Polk county, Nebraska, married Anna Caroline Nelson, and has two children, Mabel and Gilbert; Anna lives at home; Emma (Safstrom) died in Saunders county, leaving three children, who make their home with the subject hereof, namely,—Edith, Mamie, and Arthur; Augusta is the wife of John Lees, of Polk county; Henry married Victoria Ockander, and lives on a near-by farm; Frank is single and lives at home. Religiously, the family attends the Baptist church. In political affiliations Mr. Roslund is a Populist.



**H**ENRY WEHNER, cashier of the Farmers & Merchants Bank at Cedar Bluffs, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born at Pekin, Illinois, in 1861. He is a son of John E. and Katherine (Seim) Wehner. His father was a distiller, and is engaged with the firm of J. & G. Herget Co., Limited, of Pekin.

Henry Wehner is the second of a family of seven children, who were named, respectively, Carrie, Henry, Elizabeth, Fred, Emma, Anna, and Mary. He was educated in the public and parochial schools in Pekin. He left school

at the age of sixteen years, and undertook farm work, which he followed about one year. He then quit the farm and learned the iron-molding trade, but his health not permitting a continuance in this occupation, he abandoned it and moved to Chicago, where he pursued a course of study at Bryant & Stratton's Business College. He graduated, and received his diploma from that institution in the fall of 1882.

Mr. Wehner was now armed with fighting implements, and was ready to begin the battle of life. He saw in the far distant West opportunities for young men with nerve and willing disposition. He moved from Chicago to Fremont, Nebraska, and engaged as bookkeeper for Meyer & Sherman, holding the position for five years. He afterward went into the grocery business at Fremont, and followed it with fair success for the next five years. That business he sold and moved to Cedar Bluffs in the fall of 1892. On the organization of the Farmers & Merchants Bank in that city, he was elected cashier, which position he still holds.

Mr. Wehner was married to Marie C. Frahn, a native of Schleswig-Holstein. When a child, she came to America with her parents, who settled at Fremont, Nebraska, and engaged in farming. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wehner, whom they named as follows: Fred, aged twelve years; Freda, aged nine years; and Dorothy, aged one year.

Politically, Mr. Wehner is a Democrat. His religious views accord with the doctrines of the German Lutheran church. He is a member of Fremont Lodge, No. 15, F. & A. M.; of





J. C. F. BUSH, M. D.

the A. O. U. W., and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. He bears the reputation of being a cool-headed, far-seeing, conservative banker, unflinchingly honest, charitable withal, and kind-hearted to a fault. The subject of this sketch is very popular with the citizens of the county, and is recognized as one of its solid and representative men.

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**J.** C. F. BUSH, M. D., whose portrait is shown on the preceding page, is justly considered one of the most successful and prominent physicians and surgeons in Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska. Dr. Bush was born in Jamestown, Chautauqua county, New York. His father, Loren Bush, was a native of Connecticut, and in early manhood followed teaching as a profession. Subsequently he went west to Jamestown, New York, and settled upon a farm in that vicinity, following agricultural pursuits until cut off by death.

Dr. Bush graduated from the Jamestown High School and afterward attended the University of Michigan, taking both literary and medical courses. He then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, from which he graduated in 1884. He spent the following year in the hospital, in order to gain a thorough experience.

Dr. Bush opened an office at Bradford, Pennsylvania, where he remained one year. About that time he was called upon to go west and take charge of the practice of his brother, Russell Bush, at Wahoo, Nebraska, while the latter

took a business trip east. As the subject hereof desired to see the country, he accepted the proposition and assumed his brother's practice during the latter's absence. In this brief interval he became widely acquainted with the people of the vicinity, and was favorably impressed with both the residents of the locality and the beauties of the country. As a natural result he decided to locate there.

In September, 1886, Dr. Bush opened an office in Wahoo, where he now has, perhaps, the largest and best paying practice in the county. He has a fine residence in Wahoo. His convenient office, parlors and consultation rooms are in the Davis Block, on Fifth street.

Dr. Bush was joined in marriage with Myrtle Garfield. Fraternally he affiliates with the Masonic blue lodge and chapter, of Wahoo; the K. T., of Fremont; the Mystic Shrine, of Lincoln; the I. O. O. F., of Wahoo, of which he is a past grand; and the Knights of Pythias, of Wahoo.

Dr. Bush is readily recognized as a physician of rare ability. He is the architect of his own fortune, having made himself what he is by his own efforts. He is exceedingly popular, not only as a physician but as a whole-souled citizen.

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**E.** RIC OLSEN. The career of the gentleman whose name prefaces this sketch presents an example of what may be gained by untiring industry, tenacity of purpose and careful management. He came to this country dependent upon his trade of

carpenter, but, by dint of hard work and the exercise of a superior business ability, he surmounted the many obstacles that confronted him, and is now classed among the substantial citizens of Saunders county, Nebraska. He owns 751 acres of as fine land as there is in the county, all highly improved, and has an attractive brick residence in Cedar precinct, in which he lives with his family.

Mr. Olsen was born in Denmark, near Copenhagen, in 1846. His father was a farmer, and at the same time a contractor for the government, supplying the cavalry with most of the horses used in that service. His early education was acquired in the public schools in his district, every second day in the year being a school day. On off days he worked on his father's farm, and also learned the trade of a cabinet maker. After serving his apprenticeship and becoming a master workman he decided to immigrate to America. He was nineteen years of age at that time, and, for two years after landing in New York, he worked at his trade. In 1868 he came to Nebraska and settled in Omaha, where he continued in the same occupation. Two years of the time while thus engaged he was foreman during the building of the Paxton Hotel, a responsible position, and one which he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to his employers. In the meantime he had taken up a homestead of 80 acres, which he still owns. Building a house 12 by 16 feet, he commenced farming, and was so unfortunate as to be burned out shortly afterward. He then built a large frame house at a cost of \$1,000. Good

luck did not come all at once. In 1874 his entire crop was destroyed by the grasshoppers, when just fairly started. By perseverance and hard work, however, he got well on his feet, and now has one of the finest places in the county. He owns twelve large farm buildings, including barns, implement houses, corn cribs, etc. His crops are principally corn and oats, but he has paid some attention to stock raising—having, at times, over 200 head of cattle, an equal number of hogs, and always from 12 to 15 head of horses. His orchard is a feature in itself, and consists of about 600 apple and plum trees.

Mr. Olsen was united in marriage, in 1874, with Annie Nelson, a native of Sweden, and they are the parents of five children, as follows: Albert, aged twenty-six years; Jennie, aged twenty-four years, who is the wife of Charles Williams, Jr.; Emil, aged twenty-one years; Charley, aged seventeen years; and Tekla, aged fourteen years. The subject of this sketch is also the owner of the Cedar Bluffs Opera House. Religiously, he is a member of the German Lutheran church.

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JOSEPH KRAUS, an agriculturist of prominence in Saunders county, Nebraska, is one of the most progressive citizens of Cedar precinct, in which he holds considerable property. He first located in Saunders county in 1869, and many were the difficulties which befell him in his early struggle for a start. Never losing heart, however, he



closely applied himself to his work, making whatever improvements he could, and in the end he has succeeded in amassing a fair competence, and also in possessing one of the finest residences in his section of the county.

Mr. Kraus was born in Germany, March 17, 1850, and is a son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Kopf) Kraus. He was brought to America by his parents in 1852, they settling in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin. His father purchased land and engaged in farming there until 1869, when he went to Nebraska and took up a homestead of 80 acres. There Joseph remained until of age, his father and mother both dying in Saunders county. He was married in Butler county, Nebraska, to Anna Earchlef, a daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Blaca) Earchlef. Anna Earchlef is a native of Bohemia, and accompanied her parents to America, settling in Butler county, Nebraska, in 1878. Mr. Kraus and his wife are the parents of six children, as follows: Odolph, seventeen years of age; Leopold, sixteen years; Eleanora, twelve years; Elsa, ten years; Emma, eight years; and Annie, four years.

Joseph Kraus moved to Saunders county in 1869, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 30, Cedar precinct. On this property he built a residence, partly of cottonwood lumber and partly of lumber obtained at Fremont. He planted corn, oats and wheat, but was very unfortunate during the years 1872, 1873 and 1874, as the grasshoppers destroyed his crops. Farmers also labored at a disadvantage in those days because of the crude farm-

ing implements in use. Harrows were homemade, being of the old A-shaped pattern, and the other implements were also imperfect in construction. The grasshoppers caused a scarcity of vegetables, and as a consequence the whole community suffered more or less from scurvy. In 1899 Mr. Kraus purchased his present residence, which is one of the finest in the county. He engages quite extensively in stock raising, having formerly kept about 400 head of cattle, 200 hogs, and from 15 to 20 fine horses. He has a good orchard of over 300 fruit trees, consisting chiefly of cherries, apples, plums and peaches. In politics the subject of this sketch is a Democrat, while in religious faith he is a member of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Kraus served as school director for ten years and as township trustee for one year. Fraternally he is a member of North Bend Lodge, A. O. U. W.

LEWIS J. SCHERE, city treasurer of Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska, is one of the most enterprising business men of the town, and conducts the largest general store in that part of Saunders county. He is a native of Cedar Bluffs, having been born there in 1869, one year after his father settled in the county.

Louis Schere, the father of Lewis J., was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, and came to the United States in 1864, settling in Illinois, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, an occupation which he still follows. He re-

mained in Illinois for four years, and then removed to Saunders county, Nebraska. He married Frederica Stark, also a native of Mecklenburg, Germany, and they reared a family of eight children, of whom Lewis J. is the third. They are as follows: Herman, John, Lewis J., William, Bertha, Emma, Mary and Sophia.

Lewis J. Schere acquired his early educational training in the schools of Saunders county, Nebraska, after which he took a business and shorthand course in the normal school at Fremont, Nebraska, of which institution he is a graduate. His first employment was as clerk in the general merchandise store of H. W. Reints, at Cedar Bluffs, for whom he worked one year. At the time of beginning he was twenty-two years of age, and one year later, in company with Mr. Ranslem, he bought out his employer. They continued to carry on the business jointly until February, 1900, when Mr. Schere purchased the interest of his partner and has since conducted the concern alone. He carries a comprehensive stock of general merchandise and is meeting with great success. He has aimed to handle a line of goods suitable to meet the demands of the best trade, and as a result he has the most thoroughly equipped and most liberally patronized store in Cedar Bluffs.

In October, 1893, Mr. Schere was united in marriage with Josephine Boulier, of Saunders county, Nebraska, and they are the parents of three children: Florence, aged six years; Mildred, aged four years; and Lewis, aged two years. Mr. Schere served for five years on

the board of city trustees from 1894 to 1899. He was elected city treasurer for the term of 1899-1900. He is a staunch Democrat in politics, and takes an active interest in party affairs. Fraternally, he is a member of Occidental Lodge, No. 215, F. & A. M., of the Woodmen of the World, and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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**W**ILLIAM SHANAHAN, of Morse Bluff, Saunders county, Nebraska, is one of the ideal farmers of Nebraska. He was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1855, and is a son of Jeremiah and Ellen (Mayher) Shanahan, of the same place.

William's father came to the United States in 1859, and settled in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in general farming. After remaining there for twelve years, the family moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead of 80 acres. Another 80 acres was added to this and both tracts were devoted to general farming.

Close application to business, coupled with a thorough knowledge of agriculture, soon placed William Shanahan in the front rank of the successful farmers of the county. His land possessions include some of the most productive ground in Saunders county, and are as follows: The west half of the southwest quarter of section 33; the west half of the west half of the northwest quarter of section 33; the northwest quarter of section 4; the east half of the northeast quarter, and the north half

of the southeast quarter of section 5, comprising in all 440 acres of land, which is in a high state of cultivation. Corn is the principal product of his farm, but he manages to devote a considerable portion of his time to stock raising. He has some large farm buildings besides his house on the old homestead farm.

In 1877 Mr. Shanahan married Mary Ann Malloy, a daughter of Michael Malloy, a prosperous farmer of the same county. Six children blessed this union: Jeremiah, aged twenty-one years; Michael, aged nineteen years; Thomas, aged sixteen years; Nellie, aged fifteen years; Maggie, aged thirteen years; and William, aged eleven years. January 25, 1899, the subject of this sketch, being a widower, was again married. Catherine Healey, a resident of Wayne county, Nebraska, became his second wife. She is a daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Crowley) Healey, both deceased. Mr. Shanahan is a Democrat politically, and religiously a member of the Roman Catholic church.

JOHN SMITH is a good example of the kind of citizens who have been so largely instrumental in bringing the resources of Saunders county to the fore. When he arrived in Nebraska the country was practically an unbroken prairie, and the early settlers had to face great trials and privations before even a very small amount of comfort could be obtained. In 1872, 1873 and 1874, when the grasshopper swarms made their visitations, they

simply added to the vexations and hardships already undergone. It required men of great courage and indomitable perseverance to bear up under years of successive misfortunes. Men of weaker caliber would have given up in absolute discouragement. To the efforts of such men as the subject of this sketch does Saunders county now owe her high position among the counties of the state of Nebraska.

Mr. Smith was born near London, Canada, on January 9, 1840. His father was William Smith, a French Canadian, who was drowned in Lake Erie during John's infancy. His mother, Katherine (Dehl) Smith, is still living near Buffalo, New York. After the untimely death of the husband and father, the family moved to Erie county, New York, where a farm was purchased, on which our subject spent his early days. He received his mental training in the public schools, and divided his time between attending school and working upon the farm. For a period of eleven years afterward he worked out by the month, and at the outbreak of the war enlisted in Company H, 136th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers. He was in the command of Gen. Sigel and that of Gen. Hooker, participating in the famous battles of Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg. The good constitution acquired by his early bringing up stood him in good stead during these years of hardship and privation.

After being mustered out, Mr. Smith came to Nebraska in 1870 and settled in Saunders county. There he took up a homestead of 80 acres and also a soldier's claim of 80

acres, proving up on both of them, and devoted himself to general farming and stock raising. The difficulties encountered in getting a start were enormous. Lumber had to be rafted across the Platte River, with which to build his 12 by 16 foot house, which was first put up. The barn was one of the early kind, made of poles and thatched with straw. In this house, with small additions made from time to time, he lived for fifteen years, and then built another house, which is being used today by his sons. His property consists of the south half of the northwest quarter of section 14, and 120 acres in the northeast quarter of section 15. He is now living a retired life. His residence, surrounded by a beautiful cedar hedge and fruit trees, is one of the hand-somest in Cedar Bluffs, and no one can gainsay that he is well deserving of the comfort enjoyed by him in the afternoon of life. His plot of five and a half acres near the house is one of the most valuable pieces of land in the district.

Mr. Smith was married on March 4, 1866, to Mary Knab, of Erie county, New York, who has borne him five children, of whom three are living, namely: Lulu, the wife of O. H. Sholtz; Asa O., who married Tillie Gabriel, is living on the old homestead; and Grover Franklin. Mr. Smith is a Democrat in politics, and in religion a member of the Lutheran church. He has held the office of road commissioner, but has never been an office seeker in any sense of the word. He is a member of Occidental Lodge, No. 215, F. & A. M.

Such is a brief sketch of one of the leading citizens of Saunders county. No man in the

district is more deservedly popular. Kind-hearted and charitable, strict in his integrity, he numbers his friends by the score, and the community in which he lives accords him the respect which is his due by reason of the qualities which make him one of the representative men of the county and state.

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**W**ILLIAM A. BROKAW, a prominent druggist of Cedar Bluffs, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in McCordsville, Hancock county, Indiana.

William P. Brokaw, his father, was a farmer by occupation, and a man of influence in his community. He served several terms as county commissioner, and was re-elected just prior to the time of his death, which occurred in 1879. His wife was Martha (Caldwell) Brokaw, who is still living.

Up to the age of thirteen years William A. Brokaw attended the district schools, and later became a pupil in a graded school. At twenty-one years of age he adopted fire insurance as a means of livelihood. When working on his father's farm he devoted some of his time to this line of business. He was a deputy sheriff before he had reached manhood.

On April 21, 1885, Mr. Brokaw entered the drug store of M. C. Quigley, of Greenfield, Indiana, where he remained seven years. Leaving that employment, he removed to Nebraska, and settled in Cedar Bluffs. He bought out the firm of Fleming & Co., and has conducted the place ever since. He has today the largest

stock and the best patronized drug store in the city. He passed his examination before the state board of pharmacy in November, 1891, and secured his certificate as a registered pharmacist.

On August 23, 1885, Mr. Brokaw married Mattie J. Jones, a daughter of Sylvester and Tabitha A. (Pauley) Jones, of Fortville, Indiana. They have one child, aged nine years. Mr. Brokaw is a Democrat in politics, and fraternally a member of Cedar Bluffs Lodge, No. 274, A. O. U. W.

CHARLES A. KILLIAN, a very successful business man of Morse Bluff, Saunders county, Nebraska, is proprietor of an implement house at that place, and does a large business with the farmers throughout that section of the county.

Mr. Killian is a native of Bohemia, where he was born October 25, 1862. He is a son of Thomas and Katy (Mares) Killian, both deceased. The family came to the United States when Charles A. was in infancy, and settled in Pennsylvania, where they lived until 1868, when they moved to Bohemia precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. They were among the early settlers of that community, where they took up a homestead, and on this property Charles A. Killian lived until about six years ago. At the age of twenty years he rented a farm of 240 acres and went into the stock raising business, meeting with success. He started in the well and windmill business in

1888, and the success of his efforts in that line encouraged him to enter the implement business at Morse Bluff. He now continues in that line, carrying a full stock of agricultural implements, farming machinery of all kinds, and a good supply of wagons, buggies, paints and oils, pump fixtures, etc. He handles the latest improved machinery, keeping abreast of the rapid strides made in its betterment, and enjoys the patronage of the leading citizens of the community. Mr. Killian possesses some fine property at Morse Bluff, consisting of lots 19, 20, 21 and 22 of block 6, on which are located his handsome home and his business establishment.

On July 26, 1883, Mr. Killian was united in matrimonial bonds with Anna Zelezna, a daughter of Michael and Anna Zelezna, of Omaha, and they are the parents of nine children. Their names and the dates of their births are as follows: Thomas J., July 2, 1884; Carrie I., December 27, 1885; Raymond C., February 15, 1888; Milada, January 24, 1890; Anna, November 14, 1891; Leonard, October 6, 1893; Victor, April 23, 1896; Karl, February 17, 1898; and Roland, January 9, 1900. Religiously, our subject is a member of the Roman Catholic church. In politics he is independent, but served eleven years as constable of Bohemia precinct, twelve years as overseer of roads, and six years as treasurer of schools. He is a firm believer in life insurance, and carries policies in the following organizations: Hope Lodge, No. 25, A. O. U. W., \$2,000; Morse Bluff Lodge, No. 1476, Modern Woodmen, \$3,000; Woodmen of the

World, \$2,000; Bankers Life, \$2,000; Equitable Life, paid up, \$640; Union Central, paid up, \$500; and Western Brotherhood, Z. C. B. J., \$2,000.

ALFRED HAGSTADT, one of the most successful farmers of Chapman precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Sweden in 1848. He is a son of Swan Johnson, but changed his name to Hagstadt after coming to this country.

Swan Johnson was a Swedish farmer, and married Miss Stennegret, by whom he had two children: Alfred, the subject hereof, and Peter August, who is a farmer in Dakota. Swan Johnson's wife died in 1853, when Alfred was five years old, and her husband died in 1898 at an advanced age.

Alfred Hagstadt was reared and schooled in Sweden, leaving for America in 1868 and locating in Rockford, Illinois. He worked out, at farming, by the month for five years, and then bought a team and rented a farm, for five years. In 1875 he was married to Tilda Colson, who died of quick consumption soon after their marriage. He remained with her parents and worked until 1879, and then had a sale and went to Saunders county, Nebraska. He bought the southwest quarter of section 25, in Chapman precinct, in February, 1879, for \$307, 80 acres of which were broken. There was a shanty 16 by 18 feet in size, with boards running up and down, but there were no barns or trees. He returned to Illinois for a time, as he could do nothing in the winter. In the

spring he returned with a span of mares and bought a cow. On September 19, 1880, he married Sarah E. Honeywell, a daughter of Elam Honeywell, who settled on the southwest quarter of section 26, in Chapman precinct, in March, 1877. Mr. Honeywell married Lucinda Ross, and they had seven children: Emma Genet (Ketchum), deceased; Eve Johanna, who died at the age of six years; James S., who married Anna Pika and lives in Oklahoma; Sidney Eugene, who married Elizabeth Hodge, of Holt county, Nebraska; William S., deceased; Mrs. Hagstadt, and Mrs. Margaret Merritt, deceased. Mrs. Hagstadt was born and reared in Pennsylvania, where she lived until she was fifteen years of age. Mr. Hagstadt and his wife lived for six years in the shanty on his property, but, in 1886, built a new and roomy house, a dug-out cellar, measuring 12 by 16 feet, and, under the addition, 16 by 20 feet, which he bricked and cemented. He afterward built a barn, 30 by 40 feet in dimensions, with 16 foot posts, large and roomy; a cow barn, 24 by 32 feet; a double corn-crib, 24 by 32 feet, and a granary and crib 24 by 24 feet. There is a fine spring on the place, two wells, 91 and 96 feet deep, respectively, and a windmill, put up in 1888. At first Mr. Hagstadt raised wheat and corn, but finding that stock would pay better, in 1884 he began buying cattle and hogs, which he continued for five or six years, keeping on hand from 75 to 100 hogs. He set out an orchard, including 30 apple trees, in 1878, and also considerable shrubbery; he now has a fine orchard. Along the north and south line road

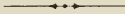




HON. ALEXANDER BOULIER.



he has an excellent willow fence 160 rods in length. He now rents his farm to Christopher Lehman for \$400 per year. He owns some valuable property in town, having purchased ten lots, and also own a valuable property in Lincoln, Nebraska. He has two or three horses and a carriage. Mr. Hagstadt has always been industrious and energetic, and his efforts have met with unusual success.



**H**ON. ALEXANDER BOULIER, whose portrait is shown herewith, is a native of Woodford county, Illinois. He was born September 20, 1845, and is a son of Henry and Mary Josephine (Savage) Boulter. His father was a farmer and stock raiser.

Alexander attended the public schools and worked on his father's farm until he attained the age of twenty-one years, when he rented a farm in Woodford county and engaged in stock raising and general farming, until 1884. He then moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, and rented the west half of the northwest quarter of section 10 and the northeast quarter of section 9. Many substantial improvements since then, in the way of a house, barn, corn-cribs, etc., have been made.

February 14, 1869, Mr. Boulter was united in marriage with Sarah A. Bailey, of Peoria county, Illinois. They have eight children: William H., aged thirty years, who married Annie Woods, of Saunders county; Carrie Belle, aged twenty-six years, who is now Mrs.

Samuel Hoshor; Mary J., aged twenty-four years, who married Louis Schere; Luella B., aged twenty-three years, who wedded Michael J. Rockford; Irvin S., aged twenty-one years; Clifford J., aged nineteen years; Ralston H., aged sixteen years, and George D., aged thirteen years.

Mr. Boulter is a Populist in politics. While a resident of Illinois Mr. Boulter was township clerk of Partridge district for fourteen years and school treasurer nine years. He represented his district in Saunders county, Nebraska, in the legislature of 1899, and has been renominated in 1900. He is at present a member of the school board. Mr. Boulter is a man of influence, and his counsel is valued by the best citizens of Cedar precinct.



**E**RNEST FRENCH PECK, manager of the Farmers Co-operative Association, is a native of Wayne county, Pennsylvania. He was born September 18, 1858, and is a son of David Horton and Rachael Elizabeth (Gaylord) Peck. His parents are both dead. His mother died in 1897. His father survived her a short time, and died in 1898.

The family left Pennsylvania when Ernest was six years of age, settled in Rock Island county, Illinois, and engaged in farming. The subject hereof was given the advantages of a public school education. He attended the district schools for ten years, and in 1875 moved with his parents to Saunders county, Nebraska.

The father followed farming, while young Peck attended the public schools. Thus he continued for one year, and then entered the state university, where he remained three years. On leaving that institution he immediately engaged in teaching school in the states of Dakota and Colorado, and also in Saunders county, Nebraska. He then opened a meat market, and conducted a successful business for ten years. Selling out this business, he accepted the management of the Farmers Co-operative Association, succeeding J. B. Brainard, a brother of Captain David Brainard, one of the members of the famous Greely party on its trip to the frozen North.

Mr. Peck was married in July, 1888, to Mary Dewey, of Lancaster county, Nebraska. They have a charming family—Louise Joyce, aged twelve years; Vincent Willard, aged ten years; and last, but not least, the winsome twins, Donald Dewey and Dorothy Manila, aged four years. Mr. Peck's patriotism may be inferred from the names of his twin children. He has a splendid home on Oak street, Whitney addition to Cedar Bluffs, and his happiest hours are spent there.

Mr. Peck was chairman of the town board of trustees for three years, and served as village treasurer four years. During both these periods, comprising seven years, he was a justice of the peace. He was re-elected chairman of the board of trustees in face of the statement he had made, publicly given out, that he was not a candidate and would not serve if elected. In spite of his protests, the people insisted on electing him. This fully demon-

strates his popularity. In politics Mr. Peck is a straight-out Republican. He is a member of the First Baptist church of Lincoln, Nebraska.

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**C**HARLES HENRY ECKERY, one of the most enthusiastic young business men of Morse Bluff, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a native of Iowa City, Iowa. He was born August 10, 1871, and is a son of John and Mary Elizabeth (Glassinger) Eckery. His parents are both living on their farm near Ashland, Nebraska.

His father moved from Iowa City to western Iowa, near Neola, Pottawattamie county, and after a short stay there removed to Perkins county, Nebraska. There he owned about 4,000 acres of land which was used as a stock farm. Mr. Eckery was one of the most prominent stock raisers in the state.

In 1896 Charles Henry Eckery received from his father 120 acres of land, and for two years conducted a general farming and stock raising business. In 1898 he traded the farm for the grain elevator in Morse Bluff, owned by Fleming Bros. He has made a great many important improvements in it, carrying on a large business in grain and live stock. In 1899 he handled 150,000 bushels of corn and oats.

In 1898 Mr. Eckery married Honora Calnon, a daughter of Michael and Hannah Calnon, and they have one child, John Henry, one year old. Mr. Eckery is a Republican politically, and, religiously, a member of the

Roman Catholic church. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, Camp No. 1476, Morse Bluff. He has a handsome residence and owns lots 1, 2 and 3 in block 13, Morse Bluff. He also owns lots 14, 15, 16 and 17 in block 6.

**W**H. BRUNING. The gentleman here named needs no introduction to the citizens of Saunders county, Nebraska, for his wonderful success as a propagator of the red cedar tree has made his name a familiar one throughout Nebraska, and, in fact, in many other states. What at first appears to be only a successful private undertaking turns out to be one which results in material benefit to the entire public. It has always been a recognized fact that the greatest need on the western prairies was a protection from the winds, but it remained for years practically an unsolved problem. It devolved upon Mr. Bruning and his honored father to illustrate how the sturdy red cedar could be cultivated and made the best possible wind-break, affording protection alike to houses and the tender fruit trees of the orchard, whose blossoms are often blighted by the cold blasts. He formulated plan after plan for raising from the seed, which is encased in a hard and horny shell, but for eighteen years he worked before attaining the desired results. A man with less energy and courage would have given up in disgust, but with a tenacity born of an indomitable will, unweakened by failure, he persevered with renewed energy, and the ultimate success attend-

ing his efforts is known to every one and has gained him the appellation "Nebraska's Wizard of Horticulture."

Mr. Bruning was born, September 13, 1848, in Worth county, Missouri, and is a son of F. H. and Anna (Vassar) Bruning, of Kent, Iowa. His father is also in the nursery business. His parents moved to Iowa when he was three years of age, locating in the southwestern part of Union county. He remained at home until he arrived at his majority, receiving his early mental training in the public schools. While attending the public school he was engaged, at the age of sixteen years, as assistant teacher of mathematics in the school, continuing until he was twenty-one years old. In company with his father, he then traveled through wild regions and among hostile Indians in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. Their object was to study red cedar and devise some plan of growing it from the seed. He had studied medicine and chemistry somewhat, which, together with his father's practical knowledge, rendered them well equipped for the work. After eighteen years of successive failures, they made their first success. The following year proved another failure, and the succeeding year a success, the great discovery being made in 1877. The first beds were set out in Kent, Iowa; after a temporary stay there, Mr. Bruning moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, for his health, and also because it was more convenient for the business. He now holds 180 acres in Cedar precinct, as follows: the northwest quarter (fractional) of section 24, the northwest quar-

ter of the southeast quarter of section 24, and the southwest half of the northeast quarter of section 24. The value of the discovery is beyond calculation. As an example of his exemplary persistency, may be pointed out his peach tree experiments. For forty-six years he planted seeds from a seedling peach, before he considered the peach a perfect one, and it is now considered one of the very finest grown in the world. His cedar nursery runs from 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 trees, and he has about 200 cherry trees, 10 acres of apples (about 800 trees), and seven acres of peach trees (about 1,000 trees), beside seedling grape and miscellaneous trees.

Mr. Bruning was united in marriage June 15, 1873, with Mary Ann Morgan, and he has one son, Lewis Andrew, age twenty-five years. The latter started farming, but, selling out, accepted an interest in his father's business. He married Jennie V. Slayton, of Fremont, Nebraska, June 15, 1898.

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**R**ALPH C. JOHNSON, a prominent and well-to-do farmer of Saunders county, Nebraska, is a son of Israel and Susan (Colmore) Johnson. He was born near Liberty, Maine, May 25, 1852. His father was a prosperous farmer, and the son had the advantage of good schools and was given a good education. In addition, his father carefully trained him on his farm and made him a first-class farmer.

At the age of eighteen years Ralph C. Johnson started out in life for himself, and secured

employment in railroad mills and shops in Massachusetts. In 1868 he came to Nebraska, and engaged in the lumber business for a railroad company, supplying ties, piling and telegraph poles. At this work he continued for two years, meeting with success, although the business was attended with great hardships and perilous journeys, necessitating trips that required him to swim the Platte River and other streams.

Wishing now to establish a home, Mr. Johnson moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, having only an ox team with which to make the journey. He took up the 80 acres of homestead land on which Cedar Bluffs now stands.


Mr. Johnson's first enterprise was to buy a threshing outfit, which he operated for some time. His success in this enterprise enabled him to add to his stock of this world's goods. He now owns the northwest quarter of section 34, also the north one-half and the southwest quarter of section 27. Stock-raising at present engages much of his time. He has 420 head of cattle, 200 head of hogs, and 15 head of horses.

In the fall of 1874 Mr. Johnson married Maggie Roberts, since deceased, of Saunders county, Nebraska. Two children resulted from this union: Randall K., aged twenty-four years, and Mary, aged twenty-two years. In 1884 he again married; this marriage was with Minnie Wellman, of Buffalo, New York, and three children were born to them: Arthur B., aged sixteen years; Ida M., aged fourteen years; Clair D., aged eleven years.

Mr. Johnson has two brothers, John and

Ambrose, who followed his wise choice, and have also sought homes in the new West. Ambrose engaged in the lumber business at Fort McPherson, while John settled on the southwest quarter of section 33, Saunders county, Nebraska.

The subject of this sketch is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Baptist Church in religion. He was a school director from 1898 to 1900. He is a member of Occidental Lodge, No. 215, F. & A. M.; of the chapter and commandery at Fremont, and the Tangier Temple, Mystic Shrine, at Omaha. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen, and of the A. O. U. W.

 LOF NELSON. Within the boundaries of Saunders county, Nebraska, the above named gentleman is known as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers, and his farm, which is located in Chapman precinct, on sections 8, 14 and 6, is one of the most highly improved in the county. He was born in Gothland, Sweden, in 1847, and is a son of Nels and Margaret (Olson) Olson.

Olof Nelson, when twenty-two years of age, with his brother Peter, who was aged fifteen years, came to the United States in 1869, and in 1871 his parents located in Saunders county. He first located in Kansas, but six months later he moved to Missouri, where he spent another six months, and then located in Nebraska in 1870. He went to Saunders county with Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Hanson, and at once took

up a claim on which he built a dug-out, 12 by 16 feet, in which he lived so as to gain a clear title to the land. He later built a farm house and for the first few years his experience was discouraging, as the crops were destroyed either by hail or grasshoppers. By constant perseverance, however, his efforts have been crowned with success. He set out some cottonwood trees, which he obtained from Duck Island, in the Platte River, for 50 cents per thousand. In 1875 he bought the east half of the northwest quarter of section 17, paying \$5 per acre—the land being placed on the market by the railroad company—and in 1882 he bought 80 acres from his brother, which tract lies east of his farm. As there were no bridges in those early days, the farmers were compelled to ford the streams, and many a time has Mr. Nelson made his team swim the Platte River. During the first couple of years, when he had poor crops, the subject hereof worked out by the day. He first built a sod barn, which had a straw roof, and the material for his first house and barn was hauled from Fremont, which is a distance of about 30 miles. His first barn measured 14 by 16 feet, but his present one is 32 by 40 feet, and he has since built a corn-crib 36 by 24 feet. Nearly all of his farm is inclosed by either a wire fence or by willow trees, and he has good water and a fine windmill on his premises. Mr. Nelson has always taken an active interest in the developing of his adopted county, and he is esteemed by his many acquaintances as a good neighbor and a loyal citizen.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Sophia Carlson, also a native of

Sweden. Her parents first settled in Iowa and later moved to Omaha, where Mr. Nelson made her acquaintance. This union has been blessed by three sons, all of whom are single and at home, namely: Harmon N., Elmer, and Eddie.

In politics Mr. Nelson is a Populist, and has served as a school director of district 28. Religiously, he is a Baptist. He built his large and commodious home in 1892.

**F**RANK KRAUSE moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1869, and took up a homestead. By hard work and perseverance he managed to make both ends meet, surmounting all difficulties, and today he may be classed among the representative citizens of the county. He owns considerable property in Saunders county, consisting of an extra fine orchard and land under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Krause is a native of Baden Baden, Germany, where he was born January 18, 1839. He passed his boyhood in his own country, and in 1854 came to the United States, landing at New Orleans. His parents went to Wisconsin, where his father settled on a farm, and meeting with good results, remained until 1869, when they located in Saunders county, Nebraska. Frank Krause took up a homestead on the east half of the southwest quarter of section 28, on which he still resides. He also took up a soldier's claim of 80 acres. His holdings now include, in addition to the above, 120 acres in section 33, and 128 acres in section 22. When

he started, he had a small house, 12 by 16 feet, which he built, and a pole and straw barn. The land was planted in wheat, but the visitation of grasshoppers in that section during the next few years made it difficult to get a successful start. He worked hard, and with each set-back he returned to his task with renewed vigor, which in the end was bound to bring forth good results. He now has a very fine property and his orchard, which comprises about 2,000 trees (apples and plums predominating, but with a good selection of cherries, peaches and apricots), is undoubtedly the finest in the county.

Mr. Krause enlisted in the Union Army on February 14, 1863, in Company K, 27th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, commanded by Colonel Conrad Krez, and was a participant in the siege of Vicksburg, the capture of Little Rock, Arkansas, the Red River campaign in Louisiana, and the siege of Mobile. He was mustered out at Brownsville, Texas, August 29, 1865.

On May 5, 1869, he was united in marriage with Maggie Hutchings, of Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, a daughter of Albert Hutchings of that section. They have nine children, whose names and dates of births follow: Albert E., born August 8, 1870; Elizabeth, born January 22, 1872; Frank J., born November 8, 1873; Lucy A., born July 22, 1876, who married E. J. Cullen and has a son one year old, named Edgar; Alexander, born June 18, 1879; Charles, born July 18, 1881; Mabel, born February 14, 1884; Henry, born September 28, 1887; and George, born August 24, 1888.

The subject of this sketch is a Democrat in politics, while in his religious views he is a Roman Catholic. He is the soldiers' relief commissioner for the district, and is a member of Sully Post, No. 105, G. A. R.

JACOB OCKANDER is a prominent and well-to-do farmer residing three and one-half miles northwest of Weston, Nebraska, where he owns a fine farm, upon which he has put all the improvements. He was born in Sweden in 1839 and is a son of Gabriel Ockander, who died a few years after his wife's death. Jacob is the only son in a family of nine children, and four of his sisters accompanied him to this country.

He located in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1869, and moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1870, the year following his immigration to this country, and from Oscar Boline bought the west half of the northeast quarter of section 6, township 14, range 6, of which only 10 acres had been broken, and in the middle of the farm was a cave, dug preparatory to building a house. Mr. Ockander subsequently bought 80 acres of railroad land—the west half of the southeast quarter of section 31, township 15, range 6, of which 40 acres were owned by Mr. Boline. Until his home was completed, he lived with a neighbor, Oscar Johnson. His house was 14 by 22 feet, and he afterward erected a kitchen, 12 by 12. In the slough, a few rods back of the house, he built a sod barn large enough for a team and a cow, and near

the barn was a fine spring, which furnished an abundant supply of water. In the early "seventies" he set out many box elder and cottonwood trees, buying the slips from an island near Fremont, where he also obtained his lumber. He also devoted about two acres to an orchard, consisting of apple, peach, pear and cherry trees. In 1888 he built a barn and corn-crib, which he greatly enlarged in 1899, and also built a new hog and cow shed. He carries on general farming and raises about 60 hogs a year. In 1899 he had a fine apple year, and in fact all his crops were good. He recently added a room 16 by 18 feet to his home, and is constantly making improvements upon his farm. He has two windmills, one at the barn, which he put up in 1892, and the other at the house, which he put up in 1896. He has two wells, one 124 feet deep and the other 50 feet deep. Mr. Ockander is a progressive farmer, and throughout his community he enjoys the friendship of hosts of acquaintances.

The subject of this sketch was married in Sweden to Elizabeth Vestber, who died on Christmas day of 1899, and this union was blessed by the following children: Ella, Hilma, Gabriel and Victoria. Ella, a native of Sweden, is the wife of John Carson, a farmer of Mariposa precinct, Saunders county, and they have five children; Hilma, also a native of Sweden, the wife of Mr. Egbert, keeps house for her father; Gabriel, born in Sweden, possesses many of his father's good traits, and practically manages his father's farm; Victoria, born in Nebraska, is the wife of Henry Roslund, who

resides a short distance from Mr. Ockander's home.

In politics Mr. Ockander is a staunch Populist, while in a religious connection he attends the Baptist church, of which he is a member.

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**I**RA McCLUHAN, a successful farmer and stock raiser of Morse Bluff precinct, was born in Warren county, Illinois. He is the son of John McCluhan, deceased, and Leah (Hogue) McCluhan. His mother still lives in Saunders county, Nebraska. John McCluhan located in Saunders county, March 1, 1877, and engaged in farming. He died there in November, 1889.

Ira McCluhan worked on his father's farm in the summer season, and attended the public school during the winter time. In this way he acquired a fair common-school education. At an early age he showed an aptitude for stock business, and induced his father to engage in that industry. The father made his son the purchasing agent, and to him was left the care of the stock. Since that time the McCluhans have been leaders in the stock raising line in Saunders county, and have made a great success of it.

Ira McCluhan owns a quarter section in Bohemia precinct, 55 acres in his home place, and 200 acres in Dodge county, all of which is devoted to the business of stock raising. It was not until 1891 that Mr. McCluhan started this enterprise in Dodge county. In all of his dealings he has the reputation of being so

scrupulously just and honest that his word can be positively relied on. He has the implicit confidence of all the stock men, and to this his success in a great measure can be attributed.

In November, 1897, Mr. McCluhan was united in marriage with Mary B. Naverkal, of Saunders county. They have two sons: John, aged eighteen months, and an infant, unnamed. Their beautiful home in Morse Bluff is one of the finest in the county, situated as it is on a knoll immediately overlooking the town and with a full view of the Platte River district in the distance. Surrounded by fruit trees and fringed with a heavy growth of cottonwood, it is, indeed, an ideal home.

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**C**HARLES W. MOSIER, of Morse Bluff, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 21, 1858. He is a son of John W. and Catherine (Stuart) Mosier, both living on their farm in Dakota. The family moved to Montgomery county, Iowa, when Charles W. was four years old.

Charles W. Mosier received his intellectual training in the public schools, and worked at times on his father's farm. Being an ambitious young man, and anxious to do for himself, he rented a farm, which he successfully managed for four years, when he moved to North Bend, Nebraska, and rented another farm. This he cultivated one year, after which he ran a grader for one year. Saunders county, Nebraska, was then a "calling card" for







RODNEY K. JOHNSON.

parties seeking new homes. The advantages of stock raising afforded by that county attracted the attention of Mr. Mosier, and he moved there and engaged in the cattle and sheep business, which he followed four years, selling out to go into the livery business, in which he has continued ever since.

Mr. Mosier chose for his life companion Mary Figgins, of Montgomery county, Iowa. Mrs. Mosier was a daughter of Louis and Elizabeth (Charter) Figgins, both deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Mosier have two children: Clemma, aged twenty years, and Ira, aged six years. Clemma married John Bignall, and has three children, Emma, Irwin, and Emphord.

Mr. Mosier is a Populist in his political convictions. He is a member of the Presbyterian church. For the past year he has held the office of city marshal and street commissioner.

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**R**ODNEY K. JOHNSON, the leading merchant of Valparaiso, Nebraska, whose portrait is shown on the opposite page, is a gentleman of remarkable business ability. Having been located there since the very inception of the town, he has always been one of its most energetic citizens, devoting time and money to the furtherance of its public enterprises. No man has done more than he toward making Valparaiso the thriving place that it now is. He was born in the town of Knox, Waldo county, Maine, on December 13, 1842, and is a son of Andrew and Mary Ann (Litle) Johnson.

Benjamin Johnson, the grandfather of Rodney K., was a Revolutionary soldier and lived in Waldo county, Maine, where he died at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Andrew Johnson, the father, was a carpenter and joiner by trade. He was a native of Waldo county, as was his wife, Mary Ann Litle. In 1851 they moved west, locating in Delaware county, Ohio, but in 1854 they moved to Green county, Wisconsin. There they lived until 1865, when they moved to Saunders county, Nebraska. They reared the following children: Rodney K., of whom this sketch treats; Clarence T., who lives in Oak Creek precinct, Saunders county, and is one of the county commissioners; Ellen M. (Throop), of Oak Creek precinct; Olive A. (White), of Lincoln, Nebraska; Charles B., who lives in Oak Creek precinct; Edward L., a citizen of Valparaiso; Ermina (States), who lives in Lincoln, Nebraska; and Albert L., who lives in Crete, Saline county, Nebraska.

When the family first removed to Saunders county, Rodney K. Johnson and his father each took up a homestead. They began the journey from Wisconsin to Nebraska with a single horse and wagon, but just before reaching Council Bluffs the horse died, and they proceeded westward afoot. The town of Valparaiso had been named and placed upon the map, but at that time not a single house marked the spot. It had been plotted and staked out in lots, but there were no buildings. The Johnsons wished to locate where they could get good farm land and plenty of water, also

within easy reach of a market. After crossing the Platte River, which they found to be much smaller than they had expected, they started for the Oak Creek valley, where each took up a homestead, a portion of which is now the site of Valparaiso village. Their nearest neighbors were at that time eight miles to the south and ten miles to the north. The government trail was three miles north of them and the old Mormon trail about two miles to the southwest. They erected frame houses, the material for which was hauled from Rock Bluff, Nebraska, on the Missouri River, by ox teams. Andrew and Rodney K. Johnson made the sashes and frames for the first capitol building at Lincoln, Nebraska, hewing and sawing them out of the rough timber. Andrew was the first postmaster of Valparaiso, and the first postoffice was in his house for several years. He died at the age of seventy-five years. His wife still survives, making her home with her children.

Rodney K. Johnson opened a store in his house when the Union Pacific Railroad was built through Valparaiso, and, in 1879, he built a store building of the size of 25 by 80 feet and two stories high. Five years later he doubled the capacity of the building, making it 48 by 80 feet and two stories high. He has conducted a store ever since he first started, with the exception of one year, having sold his interest in the store and having rebought it a year afterward. He carries a fine line of general merchandise, and has catered to the best class, with remarkable success. He has also been an extensive dealer in grain, and, in 1884, he built an elevator, with a capacity of 75,000 bushels.

He organized the first bank of the town and operated it for a period of twelve years. He built the first brick hotel there and operated that for two years, and was for twelve years its owner. He owned and published the *Valparaiso Avalanche* for a number of years. He has been a great factor in the development of the town, and is esteemed by his fellow men as a man of great worth to the community.

In 1870 the subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Elvira L. Carter, and they are the parents of four children, as follows: Harry P., Estella, Emile and Edgar P. Harry P., born August 13, 1876, was graduated from the Valparaiso High School in 1890, and graduated from Lincoln Business College in 1892, since which time he has been associated in business with his father; Estella was born September 5, 1878; Emile was born September 27, 1881; and Edgar P. was born May 22, 1886. Mr. Johnson served in the Union army throughout the Civil War; he enlisted, in 1861, as a private with Company E, 5th Regiment, Wisconsin Vol. Inf., and was with the Army of the Potomac. He was wounded in the battle of Williamsburg, in 1862, and compelled to remain in the hospital for three months. His term of enlistment expired in 1864, and he re-enlisted in Company E, which was consolidated with Company B, of the same regiment, which served under General Cobb. Mr. Johnson was successively promoted to be corporal, sergeant and second lieutenant. He is a member of Sherman Post, No. 64, G. A. R., and has held various offices. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, having passed

through all the chairs. In political affiliations he is a Republican and has held a number of local offices.

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**J** W. HARRELL, a representative farmer of Rock Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in 1842, in Effingham county, Illinois, and is a son of Rev. Jethro and Effie (Noe) Harrell.

Rev. Jethro Harrell was a licensed minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was an early settler of Illinois, locating in that state in 1841. By his first marriage he had five children, one now a resident of Illinois, one in Indiana, and three deceased. He subsequently married Effie Noe, and they became parents of six children, as follows: Jacob, William, J. W., Sarah J., F. H., and George. Jacob owns and lives upon the old homestead of 320 acres. William is a farmer of Effingham county, Illinois. J. W. is the subject hereof. Sarah J. (Parkhurst), whose husband is a live stock commissioner of South Omaha, has two children living. F. H. came with J. W. Harrell to Saunders county, Nebraska, and homesteaded in 1870. He later sold out and engaged in the hardware business at Staplehurst, Seward county, Nebraska. He now lives at Fort Scott, Kansas, and has two children—Brick and Pearl. George died in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Harrell both died in Illinois.

J. W. Harrell worked on his father's farm until 1864, when he was married. He was then engaged in farming on his own account

for five years and in 1869, with his wife, one child and his brother, F. H., drove 600 miles from Illinois to Saunders county, Nebraska. He pitched his tent for a week near his present home, and filed a claim on a quarter section of land, homesteading the west half of the northwest quarter of section 14, township 13, range 6. By filing on the entire quarter he was enabled to hold one of the 80-acre tracts for his brother until he became of age a few months later. They built a dug-out some distance north of the present home, and then, owing to a failure of what he supposed to be a spring, built a sod house on the site of the present home, using poles for rafters, which they obtained from the natural timber along Rock Creek, which ran through the south end of the farm. A little later he built a straw stable south of the house. One of the three horses with which he left Illinois was drowned in the creek during one of their first nights in the county. J. W. and F. H. Harrell broke the land and continued together for seven or eight years. In 1879 the former purchased the 80 acres of the latter, at \$5 per acre, the latter having previously bought an adjoining 80 acres. In 1873 J. W. Harrell hauled the lumber from Ashland for his first frame house, 14 by 18 feet in dimensions. In 1873 he set out an orchard north of the house, but thinking it destroyed by hail he set out cottonwoods on the same ground. The fruit trees then began shooting up, and he cut down the cottonwoods, and now has a fine orchard of two acres, consisting of apples, peaches and pears. He set out a row of maples, which are

now large trees, and also some pines, in the front yard. In 1892 Mr. Harrell built his present home, of pretty design, which in size is equivalent to 32 feet square, with 18 feet posts, at a cost of \$2,000. His present spacious barn, 40 by 44 feet, with four granaries inside and room for 12 horses, was built in 1887, together with other outbuildings. He has a good tubular well 65 feet deep, and eight acres of wild prairie grass near the house. His home is finished throughout in hard pine, and, together with the beautiful grounds, is one of the largest and best farm homes in the precinct. He secured the seed for his first crop of wheat from Mr. Jamison, and in 1870 also worked for R. K. Johnson. He has always been very successful in his work and is one of the worthy and reliable citizens of the community.

In 1864 he was united in marriage with Clarissa Keefer, a daughter of Benjamin F. Keefer. She has a brother, W. G. Keefer, who at one time conducted a harness shop in Wahoo. W. G. Keefer had six children—Charles, a professional musician in Omaha; Myrtle, a mail clerk in the South Omaha postoffice; Susan; Forest, deceased; Hallie V., and Earl. The subject hereof and his wife have three children—Amy V., H. S. and W. O. Amy V. was born in Illinois and died in Rock Creek, Nebraska, in 1892. H. S., who has rented his father's farm since 1894, married Annie Scanlon, whose parents are early settlers of Saunders county, and now live near Ceresco. W. O., who lives one mile east of his father's residence, commenced attending the Fremont Normal School when seventeen years old, and subse-

quently graduated from that institution and taught school for four years. He married Linda V. Kiser, a daughter of Rev. Mr. Kiser, and they have two children—Fern and William John. The subject of this sketch is a Populist in his political affiliations. He and his worthy wife are strong advocates of rural free mail delivery. He has served thirteen years on the school board and has been road supervisor. He is a Methodist and assisted in building the church near his home.

CHARLES PERRY, a prominent farmer of Cedar Bluffs, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a son of Jeremiah and Mary Ann (Hobbs) Perry, both deceased. He is a native of Bedfordshire, England, and was born February 7, 1849.

Jeremiah Perry was a farmer, and young Perry attended the public schools and worked on his father's farm. In 1868 he and his brother left England and came to the United States, settling in Nebraska. The family followed them one year later. His father took up a homestead of 80 acres, pre-empted another 80 acres, and afterward purchased still another 80 acres.

Charles Perry worked for his father three years, and then bought the southeast quarter of section 23 and the south half of the southwest quarter of section 24. On his newly acquired estate he immediately built a fine house, barn, corn cribs, etc. He engaged in farming and stock raising, keeping on his farm

about 200 head of cattle, 200 head of hogs and about 15 horses.

In 1872 he returned to England, and married Annie Hawtin, a resident of Northampton. Her father was George Hawtin, who has been deceased for fifteen years. Her mother, Mary (Holwell) Hawtin, died about twelve years ago. Mrs. Perry has four brothers, William, George, Harry, and Fred—all living in England—and three sisters, Mrs. Percy Murray and Mrs. Fred Cloud, living in England, and Mrs. William Paddock, who resides in Toronto, Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry have one daughter, Florence, living, aged twenty-two years, and Mary Ann, deceased. In politics Mr. Perry is a Republican. Mrs. Perry is a member of the Presbyterian church.



**W**ILLIAM BOWEN, deceased, was one of the most respected and up-to-date farmers in Saunders county, Nebraska, where he located in 1880, and his death, which occurred February 16, 1900, was deeply deplored by his many friends and acquaintances throughout the county, who knew him to be a good neighbor and citizen and a kind and loving father and husband. He was born in Caermarthenshire, Wales, in 1835, and there he was reared and received his mental training. In 1880 he came to the United States with his family, located in Saunders county, and bought from John Thomas 160 acres of farming land at a cost of \$15 per acre. The land is

the southeast quarter of section 18, township 14, range 6. He also purchased from the Union Pacific Railroad Company 80 acres,—the west half of the southwest quarter of section 17. The 160-acre tract had been homesteaded by Mr. Thomas; it contained but few improvements. He set out a great many trees, especially along the railroad, and near the house he planted a large grove of willows and cottonwoods. On the premises was a small house, which he remodeled into the present handsome and commodious structure, which is well furnished. In place of the old barn, which had a straw roof, he built the present substantial structure, which is 28 feet square and 16 feet high. Across the road he built a cattle barn, in 1892, which measures 60 feet in length 14 feet in width and 12 feet in height. He also built a large granary and hog sheds for feeding purposes. A good well is near the house, and in all respects the farm is one of the best improved in the county. Mr. Bowen was considered by all who knew him as an enterprising and successful farmer.

Mr. Bowen was joined in marriage with Mary Jones, who was also a native of Caermarthenshire, Wales, and to them were born the following children: Thomas, Elizabeth, David, Esther, Samuel, Hugh, Andrew M., Benjamin and Edith. Thomas, the eldest, is a locomotive engineer on the Santa Fe Railroad and lives in New Mexico; he married a Miss Rallard, by whom he has two children—Leone and William. Elizabeth is the wife of J. H. Miller, a brakeman on the Santa Fe Railroad, also residing in

New Mexico. She has two children—Truman and William. David is single, and is an engineer in the elevator at Weston. Esther is the wife of Joseph Edwards, a farmer in Kansas, and they have five children—Jonathan, Josie, Willie, Marie and Edward. Samuel is a passenger brakeman on the Santa Fe Railroad in New Mexico. Hugh is deceased. Andrew M. has been in charge of the homestead since the death of his father. Benjamin, aged twenty-one years, also works on the farm. Edith, the youngest, lives at home. Mr. Bowen was a school director in his community and took an active part in the promotion of its general welfare.



**F**A. LUNDQUIST, a progressive farmer living four miles southwest of Valparaiso, Nebraska, was born twelve (Swedish) miles from Gothenburg, in the southern part of Sweden, in 1833. He is a son of Andrus and Mary Johnson, both of whom died in Sweden. They had four children, all of whom came to this country, namely: F. A., the subject hereof; Calus, who lives in Lincoln, Nebraska; Charles, who died at Lincoln in 1872, and Frederick, who died in California. The children all took the name of an uncle, Mr. Lundquist, upon arriving in this country.

F. A. Lundquist came to the United States and located in the state of Nebraska in 1872. He worked in Lincoln for some time, and, in 1873, settled in Saunders county, Nebraska, where, in March of the following year, he

homesteaded the south half of the northwest quarter of section 30, township 13, range 5. He broke 50 acres and built a small house which is still utilized on the place. After making many improvements he sold the place, in 1882, to Mr. Creathbaum (who still resides there), and subsequently purchased the southeast quarter of the same section from Mr. Vandermark, who had set out a few trees and broken about 50 acres. This was the extent of the improvements upon the place, and, as there was no house, he rented a building of Mr. Vandermark for his family, who had come on from Lincoln, in May, 1875. They lived there while his present house was being built, the dimensions of the main part of which are 16 by 26 feet, with an addition 16 feet square. At that time he had six horses and about fifteen or twenty head of cattle. His only neighbors were Mr. Nelson, Mr. Nichol and George Lawton. He got along with straw sheds for stables up to 1885, when he built his present spacious barn. His granary, 22 by 30 feet, with an 18-foot corn-crib attached, was built two years after the erection of his house. He has an excellent grove on each side of the house, and one and a half acres of orchard, all of which are his own improvements. His farm is well fenced and in excellent condition throughout, bespeaking the enterprising and progressive spirit of its owner. Mr. Lundquist is extensively engaged in raising stock and grain, and is one of the well-to-do men of his locality. He is well known and popular, and is a very active man for the age of three score and seven years.

The subject of this sketch was united in mar-



riage with Charlotte Johnson, a daughter of John Johnson, and six children were born to them in Sweden and two in America, as follows: Sanfred, who is married and has two daughters; Charles; Clara (Lindholm); Emma (Pierson), who lives near Raymond, Lancaster county, Nebraska; Augusta (Gustang), who lives near Malcolm; Hilda, Albert and Annie. The three last named are living at home. Charles, the second child born to his parents, died when an infant.



**G** S. LAMBERT, who has been prominently identified with the growth and development of Rock Creek precinct for almost a quarter of a century, is a very successful farmer in that precinct, in addition to which he has served in various schools as instructor. He has shown marked ability in that line, being well educated and gifted with a most valuable talent of imparting knowledge to others.

Mr. Lambert was born near Shellsburg, Benton County, Iowa, in 1854, and is a son of Sherebiah and Louisa (Smith) Lambert. His father, who was an early settler of Iowa, now lives in Washington, his wife having died several years ago. They were parents of five children, as follows: Ann (Kesling), whose husband is a farmer of Antelope county, Nebraska; G. S., the subject hereof; D. A., who also lives in Antelope county, Nebraska; U. M., who lives in Oregon, and one who died in infancy.

G. S. Lambert worked upon his father's farm in Benton county, Iowa, until he was seventeen years old, in the meantime obtaining as much country schooling as possible. He then spent two years in town, at the high school, after which he taught there until 1873, when he removed to Saunders county, Nebraska. He taught school in the winter and farmed during the summer months, until his marriage, in 1876. Prior to this he had purchased railroad land in Saunders county—the north half of the northeast quarter of section 23, township 13, range 6—from Mr. Clay, who had patented the same, but had made no improvements. Mr. Lambert broke the sod and made many improvements, but did not build upon the land until 1885, in the meantime renting various houses. In 1883 he bought an adjoining tract of 40 acres, making a good farm of 120 acres. In 1885 he built what is now the south part of the house, 14 feet square, and later built an addition, 14 by 22 feet, also making it a story and a half high. He built a barn, 24 by 32 feet, with 12-foot posts, and also erected other necessary outbuildings. He has a fine grove of ash, elm, box elder and cottonwood trees, and an orchard of over two acres of fruit trees of various kinds. For the past thirteen years he has farmed during the summer and taught school during the winter, his services being very much in demand. He is ably assisted by two sons on the farm, which, including some rented property, now comprises 240 acres; 15 acres are in hay, 30 acres in pasture and the remainder is cultivated, his principal crop being corn. Mr. Lambert began in

a very small way and with limited capital, and what he possesses today represents the labor of an industrious and well-spent life.

In 1876 the subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Nancy Bennett, and they have three children, all at home: Nettie, Frank M. and John E. In politics Mr. Lambert is a Populist, and serves as a member of the school board and as justice of the peace. He served two terms as assessor—in 1884 and in 1893. He is a really a Baptist in religious faith, but has been associated actively with the Methodists in assisting materially to build the church of that denomination near his farm, on section 22. It was built in 1886, by the voluntary aid of the farmers, who expended both labor and money to that end, receiving no outside help from any church board. It has a seating capacity of 150. Mr. Lambert has been a Sunday school superintendent for the last twenty years. He is now president of the county Sunday school association.



**A**NTON POSPISIL is one of the influential and well-to-do agriculturists of Saunders county, Nebraska, where he has resided since 1872. He has always occupied a prominent place among his fellow citizens, having served as assessor for the past twelve years, and also as justice of the peace. He was born in Bohemia, in 1859, and is a son of John and Mary (Dolezal) Pospisil, who had a family of seven children, of whom the first three were born in the northern part of Bohe-

mia. They were named as follows: John, deceased; Anton, the subject of this biography; Mary; Frank, deceased; Annie, the wife of Frank Virgl and the mother of one child, Mary; Fanny, who died in Omaha, Nebraska; and John, who is a druggist at Weston, Nebraska.

John and Mary (Dolezal) Pospisil came to this country in 1866, and, for the first three years, they lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but after that they moved to Omaha, where Mr. Pospisil worked in a quarry. In the spring of 1872, John Pospisil settled in Saunders county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded 80 acres in Elk precinct, and later bought 40 acres in Newman precinct. They first lived in a dug-out, which was located just south of their present barn, but when Mr. Pospisil purchased his 40 acres in Newman precinct he cut from the timber enough poles to build a barn large enough to shelter a pair of oxen, a cow and a calf. In 1885 Mr. Pospisil built the present barn, located across the road from his house, which he erected in 1883, and which is 16 by 26 feet.

The subject of this sketch has resided upon the home farm ever since he came to Saunders county, with the exception of two years, when he was about seventeen years of age, and worked out. He carries on general farming and stock raising, and is one of the up-to-date and progressive farmers of his county.

Anton Pospisil was joined in marriage with Mary Virgl, a daughter of Frank Virgl, and to them a family of nine children have been born, as follows: Mary, Wencel, Carrie, An-





MR. AND MRS. JAMES FIEDLER AND FAMILY.

ton, Fannie, Theodore, Frank, Jacob, and Thomas, all of whom are well and living at home. Mr. Pospisil, as before mentioned, has served as assessor of Elk precinct for the past twelve years, and also holds the position of justice of the peace. He served several years as a member of the board of election and as moderator of the school district.



**J**AMES FIEDLER, a prominent farmer who has attained success in Saunders county, Nebraska, is now one of the largest land owners in Chapman precinct. He was born in Bohemia and is a son of Benedict and Mary (Kadavy) Fiedler. His father was born in 1833 in Bohemia, near the line of Germany and in the vicinity of Prague. His mother is a daughter of Frank Kadavy, another prominent farmer of Chapman precinct.

In 1882 Benedict Fiedler came to America, bringing with him \$1,300. He went to Saunders county, Nebraska, and purchased 80 acres of land from John Swoberty which is in the northwest quarter of section 27. James Fiedler's parents still reside upon that farm, although their son, Paul, now has the management of it. They first built a small sod house, measuring 10 by 18 feet on the inside. They lived in that house nine years, and then built a frame house 16 feet by 30 feet in dimensions and 10 feet high. Previous to 1890 they used a straw barn, but afterward erected a frame barn, its size being 18 by 36 by 12 feet, with a loft for hay. Three children were born to this

worthy couple, as follows: James (this memoir's subject), Paul, and Frank. The last named, while still in the old country, married Annie Soukup, and they have three children, Mary, Laura, and Frank, Jr. Frank now resides on a farm in section 22, immediately adjoining the farm of James.

James Fiedler accompanied his parents to Saunders county in 1882, and worked out for six years. In 1885, his marriage with Thony Novak was consummated. Mrs. Fiedler is a daughter of Joseph Novak, who took up a homestead claim on School creek, about one mile from Weston. Five children were born to the subject hereof and his worthy wife. Their names are Fannie, Eddie, Annie, Joseph, and Emma. The eldest is now about fifteen years old, and their ages range down to little Emma, who is still a babe. Eddie and Joseph, although quite young, are very helpful on the farm. They can drive teams and do any number of small jobs for their father, who will appreciate their assistance more each year as they grow older. Mrs. Fiedler has an uncle, Mr. Cadavy, who purchased from Mr. Clement a farm near the home of her husband. Like most new comers, he first had only a sod house, but now has a group of very substantial buildings.

Mr. Fiedler had \$300 from his father to begin with. This, together with what money he had been able to save from his earnings, enabled him to purchase a home. In 1886 he bought 80 acres from "Joe" Clement at \$20 an acre. This land included the east half of the southeast quarter of section 22. Four years later he also bought the 40-acre tract lying just

north of his first purchase. This land was also bought from Mr. Clement, and upon it he built his present comfortable and substantial house, barns, outbuildings, windmill, etc.

In 1894 Mr. Fiedler made an additional purchase, the Scharf farm of 80 acres being added to his possessions. This farm cost him \$42 per acre and is the north half of the southwest quarter of section 22. In 1900 the Hakel farm of 80 acres was also acquired at a cost of \$42.50 per acre, this being the south half of the southwest quarter of section 23. Mr. Fiedler is now the possessor of 280 acres of improved land, worth from \$40 to \$45 an acre. He has numerous orchards, which bear a good variety of choice fruit. Both he and his family worship at the Catholic church which was built at Weston in 1884 and is now in charge of Rev. Louis Kline. The children attend school in district No. 71. A picture of Mr. Fiedler's family is shown in connection with this biography, being presented on a preceding page. The subject of this sketch is a man of admirable character and industrious habits. Success has attended his every effort, and he is now one of the substantial men of his county.

**M**T. CRUZAN is a prosperous and highly respected farmer, residing near Valparaiso, Oak Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, and he is also assessor of his precinct. He was born in September, 1854, in Ripley county, Indiana,

65 miles southeast of Indianapolis, and is a son of R. R. and Elizabeth (Sams) Cruzan. He is the oldest of seven children, namely: M. T., Lucinda, John L., W. J., Rachel M., James A., and Mary. Lucinda is the wife of John Scott, of Valparaiso, and they have three children: Lillie, James, and Esther. John L. is married and engaged in farming near North Loup, Nebraska; he has three children: Ira, Roy, and Edith. W. J. cultivates a farm six miles north of Valparaiso, and has four children: Ethel, Arthur, Pearl, and Ora. Rachael M. is the wife of O. H. Embree, who is engaged in farming just east of Mr. Cruzan's farm; they have three daughters: Myrtle, Cora, and Vena. James A. lives at Thompson, Montana, is married and has one child, Alice. Mary, the youngest, is now Mrs. Elmer Emery, of Los Angeles, California; she has three children: Clarence, Olive, and Ray. Mr. Cruzan's father was a farmer and a cooper by trade.

M. T. Cruzan remained under the parental roof until he was seventeen years of age, when he commenced to earn his own livelihood. He spent seven years in Livingston county, Missouri, and three years in Winneshiek county, Iowa, working by the month. In 1878 he settled in Cass county, Nebraska, driving through with a team of horses. He purchased a piece of land, on which he made a payment of \$48, which, with the exception of 50 cents, was the extent of his means. He sold his place in 1883, and, upon going to Saunders county, he bought from S. W. Benepee the southwest quarter of section 28, township 13, range 5, which property was originally homesteaded by a Mr. Wil-

liams. Mr. Benepee had set out seven or eight acres of all kinds of trees, erected a small house, and broken about 20 acres. The rest of the improvements were added by Mr. Cruzan. He has put out an orchard of two and one-half acres, consisting of apple, plum, and cherry trees, and, among the beautiful shade trees on his farm, one has a diameter of 20 inches. The size of the first barn was 16 by 28 feet, but Mr. Cruzan enlarged it to 24 by 36 feet. In 1899 he added a room, 16 by 22 feet, to the old house. Besides raising considerable grain he deals extensively in stock, raising Poland-China hogs and Shorthorn cattle.

The subject of this sketch was married, in Iowa, in 1878, to Elizabeth B. Vance, and they have two children, Calla I. and Jesse V. In politics Mr. Cruzan is independent; he is now serving his third consecutive term as assessor of Oak Creek precinct. He served six years as a member of the school board and fourteen years as road overseer. Religiously he is a member of the Christian church.

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**M**RS. ELLEN M. THROOP, widow of H. E. Throop, who died in July, 1897, owns a large farm in Oak Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, and personally superintends the work upon it. She possesses excellent judgment and good business ability, and success has attended her efforts on every hand.

Mrs. Throop was born in Maine in 1843 and is a daughter of Andrew and Mary A. (Litle)

Johnson. Her father, familiarly known as "Uncle Andy" Johnson, was the first white settler in Oak Creek precinct, locating just west of Valparaiso, on October 5, 1865. He married Mary A. Litle, and ten children blessed their home, namely: Rodney K., a record of whose life appears elsewhere in this work; Ellen M., the subject hereof; Olive (White), of Lincoln, Nebraska; Clarence T., who lives near Valparaiso, Nebraska, and is at present county commissioner; Charles, a farmer of Oak Creek precinct; Edward, who is a clerk for his brother, R. K.; Minnie (States); Byron; Jessie (Fremont), and Albert Litle, superintendent of the Crete Mills, Crete, Nebraska.

Ellen M. Johnson was married in the spring of 1863 at Magnolia, Wisconsin, to H. E. Throop, who was born May 26, 1830, and was a son of Daniel Throop. He had a brother, Simeon Throop, who was an early settler of Saunders county, and for many years conducted a large nursery business near Valparaiso. Mr. and Mrs. Throop lived in Albany, Wisconsin, until the fall of 1865, when they removed to Geneseo, Henry county, Illinois. The next spring they followed her father to Saunders county, Nebraska, and, in 1866, secured 160 acres with college scrip, the northeast quarter of section 34, township 13, range 5. Mr. Throop homesteaded the 80 acres directly west, and then bought a timber claim of 40 acres, making 280 acres in all. They had sufficient money to last until the first crop was harvested, and lived with Mr. Johnson, at Valparaiso, until Mr. Throop erected a small frame house, 14 by 18 feet, a little west of the present residence.

He also built a straw shed and a sod hen house, and, during the first summer, broke the sod. He also set out large groves of trees, one, of cottonwoods, west of the house, and one, of maples, to the north. He put out a fine orchard of several acres, of a large variety of fruit. A very valuable feature of the property is the presence of ten or twelve strong springs, furnishing a bountiful supply of pure water. Some of them are located high enough to force water by means of pipes to the second story of the house, and also to the stable and stock yard. The farm has always been devoted to extensive stock raising, and, since her husband's death, Mrs. Throop has continued the same line of operations in a most able manner. She has a nephew living with her, who does the work upon the farm. The present large and beautiful home was erected in 1885, it being full two stories high and 30 feet square, besides having a comfortable kitchen.

The subject of this sketch and her husband were parents of the following children: Frank E., Elmer E., Willard, Nellie and Minnie E. Frank E., who is identified with railroad work as yardmaster, married Mary Conley, in Chicago, in 1888, and they have a son, Harold. Elmer E., a railroad conductor, of Portland, Oregon, was the first male child born in the precinct, his birth occurring in a covered wagon. He married May McLannahan, of Portland, and they have a daughter, Beatrice. Willard, a farmer near Valparaiso, married Bertha Conley, and they have five children, namely: Ellen, Ruth, Howard, Henrietta and a small baby. Nellie (Magee), whose husband

is a clothing merchant at Seneca, Kansas, has two children, Harold and Ethel. Minnie E. is attending Wesleyan University. In religious views Mrs. Throop is a Methodist. Politically Mr. Throop was an advocate of the principles of the Populist party.

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FRED MILLER, the popular and accommodating proprietor of the Morse Bluff Hotel, is one of the leading citizens of Saunders county, Nebraska. He arose from a humble beginning to the more affluent walks in life, and is now the owner of valuable real estate in Omaha and Morse Bluff.

Mr. Miller is a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and a son of Hans and Annie (Stultenburg) Miller, both deceased. When a lad of eleven years, Fred left his native land, coming to the United States. He located at Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. There he remained three years and then moved to Omaha, where he worked in the saloon business three and a half years, and then started in the same line for himself. He continued in the saloon business for five years, and then sold out to conduct the Gettleman Brewing Company's place in Omaha, where he stayed three years.

Mr. Miller then conceived the idea of building a hotel, moved to Morse Bluff, and erected the present spacious hotel building. He is just the man for that line of business. He is polite and approachable and his hotel has a reputation not only in Saunders county, but with trading men all over the state.



Mr. Miller owns lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 in block 1, Morse Bluff, on which his hotel and orchard are situated. He also owns lot 3 in Steppers Place, addition to Omaha. He has three brothers, John, Henry, and William, and one sister, Cecilia, who married Henry Stafen, of Washington county. They all reside in Nebraska.

In 1897 Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Barbara Pabian. Mrs. Miller is a daughter of John and Teresa Pabian, of Omaha. \*



**O**LOF BENGTON, a native of Sweden, was born in 1850. He is one of the best known farmers in Saunders county and is known throughout this section of the state. He is a man of firm principles, an excellent citizen and a kind and charitable neighbor. His farm is one of the most attractive in the county, and its neat and well kept appearance speaks emphatically for the thrift and good management of its owner.

Olof Bengtson's father and mother, Bengt and Cecelia Olson, had two other sons, one, P. B. Olson, a prominent man of Saunders county, who was born in 1853, and who owns 240 acres of land adjoining Mr. Bengtson's farm. For many years he was county treasurer and has always taken an active part in the affairs of the county, having served two terms as representative in the state legislature. John, the other son, lives in Illinois and is married to Tilda Abrahamson. They have two children, Eva and Oscar.

Mr. Bengtson came to America in 1868 and spent the first three months in Illinois and the following ten in Wisconsin. In the spring of 1869 he located in Omaha, where he worked for some time. In July, 1869, he settled in Saunders county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded the south half of the northwest quarter of section 34, township 15, range 6. Mr. Olin, Mr. Bengtson's neighbor just south, and Mr. Lundburg came with Mr. Bengtson from Omaha. The only other house in that section was Nils Edlund's. Mr. Bengtson built a small dug-out in November, 1869, which stood a little south of his present residence. In 1872 he built a frame house, 18 by 22 feet. It is one of the oldest frame houses in the county, if not the oldest. Mr. Bengtson has made many improvements since first building it, having reshingled it and made it one and a half stories high. In 1880 he built a barn, granary and cribs, and in 1896 added several outbuildings. In 1880 he also bought 40 acres of railroad land at \$8 per acre. This is the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 27. Mr. Bengtson has a very fine orchard, the first trees being planted in 1878, and he has added to them ever since. He takes great care of the trees and has one of the finest orchards in the county.

In 1876 the subject of this sketch married Louise Peterson, a daughter of Frederick Peterson, and they are the parents of four children, namely: Hulda, deceased; Albert, deceased; Amanda, who is sixteen years old and is at home; and Lyman, who also lives at home. Mr. Bengtson is a Populist in politics, and the family are members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Bengtson takes an active interest in educational matters. He was school moderator for eight consecutive years, and was connected with the board when the new school was built. The family are well known throughout the county, and Mr. Bengtson is considered a man of the strictest integrity.

**L**OUIS LICHTENBERG, now engaged in general farming and stock raising in Cedar precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. He was born April 23, 1842, and is a son of Gustav Lichtenberg, who combined the occupations of farmer, miller and justice of the peace.

Louis Lichtenberg acquired his early education in his native place. At the age of nineteen years he took passage on board the ship "Marco Polo," which sailed for the United States, and landed in New York. He worked on a farm for a short time, and subsequently in a brewery, the work of which he was familiar with, as in the old country he had learned the trade. The trade there also included starch making, sugar making, and distilling.

In the dark days of 1862, when the ominous clouds of war hovered over the Union, the subject hereof, then only twenty years old, showed his loyal spirit in the defence of his adopted country. He enlisted in the 8th Regiment, New York Volunteers, and six months later re-enlisted in the 29th Regiment, New York Volunteers, named at the time "The Old Gari-

baldi Guard." He was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry, and subsequently exchanged and sent to Chicago. There he worked in a brewery five years for Busch & Brand.

In 1867 Mr. Lichtenberg moved to Nebraska, took up a homestead and engaged in general farming and stock raising. Most of the time his farm is stocked with about 200 cattle, 200 hogs and about 20 horses. He has a fine growing orchard of apple, cherry and plum trees. He was married in 1866 to Fredericka Scherer. They have reared eleven children, as follows: Mary (Ranslam), Gustav, Lena (Becker), Sophia (Ranslam), Annie, Rosa (Esem), Lucy (Ranslam), Clara, Carl, Walter and Francis.

Party ties do not bind Mr. Lichtenberg in the discharge of his duty on election days. He is governed by principle, and supports the candidate who, in his estimation, will serve the people's interests to the best advantage. Mr. Lichtenberg is a member of the German Lutheran church.

**T**AYLOR VAIL RUTTER, one of the leading agriculturists of Chapman precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he owns a quarter section of highly improved farm land, has lived a most industrious and frugal life. Starting at the age of fourteen years, entirely without capital, he entered upon his work with a vim and energy not to be denied. He was always economical, not spending his money like other boys, but laying it by, and, when enough had accumulated, carefully

investing it and increasing it many times over. He is a shrewd and discriminating business man and has owned considerable property in Saunders county, which he invariably disposed of to good advantage.

Mr. Rutter was born near Searights, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1854, and is a son of John and Susan (Vail) Rutter. He has two sisters and one brother, as follows: Minerva (Rader), who lives near Piedmont, Greenwood county, Kansas; Eliza (May), who is now a widow and lives in Kansas; and Henry, who is married and also lives in Kansas. Mr. Rutter worked upon his father's farm in Pennsylvania and lived in that state until he was fourteen years of age. His father started for Illinois in 1855, but met with death by drowning in the Allegheny River, shortly after leaving Brownsville. His son, Taylor, was put out to work at an early age, and was raised by his grandfather until he was fourteen years old, when he went to Illinois and hired out to a farmer for a few months. He then went to Kansas, where his family had all located, his brother having first spent three years in Illinois. He was taken sick there, and, concluding that the Kansas climate did not agree with him, he returned to Illinois and hired out for four years. He worked hard and saved his earnings, each year placing \$125 out on interest. In this way he got a start and then rented a farm, which he operated with considerable success, raising three crops. He continued in La Salle county, Illinois, for many years, and in 1886 removed to Saunders county, Nebraska, having nine horses, three sets of harness, a wagon, buggy,

cultivator and plow, and about \$800 in money. He first purchased 80 acres in Chapman precinct—the south half of the northeast quarter of township 14, range 6—and set about cultivating and improving the place, erecting buildings, etc. He disposed of it to Joseph Jasa, and then purchased 40 acres in section 1—the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter; 40 acres in Mariposa precinct, and 120 acres in section 2, township 14, range 6, paying \$25 an acre for the 200 acres. He greatly improved the land, built a barn at a cost of \$1,250, a crib for \$100, a kitchen for \$150, and then sold it, realizing well out of the transaction. He sold the 40 acres in Mariposa precinct to Mr. Peterson, for \$32.50 per acre; another 40 acres to Mr. Jasa, for \$38.50 per acre, and the 120 acres in section 2 to Mr. Paulson, for \$45.75 per acre. In 1894 he purchased the present farm, a quarter section adjoining Weston, at \$50 per acre, from Mr. Youngstrom, one acre of it being occupied by the cemetery. He has expended \$500 in improvements since, and has one of the best improved farms in the county. His wells are only 50 feet deep, but the water is especially fine, and he has an excellent system of waterworks on the farm. His place presents an attractive appearance with its handsome shade trees surrounding the house. He has his land mostly in grain, and is engaged in raising fine horses. He is an excellent judge of horses and has some very fine animals, both draft horses and roadsters.

In 1877 Mr. Rutter was united in marriage with Ethel L. Redman, a daughter of Andrew Redman, an early settler of Illinois, and they

had seven children, as follows: Nellie, deceased, who was born in 1882; Minnie, who is sixteen years of age; John, deceased; Ross, aged twelve years; Eva, aged ten years; Roy, aged eight years; and Clifford, who died in the fall of 1893. The two youngest boys are bright and active, and assist materially in doing the chores about the farm.

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**J**OHN W. O'KANE, at one time sheriff of Saunders county, and for many years one of the leading agriculturists of Stocking precinct, is now leading a retired life at Ithaca, Nebraska, where he has an elegant residence.

Mr. O'Kane was born in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1841, and is a son of Daniel and Lucy (Johnson) Kane. He was reared in that county and in 1862 enlisted in the Union army, becoming a private in Company E, 92d Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He served for two years and seven months, and while serving in Kilpatrick's cavalry at Powder Springs, Georgia, three balls struck him in the left thigh, thus incapacitating him for further duty. He saw much hard service, and always conducted himself in a soldierly manner, being ready to discharge his full duty, and more, when called upon. In 1869 he moved to Stocking precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, and homesteaded 80 acres—the west half of the southwest quarter of section 24. Upon this property was located a small board house, 12 by 16 feet in dimensions, and in 1870

he brought his family of eleven, in all, and lived in it until a larger house could be erected. He set out an orchard and grove of five acres, and greatly improved his property in every way. He purchased 80 acres of railroad land, adjoining his property on the south, in section 25, Stocking precinct, at \$10 per acre, and 80 acres on the east. He then erected barns and a fine set of other outbuildings, and successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years. He also bought and improved considerable other property in the county, and had it all well stocked. In 1886 he was elected sheriff of Saunders county by the Democratic party, and served in a manner most satisfactory to his constituents for two years. Upon first locating in the county he was made school treasurer, and was the means of dividing the old district into the present four districts. He has served on the school board for many years, and also as constable, in which capacity he is now serving. In 1891 he practically retired from active business life, selling some of his land and renting the rest of it. He built his present large and handsome residence in Ithaca, in which he has since resided. He now conducts a boarding stable, and is quite successful in that enterprise.

Mr. O'Kane was united in marriage with Mrs. Esther Dodson, widow of Melvin Dodson, by whom she had two children—Clarence, and Millie R. Her union with Mr. O'Kane resulted in the birth of five children: Arthur Elsworth, who married Alice Granger, by whom he has one child, Hazel; Frank Wesley; Agnes, the wife of Dr. W. H. Atkinson, and mother of





MR. AND MRS. G. B. M. WILL AND FAMILY.

one son, Earl; Edith, the wife of Bert Wills, by whom she had had two children, both of whom are dead; and Flora, who is unmarried and resides at home.


**G**B. M. WILL, a prominent and enterprising young business man of Valparaiso, Saunders county, Nebraska, is manager of the Searle & Chapin Lumbering Company, for which he has worked since 1891. He was born in Pomeroy, Ohio, May 30, 1861, and is a son of David and Kezia (Wandling) Will. He was the only child born of that union, and when but two years of age his mother died, and he went to live with his grandmother. When he was fourteen years of age his father married a Miss Radford, and the subject hereof returned home and lived there until he was twenty-two years old. As a result of his father's second union, seven children were born, those living being David; Maude; Clyde and Oderkirk.

At twenty years of age Mr. Will began teaching school, which he made his occupation for three years, but he afterward entered Norman University, at Lebanon, O., which was under the direction of Mr. Holbrook. He graduated from that institution in 1885 with high honors. He went through school without any assistance whatever from his father. Upon leaving school he went to Sutton, Nebraska, and taught four years in Clay and Thayer counties. For the following three years he was principal of the Liberty schools. As the county superintendent of Thayer county, Ne-

braska, he looked over certain timber lands in the interest of several teachers; eighteen of them took up claims, but the subject hereof is the only one who now holds a deed, as he invested the necessary capital for improvements. His property consists of the southwest quarter of section 30, township 24, range 56 west, and is located in the Sioux valley, four miles from the Platte River and a short distance from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad. As that part of the country is being rapidly settled the land bids fair to become very valuable. December 19, 1891, Mr. Will located in Valparaiso, Nebraska, where he assumed the management of the S. K. Martin Lumbering Company, and continued to work for that company until August, 1899, when they sold out to Searle & Chapin, for whom our subject now works. He has made considerable investments in real estate in Valparaiso, and now owns three blocks, valued at \$2,500. He is a hustling and wide-awake business man, and his upright and honest business methods have gained him hosts of friends.

June 19, 1889, Mr. Will married Sarah K. Headrick, the eldest daughter of John Headrick, and they have three children: Mabel, born in 1890, and Joseph and Josephine, twins, born August 21, 1894. Mrs. Will comes from a family of eight children, namely: W. J., who is a jeweler at Sterling, Colorado; Robert L. and Joseph B., who are farmers near Alexandria, Nebraska; Mary L., who is the wife of Charles Bright, a farmer near Alexandria; Anna, the wife of Guy Crewdson; Mattie, and Hattie.

In politics, the subject of this sketch is a Democrat; religiously he is a Methodist. In 1892 he joined Lodge No. 136, I. O. O. F., in which he has held all the chairs and is now warden. He was delegated to the grand lodge at Lincoln in 1895. He carried \$3,000 insurance in Liberty Lodge No. 932, M. W. A., but in 1892 he transferred his membership to Lodge No. 1451. He and his wife carry policies of \$2,500 each in the National Mutual Life of Minneapolis. A picture of Mr. Will's family is presented on a preceding page.

 WILLIAM E. DECH was for many years one of the leading agriculturists of Wahoo precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, of which he was a very early settler, but since 1893 he has been living a retired life at Ithaca, Nebraska. He was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, in 1841, and is a son of Elijah and Hannah (Heller) Dech.

Elijah Dech was a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, where he lived until April, 1857. He then removed to Lee county, Illinois, and engaged in farming, although his previous occupation had been that of a miller. In the spring of 1868 he went west to Ithaca, Saunders county, Nebraska, and homesteaded 80 acres in section 28, Wahoo precinct. He built a house 16 by 24 feet in dimensions upon the site of the present house of Barney Schroeder. Ithaca was laid out upon his farm. He was the first postmaster of that town, the postoffice being established in his house in 1869. He

died March 24, 1872, at the age of sixty-nine years, his widow surviving until 1892, when she passed away at the advanced age of eighty years. They were parents of the following children: Josiah J., a gentleman whose life-history appears elsewhere in this work; John, of Antelope, Nebraska; George, of Colorado; William E.; Susan, deceased; Mary Ann, wife of Alfred Eyer; Martha, wife of R. L. Roberts; and Helen, wife of B. Parks.

William E. Dech was reared and schooled in his native state, and in 1861 enlisted in the army service. He became a private in Company G, 10th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served three years, ten months, and twenty days, in a most creditable manner. In October, 1869, he arrived in Wahoo precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, and homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 28. He did not favor the idea of living in a sod house, so did not immediately build. He bought a yoke of oxen, plowed the ground and sowed grain. Having harvested his crops, he exchanged wheat at 35 cents per bushel for lumber, and was thus enabled to build a home. It was hard work to get a good start, but he managed to make both ends meet, and in time became one of the most prosperous men in the county. He set out a grove of trees and a splendid orchard, and was actively engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1893, when he retired. He built a fine residence in Ithaca, in which he still resides. In addition to his original farm he purchased another 80 acres in section 29, and the 80 acres homesteaded by his father, and owns a half sec-



tion of land in Antelope county, Nebraska, which he rents. He owns stock in the Ithaca State Bank, and is one of its directors.

Mr. Dech was united in marriage with Mary E. Phelps, a daughter of Samuel T. Phelps, of Dixon, Illinois, and they have reared one daughter, namely: Amy, who married Robert Dech, and has two children; Nina and Lilah.

The subject of this sketch served sixteen years as school director and nine years as road supervisor. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and votes the Populist ticket.

CHARLES O. JOHNSON, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Stocking precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, owns one of the most productive and beautifully situated farms in that county. Mr. Johnson was born in Sweden in 1848. He is a son of Olof and Christina (Larson) Johnson. His parents came to the United States in 1851, settling in Burlington, Iowa. They lived in Jefferson county, in that state, for eight years, and then moved to Henderson county, Illinois. The elder Mr. Johnson then retired from active business pursuits and spent his last years at the home of his son, Charles. He died when sixty-five years old. His widow still survives him and resides in Illinois, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. Their family consisted of nine children, as follows: Christina, Caroline, Charles O., Clara, Louise, Matilda, Peter G., and a twin son and daughter, both of whom died young.

Charles O. Johnson left home at an early age to make his own way in the world. In 1864 he enlisted in Company H, 28th Reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., as a private. He served until the close of the war, and saw active service at Spanish Fort and Fort Blakeley.

After the war Mr. Johnson returned to Illinois, where he engaged in farming until his marriage with Annie Peterson. Mrs. Johnson is a daughter of Peter Peterson. Soon after marriage the young folk went to Montgomery county, Iowa, where they were engaged in farming for nine years. Mr. Johnson then purchased 80 acres of land in the same county and improved it so as to be able to sell to good advantage. This he did, and after selling he went further west and settled in Stocking precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. In 1883 he purchased the Adam Miller farm in section 16 of Stocking precinct, and, a little later, added to it 40 acres of adjoining land, which he purchased from J. F. Gilliland.

The original farm purchased by Mr. Johnson contained a house 24 by 32 feet in dimensions. This was enlarged into a modern house of ample proportions. Mr. Johnson set out more shade trees, new orchards, etc. He also built new barns, and now has a very choice and well improved farm. It is also finely situated; one of the grandest views of the county can be obtained from it toward the west and north. This farm is also very productive, and has frequently yielded as much as 60 bushels of corn to the acre. Mr. Johnson usually puts 100 acres in corn, as he feeds about 80 cattle and 60 hogs. He also raises many fine draft horses.

To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born seven children, as follows: Clara, deceased; Minnie, Clara, Effie, Mabel, Daniel O., and Russell H. Politically, the subject hereof is a Republican. He has served his party as road supervisor, school trustee, etc. He favors the Lutheran creed, and is a prominent member of J. A. Andrus Post, No. 90, G. A. R. Mr. Johnson is a man of influence and prominence in his community.

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**A**DOLPH SOLAND, a large land owner of Wahoo precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is one of the prosperous farmers of that section. He was born in Hancock county, Illinois, November 17, 1855, and is a son of Jacob and Susan (Bertchie) Soland.

Adolph Soland was reared in Illinois, and lived there until he was twenty-five years of age. In 1880 he moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, and purchased of J. W. Knapp 80 acres in section 32, which had been homesteaded by W. H. Uhler. There he has since resided, erecting his present handsome residence in 1898. In addition to this, in 1885, he purchased 80 acres of Z. B. Knapp; in 1890, 40 acres of T. and F. Zingrie; in 1894, 80 acres of Mr. Kansanback; and 33½ acres of J. W. Knapp, making in all 313½ acres in Wahoo and Stocking precincts. He has greatly improved the land, which yields an average of 60 bushels of corn per acre, and he has been equally successful in raising other grain. He has set out a large number of shade trees, thus

greatly beautifying his property, and also a fine orchard, consisting chiefly of cherry and apple trees. The farm is stocked with an exceptionally high grade of animals. He formerly raised Hereford cattle, but in recent years has raised Shorthorns, and with greater success. He raises from 80 to 100 hogs per year, and also a number of mules. Mr. Soland as a young man was dependent upon his own resources, and what he owns today is the result of his individual efforts. He is deemed one of the substantial citizens of his community, and enjoys the friendship of all with whom he comes in contact.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Florence Scott, a daughter of John Scott, of Illinois. She was born in Kansas, and one child has blessed her union with Mr. Soland, namely: Gladys. They are very fond of children, and in the kindness of their hearts they have given a home to four children who were taken from the Christian Home, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, bestowing upon them the parental love which every child craves. Their names are as follows: Dorsey Davis, Emerson Davis, Robert Bradbury, and Eva Bradbury.

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**M**RS. LUCY J. HENRY, widow of the late Solomon Henry, resides upon the splendid farm in Stocking precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where both worked in unison for so many years, and where the latter died in 1890.

Solomon Henry was one of the pioneer set-

tlers of Saunders county. He was born in Madison county, New York, March 4, 1824. His parents, Elijah and Lucy (Perry) Henry, moved to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, with their family in 1844. They settled upon a farm and followed agricultural pursuits all their days.

Solomon was reared on a farm, and, like his father made farming his life work. In 1859 he married Lucy Jane Groves, the subject hereof. Soon after marriage, the young people started for Pike's Peak in company with Austin and John Smith and their families. They traveled in covered wagons from Wisconsin, taking all their worldly goods with them. It was their intention to engage in mining. Six weeks later they reached Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where they met several families who were returning without success. Mr. and Mrs. Henry proceeded no further on their journey. They stopped at Plattsmouth about eighteen months, conducted a ranch near Central City about four years, after which they took up a claim about four miles northwest of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska. They were the seventh family to locate in Saunders county. Their claim was directly adjoining that of their friends, the Smiths. They settled upon it in 1863, and lived upon it one year and a half. Selling out to advantage, Mr. and Mrs. Henry sought a new location.

In 1870 they homesteaded 80 acres in Stocking township, their land being the southeast corner of section 14. With his wife's assistance Mr. Henry built a dugout for a house and one also for a barn. These were built near the

location of the present house and barn. They broke the sod and sowed grain, etc., making improvements as best they could. In 1875 the main part of the present house was built. This has been greatly enlarged since then, and spacious barns, corncribs, etc., have also been built. About 100 fruit trees, and a great number of forest trees have been planted. About the same time Mr. Henry purchased the southwest quarter of section 14, which was directly adjoining his 80 acres. This gave him a farm of ample proportions. He added to it, and accumulated land until his death, which took place on October 8, 1890. He left a large estate to be divided among his widow and their six children.

In politics Mr. Henry was an independent Republican, and religiously, a consistent member of the Baptist church. He was influential and popular, and, on his decease, was deeply mourned by all in his community.

Mrs. Lucy J. Henry, the subject hereof, was born June 7, 1842, in eastern Canada. She is a daughter of John and Dorcas (Hanson) Groves, and was reared and educated in Vermont and Wisconsin. Her father was a mason by trade, but late in life devoted his time exclusively to farming.

Mrs. Henry and her children still conduct the farm, where they are very pleasantly situated. Two daughters have married and left the home nest, as has also Charles, who has a ranch in Cheyenne county, Nebraska. The others still reside with Mrs. Henry. The children are as follows: George Franklin, Alice, Ida, Emma, Galer, and Charles. Ida married

Herman Smith. They reside in Alliance, Nebraska, and have three children: Harry, Henry, and Olah. Emma married E. S. Owen, and resides near Alliance. They have also three children, whose names are Ethel, Edna, and Lottie.

Mrs. Henry recalls to mind many interesting anecdotes and occurrences connected with her early life in Saunders county. She and her husband, like many others, experienced many hardships and endured many privations before they obtained their start. Surrounded as she is today by her loved ones, she has but to enjoy life and can express no wish which long remains ungratified.

**P**HILANDER P. CHURCH, one of the leading citizens of Stocking precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits, having one of the finest farms and residences in his vicinity.

Mr. Church was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, in 1843, and is a son of Lemuel and Ruth (Bailey) Church. Lemuel Church led a retired life after locating in Saunders county, having been a carpenter and farmer in his active days. He died in the eighty-first year of his age, and his wife still survives him at the age of seventy-nine years, living with the subject hereof.

Philander P. Church learned the trade of a carpenter with his father, and followed it until he had a small start, when he came west to

Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1871. He homesteaded 80 acres, and timber claimed 80 acres of government land, where he now lives, and drew lumber from Ashland with which he built a small frame house in the center of his farm. He added many important improvements to the place, and set out a large grove of shade trees. In 1875 he moved his house to its present site, and built an addition, and in 1885 he erected a fine new house, whose dimensions are 26 by 26 feet, the other part being 16 by 24 feet. He also set out shade trees, shrubbery, and a fine orchard, and built cribs. In 1891 he built a large barn, 45 by 50 feet in dimensions. He has a good water supply on the farm, and a windmill which draws water 75 feet, in abundance. He has about 20 acres of forest land, which he set out in slips, or planted in seed, and this supplies him with needed stove-wood and posts. His farm is well stocked with cattle and hogs, and his principal crops are corn and oats. He is a man of excellent business ability, energy and good judgment, and, withal, a man of the highest character. He has dealt with all men with fairness and honesty, and enjoys the highest respect and friendship of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Church was united in marriage with Alma Webster, a daughter of Roswell Webster, of Ashtabula county, Ohio, and they are the parents of two children: Otto, who married Estella Linder, and lives at home; and Kate, who is also at home. Politically, Mr. Church is a Republican, and has served on the school board since 1872; also one term as assessor. He has been a member of the Saunders County

Agricultural Society since its organization, and is now serving his second term as its vice-president.

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**A**UGUST O. EKDAHL, who has one of the most valuable and best conducted farms in Mariposa precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is the earliest settler of that community. He was born in Ostergotland, Sweden, in 1833, and is a son of Olof and Sophia Marie (Anderson) Person.

Coming to America in 1868, Mr. Ekdahl located at Omaha, Nebraska, on June 13, where he was first employed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company on a ferry boat on the Missouri River. He worked thus but a few days when he went 700 miles west, to Laramie City, Wyoming, and was there variously employed for a period of eleven months, building bridges, etc., for the railroad company. He returned to Omaha on May 11, 1869, and took a steamer down the Missouri River, inspecting Kansas land with the object of locating there. Not being pleased with the outlook he returned to Omaha June 28, 1869, and immediately set out for Saunders county with his partner, Oscar Johnson, arriving there on July 3. He homesteaded 80 acres in Chapman precinct—the east half of the northwest quarter of section 6, township 14, range 6. He owned two horses, and during the first year broke 10 acres for himself, 10 acres for Oscar Johnson, and several acres for Mr. Nelson and Mr. Ockander. Many of the settlers who came after him were poorly equipped, and Mr. Ekdahl, being kind of heart

and always anxious to help those in need of assistance, aided them in getting provisions and started in their work. John Lee plied a skiff back and forth across the Platte River, charging \$2 to cross, and during the first year the subject hereof paid him and another ferryman located a mile west of Lee's crossing place, about \$75 for passage. He hauled lumber from Fremont for different persons, charging \$10 per trip, it being a very difficult one to make and requiring about five days. The heavy rains kept the roads in bad condition and frequently washed out the bridges, and Mr. Ekdahl was either obliged to ford the stream and carry the lumber up the opposite bank or to rebuild the bridge sufficiently to cross. In 1871 he pre-empted the east half of the southwest quarter of section 31, township 15, range 6, (which soon became railroad land), for which he paid \$6 per acre, and upon this property he now lives. He had built a log granary on his original 80 acres, and this he subsequently removed to his new property, using it as a house for two years. Owing to the drouth and the prevalence of grasshoppers, it was a very difficult matter to get a start and place his farm upon a paying basis, but by energy and perseverance and the exercise of good judgment he succeeded. In 1879 he erected a house, 12 by 16 feet, which is now used as a shed, on the north side of the barn. He built the main part of his present house in 1888, and completed it, as it now is, in 1896. In 1874 he planted many trees, but most of the fruit trees were ruined by stock, and he decided not to replant until he could

afford to surround the orchard with a fence. He now has an excellent orchard of several acres of young trees. In 1883 he built the main part of his barn, and also other buildings, and, five years later, added sheds thereto, the dimensions being 11 by 16 and 12 by 16 feet. There is a large creek running through his land, and in 1879 he dug his first well, which is 56 feet deep. Of the railroad land, 45 acres is in pasture and hog lot, and on the other 35 acres are the buildings, orchard, and a part under cultivation. The entire 80 acres of his first acquisition is under a high state of cultivation and is as productive as any in the precinct. The farm presents a fine appearance, being well fenced, and having a strip of natural timber along the creek.

In 1879 Mr. Ekdahl was united in marriage with Anna Christina Olive Frostrom, a daughter of John Christian and Christina (Lindberg) Frostrom. Her father came to America in the spring of 1869, and first did construction work on the Union Pacific Railroad eight months in Colorado. He then returned to Omaha and secured work on the bridge at St. Joseph, at which he was employed for fifteen months. He then homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 6, township 14, range 6, but later sold out to James Coleman, and purchased his present home near Weston. His family followed him to this country in the fall of 1872. A record of his children is as follows: Mrs. Ekdahl was born September 24, 1862; Jacob, born in 1863, married Lena Engvall, a daughter of C. B. Engvall, of Moline, Illinois, and they are the

parents of five children,—Bertha, Edwin, Julius, Elvera, and Clifford; Jacob now conducts his father's farm; Johanna Caroline, born in 1865, married O. Paulson, of Oregon; Hulda Augusta, born in 1867, is deceased; Lizzie was born in 1874; Amanda was born in 1877, and is the wife of R. Juline, of Rock Creek precinct; John Theodore, born in 1878, is deceased. August O. Ekdahl and his wife had eight children, of whom four are deceased: August Elim, born August 31, 1880, died December 5, 1881; Carl John Eli, born March 8, 1882, died April 30, 1884; Milsa Maria Olive was born November 20, 1883; Japhet Emanuel was born February 23, 1886; Roland Gotfrid was born November 7, 1889; Rhoda Amelia, twin with Roland, died January 6, 1900; one, born October 31, 1895, died in infancy; Ruth Josephine was born September 7, 1899. The subject of this sketch is a Republican, and one of the first members of the Independent party. He belongs to the Baptist church of Weston. He is a man of high character, kind and considerate of others, and enjoys the confidence and good will of his fellow men to a marked degree.

JOHN G. SMITH, M. D., a general practitioner of Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, has a pleasant office, waiting parlors and consultation rooms in Block 164, on Fifth street. Dr. Smith is a Southerner by birth. He was born at McKinney, Collin county, Texas. His father, B. F. Smith, was a native of Kentucky and followed farming.





HON. WILLIAM H. DECH.



In 1868, when Dr. Smith was eight years old, he accompanied his parents to Albany, Missouri, where he attended public school and subsequently commenced the study of medicine as a student under Dr. Doyle. He afterward attended Ensworth Medical College, graduating in the class of 1891. After his graduation he returned to Albany, where he opened an office and practiced for about one year.

He then located at Hanover, Kansas, where he remained for six years, having built up a large practice during that period. A change of climate was desirable, however, and Dr. Smith went to Hamilton, Montana, for a short time. Later he located in South Omaha, Nebraska, where he also remained but a brief period. In 1897 he located in Weston, Saunders county, Nebraska, and practiced his profession successfully there for two years. Desiring a more central location, Dr. Smith then removed to Wahoo, where he was enabled to hold his former practice in the western part of the county. In addition to this, by his ability and skill he has won the confidence of the people in other parts of that county and in Wahoo, where he now enjoys an extensive practice. Dr. Smith is naturally quite pleased with his change of location, as he now has a much broader field of labor.

The subject of this sketch has been twice married. His first union was contracted with Miss Orendorff, of Denver, Missouri. She died, leaving three children, namely: Freddie L., Claude C., and Wave F. Some time afterward Dr. Smith was united in marriage to Lillian Klotz, of Ashland, Nebraska. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and also belongs to

the Knights of Pythias, the Woodmen of the World, the Star of Jupiter and the Royal Neighbors, serving at the present time as medical examiner of the last two. Dr. Smith is rapidly advancing to the front in his profession, and his success is well merited. He is among the most highly esteemed citizens of Stocking precinct.



HON. WILLIAM H. DECH, a gentleman who has attained distinction in political circles through the state of Nebraska by reason of his enthusiastic support of the Middle-of-the-Road Populist party, has frequently been called into public service. He served in both bodies of the state legislature in a most satisfactory manner, always alert in promoting the interests of the district he represented and the general welfare of the state. He is one of the early settlers of Saunders county, and a prominent citizen of Ithaca, where he owns a handsome property.

Mr. Dech was born near Easton, in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, in 1840, and is a son of William and Catherine (Rice) Dech. His father was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania. William H. Dech enlisted in the army at Allentown, Pennsylvania, April 17, 1861, as a private in Company I, 1st Reg. Pa. Vol. Inf., and three months later joined the 54th Reg. Pa. Vol. Inf. He was in the service three years, participated in much hard fighting, and on July 19, 1864, was wounded in the right breast at Snicker's Gap, an injury from

which he has never fully recovered. While in the hospital he studied medicine, but ill health prevented continuous study and he was advised to go to the mountains. He accompanied an excursion party on the river, from Pittsburg, and during the trip, many of the passengers were taken sick, and were relieved by the treatment Mr. Dech was able to give by reason of his knowledge of medicine. He arrived at St. Joseph, Mo., where he met Dr. Donoland of Plattsmouth, Nebraska, upon whose advice he went to the latter city. He there made the acquaintance of Dr. Johnson, who told him of the wonderful climate of Saunders county. Under his influence he went to visit the only settler in his locality, T. H. Bissell, an early frontiersman and cattle man, who had settled in section 33. So favorable was the impression made upon him by the land in the valley of Wahoo Creek that he immediately took up 80 acres in the southeast corner of section 20. There was no building located upon the property, and as a protection to the flour which he bought he drove willow sticks into the ground and covered them with shirts. He soon constructed a shanty of limbs and leaves, and, having purchased a yoke of cattle, began to break the land. He built a small cabin and then wrote to his father, who came on with his family and took up the 80 acres on which S. Purbaugh now resides. His father improved his farm and carried on farming the remainder of his life, dying in 1890, at the age of seventy-seven years. His widow died in 1891, aged seventy-two years. They were the parents of the following children: Sabina W.; William H.; Lizzie, the wife

of E. F. Mills; Kate, the wife of Llewellyn Warner; Alpheus, who died while serving in the Union army; Amelia, the wife of K. Griffin; Irvin, of Wahoo; and Ida, the wife of P. McKinney.

Mr. Dech's first house was 14 by 18 feet in dimensions. He set out an orchard and groves and a cottonwood tree which was set out by his boys is now over two feet in diameter. In 1880 he purchased 40 acres of railroad land at Ithaca and built his present residence. He set out a great variety of large and small fruit, and there is none better in the county. In politics Mr. Dech supported the Republican ticket until the organization of the Middle-of-the-Road Populists, when he became one of the leaders of that party. In 1873 he was elected to the lower branch of the state legislature, and in 1883 was elected to the state senate. In 1890 he was a candidate for lieutenant governor and ran 1,000 votes ahead of the ticket, but was defeated. He was a candidate for congress in 1894, receiving 12,000 votes in his district, and in the campaign of that year he spoke in every county in the state, establishing an enviable reputation as a public speaker. He was also the first national committeeman of his party for that district. He was state elector of the Farmers Alliance, and state master workman of the Knights of Labor.

Mr. Dech was united in marriage with Mary Dorraty, a daughter of Nathaniel Dorraty, of Keokuk, Iowa, and they are the parents of seven children, as follows: Claude, a large sheep raiser of Idaho, who married Iva Vale; Edward, who died at the age of seventeen

years; Harry, who lives at home; Robert, who married Amy Dech and has two children,— Nina and Lilah; Lloyd, who died at seven years of age; Holmes, whose trade is that of a miller; and Cleon. The subject of this sketch has a very valuable residence in Ithaca. A rise of ground just north of his residence is a historic spot, commanding the finest view of distance in the county, as one can see 20 or 25 miles north, east or south, and 10 miles west. It is the site of an old Indian burying ground which the Indians also used as signal ground. When Mr. Dech first settled there, droves of hundreds of antelope and deer could be seen from that point.

On a preceding page, in proximity to this, the publishers of this volume take pleasure in presenting a portrait of Mr. Dech.



**A**LBERT C. KNAPP, an early settler of Saunders county, Nebraska, and for many years one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Wahoo precinct, is now living in retirement at Ithaca, in that county.

Mr. Knapp was born in Fort Madison, Iowa, in 1845, and is a son of William D. and Deborah G. (Ketchum) Knapp. William D. Knapp was born in Orange county, New York, and came west to Chicago at an early day, building two houses in that city. He was then located in Iowa for some time, after which he managed a quarry at Elmira, Illinois, and a ferry across the river, for some thirty years. In 1886 he removed to Wahoo, Saunders

county, Nebraska, where he lived in retirement until his death in 1895, aged eighty years. His wife died in 1891, aged seventy years. They were the parents of the following children: Seely B.; Dewitt, deceased; Henry E., who was killed in the army; Albert C.; Mary E., the wife of Edward Wright; Horace P., a merchant of Ithaca; John W., a record of whose life is given elsewhere in this work; and William Dewitt, a citizen of Wahoo.

Albert C. Knapp followed farming until he was fifteen years old, and then took up the trade of a blacksmith. In 1864 he enlisted in Company E, 118th Regiment Illinois Mounted Infantry, and served until the close of the Civil War. He then returned to his trade, which he followed until 1869, when he decided to move west. On June 1, 1869, he homesteaded 80 acres in section 32, township 14, range 8, Saunders county, going to that county with Theodore Zingrie and William H. Uhler. They built a sod house, and after buying a yoke of oxen broke the ground. While two of the party were thus engaged, the third was out shooting game, on which they mainly subsisted. There was an abundance of antelope, deer, prairie chickens, badgers, coons, and wildcats, and fish were to be had in Wahoo Creek. There was a fine grove of elms and willows on the west side of the creek which had not been devastated by fire, but otherwise there was not a tree within sight. Mr. Knapp made a dug-out, and carried on his trade as a blacksmith, sharpening plow points for all the settlers within a radius of 25 miles. Often men would carry them that distance on their

shoulders while their teams were at home working, the trips consuming two or three days. As soon as he was in a position to do so, Mr. Knapp built a frame house and barns, and subsequently enlarged the house. He set out fine shade groves and an orchard, all of which grew nicely, his first cottonwood trees being now two feet in diameter. He was extensively engaged in grain raising, his land often yielding as many as 60 bushels to the acre. He also dealt in stock largely, and at one time had as many as 40 head of cattle and 600 hogs; he always had from 300 to 400 hogs. In addition to operating his farm he bought a building in Ithaca in 1889, and conducted a butcher shop until 1892. In 1900 he purchased a handsome, modern residence in Ithaca, and there he has since lived in retirement, enjoying the rewards of an industrious and well spent life.

Mr. Knapp was united in marriage with Minnie Huebotter, a daughter of Louis and Minnie (Erbin) Huebotter. She was born at Fort Madison, Iowa, the birthplace of her husband, but they never knew each other while living there. They are the parents of the following children: Bertie, the wife of Robert Railsback, of the well known firm of Railsback Brothers; and William D., who died, aged four years, three months and seventeen days. Mrs. Knapp's parents were natives of Germany, and upon coming to this country located first in Illinois, where her father was a farmer and miller. He is now living a retired life at Lagrange, Missouri. They were the parents of seven children: Minnie, Lizzie, Louise, Lewis, Henry, and two

deceased. The subject of this sketch has served as school director for many years, and is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

CHARLES LOUIS TEGELBERG, who is one of the best known and most enterprising of the younger generation of farmers of Wahoo precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is extensively engaged in the production of grain and in stock raising. He is a man of untiring energy and good business ability, and the success that has thus far attended his efforts bespeaks a most prosperous career to follow. He was born January 1, 1873, and is a son of Lars Tegelberg.

Lars Tegelberg, who was a son of Per Tegelberg, was born in Sweden April 2, 1838, and at the age of fourteen years obtained employment as a farm hand. In 1869 he came to America, locating in Omaha, Nebraska; the same year he homesteaded 80 acres of land in Saunders county. In 1870 he and his wife settled upon the homestead, and there resided until 1898, when he moved to Mead, Nebraska, where he still resides. He now owns 160 acres of well improved farming and grazing land in Wahoo precinct. He was married in 1869 to Mary Anderson, and to them were born three children: Per August, deceased; Charles Louis, the subject hereof; and Otto Bernhard.

The subject of this sketch took advantage of the opportunities to obtain an education, and made the most of his chances. He assisted his father in conducting the homestead farm until

that gentleman retired to Mead, when he rented the paternal acres, and at this writing rents in addition other land adjoining the homestead. He has since been engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Tegelberg was united in marriage with Annie Quist, a daughter of Rev. John Quist, an early settler of Missouri, and this union has been blessed with one child—Carl Bernhard Raugner. In religious attachments Mr. Tegelberg is a faithful and consistent member of the Mission church. He is a man of upright and honorable character, and is very popular among his fellow citizens.



**C**HARLES C. TURNEY, a retired farmer living at Ceresco, Saunders county, Nebraska, is an extensive land owner of that county, and all he possesses of this world's goods has been obtained by hard and persistent work. His present attainment is the fruit of an industrious and well spent life. Among his boyhood resolutions, one was that at the age of sixty years he would either have an abundance to retire on or would go to the poorhouse. His great and unyielding ambition sustained him through the many trials he had as an agriculturist in Nebraska and carried him successfully through droughts and grasshopper invasions. Now he is enabled to spend the remainder of his life in the peace of happy retirement.

Mr. Turney was born in 1840, at Columbus, Franklin county, Ohio, and is a son of Daniel

Turney, whose occupation was that of a farmer. As a boy, Charles was obliged to work hard upon the farm, but he never objected to work, as it came natural to him to employ all of his time in one way or another. He applied himself to learning the blacksmith trade, and worked at that and wagon-ironing for three years. He then borrowed sufficient money to start in business for himself at Trenton, Iowa, in 1864, where he continued until 1874, and then sold out. He had heard somewhat of the much-talked-of plains of Nebraska, and thinking that new territory would be a good place to locate in he went thither in 1874, buying 80 acres in Richland precinct (which had been homesteaded by J. Louden) for \$3 per acre. But little of the land was under cultivation and only a small sod house stood on the property, but in September, 1874, he brought his family there. He also bought 160 acres in section 21 at \$3 per acre, it being railroad land. On his home farm he built a house 14 by 22 feet in size, to which he added from time to time until it was one of the finest places in the county. The house is surrounded by a grove of shade trees and evergreens, and presents a handsome appearance. He set out 41 acres of fruit trees, including apples, plums, pears, and grapes, and has a very fine orchard. In 1887 he purchased 80 acres adjoining his home place for \$1,050, and in 1877 he secured 160 acres of railroad land in section 29, Richland precinct, for \$1,400. In 1886 he purchased 80 acres of state land for \$400, and 160 acres in section 27, Rock Creek precinct, for \$3,000. His principal product is hay, and he

has more and better land adapted to blue grass than any other man in his section; he keeps about 300 head of cattle, which he feeds on the land. In 1899 he bought a village lot and small house at Ceresco, a part of the old Yates farm. He enlarged the house and barn, set out beautiful shade trees, and moved there with his family in 1900, where he has since lived in retirement. He is a public-spirited man and has taken an earnest interest in all public enterprises and improvements. He was elected county treasurer on the Democratic ticket in 1885, and served one term. Fraternally, he is a member of the F. & A. M. and encampment of the I. O. O. F.

Mr. Turney was united in marriage with Anna Green, a daughter of James C. Green, of Trenton, Iowa, and they became the parents of two children: Jennie, who died at the age of fifteen months; and Clark.

Clark Turney, the surviving child, was born June 19, 1867, and was reared on the farm. He remained on the farm, farming and stock raising with his father, until he was twenty-three years old, when he ventured alone. He purchased 160 acres of land, the north-west quarter of section 29, Richland precinct, and, later, bought 80 acres in Rock Creek precinct, at present known as the Hanline farm. He also purchased other property, but has since disposed of it. He was extensively engaged in stock dealing with his father until 1899, when he built a handsome modern residence and barn in Ceresco and retired from active business. He rents his property and looks after his business interests. He

was united in marriage with Susie Walters, a daughter of Jacob Walters, of Ceresco, and they have had two children: Raymond R., and Rance, who died at the age of seven years. In politics Clark Turney is an unswerving supporter of the Democratic party. Fraternally, he is a member of Lodge No. 29, F. & A. M.

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**P**ROFESSOR J. H. FLODMAN, A. M., of Luther Academy, was born in Ostergotland, Sweden, September 23, 1859. At the age of nine years he came to the United States, and first located in the state of Illinois. In 1872 he moved to Polk county, Nebraska, near the town of Stromsburg. He attended Augustana College at Rock Island, Illinois, and graduated from that institution of learning in the spring of 1890. He received his master's degree from Augustana College in the spring of 1900.

In the spring of 1890 he received a call as assistant teacher by the board of directors of Luther Academy, which he accepted, and in the fall of 1892 he was called as permanent professor at said institution by the Nebraska Conference, his principal subjects being Latin, mathematics, and sciences. He has been a student at the University of Nebraska, in all, about a year and a half. His ambition to acquire a greater extent of knowledge has no restraint, and his attendance at the University of Nebraska was made possible only by his securing leave from his college duties at different periods.

Prof. Flodman is especially interested in botany. He has been on two botanical expeditions with a noted botanist, Dr. P. A. Rydberg, assistant curator of the Botanical Garden of New York. In 1899 the subject of this writing was united in marriage with Emma C. Johnson, daughter of C. M. Johnson, of Paxton, Illinois. They are among the most highly esteemed and respected citizens of Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska.



**D**R. R. D. BUSH, a successful practicing physician of Ceresco, Saunders county, Nebraska, is also the proprietor of the only drug store in the village. This store was established by him in 1887, soon after his arrival in Ceresco. At that time his brother, H. L. Bush, was in partnership with him. In 1890 the brother retired from the firm and since then Dr. Bush has been the sole proprietor. He carries a fine stock of drugs, and handles paints, oils, wall paper, stationery, toilet articles, and the thousand and one things to be found in any first-class drug store. In 1897 the postoffice was located in his store, where it still remains.

Dr. Bush was born in Mayville, Chautauqua county, New York, in 1853. His father, Loran Bush, was a farmer in the vicinity of Mayville. Later in life, however, he purchased a farm near Jamestown, in the same county. He was killed in a railroad accident in 1885.

Dr. Bush was reared and educated in Jamestown, New York. After leaving school he took

up the study of medicine in the office of Dr. O. H. Simons, of the same place. Subsequently he entered the Detroit Medical College, from which he graduated in 1878. Dr. Bush immediately began the practice of his profession in Busti, New York, in his native county. Establishing a drug store he proceeded to build up a practice. Early in his career he read of the wonderful advantages of the West, and from a friend he learned that Dr. Stone, of Wahoo, Nebraska, desired an assistant who would relieve him of his long drives. He was also informed that Dr. Stone wished to retire in a short time.

Dr. Bush considered that a good opening for him, and accordingly disposed of his interests in the East and went to Wahoo in 1885. Two years later he established his present drug store in Ceresco, where he enjoys a good practice and a fair patronage. He was joined in marriage with Lettie Garfield, a daughter of Dr. Sherman Garfield, of Busti, New York. Two children were born to them—Pauline Elvina and Fannie Irene. The latter is deceased.

Dr. Bush is a supporter of the Republican party at the present time, but in 1890 he was elected coroner upon the Democratic ticket. Fraternally, he is a member of the F. & A. M., A. O. U. W., Woodmen of the World, and Knights of the Maccabees. He is a valued member of the Nebraska State Medical Society, also belongs to the American Medical Association. Dr. Bush is a general practitioner, and is well and favorably known, not only throughout Richland precinct, but in the southern part of Saunders county.

**J**OHANN FRIEDERICH KOLB, an extensive land owner in Marble precinct, is one of the pioneer farmers of Saunders county, Nebraska. He is a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, where his father was also born. He is a son of Christian R. Kolb and grandson of Johann Friederich Kolb.

Christian R. Kolb was born in 1808. Early in life he learned the shoemaker's trade and became a very skilled workman. The subject hereof has a pair of fine calfskin boots which his father made; he has worn them for "best," for twelve years, and they are still very fine; besides these he also has workboots made by his father. Christian R. Kolb did elegant work up to the time of his death, and left work unfinished. He married Weepkee Rathman. In 1862, with his family, he came to America, settling in Kankakee county, Illinois. He had \$1,000 in gold and purchased a fine farm in that vicinity. He carried on trade until 1897, when he died. He had previously lost his wife, who died in 1873, aged fifty-three years. Seven children were born to them, as follows: Johann Friederich; Juergen, deceased; Mary, wife of Charles Thompson; Maggie, wife of Peter Fedde; Henry, a resident of Illinois; Christiana, wife of Peter Reimers; and Weepkee.

Johann Friederich Kolb was born August 23, 1834. He learned the shoemaker's trade with his father, serving a three-years apprenticeship. He then went to sea and became a sailor. For three years he sailed on the North and Baltic seas. He then crossed the ocean, to New York City, and sailed on American vessels for six years. During this time he sailed

upon both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, making one trip around Cape Horn. He has experienced many rough and adventurous voyages, and has visited many different lands. It is a pleasure to Mr. Kolb to relate his many experiences. It is a theme which never grows old to him.

Upon the breaking out of the Civil War, Mr. Kolb was on an American vessel near France. He went home to Germany one year. The following year, with his parents, he came to America, first settling in Chicago, where he remained one year. Later, he assisted in breaking soil upon his father's farm, in Kankakee county, and also helped to fence it.

In 1869 Mr. Kolb went west, to Nebraska, and took up 80 acres of homestead land in Marble precinct, Saunders county. He was then a single man, and built a straw-barn and a dugout. In this dugout, or hole in the ground, he lived alone. He improved and cultivated his land and fenced it in. He set out fruit trees and shade trees. For seven years he lived contented and alone. Later, he built a small frame house. This was replaced in 1893 with the present fine large residence. At that time large barns, granaries, sheds and corn cribs were also built. He also bought 80 acres of adjoining land, and 160 acres across the road. He raises principally corn and oats, but also keeps some very fine stock.

Mr. Kolb married Mrs. Caroline Paulsen, a daughter of Christian Wittei. Mrs. Kolb has one son, Henry, by her first marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Kolb have been born four children, as follows: Wilhelmina, Christian Friederich,







WILLIAM J. HARMON.

Johann Mathias, and Wilhelm Otto. Mr. Kolb and family are active members of the Lutheran church. In politics he supports the Republican party.

Quite worthy of mention are the beautiful groves which our subject has on this farm, which is among the most attractive and productive farms in Saunders county. One grove alone contains 600 fine walnut trees. These trees were all planted by Mr. Kolb, and now have a diameter of about ten inches. Other groves contain cottonwoods, and several other varieties of trees, which are considered equally fine. Mr. Kolb is a genuine self-made man and is a citizen of prominence and influence in his community.



**W**ILLIAM J. HARMON, whose life record presents a career of varied business experiences, is among the prosperous farmers of Pohocco precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he owns several hundred acres of land.

Mr. Harmon was born in Suffield, Connecticut, January 30, 1849. He is a son of Julius Harmon and Caroline E. (Lane) Harmon, who is a daughter of Ashbel Lane, of the same place. He first attended the public schools of Suffield, and afterward the Connecticut Literary Institute in Suffield. He left school at the age of twenty years and learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until he went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he worked in the shops of the Union Pacific Railroad Com-

pany for nineteen months. He then went on a government survey, covering Hayes and Chase counties, in the southwestern portion of the state. The surveyors were on this expedition for about six months, when they were driven out by the Indians, and were unable to continue their work until a guard of cavalry was sent along to protect them. Mr. Harmon then went to Fremont, and engaged in contracting in and near that place. In 1875 he built a toll bridge over the Platte River, and during the next seven years built three other bridges, collecting toll from the first bridge during that time. He then sold the bridge to the citizens of Fremont, who turned it into a free bridge in 1882. He then moved to Wahoo, where he lived for two years. Having taken a trip of five or six months through the mountains, he returned in 1884 and located in Saunders county, where he has since remained. His property now consists of the southwest quarter of section 33, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 32, the southeast quarter of section 29, the southwest quarter of section 28, and 68 acres in the northwest quarter of section 28. Only part of his present house was on the property when he acquired it, and many are the improvements which have since been made. The entire crop consists of corn, and he has an excellent orchard of about 150 trees, including cherries, peaches, apples and apricots. He keeps about 400 head of cattle, 200 hogs and from 12 to 15 good horses.

In 1879 Mr. Harmon was united in marriage with Nellie Staats, a daughter of J. F. Staats. Mr. Staats is a prominent citizen of

Saunders county, and is the father of the following children: Emma (deceased); Nellie; Charles; George, and Louis. A child, named George, died in infancy. Mr. Harmon and his wife are parents of seven children, their names and ages being: William F., twenty years; Walter, seventeen years; Edward C., fifteen years; Adelaide E., thirteen years; Mary Fern, eleven years; Charles D., nine years, and Ethel C., four years. Mr. Harmon has two brothers living, Ashbel C., aged fifty-nine years, and Frank S., aged forty-six years. From 1886 to 1890 the subject of this sketch was a justice of the peace of Pohocco precinct, and he served as supervisor for six terms—from 1893 to 1899. He is a Republican in politics. His portrait accompanies this sketch, being presented on a preceding page.



**D**ARIUS P. TURNEY, one of the prosperous farmers of Richland precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, has led an exemplary life. He began his career wholly without means, and had got but fairly started when he was defrauded of all. This served merely as a stimulant; he did not give up but applied himself to his work with increased energy, to the end that he is now owner of considerable land, and is one of the leading citizens of Richland precinct.

Mr. Turney was born in Henry county, Iowa, in 1845, and was there reared and schooled. In 1861 he enlisted in Company G, 11th Reg. Iowa Vol. Inf., and served with that

regiment two years, being promoted to a corporalcy. He then re-enlisted and served in Sherman's army, and although he was wounded twice he never gave up, but remained to the end of the war. He then returned home, and, with his brother, worked his father's farm for three years. Having laid by a small sum he went to Warren county, Iowa, where he bought 80 acres of land. He got started in a very successful way, and then found that he had lost all by signing a note. He sold out, bought another property, and started into business again. At the end of thirteen years he owned 220 acres of fine land, which was well stocked. This he sold, realizing a handsome profit. He then moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, February 16, 1882, buying 80 acres in the southeast quarter of section 19, in Richland precinct. It was a wild, rolling piece of railroad land, for which he paid \$8 per acre, and as there was no house upon the place he rented one for the time being. He chose a good location on a rising piece of ground, and proceeded to build a large modern house, and good, substantial farm buildings. He set out beautiful evergreens and shade trees, and his handsome residence presents the finest appearance of any in the precinct. In 1889 he purchased an adjoining property, consisting of 120 acres, from William P. Blackburn, its former owner having been William Garnic, who had erected a small house upon it, and set out an orchard and shade trees. Mr. Turney built a large stock barn, and set out an orchard of 15 acres. Around his whole farm is a fine osage orange hedge, which he raised from the seed. He has

a herd of 230 head of cattle (all high grade and thoroughbred Shorthorns), 250 hogs, and breeds superior draft horses.

Mr. Turney was united in marriage with Irene Gillaspey, a daughter of William Gillaspey, of Henry county, Iowa, and they are the parents of two children: Charles Alvin, who is at home; and Josephine, the wife of Edward M. Sharrar, of Hooper, Nebraska, by whom she has one son, Karl Turney.

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**W**ILLIAM ROGERS, a retired farmer and capitalist of Ceresco, Richland county, Nebraska, is an extensive land owner. He is a man of good business ability and sterling character, and may be termed in the truest sense of the word a self-made man.

Mr. Rogers was born in County Donegal, near Londonderry, Ireland, in 1843, and is a son of James and Eleanor (Mathias) Rogers. His father was also born there, and became a soldier at the age of eighteen years, serving in the British army twenty-one years and three months. During that time he was in foreign service seven years, being in Turkey, Palestine, Island of Corfu, and other places. In 1849, with his family, he located at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where he worked as gardener, and later as assistant to a retired captain. He died in 1855, at the age of forty-eight years, and his wife lived to reach the advanced age of eighty-five years. They were the parents of the following chil-

dren; James, Catherine, Elizabeth Ann, William, and John T.

William Rogers finished his education in Toronto Academy, where he studied civil engineering, and then taught school for four years. On September 5, 1869, he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, and homesteaded 80 acres in section 34, Richland precinct. He built a sod house with his brother, John T., who took up an adjoining 80 acres, but later sold out and now lives in Lancaster county, Nebraska. He lived in this sod house, one of the best of that day, having clay walls which were whitewashed, and a wood roof. In 1871 the roof was destroyed by fire and he erected a small frame house which was replaced by a large one some five years later. In 1871 times were very hard and money was scarce, so leaving his brother in charge of the farm he walked to Plattsmouth in search of work. He met an old friend who informed him of a position, and with good recommendations he walked to Lincoln and engaged with the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company as a civil engineer. He worked six months for that company, then returned home for a few years. From 1876 to 1883 he served in the capacity of civil engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

When Mr. Rogers and his brother began farming in Nebraska, farming implements were to a great extent unheard of. They broke the ground with oxen, made a harrow with the crotch of a tree, and thus fitted the ground for the following season. The next year corn was put in by plowing a furrow, dropping the corn

in it, and then covering by means of their rude harrow. They were the first men in this part of the country to plant corn in that manner, and their example was soon followed by others, this being the same method as pursued today except that machinery is used instead of hand. There were no weeds in the early days and the land had a wonderful yield of 75 bushels per acre. He furthermore set out many trees, and his farm is now one of the best improved in his part of the county. Thus the subject hereof got his start, and today owns 480 acres of good land, the principal crop being hay and corn. Since 1888 he has lived a retired life, practically, looking after his land and other business interests. He owns a fine residence surrounded by handsome shade trees, overlooking Ceresco; he also has a fine orchard.

Mr. Rogers was united in marriage with Christina E., a daughter of James Stewart, of Perth, Ontario, Canada, and they became the parents of one son, James Stewart, who died at the age of twenty-one months. In political affiliations Mr. Rogers is a strong Republican, and has served as county surveyor. Religiously, he is an adherent of the Presbyterian faith.

**E**RNEST HURST, who is engaged in farming in Stocking precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is young in years, but has displayed unusual energy and general business ability in the pursuance of his work. He was born in Ohio in 1875 and is a son of John Hurst.

John Hurst, the father of Ernest, went to Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1877, and first located one mile south and one and a fourth miles east of the present family home, on 80 acres of land which he purchased in section 23, and which is now occupied by "Pete" Robb. This property was practically unimproved at the time he acquired it, and he set about making improvements in many ways, greatly enhancing its value. He resided with his family upon that tract until 1884, when he purchased the present family home from Mason Ellsworth; it consisted of 160 acres, the northwest quarter of section 22. Mr. Ellsworth had homesteaded the first 80 acres of this, and afterward purchased the other 80 of Mr. White, also a homesteader. At the time of its acquisition by Mr. Hurst, there were on the property some trees, shrubbery, an orchard, and a small frame house which is now used as a cob house. He greatly added to the general appearance of the place by putting out new trees and shrubbery, improving the orchard, and keeping the land in the best possible condition. In 1893 he built a new and substantial barn, and the first house on the place, built of sod by Mr. Ellsworth, on the southwest corner of his original 80 acres, was displaced, in 1899, by a large new house, comfortable in size and of fine appearance. Mr. Hurst died in 1893 at the age of forty-four years, and left surviving him his wife, whose maiden name was Walters, and five children, as follows: Eugene, a machinist of Wahoo; Ernest, to whom this record pertains; Owen, who is married and lives in Wahoo; Louis, and Oliver. Mrs. Hurst now

resides upon the old homestead with her son.

Ernest Hurst has conducted the farm since the demise of his father in a most successful manner. He raises thoroughbred stock exclusively, having Shorthorn and Polled Angus cattle and Poland-China hogs. He has met with unusual success in the cultivation of his fruit trees, particularly with apples. Politically, he stanchly supports the principles advocated by the Populist party. Fraternally, he is a member of Lodge No. 99, Knights of Pythias, of Wahoo; and both of his brothers are members of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of Wahoo. In religious attachments the family are Free Methodists.



**A**NDREW E. STUART, M. D., enjoys the distinction of being the oldest physician and surgeon in years of practice in Cedar Bluffs, Saunders county, Nebraska. Dr. Stuart was born in Sandwich, Canada, in 1862. He is a son of James A. Stuart, a native of Ireland.

James A. Stuart was a man of high intellectual attainments. He had the advantage of a university course in Dublin, Ireland, with a two years' course at Princeton, New Jersey. He went to London, Canada, in 1854, and followed the profession of teaching. Two years later his marriage with Margaret Farris was solemnized, and the following year the young folk settled in Sandwich. While residing there he served as principal of the Protestant school for twelve consecutive years. Later he was

appointed clerk of the division court, which position he filled in an eminently satisfactory manner for fifteen years, up to the time of his death. During that period he also issued marriage licenses. In politics he was a Reformer, and always took an active part in political contests.

Dr. Stuart grew to manhood in his native place. He entered the University of Trinity College, at Toronto, Canada, and passed through its medical department. He subsequently entered the Detroit College of Medicine, from which he graduated, receiving his diploma in March, 1886. The same year he went west, to Nebraska, and settled in Cedar Bluffs, being the first physician to locate in that place, which was then comparatively small.

Soon after his arrival in Cedar Bluffs Dr. Stuart opened a drug store there, in partnership with the late ex-sheriff of Saunders county, W. D. Farris, his uncle. The partnership then formed lasted for three years, when the business was sold out, and Dr. Stuart devoted himself exclusively to the practice of his profession, which has occupied his attention ever since.

In 1888 Dr. Stuart was united in marriage with Effie Thomas, of Sac City, Iowa. They have two children, Margaret, aged eleven years, and Augustus L., aged eight years. Politically our subject is a Democrat. In 1894 he was admitted to Masonry, and is now a valued member of Occidental Lodge, No. 215, F. & A. M. He also affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of American and the Woodmen of the World. Dr. Stuart takes a lively interest in

the affairs of his community, where he has acquired a large and well paying practice. He was appointed postmaster of Cedar Bluffs in 1887, and served as such during the remainder of Cleveland's administration. He is devoted to his profession, and ranks high among the able physicians and surgeons of Nebraska. He is a prominent member of the Nebraska State Medical Society.



**C.** E. LILLIBRIDGE, ex-sheriff of Saunders county, Nebraska, is one of the best known and enterprising hardware merchants of Weston. He was born in Waterford, Erie County, Pa., in 1846. He is a son of Hosea and Henrietta (France) Lillibridge, of Scotch and German descent respectively. His father died in 1888, at the age of sixty-six years and eight months. His mother was born in New York and died in that state in 1896, at the age of seventy years.

In 1873 our subject's parents paid a visit to him in Saunders county. They reared a family of eight children—seven sons and one daughter—as follows: R. L., John; C. E.; Henry A.; Hosea; Clarissa; James, and William. All are still living, with the exception of John. One brother, R. L., went west, to Iowa, with the subject hereof, in 1866, and another brother followed two years later.

C. E. Lillibridge learned the carpenter's trade in early manhood, and after going west spent two years in working at that occupation in Delaware county, Iowa. Two years afterward he went still further west, to Nebraska,

crossing the Missouri River April 6. He first went to Raymond, and took charge of a portable saw mill, that summer. The capacity of this mill was about 4,000 feet per day. In the fall Mr. Lillibridge moved his mill to Greenwood, in Cass county, Nebraska, where he ran it for one year and a half. He then moved the mill upon the Platte River below Yutan, at the mouth of Otter Creek.

Subsequently the subject hereof took up a homestead claim of 80 acres one mile south of Yutan. Upon this land he built a house, barn and outbuildings, and otherwise improved his place. In 1884 he sold this property to John Schulz, the present owner, who now has a fine bearing orchard covering three-quarters of an acre. Some of the trees set out by Mr. Lillibridge in 1872 are 16 and 18 inches in diameter, and plenty of wood is being chopped from the groves for firewood.

After selling his farm, Mr. Lillibridge located on a farm about two miles west and one mile south of Weston. He purchased at that time from John Thomas 280 acres of land in section 19, which farm he still owns. At that times James Kees operated a general store in Weston, and Dick Thomas conducted a similar store, while March & Chapman had a hardware store. The farm purchased from Mr. Thomas was improved considerably, in regard to house and barn, and 40 acres was fenced hog-tight. The south branch of Wahoo Creek affords a fine water supply for the land.

Mr. Lillibridge lived upon the farm for seven of eight years. He cultivated 120 acres and also raised considerable stock. The pas-




ture lands are well sodded with clover and blue grass. Mr. Thomas had set out a large number of fruit trees, the greater part of which died. In 1890 the old orchard was replaced by 50 cherry trees and over 100 apple trees, besides a large number of plum trees, etc. The farm is now rented by Mr. Johnson, who has 150 acres under cultivation.

In the spring of 1893 Mr. Lillibridge commenced building county bridges. He continued at that business for three years, and then bought and sold hogs and cattle for some time. In 1897, in partnership with Charles Ficenec, he reopened a hardware store in Weston, which they still conduct. They carry from \$5,000 to \$7,000 worth of stock and enjoy a large patronage. Mr. Lillibridge has a fine residence in Weston, where he purchased land one block square. This tract is known as Block II in Mock's Second Addition to Weston. He has beautiful grounds and stables and not least among his possessions is a full-blooded Kentucky stallion which is a noted runner.

Mr. Lillibridge married Clysta Harrison, a native of Iowa but reared in Wisconsin. Four children bless this union, namely: H. W.; William; Gladys and Chauncey, all of whom attend school. In the fall of 1867, when twenty-one years old, Mr. Lillibridge joined the Masonic fraternity at Greeley, Iowa. He now affiliates with the Masonic Blue Lodge, of Wahoo. In 1882 he also joined the A. O. U. W., of the same city (Wahoo). Later his membership was transferred to Yutan and Lincoln. He was instrumental in organizing the A. O. U. W. lodge at Weston in 1893, of

which he is a charter member. In 1890 Mr. Lillibridge joined Star Lodge No. 9, K. of P., of Ashland, Nebraska. In 1882 he was elected sheriff of Saunders county on the Independent ticket, and served two years. He has also served about six years on the school board in Chapman precinct, from 1893 to 1899. Mrs. Lillibridge is a member of the Methodist church, but her husband has broad and liberal ideas on the subject of religion and is a member of no church; he contributes, however, to the support of several.

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 OTTO OSTENBERG, one of the leading business men of Wahoo, Nebraska, was born in the Kingdom of Prussia, in 1843. He came to the United States with his father, Charles Ostenberg, when but seven years old. They settled in Wisconsin, about 26 miles from Madison, where Otto spent the early part of his life.

On January 21, 1864, Mr. Ostenberg entered the ranks of the Union army, enlisting in Company A, 11th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until September 4, 1865, when he was honorably discharged from the service at Mobile, Alabama. He moved west in 1874, and bought a farm in Stocking precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. Rural pursuits occupied his time for four years, when he sold his farm and moved to Fremont and engaged in the grain business. When the Union Pacific Railroad was built through, Mr. Ostenberg returned to Saunders county and

engaged in the grain business in Wahoo. He has since been established in that city, and is now conducting his business under the firm name of Osterberg & Company, grain dealers and handlers of all kinds of coal.

Mr. Osterberg married Rosa Jones. Three children have blessed this union: William, who is cashier and a stockholder of the Malmo Bank of Malmo, Saunders county; Harvey, who is bookkeeper for the J. W. Perry Commission Company, of Omaha, Nebraska; and Della, a student of the Wahoo High School. The subject of this sketch is a member of the A. O. U. W. He is a Democrat of the true type, has served many years as a member of the school board and is at present serving his first term as president of that body. He has officiated also in the capacity of secretary and treasurer of the board. He was city treasurer two years.



**F**RANK REHAK is one of the most conscientious and up-to-date farmers in Saunders county, Nebraska, where he is the owner of a highly tilled farm in Elk precinct and is known throughout the district as a good neighbor and citizen. He was born in Jackson county, Iowa, in 1863, and is a son of Joseph and Katie (Kabuska) Rehak, who located in Saunders county, in 1870, with their family of four children. They are as follows: James, who lives near Weston, Nebraska; John, who is a carpenter, residing at Prague, Nebraska; Mary (Fujan), a widow, and Frank, to whom this sketch is devoted. Joseph Rehak

died in 1888, and his widow lives with her son, Frank.

Joseph Rehak homesteaded the south half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 15, range 5, and his first house was a dug-out, 12 by 16 feet, his first barn being also a dug-out. He at once began to make improvements upon his purchase by setting out a row of cottonwood trees along the line of the property, and, in 1880, he built a frame house 14 by 16 feet.

Frank Rehak, who now owns the farm, added, in 1896, the main part of the house, which is 14 by 32. At first he erected a frame barn, 16 by 28 feet, and later a corn-crib, 28 feet square, but in the fall of 1899 he put up his present fine barn, which is 40 by 28 by 18 feet. He has a fine farm and is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He raises Polled Angus cattle and Norman horses. His farm is well supplied with good water and he has a good windmill. He formerly ran a threshing outfit, which he found to be quite profitable.

Mr. Rehak was joined in marriage with Mary Sedlacak, a daughter of Anton Sedlacak, who was one of the early settlers of Saunders county. Mrs. Rehak is one of a family of six children, namely: James, who is a farmer in Butler county, Nebraska, and is the father of six children; Anton J., who is farming in Saunders county; Mary, wife of Frank Rehak; Annie, who lives at home; Joseph, who is married, and lives at home; and Fannie, who is also at home. The subject of this sketch and his wife have two children, James and Willie.





WARREN E. ACKER.

In politics Mr. Rehak is a Populist, while in religious worship he and his family belong to the Catholic church.

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**WARREN E. ACKER**, a prominent retail implement dealer of Wahoo, Nebraska, whose portrait accompanies this sketch of his life, was born in Cayuga county, New York, June 27, 1854. He is the son of William Acker, a native of the same county.

William Acker followed farming all his life. In the fall of 1860 he moved to Whiteside county, Illinois, and in 1876 to Shelby county, Iowa, where he died at the age of fifty-seven years. He married Nancy Roberts, who now lives in Garfield county, Nebraska. They were the parents of thirteen children, the oldest of whom died in infancy and the others being named: Silas R.; Andrew B.; Frances J.; Warren E.; Catherine (deceased); Calista (deceased); Helen; Eva (deceased); Nancy; George (deceased), and James. William Acker was a Democrat during the early part of his life, but later joined the Republicans.

Warren E. Acker began his business career in Ida county, Iowa, as an implement salesman, and in 1885 conducted a stock ranch in Stanton county, Nebraska. He remained on the ranch three years, then moved to Platte county, Nebraska, where he engaged in the implement business. After a short time he moved to Boone county, Nebraska, and engaged in the same business for a short time. The business

and location there did not suit him, and he went on the road as traveling salesman for the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company for nearly three years, when he engaged with the Milwaukee Harvesting Machine Company and remained with them one year. He then accepted a position with the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, with whom he has been since engaged. His first work for the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company was in the capacity of traveling salesman, but for the past few years he has been their general agent for the territory of York, Polk, Seward, Butler, Saunders and Cass counties. He moved to Wahoo in 1897, and since 1898 has conducted a retail implement store in Ithaca, the firm name of which is Acker & Son. In 1899 they established a store in Wahoo, under the firm name of W. E. Acker & Co.

The subject hereof was twice married. His first wife was Letitia A. Anderson. They had one son, John LeRoy Acker. In 1877 Mr. Acker formed a second matrimonial alliance, wedding Lucy D. Nichols, and they have one child, Zula Acker. Mr. Acker is a member of the A. O. U. W. and also of the K. of P. He is a strong Republican, and before moving to Wahoo served in various county and township offices.

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**JAMES HANDLIR** is an industrious and prosperous young farmer residing in Newman precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he owns 280 acres of good farming land. His success in life has been due to his

own untiring energy and perseverance. He was born in Bohemia, in 1866, and is a son of Frank and Fannie (Sanrad) Handlir, who came to this country with a family of four children, namely: Annie, who is the wife of Mr. Do Bruske, a miller and farmer, of Brainard, Butler county, Nebraska, and is the mother of five children; Fannie, who is the wife of Mr. Mudra, foreman of a wholesale harness-maker's establishment at Lincoln, Nebraska; John, who lives in California; and James, whose life is herein portrayed.

Frank Handlir came directly to Saunders county, Nebraska, from Bohemia, in 1873, and homesteaded 80 acres, comprising the west half of the northeast quarter of section 8, township 14, range 5, upon which he has most of his buildings. In 1875 he purchased 40 acres of railroad land in section 5, and later bought 40 acres of railroad land in section 7, for which he paid \$4 per acre. In 1876 he bought 40 acres in section 5. Frank Handlir is practically a self-made man, as he had but \$270 when he came to this country, which he earned himself, and today he is the owner of considerable farming land in Saunders county.

In 1889 James Handlir bought 80 acres west of the homestead from his half-brother, for a consideration of \$1,500. He has since purchased considerable property in Saunders county, all of which he has put into good condition, and he successfully carries on general farming and stock raising. He is a Republican in politics, while in religious views he is in accord with the Catholic church.

Mr. Handlir wedded Fannie Walach, a

daughter of Jake Walach, and they have five children: Fannie, Mary, Emma, Joseph, and William. His brother-in-law, Frank Kubalek, is the owner of one of the finest farms in Saunders county, consisting of 400 acres. Mr. Kubalek has a large brick barn, 28 by 60 feet in dimensions, a cattle shed 11 by 60 feet, and he also has many outbuildings. His father located in Saunders county in 1867 or 1868 and has three children: Kate, who is the wife of J. Mack, a prominent farmer; Annie, the wife of F. Novak; and Frank, who married Miss Walach, a sister of James Handlir's wife. Mr. Handlir lends his influence to all worthy enterprises, and is especially interested in educational matters. For many years he served on the school board in his district.


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**E**RNEST J. TOMES, a successful young farmer of Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Moravia, November 10, 1867, and is a son of Joseph and Barbara Tomes, who were engaged in farming in the old country. Joseph Tomes came to this country in 1871, with his wife and six children, at which time Ernest J. was but four years of age. His children were named Joe, Mary, Frank, Andrew, Ernest J., and Barbara. In 1871 he homesteaded the east half of the northwest quarter of section 12, township 14, range 5, and built a small frame house thereon, which he covered with slough-grass, but it burned down the following year. In 1880 he bought 80 acres north of his homesteaded prop-

erty, from Florin Tomes, for a consideration of \$2,000.

Ernest J. Tomes worked at home until he was twenty-one years old, when the homestead was given to him, and, as his efforts met with success, in 1895 he purchased a quarter of section 2, Oak Creek precinct, buying it from Frank Hruby. In the fall of that year he put up a fine house. He has all his property under enclosure, being the owner of 320 acres, on which he has made many improvements. He carries on general farming and stock raising, and the stock are supplied with good water from a well 175 feet deep.

The subject of this sketch was joined in marriage with Eleanor Codek, a daughter of Thomas Codek, and they have five children—Mary, Louie, George, Agnes, and Ernest, Jr. Mr. Tomes is a member of the Catholic Church.

 OTTO F. PETERS, prominent among the leading business men of Saunders county, Nebraska, is vice-president of the Bank of Yutan, and has long been a well known public character of that place. He was born in Joliet, Illinois, and is a son of John Peters, who is now living a retired life in California, but still holds large financial interests in Saunders county.

John Peters was born in Holstein, Germany, and came to the United States at the age of twenty years, where he learned the trade of a carpenter. He first settled in Illinois, but later moved to Nebraska in 1869, where he followed

his trade as a carpenter for a time, assisting in building many of the old settlers' houses in Saunders county. He was so well pleased with the country that he returned to Illinois for his family, and in 1870 purchased a tract of 160 acres in Marble precinct, now owned by Nick Heldt. He built a home and other farm buildings, greatly improved the place in every way, and successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He later purchased many different farms in Marble and Union precincts, and sold them to good advantage when a demand arose. When the railroad passed through the county, he, with others, established a business center at Yutan, at first known as Clear Creek. He built and conducted a general store, which has since been known by the firm name of John Peters & Son. He became interested in banking, and is a large stockholder in the German Bank of Millard, Nebraska. When the Bank of Yutan was established he sold out his stock in the German Bank and became a stockholder in the former, and since 1893 he has served as its president. He is also the owner of large land interests in Saunders county. He was first united in marriage with Mary Deerson, and had one son, John. After her demise, he formed a second union by wedding Frederica Messorconi (now deceased), by whom he had the following children: Otto F., Herman C., Lizzie, and Emma. He was united in marriage a third time, in this instance marrying Mrs. Lena Thomas.

Otto F. Peters, the subject of this sketch, was reared and schooled in Saunders county, where he followed farming until he was twenty years of age. He then went into partnership

with his father in the store, and continued thus for nine years, when he sold his interest and became vice-president of the Bank of Yutan. This bank was established in 1889 by John T. Dunning and Nelson Hartson, who were succeeded in ownership by John Peters & Sons in 1893, with John Peters as president, Otto F. Peters vice-president, and Herman C. Peters cashier. It has a capital stock of \$10,000, and is located in a neat one-story building on Vine street, near the corner of Second street. It was built for the bank, and is well arranged for the business, being equipped with a good fire-proof vault.

Otto F. Peters was united in marriage with Elsie Dunning, a daughter of John T. Dunning, and they are the parents of three children: Bernice, Marie, and Rex. Like his father, he is a staunch Republican, and has served as clerk of the village. He is a member of the Reformed church, and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He has a fine residence in the town of Yutan.

Herman C. Peters, cashier of the Bank of Yutan, and manager of the general store of John Peters & Son, is one of the most enterprising of the business men of the town. The store which he conducts was established in 1878, was one of the first there, and was located where the drug store of Dr. Murray now stands. The title of the firm was John Peters & Son, John Peters, Jr., being a partner until 1882, when he was succeeded by Otto F. Peters, who, in turn, was succeeded by Herman C. Peters. In 1882 the location of the store was changed to the corner of Vine and Second streets, where

a larger building was erected, and in 1892 this building was still further enlarged. The store is spacious and convenient, well stocked, and carefully systematized, and is patronized by the best class of citizens. It is a general store, with a full line of every kind of goods, and has a separate wareroom for farming implements. The business transacted is extensive, and three clerks are required the year around. Mr. Peters was born in Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1872, was reared on a farm, and today owns 340 acres in Marble precinct, located in sections 17, 18 and 20. In section 18 he built him a fine home. He manages his entire property himself, keeping some 300 graded Shorthorns and 300 Duroc-Jersey hogs. He succeeded Dunning & Detwater, who established a grain warehouse in 1893. He is also a director of the Saunders County Bank, of Wahoo.

ANTON B. CHAPEK, county clerk of Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Moravia, June 13, 1869. He is a son of Frank A. Chapek, a native of Moravia, who emigrated to this country in 1881 and now resides in Newman precinct, Saunders county.

Frank A. Chapek was born in 1835. He served ten years in the army of his native country. His first business experience was that of a merchant. He also conducted a farm in connection with his grocery store. In 1876 he disposed of his grocery store and devoted his entire time to farming and stock raising. When Mr. Chapek landed in America, in 1881, his first



step was directed by his keen business foresight, and he secured 80 acres of valuable farm land in Newman precinct, Saunders county, where he now lives, and began at once to build his fortune. He now owns 280 acres of land. For a time he made a specialty of raising Hereford cattle. Mr. Chapek married Eleanor Cidlik. They have reared four sons and five daughters, namely: Eleanor (Tomes), Anton B. (the subject hereof), Fannie, Tressia (Bennes), Katie (Hakel), Ludwick, Frank J., John, and Mary.

Anton B. Chapek received his elementary education in Moravia, and crossed the Atlantic with his parents in 1881. He began for himself at the age of thirteen years and worked on a farm for four years. In July, 1886, he saw a new field of labor open to him. He began clerking in the store of R. H. Thomas, in Weston, Nebraska, and remained there until the following spring, after which time he again worked on a farm for four months. In the fall of 1887 he went back to the store of Mr. Thomas. So well did his business ability and good habits please Mr. Thomas that that gentleman made him a partner in his business. This partnership lasted until 1890, when Mr. Thomas sold his interest to Mr. Kacirek. In the fall of 1891 Mr. Chapek sold his interest in the store to the head clerk, James Woita, and took a trip west, prospecting, but soon returned. On July 4, 1892, he opened a new store at Touhy, with Ernest Thomas as a partner. The store deals in general merchandise, hardware and implements. The interest of the junior partner changed several times until Frank

Hakel became a member of the firm, which is known as Chapek & Hakel.

April 30, 1890, Mr. Chapek was united in marriage with Fannie Kacirek, daughter of Frank Kacirek, of Weston, Nebraska. They have three children—Cirillka, Ladislaw, and Henry. Mr. Chapek is a member and secretary of both the local and state society of Catholic Workmen; is an active worker of the lodge, and has started several branches of the order in the state.

Politically Mr. Chapek is a Populist. He has served one term as justice of the peace. At the fall election of 1897 he was elected county clerk of Saunders county, re-elected in 1899, and is now serving in that capacity. He still retains his interest in the store at Touhy, but moved to Wahoo in the spring of 1898.

CHARLES W. BURCH, city marshal of Cedar Bluffs, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Nodaway county, Missouri, July 22, 1861. He is a son of Abner and Stacy (Carmichael) Burch. His father was a farmer.

Charles W. attended the district schools, and worked on his father's farm until he reached the age of seventeen years. He then hired out by the month as a farm hand on different farms in various parts of Missouri. Young Burch was of the right kind of mettle, and when opportunity presented itself he opened a livery stable in Clearmont, Missouri, which he conducted successfully for two years. He then

sold out to advantage and moved to Thomas county, in northwestern Kansas, where he took up a claim of 160 acres of land and improved upon it. Six years ago he left Kansas and moved to Saunders county, Nebraska. He rented a farm and followed agricultural pursuits for four years. Mr. Burch is a stock man of some prominence and is especially fond of fine horses. He is the owner of Tom Payne, the noted Percheron stallion, which is considered the finest animal in the county.

On April, 27, 1890, Mr. Burch married Amanda Dew, of Clearmont, and has four children—Earl, Lucretia, Julia, and Robert, aged ten, six, four and one and a half years, respectively. Mr. Burch is a Democrat in politics. His wife is a member of the Missionary Baptist church. He was elected city marshal of Cedar Bluffs, which office he still holds.

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LARS LARSON, a highly respected farmer of Saunders county, Nebraska, succeeded his father upon the homestead farm in Clear Creek precinct. He is a son of Andrew and Christina (Christerman) Larson.

Andrew Larson was a native of Sweden. With his wife and two children he came to the United States in 1867. They were Mormons, and were en route to Salt Lake City in company with other immigrants. When they left home, all was milk and honey in Salt Lake City, but upon their arrival at Nebraska City, Nebraska, they found themselves without money.

The little band of immigrants were detained there for several weeks, waiting for a favorable opportunity to finish their journey. It was then impossible to cross the plains at all times on account of the recent war and trouble with the Indians. While waiting, Mr. Larson went to Omaha, where he visited some Swedish friends. These friends induced him to go out into Saunders county and take up a homestead claim.

When Mr. Larson returned to the immigrants' camp for his wife and children, the Mormons were very angry, but he was a man of excellent judgment, and saw that it would be a successful course for him to take up a homestead claim. He went to the northwestern corner of Clear Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded 80 acres. After working awhile in Omaha to obtain the necessary money he built a small sod house, 16 by 16 feet in size, like those of his neighbors. This house had but one window and one door. There, in their rude home, happiness began. He loved to see his children happy, and labored hard to get in his grain. Little by little he obtained a start. He went to the Platte River, a distance of ten miles, and carried home on his back small trees, which he set out. In that way he secured maple, cottonwood, and box elder groves. He also planted a fine orchard and put out small fruits. Many of these trees are now more than two feet in diameter, and are fine fruit-bearing trees, testifying to his energy and prudence. After a few years Mr. Larson built a small frame house and barns, having previously used straw-sheds.

In after years the present substantial residence was built, and was his home until he was cut off by death in 1893, at the age of sixty-two years. He left a fine estate to be divided between his widow, son and daughter. As he was an honorable, upright man, he was deeply mourned by all. His children were: Lars, the subject hereof, and Tilla. The latter became the wife of H. M. Clark, who owns a fine farm near the home of our subject; they have six children, as follows: Jessie, Harry, Arthur, Helen, Bernice, and David.

Lars Larson was born in 1873. He grew to manhood upon his father's farm, and, after reaching his majority, he still remained at home and assisted his father with the farm work. Upon the death of that parent, he succeeded to the homestead farm, where he still resides with his beloved mother. He raises large quantities of grain, and devotes much time to stock raising. He has the finest grade of cattle and horses to be found in his vicinity. Like his father, he is a staunch Republican, but never aspired to office. In his religious views he favors the Lutheran church.



**I**SAAC B. HATFIELD, a well known resident of Yutan, and one of the pioneer farmers of Union precinct, Saunders county, Neb., is a man of great force of character, enjoying the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens to a marked degree. He has been exceedingly successful in a business way, although for the past forty years he has been seriously

hindered by his inability to hear. He is, however, an adept at understanding from the motions of another's lips, and is enabled to converse in a very fluent manner.

Mr. Hatfield was born in Fayette county, Ohio, in 1835, and is a son of James and Bidy (Reddon) Hatfield. The mother died in Ohio, and the father, later in life, moved to Illinois and lived there one year, when he returned to Ohio and there died. The subject hereof was reared on a farm, and in early life attended school, which he alternated with farm work. He followed that vocation in Ohio, Minnesota and Illinois, where he was married. After his marriage he went with his wife to Grant county, Indiana, where he bought a new farm in a heavy timberland county. There he felled trees and improved the land generally, putting up good buildings for farming purposes and setting out orchards. After remaining there four and a half years he sold to good advantage and returned to Illinois, where he lived until 1868. Then, with two teams and wagons, containing all their worldly effects, he started for Nebraska on September 29, 1868, in company with a brother-in-law and Isaac Hart, arriving in Cass county on October 19 following. He remained there for a period of three weeks, until he could find a suitable location. Finding a sparsely settled section in the northeast portion of Saunders county, he decided to locate there. He was one of the earliest settlers and pre-empted a tract of 80 acres, which he immediately set to work in improving. It was clear and open country, abounding in antelope and deer, and the Indians, friendly when given what they wished,

were every-day visitors. Mrs. Hatfield was rather alarmed at first when the Indians would suddenly be found gazing into a window, but, being a woman of strong nerve and good judgment, she showed no fear, and they learned to respect her. The subject hereof lived in a log house which had been deserted, until he built a house, in which one of his sons now lives. He set out a large number of trees, both fruit and shade, and also hedges. He built his present house on the southeast corner of the farm, adjoining the village of Yutan. He subsequently purchased 80 acres of railroad land, 40 acres settled by T. J. Hefner, and 80 acres settled by Mr. Filmore, and he also erected a number of houses in the village of Yutan. In early life his sense of hearing began to fail, and, for forty years, he has conversed with others by watching the motions of their lips and also receiving assistance from his faithful wife.

Mr. Hatfield was united in marriage with Amanda M. Hefner, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Probst) Hefner, her father being a blacksmith by trade. She was born in Pendleton county, Virginia, in 1837, and her union with Mr. Hatfield resulted in the birth of the following children: James P., Samuel W., J. P., Hattie C., Edwin E., Effie, and Carrie D. James P. and Samuel W. are deceased. J. P. is a farmer, who married L. Maggie Steele, and has four children: Omer S., Orpha, Ruth, and E. Bernice. Hattie C. is the wife of J. F. Monson, by whom she has the following children: Otto Ray (deceased), Guy, Naomi, Earl, Carlton, and Freeda A. Edwin E., a Methodist minister, married Della Thompson, and has four

children: Arthur, Ethel, Zella, and Elsie. Effie, the wife of D. G. Robinson, has four children: Vera, Vivian, Melton, and Veta. Carrie D., wife of Rev. O. L. Barnes, of Blair, Nebraska, has two children: Robert H. and Oliver W. The subject of this sketch is a Republican in politics and helped to establish the first post-office at Yutan, in 1870. He also had the honor of choosing the name of Union precinct. In religious belief his family are all Methodists.

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**A**NTON SOUKUP, an extensive farmer and stock raiser, of Saunders county, Nebraska, is a native of Bohemia. He was born January 8, 1850, and is a son of Anton and Mary (Beeres) Soukup.

In 1868 the family came to America, and first settled in Chicago, afterward moving to Braidwood, Illinois. Anton's father was a blacksmith by trade; he and his son worked in the coal mines near Braidwood. In 1871 they moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, and each of them took up a homestead claim.

Anton Soukup now owns the east half of the northwest quarter of section 32, the west half of the southeast quarter of section 29, the west half of the west half of the northwest quarter of section 29, the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 29, and twenty acres of pasture land in section 18. The first house built by Mr. Soukup was a small dwelling, 12 by 16 feet, in which he lived for some years. He afterward built the handsome residence in which he now lives. He engaged in general





MR. AND MRS. SANDERS P. ROBINSON AND FAMILY.

farming and stock raising and has been uniformly successful. His house is one of the finest in the county. It is surrounded by a select and flourishing orchard of 150 apple, cherry and plum trees.

In 1873 Mr. Soukup married Rosa Datel, a daughter of Joseph and Anna (Ionk) Datel, of Saunders county. They have six children: Joseph, aged twenty-four years; Millie, aged twenty years; Frank, aged seventeen years; Libby, aged fifteen years; Annie, aged ten years; and Anton, aged eight years. Joseph recently married Mary Haufman, and is building a residence on his own farm.

The subject hereof is a Democrat, and served as assessor three years, in 1896, 1897 and 1898. He carries \$2,000 insurance in the Modern Woodmen of America, \$1,000 in the Woodmen of the World, and \$1,000 in Z. C. B. J.

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**S**ANDERS P. ROBINSON, a self-made man of Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is one of the best farmers and makes a specialty of stock raising. He was born in Fayette county, Iowa, and is a son of William and Sarah (Pence) Robinson. His father went west from Iowa to Nebraska, where he bought three 80-acre tracts, one in section 10 and the other two in section 15. After building a house, barn, and other buildings, he sold out, retired from active business life, and now makes his home with the subject hereof. While he followed farming he was known as a very progressive farmer.

Sanders P. Robinson was reared in Iowa, and has followed farming nearly all his life. In February, 1880, he located in Saunders county, Nebraska, and purchased 80 acres in Union precinct. He sold this property in the fall of 1882 and purchased a quarter of section 15, in the same county. This was railroad land, and cost Mr. Robinson \$2,080 dollars. Purchasing an old schoolhouse, he moved it on to his farm and converted it into a dwelling house. He also built a barn, and otherwise improved his place.

In 1889 Mr. Robinson enlarged his house into a fine residence, built corn-cribs, and set out fruit and shade trees, having an orchard comprising four acres of land. He has several fine wells on his farm. One is operated by a windmill, and the finest of water is obtained at a depth of 37 feet. Another well on the place is 47 feet deep.

Mr. Robinson makes a specialty of raising Red Polled cattle and has 20 head of registered stock. He also keeps on an average 110 head of hogs and has some very fine draft horses. In addition to this he has devoted much time and attention to raising grain, principally corn, oats, barley, and wheat.

In 1895 and 1896 Mr. Robinson rented his land and conducted a meat market at Mead, but subsequently resumed farming. He was joined in marriage with Harriet Nancy Gregory, a daughter of Fletcher and Elizabeth (Adams) Gregory. In 1870 Mr. Gregory took up a homestead claim in section 14, of Marietta precinct, the same now owned by A. Wickland. He planted the fine shade trees now standing there,

broke the land, and built the present buildings. In 1888 he sold it to good advantage and moved to Pierce, Nebraska, where he is living in retirement. He was a very successful farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are the parents of seven children: Roy Morton; Blanche Pearl; Ivan (deceased); Mable Elizabeth; Ethel; Fletcher, and Hazel. Mr. Robinson takes a decided interest in educational affairs and has served on the school board for ten years. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church. By his straightforward methods of doing business Mr. Robinson has gained the respect of all who deal with him, and has hosts of friends. In politics the subject of this sketch is a Populist, and, in 1894, was a candidate for county commissioner and came within a small vote of being elected.

A picture of the Robinson family, including Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and the six children now living, is presented on another page of this work in proximity to this.

DOUGLAS R. PHELPS, coal and lumber dealer, of Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Wyoming county, New York, April 25, 1844. He moved west to Fremont, Nebraska, in February, 1868. He remained there a short time, then moved to Omaha, and in June took up a homestead in Cedar precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. He followed farming for four years, then rented his farm and returned to Fremont, where he

worked in the lumber yard until the fall of 1879, when he moved to Wahoo, and for the next ten years operated a lumber yard under the firm name of Stratton & Phelps. He sold his interest to his partner, Mr. Stratton, and bought another yard, which he operates alone, handling lumber, coal, etc. He received his education in his native county, and is a son of Isaac N. Phelps.

Isaac N. Phelps was born in Washington county, New York. He followed agricultural pursuits all his life. He moved west and located in Cedar precinct, Nebraska, in 1869. His last few years were spent in Wahoo, where he died at the ripe age of eighty-seven years. He married Mary Perkins, who died at the age of thirty-four years, leaving to her husband's care and protection their three children—Mary, Eugene, and Douglas R. Mr. Phelps contracted a second matrimonial alliance, Marietta Tuller becoming his wife. One son, Edwin, was born to them. Mrs. Phelps resides in Wahoo. Isaac N. Phelps was a son of Isaac Phelps, a native of Vermont, who settled in Erie county, New York, in 1814, where he lived and died.

Douglas R. Phelps was a soldier in the civil war. In 1862 he enlisted in Company C, 1st Regiment, New York Dragoons, and served until the close of the war, receiving his discharge in 1865. He is junior vice-commander of John Andrew Post, G. A. R. Fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F. He is a Republican in politics and has served his party on the school board and in the city council.

In 1869 Mr. Phelps married Clara Herrington, of Genesee county, New York. They have



three children—Marion A., Grace, and Mary. Marion A. was born in 1871, in Cedar precinct, and received his education in the Wahoo city schools. He married Myrtle L. Nichols, and is now associated in business with his father.

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**R**EV. MATTHEW BOR, pastor of the Roman Catholic church of Wahoo, Nebraska, was born in Bohemia, December 21, 1863. He received his classical education at Taus, Bohemia, and his theological training at Budweis.

Father Bor came to America in 1887, and the same year was ordained as a priest at San Francis, Wisconsin. His first appointment was as assistant to Father Maly at Wilber, Nebraska. In March, 1889, Father Bor was placed in charge of the Wahoo church, but did not remain there very long, as he was sent back to Wilber, being succeeded by Father Klein in October of the same year. In 1892 Father Bor again took charge of the church at Wahoo, and has remained there since that time.

The present membership of this church numbers sixty families. Of these fifty-three are Bohemian and seven English. They have a number of societies, among which are St. Cyrilus and Methodius, the Knights of St. George, and the St. Agnes Young Ladies Society.

The occasion of the organization of this church was the arrival of the first Bohemian settlers in Wahoo, in August, 1874. They were W. Simodynes, Jacob Novotny, Thomas Zimola, Frank Konecky and Frank Noha, who

came from Moravia. The following year the number of Bohemian families was increased to ten. In 1876 there was a Bohemian wedding in Wahoo, the first of the kind in the history of the settlement. The first mass said in the vicinity was at the house of Mr. Konecky, two and a half miles from Wahoo, in the year 1875. The first mass said in Wahoo was in 1876, in the school house, on Saturday and Sunday, and in the courthouse on Monday. Father Hovorka said mass in the courthouse as late as 1877.

As the congregation grew in numbers and became prosperous, they decided to build a church, and accordingly work was begun in July, 1878, and finished near the close of the same year. The building was fifty feet long and thirty feet wide. The stout hearts of these sturdy Bohemian settlers swelled with pride, now that they could gather in a house of worship they could call their own. The first mass was said in the new church by Father W. Kocarnick at the end of the year 1878. From September 28, 1884, Father Jordan Shutz visited the congregation every third Sunday in the month until October 5, 1885, when Father Choka, of Omaha, was assigned to the Wahoo charge. He was with the church until February, 1889.

Rev. Matthew Bor was with the congregation from March 9, 1889, having also the charges at Weston and Brainard, with residence at Colon. Two months later he moved to Wahoo, when a residence was built at a cost of \$1,000. The house was furnished September 27, 1889. October, 1889, Rev. Mr. Bor was transferred to Wilber and was succeeded by

Rev. Alois Klein, who remained until November, 1891. During his administration the congregation built a new church, 36 by 70 feet, just three blocks from the center of town. It is the largest church edifice in Wahoo and has a greater amount of wealth centered about it than any other. It was erected at a cost of \$3,600.

Rev. E. Bouska had charge of the new church during December, 1891, and January, 1892. On February 6, 1892, Rev. Matthew Bor became its pastor again, and transferred his residence from Plattsmouth to Wahoo, March 7, 1892. In January, 1893, the parsonage was moved from the old place to the new church, and enlarged at a cost of \$525.

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**B**YRON F. WHITNEY, registrar of deeds for Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, was elected to fill that important office by the Populists in 1897, for a term of four years. Mr. Whitney was born December 10, 1840, in Addison county, Vermont. He is a son of Benjamin F. and Jane (Goodale) Whitney.

Benjamin F. Whitney was a native of Shoreham, Massachusetts. He was a cabinet maker by trade and followed that occupation the greater part of his active life. Leaving his native state, he located in Addison county, Vermont, where he lived a number of years. Later he moved across the line into New York state, and still later to Erie county, Pennsylvania. In 1867 he went to Michigan and the following year (1868) he settled in Marquette county,

Wisconsin, where the closing years of his life were spent in the peaceful occupation of a farmer. He died in 1890, aged eighty-four years. Jane Goodale, a daughter of Jared Goodale, of Vermont, became his wife. She died at the age of fifty-six years, leaving six children, whose names are: Caroline E. (Sweeney), Edwin J., Charles C., Byron F., the subject hereof; Jeannette E. (Ormsby) and Charlotte A. (Wilson).

Byron F. Whitney was educated at Fort Henry, New York, and in the schools of Erie county, Pennsylvania. He learned the cabinet maker's trade most thoroughly, serving apprenticeship under his father, and has followed that occupation most of the time since then. In 1872 Mr. Whitney moved to Furnas county, Nebraska, which was his home until 1882. There he followed teaching for some time and was elected county superintendent of schools of that county, filling that office in a very creditable manner. He was afterward engaged in various pursuits incident to the life of a frontiersman. In 1882 he returned to Ashland, Saunders county, which has since been his home.

In 1862 Mr. Whitney married Mary J. Bishop, a daughter of John Bishop, of Erie county, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Whitney is a native of Delhi, New York. She and her husband have reared five children, namely: Helen M., Bertha M. (Gross), Earl E., Paul G., and John B., who is deputy registrar of deeds. Mr. Whitney is a man of recognized ability and fitness for his present office, which he is filling to the evident satisfaction of all. In 1877 he was a Greenbacker and voted for Peter Cooper, but

since then he has been in sympathy with the Populists. He is a lover of justice, and is thoroughly imbued with those broad principles which underlie the idea of the brotherhood of man.

JOHN SCHULZ, a gentleman who takes rank among the most prosperous and progressive citizens of Saunders county, Nebraska, is an extensive land owner in that county, holding valuable property to the extent of 1,600 acres. All that he possesses has been obtained entirely through his own efforts, as he started wholly without means and with only two willing hands and a stout heart to support him. He has led an exemplary life, and his fortune represents years of industry and thrift and many privations suffered in early life. He is a man of great business ability, and, after becoming fairly started, he took advantage of every opportunity offered for his betterment, multiplying his wealth many times over, and becoming firmly installed as one of the stable representatives of his class of citizens in Saunders county. His handsome residence, which excels any other in his section, is located in Union precinct, about one mile south of Yutan. Mr. Schulz was born in Handorf, Germany, in 1848, and is a son of Jurgen (James in English) Schulz.

Jurgen Schulz was also born in Handorf, in 1823, and there he married Margaret Mather. He followed agricultural pursuits in Germany until 1867, when, with his little fortune, accompanied by his family, he came to

the United States, first locating in Kankakee county, Illinois. He then removed to Booneville, Dallas county, Iowa, where he remained until 1871. Thence he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, conveying his family and belongings with team and wagon. He bought of Mr. Cooley 80 acres where J. Storm now lives, there being on the tract a small building 14 by 20 feet, now used for a chicken house, into which he moved with his family. He afterward bought three 80-acre tracts of railroad land and built thereon a large, handsome residence, also setting out a good orchard and groves of shade trees. The last seven years of his life were spent in retirement at Yutan, where he owned some property; he died in July, 1897. His widow, whose never failing help so materially aided him in his success, survives him at the age of eighty years, and resides in Yutan, where she is known to every one and dearly esteemed by all. The following children were the result of their union: Augusta, who died in Germany; John, an infant son, and Daniel, both of whom died in Germany; John, the subject of this sketch; Jurgen (James), who lives at Yutan; Weiebke (Annie in English), the wife of Hening Heuck, of Yutan; Hans, of Union precinct, and Margaret, the wife of J. Seiver, of Yutan. The father was a Republican in politics and a Lutheran in religious faith.

John Schulz, being the oldest living son, assisted his father on the farm until he was twenty-six years of age. He was then married, after which he bought a quarter section of land from his father, paying for it as he could, hav-

ing started without any means whatever. When the land was paid for he added to his estate from time to time, until he possessed 1,600 acres of fine land, located in sections 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 34, in Union precinct, and in sections 3 and 10 in Marble precinct. He started as poor as could be, with scarcely the necessaries to keep house, but, in time, was enabled to enlarge his home to the dimensions of 54 by 56 feet. He greatly improved his place in every way, setting out a good orchard and groves. In 1874 he purchased the Jacob Griffin farm, in section 34, and in 1876 the Samuel Neyle place, in the same section, where he now lives. There was but a small house on the property, but Mr. Schulz built the largest and most modern house in that part of the county, and also laid out beautiful grounds surrounding it. He has spacious barns and other farm buildings, and keeps about 200 high-grade Shorthorns, 200 hogs and fine work-horses and roadsters. He has imported many superior horses from France, and keeps only the best grade of stock. In politics he is a Republican and has served many years as a member of the school board. Religiously he is a member of the Lutheran church.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Margaret Seiver, a daughter of John and Magdalena (Wick) Seiver. Her father died in Germany in 1861, and her mother now resides with Mr. Schulz. Mr. Seiver first married Catherine Storm, who died young, leaving three children—John, Peter, and Anna—all of whom died young. By his second marriage Mr. Seiver had the following children:

Katherine, Annie, the wife of George Mumm; Marks; Margaret, the wife of Mr. Schulz; Franke, the wife of J. Schulz; and Jacob. The subject hereof and his wife became the parents of nine children, namely: John, who is living at home; George, who married Lizzie C. Nisen; Lena, the wife of Henry Heldt; Louis, who lives at home; Kate, William, Bertha (deceased), Lizzie (deceased), and Charles.

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**J**OHAN H. CRAWFORD, clerk of the district court of the Fifth Judicial District of Nebraska, was born in Batavia, Michigan, November 4, 1872. He is a son of John S. Crawford, who located with his family in Central City, Nebraska, in 1873, and, in 1881, removed to Wahoo, where the subject of this sketch now resides.

Mr. Crawford received his education in the schools of Central City and Wahoo, graduating at the high school of the latter place in 1889. The same year he commenced work as clerk in the office of the county judge, where he remained one year.

From 1890 to 1898 Mr. Crawford was engaged in different pursuits, being on the road as a salesman part of the time. He was made deputy district clerk in 1898, and at the fall election of 1899 he was elected clerk of the district court, which office he now holds.

On December 26, 1899, Mr. Crawford was united in marriage with Theresa M. Wortman. In his political views the subject hereof espouses the cause of the Populists. He is a

member of the K. of P., and has wisely drawn around his home the sturdy arm of protection afforded by a membership in the A. O. U. W.

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**F**RANK E. WAY, M. D., of Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, has during his ten years of practice in that city established an enviable reputation. As a physician he is without a peer in the county, and has proved competent in caring for the most complicated cases. He has thoroughly mastered the intricacies of the medical profession, and all cases coming under his care are given a careful diagnosis and treated with a skill which comes only from superior training and wide experience as a practitioner. He is the only homeopathic physician in Saunders county, and enjoys the patronage of its best citizens, often being called into adjoining counties. Dr. Way was born at Springfield, Vermont, November 7, 1868, and is a son of James Way, who was formerly of Lempster, New Hampshire.

James Way is now one of the superintendents of the Parks & Woolson manufacturing establishment, having worked as a machinist for over forty years. He married Eliza A. Slack, a daughter of John Slack, who was employed in the Parks & Woolson establishment as a machinist for over fifty years.

The subject of this sketch attended the schools of Springfield, Vermont, after which he entered the Boston University Medical School, from which he was graduated in June, 1890. Having some business to attend

to in Buffalo county, Nebraska, he went west and was so well pleased with the existing conditions favorable to the practice of his profession that he at once decided to locate there, after visiting different sections of Nebraska. Having looked into the progress being made by various towns in the state, he decided upon the city of Wahoo, Saunders county, with full faith in its promise of future growth. He opened an office there on November 7, 1890, and was entirely successful from the very start. There were then but three practicing physicians in Wahoo, and he soon established a lucrative practice, which has ever been on the increase. His first office was in the old Steen block, but he now has handsome quarters in the Steen brick block, immediately adjoining the old building, located on Linden avenue. Among his patients are numbered the best people of the county, and, also, of South Bend and North Bend, in Dodge county, some thirty miles distant. He possesses their confidence to a marked degree, and acts not only as a physician in his relations with them, but as a true and trusted friend as well. Dr. Way was elected coroner, on the Populist ticket, in 1891, and was re-elected in 1893, serving in a most satisfactory manner. He was appointed county physician in 1891, and also examiner on the board of insanity—receiving the latter appointment from Judge S. H. Sornborger in January, 1900. In 1896 he built a residence in the western part of the city, but recently sold the premises and purchased the Goodell property, on Linden avenue.

Dr. Way was united in marriage with Nellie

E. Willard, a daughter of Charles Willard, of Charleston, New Hampshire, and they are the parents of two sons: Charles Willard and James Lawrence. Fraternaly the subject of this sketch is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Woodmen of the World, Fraternal Union of America, Knights of the Maccabees, National Aid Association, Woodman Circle, Tribe of Ben Hur, the Nebraska Homeopathic Medical Society, of which he is the present secretary, and the American Institute of Homeopathy.



**T**HOMAS W. FARRIS, sheriff of Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Douglas precinct, Saunders county, April 7, 1876. He has the honor of being the youngest man ever elected to the office of sheriff in the state of Nebraska. He is a son of William D. Farris, who was sheriff of Saunders county at the time of his death.

William D. Farris was born near London, province of Ontario, Canada. He spent his early life in his native country, engaged in farming and blacksmithing, and in March, 1870, crossed the "border line" and took up his homestead in Douglas precinct, Saunders county. He was a successful farmer, and, at the time of his death, was the owner of 480 acres of land. He followed agricultural pursuits actively until June 6, 1898, when he moved to Wahoo city to assume the official duties of sheriff of Saunders county, to which office he was elected in the fall of 1897. He

died in Wahoo, March 23, 1899, before his term of office was completed, and his son, Thomas W. Farris, was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by his father's death.

William D. Farris, aside from being an ideal and successful farmer, was a live stock fancier and gave much time and care to this branch of industry. He also owned a drug store in Cedar Bluffs, which he conducted a number of years. He made a specialty of cattle raising. He served his township as assessor and also served on the school board. During Cleveland's administration he was postmaster of Cedar Bluffs. He married Christina Fleming, who now lives on the homestead. They reared seven children: John H., who is a farmer and has a portion of the estate left by his father; Robert J., who follows agricultural pursuits, having a part of the old farm; Charles M., who farms a part of the estate; Blanche (Goodill); Christina M. (McMahan); Thomas W., the subject hereof; and Thurman A., who lives with his brother, Thomas W.

Thomas W. Farris received his intellectual training in the district schools and the Wahoo city schools. He remained on the farm until January 6, 1898, when he was appointed county jailor. This office he filled until November, 1898, when he was appointed deputy sheriff, and discharged the duties of that position until his father's death. No fitter man could be found for the vacancy thus made than Thomas W. Farris, and he was accordingly appointed sheriff to complete the term which expired January 1, 1900. As a further proof of his suitability for this trust, he was duly elected sheriff





PETER SAMS.



at the fall election for the term expiring January 1, 1902. His father was a Democrat and he adheres to that party, but was elected sheriff on the Fusion ticket. When his father died he inherited a portion of the old homestead. He and his mother are the joint owners of 260 acres. She resides on the place, but the subject of this sketch superintends the business. On December 26, 1899, Mr. Farris was united in marriage with Ella A. Frahm.

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**P**ETER SAMS', a retired citizen of Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, whose portrait is shown herewith, has been a resident of that county since 1871. Mr. Sams' was born in Austria, in 1833. His father, Powell Sams', died when he was twenty-eight years old.

Peter Sams' came to America in 1855. He settled in Wisconsin, where he followed rail-roading for some time. He then turned his attention to farming. In 1871 Mr. Sams' went west, to Nebraska, and invested in land. He bought 160 acres from William Brellar for \$8.50 per acre. This tract was formerly owned by William P. Burns. In 1872 Mr. Sams' also purchased 80 acres in section 5 from Q. Clegg. He then busied himself in making improvements upon his property. He set out groves of shade trees, which now present a beautiful spectacle. Some of these trees are fifteen feet in circumference. He also has a very fine orchard.

In 1882 Mr. Sams' built a comfortable

dwelling. Two years later a fine barn was added. He afterward enlarged the dwelling house into a fine, spacious residence, convenient and modern in design. From 40 to 50 head of cattle are kept on the farm, and an equal number of hogs. Mr. Sams' also raises some fine horses.

He was joined in marriage with Theresa Rothauer, also a native of Austria. She crossed the ocean to become the wife of Mr. Sams'. Two children were born to them, namely: Leonore and Joseph. The former married Stephen Johns and is the mother of two children, Charlie and Ruth. Joseph is still at home and conducts affairs on the farm, which is valued at \$50 per acre.

Mr. Sams' is now spending his declining years with an exemption from toil which he justly deserves. In 1892 he was called upon to sustain the loss of his beloved wife, who died aged sixty-two years. Since then he has lived a retired life, while his son carries on the farm work. Although a member of the Catholic church, his ideas on the subject of religion are liberal.

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**P**ETER THULIN, a native of Sweden, came to this country practically without means, and located in Nebraska. He homesteaded a piece of property in Saunders county, and by earnest and faithful work, together with good management, he grew to be one of the most prosperous and extensive land owners of that county.

Peter Thulin was born in Christianstad, Sweden, in 1844, and is a son of Olof and Cecilia (Person) Thulin. His father was a shoemaker by trade, and followed it in his native country until he came to America. He first lived with his son for a time and then moved to Galesburg, Illinois, where he followed his trade until his death, at the age of sixty-seven years. He was the father of the following children: Nils, John, Peter, Swan, Andrew, Olof, and Ellen.

Peter Thulin was a very bright boy and obtained a superior educational training in the schools of Sweden, after which he became a teacher in an academy. He subsequently studied civil engineering in the military college, and then secured an excellent position with the government railroad in his professional capacity. He had obtained a good start when he was approached by an American land agent, who gave exaggerated accounts of the United States, and the ease with which wealth could be acquired. With high hopes and a firm resolve to succeed, he came to this country with his young wife, Karin (Nelson). But many unlooked for difficulties arose, the most serious being his ignorance of the English language, which made it evident that his education would prove of little value to him for the time being. He located at Omaha, Nebraska, and worked at any thing he could find to do; but his funds soon became exhausted. He then took a homestead in 1869, the property on which he now lives, and with his own hands built a sod house, the dimensions being 16 by 16 feet, with one window and a door. It

was located on the hill near the site of his present house. He immediately set to work with an energy which was bound to produce good results. It was very hard to make both ends meet at first, but he plowed up considerable ground and also worked out for others, thereby making enough money to carry him over until he could realize the benefits of his own crops. He got along in a most successful manner, and in 1873 built a frame house, which is the main part of his residence; this he enlarged in 1880. He further enlarged it in 1887, and in 1896 it was remodeled into a handsome home. When he first located he built a straw stable, in which he kept his only cow and horses, but he now has large and spacious farm buildings so necessary to every well conducted farm. He possesses a very fine orchard, and his place is well supplied with fine shade trees. His first property was a tract of 80 acres, to which he added 160 acres of adjoining railroad land. He then acquired the J. Mitchel farm of 80 acres, the J. J. Wood farm of 80 acres, 160 acres in Lancaster county, 160 acres in Mariposa precinct, Saunders county, and then another 80-acre tract in Lancaster county, making him one of the large land holders of his section.

Mr. Thulin's first wife died at the age of twenty-six years, and their only child, Cecelia, died in infancy. He was again married, his second wife being Anna Foster, a daughter of R. Foster, of Sweden, and they are the parents of nine children, as follows, all of whom have been provided with a good education: Amanda, who is teaching school; Tilla, a dressmaker; Herman,

a physician and surgeon, of Omaha; Otto, deceased; Alexander, a farmer; Emma, deceased; Anna, a trained nurse; Helen; and Esther. The subject of this sketch is a Democrat in politics, and has served on the school board for twenty years. Religiously, he is a Methodist.

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**P**ROFESSOR SAMUEL M. HILL, A. M., L. H. D., a gentleman of prominence as an educator, has been president of Luther Academy, at Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, since 1886. Under his direction this school has taken high rank among similar academies and preparatory schools, having a wide range of studies in its curriculum and competent instructors at the head of each department. There are three distinct departments—the commercial, musical, and normal—and there is a large enrollment in each. It is the only denominational institution of learning in the county, and is located in the northwest part of the city of Wahoo, on a 10-acre plot of land known as College Hill, which was donated by the city. Upon this there are three good buildings—two of frame and one of brick.

Prof. Hill was born in Sund, Sweden, January 10, 1851. He came to the United States with his parents in 1868, and first located at Paxton, Illinois. They then lived in Chariton, Iowa, for two years. The subject hereof was graduated from Augustana College with the class of 1879, after which he was assistant professor in Gustavus Adolphus College, at St. Peter, Minnesota, for three years. He was then

engaged as Lutheran missionary in Utah for two years, and, in 1884, became a professor in Luther Academy, at Wahoo. He at once won favor as an instructor in that institution, and, in 1886, was elected its president, which position he has since filled in a most creditable manner.

In 1882 Prof. Hill was joined in marriage with Julia Johnson, and they became the parents of seven children, as follows: Dorothea; Cordelia; Bernhard, deceased; Vendela; Elvida, deceased; and Vincent and Vivian, twins.

In 1886 the subject of this sketch received the literary degree of A. M., and, in 1900, the degree of L. H. D., from his alma mater, Augustana College, at Rock Island, Illinois.

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**H**ENRY F. DUERRBAUM, a prominent farmer of Union precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a native of Germany. He was born in Hofgeismaer, Hessen-Nassau, in 1839. He is a son of John and Wilhelmina (Flotho) Duerrbaum. The father of Henry F. was a cooper by trade, and the latter learned the same trade by working with his father.

In 1864 Mr. Duerrbaum came to America, settling in Newark, New Jersey, where he worked in a brewery. Subsequently he went west to Illinois, and, still later, to Omaha, Nebraska. In 1871 he purchased 80 acres of land in Union precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. This is the same farm upon which he still lives. Forty acres of it was railroad land, and cost

\$4 per acre. The other 40 acres had been settled upon, and cost \$5 per acre. Upon this latter 40 acres his residence stands. Philip Thomas first owned the land, which was a wild tract with no trees or fences.

Mr. Duerrbaum built a small frame house, 14 by 26 feet, and a pole and straw barn. In 1874 he moved upon the place, and has since added 80 acres to it. This addition was purchased from John F. Hayes, and was first settled by Stephen Lindenfeller. A large number of shade trees of all kinds, including apples, plums, pears, peaches and cherries, were set out by Mr. Duerrbaum. Grapes and small fruits were also set out in abundance.

In 1885 the house was enlarged and remodeled into a handsome modern residence. Two years later a large barn, 40 by 48 feet, was built, and also corn-cribs and other smaller buildings. This fine farm with its many buildings and shade trees in the center is a pleasing sight to look upon and attracts the eye for many miles. All this is but the fruit of the toil of both Mr. and Mrs. Duerrbaum. They have 40 head of choice cattle and the same number of hogs.

The subject of this sketch married Julia Mertens, a daughter of William and Wilhelmina (Werths) Mertens. Mrs. Duerrbaum was born in Obernau, Germany. Her parents came to the United States in 1865. They settled on a farm in Cass county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Duerrbaum have two children living, both of whom are daughters, namely: Wilhelmina Augusta, a teacher in the Yutan school, and Julia Henrietta, who is still at home. They lost their only son in infancy. Mr. Duerrbaum is a

staunch Republican. He has served two years as assessor and about fifteen years as a member of the school board. Both he and his wife are members of the Reformed church and are highly esteemed as citizens.

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**H**ILKESON, who has attained notable success in the practice of law, is now serving his second term as county attorney of Saunders county, Nebraska. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, January 14, 1853, and is a son of James and grandson of Andrew Gilkeson.

Andrew Gilkeson, grandfather of the subject hereof, spent most of his life as a farmer, in Allegheny and Washington counties, Pennsylvania. James Gilkeson was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared and educated. He also adopted the occupation of a farmer and followed it throughout his life. He moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1884, where he died in 1897 at the age of eighty-four years.

H. Gilkeson, the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, received an excellent educational training. He attended a Baptist college at Des Moines, Iowa, and, in 1870, went to Nebraska. He soon after returned to Des Moines and again entered college, but later matriculated in the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City. He again went to Nebraska, in 1874, locating in Sarpy county, and there taught school until 1879, at the same time pursuing the study of law. He was admitted to

the bar in 1878, and elected to the office of justice of the peace in 1879. In the latter year he moved to Saunders county, settling in Wahoo, where he has since lived. In 1881 he was elected county judge for a term of two years and served with satisfaction to all. He was elected county attorney in 1896, and in 1898 was re-elected, being the present incumbent of that office. Politically he is a firm supporter of the Democratic party, but in his last election he was the candidate of the Fusionists. Mr. Gilkeson has also served many years as a member of the school board. He has filled all offices to which he has been chosen with credit to himself and honor to his constituents.

In 1880 the subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Alice E. Flor, a daughter of John C. Flor, of Fremont, Nebraska.

**C**HARLES H. ADAMS, an enterprising and progressive citizen of Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, was appointed superintendent of the Wahoo waterworks in 1890, and has filled that position very creditably ever since. The Wahoo waterworks were built by the American Waterworks & Guarantee Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, at a cost of \$65,000, and are still owned by them.

The Wahoo waterworks are considered among the best in the state, and were ready for operation in January, 1888. Four streams can be thrown at the same time from a one-inch nozzle to the height of one hundred feet. The main building is a brick structure, 35 feet wide

by 58 feet long. The adjoining coal shed is 30 feet wide by 40 feet long. The plant is equipped with two 30-horsepower engines and two 40-horsepower boilers.

The supply of water is obtained from wells on the bank of the Wahoo Creek, at the southwestern part of the city. The water is supplied to the city by direct pressure. Besides two public fountains the city has 41 hydrants, and water is furnished to 276 business places and residences. The plant is a model of neatness.

Mr. Adams was born in Rotherham, England. He was reared and schooled in his native country, where he remained until he attained the age of eighteen years. He then came to the United States, landing in New York City, where he followed the trade of an architect for some time. Subsequently he spent several years in the Southern and Western states and afterwards returned to England. But America possessed charms for him and in the United States he again took up his residence. In March, 1869, he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead claim about one-half mile from the present site of Wahoo. After putting up some buildings and otherwise improving his land he sold it. The same farm is now owned by Abel Leese. In those early days the city of Wahoo was unheard of, and Mr. Adams shot antelopes where it is now located.

After he had been engaged in farming in that vicinity about eight years, Wahoo was founded, and the subject of this sketch removed there, erecting a building 24 by 24 feet upon the same ground occupied later by the old Opera House.

In this building Mr. Adams started the first furniture store in the place and conducted business there for three years. He then sold out and took another trip to Europe, combining business with pleasure. Upon his return to America he followed farming one year, but discontinued that occupation to accept a position as assistant cashier in the State Bank with W. H. Dickinson.

Three years later Mr. Adams again established a furniture store, this time on the corner of Fourth and Linden streets. He carried on a successful business there for three years, and then purchased an elevator on the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad, and embarked in the grain and live stock business. This occupied his time for three years, or until 1890, when he was appointed to his present important position as superintendent of the Wahoo waterworks.

Mr. Adams married Mary Jane Dickinson, who was a native of England, and was reared in the same vicinity where Mr. Adams also grew up. Her father was John Dickinson. Seven children blessed this union, viz: John C., Hubert A., Percy, Wilhelmina, Florence, Marjorie, and Pauline. The eldest son is an engineer of the waterworks at Wahoo. He married Annie Hughes. The second son is also an engineer, while Florence and Percy both follow the profession of teaching.

In politics Mr. Adams is a Republican. He unites with his family in worshipping at the Episcopal church. He has been active in building up the city of Wahoo, and has dealt quite extensively in real estate. He has built several

fine residences, each of which he sold and thereby added to his bank account. His present residence is a model of neatness and convenience. Such citizens as Mr. Adams have not only assisted the growth of Wahoo, but have made Stocking precinct what it is today.

VINCENT L. HAWTHORNE, a prosperous attorney-at-law, has been located at Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, since June, 1885. He is a general favorite in Stocking precinct, and is regarded as one of the leading attorneys of the county.

Mr. Hawthorne is a son of Samuel J. Hawthorne and grandson of William Hawthorne. The last named was a native of the north of Ireland and was of Scotch-Irish descent. On coming to America he settled in Washington county, Pennsylvania, about 1784, and was a pioneer in that county. In 1809 he went to Jefferson county, Ohio, and bought 300 acres of forest land in the northwest corner of the county. Most of this land he cleared, and made additional purchases, including a large brick residence. The residence is now owned by Oliver Hendon. Upon this farm William Hawthorne spent the remainder of his life. Samuel J. Hawthorne also spent the greater part of his life there. They were both known as progressive farmers of their day. Later in life Samuel J. Hawthorne moved to Harrison county, Ohio, where he died.

Vincent L. Hawthorne was born forty-one years ago in Jefferson county, Ohio. He at-

tended the public schools of Mount Pleasant, and subsequently graduated from Franklin College at New Athens, Ohio. Having decided to fit himself for the profession of law, he accordingly became a student under Hon. Lorenzo Danford, of St. Clairsville, Ohio. After three years of hard study he was admitted to the bar, June 3, 1884. During this time he had taken but one vacation, and then he had made an extended trip through the Southern and Western states. He was so favorably impressed with various places, especially in the West, that he decided to locate in that region when he had finished his law studies.

Soon after his admission to the bar, much to the regret of hosts of friends, he packed his trunk and started west, not knowing exactly where he would settle. He visited various places, and finally went to Hastings, Nebraska, where he arranged some property affairs for friends in the East. The same business also called him to Grand Island, Nebraska. While there he met W. H. Stoddard, who was also seeking a location. They finally decided to settle in Wahoo, Nebraska, which was one of the most progressive towns they had visited. Opening an office, they began practice together, but continued for a short time only, as Mr. Stoddard went east and is now in Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Hawthorne continued practice alone and in a comparatively short time his ability and shrewdness had established for him a good business. His practice has ever been on the increase and his winning ways have gained for him many friends. He was elected city attor-

ney of Wahoo, on the Republican ticket, and served three years.

Mr. Hawthorne married Jessie M. Reid, a daughter of Rev. David Reid, a Presbyterian minister. Mrs. Hawthorne was reared in the same vicinity as her husband. They have two promising sons—Raymond L. and Herbert R. The subject of this sketch is prominently connected with many fraternal organizations. Before leaving St. Clairsville, Ohio, he took degrees in the F. & A. M., R. A. M. and the K. T. After locating in the West he obtained a demit and his membership was transferred to lodges in his own locality. He assisted in instituting the chapter in Wahoo, and joined the Knights Templar of Fremont, Nebraska. He served as high priest of the latter and in various other offices. He also affiliates with the Knights of Pythias, the Woodmen of the World and the A. O. U. W. He has served in minor offices of the last named organization.

Mr. Hawthorne is also chairman of the congressional committee and is quite a political leader. In his profession he is not excelled by any one in Saunders county. Among those who have studied law in his office are attorneys J. Yager and Kert Perkey, both well known as men of ability.

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**F**M. BENNETT, a prosperous farmer, of Rock Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born July 24, 1848, in Ritchie county, West Virginia, and is a son of Patrick and Nancy (Smith) Bennett.

Patrick Bennett was from Vermont and after his marriage moved to West Virginia. In the fall of 1865 he moved with his family to Davis county, Iowa, where he was engaged in farming until the spring of 1872, when he moved to Saunders county, Nebraska. He homesteaded 80 acres in section 22, township 13, range 6, and afterward bought 80 acres in section 23, upon 40 acres of which Mr. Lambert's home is now located. It was Burlington & Missouri River Railroad land, and Mrs. Bennett still owns the other 40 acres, upon which she lives, but spends some months of each year in visiting in the East. Mr. Bennett is now deceased. Their children were as follows: William, Celestia A., Mrs. Lambert, Armeta A. (Beelan), Henrietta (Evans), Euphrasia (Hagerman), Ida (Sidwell), John, and F. M.

William Bennett served in the army during the Civil War, went to Saunders county, Nebraska, from Davis county, Iowa, in 1871, and owns a comfortable home farm in the southern part of Rock Creek precinct, which was patented by Mr. March. He married Sarah E. Ethel, a daughter of Benjamin Ethel, and they have seven children: Arthur, a book-keeper of Lincoln, who married Ellis Sears; Oliver, David F., Marietta (Scanlon), of Ceresco, Nebraska; Lucy E., Estella, and J. E. Celestia A. is deceased. Mrs. Lambert's husband's life is recorded elsewhere in this work. Armeta A. is Mrs. Beelan, of Rock Creek precinct. Henrietta is the wife of Alfred Evans, of Rock Creek precinct. Euphrasia is Mrs. Hagerman, of Rock Creek precinct. Ida is

Mrs. Sidwell, who lives with her father-in-law in Iowa. John, deceased, lived in West Virginia, and F. M. is the subject of this writing.

F. M. Bennett worked in a saw mill for some years, in Iowa, and in the spring of 1872 moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, with his father, homesteading the west half of the northeast quarter of section 22, where his home is now located. He was married in 1879, and then built a small house, 10 by 14 feet, on a knoll south of his present house, hauling the lumber from Lincoln. He afterward added a larger part to it, which is now used as a granary. In 1883 he built his present house, which is L-shaped and has one and a half stories, the main part being 14 by 24 feet. In 1898 he built an addition, 18 by 12 feet. He used a sod barn for one year and then built a barn 24 feet long with a thatched roof. In 1894 he built his present barn, 32 by 36 feet, and a granary, 10 by 16 feet, with 8-foot posts, together with other out-buildings. His home is surrounded by a four-acre grove of willows and cottonwoods, and he also has a large orchard. He has a good well and wore out one mill, which was replaced recently by a new one. He is engaged in general farming, and raises about 100 hogs yearly, having Poland-China hogs and Shorthorn cattle of high grade. He has good horses of English Shire stock. His place is highly improved and in excellent condition. He is a man of good business ability and strict integrity, and is everywhere held in the highest esteem.

In 1879 Mr. Bennett was united in marriage with Rachael Miller, a daughter of Sebastian Miller, who was an early settler of Saunders







MR. AND MRS. LAVE ISAACSON.

county, and they are the parents of three children: Ada, who went through school and is a dressmaker at Wahoo; Mary Alice, who lives at home, and Charlie L., who also lives at home. Politically the subject of this sketch is a Populist and serves on the school board. Religiously he is a member of the First Baptist church, and his oldest daughter is a Methodist. He assists in sustaining the Methodist church, which is located near his father's first farm.



**L**AWE ISAACSON, who is now living in retirement in his beautiful home in Malmo, Saunders county, Nebraska, was the first Swedish settler of that locality and was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Mariposa precinct for many years.

Mr. Isaacson was born in Sweden in 1839, and is a son of Isaac and Chaste (Laveson) Nelson, being the oldest of four children, as follows: Lave, the subject hereof; Margaret, deceased; Peter, who died at Galesburg, Illinois; and Ellen, who also died in America. Lave Isaacson came to America in 1868, and for one year was located at Omaha, Nebraska, where he was employed in the Union Pacific Railroad shops. On April 5, 1869, he arrived in Saunders county and homesteaded the south half of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 15, range 6. About fifty others filed claims at the same time, but he was the first of the Swedish settlers to locate there, being about three weeks ahead of Mr. Ekdahl. He immediately set about breaking the sod and,

about two years later, erected a large frame house, the only frame house at that time for many miles around. He hauled the lumber for it from Fremont, Nebraska, under great difficulties, fording the Platte River or patronizing the ferry, and these trips made the house a very expensive one. He lived upon the old homestead for thirteen years, and then sold out to Peter Hanson, deceased, whose son still owns the place. The land was sold at that time for \$22 per acre. He then purchased 120 acres of railroad land, including the east half of the northwest quarter of section 11, township 15, range 6, and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the same section. It was a slightly improved farm and had a few shade trees, and also a good stream of running water supplied by springs. He greatly improved the farm in every respect, setting out an orchard of three acres of all kinds of fruit, and building a large and substantial eleven-room house. He also built a barn, 24 by 40 feet, and other necessary out-buildings, including cattle sheds and a granary. He left the farm in 1885, and spent the summer of that year in the old country, and upon returning, he located at Wahoo, and engaged in the implement business. There he continued for two years, after which he returned to his farm and conducted it until 1891. Since that time his adopted son has had charge of it. Mr. Isaacson is living, virtually, a retired life, although he buys and ships some stock. He is a good business man and has always handled his affairs in a most successful manner. He is a man of many pleasing characteristics, and

enjoys the friendship and respect of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Isaacson was united in marriage with Anna Sorenson, a daughter of Soren Anderson. Her parents came to America, where they remained until their decease. Besides Mrs. Isaacson, they had the following children: Hannah (Johnson), who lives in Mariposa precinct, and has two children, John and Annie; Andrew, who is deceased; and Nels, who is also a resident of Mariposa precinct. The subject of this sketch and his wife have an adopted son and daughter: Nils and Hannah. Nils Isaacson was joined in marriage with Ida Nistrom, and they have two children, Lave and Edna; he is now upon the old home farm, and is a very successful business man. Hannah is at home. Lave Isaacson is a Populist, in politics. He is a member of the Lutheran church. The town of Malmo, where his handsome residence is located, was first established in 1888, and Mariposa precinct derived its name from Mary Posa, a daughter of one of the earliest settlers. A picture of Mr. and Mrs. Isaacson is shown on a preceding page.

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**N**ELS J. ANDERSON, the popular and leading photographer of Wahoo, Nebraska, is an artist of considerable skill. His studio is located at the corner of Fifth street and Broadway. He has fine parlors and operating rooms there, and employs two assistants. His works are found in most of the

homes of Wahoo and vicinity. His success both in cabinets and enlarged photographs has been unqualified, and he has received various prizes in contests. All has not been smooth sailing for our subject, however, as he has experienced his quota of discouragements. But he surmounted difficulties and obtained new starts, allowing no calamity to dissuade him from his determination to be the leading photographer of Wahoo.

Mr. Anderson was born in Onnestad, Sweden. His father, John Anderson, came to America and located in Omaha, Nebraska. He had formerly followed agricultural pursuits. His wife, whose maiden name was Hannah Swenson, is still living, and resides in Omaha.

Nels J. Anderson was joined in marriage with Sophia Nelson Carlson, a daughter of Nelson P. Carlson, of Kalmar, Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have three children: Hildur J., wife of Ed Killian, of Wahoo; Arthur L., who is his father's assistant, and Nels Rudolph, a student.

Mr. Anderson attended school in his native country. In 1869 he came to America, settling in Princeton, Illinois, where he followed farming for some time. He then went to Omaha, Nebraska, and became a student of photography under E. L. Eaton. In 1879 he went to Wahoo and built a studio on Linden street. There he began the pursuit of his chosen calling, and having served under a superior instructor he was soon able to establish a fine trade. He was the third artist to locate in Wahoo, Mr. Benjon being the first and J. B. Sturdevant the second.

In a short time after settling in Wahoo, Mr. Anderson was enabled to purchase the business of Mr. Sturdevant, and for some time conducted two photograph galleries. Later he sold one of these to Mrs. Perkey. Soon afterward the fire fiend paid him an unwelcome visit. The building he occupied was burned to the ground and he sustained heavy losses. Although somewhat discouraged, he did not give up, and was soon able to see what course was best to pursue. He repurchased the gallery previously sold to Mrs. Perkey, which is the same now occupied by him. He has enjoyed an excellent patronage ever since, which goes to prove that his works possess real merit.

Mr. Anderson is in sympathy with the Republican party. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. organization, of which he is a past grand. He also belongs to the Rebecca encampment and to the Modern Woodmen of the World. The subject of this sketch has a fine residence, which he built on Tenth street. He located in Wahoo twenty-one years ago and is among the most popular citizens of the place.



**M.** STILLMAN HILLS, a gentleman who bears an honorable record for service in the Civil War, is a prominent representative of the agricultural class of citizens of Saunders county, Nebraska, owning large landed interests in Mariposa precinct.

Mr. Hills was born near Marengo, Illinois, in 1840, and is a son of Calvin and Anisteen V. (Mead) Hills. His father was a native of Ver-

mont and his mother of New York. The subject hereof is one of nine children born to his parents, as follows: F. M., M. Stillman, E. J., Ann Amelia, L. J., Helen E., John F., Walter, and Phebe. F. M. married Mary E. Allen and lives in Villa Grove, Colorado. He has three children, Ina, Izzie, and Calvin; two others died. He is a well-to-do ranchman and mining expert. M. Stillman is the subject of this sketch. E. J., who is interested in mining at Poncha Springs Colorado, married Emma Sprague and has six children: Willie, Estella, Jessie, Helen, Lora, and Everill. Ann Amelia married F. L. Dodge, a retired editor of Colgrove, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. They have two living children: Mrs. Susie Bryan, a widow, and Eva Dodge. L. J., living at Marengo, Illinois, is a dealer in agricultural instruments. He married Anna Pringle, by whom he had two children: Roy and Edna (deceased). Helen E. married R. G. White, of Hanford, California, who is a ranchman and also interested in the sale of gasoline engines. They adopted a daughter, Margaret. John F., of Centralia, Wisconsin, is engaged in farming; he married Helma Anderson, and they have five children: Harry, Clarence, Helen, Clifford, and Gusta. Walter and Phebe died in childhood.

M. Stillman Hills was reared on a farm and received his educational training in the district schools of Illinois. He was just past twenty-one years old when he enlisted, in August, 1862, in the 95th Regiment, Illinois Vol. Inf. He served three years in the Western Army, being under General McPherson, in the 17th Army

Corps, and under General A. J. Smith, in the 16th Army Corps. He participated in many of the most prominent battles fought along the Mississippi River, including that of Vicksburg. Upon returning home in 1865, he learned the harness-maker's trade, at which he worked for five years. In June, 1870, he removed to Saunders county, Nebraska, filed a claim, and, one year later, homesteaded the south half of the north half of section 2, township 15, range 6, exercising his soldier's right. E. P. Grover, a partner of Mr. Hills, filed a claim on the north half of the north half of section 2, and together they built a house in the corner of their four "eighties." They lived together one year, and then Mr. Hills sold out his interest in the house and built, on the present site, a house 14 by 20 feet, the boards of which ran up and down and were banked up with sod. When he began farming in Nebraska he had but a team of horses, an old wagon and \$125 in money. During the second year there his best horse was killed by lightning. He worked the first fall in a grist mill, making \$50, and thus had the \$100 necessary to buy lumber at Fremont for erecting a new house, which his wife papered with newspapers. He also built a sod stable and later on purchased three 40-acre tracts of the Green claim. He set out his first forestry in the spring of 1871, and now has an elegant grove and a fine row of trees along the west front of the farm. In 1872, or 1873, he set out 50 or 75 fruit trees, which he got at Greenwood, and thus started his fine orchard. In 1889 he built his present fine home, the main part being 16 by 24 feet and 16 feet high, and

the wing 14 by 24 feet and 9 feet high, with a summer kitchen 8 by 12 feet. The barn, which is one of the finest in the county, was built in 1890. Its dimensions are 30 by 50 feet, and it is most conveniently arranged and nicely painted. The old house is now utilized as a hog house. In 1884 he erected a good windmill and milkhouse, and he has a good well 80 feet deep. A great transition has taken place in the land since Mr. Hills located upon it, and what was then a wild and bleak prairie is now an exceptionally well-improved farm. There were formerly many sloughs and springs, but they have been dry for the past ten years. The farm is devoted to grain and stock raising, and its owner has some fine grade Shorthorn cattle. He is a very prominent man in his section, and has been called upon to serve the public in various capacities. He was elected county commissioner in the winter of 1880 and served three years. He was also township assessor one year, and has been on the school board almost continuously from the first organization. In politics he is a staunch Republican.

Mr. Hills was united in marriage in 1867 with Hattie DeGroat, who was born in Illinois and is a daughter of Patrick and Lucy (Smith) DeGroat. They have one son, Frank J., who was born in Illinois in 1868. They adopted an infant, Edith Estelle White, when she was three months old, and she died at the age of two years. Frank J. Hills now owns a part of the home farm—the west half of the northeast quarter of section 2—making his home with his father. Frank J. married Adele Tawney, who was born in Pennsylvania and is a daughter of

John E. Tawney. They have three children: Alta E., George S., and Ray H. Religiously the family are Methodists.

**J**OHN LINDBLAD, of Oak Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, in which he owns considerable land, is extensively engaged in general farming and stock raising and in also buying and selling cattle and hogs to quite an extent.

He was born in the southern part of Sweden and is a son of Olof and Annie (Gibson) Lindblad. His mother died in Sweden, and his father afterward came to this country, locating in Bradford, Stark county, Illinois. Olaf Lindblad lived two years in Saunders county, Nebraska, and then returned to Illinois, where he died in 1894. He was the father of five children, as follows: John, subject of this writing; Nels, who died in Sweden when young, being an expert painter and having also attained honors as an athlete; Ella, who is an artist of recognized ability, with headquarters in Chicago, where she is manager of an institution for children; Andrew, who has a family of five children, and is in the windmill business in Illinois, and Olof, a farmer in Illinois, married to an American girl.

John Lindblad spent three years in Sweden in learning the tailor's trade. He was confirmed in the Lutheran church at the age of fifteen years and then went to Denmark, where he spent three years as coachman for one of its

aristocratic families. He came to America in 1870 and located at Princeton, Bureau county, Illinois, where he worked by the month on farms for some years. He then started into farming on his own account and continued there for a period of four years. He was united in marriage with Christina Pearson, a daughter of Nels Pearson, an old settler in Illinois, who moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, with John Lindblad. He located in Saunders county in the spring of 1880, and purchased a quarter section of land in section 21 from the railroad company. He built a house, 16 by 24 feet, erected a barn and made other improvements; he resided there for one year, when he moved to section 27. He purchased the southwest quarter of section 27 from Charles Hoover, who is now in California, for \$18 per acre, and, two years later, refused an offer of \$40 per acre. He has made practically all the improvements on the place and still resides there, having one of the best improved farms in the county. In addition to this he rents a quarter section from Fred Olson, of Swedesburg. He tore down the first house upon his place and built one 16 by 24 feet, to which he added 18 by 26 feet in the spring of 1892. He built a barn 40 by 46 feet in 1893, together with a corn-crib and other necessary outbuildings. He set out a row of trees, making a lane leading in to the house from the east. He set out cottonwood trees and also an orchard with a large variety of fruit. Besides these there are a large number of natural trees along Oak Creek, which drains the farm. He raises grain and stock, raising about 100 hogs per year, and buys and feeds both cat-

tle and hogs. He has been a very industrious man and success has crowned his efforts.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindblad are parents of three children: Nannie, who attended Peru High School and has been a teacher for the past four years; Ella, who lives at home, and Mabel, aged fourteen years. In politics he is a Populist and has served on the school board a number of years. In religious views he is Lutheran. Fraternally he is a member of Valparaiso Lodge, No. 1,431, M. W. A.

**P**T. NELSON, a gentleman who is most successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising in Rock Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in a district two or three miles north of Christianstad, Sweden, in 1853.

Mr. Nelson is a son of Nels and Sisa (Johnson) Nelson, who came to America one year before their son. They had four children: Hannah (Anderson) of Michigan City, Indiana; Nels, who married and lives in Boone county, Iowa; P. T., and Belle (Deal), of Kansas.

P. T. Nelson has worked at farming from boyhood, and although he did not receive more than three months' schooling he has acquired a good practical education. He came to America June 1, 1869, and, having borrowed \$14 from a fellow passenger with which to pay his fare, went to Princeton, Illinois. He has since roughed it, sometimes successful, and often otherwise, but today he takes rank among the

most prosperous men of Rock Creek precinct. He was engaged in farming in Illinois until 1874, and then went to Boone county, Iowa, where he was married. There he continued until 1880, when he went west to Kansas, and proved up on 160 acres in Jewell county. In 1886 he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, buying 80 acres in section 32, township 14, range 6. He shortly afterward traded this for a livery barn in Weston, Nebraska, and, later still, traded the business to David W. Bowers for his present farm of 80 acres,—the west half of the northwest quarter of section 5, township 13, range 6, valued at \$2,500. He has made practically all of the fine improvements the place contains. To the original house, 14 by 22 feet, he built in 1890 an addition, 14 by 20 feet, and in 1889 built his present barn, 24 by 32 feet. He set out trees and has a fine two-acre orchard with fruit of various kinds. The farm is well fenced, hog-tight, and the property is nicely divided into lots. Mr. Nelson is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and has been particularly successful in hog raising. He took the first prize on a load of hogs at a stockmen's exhibit in Omaha—winning a \$75 Concord road-wagon. Besides the property he owns, he rents 160 acres of Hon. Thomas B. Reed and has 100 acres of it under cultivation. Mr. Nelson is a splendid example of thrift and enterprise. Overcoming his lack of educational advantages, he has risen from the bottom to a place among the intelligent and well-to-do citizens of the district.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Anna Lind, a daughter of Eric Lind,



who located in Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1886, and owns an improved farm near Mr. Nelson's property. Mr. Lind is now well advanced in years and rents his property. Four children blessed this union: Fred, who secured a diploma from the Fremont Normal School in the spring of 1900; Nettie, Edwin, and Mabel. Politically Mr. Nelson is independent and has served on the school board several years. He has been a director three years and was recently re-elected. He is a member of St. George Lodge, No. 95, K. of P., of Weston. In religious attachments, the family is Lutheran.



**N**H. NELSON, one of the representative farmers of Saunders county, Nebraska, is extensively engaged in farming and stock raising in Rock Creek precinct, where he owns about 480 acres of land. He has a beautiful home, located imposingly on a large knoll and commanding a fine view of the surrounding country.

Mr. Nelson was born in southern Sweden, in 1847, and is a son of Nels and Hannah (Hanson) Pierson. His parents came to America in 1864 and located at Moline, Illinois. Both of them are deceased. They were parents of six children, as follows: P. H., the father of six children, is living a retired life in Illinois; Ellen married a Mr. Nelson, a farmer in the southeast quarter of section 8, township 13, range 6; N. H., the subject hereof; Anna (Lingren), of Princeton, Illinois; Andrew W., who lives at Marshalltown, Iowa, and has two chil-

dren; and Henry, overseer of shops at Pullman, Illinois, who has a family of three children.

N. H. Nelson was but seventeen years of age when his parents came to this country and located at Moline, Illinois, where he worked in the fan-mill shops. He moved to Cordova and then to Princeton, Illinois, where he was married. He engaged in farming there to some extent, and conducted a livery stable and bus line with unqualified success, being associated in business with Claus Anderson, to whom he sold his interest. On February 20, 1880, having about \$1,100 in money, he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, and first bought a quarter section of railroad land, described as the northwest quarter of section 11, township 13, range 6, for which he paid the B. & M. R. R. Co. \$6.50 per acre. He procured lumber from Mr. Heaton, in Weston, and built his first house on the site of the present one, it being 16 by 24 feet and one story and a half. In 1885 he bought the southeast quarter of section 11 for \$2,000, renting it for a period of three years. In 1896 he bought the southwest quarter of section 12 from Mr. Larson, who had secured it from J. Raber. He built his present large and commodious house in 1893, the west part of it being 16 by 24 feet and the L 20 by 16 feet, and one and a half stories high. In 1890 he built a barn 28 by 34 feet, with all other necessary outbuildings and a windmill. In 1897 he erected a double corn-crib with a 12-foot driveway, having 9 feet on each side and being 40 feet long. In 1880, his first year upon the property, he set out some fruit trees, but they died. In 1883 he set out

105 trees with far better success, and also a catalpa grove of 1,500 trees. The latter were set four feet apart and cultivated like corn, and when he thinned them out he sold \$75 worth—most of them going to Wahoo. He ships about a carload of fat cattle of his own raising each year, and also buys, feeds and sells extensively, shipping from Swedeburg and Weston. He has 480 acres of land and is engaged mainly in stock raising. He is a very prominent man in the county and numbers his friends almost by his acquaintances.

Mr. Nelson was united in marriage with Matilda Swedenburg, a daughter of Magnus Swedenburg, and they are the parents of nine children: Hattie, Henry, Hannah, Walter (deceased), Irwin, Edna, Oliver, Rosella (deceased), and one who died in infancy. All of those living are still at home.

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**C** F. RUTTMAN, a gentleman who has met with unusual success in the pursuit of that independent calling, farming, is a highly respected citizen of New-ma precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska.

Mr. Ruttman was born in Ottawa, La Salle county, Illinois, in 1855, and is a son of George and Mary (Retz) Ruttman. He is the youngest of six children, as follows: Mary, Barbara, John, Michael, Lena, and C. F. Mary is the wife of Mr. Howe, of Des Moines, Iowa, where he follows the trade of a blacksmith. He resided at Atlantic, Iowa, for some years, and has six children: George, Charles, Frank, William,

Walter, and Lena. Barbara is Mrs. Langley, whose husband is a lumberman of Streator, Illinois. Her children are: Mary (deceased), Ella (Cline), Belle (Harrison), Florence (Redman), William, and Minnie. John is a farmer and stockman of Oklahoma. His children are: George, Pauline, Clara (deceased), and John. Michael and Lena are deceased.

C. F. Ruttman spent his early life in Illinois upon a farm. After his marriage he farmed two years, and then followed the trade of a carpenter two years in Streator, Illinois. He went to Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1886—taking two cows and three horses with him. He purchased the northwest quarter of section 33, township 14, range 5, from William Worley, who had homesteaded it—its only improvement being a house 16 by 24 feet. Mr. Ruttman assumed an indebtedness of \$1,800, with interest at 12 per cent, and this he has paid up in full, which is greatly to his credit and indicates his general business ability. He built an addition to the house and in 1894 erected a barn 28 by 38 feet, with a shed along one side, 38 by 18 feet, for stabling cows. In 1888 he set out many trees, including mulberry trees, around the north and west sides of the house, which now bear profusely. He set out an orchard of apples, cherries, peaches, etc., and it is in excellent condition. He has a large pasture of 65 acres on the east tract of 80 acres, through the entire length of which a living stream of water runs. He is engaged in raising grain and stock on a large scale, and buys and feeds some. He has been exceedingly fortunate in raising hogs, as they have suffered but twice from cholera in





HON. JOHN Q. GOSS.

fourteen years, which is due mainly to the cleanly way in which he cares for them.

Mr. Ruttman was united in marriage with Julia Schoenleber, a daughter of Jacob Schoenleber, who has visited, but never lived in, Saunders county. Seven children were born of this union, namely: Frank, William, Cora E., Nellie M., Etta (deceased), Carl E., and Hazel Marie. In religious views the family is Lutheran, but Mr. Ruttman was raised as a "Friend." He is a member of Lodge No. 151, F. & A. M., of Valparaiso, Nebraska, and Lodge No. 1,413, M. W. A., of Valparaiso. He and his wife belong to Eastern Star Lodge, of Valparaiso.

ON. JOHN Q. GOSS, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, is one of the prominent pioneers who have been identified with the town of Bellevue and the state of Nebraska since the infancy of both, and not only in Sarpy county, but throughout this section of the state, he is known to possess those noble traits of character, strict integrity, manly honor, and generosity of soul, which render him a universal favorite. He is now the oldest member of the Sarpy county bar, and his wide learning and good judgment make him the leading man and lawyer of his profession in Bellevue. He is a native of Somersetshire, England, his birth having occurred March 8, 1827. He is a son of Charles Goss.

John Q. Goss attended the schools of his

native town until he was seventeen years of age, when he left his native country for the United States. Upon his arrival in New York City, he immediately went to Geneva, New York, where he spent the first two months on a farm. He then went to Trumbull county, Ohio, where he again attended school; afterward, he spent much time in teaching. It was while he was engaged in teaching that he determined to take up law, and going to Mansfield, Richmond county, Ohio, he began studying with the law firm of Bartley & Burns. His training in that line was completed, however, in the office of Isaac Goss, and he was admitted to the bar in 1857. His brother, Rev. Charles C. Goss, was a Methodist missionary, engaged in establishing Sunday schools in Nebraska at that time, having located in Bellevue, as early as 1856, and having continued there until 1859. After Mr. Goss had practiced his chosen profession, for two years, in Ohio, he joined his brother in Bellevue, and, in 1859, as the town then gave promise of a good future, he decided to make it his headquarters, and has continued to live there ever since. At that early date three other attorneys were located there,—Charles T. Holloway, the first to settle; L. L. Bowen, and Silas A. Strickland, all of whom are now deceased. When Mr. Goss decided to hang out his shingle at Bellevue, he purchased his present residence from a Mr. Snyder, who was a tinner there, and he has lived on the same premises ever since. He is now the owner of block 125, and has considerable other property throughout the village. Mr. Goss has labored constantly and arduously for

the upbuilding and advancement of his adopted town and state, for which he has won the respect and confidence of all who know him.

Mr. Goss has been twice joined in marriage. His first union was with Mary Taylor, a daughter of Samuel Taylor, who was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1829. She died in 1872, having had a family of six children, of whom the following three are still living: Mrs. Emma S. Thompson, who is the mother of one child, Lora; Charles C.; and John Q., who is general agent for the Cebo Coal Company, of Montana. Mr. Goss' second union was with Rebecca J. Reed, a daughter of James Reed, of Clearfield, Pennsylvania. Politically, the subject of this sketch is a staunch Democrat, and his fellow citizens have honored him on more than one occasion. He was a member of the legislature in 1860, 1861 and 1862, when Nebraska was a territory; he served one term as county attorney of Sarpy county; he was county clerk in 1867-1868; county school superintendent, one term; and county examiner five terms. Although he had established a lucrative practice, he nevertheless gave it up to join the Union army, in 1862, becoming a member of Company D, 2nd Regiment Neb. Vol. Cav., which served against the Indians in Dakota. He enlisted as a private, but came out as first lieutenant. He belongs to Dahlgren Post, G. A. R. No. 56; is a member and past master of the Omaha Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M.; past grand chancellor and supreme representative of the K. of P.; and past grand of the I. O. O. F. He belongs to the Episcopal church.

**R**ILS THOMPSON is one of the progressive farmers of Mariposa precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. He is a native of Sweden, where he was born in 1849 and received his early schooling. His father died when Nils was very small, and he was raised by another family, being given the name of Thompson.

Mr. Thompson early in life came to America, having borrowed sufficient money to make the voyage, and on July 4, 1866, he arrived in New York City. Having a brother-in-law at Galesburg, Illinois, he immediately made his way to that place. During the following seven years he worked steadily in a furniture factory for W. H. Rankin, at Monmouth, Illinois. He then took a trip through Kansas and the Indian Territory, but he was not pleased with the country and did not locate there. Having laid by a snug sum of money from his earnings, he moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1876, and purchased for \$600, from Mr. Truitson, who homesteaded it, 80 acres of land—the east half of the northwest quarter of section 6, township 15, range 6. There was a small dug-out on the place, and in this he lived with his wife for three years, when he built a new house, 12 by 20 feet, and also a new barn. Two years later he sold the property for \$1,100 and immediately thereafter bought the northwest quarter of section 28, township 12, range 6, his present farm, for \$2,300. There was a little old house, 16 feet square, upon the property, in which he lived for three years, and it now serves the purpose of a chicken house. The little barn, without a roof, is still standing. In 1889 he built

a large story and a half house, L-shaped—the dimensions being 16 by 36 feet, and 16 by 28 feet. He built his new corn-crib in 1894 and a new barn in 1896, having now a complete set of farm buildings, all conveniently arranged and of a character suitable for successfully carrying on his business. He has a fine grove and an orchard of two acres, which he set out in 1886, also an acre of walnut, box elder and oak trees, using wood therefrom for fuel. A fine stream, supplied by springs, runs through the farm, and in 1891 he built a windmill and a milk-house. He has a tubular well, 112 feet deep, with a good vein of water. In 1894 he bought 40 acres—the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 21, township 15, range 6—paying \$30 per acre therefor. He has made many and great improvements upon the property and it is considered one of the most valuable farms in the vicinity, the soil being well adapted to grain raising.

Mr. Thompson was united in marriage in 1874 with Josephine Olson, a native of Sweden, who had two sisters who also came to this country, namely: Mrs. Swan Johnson, who lives in Phillips county, Nebraska, with her two children—Ebdul and Mary; and Mary, who died in 1897. Eleven children were born to the subject hereof and his wife, as follows: Elvin, aged twenty-four years, who lives at home; Joseph A., who died in 1899; Minnie, Jennie, Fred, Ernest, Ella, Hattie, Edna, Bernice, and Jennie Louise, who died young. He has two sisters older than himself who live at Galesburg, Ill.: Mrs. Sissa Stark, who is seventy-five years old, and Christine, who is unmarried.

He was formerly a Republican in politics, but is now a strong supporter of the Farmers Alliance. He attends Mission church, one and a half miles north of Malmo, Nebraska.

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**R.** B. VAN DRIEL, a Hollander by birth, is an influential farmer of Mariposa precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he is a large land-owner. He is a man held in the highest esteem by his fellow citizens, and always takes an earnest interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of his community.

Mr. Van Driel was born in the province of Gelderland, Holland, in 1838, and is a son of Alexander and Eva (Sterk) Van Driel. His father had eight children by his first wife, and three sons resulted from his union with Miss Sterk, as follows: Henry Van Driel, who died in Holland; R. B. Van Driel, the subject of this sketch, and G. Van Driel, who died unmarried in Saunders county in 1895, leaving a large property.

R. B. Van Driel was reared and schooled in Holland, and was engaged in the construction of railroads as a boss or contractor for many years. After his father and mother died he came to America in 1868, and after landing in New York City immediately went to Muscatine, Iowa. He engaged in farming there for three years and in 1871 was married. His father-in-law, Mr. Brugman, owned land in Saunders county, Nebraska, and so Mr. Van Driel moved there and rented his farm for a year or

two. Afterward he bought the northwest quarter of section 15, township 15, range 6, which was railroad land, for which he paid \$5 per acre with long-time payments. He had borrowed \$200 to enable him to come from Iowa, and so was much indebted when he started. He broke 70 acres of the raw prairie during the first year, and his father-in-law, according to his promise, built his first house, which was one story and a half high, the dimensions being 28 by 24 feet. He also constructed a rude board stable with a straw roof, with which they got along for the first few years. Other sheds and a granary and corn-crib were built in 1876. He erected a large barn, 36 by 56 feet, in 1889, which holds 40 tons of hay, with ample room for horses and cattle. The lumber for his first house was hauled from Fremont, and as there were no bridges and the roads were bad, it was a very difficult trip to make. In 1891 his present residence was built, the main part being 24 by 28 feet, 18 feet high, with a wing 22 by 16 feet in dimensions, and 12 feet high. He planted an osage hedge, which was killed by the grasshoppers, and, in 1877, he replanted with willows, which he obtained in Iowa. He set out a large number of cottonwood trees, obtaining slips from the island near Fremont, and planted a large walnut grove about his house. In thinning out along the lines, he has cut over 25 cords of wood, which he used for poles, fire-wood, etc. He has two good wells, 70 feet deep, from which the water is pumped by windmill. His holdings include the following property: three 40-acre tracts in the northwest quarter of section 12,

the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 1; 40 acres of school land in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 16; the east half of the southeast quarter of section 9, and the south half of the northwest quarter, and the north half of the southwest quarter, of section 10. He rents all but the 160 acres upon which his fine home is located.

Mr. Van Driel was united in marriage with Elizabeth Brugman, a daughter of John Brugman, and they are parents of the following children: John A., born in 1873; Eva T.; Minnie, deceased; Lillian; Henry, deceased; Julia; Minnie; Gertrude; Agnes; Louie H., and Josephine. The subject of this sketch was school director for sixteen years, and officiated as such in 1892, when the school was built at Malmo. He was justice of the peace one term, and president of the bank for several years, retiring in 1897. He is a member of the Catholic church, and attends service at Pilsen, or Sand Creek. In politics, he is a Democrat.

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JOHN A. LIND, who has one of the most attractive farms in Saunders county, Nebraska, has been successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in Mariposa precinct since 1871. He was born in the south central part of Sweden in 1844, and is a son of Johan and Annie (Breita) Addolphs. His mother now lives with him, his father having died in Sweden.

Mr. Lind was reared and mentally trained in Sweden, and, in 1869, came to America, hav-



ing borrowed the money with which he secured his passage. He located in Illinois and followed farming for three years, and, in the fall of 1871, went west to Omaha, Nebraska, where he worked as a car repairer until 1888. His brother-in-law, A. G. Larson, moved to Saunders county in 1870, and purchased 160 acres of land, and, in 1871, the subject hereof bought the east half of the southeast quarter of section 3, township 15, range 6, from him, it being railroad land which sold for \$4 per acre. In 1887, he purchased the 80 acres just north of this property, at \$25 per acre, making him a nice farm of 160 acres. In 1887 he also built his house, the main part of which is 20 by 30 feet, with a wing and kitchen measuring 20 by 14 feet. He built a barn, 24 by 40 feet, with a shed on the west side, 16 feet wide, to shelter cattle and machinery. He built a hog shed 30 by 28 feet in 1895, a separate cattle shed in 1897, and a double corn-crib, 30 by 24 feet, in 1899. After acquiring his first piece of property, he hired a man to break 18 acres, and immediately set about its improvement. At the present time he has one of the most highly cultivated farms in the country. There is a good running stream, supplied by springs, whose course is through his 40-acre pasture, and he has a bored well 60 feet deep, with a windmill which he put up in 1899. He was offered \$45 per acre for the land in 1891, and he has since made many improvements at a great cost, thereby greatly enhancing its value. There is a fine driveway leading from the road through the orchard up to the house, and to the north is a grove of box elders affording protection to the house and barns

from the northwest winds, and greatly beautifying the place. The premises include an orchard of one acre, consisting mainly of apples, cherries, prunes and peaches. The farm is well-fenced, and everything about it kept in the best of condition, a feature which has never failed to attract attention and favorable comment. Mr. Lind has managed his affairs well, and is now prepared to spend the remainder of his days free from the cares and worry of active business life, if he so chooses.

The subject of this sketch was united in matrimony with Annie Larson, a sister of A. G. Larson, who owns an adjoining farm, and they became parents of four children: Annie, who lives at home; and Henry, Edward and another son, all of whom are deceased. In politics Mr. Lind is a Republican, and served on the school board, from which he but recently resigned. He is a faithful member of the Swedish Lutheran church.

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**J**OHN DOLEZAL is one of the pioneer settlers who braved the terrors of the grasshopper, other insects, and drouth, to make a home in Saunders county, Nebraska, and his success is due to his perseverance and determination to win. He was born in Bohemia, in 1845, and is a son of James Dolezal, deceased.

Mr. Dolezal located in Saunders county in 1873, bringing with him his wife and oldest son, Joseph; also his mother-in-law, who died, in 1894, aged eighty-four years. He had about

\$370, which he immediately invested in land, buying three 40-acre railroad tracts, which lay in the southeast quarter of section 7. As he did not have enough money, he was obliged to borrow, for which loan he paid a heavy interest. In 1880 he took new time at \$6 per acre, and, with a good crop in 1881, he succeeded in paying for one 40-acre piece. As his efforts were meeting with success he purchased in 1890 three more 40-acre tracts north from James Hutchinson's farm, for which he paid \$37 per acre. In 1895 or 1896 he bought three more "forties" of the Cudy land, on which his son Frank is now farming. Farming and stock raising are his chief pursuits, and he has succeeded in putting his farm into a fine state of cultivation, though for the first seven years his efforts met with poor success. In 1889 he erected his present house, and in 1892 he built a new windmill. He also has a fine orchard, and is recognized as one of the leading and substantial farmers of his community.

Mr. Dolezal was united in marriage with Anna Simrod, who was born in 1848, and had three sisters, as follows: Frances, deceased, the wife of Mr. Kudrna; Barbara, deceased, the wife of John Wondra; and Maggie, the wife of John Dibelka, of Omaha. The subject of this sketch has a brother and three sisters living: Joseph, who resides in Chicago; Annie and Maggie, who are married and live in Bohemia; and Mary, also a resident of Chicago. To Mr. and Mrs. Dolezal were born the following children: Joseph, Frank, Charles, Richard, and William. Joseph received his schooling at Wahoo, Nebraska, and has been teaching school

ever since he was seventeen years of age. Frank, who was born in the spring of 1874, married Mary Charf, a daughter of Anton Charf, an early settler of Newman precinct; they have two sons, Eddie and Emil. Charles was born in 1876, and lives at home. Richard is deceased. William, aged eighteen years, lives at home, assisting in the cultivation of the farm. In politics Mr. Dolezal is a Populist. He and his family are members of the Catholic church.

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CARL R. GOUCHER, deputy county clerk of Saunders county, Nebraska, is regarded as one of the rising young business men of that section. He was born in Plymouth, Indiana, April 16, 1874. He received his education in the public schools of Nashville, Michigan; Orville, Ohio, and Wahoo, Nebraska.

Mr. Goucher sought a home in the West, coming to Wahoo in 1890. He has been a useful and industrious young man, following those pursuits which have brought him into constant contact with business men, who have justly shown their appreciation of his services.

In 1893 Mr. Goucher accepted a position as cashier in the store of Killian Bros. There his business ability and strict integrity won high favor, and he remained in their employ six years.

On January 1, 1900, Mr. Goucher was appointed deputy county clerk of Saunders county, which position he now fills. It is safe to

predict that a bright future awaits him, and in the near future his services will receive a more substantial reward. Politically Mr. Goucher is found on the side of the Populist party. In his social relations he affiliates with the Knights of Pythias.

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**H**ON. JOHN H. BARRY, of Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Rockford, Winnebago county, Illinois, October 7, 1868. He is a son of David Barry, who was a native of County Waterford, Ireland, and came to America when five or six years old, with his parents. They first located in Lawrence, Massachusetts. From there they moved to Dubuque, Iowa. In that city his parents died.

David Barry followed steamboating on the Mississippi River until 1868. He located in Rockford in 1865, and remained there until 1877, when he moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, and purchased a farm in Center precinct. Agricultural pursuits occupied his time until January 1, 1900, when he rented the farm, and now lives a retired life in Wahoo, Nebraska. He married Ellen Kearney, a native of County Kerry, Ireland. They reared three sons: John H., the subject hereof; Frank W., now a student in the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and Joseph D., a student in the academic department of the University of Nebraska.

John H. Barry received his primary education in the Wahoo High School, graduating with the class of 1890. He then studied law at the University of Nebraska, in the class of 1893.

The same year he was admitted to practice in Lancaster county, before the supreme court. On August 1, 1893, he began practicing his profession in Wahoo, and has remained there since. He has been uniformly successful in his law practice. In the fall of 1897 he was elected county judge of Saunders county, and was re-elected in the fall of 1899. His first election showed a majority of 366 votes, which was increased on his second election to 947. This incident shows that he is one of the most popular men in the county, and it is said that he is the best judge the county ever had. He was elected by the Populist and Democratic parties.

On September 1, 1897, Judge Barry was joined in marriage with Julia L. Murphy, a daughter of John and Mary Murphy, of Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska. They have one daughter, Frances H.

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**G**UST BRUSE, a prominent farmer of Mariposa precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, has attained great success in pursuing his present occupation. He was possessed of no means when he landed in this country, but he has worked hard and industriously and grown to be one of the prosperous and substantial men of his district.

Mr. Bruse was born in Sweden in 1842, and is a son of Olof and Mary (Samuelson) Bruse. His father came to this country one year later than the son, in 1869, and located in Saunders county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded the east half of the southeast quarter of section 26, township 15, range 6. He had eight children.

Those living are: Gust; Emma, the wife of C. Nordhall, who has the farm east adjoining that of the subject hereof; Peter, who is married and also lives in Saunders county; and Hannah, who married John Person, of Omaha, a watchman for the Union Pacific Railroad Company, by whom she has four children: Amelia, John, Albert, and Vera.

Gust Bruse came to America in May, 1868, and for nearly two years was employed in a saw mill in Michigan, after which he went west to Omaha. In 1870 he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, and homesteaded the north half of the northeast quarter of section 34, township 15, range 6. He built a small house, 12 by 14 feet, partly frame and partly dug-out, and shortly after bought 40 acres—the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 27—making a fine farm of 120 acres of well-improved land. He first had a sod stable, but replaced it with a straw barn, and in 1890 he built a new barn, 28 by 36 feet. The old part of his present home was built in 1879, and in 1893 it was remodeled and an addition put on, 28 by 18 feet, making a very comfortable home. He set out many cottonwood trees in 1872 and an orchard of about two acres in 1888 or 1889, and to-day he has a fine grove and an orchard which contains a large variety of fruit. He has 20 acres of the farm in pasture and is engaged in cattle raising. The farm is supplied with good outbuildings, is well fenced, and everything about the place bears an appearance of progress and prosperity—denoting careful management.

In 1878 Mr. Bruse was united in marriage

with Kate Nelson, who was born in Sweden in 1837 and is a daughter of Nels Abrahamson. She has two sisters and one brother, who came to this country with her in 1868, namely: Mary (Snowgren), who lives at Madrid, Iowa, and has four children,—Tilda, Albert, Charlotte, and Amil; Anna, the wife of Louis Matteson, who lives in Minnesota and has three children,—Hannah, Mary, and Eric F.; and Henry Nelson, who lives in California, is married and has a large family. The subject of this sketch and his wife have two sons living at home—Andrew and Charles. Their only daughter, Augusta, is deceased. The family attends the Mission church, one and a half miles north of Malmo.

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**F**J. SNYDER, of the firm of F. J. Snyder & Company, dealers in butter and eggs, was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1837. He is a son of Thomas Snyder and grandson of Henry Snyder.

Henry Snyder was of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. He lived and died in Northampton county, Pennsylvania. His son Thomas Snyder was born in Northampton county, where he was reared and educated. He learned the tanner's trade and followed it during the early part of his life. He married Lavina John, and afterward moved to Livingston county, New York, where he engaged in farming, and was very successful. Death came to him at the ripe age of eighty-six years. His wife died when





RESIDENCE OF THOMAS MADIGAN.



THOMAS MADIGAN.





seventy years old. They reared a large and interesting family, namely: Harrison, Thomas, Jr., William, F. J. (the subject hereof), Le Grand, Clinton, James, and Charles.

F. J. Snyder spent the first part of his business life in Livingston and Madison counties, New York, engaged in mercantile pursuits. In 1881 he moved west to Fremont, Nebraska, and became connected with the Fremont Butter & Eggs Company. This was a new firm, and Mr. Snyder helped to build it up. He remained with the concern until 1887, when he located in Wahoo and engaged in business for himself, handling butter and eggs.

In 1890 Mr. Snyder formed a partnership with J. C. Gruver, but bought him out two years later. H. K. White became a partner in Mr. Snyder's business in 1895, since which time they have operated under the firm name of F. J. Snyder & Company.

The subject of this sketch was joined in marriage with Mary E. Cottrell. They have three children, named, respectively, Jessie, Arthur E., and Floyd W. Mr. Snyder is a strong Republican, but not a politician. He has served one term as mayor of Wahoo.

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**T**HOMAS MADIGAN is one of the best known farmers and stock dealers in the vicinity of Weston, Chapman precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. He was born in the state of Illinois, and is a son of John and Margaret (Kane) Madigan. His father was born in County Clare, Ireland, but, at an

early day, came to America, where he lived until his death, in 1890. His family consisted of five sons and four daughters, as follows: Mary; Mrs. Clements (deceased), whose husband was the proprietor of hotels at Red Cloud, Nebraska; John, (deceased); Michael; Robert, (deceased); Thomas; Margaret (Rosencrantz), of Lancaster county, Nebraska; James; and Kate. The two last named reside with their mother on the old homestead,—she having reached the advanced age of seventy years. John Madigan went, with his family, from the state of New York, where they had resided for some time, to Illinois, in the early "sixties." He remained there until 1864 or 1865, and then moved to Wheatland, Iowa, where he was employed, until 1869, on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, his son, Thomas, working with him. The family then went to Saunders county, Nebraska, spending the winter of 1869-1870, at Ashland. John Madigan then homesteaded the east half of the southeast quarter of section 8, township 14, range 6, and his son, Michael, homesteaded the west half of the southeast quarter of the same section.

The family all worked together upon this property until 1881, when the subject hereof married. He then leased 80 acres of school land, the north half of the southwest quarter of section 16, township 14, range 6. In 1883 he bought this tract, at the appraised value of \$8 per acre. He erected a frame building, with dimensions of 14 by 16 feet, and, one year later, built an addition of the same size. In 1885 he built a barn, measuring 36 by 40 feet, with 14-

foot posts. He continued to live in his old house for many years, and, in 1896, built the first part of his new house, two stories high and 18 by 28 feet in dimensions. Two years later he entirely removed the old part, built an extension of 16 by 24 feet, forming an L, and now has one of the finest country homes in his section of Saunders county. Near his house he has a good four-acre orchard, consisting chiefly of cherry and apple trees. There is a fine running stream on the property, and two wells, each 60 feet deep, and each supplied with windmills. For some years he devoted his efforts to corn and wheat raising, but in more recent years he has been feeding, buying and shipping stock. Mr. Madigan has engaged in this business on an extensive scale, and now handles over 500 head of stock per year. In addition to his original 80 acres, he purchased 40 acres of railroad land, described as the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 17, in 1884. He bought also the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 16; and the east half of the northeast quarter of section 17. He has 23 acres of pasture and timber land, having purchased 17 acres of Mr. Nelson's farm, which had been cut off by the railroad. Mr. Madigan also owns the greater part of his father's landed estate in Chapman precinct, having purchased the interests of all the heirs except three. When the estate is settled it will give Thomas Madigan, in all, 320 acres.

Thomas Madigan was united in marriage with Maggie East, a daughter of M. G. East, who went to Saunders county in 1875, pur-

chasing land in section 16, in Chapman precinct, which was subsequently sold to J. and T. Novak. This union resulted in the birth of the following children: John T.; George M.; Delia; William; Ruth; Mary; and a child who died in 1895, unnamed. Mr. Madigan is a Republican, a member of the school board, and has been a supervisor for six years.

Michael Madigan, an elder brother of Thomas Madigan, was born in the state of New York. He afterward lived in Illinois, and in the fall of 1868, moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, by wagon, accompanying his father. They followed Wahoo Creek, up to Weston, where each took up an 80-acre claim, in section 8. Michael's father built a frame house, 14 by 20 feet in size, hauling the lumber from Ashland, where there were but a few stores at that time. Michael built a partly log dug-out on his property, and set out \$50 worth of trees, which he purchased at Lincoln; but they did not thrive in the baked ground. There has been a wonderful change in the ground since then, and where a pick was formerly required to break it, a spade may now be used. Michael Madigan subsequently bought 200 acres of land in section 24, township 14, range 5, 120 acres of which was railroad land,—the remaining 80 acres having been homesteaded by T. E. Cook. Mr. Madigan resided upon this property for some years, and, in 1896, sold out, and purchased his present home, just south of the town of Weston. For the past thirteen years he has been in the well-drilling and repairing business, and also has been engaged in house-moving. He employs from five to eight

men during the summer months, and has from \$2,000 to \$3,000 invested in tools, pumps, supplies, etc. He is also conducting a store in Weston.

Michael Madigan was united in marriage with Mary Brown, a daughter of John Brown, and they have three daughters: Emma (Sameck), whose husband is cultivating the old Sameck estate, in section 15; Nellie, who remains at home; and Georgia, who is also at home with her parents. Fraternally, Mr. Madigan is a member of the A. O. U. W. He is a Republican in politics.

On preceding pages are shown two pictures of interest to readers of this biography; a view of Thomas Madigan's residence, and his portrait, executed from a recent photograph.

CHRISTIAN CHRISTANSON, one of the most substantial farmers in Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is of German nativity. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in 1838. He is a son of Peter and Mary (Smith) Christanson. He was reared in his native country, and when twenty-one years old he entered the army, where he served four years. He then returned home, where he remained for several years.

In 1867 Mr. Christanson came to the United States, settling in Cook county, Illinois, where he followed agricultural pursuits. In 1868 he purchased from a land agent 80 acres of land in section 32, Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. One year later (1869) he went west, took possession of his land, broke 20

acres, and built a small frame house near the site of his present residence. He set out a great many trees, which have grown so rapidly that they are now fine timber. Mr. Christanson has cut a great deal of this timber and sold it at \$4 and \$5 per cord. He still has an abundance left.

In 1893 the subject hereof built a large, substantial residence, at a cost of \$1,000. He also has extensive orchards of his own planting. He added 50 acres to his original farm, and makes a business of raising both grain and stock. At the present time he has about 33 fine cattle and about 70 head of hogs.

Mr. Christanson was united in marriage with Mary Thompson, a daughter of Thomas Jensen of Fremont, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Christanson had five children (four of whom are now living), and have lost one daughter—Laura. Those living are: Thomas, John, Sophia, and Henry. Upon coming to America Christian Christanson had but one dollar in his pocket. By his good judgment in making investments, and by his steady application to business, he has risen into prominence, and is now regarded as one of the representative farmers of Marietta precinct.

FRED JOHNSTON, the genial station agent on the Union Pacific Railroad, at Mead, Saunders county, Nebraska, has filled that position of trust since 1898.

The station at Mead was opened in 1878, when the present depot was built. It contains

one waiting room and one ticket office, telegraph office, and freight house combined. The first postoffice at Mead was opened in this depot, being a part of the ticket office. Joseph Sturdevant was the first ticket agent at that place. Mead is now one of the largest shipping points in Saunders county. It has three side tracks, running to all the principal elevators. The main shipments are grain and live stock. In 1899 the following shipments were made: 800 cars of corn, 170 cars of oats, 40 cars of wheat, 50 cars of cattle, and 125 cars of hogs. Mr. Johnston has one assistant—James A. Byrnes.

Fred Johnston is a native of Omaha, Nebraska, where he was born in 1875, and is a son of Charles Johnston. He was reared and schooled in his native city, and in 1888 began to learn telegraphy in the Western Union office in Omaha. From there he went to Kansas City, and later became relief agent on the Southern Pacific Railroad in Texas. His first regular appointment was at Sartartia, and later at San Antonio, where he served as chief clerk and cashier. He was subsequently appointed telegraph operator at Gonzales, Texas. He was transferred afterward to Aguas Calientes, Mexico, on the Mexican Central Railway.

Mr. Johnston then returned north and accepted a position as operator upon the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway system, at Fairbury, Nebraska. Clay Center, Kansas, was his next location, and from there he went to Omaha, where he worked for some time on the Western Union Telegraph line. He was then transferred to Lincoln, on the B. & M. R. Railroad. There he remained until 1898, when he

was appointed to fill his present position as station agent at Mead.

The subject of this sketch married Winnie Byrnes, a daughter of John Byrnes, mine host of the best hotel at Mead. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have one son—Roger Harold. Mr. Johnston is a thorough railroad man, and is popular as a citizen.



**J**ERRY DALEY, a prominent and well-to-do farmer of Center precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, began his career in the West entirely without capital. He was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1838. He is a son of Daniel and Mary (Driscoll) Daley. His father died early in life, leaving his widow with six children, as follows: Daniel; Jerry, of whom this sketch treats; Dennis, Katie, Ellen, and Mary. The family came to America in 1854, landing in Boston. They located for a short time at Lowell, Massachusetts, and then moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In 1856 Jerry Daley began work as a section hand on the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad; a short time later he engaged in teaming. In 1858 he secured work in a plaster mill, where he remained until 1861. He was then engaged in farming one year. The following year (1862) he went to the Lake Superior region and worked in the copper mines until 1867. Thence he went to Fremont, Nebraska, and spent one season working on the Union Pacific Railroad.

By that time Mr. Daley had saved a small sum of money and, in 1868, he went west and

pre-empted 160 acres of land in Saunders county, Nebraska. This land included the southeast corner of section 4, in Center precinct. Immediately after his land was staked out Mr. Daley went to Fremont and bought boards, which he took across the Platte River in a boat. He then had them drawn to his land and built a small house for his family. Returning to Fremont, he worked at anything he could obtain. He carried the hod, cut wood and did various other jobs to support his family. Having no team, he was obliged to hire a team to "break" a part of his land. He paid \$5 per acre and had five acres broken.

In July, 1869, he walked to Lincoln, Nebraska, borrowed \$500, and walked back again. This enabled him to prove up on his claim, and the land was then his. For two years afterward he worked on the Union Pacific Railroad as a section hand. At the close of that time he was appointed section foreman. Leaving his land as it was, he worked hard to save money to improve it with. In 1884 he returned to his farm and built a large house, barns, corn-cribs, etc., and began farming in real earnest. Soon afterward Mr. Daley purchased 80 acres in section 9. This latter tract was settled by Alexander Johnston and directly adjoined the farm of Mr. Daley.

In 1891 Mr. Daley built a large barn, 32 by 26 by 14 feet. Two years later he enlarged the house and built two granaries. He has large groves of shade trees and fine fruit orchards, and raises a large amount of stock, both cattle and hogs. He has been one of the most successful men in his section with hogs.

The subject of this sketch married Joanna Lynch, daughter of Daniel Lynch, both natives of Ireland. Nine children were born to them, namely: Mary Ann (deceased), Maggie, Daniel, Nellie, Jerry, Kate, Josie, Thomas (deceased), and Timothy. Maggie married Daniel Hayes. They have three children—Frank, Daniel and Jerome. Nellie married Pat Donehue, station agent at Abie, Nebraska. They are the parents of four children—Harry, Eugene, Lillian, and Mary A. Jerry married Nellie Ryan. They also have four children—Eddie, Thomas, and twins, whom they call Ruby and Ruth.

Mr. Daley and his family are Catholics. He is a firm believer in the Jeffersonian principles of Democracy.

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**Z**ENAS B. SMITH, one of the early settlers and most progressive farmers of Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, in 1825, and comes from good old Pennsylvania stock. He is a son of Joseph and Lucy (Sturdevant) Smith.

Mr. Smith grew to manhood in his native state, and followed farming as an occupation. In 1864 he enlisted as a private in the Union army, in Company A, 207th Regiment, Pennsylvania Vol. Inf. He was wounded in the left leg in the battle of Petersburg. After remaining five months in the hospital he was able to be about again, but never fully recovered from the injury.

In 1871 Mr. Smith purchased 80 acres of land from John Cemer, who had previously pre-empted the west half of the northwest quarter of section 10, in Marietta precinct, where the subject hereof now lives. The same year Mr. Smith also bought a quarter of section 9—the northeast quarter—but sold the west 80 acres of it to O. Olson. This latter tract is now owned by W. Johnson.

Mr. Smith enlarged the house and built a barn. In 1875 he set out cottonwood trees along both the north and south roads. These trees are a grand sight today, many of them being over two feet in diameter; some have been cut for lumber. In 1880 Mr. Smith set out a row of black walnuts, which are now beautiful and bearing trees. He also planted two acres in orchards of apple, plum, cherry, and peach trees. Mr. Smith raises all kinds of grain and also devotes much time to raising cattle, hogs, etc. He has one of the best wells in the vicinity—the purest of water being obtained at a depth of 81 feet. His brother, A. M. Smith, was among the early settlers of Saunders county, but now has a home in Florida.

In 1898 Mr. Smith built a handsome modern residence and a commodious barn, the latter being 32 by 40 feet in dimensions. The subject hereof has been twice married. He was first united with Phoebe Finney, a daughter of Ebenezer Finney. She was born in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, in 1834, and in 1880 her death occurred. She had four children, all daughters. They are: Lucy Josephine (deceased), Marian Angelina, Estella M., and

Grace G. Marian Angelina married James G. Crinklaw, of Antelope, Nebraska, and they had five children whose names are Ida, Howard, Nellie (deceased), Walter, and Burton. Estella M. married Walter F. Crinklaw. They have no children. Grace G. is the wife of D. Leslie Depew, of Marietta precinct.

Mr. Smith contracted a second matrimonial alliance, wedding Mrs. Caroline Burgess, a sister of his first wife and a most estimable lady. Mr. Smith is a good Christian, and is charitably inclined. He is a member of the Baptist church and donated the land upon which the church was built, and also ground for the cemetery. He stands well in his community, and has served five years as supervisor, and about seven years as school director.

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JAY FLETCHER ADAMS, a representative farmer of Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a son of Theodore L. and Susan S. (Biesecker) Adams, and a grandson of David and Deborah (Delivan) Adams.

Theodore L. Adams was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, December 9, 1835. While still a young man he went west, and settled in Buffalo county, Wisconsin, where he met Susan S. Biesecker, who afterward became his wife. This happy event was solemnized March 3, 1860. After their marriage Mr. Adams settled upon a farm and followed agricultural pursuits until 1866. He then went west to Nebraska, and settled on the banks of

the Elkhorn River. In September, 1869, he went to Saunders county, and purchased railroad land in section 22, Marietta precinct. This first purchase included 160 acres, which has been added to until he now owns 525 acres, and has one of the most productive farms in eastern Nebraska. Mr. Adams' success as a farmer and his opinion of Nebraska may be obtained from the following letter written by him, in which he gives his exact ideas on the subject:

"MEAD, SAUNDERS COUNTY, NEBRASKA.—I came to Nebraska in 1866, and brought with me about \$1,500 worth of property, consisting of horses, cattle, money, etc. I have now 525 acres of land in this vicinity, all well improved and under a high state of cultivation. Two years ago my wheat turned out 37 bushels to the acre, and I had 75 acres of it. My corn averages over 50 bushels this year. I have raised a good sized family, made a good living, started my children out in good shape, and have \$3,500 worth of property to live on, all made from farming Saunders county land.

"Out of 29 crops raised, all have been good with the exception of four, which have been partial failures. I have never seen a country anywhere so sure of a crop as eastern Nebraska, and I have been around a good deal.

"T. L. ADAMS."

Mr. Adams' opinions on this subject are precisely the same as expressed by all the residents of Saunders county. On his home farm he planted a large grove of shade trees and fine orchards, which can be seen from miles away. A small house at first accommodated his family, but a large residence, barns, corn-cribs, and

numerous other buildings have since been added. Mr. Adams was looked upon as one of the exemplary and progressive farmers of his day. He is now living a retired life in a fine residence, which he built in Mead. Seven children were born to him and his wife—namely: Mary E., wife of George Hoagland; Debbie C., wife of John Cheney, of Ira; Mattie; Jay F., the subject hereof; Hattie M.; Samuel; and Arthur. The two last named are still at home. Mattie married William Otto. They have a family of five children, as follows: Effie, Clarence, Alma, Guy, and Susan. Hattie M. married Edward Robinson. They have one child—Melvie. Theodore L. Adams was one of a family of eight children—viz.: Ada, Henry, Theodore L., Elizabeth, Harriet, Charles D., Daniel A. (deceased), and James (deceased). Jay Fletcher Adams' mother is a native of Stoddardsville, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. She is a daughter of Reuben and Caroline (Caldwell) Biesecker.

Jay Fletcher Adams was born in Dodge county, Nebraska, June 5, 1869. He was also reared and schooled in his native state. Ever since he attained the age of twenty years he has conducted the homestead farm, where he still resides. In addition to this, he rents and cultivates other lands. His farm produces large quantities of corn, oats, wheat and hay. He also devotes much attention to stock raising, and at the present time has a splendid lot of fine cattle, hogs and draft horses.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Iva Elnora Otto, a daughter of George B. Otto, an esteemed resident of Mari-

etta precinct. Four children bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adams. Their names are: Lottie Lucinda, Etta Varena, Ernest Alton, and Orpha Jane. Mr. Adams has always been devoted to the best interests of his community, where he is highly respected and stands among the foremost men of Marietta precinct.



**R**ORMAN E. BLAKESLEE, of Center precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is an ideal western farmer. He is a native of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, where his birth occurred in 1846. He is a son of Luke and Anna Holmes (Rogers) Blakeslee. His father was kicked by a horse in 1853 and died from the injuries received in 1856. His mother survived her husband until 1877, when she died also.

Mr. Blakeslee's first manual labor was working on a farm in his native county. Afterward he worked in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, until he reached his majority. About that time he accepted a position as collector for firms in the Western states, which occupied his attention for some time. He liked the West and finally followed farming there, also buying and selling wheat. He bought on speculation from farmers, having them hold the grain till he was ready to deliver it.

In 1882 Mr. Blakeslee purchased 160 acres in section 24, Center precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. This land was homesteaded by Messrs. Ritchie and Sornborger and was afterward sold to Mr. Humes, from

whom Mr. Blakeslee bought it. It was not much improved, and contained only a small house 12 by 14 feet in dimensions, and a sod barn. Mr. Blakeslee enlarged the house enough to live in, and began farming. He also set out a large number of fruit trees and a multitude of shade trees. Today it is a grand sight to view his magnificent shade and fruit trees and know they were all planted by his own hand. His fruit trees number over 200 and include some of the choicest varieties.

In 1879 Mr. Blakeslee built a small barn, and a few years later a larger one. In 1884 he also built a fine, large residence, the same now standing upon his farm. Corn-cribs, sheds, and numerous other buildings were added, and his farm now contains a superior set of buildings. He also has a windmill which, at 40 feet, gets the best of water; the old well was only 25 feet deep. In March, 1874, he purchased 80 acres in section 23. His farm is devoted to both grain and stock raising, and he keeps 50 head of fine cattle, some of which are Herefords, and about 150 head of hogs.

Mr. Blakeslee married Ella Cooper, a daughter of Andrew D. and Rebecca (Ford) Cooper. Mrs. Blakeslee's father was of Scotch ancestry. Her mother was a native of Dubuque, Iowa. Both of her parents died comparatively young, and she was left to the care of relatives. She accompanied an aunt, Mrs. Mary Cemer, to Saunders county, Nebraska, settling in Marietta precinct. Mrs. Blakeslee finished her education in the Wahoo High School, and afterward taught school until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Blakeslee have three children—Lura







H., Ford M., and Floyd T. The family worshiped at the M. E. church. The subject of this sketch is a staunch Republican. He is one of the most esteemed farmers of Center precinct.

**C**HARLES MILLER, an extensive farmer and grain and stock dealer of Saunders county, Nebraska, owns a fine large residence at Ashland, in that county, besides much valuable farming land in Green precinct. Mr. Miller was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, November 22, 1847. He is the son of James Miller.

James Miller was a native of Lancaster county, and moved to Kosciusko county, Indiana. He followed farming there until early in the "sixties." He then moved to Minnesota, where he was one of the pioneer settlers. Some time later, in 1870, he was induced to locate in Saunders county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead claim adjoining one owned by his son, Charles. The trip was made overland, with a team of oxen. James Miller subsequently sold his claim, purchasing another one from William Lawson. He built a comfortable residence, and lived there until cut off by death in 1887, at the age of seventy-one years.

Charles Miller's mother was, before marriage, Mary Baker, daughter of Jacob Baker, a respected resident of Johnstown, Licking county, Ohio. She still survives her husband and owns the same farm upon which his last days were spent. She is now more than eighty years old, and resides near her son, Charles, in

Ashland. She is the mother of the following ten children: Enos, who died in infancy; John, a resident of Ashland; Enoch, deceased; Charles, the subject hereof; Elijah, also deceased; Jemima, wife of Samuel Merriman; Mary, wife of George Herron; Oliver, deceased; Rohama; and Tina, wife of L. T. Farmer. These children were reared in the Baptist faith, the religion of their parents.

Although a native of Indiana, Charles Miller grew to manhood in Minnesota. He started out to seek his own fortune, not knowing just where he would locate. He fell in with a man who had previously visited Saunders county, Nebraska, and was then on his way to take up a claim there. Mr. Miller was induced to accompany him. Upon seeing the land he at once decided to locate there also, having traveled a distance of 450 miles, and being three weeks on the way. In 1870, Charles Miller built a double board-house on the line of two homestead tracts, and induced his parents to occupy one of these claims. He continued to improve and till his land, and in 1881, built a fine, large residence, just east of the old house. He set out fine orchards and beautiful shade trees, and converted the rolling prairie into cultivated fields. His residence was surrounded by spacious lawns, and approached by lovely driveways, shaded by the finest trees obtainable.

Mr. Miller subsequently purchased his father's claim and also bought some land from the railroad company. His farm now contains 360 acres, and is considered one of the finest in Green precinct. His eldest son now has charge

of this farm, but the father still retains the management of it. In 1893, Mr. Miller purchased of Shaler Wells the estate formerly owned by Professor King, of Ashland. This estate comprises one block of land, a beautiful large residence, convenient barn and buildings, and is a most desirable home. Thither Mr. Miller removed to further the education of his children. In June, 1900, Mr. Miller entered into partnership with E. J. Rose, under the firm name of Miller & Rose, for the purpose of buying grain, with office and elevator near the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad depot, where they are meeting with success.

Charles Miller married Hattie Colbert, a daughter of John F. and Juliet E. (Iliff) Colbert. John F. Colbert is a son of John Colbert, and is a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania. He accompanied his parents to Morgan county, Ohio, and later to Perry county, in the same state. He was practically reared in the state of Ohio. In the fall of 1869, with his team, he started for Green precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. Upon reaching his destination, he took up a homestead claim. He set out orchards and otherwise improved his land. He continued to reside there until 1900, when he returned to Ashland, and made his home with Charles Miller. He has voted the Republican ticket ever since the organization of that party, and has been a faithful member of the M. E. church, for the past forty-five years. He and his wife were blessed with the following children: Hattie, wife of Charles Miller; a son who died in infancy; Saloma, who married William C. Mott, and is now deceased;

Jane, wife of Nelson Mays, who has a daughter, Edith; a daughter who died young; Thomas, who married Clara Bentz, and has three children, Chester, Emmett and Alfa; Lizzie, who married J. G. Ulstrom, and has three children, Herley, Mabel and Frank; and Edna, wife of Charles Ulstrom, who has two children, Floyd and Lula.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have four children, namely: Thomas J.; Elizabeth M.; Wesley I.; and Charles F. The eldest son has charge of the homestead farm in Green precinct. He married Clara Bryan, and has one child, Martha. Mr. Miller and family worship at the M. E. church. Fraternally, he affiliates with lodge No. 110, F. & A. M., and also with the Royal Mystic Legion. The subject of this sketch is well known all over the county. He is a man of progressive ideas, and has done much to develop the natural resources of this part of Nebraska.

On a preceding page, in connection with this sketch, is presented a group picture, whose members represent four generations of the Miller family, namely: Mrs. James Miller (Mary Baker); Charles Miller, her son; Thomas J. Miller, her grandson; and Martha Miller, her great-granddaughter.

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**R.** F. WEBSTER, a successful furniture dealer and undertaker of Weston, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a gentleman widely known in that section of the county, of which he is one of the earliest settlers. When he arrived in Nebraska, many

years ago, he was possessed of very little property and only one dollar in money, but by close application to his work and skillful management he has obtained a handsome competency.

Mr. Webster was born in Henry county, Indiana, September 14, 1829, and is a son of Micaiah Webster. In his youth he learned the trades of carpenter, cabinet maker and undertaker. Early in life he married Rebecca A. Shelley, a daughter of Joseph Shelley. She was born near Knoxville, Tennessee, and was six years of age when her father, a blacksmith by trade, moved to Indiana. She proved a true helpmeet to her husband during his early struggles, and has ever been a faithful companion and loving wife. During the years 1847 and 1848 Mr. Webster served with the Fifth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, in the Mexican War. In 1856 he moved to Iowa county, Iowa, where, with the exception of one year in the army during the Civil War, he lived until 1869. In 1864 he enlisted in the Fifteenth Regiment, Iowa Volunteers, and served until the close of the war. In 1869 Mr. Webster started with his family overland to Nebraska, the family then consisting of his wife and seven children. Owing to the sickness of Mrs. Webster; they spent the winter of 1869-1870 in Andrew county, Missouri. He had been to Nebraska in the spring of 1869 and staked his claim, and he settled upon it in the spring of 1870. At the time of his arrival his property consisted of two horses and a colt, two yoke of cattle, two milch cows, two twin heifers, four chairs, and a small quantity of other primitive household furni-

ture, together with one dollar in money. He homesteaded 80 acres of land, it being the west half of the northwest quarter of section 8, in Chapman precinct, Saunders county. Four years later, as a soldier, he acquired the other 80 acres in that quarter. He built a dugout, 16 by 24 feet, and in the summer of 1870 extended it 12 feet, covering it with poles, brush, hay and three feet of earth, and making it water tight. It was very hard to get a good start, and the price of all the necessaries of life was very high. Bacon was 25 and 30 cents per pound, and he paid \$15 for his first hog—a small one at that. Mrs. Webster bought two little pigs and paid for them with butter. She has the distinction of having been the first woman to sell butter in Weston, and she also purchased the first calico dress sold there. That section was then very sparsely settled, and the nearest neighbors were three miles distant,—being Peter Campbell and a ranchman named Jamison. In 1876 Mr. Webster erected a frame building over the dug-out, but as that caused the water to run in he changed the site and erected a one-story and a half frame house, 16 by 24 feet, and later built an addition thereto. He set out five acres of trees, at that time a very large orchard, but it did not prove very successful. He also built a commodious frame barn upon the premises. In 1870 land there was worth from \$6 to \$8 per acre, and in 1890 Mr. Webster disposed of his property for \$4,800 to Mr. Cudna, who has since greatly improved it. Mr. Webster had been renting it for some nine years prior to selling it, as he was unable to tend it himself, and so decided to

sell. In the early '80s he embarked in the furniture and undertaking business at Weston, but in 1886 closed the store for six months, spending that period in California. He then returned and again engaged in the same business, which he still continues. He is well established, and carries a large and varied stock of furniture, catering to the highest class of trade. Mr. and Mrs. Webster, having lived in the locality so many years, are well known to all, and have a large circle of friends, by whom they are held in the highest esteem.

The subject of this sketch and his wife are the parents of eight children, of whom the following is a record: William P., postmaster at Cody, Wyoming, is employed as guide and manager of pleasure parties in the National Park and other resorts. He married Rachel Bird, and they had two children—Elmo and Della. Mrs. Fannie Wheeler lives in Jasper county, Iowa, and has three boys and one girl—Claude, Clell, Leonard, and May. Melissa married Arthur Masterman, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and they have a son—Clyde. Leonard, of Rock Springs, Nebraska, is a blacksmith, and at present is in the Klondike; he has three children—Richard, Maggie, and Ruth. Richard married Eliza Ledbeter, and they have three children—Frederick, Rebecca, and Carl. Mrs. Eliza Peterson lives on a farm with her husband, one and half miles south of Weston. Joe Delia (Campbell), whose husband is a farmer near Weston, has three children—Ethel, Daniel, and Lethe. Claude, who married Maggie Devine, lives at Sierra City, California. On March 10, 1900, Mrs. Webster celebrated her

sixty-ninth birthday with a party, at which six of her children were present. She is hale and hearty, enjoying the best of health, and looks many years younger than she is. Politically the subject of this sketch belongs to the old school of Republicans and votes the Democratic ticket.

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**W**ALTER CRINKLAW, a retired citizen of Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a pioneer of that county, and was a resident of the same precinct from May 1, 1869, until 1895. Upon first locating there he pre-empted 80 acres in section 20 and built a shanty upon it. Six months later he homesteaded 80 acres on the east. His son, John A. Crinklaw, lives upon the place now. In 1886 Mr. Crinklaw built a fine residence upon his land, which is now occupied by his son, George L. Crinklaw.

Walter Crinklaw first found employment upon the Union Pacific Railroad, and thus obtained money with which to improve his farm. Afterward he purchased 80 acres additional in the same precinct on the south side of his pre-emption. Still later he also purchased the northeast quarter of section 29.

Mr. Crinklaw was born in 1825 in Roxburyshire, Scotland, near the home of Sir Walter Scott. He is a son of James and Jennie (Smith) Crinklaw. His parents came to America in 1837, settling upon a farm near Westminster, Canada, where they spent their declining years. His father died in 1864 at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. Two

years later (1866) the beloved mother died, having passed her seventieth mile-stone. Eleven children were born to them. Their names are: Martha, Agnes, George, Georgiana, James, Walter, David, Joseph, Robert, Christian, and Jeanette. The father of the subject of this sketch had five children by a previous marriage. Their names are: Margaret, William, Betsy, John, and Mary.

Walter Crinklaw was united in marriage with Helen Graham, a daughter of James and Helen (Brown) Graham, both natives of Glasgow, Scotland. His marriage was solemnized at London, Canada, whither the bride's parents had previously immigrated. Eleven children were the result of the union, namely: Helen, James G., Anna, Walter F., Jeanette S., Emily B., Andrew B., Mary Hattie (deceased), John A., George L., and Minnie, who died young.

Helen Crinklaw married A. P. Kempton. They have five children, namely: Pearl (deceased), Myrtle, Mabel, Walter, and Lloyd. James G. Crinklaw is now a resident of Antelope, Nebraska. He married Marian Smith, and has five children. Their names are: Ida, Howard, Nellie (deceased), Walter, and Burton. Anna Crinklaw married George Fletcher. They have six children living—David, Lila, George, Archie, Harold, and Winifred L. They lost a son in infancy.

Walter F. Crinklaw was born in London, Canada, in 1855. He accompanied his parents to the vicinity of Belvidere, Illinois, when four years old. Subsequently they removed to Omaha, and thence went to Saunders county,

Nebraska. When twenty-three years old, Walter F. went to Antelope county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead of 160 acres. He improved it and lived upon it for nine years. Selling it at a good profit, he returned home and was presented with 80 acres by his father. This tract included the southwest corner of section 20. On it he has built a handsome residence, barns, corn-cribs, etc., and set out orchards and shade trees. He now has one of the finest homes in that locality. He married Estella M. Smith.

Jeanette S. Crinklaw married George A. Orme, of Colon, Nebraska. Two children bless their home—Mabel and Hattie Ruth. Emily B. Crinklaw married John Carson. They have four children, namely: Hazel, Jessie, Harry, and the baby. Andrew B. Crinklaw married Pearl Soule. One son, Clark, is the offspring of their union. John A. Crinklaw married Nellie Lybolt, and they have a daughter, Bernice. They live upon 80 acres of the homestead farm.

George L. Crinklaw was born at the old homestead in Marietta precinct in 1872. He enjoyed exceptional educational advantages. He was then presented with 80 acres of his father's farm, in addition to which he purchased 40 acres. He now has one of the finest and best improved farms in Marietta precinct. He married Eunice Manners, a daughter of Joseph Manners, of Wahoo. They have one son—Willis Raymond. Mrs. Crinklaw, wife of the subject hereof, died November 20, 1892.

In 1895 the subject hereof withdrew from active business pursuits and went to Colon, Nebraska, sharing his money and lands with

his children. He gave each child 80 acres of land, or its equivalent in money. Since then he has been living in peaceful retirement, conscious of having performed his duty well. "Long may he live" is the wish of his numerous children, grandchildren, and hosts of friends.

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**W**ILLIAM R. CAMPBELL is postmaster at Mead, Saunders county, Nebraska. He was commissioned to his present trust in April, 1898, succeeding Katie F. Kane.

The postoffice at Mead was established in 1876 and was called Alvin for some time. It occupied a part of the ticket office at Saunders station, as it was then called. There proved to be another station in the state called Alvin and the one at Saunders station was changed to Mead. This change took place in 1877. The first postmaster was Joseph Sturdevant, who was succeeded by Charles Ostenburg. The latter was relieved by Delos Kearns, who in turn was succeeded by Katie F. Kane, who was succeeded by Mr. Campbell.

Mead has but two mails per day but they are large. The present office is located in the Kearns building and contains upward of 300 boxes. One deputy is allowed and that position is filled at the present time by Alvin Jefferson.

Mr. Campbell was born in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, in 1849. His father, James Campbell, removed to Wisconsin when William R. was but nine years old, so the

latter was practically reared in that state upon his father's farm. In 1870 he began his career in the capacity of a school teacher and followed that honorable profession until 1898, when he accepted his present position as postmaster at Mead. Previous to this he had taught some time in Colfax and Lancaster counties, afterward at Malmo, still later in Mariposa precinct, and last in Mead.

Mr. Campbell married Mary Ostenburg, a daughter of C. Ostenburg. C. Ostenburg is one of Mead's most esteemed citizens and successful business men. He was born in Germany in 1821, and is a son of Theodore Ostenburg. The younger Ostenburg came to America in 1847, settling in Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming for a number of years. He subsequently started a store at Blue Mounds, which he conducted quite successfully for eight years. He then sold his store and went to Mead, Nebraska. In 1877 he built the first store in Mead. This was a small affair on the corner of Mine and Fourth streets—its dimensions being 20 by 26 feet. In 1883 its length was extended to 60 feet and it now contains a large and well-assorted stock of general merchandise. In 1890 Mr. Ostenburg's son was admitted to partnership. The elder Ostenburg built a handsome modern residence in 1877 on the opposite corner of his land, which was purchased from Mr. Williams. Mr. Ostenburg married Caroline July. She died in 1894, aged seventy-six years. Twelve children blessed this union, as follows: Charles, who died in infancy; Otto, Charles, Ernest, Emma, John, Mary, William (de-



ceased), Thomas, Annie (deceased), George (deceased), and Henry. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have no children of their own. They are well known and esteemed throughout the community.

**P**O. LINDAU is a prosperous and representative farmer of Saunders county, Nebraska, and his many acquaintances throughout the county know him to be a man of his word, perfectly honest and upright in all his business transactions. He has had a lease of the Robert Campbell estate ever since 1887 and has put on nearly all the improvements. He was born in the southern part of Sweden in 1855, and is a son of Olaf and Jennie (Streed) Pierson. He is the oldest of a family of four children, of whom Olive and Lena both live in Sweden, and Mr. Lindau's brother is known as Pier O. Stearnberg. P. O. Lindau, as well as his father and brother, spent many years in the army, and in that connection he and his brother changed their names because of the many similar ones on the rolls.

Mr. Lindau left Sweden in 1881 and upon arriving in the United States he at once went to Saunders county, Nebraska, where he spent the first three years working out. In 1884 he rented the farm owned by Mr. Erikson, which is two miles east of his present one, but the next two years he rented Mr. Banta's farm. In 1887 he leased the Campbell estate, which was homesteaded by Robert Campbell, who is a soldier; it is located on the north-

west quarter of section 26. He erected the present barn, planted trees and has made nearly all of the improvements. He has good machinery and horses and enjoys a reputation among his fellow citizens as a good, conscientious and straightforward neighbor and citizen.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Annie Pierson, a daughter of Pier Okason, and they have a family of seven children as follows: Olga, Emma, Arthur, Arlas, Minnie, Joseph and Mandy. Mr. Lindau and his family are members of the Swedish Baptist church of Weston.

**L**OUIS LAUDENSCHLAGER, who is of sturdy German extraction, is numbered among the prominent and substantial farmers of Saunders county, Nebraska, where he is the owner of a fine farm located in Chapman precinct. He was born in Germany in 1835 and is a son of Louis and Elizabeth Laudenschlager.

In 1865 the subject hereof, with his family of two children, came to the United States and engaged in farming at Pekin, Illinois, for a period of ten years. In 1875 he located in Cass county, Nebraska, where he continued the same independent vocation for nine years. In 1884 he moved to Saunders county, purchased of Mr. Jasper the northwest quarter of section 25 for \$20 per acre, this property having been homesteaded by Mr. Reigenball. The old house is now used as a granary, as in 1885 he erected a

new house, and in 1894 enlarged it to its present size. In 1896 he put up his present fine barn, which is 40 by 44 feet in dimensions, and he also made other improvements in the way of building corn-cribs. In 1888 he purchased 80 acres,—the northwest half of the southwest quarter of section 24, from Mr. Fletcher, and the small buildings on that farm he moved to his present place. He has set out a fine orchard and many shade trees, especially on the northwest side of the house, which shield it from the cold winter winds. He has about five acres in an orchard, containing all kinds of trees. He has an abundance of pure water, having a good well near the house, while near the barn there is a fine spring. The subject hereof has a wide acquaintance throughout the vicinity, and is considered a successful and up-to-date farmer.

Mr. Laudenschlager was united in wedlock with Mary Petermann, who is also a native of Germany, and they have a family of twelve children: Adam, Lizzie, George, William, Clara, Louisa, Jake, Annie, John, Lena, Ella, and Louie. Adam, born in Germany, married Sarah Burnell, and has five children—Jessie, Bertha, Lillian, Gracie, and Flora. Lizzie, who was also born in Germany, is the wife of John Faspender, of Cass county, Nebraska, and has three children—Gertie, Florence, and Leo. George, a native of Illinois, lives with his brother Adam. William is single and engaged in farming six miles east of the home place. Clara is the wife of George Baxter, of Omaha, Nebraska. Louisa lives in California. Jake

was born in Cass county, Nebraska. Annie is a bright young lady, also a native of Cass county. John assists his brother Adam in farming, Lena is a native of Saunders county, in which Ella and Louie were also born. Mr. Laudenschlager is a solid Democrat in politics, while in religious views he belongs to the Lutheran church.



JOHN WOITA, of the firm of Kacirek & Woita Bros., general merchants at Weston, has been a resident of Saunders county, Nebraska, since 1872, and is justly regarded as one of the most enterprising and successful business men in the county.

Mr. Woita was born in Bohemia in 1858. He is a son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Havel) Woita, and is one of a family of five sons and one daughter—namely, Joseph, John, Phoebe, Jacob, James, and Charles. Joseph is in the saloon business at Weston. He also owns a 120-acre farm in Saunders county. Phoebe married Joseph Maly, and now resides in Oklahoma. James is a business partner of John, and a brief sketch of his life is included in this writing. Jacob owns an 80-acre farm, which he cultivates together with Joseph's farm. Charles, the youngest son, conducts the home farm, upon which, in a separate house of their own, the aged parents dwell. The father is now seventy-four years old, and the mother is aged sixty-five years.

The Woita family came to America in 1872, when John was fourteen years of age. The

father homesteaded 80 acres in section 34, township 15, range 5, in Saunders county, Nebraska. The first building erected was a dug-out with a shingle roof, the shingles having been hauled from Lincoln. Soon after building this house, a straw barn was made, also a sod chicken-house and corn-crib. Two acres of land were set out in shade trees. In 1890 orchards of apple, cherry and plum trees were planted, and grapes and other small fruits were set out.

When the elder Mr. Woita arrived in Saunders county he was just sixty-four dollars in debt, and had a family to support. Now he and his entire family are well supplied with this world's goods. They are rugged and healthy people, but in gaining their start were obliged to endure many hardships. The father was a stonemason, and upon first locating in Saunders county he walked to Lincoln and obtained work on the penitentiary building, which was then in process of erection. He received \$5 per day for his work. In this way he obtained his start in the new country.

Upon locating in Nebraska, the Woita family knew but one man, and that was Peter Kastl. Wheat was raised mainly at first, and the land yielded from 15 to 23 bushels per acre. The nearest market was Fremont, and a toll of 50 cents per load was demanded before one gained entrance to the city. There were no springs upon the land where the Woitas settled, water being secured by digging shallow wells. Now that the soil is cultivated, the surface water is constantly used up, and water can only be obtained at a depth of 180 feet. When the

family settled there the nearest postoffice was twelve miles distant and was called Linwood.

In 1877 John Woita purchased 120 acres of railroad land at \$7 per acre. He still owns this farm, which is now valued at \$45 an acre. He erected suitable and substantial buildings and planted large orchards. He was joined in marriage with Mary Pospisil, whose father took up a homestead claim in close proximity to the Woita homestead. The Pospisil family have lived in America for thirty-six years. Mrs. Woita was born in Bohemia in 1860 and was four years old upon coming to America. Mr. and Mrs. Woita have seven children—five daughters and two sons. Their names are: Mary, Fannie, Agnes, Emma, Frank, Tony, and Josie, the baby, all of whom are still at home.

John Woita carried on agricultural pursuits until 1895. He then purchased Mr. Hagenbuck's interest in the general merchandise store of Kacirek, Woita & Co. The firm name was then changed to Kacirek & Woita Bros., and still continues thus. They carry a stock valued at eighteen or twenty thousand dollars, and do quite an extensive business. Besides owning an interest in the store building, Mr. Woita still owns his own farm, which he rents, and has a handsome town residence and three lots in Weston.

The subject of this sketch is a member of the Catholic Workmen. While on the farm he served as treasurer of the town board for nine years. He helped in scraping dirt when the town of Weston was laid out, and is now serving as secretary of the same town. He is very

popular in his locality and is justly proud of his own success and that of his family.

James Kacirek, senior member of the firm of Kacirek & Woita Bros., was born in Bohemia in 1860. He is a son of Frank and Catherine (Schejbal) Kacirek, and is the eldest of three children. He has one sister, Mrs. Anton Chapek, and one brother, John, who married a Miss Wise and lives in Oklahoma,—he has two sons living, having lost a daughter, Victoria.

Mr. Kacirek came to America and went west to Saunders county, Nebraska, June 9, 1880. He worked out by the month as a farm hand for different people in the vicinity of Weston for three years. He then worked three months on the section. His parents came to America in 1881 and bought 80 acres of land in Newman precinct, where they are now spending their declining years.

James Kacirek rented a farm near Weston in 1884, and remained upon it until 1888. He spent the following three years in the lumber business, in the employ of Louis Bredford. In 1891 he went into the general merchandise business in partnership with Anton Chapek and Willard Hagenbuck. A few months later James Woita purchased the interest of Mr. Chapek and the firm became Kacirek, Woita & Co. In 1896 Mr. Hagenbuck also retired from the firm, having sold his interest to John Woita. The firm name then became Kacirek & Woita Bros., and the partnership then formed still exists. Mr. Kacirek was joined in marriage with Phinnie Fiedler. They have three children—Joseph, aged twelve years; Mary,

aged ten years; and Edward, aged five years.

Mr. Kacirek is a member of the Roman Catholic church. He supports the Democratic party. He was formerly a member of the town board, and is now serving on the school board. He is also a member of the Catholic Workmen.

James J. Woita, junior member of the firm of Kacirek & Woita Bros., began his career in 1885 as clerk for James Kean in Weston. He then visited the farm for one month. Returning to Weston, he engaged as a clerk for Frank Hakel, for whom he worked nearly five years. He then resigned and accepted a similar but more lucrative situation with Chapek, Kacirek & Co. After working there a few months, however, he purchased the interest of Mr. Chapek, as before mentioned, and is still a member of that enterprising business firm.

James J. Woita married Tony Peterzelka, a daughter of Joseph Peterzelka. She is deceased and left two children—James J., Jr., and Helen. Mr. Woita owns two residences, one in East Weston, and the other in West Weston, where he lives. He is a native of Bohemia, where his birth occurred in 1868. He has had a great deal of experience at his present business, and adds very materially to the success of the firm with which he is connected.

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**R**OBERT A. HEATON, proprietor of the Wahoo New Stock Yards, is one of the most influential and highly esteemed citizens of Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska. Mr. Heaton is a native of Lisbon,

St. Lawrence county, New York, where his birth occurred May 3, 1850. He is a son of Daniel and Mary Ann (Moore) Heaton. His parents moved west, to York county, Nebraska, where his father followed farming until cut off by death in 1894, at the advanced age of seventy-one years.

Robert A. Heaton began his life's labor in the capacity of farm hand and subsequently followed teaming and lumbering. In 1872 he accompanied his parents west to Nebraska, settling some time later in Washington county, of this state. The first year their crops were totally destroyed by grasshoppers. Daniel Heaton decided at once to leave, but was finally persuaded to remain and try his luck again, while Robert A. left home in search of work to support the family. Crossing the Platte River, Mr. Heaton found everything in a flourishing condition. He soon obtained a situation at Blair, Nebraska, where he ran a grain elevator. There it was that he obtained his start and gained an insight into buying grain.

In the fall of 1878 he purchased an interest in the business of Clark & Son, dealers in grain and lumber, at Blair. The new firm was known as Clark, Heaton & Company, with Fred R. Clark as senior member. In 1880 the same firm erected an elevator at Weston, Nebraska, and continued to carry on a large and prosperous business until 1888. Mr. Heaton was instrumental in also establishing a bank at Weston. This bank had a capital stock of \$12,000 and the subject hereof served as its president until 1895. He then sold out both his interest in the bank and the grain ele-

vator and removed at once to Wahoo, intending to retire from active business pursuits. After building a fine residence, his natural activity of mind and body asserted itself and he again engaged in business.

He purchased 12 acres of the Stocking estate, where the old canning factory was formerly located. Upon this site Mr. Heaton established what is now known as the Wahoo New Stock Yards. The Union Pacific Railroad put in a spur track, and at the present time large shipments of cattle, sheep, hogs, grain and coal are made from that point.

Mr. Heaton was joined in marriage with Ellen Maher, a daughter of William Maher, of Blair, Nebraska. Three children blessed their union, namely: Minnie, William, and Helen. Mr. Heaton is virtually a self-made man. From a humble beginning he has risen to his present affluence. All this has been accomplished by steady and well-directed effort on his part. He has served on the school board and in the city council. Mr. Heaton affiliates with the F. & A. M., Modern Woodmen of America, A. O. U. W., and K. of P.

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**J**OHN L. CHEEVER, a prominent coal dealer of Valparaiso, Nebraska, is a son of Warren Cheever, and was born in Wabash county, Indiana, March 16, 1845.

Warren Cheever, father of John L., was a native of Massachusetts. In early manhood he moved to Jasper county, Indiana, and thence went to the state of Wisconsin, locating in

Crawford county, where he lived for twenty years. In 1868 he sought a home in the West, locating on a homestead in Oak Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. There he followed farming during the remainder of his life, dying at the age of seventy years.

Warren Cheever's wife was Harriet Vorse. She now resides in Valparaiso, aged eighty-four years. They reared ten children, namely: Warren, Jr.; Alonzo, who died in the engagement of Island No. 10; Albertus, Edward F., John L., Francis M., Ellen, Jane, George L., and James. Five of the boys served in the Civil War. Warren Cheever was an old-line Whig and cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln.

John L. Cheever received his educational training in the schools of Wisconsin. In 1873 he moved west and located on a farm in Oak Creek precinct. He has made his home in that precinct ever since coming to Nebraska, although, at different times, he has had business interests outside of the state.

In 1868 Mr. Cheever started a grocery store and followed that line of business for two years, when he engaged in the coal trade, which he has pursued ever since. In politics he is an out-and-out Prohibitionist. In 1865 Mr. Cheever enlisted in the army. He entered Company E, 47th Reg. Wis. Vol. Infantry, and served until the close of the war. During his time of service he was stationed in Tennessee under General Dudley.

Mr. Cheever chose for his bride Nellie J. Webb, a daughter of Peter Webb, of Crawford county, Wisconsin. Nine children blessed

this union. They are: Loren E., who is captain of a company in the 36th U. S. Regiment, and is now in the Philippines; Nellie M. (Hidden), who has one child, Percy; George L., who married Maud Pecnovsky; Mablon L., who married Mary Pike, and has two children, E. Dewey and J. Elwin; Rosa O.; Daisy; Bertha; Ruth; and Hazel.

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**M**ELVILLE W. STONE, M. D., late Assistant surgeon of the United States Army, late surgeon of the Union Pacific Railroad, late surgeon general of Nebraska, and late superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane at Hastings, Nebraska, is without doubt the oldest practicing physician in Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska. When he located in Wahoo, in January, 1877, there were only two physicians there—namely, Dr. R. B. Morton, now retired, and Dr. Isaac Soule, deceased. The population of Wahoo was then only about 300. There were no fences, and but few roads. When called upon to attend patients, Dr. Stone was frequently obliged to follow a trail, and ride long distances, as the country round about was practically unsettled. Game was abundant, and included antelope, coyotes, and gray wolves. The winters were exceedingly mild.

Dr. Stone was born in Delaware, Delaware county, Ohio. He is a son of Stephen W. and Emily (Moore) Stone. The subject hereof attended the public schools of his native city until he reached the age of sixteen years. His

education was further advanced at Washington, Iowa, and at the Wesleyan University, in Ohio. He subsequently began the study of medicine, commencing at the same time with David Kittle, who is now located in Kansas City.

Dr. Stone graduated from the medical department of the State University of Iowa in March, 1861. In July of the same year he responded to his country's call for men and enlisted as a private in Company H, Seventh Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was promoted to be assistant surgeon of the regiment during the same year. After passing the required examination, he was made assistant surgeon in the regular army, serving as such from 1864 to 1869. For a time he was with General Grant, but was transferred in 1863 to the Army of the Cumberland, serving under General Rosecrans. He was in active service at the battles of Belmont, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Chickamauga, and participated in the siege of Chattanooga.

After the war was ended, Dr. Stone served in a hospital in Tennessee. He was transferred afterward to headquarters at Omaha, Nebraska. He served in the Fourth United States Infantry under General Emery, with Colonel McAdi in command, and was stationed along the frontier in 1866, 1867, 1868, and 1869, during the Red Cloud War.

Dr. Stone married Margaret Conn, of Keokuk, Iowa. Her father, John Conn, was a native of the north of Ireland. Early in life he was an Irish linen weaver, but after coming to America he followed the trade of a stonema-

son. He died in 1885 at the home of Dr. Stone, at the age of ninety-nine years and three months. Dr. and Mrs. Stone have five children—namely, Nina, Edwin W., Maude E., Elmer N., and Harry D. Nina Stone was born in Clarksville, Tennessee. She married C. W. Pierson, of Omaha. Edwin W. Stone was born in North Platte, Nebraska, and is now a medical student. Maude E. Stone was born in Polk county, Nebraska. She married F. J. Tallant, of Clarinda, Iowa. Elmer N. Stone was also born in Polk county. He is an electrician at Wahoo. The youngest son, Harry D. Stone, is an accountant in Omaha.

In 1871 Dr. Stone went to North Platte, Nebraska, and a little later settled on a claim in Polk county, where he immediately engaged in the stock business and general farming. Before six months had elapsed, however, his ability as a physician became known, and he was called upon to practice medicine again. In January, 1877, he went to Wahoo, Saunders county, and began practice there. In 1878 he was appointed surgeon general of the state of Nebraska, and filled that important office for twelve years. In 1880 he was also appointed superintendent of the insane asylum at Hastings, Nebraska, but resigned in 1890. In 1868 he was appointed surgeon of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, serving as such until 1892, when he resigned that position also.

Dr. Stone today stands at the head of his profession and ranks among the ablest physicians of his state. He is a valued member of the Nebraska State Medical Association, of which he served as president in 1880 and

1881. He is also a Mason of high degree, affiliating with St. John's Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Omaha; Omaha Consistory, A. A. S. R., South Jurisdiction; and Sesostris Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.

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**J**AMES PALLAS, one of the most enterprising and thrifty farmers and stock raisers of Chapman precinct, Saunders county, is a typical self-made man, his worldly possessions being the result of his own untiring efforts. He was born in Bohemia and is a son of Frank and Mary (Trutua) Pallas.

James Pallas came to the United States in 1878 and on May 21 of that year he located in Saunders county, at which time he had \$600 which he had earned in his native country. With his money he bought the east half of the northwest quarter of section 23, township 14, range 6. His first house was 8 by 12 by 6 feet in dimensions, and the barn was only large enough to hold a team of horses and one cow. The cow hung herself and, in order to earn money to buy another, he worked out by the day. In 1880 he bought the corner "eighty" adjoining his farm, a tract described as the west half of the northwest quarter of section 23, from Mr. Cajka. For this he paid \$6 per acre, which included a dollar per acre for the breaking of the soil. There is now a fine orchard on this property, consisting of 150 apple trees, 22 pear trees and a number of cherry trees, with some grape vines. In 1892 he purchased

the west half of the southwest quarter of section 14, township 14, range 6, from Charles Hadsal, and has about four acres set out in trees on this last purchase. In 1885 he built an addition to his house and in 1890 he completed it to its present size. He got along with his straw barn until 1886, when he built a substantial frame barn, 18 by 28 feet, and a shed along its side 14 feet wide. In 1896 he built an addition 16 by 32 feet on the south side of his barn, and on the west side, in 1898, he made another addition 14 by 32 feet. He also erected cattle sheds and a granary 18 by 36 feet in 1888, and later a corn-crib 24 by 28 feet. His house and outbuildings are in the best possible shape and in fact his whole farm is in a fine state of cultivation. He has a well 171 feet deep which he sank in 1891, and he has put up a fine windmill. Formerly the slough contained many springs, but all have gone dry with the exception of one large one which supplies the stock with pure water. In 1899 Mr. Pallas put 105 acres into corn and raised a crop of about 5,500 bushels. General farming and stock raising form his chief occupation, in which he is very successful, being, undoubtedly one of the most progressive and up-to-date farmers in Saunders county.

Mr. Pallas married a cousin, Mary Pallas, and they have six children, namely: Joseph, James, Anton, Charles, Mary and Frances. Joseph Pallas is a hustling young man, and in partnership with Joseph Punek he owns an almost new threshing outfit, which they operate every season with considerable suc-



cess. The subject of this sketch is a member of the Reformed Presbyterian church; in politics he is a Republican. He belongs to the C. S. P. S., a Bohemian fraternity of Wahoo.

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**A** F. HAWKINSON, although young in years, has had wider experience in a business way than most men who are many years his senior, and he now stands in the foremost rank of the young business men of Saunders county, Nebraska. Shrewd and far-sighted, he has never failed to come out successful from whatsoever transaction he may have been concerned in. Nevertheless he is a man of honor, treating all with fairness and never stooping to do a mean act. It is due to his careful management, more than anything else that the Railsback Bros. Elevator, of Malmo, is in its present thriving condition.

Mr. Hawkinson was born at Galesburg, Illinois, in 1872, and is the oldest son of Olaf and Mary (Swanson) Hawkinson. He has a brother, Herman, who lives in Omaha, and a sister, Esther, living with her mother, now Mrs. Peter Nygren. Olaf Hawkinson was born in Middle Sweden, in the province of Blekinge, in 1835, and died April 23, 1886. He learned his trade and secured his certificate as a first-class woodworking mechanic and wagonmaker before coming to this country. His brother, John, who spent one winter visiting in this country, was the only other member of the family who ever came to this country.

Olaf Hawkinson came to the United States in 1868, locating in Illinois. Upon his arrival in this country he had but one coin left—a Swedish 4-rikson piece of silver, which is now carried by A. F. Hawkinson as a souvenir pocket-piece. The elder Hawkinson worked in the woods in Illinois and soon had the misfortune to lose his first wife, Hannah, by whom he had two children: Swan, of Omaha, and Hannah, who lives with A. F. Hawkinson's mother. Olaf Hawkinson then married Mary Swanson, in Illinois and moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, with his family in 1873. There he purchased the south half of the southwest quarter of section 18, township 15, range 6, from Mr. Peterson for \$7 per acre. He subsequently proved up his claim and, in 1875, purchased the east half of the northwest quarter of section 19, and also the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of the same section, on a foreclosed mortgage given by Mr. Peterson. In 1882 he bought the west half of the southeast quarter of section 18. The land was in its original state, wholly unimproved, and the first improvements made by Mr. Hawkinson were a sod house in the southeast corner of his first 80 acres and a straw shed for a barn. In 1875 he built the present L-shaped house, one and a half stories high, the size of the main part being 24 by 26 feet. A few years later he erected a substantial frame barn, 32 feet square, together with other necessary outbuildings. He fed and dealt heavily in stock, and raised large quantities of broom corn, selling some years as much as \$4,000 worth of the latter, the price being from \$75

to \$125 per ton. He made many fine improvements upon the farm, which has been rented since 1886. He accumulated a handsome competency and traveled considerably during his last years. The Wahoo Creek drains this property and it is considered one of the best pieces of land in the county.

A. F. Hawkinson and his brother purchased 280 acres of the estate and later sold 120 acres of it to Angblum & Mitchell, of Omaha, for \$35 per acre, and the balance, 160 acres, for \$5,000, realizing a handsome margin on the sales. Mr. Hawkinson has ably shifted for himself since he was twelve years old, when he went out to work at farming; but he never lost sight of his educational training. He attended school during the winter months, and this was supplemented by several terms of study in Luther Academy, at Wahoo. When nineteen years old he rented the Bose farm northeast of Malmo, and later rented the farm of his uncle, Mr. Johnson, on which he continued successfully for five years. He was subsequently in the employ of several different concerns at Omaha and elsewhere, always giving the best of satisfaction, meriting and receiving strong commendation from his employers and associates. He first entered the elevator business at Weston in the position of manager of the Weston Grain & Stock Company, with which he remained until October 10, 1899, when he purchased the Malmo Grain & Stock Company. He was meeting with unqualified success, but, having an opportunity to dispose of the concern at a snug profit, to Railsback Brothers, whose headquarters are in

Ashland, Nebraska, he sold to that firm, in January, 1900, and has since ably served as their manager at Malmo. He is still one of the directors of the Weston Grain & Stock Company, the six other directors being: John Edwards, president; Oscar Olson, secretary; A. Pospisil; A. Barry; Thomas Madigan; and A. Shabalka. Mr. Hawkinson is a business man of sterling qualities and a gentleman whose acquaintance it is a pleasure to make.

On April 5, 1893, the subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Hilma Larson, a daughter of A. G. and Caroline (Johnson) Larson. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkinson have one child, Ruth, born in 1896. Mrs. Hawkinson has a brother, Edward, and a sister, Jennie. Mr. Larson is a prominent farmer of Mariposa precinct. He was born in Middle Sweden, in 1844, and is a son of Lars and Anna Larson. Coming to America in 1867 he engaged in farming for a time in Illinois, near the town of Geneseo, and moved west to Omaha in 1870. He bought 160 acres of railroad land at \$4 per acre in section 5, township 15, range 6, and subsequently sold 80 acres to Mr. Lind, his brother-in-law. He hired a man to do some breaking and then returned to his family in Omaha, where he lived during the following sixteen years. In 1885 he built a medium-sized house and barn on his land and, in 1887, added to the house and also built a new barn, 58 by 28 feet in dimensions. This barn was destroyed by fire in 1897 and was replaced by one whose dimensions are 26 by 36 feet. Mr. Hawkinson has a fine farm of 240 acres with excellent buildings and a good orchard. He owns





GEORGE MEINERS.

one of the finest new residences in Malmo, a Queen Anne cottage, its dimensions being 27 by 38 feet.

GEORGE MEINERS, one of the most extensive land owners in Center precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, began without capital, and has made what he has, all in Saunders county, in agricultural pursuits. Mr. Meiners is a native of the southeastern part of Germany. He was born in 1845, and is a son of William and Minnie (Heineng) Meiners. He grew to manhood and was schooled in his native country, where he worked as a shepherd until 1869. He then came to the United States, landing in New York City.

Having a brother in Quincy, Illinois, Mr. Meiners proceeded to that place, but shortly afterward went farther west, to Nebraska. In March, 1870, he purchased 80 acres of land in Saunders county, which had previously been homesteaded by George Smith. The latter died, however, before making any improvements upon it. This land is located in Center precinct, section 24. Mr. Meiners also purchased 80 acres in section 25, township 14, range 7, making a quarter section in all, which was a good-sized farm in those days.

Soon afterward, Mr. Meiners sent money to Lena Wempen, to whom he was affianced, and that young lady crossed the ocean from Germany for the express purpose of sharing the fortunes of her betrothed. She is a daughter of John Wempen, and married Mr. Meiners soon

after her arrival in Ashland. Together they built a sod house, with one door and two windows, and began life together with a determined will—little dreaming they would ever be the proud owners of so many broad acres as they have acquired. But, by hard work, they succeeded in overcoming all difficulties, where many would have failed.

In 1885 the Porter farm, of 80 acres, was added to their possessions, and in 1891 they also bought the Mack farm of 80 acres. About six and a half years before, Mr. Meiners had built a large house, barns, sheds, corn-cribs, etc., on the home place, and set out a great many fruit and shade trees. He subsequently purchased 200 acres in section 21, from H. H. Verrell, and 80 acres in section 5, Stocking precinct, from Mr. Dickoo. He built a house upon the last named farm, and otherwise improved it. By acquiring all these broad acres he rapidly rose to the front rank among the progressive and representative farmers of his county.

Mr. and Mrs. Meiners have been blessed with a large family of children. One son died when only five days old. Two other children—William and Mary—also died young. The others are Minnie, Anna, Lena, Lizzie, William, Fred, Emma, Maggie, and Clara. Minnie married F. Behrens, and has five children: Lena, Annie, Oscar, Irvin, and Clarence. Anna married Herman Keoing, and has one child—Gertie. Lena married Christ Neben, and has also one child—Martha. Lizzie married Harry Widman.

Mr. Meiners and his family are members of the Evangelical church. In his political views

the subject of this sketch supports the Republican party. A portrait of Mr. Meiners accompanies this sketch, being presented on a preceding page.

CHARLES HENRY NIGH, owner and proprietor of the Red Cedar Farm, four and one-half miles northwest of Mead, Saunders county, has established one of the finest thorough-breeding farms in eastern Nebraska. Mr. Nigh was born in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, in August, 1851. He is a son of William Nigh, who is now retired and resides with the subject hereof. In 1877 Charles Henry Nigh bought the northwest quarter of section 15, in Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. This farm was previously owned by J. B. Sturdevant. It contained at that time a large grove of cottonwood and other trees about sixteen feet high, and a small dwelling house. Immediately after acquiring this farm Mr. Nigh busied himself in setting out a great many more shade trees, fine orchards, etc. The soil is of the very best and it is now under a high state of cultivation. It is said to be the best improved farm in Marietta precinct. As an example of the fertility of the soil may be mentioned the rapidity with which the trees grow. The first grove upon this farm was set out in the early "seventies." In 1899 Mr. Nigh cut from this grove 19,000 feet of lumber, over 200 feet of which was obtained from one log alone, sixteen feet long.

In addition to planting other groves Mr. Nigh set out large cedar groves from which the farm derives its name. Seed from these trees fell and a new growth of trees sprang up. Many hundreds of these small trees have been taken up and planted upon neighboring farms. In 1895 Mr. Nigh decided to make a specialty of raising thorough-bred stock and wished to give his farm a distinctive name. After a brief consideration of the circumstances he adopted the "Red Cedar Farm" as an appropriate name for his home.

The same year he began raising the Red Polled cattle and since then he has raised and sold large numbers. One calf commanded the price of \$170 when eleven months old. Mr. Nigh owns bulls named Abelard, Aksarben, Captain, Cub, Leland, Snap, Whiskey Dick; and females named Abigail, Abilene, Bessie, Bounty, Beauty, Ceres, Eulalia, Eulalie, Irene, Leona, So, Mistake, Nina, Susie, Welcome's Pride, Beauty, Camilla, Iowa Davy, Nancy, Choice Girl, Jennett, Madge, Sally, and several others. The Red Polls are an English breed of cattle, originating in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, England, where they have been successfully bred by reason of their superior qualities in milk, butter, and beef for more than one hundred and fifty years. Coming from these cold and bleak counties, they are naturally hardy. They succeed in many places where other breeds fail. Six of these cattle can be wintered on the feed of five Shorthorns, and they can be fed, housed, and handled more safely than any horned cattle. They cross well on the Shorthorns and other cattle of the coun-

try, removing horns, improving qualities, and transmitting their beautiful red color. These characteristics together with gentleness, large size, excellent milk and beef qualities and early maturity, establish them as the general purpose cattle.


Mr. Nigh has added to his herd by careful selections from the best herds in Iowa, and both freight and money can be saved by purchasing from him. Persons desiring to buy registered stock of this breed can make a better selection by going to him than to any other point in the state. Visitors are always welcome at the Red Cedar Farm, whether they come as purchasers or not, and will be met at Mead station, if Mr. Nigh is advised of their intention of visiting his farm.

A great many things may be said in favor of the Red Polls. This breed is very old and well established as one of the best breeds in England. Their color is always a deep, beautiful, dark red, which is transmitted to their offspring and even when crossed with breeds of a different color 90 per cent of the grades will be red. They are absolutely hornless and when crossed with horned breeds they impart this quality so strongly that out of halfbloods not any have horns and only a few have even loose knobs. In size they are very good. Most of the bulls at maturity weigh from 1,800 to 2,500 pounds and cows, in proportion, 1,000 to 1,800 pounds. They mature early, are easily kept, and have smooth, fine bone and muscle. They are very gentle and easy to handle, and it is rarely that one of the bulls becomes cross. They leave their impression strongly

on any breed they are crossed with and their grade and fullblood steers are as fine, plump, bony-built creatures as ever went to market; they are quick sellers. They will huddle in a shed like sheep and may be loaded and shipped with the least possible injury.

Mr. Nigh also raises thorough-bred Poland China hogs and grains of all kinds are raised upon his farm, principally, however, corn. In 1892 he built his present fine residence and, in 1899, a large barn, 48 by 74 feet in size. Numerous other buildings were also added. Gertrude Goodale, a daughter of Alfred Goodale, of Pennsylvania, became the wife of Mr. Nigh. Mrs. Nigh grew to womanhood and was cared for by her grandparents, David and Rebecca Goodale. Mr. and Mrs. Nigh have an interesting family of seven children, as follows: Nellie M.; Jennie E.; Harry E.; Roxie A.; Fred J.; June, and a baby girl. The subject of this sketch and his estimable wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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 OTTO HECKLANDER. Prominent among the successful agriculturists in Marietta precinct who have contributed largely toward the growth and prosperity of Saunders county, Nebraska, is the subject of this sketch, who owns a fine large farm in section 32.

Mr. Hecklander is a native of Sweden. He is a son of Swan and Ulrica (Johnson) Swanson. Otto Hecklander came to America in 1865, locating in Chicago, Illinois. He fol-

lowed farming in that vicinity for some time and saved \$200.

In 1869 he homesteaded 80 acres of land in the south half of the northwest quarter of section 32, which is the same farm upon which he still resides. An additional purchase was made of 52 acres at \$11 per acre some years later. He first built a sod and board house combined, as did most of the early settlers. In 1875 a small frame house was added, and in 1889 the present residence was built. He set out large groves of trees, orchards, etc. Some of these trees died and, in 1898, 500 shade trees were set out, and 200 more in 1900.

Mr. Hecklander now has one of the finest fruit, stock and grain farms in his locality. July 16, 1878, Mr. Hecklander married Assarina Berggren. Two children were born to them who are twins, and are called Hilma and Hulda by their fond parents. Mrs. Hecklander is a woman of excellent qualities and occupies a high place in the estimation of her many friends. Both she and her husband are members of the Lutheran church. The subject of this sketch is well known throughout the county as a man of sterling traits and is widely respected and esteemed.



**J**OHAN ALBERT OLSON, a leading farmer of Center precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, has been a land-owner in that county since 1888. Mr. Olson was born in Knox county, Illinois, in 1855. He is a

son of Peter P. and Britta (Matson) Olson.

Peter P. Olson is a native of Sweden. He was thrown upon his own resources when only eight years old and was compelled to make his own way in the world. He went to sea for several years and then embarked on a sailing vessel bound for America. Going westward on his arrival in this country, he found employment on a vessel sailing out of Chicago and was a sailor on the great lakes for several years. Afterward he worked upon a farm in Illinois for a time and subsequently purchased a farm in Knox county, in that state. After making extensive improvements upon this farm he sold it and made a handsome profit on his investment. In 1877 he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, where he purchased 280 acres of land. This farm contained a beautiful grove and a small house, 12 by 14 feet in dimensions. Mr. Olson enlarged the house and built barns and other farm buildings. In 1890 he removed to Mead, Nebraska, and retired from farm life. Since the death of his wife he has made his home with his sons. His wife was Britta Matson, who died in 1898, aged sixty-nine years. Their union resulted in six children, namely: Mary, wife of Andrew Swanson; John Albert, the subject of this biography; Frank O.; Charles E.; Minnie, wife of A. E. Sutherland; and Rose. Peter P. Olson is a Prohibitionist and a devoted member of the Swedish Mission church. Upon his retirement he gave each of his children a fine start in life.

John Albert Olson was reared to farm life. In 1878 he purchased 80 acres of land from



Mr. Nelson, and in 1888 80 acres from D. Fraser. A small house was the only building on this tract. Mr. Olson immediately began improving his land. He built a larger house and a barn and set out orchards which now rank among the finest in the county. He also has groves of grand old trees, which were among the earliest improvements. Mr. Olson raises both stock and grain.

The subject of this sketch was joined in marriage with Ida C. Hultburg, a native of Sweden. Six children blessed this union, as follows: Hilda, Esther, Edith, Alice, Ruth (deceased), and John. In his political opinions Mr. Olson is in sympathy with the Populists. He entertains broad, liberal views on religious subjects and has charity for all. His beautiful and productive farm shows what man can do to cultivate and improve wild prairie land and to convert it into productive farms.

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**E**LLIS V. MENGEL, postmaster at Valparaiso, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, November 22, 1846. He has been engaged in various business pursuits in which he has eminently succeeded.

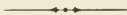
Isaac Mengel, his father, was born near Reading, Pennsylvania, and was a carpenter by trade. At the age of eighteen years he journeyed to Ohio, where he remained for a short time and then returned to Pennsylvania. In the early "forties" he located in Sangamon county, Illinois. The West held out

great inducements to parties seeking new homes, and in 1868 Mr. Mengel gathered his family together and moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead claim about five miles northwest of Valparaiso. He was on the homestead six years when he was elected county judge of Saunders county and moved to Wahoo, where he lived until the time of his death. He died aged sixty-eight years. After his retirement from the bench, he was made justice of the peace, and held that office for a number of years.

Isaac Mengel married Eunice M. Meacham, who was among the first white children born in Sangamon county, Illinois. She now resides at Geneva, Nebraska, aged seventy-eight years. They had twelve children, five of whom survive and have gone from the parental roof and built homes for themselves and their families in various states. They are as follows: Ethan M., residing at Mingo, Kansas; Ellis V., the subject hereof; Arminda J. (Giffin), of Greenwood, Kansas; Julia D. (Stephens), now residing in Akron, Colorado; and Hattie B. (Edgscorn), who lives in Geneva, Nebraska.

Ellis V. Mengel spent his boyhood days in Illinois, and moved to Nebraska with his parents in 1868. He began farming for himself in 1874 and the grasshoppers took the crop that year, so he returned to Illinois, remaining there till the spring of 1877, when he returned to Saunders county. In 1882 he left the farm and moved into the village of Valparaiso. From 1882 to 1884 he was in the railway mail service and later was engaged in the hard-

ware business under the firm name of Mengel Bros. This business was disposed of in a few years. September, 1897, he received the appointment of postmaster at Valparaiso and is now installed in that office. He is a consistent Republican. Fraternally he belongs to the I. O. O. F. and Modern Woodmen of America. The subject of this sketch married Amanda Dodds in 1879. They have four children, named Fern E., Clarence L., and Floyd and Lloyd, twins.



**P**ETER GIBSON, one of the most successful farmers and large land owners in Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is also a mechanic of no mean ability, having spent many years of his life at the blacksmith trade.

Mr. Gibson was born in the southern part of Sweden in 1836. He is a son of Jeppa Gibson, and at the age of seventeen years he came to America, settling in Illinois, where he followed farming at \$8 per month and thought that was high wages. In 1860 he took a mining tour to California, Oregon and Idaho, remaining in the far west for six years. In 1865 he returned to Knoxville, Illinois, and followed blacksmithing. That occupation he pursued for eight years, when he was obliged to discontinue it. In the meantime he saved some money with which he then went west hoping to invest it more advantageously than he could in Illinois.

In 1871 Mr. Gibson bought the southwest

quarter of section 27, Saunders county, Nebraska, which contained a young grove, and he built a small house, 16 by 28 feet in size. A small portion of the land had previously been broken. This tract formerly belonged to Mr. Allmen. In 1874 the subject hereof purchased lumber at Fremont, Nebraska, and built a frame house. In 1880 he bought the adjoining 80 acres, east, and moved his house to that tract, which was formerly owned by Curt Thomas. The house is now used as extra granary, as Mr. Gibson subsequently built a fine residence, set out groves, and planted nearly two acres of land in fruit trees. From the early groves set out on his place he has cut and given away large quantities of wood.

Peter Gibson married Matilda Johnson, daughter of Andrew Frederick Johnson. Mrs. Gibson was born in Sweden. Her father came to America with his family, settling in Chicago, where he died in 1852, aged thirty-seven years.

Mr. and Mrs. Gibson have been blessed with a family of ten children, viz.: Esther Cornelia, Emma, John, Rosella, Lily, Josie, Ernest, Alvin, Leroy, and Ruth. The last named died at the age of nine months and eighteen days. Esther Cornelia married Rev. L. J. Sundquist, of Kansas, and they had three children: Miranda, Victor, and Lawrence. Emma married F. O. Johnson, of Pueblo; three children also bless their home: Leroy, Delphia, and Irene. John is a hardware merchant, of Mead, Nebraska. Rosella is the wife of E. G. Berg, a prosperous harness maker, of Mead. Lily is the wife of Carl Thorson, of Marietta precinct; they have one child, Lillian. The re-

maining children still brighten the home place.

Mr. Gibson is greatly respected for his many fine qualities and is recognized as one of the active and progressive men of his community. He has served as a member of the school board ever since the district was established, twenty-five years ago. He has also filled the offices of road supervisor and assessor. In 1886 he bought 40 acres of land in section 26, known as the Sward property. His farm is devoted to both stock and grain. He usually has from 200 to 300 head of hogs, 40 to 50 head of cattle, and raises large quantities of corn, oats, barley, and rye.

JOHN W. KNAPP. From the list of the many prosperous farmers of Saunders county, Nebraska, the name of John W. Knapp, a prominent fruit grower and stock raiser of Stocking precinct, must not be omitted. Mr. Knapp was born in Cook county, Illinois, 18 miles southwest of Chicago, in 1851, but moved to Hancock county, Illinois, when a boy. He is a son of William D. and Deborah (Griffith) Knapp. His father was a farmer and went to Nebraska in 1882, settling in Stocking precinct. He purchased the farm now owned by T. J. Snelling. William D. Knapp died when seventy-nine years old, and his mother passed away at the age of seventy-five years. Their children were: Seely B., of Omaha; Albert C., of Ithaca, Nebraska; Mary, wife of Edward Wright, of St. Louis, Mo.; Horace, also of Ithaca; John W., the

subject hereof; and William D., Jr., of Wahoo.

John W. Knapp began life for himself in Illinois in the spring of 1873 and in 1874 he purchased land in Saunders county, Nebraska, in section 5, township 13, range 8. The tract is now owned by A. Schueneman. Upon this farm Mr. Knapp built a house, barns, corncribs, etc., and set out orchards. He also fenced and otherwise improved it. In 1892 he sold out and purchased 40 acres of land in section 16 of Stocking precinct, from Mr. Schoelett. He also bought 160 acres located in the northwest corner of section 15. These tracts are directly adjoining each other, being separated only by a road.

In 1896 Mr. Knapp built a large residence of modern design, suitable barns, granaries, etc. The same year he sold the 40-acre tract in section 16 to C. Beadle. Mr. Knapp has a two-acre orchard containing all kinds of fruit. Much attention is given to stock raising upon this farm, and it is well stocked with thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. The farm is situated about one mile from the city of Wahoo, in a very choice location. It is considered one of the finest farms in Saunders county.

Mr. Knapp married Nancy Isabelle Tull, a daughter of Josiah Tull, of Hancock county, Illinois. Five children blessed this union, all of whom were boys. They are: Harry R., a farmer; Wirt E., an employee of a commission house in St. Louis; Roy C., a telegraph operator on the B. & M. R. Railroad; Maurice E., and William J. Mr. Knapp and family all worship at the Methodist church.

His political sympathies and support are with the Republican party. Fraternally he is a member and past grand of I. O. O. F. Lodge No. 58, of Wahoo. Mr. Knapp is a self-made man in every sense of the word. He has worked hard for what he has and his success is well deserved.



**H** F. BLUNK, a successful lumber dealer of Weston, Chapman precinct, is another self-made man of Saunders county, Nebraska. Mr. Blunk commenced his career as a common laborer, without capital, and by his own exertions, good judgment and business ability he has risen to the ranks of the successful business men of his vicinity. Mr. Blunk is a native of Holstein, Germany, where he remained until 1867. At that time he and his brother, C. C. Blunk, came to America, settling in Davenport, Scott county, Iowa.

His parents, John Henry and Catherine (Ghral) Blunk, were common laboring people. Late in the year 1867 they also crossed the ocean and settled in Davenport. The beloved mother is now deceased and the father has made his home with the subject hereof since 1886. They reared four sons, as follows: C. H., now a retired farmer of Ida county, Iowa; H. F., the subject of this biography; C. C., a prosperous blacksmith of South Omaha, Nebraska; and M. C., a retired farmer of Maquoketa, Iowa.

After remaining about five years in Scott county, Iowa, H. F. Blunk went to Fremont,

Nebraska. That was about 1873 and he followed farming for one year. He then entered the lumber business as an employee of Captain St. John, with whom he worked for more than two years, or until 1876. He afterward did similar work three years for Nye, Coleson & Co. In 1879 Mr. Blunk went to Wahoo, Nebraska, and entered the employ of Anton Jansa, with whom he remained until Mr. Jansa sold his business to Blackstead Brothers, for whom he worked until 1883. From that time until 1885 he served as superintendent of the county farm. He then moved to Weston and started into business for himself.

At that time Weston was a very small place, but Clark, Heaton & Co. were also engaged in the lumber business there. Two years later they sold out to Louis Bradford. Mr. Blunk built a fine residence at Weston, also a fine office, scales, lumber sheds, etc. He now has sheds measuring 140 feet in length, and carries from \$7,000 to \$9,000 worth of stock. His business has more than doubled itself since he first located in Weston.

Mr. Blunk married Mary Hansen, a daughter of C. H. Hansen, one of the pioneer settlers of Cedar precinct. Two children bless their home. They are Henry C. and Minnie C. The former is twenty-three years old and is now traveling at Cape Nome, Alaska. The latter is twelve years of age and attends school.

Mr. Blunk is independent in politics. He has served twelve years as town treasurer and six years as treasurer of the school board, of which he has been a member for nine years. He joined the I. O. O. F. lodge at Fremont,





JOHN A. SNELLING.

Nebraska, but his membership was subsequently transferred to the Wahoo lodge, with which he still affiliates. His religious views are in accord with the German Lutheran church, of which he is a devout member. Mr. Blunk deserves great credit for the successful manner in which he has conducted his business.



**J**OHAN A. SNELLING, a progressive farmer and one of the leading citizens of Saunders county, Nebraska, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, owns a fine estate in section 13, Stocking precinct. He is a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he was born in 1832, and is a son of Alexander and Agnes (Cray) Snelling.

The subject hereof was reared on the farm and received a good intellectual training in the schools of his native county. In early manhood he taught several years, being engaged in that capacity two years in Ohio, three years in Illinois, one year in Iowa, and one year in Indiana. He was well qualified for the work and seemed gifted with the power of imparting his knowledge to others, which is so often lacking and is always essential to a competent instructor. At the first call in 1861 for men to serve three months in putting down the rebellion, he enlisted from Ottawa, Illinois, in Company H, 11th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, but after two months of service was sent home because of sickness. In October, 1861, he re-enlisted in the 53d Illinois Regiment, and his company was consolidated with the 15th Illinois Cavalry. Eighteen months

afterward Mr. Snelling was appointed to assist in organizing the 1st Alabama Cavalry, being subsequently appointed second lieutenant. With that regiment he served until the close of the war, receiving high praise for his many gallant deeds. Upon returning home from the war he again taught school in Iowa. He was shortly after married to Mary Elizabeth Shauler, a daughter of John A. Shauler, of Ottawa, Illinois. Mr. Snelling then moved with his wife upon her father's farm in Iowa, renting the property. He subsequently took up 80 acres of land there, which, after making many improvements, he sold, and in 1868 removed the Nebraska. He started for the lumber camps in Wyoming, where he remained one season; upon his return he took up a homestead in section 24, Stocking precinct, Saunders county. He erected a good house, set out groves and an orchard, and built a good set of farm buildings. In 1890 he disposed of this property and purchased a quarter section of railroad land, wholly unimproved, in section 13. There he has built him a large and commodious house, good, substantial barns, and other outbuildings. He set out shade and fruit trees, which under his constant care are in excellent condition, and also put all his fields under cultivation, with the exception of 45 acres, which is good pasture land. He is extensively engaged in grain raising of all kinds, and has been unqualifiedly successful. He raised as much as 90 bushels of corn to the acre one year, and the yield is often 75 bushels. A great change has taken place in the conditions of Nebraska since he has lived there, and Mr. Snelling pleasantly recalls the time when there was an abundance

of deer and antelope in his section. His place is well stocked with hogs, horses of good quality and Shorthorn cattle.

The subject of this sketch and his wife are the parents of eight children, as follows: Thomas L., John Alexander, George Vincent, Mary Eliza, and Rebecca Josephine, all of whom are living; and Fanny Alice, Henry F., and Florence Agnes, who are deceased. Thomas L. Snelling married Mary Keller, by whom he has three children,—Charles Henry, Florence Louise, and Margaret Elizabeth; he lives on his own farm. John Alexander Snelling lives on the parental homestead, and is engaged in farming and stock raising. George Vincent Snelling is engaged in the sheep industry in Wyoming. In politics Mr. Snelling is a Populist, and has served as school director and road superintendent. Religiously, he is a faithful member of the Methodist church. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic.

John Snelling, the great-grandfather of John A., served seven years in the Revolutionary War. He was a Virginian and fought under George Washington.

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**D**AVID FRASER, a substantial farmer of Center precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, has filled the position of road supervisor in his precinct for the past nineteen years.

Mr. Fraser is a typical Scotchman. He was born in Perth, Scotland, July 14, 1848. His father, David Fraser, was a blacksmith and farmer. In 1870 he came to America, settling

in Canada. There his first marriage occurred, in 1874. He wedded Charlotte F. Fletcher, a daughter of John Fletcher, of East Canada. She died in 1896 aged forty-five years. She was the mother of four children, namely: John, who died in 1886; Charles; James; and Robert, who died in 1886, when six years of age. Quite recently Mr. Fraser contracted a second matrimonial alliance, the bride being Mrs. Kate Richardson, whose maiden name was Tarpenting. She has six children by her first marriage. Their names are: Charles, Olive, Stella, Vernon, Earl, and Della.

Mr. Fraser came west in 1874. He purchased a quarter of section 12, Center precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, from Mr. Vinnage. There was only a combined board and sod house on this land. A small grove had also been set out. Mr. Fraser built a large and handsome residence, commodious barns, etc. Soon afterward he bought 40 acres from Mr. Hays, and also 80 acres from Mr. Craig. He subsequently sold 80 acres to J. A. Olson, which had previously been homesteaded by Peter Ackerson. Mr. Fraser's present residence was built in 1875. It is one of the handsomest in Center precinct and has beautiful surroundings. The principal products of this farm are grain and live stock, and oats and corn surpass all other crops. About 75 head of fine cattle are kept, some of which are graded Durhams. Mr. Fraser has also about 100 head of hogs, and raises only the best. Mr. Fraser's son, Charles, who assists his father on the farm, keeps two thor-



oughbred stallions, Keota Franklin, a handsome Percheron, weighing 1,700 pounds avoirdupois; and Nexible Boy, a beautiful Hambletonian of great promise, now three years old. Mr. Fraser is quite popular, and takes a great deal of pleasure in promoting any measure which promises real benefit to the community. In politics Mr. Fraser is a Populist.



**J**OHN A. ANDERSON, one of the enterprising business men of Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a member of the firm of J. A. & F. W. Anderson, proprietors of a music store and dealers in real estate. He is also postmaster of Wahoo, and has been closely identified with the growth and development of that city since he located there. He is a man of good business ability, shrewd and calculating, and his efforts have been attended by the greatest success.

Mr. Anderson was born in Skaraborg, Sweden, in 1856, and is a son of Andreas Anderson, who came to the United States in 1870. The latter located in Henry county, Illinois, for one year and then in Page county, Iowa, where he has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He married Christianna Swenson, who departed this life in 1869, and their living children are as follows: Andrus A.; John A.; Mary Josephine; Frank W.; Claus H., and Minnie W.

John A. Anderson attended the public schools, after which he worked out as a farm hand, being employed by his uncle. He re-

ceived as compensation \$10 per month for the first year, \$12.50 per month for the second year, \$15 per month for the third year, and \$18 per month for the fourth year. He worked for his father in 1874 and then engaged in farming on his own account until 1880. Having lived industriously and frugally he laid by sufficient money to permit of his entering college. He entered the Swedish Augustana College, at Rock Island, Illinois, but was obliged to give up his study in 1883 because of ill health. He was successfully engaged in the life insurance business until 1885, when with his brother, Frank W. Anderson, he went to Mead, Saunders county, Nebraska, and opened a furniture and music store. In 1887 he became connected with the Union Pacific Railroad Land Department as traveling agent, and real estate has since been a large part of the firm business. He was identified with the Union Pacific Railroad Land Department until 1896, traveling from ocean to ocean, and the sum total of his real estate deals probably amounts to more than that of any other man in the state of Nebraska. In 1889 the furniture department of the firm's store was disposed of and they removed to Wahoo, Nebraska, and opened a music store, which they have since conducted in addition to their extensive real estate business. In August, 1898, Mr. Anderson assumed the duties of postmaster of Wahoo, relieving J. F. Sherman, and he now continues in that capacity. A postoffice was first established in Wahoo by J. M. Lee, who built a residence in which the office was located in

1869—the mail then being carried by horse over the trail. Today the postoffice is third class, and receives and discharges eight mails per day, employing three clerks. It is now located in the Safranek Building, on Fifth street, and its appointments are of the best. The subject of this sketch was a member of the school board, serving, for the last year, as its vice-president, and he takes a deep and earnest interest in educational matters.

Mr. Anderson was united in marriage with Ellen C. Johnson, a daughter of John Johnson, of Page county, Iowa, and they are the parents of four children, namely: L. Ruth E. C.; Karl A. R.; J. Paul A., and Ruby Marie Constanca. At the Nebraska conference of the Swedish Lutheran church in 1897 he was elected by acclamation a director of Luther Academy for a term of three years.

**J.** J. POSPISIL, a prominent young business man of Weston, Saunders county, Nebraska, is the proprietor of the only drug store in that place. His store is located in the Bilan building, which he rents. He carries a large and complete assortment of pure drugs, and also handles wall paper, paints, and the thousand and one articles usually found in an up-to-date drug store.

Mr. Pospisil is a native of Saunders county, where he was born in 1871. He is a son of John and Mary (Dolezal) Pospisil, both natives of Bohemia. They came to America early in 1864 and took up a homestead in Elk precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1871.

Their homestead was located in section 27; they afterward acquired land in sections 28 and 33 or 34, making 160 acres in all. Eight children were born to this worthy couple, four of whom are still living. Those living are: Anton, Mary, Annie, and J. J., to whom this writing pertains. Anton married Mary Virgil and resides upon the home farm. They have nine children. Mary is the wife of John Woita, a prominent merchant of Weston. Annie married Frank Virgil, of Elk precinct, and has one daughter—Mary.

J. J. Pospisil is the youngest member of his father's family. In his youth he worked on the parental farm; from 1887 to 1892 he was a student at St. Benedict's College, at Atchison, Kansas, where for five years he studied Latin, Greek and other languages. In the winter of 1892 and 1893 he taught school in the Kunish district; in 1893 and 1894 he also taught in district 98.

The following year Mr. Pospisil spent in St. Louis, Missouri, where he attended the College of Pharmacy. During the winter of 1895 and 1896 he again taught school in district 98. June 1, 1896, he started in the drug business at Weston, in partnership with Dr. Stockert, who is now located at Elmwood, Nebraska. About two years later Mr. Pospisil purchased the interest of his partner, and since then has continued to conduct the business alone. About the same time he changed the location of his drug store by moving four doors south, into his present commodious quarters in the Bilan building. His stock is first-class in every respect and is estimated to be worth \$3,000.

Mr. Pospisil married Josie Jayhawk, a daughter of Winslow Jayhawk, a prosperous farmer of Chapman precinct. One child blesses this union—Bessie—still an infant. Winslow Jayhawk, Mr. Pospisil's father-in-law, was born in Bohemia in 1845. He is a son of Joseph and Frances Jayhawk, and came to America when six years old, locating in Iowa. In 1872 Mr. Jayhawk went west to Saunders county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead claim of 160 acres, which is the northeast quarter of section 26, township 15, range 6, in Elk precinct. There he lived in a dug-out, 14 by 16 feet. In 1880 Mr. Jayhawk sold his farm to Mr. Tomchicek, for \$1,600. He then purchased three 40-acre tracts in the northwest quarter of section 15, near Weston. He made extensive improvements on this land, set out large fruit orchards, etc., and engaged in grain raising.

Mr. Jayhawk married Annie Kopetsky, a daughter of Frank Kopetsky, who is now deceased. Eleven children were born to them, of whom those living are: Charles, who married Josie Comenda and conducts a livery stable at Prague, Nebraska; John, who is still at home; Henry, who married Lena Mattis and is associated with his brother, at Prague; Mary, wife of Mr. Ficinec, a hardware dealer at Weston; Josie, the wife of Mr. Pospisil; and Emma, Annie and Rosie, all of whom are still at home. Mr. Jayhawk enlisted in the Iowa Volunteers in 1862 and served until the close of the war. He is independent in politics and is a member of the G. A. R. of Valparaiso, Nebraska.

Mr. Pospisil resides in a beautiful home in

Weston. He belongs to the Roman Catholic church, and is a member of the Catholic Workmen, of Weston. He is a man widely known and esteemed for his integrity, honesty, and uprightness, both in social and public life. He has served as a member of the town board, and is now a member of the school board. In politics he is bound to neither party, and votes for the best man. His business has been prosperous and his patronage is ever on the increase.

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JOSEPH HILTHER, a rising young farmer of Chapman precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a native of Bohemia, where his birth, from German parentage, occurred July 19, 1863. His father, Frank Hiltsher, died in 1870. His brother, Frank, is also deceased.

Mr. Hiltsher went to Saunders county in 1880. He worked for several different farmers in the northern part, among them being Thomas Lorenz and Jack Peterson. After working there for several years he spent one year in Kansas. The following year he returned to Saunders county and rented a farm from Mr. Phillips.

December 12, 1891, he purchased 80 acres of the south half of section 29, which is his present home. He paid \$2,900 for the tract, which he soon began to improve, building a house, etc., and, one year later, a barn. For two years he hauled water but now has a fine well 200 feet deep, operated by a windmill. Neighbors were not so close together when

Hiltsher first settled there as they are at the present day. Joseph Hiltsher carries on general farming, but devotes the greater part of his time to stock raising. He was united in marriage with Miss Fiedler, a sister of James Fiedler. Three children were born of this union. They are: Emma, Gertie, and Ida. The subject of this sketch is a sturdy and hard-working man and is well liked by all who know him. He is regarded as one of the most energetic and progressive of the younger farmers of Chapman precinct and his friends unite in predicting for him a bright and prosperous future.



**R.** C. CARPENTER, an enterprising and well-known citizen of Weston, Nebraska, is a native of Wapello county, Iowa, and was born in 1855. He is a son of William and Mary (Tinkam) Carpenter. His father died when the son was but eighteen months old.

Mr. Carpenter moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1882, and for \$20 per acre purchased of Mr. Morton, who now lives in Omaha, the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter and the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 32, township 15, range 6. Three years later he bought of Mr. Morton the west half of the northwest quarter of section 32, township 15, range 6, and sold this land in 1899 to D. A. March, of Weston, receiving \$30 per acre. This latter tract had been well improved and cultivated, although there were no buildings on

the land. Mr. Carpenter built a house on the west end of his 80 acres and, in 1892, moved the building to its present site, on the east end. He also built a substantial barn, 32 by 36 feet, and these buildings, together with the orchard and fine shade trees, make the place an exceptionally attractive one.

Mr. Carpenter is a very good musician and as such is favorably known throughout the vicinity. He plays the violin and cornet and plays those instruments well. Owing to the retiring disposition of Mr. Carpenter and his modesty in speaking of his accomplishments, we have secured the following information from one of his personal friends, Mr. Lillibride: Mr. Carpenter has been the recognized leader of the Weston band since 1888, when he organized it. It contained sixteen instruments, all brass. Since the organization he has been the principal factor in holding the members together, drilling them without compensation, and today Weston has a band of which any town might justly be proud. One or two evenings a week Mr. Carpenter devotes to the young members of the association, who fill any vacancy which may happen to arise. The citizens of Weston greatly appreciate Mr. Carpenter's efforts in establishing and maintaining a musical feature in the town, and he receives praise on all sides for his untiring efforts.

The subject of this sketch married Susan Pickering, a daughter of George Pickering, who lives in Bureau county, Illinois, and they have one son, LeRoy, who is nineteen years of age. LeRoy received his education in Wes-

ton, Wahoo and Lincoln, Nebraska, and, like his father, is a fine musician, being able to play on any instrument. He is gifted with a natural talent for music. Mr. Carpenter is a Democrat in politics and takes an active interest in the progress and development of Weston, where he has made many warm friends. In religious matters his views are liberal.

GEORGE W. MEREDITH, M. D., a popular and skillful physician of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, has, perhaps, the most extensive practice there. He is frequently obliged to attend patients 25 or 30 miles distant, besides having a large practice in Ashland and its immediate vicinity. Dr. Meredith is a native of Bloomingsburg, Fulton county, Indiana. His father, Peter Meredith, spent the greater part of his life in that vicinity, engaged in farming, but for the past ten years he has made his home with his son, the subject of this writing.

George W. Meredith attended the public schools of his native place, after which he took a thorough course at the state normal school at Terre Haute, Indiana. He then commenced the study of medicine under Dr. N. J. Clymer, of Bloomingsburg. Later he entered the state university at Indianapolis and graduated from the medical department in the class of 1873.

In June of the same year he opened an office at Union Mills, Laporte county, Indiana, and began the practice of his chosen profession. He continued his practice there until October, 1880, when he discontinued it and took a pleas-

ure trip through the West. On his way east from Lincoln, Nebraska, he made the acquaintance of Dennis Deen. Mr. Deen needs no introduction to the people of Ashland, as he is one of its oldest and most esteemed residents. He started a mill in that vicinity before a village was even thought of. He has lived there ever since and knows everybody. Being a man of excellent judgment he recognized in Dr. Meredith just the kind of physician and surgeon needed in his locality. He urged and advised him to locate in Ashland, Nebraska.

After giving the matter serious consideration Dr. Meredith finally acted upon Mr. Deen's advice, and, December 6, 1882, he opened an office in Ashland. Nor has he ever regretted his action in this matter, for with his superior skill and ability he has won his way into the hearts of the people and increased his practice to its present extent.

Dr. Meredith married Clara L. Vail, a daughter of H. B. Vail, of Wataga, Illinois. She died, leaving the following three children: George B., Clara Estelle and Ernest L. George B. Meredith graduated from the Ashland High School and then took a course at the state university. He is now superintendent of the Missouri-Kansas Telephone Company, with office at Wichita, Kansas. Some time after the death of his first wife Dr. Meredith contracted a second matrimonial alliance, this time with Mrs. Ellen E. Curtis, of Ashland, Nebraska.

Dr. Meredith is a very prominent Mason. He is a charter member of F. & A. M. Lodge, No. 110, of Ashland, and is past master of the same. He also affiliates with the Knights Tem-

plar of Lincoln, Nebraska. He is a member of the Mystic Shrine and Rose Croix Scottish Rites. He is a member and past grand of the I. O. O. F., and is past royal patriarch of the encampment. He belongs to the Rebecca Lodge, the Knights of Pythias, and is now serving as assistant surgeon on the general's staff, of the Uniform Rank of the K. of P., Nebraska Brigade. He belongs to the Woodmen of the World, the Modern Woodmen of America and the A. O. U. W.

Dr. Meredith is also a member of the Nebraska State Medical Society. He purchased the Sanford property on Fourth street, in Ashland, and remodeled and enlarged it. He also built a convenient office, with reception room, waiting parlors and consultation rooms. Everything is fitted up in the best possible style. In his political opinions the subject hereof is a true Democrat. He served his party, in 1892, as mayor of the city of Ashland, and he will be a candidate for state senator of the fifth senatorial district of Nebraska at the next election.



**H**ENRY ROGERS, a prominent granger of Saunders county, Nebraska, owns a fine and well improved farm in Clear Creek precinct, about two miles from the town of Memphis. Mr. Rogers was born in Fulton county, Illinois, in 1858. He is a son of Michael and Mary (Kingery) Rogers.

Michael Rogers was born near Louisville, Kentucky. In early manhood he settled near

St. Peter, Illinois. In 1866 he sold his property there and went west, to Missouri, where he remained two years. This location did not suit him, and he decided to go to Nebraska. The trip covered a period of four weeks, and was made in covered wagons or "prairie schooners." Mr. Rogers finally arrived in Saunders county with only \$18.00 left in his pocket and with a family of ten children for which to provide. He took up a homestead claim north of Yutan, a farm now owned by Jonas Bender. While his family stopped at the residence of Joseph McKee, Mr. Rogers proceeded to build a sod house 16 by 24 feet in size. There they endured many privations, but it was the best they could do, and they had hopes of a brighter future. They worked hard to keep the wolf from the door, and during storms took refuge in the sod house, which also had a sod roof. Five years later Mr. Rogers built a frame house, but was obliged to go to Plattsmouth for the lumber. This cottage had the same dimensions as the sod house, 16 by 24 feet. It was made of plain boards, but was much better than the sod house.

Michael Rogers then sold his farm to his son, Henry, and moved to Platte county, where he purchased 80 acres of school land. Upon that farm he passed his last days, dying in 1895. His wife was Mary Kingery, a daughter of William Kingery. She was born in Harrison county, Indiana, in 1831, and now resides at the home of Henry Rogers. She is a woman of extreme fortitude and endurance, and is remarkably well preserved for her age. She is much beloved by all who know her and





JAMES LILES.



is revered by her children. She can relate many incidents of her pioneer days, when Indians frequently camped at their very door. Eleven children were born to her and her husband, namely: William, John, George, Henry, Lizzie, Sarah, Martha, Sherman, Mary, Effie, and Ada. All are still living except John, Lizzie, Sherman, and Effie.

Henry Rogers began his career on a farm. In early manhood he purchased the homestead farm and made many improvements on it. Seven years later he sold his interest at a large profit. He then went to Kansas, but remained only six months, having decided in that short space of time that the best place in the world was in Saunders county, Nebraska. Returning to that county Mr. Rogers rented a farm for one year. He then purchased 80 acres from Mrs. A. Thulin. This tract was homesteaded by J. Woods, and, at the time Mr. Rogers purchased it, contained a small house. A new house was soon built, together with barns, corn cribs, hog pens, and a hennery. A little later Mr. Rogers built a neat house for his parents. A milk-house was also added, and a cob-house, and a fine, large windmill was set up. Fruit and shade trees were set out in abundance, and it is now one of the finest farms in the vicinity of Memphis. Upon it various kinds of grain and stock are raised.

Mr. Rogers was joined in marriage with Emma Linebaugh, a daughter of Simeon and Margaret Linebaugh. Mr. Linebaugh died at the early age of thirty-two years, leaving three children: Emma, Lewis, and Elizabeth. The last named is now deceased. Mrs. Linebaugh

contracted a second matrimonial alliance, marrying Peter Kingery, of Saunders county.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers have three children: Ivan Merle, Elsie Fern, and Henry Carl. The family worship at the Christian church, and, like many of his neighbors, Mr. Rogers votes the Populist ticket.

JAMES LILES, whose portrait is shown on the opposite page, is an enterprising and up-to-date farmer residing in Newman precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he is the owner of a fine farm, which he has put under a fine state of cultivation. He was born in Cambridgeshire, England, in 1836, is a son of A. C. and Susan (Challice) Liles, and is one of a family of eight children: Sarah; James; Emma; Matthew; Sophia; Mary Ann; Eliza, and Hattie. Sarah is the wife of Mr. Peachey, a farmer, of New York, and they have a family of nine children: Luke; Becky; James; Thurzy; Sarah J.; Ellen M.; Susie; Florence; and George H. The subject hereof was next in age. Emma married a Mr. Miller, a farmer in the state of New York, and has the following children: E. B.; David, and Mary. Matthew is engaged in farming in Monroe county, New York, and is single. Sophia (Collins) is a widow. Mary Ann is deceased. Eliza is the wife of a Mr. Beardsley, and they have three children: Fannie; Bertha; and Louise. Hattie was wedded to a Mr. Reddy and has two children. A. C. Liles died in Monroe county, New York, December 5,

1892, aged eighty-five years, and his widow died there December 24, 1899, aged ninety-three years.

James Liles settled in the state of New York in 1849. In 1885 he moved to Illinois, where he remained only a short time. On March 1, 1885, he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, with his wife and four children. From W. H. Dickinson he bought the northeast quarter of section 29, township 14, range 5, the purchase price being \$15 per acre. E. M. Willis, the first owner of this property, built upon it a small house, of the dimensions of 14 by 16 feet, which was the only improvement made on the land at the time Mr. Liles came into possession. He added several rooms to the house, making a nice two-story frame; he also put up a stable 28 feet square, and adjoining the stable he has a granary 12 by 28 feet in size. The farm contains an orchard consisting of 30 cherry trees, 100 apple, and various other kinds of fruit. A number of shade trees was also put out. In the center of the property there is a strong spring, probably the only one in Newman precinct, and it sends a stream of water through the farm. In the spring of 1893, Mr. Liles bought 160 acres from J. S. Gregory, of Lincoln, Nebraska, upon which was a house 16 by 24 feet in dimensions, which his son, George H. Liles, now occupies. Mr. Liles also purchased, in 1899, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 29 from J. F. Brown, of Orrick, Missouri, and the farm is under a fair state of cultivation. He is a successful and practical farmer, and he raises much grain and Polled Angus cattle

and Poland-China hogs. He is well known throughout the country as a wide-awake business man and a progressive farmer.

The subject of this sketch wedded Jane Amesbury, a daughter of Benjamin and Esther Amesbury, of England, and they have the following children: Etta, born in the state of New York, who is the wife of Earl Collins, a farmer of Monroe county, New York; Addison J., who married Lucy Hayden, lives in Lincoln, and has three children,—Earl, Minnie, and Edna; George H., who married Tillie Raitt, and has three children,—Ivy, Albert, and Luella; and Emma, who is the wife of T. E. Titus, of Lincoln, Nebraska, where he is in the transfer business; they also have three children,—Etta, Oliver, and Louis.

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**W**ILLIAM C. MOTT, a progressive farmer of Green precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is also quite an extensive stock raiser, having his farm stocked with perhaps the best graded and finest cattle in southeastern Nebraska. Mr. Mott was born in Adams county, Ohio, in 1860. He is a son of James and Ellen (Cunningham) Mott. His parents formerly lived in Ohio, where all their children were born. Later they went west to Saunders county, Nebraska, where, in 1882, they settled upon a farm and spent their declining years in Green precinct. James Mott died in 1890, aged eighty years. His widow survived him until 1897, when she passed away, aged seventy-two years. Both expired at the

residence of their son, William C. Nine children were born to them, three of whom died in infancy. The others are: Mary E., who is also now deceased; John H., whose career will be mentioned later herein; William C., the subject of this sketch; James D., of Ohio; Emma S., wife of E. Gordon, of Saunders county, Nebraska; and Charles R., also deceased.

John H. Mott is also a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Green precinct. He was born in Adams county, Ohio, in 1858, and was reared and schooled in his native state. On February 21, 1879, he went west to Saunders county, Nebraska, to see the country. After working on different farms for several years he bought 80 acres of railroad land in 1880. Upon this land he still resides, but it is now a well improved farm instead of being new and uncultivated. His first house was 16 by 24 feet in dimensions, and 12 feet high. This was subsequently replaced by the present large and comfortable residence. Many other new buildings were added, such as barns, granaries, corn cribs, hog pens, henneries, etc. Fruit and shade trees were also planted in abundance, and today John H. Mott has 56 fine bearing apple trees alone. He devotes all his time to raising stock and grain, of which he keeps only the best. His marriage with Flora C. Matheson was the source of two children: Hugh F. and James Donald. John H. Mott is a staunch Republican in politics. He is a member of the Brethren church. Mrs. Mott died at her home May 1, 1900, aged thirty-nine years.

William C. Mott was reared and schooled in Ohio. He accompanied his parents to Nebraska.

In 1890 he purchased 80 acres of land, which was known as the Loomis farm. His present home, however, is on an adjoining 80 acres, known as the Sutton farm. This latter farm contained a small frame house when Mr. Mott purchased it. This was enlarged into a spacious modern residence. New barns, corn-cribs, sheds, etc., were also added, all of which greatly improved the value of his place, which is known as one of the best grain and stock farms in the vicinity.

Mr. Mott has 50 head of choice Hereford and Shorthorn cattle and 150 head of the best kind of hogs. His principal grain product is corn. The subject of this sketch was joined in marriage with Saloma Colbert, a daughter of John Colbert. In 1897 Mr. Mott was called upon to mourn the loss of his beloved companion, who died without issue at the early age of thirty-seven years. Like his father and brother, Mr. Mott is a Republican. In his religious views he favors the M. E. church.

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**W**ILLIAM JEFFERSON BRYAN, a retired farmer and real estate dealer, of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, has had a varied career, and has been eminently successful in all his undertakings. Mr. Bryan was born in Jackson county, Indiana, in 1828. He is a son of James A. and Elizabeth (Shearear) Bryan. His father was a farmer by occupation, and in 1831 he moved to Pike, Illinois, where he died in 1844.

William J. Bryan began working on a farm,

while still a boy, for \$9 per month. Being the oldest child in the family he was thus early in life forced to assist his mother in supporting the family. Learning the true principles of economy he also saved a little money for himself, and in 1852 he had \$200 of his own. He purchased 100 acres in St. Clair county, Illinois, for \$1,000. After building a small house upon his land he sold the property in 1857 for \$30 per acre. He then purchased another and larger farm. After building on it and otherwise improving it he sold that also at a large profit. He then purchased 180 acres of improved land upon which he built a \$2,500 house, barn, granary, etc. In 1877 Mr. Bryan again sold out, realizing quite a handsome profit on his investment. Putting \$10,000 in the bank, he took the remainder of his money and went west. In October of the same year (1877) he located in Mill precinct, Lancaster county, Nebraska, upon the northeast corner of section 3, where he purchased a half section for \$11 per acre. Later he purchased an additional quarter section in Green precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. He built a fine house and barn upon the latter tract, and added more land to it, until he had 1,000 acres. In 1892 he sold the homestead place to Mr. Hickle. Since then Mr. Bryan has handled many farms—buying and selling.

In the fall of 1887 he moved to Ashland and engaged in general merchandising. One year later he traded his store for 240 acres of land in Cass county. Mr. Bryan subsequently bought 20 acres of the Baloo estate, where he now lives a peaceful and retired life. He has

been twice married. His first marriage was contracted with Margaret J. Vine. She died in 1872, leaving the following children to the care of a loving husband: Emazetta, Orin S., James A., Effie, William O., and Samuel. The last named died young. Emazetta married W. C. Linley, janitor of the high school at Ashland, and they have four children: Roy, Lonie, Vernie, and Arlie. Orin S. is a farmer. He married Stella Hubbard, and has three children: Frank, Lee, and Ella. James A. is also a farmer. He married Ella Hayes. They have been blessed with seven children, three of whom are deceased. Their names are: Elmira (deceased); Victor A., Lloyd McKinley, Margaret A., Annie E., and Floyd C. and Roland, both deceased. Effie married E. P. Putney, a farmer. They are the parents of six children, two of whom are deceased. Those living are: Nora, Lola G., Raymond, and Orfa M. They lost a baby son, and a son called Claude. William O. is a farmer. He married Nellie Cushman. They have three children: Horace G., Cecil J., and Daniel.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Bryan married again, being united with Mrs. Elizabeth Good, a daughter of Michael Hanson, who was a native of Germany, and came to the United States in early manhood, settling in Illinois. Elizabeth Hanson first married Thomas Good, who died in 1871, leaving two children, namely: Lula A. and William T. They had also lost one child, called Kate. Lula A. Good married P. H. Edwards, of Colorado Springs. William T. Good married Margaret Bruffy, and they have two children—Lula K.

and an infant daughter. Mr. Bryan has one daughter, Abbie Elizabeth, the result of his second marriage. She is a talented young lady, still at home.

William Jefferson Bryan cast his first vote for Fremont, and has supported the Republican party ever since its organization. He has served as justice of the peace, and on the school board. He united with the Christian church in 1854, and has been a member of it ever since.

Mr. Bryan was instrumental in organizing the electric light plant in Ashland, and was president of the company for two years. He was a director of the national bank at Ashland in 1887 and 1888. He is a public spirited and enterprising citizen, and has assisted materially in developing the locality of his adoption. He is still active in both mind and body, and is a remarkably well preserved man.

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**N**OAH WILHELM, a progressive agriculturist of Clear Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is one of the pioneer farmers of that vicinity. He was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1841. He is a son of Dr. John and Christina (Kahler) Wilhelm. His father died in early manhood, and when ten years old Noah was bound out with a cousin on a farm until he attained the age of fourteen years.

Noah Wilhelm then started out to make his own way in the world. He followed farming and ore mining in Allegany county, Maryland, until 1861. Responding to his country's call for men he enlisted in Company B, 34th Reg.

Ill. Vol. Infantry. He went out from Dixon, Illinois, and served four years, lacking a few days. He was in many hard battles, among which were Pittsburg Landing, Stony River and Chickamauga. Being then, as he still is, a large man, of commanding appearance, he made a fine looking soldier.

After the war Mr. Wilhelm returned to Maryland and formed a partnership with a brother in contracting to get out ties for railroad construction. Subsequently he engaged in farming. He then decided to go west. Through friends he had heard of the splendid prospect in Saunders county, Nebraska, where it was but little settled. March 14, 1869, he took up a homestead claim of 80 acres in Wahoo precinct, the same now owned by Mrs. Hinkey.

Mr. Wilhelm then began to improve his farm. He went to Knight Island, on the Platte River, where he cut cottonwood trees, hauled them to Otto Creek, and had them sawed into lumber. He drew these a distance of twelve miles to build a cabin, which was 14 by 20 feet in dimensions. In this way he started a home. He married Mary Eyer, a daughter of Philip Eyer, and took her to this rude home to live. Together they worked and planned how to best improve their farm. They set out orchards and groves of shade trees, and also enlarged the house. For fifteen years they lived upon that farm and then sold out.

They then purchased an 80-acre farm from Colonel Eyer, also 40 acres of Silver Creek bottom land, and 160 acres from Moses Dodge—making in all 280 acres. Mr. Wilhelm set out

fine fruit orchards on the home place, which is well stocked with cattle, hogs, sheep and horses. He also has a large colony of bees.

Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm, as follows: Franklin Leroy, John Philip (deceased), Henry Nelson, Charles Aden, Margaret Christina, Marcia G. (deceased), Nellie May (deceased), Izetta, William Alva, and Archer B. Mrs. Wilhelm is an active member and supporter of the Methodist church. In his political opinions, the subject of this sketch follows the leadership of the Republican party. He is but another example of the many worthy men who have risen to positions of influence and prominence by their own exertions.



**C**HRISTOPHER KEETLE, one of the most extensive and prominent farmers in Ashland precinct, is also well known as one of the representative farmers of Saunders county. Mr. Keetle was born in Casel, Germany, in 1838. His parents, Philip and Catherine (Schaeffer) Keetle, came to the United States in 1846. Philip Keetle settled in Ashland county, Ohio, and was a pioneer farmer of that state, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. The father died at the age of seventy-three years and the mother when sixty-four years old. One of their children died young. They reared Christopher, the subject of these lines, and William, who resides on the old homestead in Ashland, Ohio.

Christopher Keetle was reared in Ohio. In his young manhood's days he followed farming and threshing; he even worked at plastering during the summers. He married Mrs. Mahala, a daughter of Daniel Fisher. Eight children were born to them, namely: Minerva, wife of R. Rigler, of Saunders county, Nebraska; Della, wife of Charles Alker, of the same county, who has one son, Samuel; William, who is a collector for the Omaha Sewing Machine Company, and who married Lizzie Warren; John, a farmer; Edward, who also follows agricultural pursuits; Daniel, who married Myrtle Russell, lives on a farm and has two children, Viola and Asa; Charles, who married Lizzie Rose, and has three children, Don, Laota, and Emmet; and Orville, who is still at home.

When Mr. Keetle had saved, by hard labor, sufficient money to invest in a home he looked about for a location. Having friends in Saunders county, Nebraska, who urged him to come there, he acted upon their advice, and went to see the country. He was so well pleased with it that on April 10, 1880, he purchased of L. K. Bell a quarter section of land in Ashland precinct, and took his family there. At that time there was only a small wooden building upon it, which is now used as a cow shed. Mr. Keetle built a fine new house, barns, and other buildings. He also set out fine orchards of fruit and berries, not omitting to plant an abundance of shade trees.

Some time later Mr. Keetle purchased the Calhoun farm of 187½ acres, also the H. C. Henry farm of 80 acres, and the S. Bryan

farm of 80 acres. These farms all adjoined his own, and are beautifully situated. He keeps 50 head of fine cattle and 100 head of hogs, besides which he raises some very fine horses. Mr. Keetle is a Republican, and has served twelve years as supervisor, and member of the school board. He joins his family in worshipping at the M. E. church. He ranks among the most progressive farmers of Saunders county.



**J**OHAN H. MOTT, a standard farmer of Green precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is an Ohioan by birth. He was born in Adams county, in that state, in 1858, and is a son of James and Ellen (Cunningham) Mott. His parents left Ohio in 1882 and went west to Saunders county, Nebraska, where they followed farming the remainder of their lives. His father died in 1890, aged eighty years, and his mother died seven years later, aged seventy-two years. Nine children were born to them, namely: Mary E., deceased; John H., who is the subject hereof; William C., whose sketch is also found in this volume; James D., a resident of Ohio; Emma S., wife of E. Gordon, of Saunders county, Nebraska; Charles R., deceased; and three who died in infancy.

William C. Mott was born in Adams county, Ohio, in 1860. He was reared and schooled in his native state and accompanied his parents to Nebraska in 1882. He rented different farms until 1890, and then purchased 80 acres, known as the Loomis farm. Some time later

he bought an adjoining 80-acre tract, known as the Sutton farm, and upon the latter he now resides. This farm contained a small frame house when purchased by Mr. Mott, who has added an elegant new residence, large barns, granaries, sheds, corn-cribs, etc. He also has improved the land, and now owns one of the best grain and stock farms in Saunders county. The quality of the grain raised and of the stock he has upon his farm is not surpassed in the state. He keeps 50 head of choice Hereford and Shorthorn cattle and about 150 head of the best kind of hogs. His principal grain product is corn. He married Saloma Colbert, a daughter of John Colbert. Mrs. Mott died without issue in 1897, aged thirty-seven years. Mr. Mott is a member of the M. E. church, and is a Republican in politics.

John H. Mott, the subject hereof, was reared and schooled in his native state while working upon his father's farm. On February 21, 1879, he went west to Saunders county, Nebraska, to see the country. He worked on a farm in that county one year and spent the following year working in Saline county. In 1880 he bought 80 acres of railroad land in Green precinct, Saunders county, and upon this tract he still lives. This land was then new and uncultivated, but was promising for the future. Mr. Mott's experience enabled him to choose the best. The first building he erected upon his farm was a corn-crib to hold his first year's crop. Afterward he built a house 16 by 24 feet in dimensions, and 12 feet high. In later years he remodeled and enlarged this into a fine residence. He also built large barns, ex-

tensive corn-cribs and granaries, hog-pens and all of the necessary buildings used by a progressive farmer of today.

Mr. Mott did not neglect to plant both fruit and shade trees. He now enjoys an abundance of fruit—not least among his trees being 56 fine bearing apple trees. He devotes his whole time to raising stock and grain, of which he raises only the best. John H. Mott married Flora C. Matheson, a daughter of John and Marietta Matheson, who reside on a farm in Green precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Mott have two children, namely: Hugh F., and James Donald. Mrs. Mott died at her home May 1, 1900, aged thirty-nine years. Like his father and brother, Mr. Mott is a Republican in politics. He is a member of the Brethren church.



**A**BRAMHAM B. MILLER, one of the most prosperous and progressive farmers and stock raisers in the western part of Ashland precinct, is a splendid manager, and is looked upon as a model farmer in Saunders county. Mr. Miller is the owner of one of the most productive and highly cultivated farms in the state of Nebraska. He is a native of York county, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1847. He is a son of John S. and Maria (Britton) Miller. His father followed agricultural pursuits in the Keystone State.

Abraham B. Miller was reared on his father's farm and attended public school until he attained the age of eighteen years, when he

started out to make his own way in life. He had learned no trade, and only knew what belonged to the sturdy farmer's vocation. Having heard of the advantages of the West he left home and ventured into the state of Ohio, where he worked for some time.

There it was that he made the acquaintance of Sarah Helmley, a daughter of Christian and Christiana Helmley, of Adams county, Ohio. That young lady afterward became his wife, and shared alike his joys and sorrows. They started on life's journey together without capital, but with sturdy constitutions, a determined will and hands that were willing to work. They went further west, to Illinois, where they accumulated some money, and determined to go still further west, where they could invest their small capital to the best advantage.

In 1879 they located in Saunders county, Nebraska, little of which was then under cultivation; it was, however, very fertile and promising. Mr. Miller purchased 160 acres of choice land, which was just a little rolling and in a favorable location. This claim was taken up by Dr. Simongton, but Mr. Miller purchased it from Samuel Fales, who had previously acquired it. The farm contained only a small house, which is now used as a kitchen for the magnificent residence now located there. Upon this farm Mr. Miller and his faithful wife battled with all their strength, and their success is well deserved. Besides putting his land into a state of high cultivation he built the present residence, which is one of the most beautiful in Saunders county. He



also built new and spacious barns, granaries, machine sheds, and other buildings. He set out evergreen and other lovely shade trees, planted orchards, and improved his farm in every conceivable way. Besides carrying on general farming he has a large and well assorted stock of cattle, horses and hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two sons living, and have lost one son. Their names are: Raymond, Ernest E. (deceased), and Talmage E. Raymond and Talmage E. are a source of great pride to their parents. They own in partnership a fine horse and buggy, in which they drive to Ashland, where they both attend high school.

Mr. Miller is not only a model farmer but is a model citizen as well. He is strictly a temperance man, has served on the school board in his district many times, favors the Congregational church, and is a member of the Woodmen of the World. He is also a member of the I. O. O. F. In his political views he is in accord with the policies of the Republican party. Such men as Mr. Miller make any community prosperous.



**J**OSIAH J. DECH, one of the early settlers of Clear Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he still tills the soil, is also manager of the Railsback Brothers' elevator, at Memphis, in the same precinct. This elevator was built by Railsback & Mitchell in 1888. It then had a capacity of 7,000 bushels. In 1889 it was enlarged to a capacity

of 14,000 bushels. It was run by horse power until 1889, when steam power was put in. In 1898 a gasoline engine was also added. About 6,000 bushels of corn are handled per day besides large quantities of oats and wheat. Mr. Dech was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania in 1839. He is a son of Elijah H. and Hannah (Heller) Dech.

Elijah H. Dech was a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania. In April, 1857, he went to Lee county, Illinois, where he cultivated a farm, having previously been a miller by trade. In the spring of the year 1868 he went farther west to Ithaca, Saunders county, Nebraska, which was then comparatively unsettled. He homesteaded 80 acres, upon which he built a house of the dimensions of 16 by 24 feet, upon the same site now occupied by Barney Schroeder's house. Ithaca was afterward laid out on his farm, and in 1869 he also built a mill there. He enjoyed the distinction of being the first postmaster of Ithaca, the post-office being opened in his house in 1869. He died in 1870, aged sixty-eight years. He was survived by his widow until 1892, when she passed away at the advanced age of eighty-two years. The following children were born to them: Josiah J. (the subject hereof); John, of Antelope, Nebraska; George, of Colorado; William E., a farmer, of Ithaca; Susan, deceased; Mary Ann, wife of Alfred Eyer; Martha, wife of A. Roberts; and Helen, wife of B. Parks.

At the age of seventeen years Josiah J. Dech began to learn the carpenter's trade. In August, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company D,

34th Reg. Ill. Vol. Infantry, and was honorably discharged from service as a corporal July 12, 1865. He took active part in the conflicts at Shiloh and Stone River, and served throughout the Atlanta campaign. Returning from the war he spent the following two years drilling wells in various parts of Illinois. Later he followed farming in the same state, and in 1866 went to Clear Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. Upon his arrival there with team, wagon and family, he had but \$15 in money, but was determined to gain a foothold. He homesteaded 80 acres of land near Memphis, which is still his home. Some time afterward he added 80 acres to it. There, by hard work, and his wife's assistance, he reared a large family, and improved his farm. Their first house was 12 by 20 feet in dimensions, but they now have a fine residence, and a good set of buildings. Besides raising grain, large numbers of cattle, horses and hogs are raised by Mr. Dech every year.

The subject of this sketch married Margaret Eyer, a daughter of Philip Eyer, of Dixon, Illinois. Mr. Eyer was among the early settlers of Clear Creek precinct. He homesteaded what is now the Noah Wilhelm place. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dech, namely: Grace, Cora, Maude, Ora, Norma, Frank, Charles, Ralph, and Ida, who died young. Grace was born in Illinois, married L. A. Camp, of Saunders county, and their children are: Ray, Howard, Amy, Flora, Bessie, and Earl. Cora married Eli Kiser, of the same county, and their children are: Mabel, Zelma and Elma, twins, Ira, and Victor. Maude became the

wife of John Archer, of Pierce county, Nebraska, and they have two children: Roy and Pearl. Ora married James Brown, and they have two children: Joe, and a baby daughter. Norma married O. D. Marks, and has one child, Genevieve. Frank married Pearl Marks, and they have two children: Elmer and Ruth. Charles and Ralph are still at home.

Mr. Dech was engaged in teaming during the first years of his stay in Nebraska. While thus occupied he had the distinction of hauling the first load of lumber ever drawn from Plattsmouth to Saunders county. In politics, he is a Republican. He has served on the school board a number of times, also five years as road commissioner, and five terms as constable. Fraternally, he affiliates with the G. A. R., the K. of P., and the Woodmen of the World. His ideas on religion are broad and liberal.

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**S**AMUEL MERRIMAN, a highly respected and retired citizen of Memphis, Saunders county, is one of the pioneer settlers of Nebraska. He is a native of Lagrange county, Indiana, where he first saw the light of day in 1845. He is a son of William and Mary (Smedley) Merriman. His parents both died young, and he began working as chore-boy on a farm at the early age of nine years.

July 14, 1862, Mr. Merriman enlisted in the Union army as a private in Company D, 8th Reg. Minn. Vol. Infantry. He enlisted under Captain Samuel McLarty, and was honorably

discharged July 11, 1865. He participated in many different engagements along the frontier, among them Birch Cooley, Butte Hill, and Fort Ridgely, and the battle of Redwood Lake, and that spot where the Indians surrendered, 1,500 in number, they named Camp Release. In that campaign Mr. Merriman assisted in the funeral of 40 women and children massacred by the red demons. He afterward, in the fall of 1862, assisted in taking 1,500 prisoners to Fort Snelling, Minnesota. One trip necessitated going 800 miles on a flat boat down the Missouri River under a broiling sun. He also saw active service at Antietam and Fortress Monroe.

May 29, 1870, Mr. Merriman married Jemima Miller, a daughter of James and Mary (Baker) Miller, of Indiana. Soon after marriage, the young folk went west, and took a homestead claim of 160 acres in Oak Creek precinct, Butler county, Nebraska. After building a sod house he began to till the soil. One day while away from home a prairie fire consumed all their belongings. They built another and smaller house, 10 by 12 feet in size, in which they lived for three years, enduring many privations.

In those days it was not uncommon to find huge rattlesnakes on the floor of their sod house when they awoke in the morning. Upon one occasion, when Mrs. Merriman was alone, she stepped on a rattlesnake but was quick enough to avoid being bitten. Reaching for her hoe, which was kept handy, she proceeded to kill the snake, and afterward killed its mate also. She is one of the nerry little women who

helped to settle Nebraska, and many things may be said in her praise.

In 1876 Mr. Merriman purchased a farm in Clear Creek precinct, Saunders county. This farm was homesteaded by Mr. Chamberlain, and contained 80 acres. After living there eleven years he sold out and moved to Memphis, Nebraska, where he followed blacksmithing for years. He is now practically retired from business pursuits.

Three sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Merriman, namely: Eugene Harvey, James Garfield, and Roy, who died when nine months old. The oldest son is manager and purchasing agent for Duff's elevator, at Memphis, Nebraska. The younger son works on the county grader. Mr. Merriman is a staunch Republican. He has served on the school board, and is the only Republican ever elected in his precinct to the office of road supervisor. He also served as constable for two years. Fraternally, he affiliates with the G. A. R., the K. of P., and the Woodmen of America.

The subject of this sketch is reaping the just rewards of honest toil. He entertains liberal ideas on the subject of religion, and is a public-spirited citizen in every respect.

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CHARLES F. KIRKPATRICK, M. D.,  
 a promising young physician and surgeon  
 of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, is up to date in his profession, and enjoys a good practice not only in Saunders county but in surrounding counties as well.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was born in Decatur, Ohio, where he was also reared and educated. His father, Cyrus B. Kirkpatrick, is now a resident of Kansas. After leaving school the Doctor entered the office of Dr. William K. Coleman, of West Union, Ohio, as a medical student. Subsequently, he attended Columbus Medical College, at Columbus, Ohio, from which he graduated in the class of 1882.

Shortly after receiving his diploma, Dr. Kirkpatrick opened an office at Youngsville, Ohio, where he practiced his chosen profession until April, 1886. He then came west to Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, thereby choosing a progressive center in which he has built up his present large practice. He has a fine office, and parlors centrally located on Silver street.

Dr. Kirkpatrick married Eliza Shofstall, a daughter of John Shofstall, one of the pioneer settlers of southern Ohio. Mrs. Kirkpatrick was born and reared in the same neighborhood as her husband. They have one child, Louise A., who is a promising student.

Fraternally, our subject is a member of Pomegranate Lodge No. 110, F. & A. M., of Ashland, Nebraska; and of the K. of P., of which he is a past chancellor. He is also a member of the Nebraska State Medical Society. The Doctor is a great student, and keeps thoroughly abreast of the times. He is well posted upon all the modern methods and appliances used in advancing the interests of medical science, and thoroughly familiar with the best and safest methods of relieving pain and treating chronic diseases. Each and

every case receives his most careful consideration and attention. In fact, he studies each case closely, and to this fact he attributes his unbounded success. As a citizen he is highly esteemed by all who know him.

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JOHN C. RAILSBACK, present mayor of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, was first elected to fill that office in 1891, re-elected in 1892 and 1893, and again in 1897, 1898, 1899 and 1900. He is a staunch Republican, and has also served the Ashland public in the council and as treasurer. Mr. Railsback thoroughly appreciates the honors of his present position as mayor of one of the finest business centers in Saunders county. It was at Ashland that civilization in the county had its beginning, and there the first business places were built. The locality contained the only ford on Salt Creek, and over this ford all transportation was carried on. It was a frequent camping ground for Indians, and is quite a historic spot—as many Indians and whites also have been slain there. Civilization began in the latter part of 1850, when a dam was made at the ford and the mill was erected there. Stores were also built, and the place was called Salem Ford for a short time. Flora City sprang afterward into existence. These places were subsequently consolidated and called Ashland. In 1879 the county seat was established there, but was transferred later to Wahoo, which is more centrally located. Although much of its glory was taken away, Ashland is

still a fine business center, nearly all kinds of trade being represented there. The place contains three hotels, numerous churches and good schools.

John C. Railsback was born in Tazewell county, Illinois. His father, J. E. Railsback, has been in the grain business in Tazewell county since 1869. In the fall of 1882 he went to Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, and purchased an interest in the grain business of Railsback, Mitchell & Company. He succeeded that company and carried on business there and at his home until 1891. At that time his sons, John C. and Gifford, succeeded him at Ashland, and have since conducted the business there.

The plant at Ashland was erected in 1872 by John P. Palmyston. It was run by horse power, and on a small scale. In 1876 James H. Snell and N. A. Saunders bought it and, two years later, they were succeeded by Mr. Snell, who put in steam power. In 1882 the plant became the property of J. E. Railsback, father of the subject hereof.

Mr. Railsback enlarged the plant until it had a capacity of 25,000 bushels. He also increased the steam power to 20 horse-power, put in a steam corn-sheller and made other important improvements. In those early days the grain was all drawn to market by horses. This was continued until after the railroad was built. Elevators were then built at Memphis and Ithaca, Nebraska, by Mr. Railsback. He also purchased an elevator at Greenwood, Nebraska, which was built by J. N. Brown, and one at Malmo, Nebraska, built by a stock company. One man is employed at each of these

places and the grain is all shipped to Ashland, where they have a track built to the elevator. There the wheat is unloaded and cleaned by machinery, and is then shipped to the markets. About 300 carloads of grain are shipped from Ashland per year.

John C. Railsback was reared in his native place, where he followed the grocery business for some time. He subsequently went west, locating in Ashland. Since then he and his unmarried brother have devoted their time and attention principally to the grain business. The subject of this sketch married Susan Manard, a native of Tazewell county, Illinois. They have one daughter, Vera.

Mayor Railsback is an influential man in his locality. He fills the mayor's chair with conscientiousness and dignity. The firm of Railsback Brothers, of which he is the senior member, are among the most extensive grain dealers in Saunders county.

JOHN WESLEY HORN, a retired farmer and extensive fruit grower of Yutan, Union precinct, is a self-made man, and has helped to make Saunders county, Nebraska, what it is today. Mr. Horn was born in Knox county, Ohio, May 29, 1845. He is a son of Martin L. and Julia (Hellman) Horn. His parents moved to Fulton county, Illinois, when he was nine years old. His father was a farmer, and died in that state, at the advanced age of seventy-two years.

John Wesley Horn was reared on his father's

farm near Astoria, Illinois. In early manhood he was joined in marriage with Minerva Bias, a daughter of Obadiah and Jane (Shields) Bias. After marriage, the young folk went to Kansas, and looked for a suitable location. They did not like that state, however, and returned. Having friends who praised Saunders county, Nebraska, Mr. Horn decided to locate there. On March 13, 1872, he went to the latter place and rented land for two years. By that time he was satisfied to locate there, and purchased 80 acres of school land in section 16, at \$7.50 per acre. He also purchased 80 acres of railroad land in section 15, for \$11 per acre.

Mr. Horn then built a house on his farm, paying \$30 per thousand feet for lumber. He also built a straw shed, for use until he could do better. In this way he obtained a start, and by degrees he fenced in his entire farm and got it under cultivation. Among the most notable improvements of his property are his shade trees and orchards. These trees he set out in a large circle, enclosing on three sides, his residence, barn, and several acres of land. By this arrangement he secured the finest fruit display in his section of Saunders county. He has 125 choice apple trees, now bearing; 25 pecan trees; 800 fine peach trees; 50 grape vines; 75 persimmon trees; 100 plum trees, and a great variety of pear and cherry trees, besides all kinds of berries. Being on a high rise of land, his beautiful place can be seen and admired for many miles by travelers.

Mr. Horn's land is of the best kind. He raises grain, cattle, horses, hogs, etc. Mr. and Mrs. Horn have been blessed with five chil-

dren, namely: Elza L., a drug clerk; Carl C., a jeweler, now deceased; Blanche M., deceased; James R., deceased; and Lewis M., a student of music.

In 1899 Mr. Horn retired from farming, and since then has rented his land. He has plenty to do, however, in looking after his fruit, berries and a large colony of bees, in which there are more than forty hives. In his political views Mr. Horn favors the Democratic party. He is a member of the Christian church, and belongs to the A. O. U. W.

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ALEXANDER S. VON MANSFELDE, M. D., one of Saunders county's most distinguished citizens, has been located at Ashland since 1878. He has conducted a sanitarium there, known as "Quality Hill," and has established a solid reputation as a practitioner, being undoubtedly the most prominent member of the medical profession in the county. He has made a specialty of the treatment of women's diseases, and his success has resulted in many calls in consultation at distant points.

Alexander S. von Mansfelde was born in the Kingdom of Prussia, Germany, December 21, 1845. His father was at one time owner of large estates there, but meeting with reverses he immigrated to America with his family in 1861, locating first in Chicago, but later at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he died in 1865, at the age of fifty years.

Our subject attended the Friedeberg schools

in Germany until he came to America, in 1861. In 1863 he accepted a position with H. B. Reed & Co., a large wholesale drug house of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and won the favor of his employers at the start, receiving encouragement from them to enter the field of medicine. During this time, therefore, he read medicine with Drs. B. S. Woodworth and A. H. Hunt, of the same place, the latter of whom still resides at Wooster, Ohio. Although a part of his wages went to the support of the family, he saved what he could, and in the fall of 1866 was possessed of sufficient means to permit of his entrance at Rush Medical College, at Chicago, Illinois. During his years of work with the drug house, he made the most of his opportunities and studied drugs and medicine in the morning before work, and in the evening after his work had been completed, and as a result he was made a prescription clerk before others who had served a longer time than he. He entered into the work at college with the same spirit and energy,—his one object being the mastery of the science of medicine. His funds became exhausted before he had completed his course of study, and upon the advice of some of his professors he entered upon a practice, attending class during the winter. He was very successful and acquired a clientele which he was reluctant to leave to complete his course, but he returned and was graduated with the class of 1872, known as the "fire class," the first after the great fire of Chicago. On March 9, 1875, he was called to Lincoln, Nebraska, to perform an operation, and was so delighted with the country he decided to locate there.

He moved to Lincoln in the following September, and remained there until April 26, 1878, when he located in Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska. He soon acquired a large practice and, soon after locating there, rented the building known as the Court House, before the county seat was removed to Wahoo, and established a sanitarium. He soon had an established reputation, and the place then called the "Hill" became widely known as "Quality Hill." He has since purchased the property, the county consenting to sell it by a vote of the public. He has laid out beautiful grounds, with broad drives and walks, and a large green lawn, with its shade trees interspersed with flowers and shrubbery, together with a flowing fountain, the whole presenting a scene of unrivaled beauty. Our subject holds the first certificate issued by the board of health in the state. He was formerly professor of general pathology and histology in the Omaha Medical College; president of the Nebraska Railway Surgeon's Association; Nebraska State Medical Society; Medical Society of the Missouri Valley; Nebraska Academy of Sciences; honorary member of the Lincoln and Omaha medical societies; member of the American Medical Association, et cet.

Dr. von Mansfeldé was united in marriage with Julia Labhart, of Chicago, and they are the parents of five children, as follows: Duty, who received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Nebraska University, is assistant principal of the Ashland High School, and teacher of mathematics and German; Johanna, a graduate of Nebraska University, with the degree of B. A.,

served two years as assistant principal of Ashland High School and is now teaching English and chemistry in the high school at Omaha; Belle, who received the degree of M. A. in the State University, is assistant principal of the high school at Stromsburg, Polk county, Nebraska; Charles Herbert, who graduated from the State University with the degree of B. A., is now in attendance in the law department of that institution; and Alice is now attending the Ashland High School. Our subject has never taken an active part in politics, but was elected one term as mayor of Ashland. He refused to be considered for a nomination later. He was associate, and later chief editor of the Omaha Medical Clinic, the first medical journal ever published in Nebraska, and he was for thirteen years the permanent secretary of the Nebraska State Medical Society, whose transactions he edited and published during that time.

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**G**UST LARSON, a prosperous farmer of Richland precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is, like most of his neighbors, of Swedish nativity. He was born, in 1842, in Sweden, and is a son of Lawrence Larson. Mr. Larson was reared and educated in his native country, and came to the United States in 1861. He worked one year in car shops in New York City, and subsequently followed the same occupation in sixteen other states. He last worked in that capacity in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1869 he assisted N. J. Paul to survey a part of Custer and Keith

counties, Nebraska. In 1867 he took up a homestead claim in Saunders county, Nebraska. This land included the south half of the northeast quarter of section 22, and was located in township 15, range 9. Only two settlers besides Mr. Larson were then located in that part of the county. They were John Terpen and John Curen.

Having purchased lumber at Ashland, Mr. Larson built a board house on his land. This was the first board house in Union precinct. After otherwise improving his farm he sold it and purchased the east half of the northwest quarter of section 16, township 15, range 9. Upon this he also built a house, barns, corncribs, etc., and set out fruit and shade trees. In 1892 the same land was sold for \$40 per acre. It is now owned by Mrs. Bears. Mr. Larson afterward purchased from Frank Schup 160 acres of land in section 20, Richland precinct. Again the subject hereof built a large house and barns, and improved his farm in many ways. He now has one of the finest and best situated farms in the southern part of Saunders county. He also raises some cattle, horses and hogs.

Gust Larson was joined in marriage with Ada Miller, a daughter of Nicholas Miller. Mrs. Larson is a native of Pennsylvania, but was reared in Iowa. Later her parents settled in Marietta precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Larson. Three of these died young. The others are Hulda May, Fred, Ernest C., George, Edna B., Albert and Delbert (twins) and Gertie. Hulda May married Bert Sprague,







RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL H. FRITZINGER.

of Colorado, and they have four children, namely: Pearl, Arthur, Clarence, and one child unnamed.

Mr. Larson is independent in politics. He has served as road commissioner and as school director. In his religious views he is in accord with the Seventh Day Adventists.

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**S**AMUEL H. FRITZINGER. Saunders county is rich in its beautiful and highly cultivated farms, showing her citizens to be progressive and enterprising. Particularly noticeable and picturesque is the home of the gentleman whose name appears above, it being located in the extreme southwest corner of the county. The commodious residence, with other buildings, pleasantly located on a knoll of land, together with a magnificent orchard of from 300 to 400 trees and a heavy mulberry ridge, presents a view most pleasing to the eye. We are pleased to be able to present on a foregoing page a view of the house and surroundings executed from a recent photograph taken in the summer of 1900.

Mr. Fritzinger was born in Putnam county, Illinois, in 1859, and is a son of John D. and Dorothy Ann (Perry) Fritzinger, who were parents of three children, as follows: Samuel H.; Ada H. (Kirkaldie), of Washington, who has two children, Annie and Nellie, and whose husband is captain of a steamer; and Ira W., who is overseer of the electric light plant at Hoquiam, in the state of Washington.

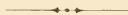
Samuel H. Fritzinger was brought up to

hard work, as his father was always more or less of an invalid. He has worked in the field from the age of nine years, and the main support of the family was devolved upon him from the time he was fifteen years old. This was indeed a heavy burden for one so young, but he bore up under it manfully. In 1882 or 1883 he went to the then territory of Washington and spent a couple of years, when he returned to Illinois and was married in 1885. He then went with his family to Saunders county, Nebraska, whither his father had preceded him, and had contracted with the railroad company for the southwest quarter of section 31, township 13, range 5, at \$3.50 per acre. Up to that time he had paid nothing, and the subject hereof assumed the obligation and has since lived there. He started with about \$600.00 in money, and for a time was compelled to struggle for existence. He broke the sod, sowed crops, and planted a number of catalpa trees, to begin with, and one needs but to look at his well improved farm at the present time to realize with what success his efforts met. He built a house 20 by 24 feet in dimensions, and later made it a story and a half high and built an addition of 16 by 26 feet. He first had a straw shed for a stable, and later built a frame barn, which was destroyed by fire. He then built his present fine barn in 1894, its dimensions being 32 by 46 feet. He has a granary in the barn, and built other good, substantial outbuildings, including a repair shop, and hog and cattle sheds. He has a tubular well 240 feet deep (the water being pumped by a wind-mill), and has attempted several flowing wells,

but never succeeded in getting the water nearer to the surface than five feet. He has dealt extensively in hogs for the past fifteen years, and has had wonderful luck every year but 1899, when he lost some by cholera. Before leaving Illinois he began the manufacture of sorghum, and has since continued it. He devotes about fifteen acres of the farm to the culture of sorghum, and does considerable custom work, making about 1,500 gallons per year. He owns 400 acres of land in all, including five 80-acre tracts. Three of these are located in Lancaster county. In 1891 he bought the east half of the southwest quarter of section 12, in West Oak precinct. In 1894 he purchased the west half of the northeast quarter, and in 1899 the west half of the southwest quarter of the same section. He also owns a 10-acre tract in the corporate limits of Valparaiso, upon which there is a large house and barn, which he rents. He is one of the largest stockholders and a director of the Success Creamery Company, of Seward county, Nebraska.

Mr. Fritzinger was united in marriage with Mary C. (Kirkaldie) Haines, a widow with three children, as follows: William H., who makes his home with Mr. Fritzinger; and Edward J. and Albert, of the state of Washington. Mrs. Fritzinger was born in La Salle county, Illinois, and is a daughter of J. B. and Lamira (Smith) Kirkaldie, her father being an old settler in Illinois. Six children were born to the subject hereof and his wife: Ira S., Frank, Fred L., John D., George, and Nellie. In political views Mr. Fritzinger is a Populist, and takes an active interest in party affairs, having

been a representative of his precinct at several county conventions. He also serves on the school board. Religiously, he is a believer in the doctrines of the M. E. church. He is past master of Valparaiso Lodge, No. 278, A. O. U. W. He and his wife are beneficiary members of the Degree of Honor.



**J**OHAN NORDSTROM, a prominent agriculturist of Saunders county, Nebraska, is quite an extensive land-owner in Stocking precinct. He is a native of Smaland, Sweden, where his birth occurred in 1844. His father, Jonas Peter Erickson, was a farmer by occupation.

When fifteen years old Mr. Nordstrom learned the trade of a stone and brick mason and plasterer. In 1867 he came to America, settling in Rockford, Illinois. He followed his trade there until 1869. In December of that year his brother came here from Sweden, and hearing of the fine land to be gotten in Nebraska, Mr. Nordstrom came to this state and took a homestead for himself, his brother Carl, and several others of the now well-to-do farmers of Saunders county. At first he employed himself in assisting the early settlers to plaster their homes and in doing other work in his line. Later he began to cultivate his own land, and has since devoted his time exclusively to farming. He first built a sod house upon his land. This was replaced subsequently by a small frame house which gave way in a few years to a modern, convenient residence. He

also built fine barns and other buildings about the place, and planted about two acres of his land in fruit trees. These orchards now contain a wide variety of fine fruit. Ornamental shrubs and shade trees were also planted and the whole farm was in a high state of cultivation. In 1882 Mr. Nordstrom sold his farm, with other land which he owned, and moved to the vicinity of Omaha, where he engaged in farming until 1895. During this time he purchased one-half section of land in Wahoo precinct (the northwest quarter of section 21 and the southwest quarter of section 16) which has been used by renters most of the time. Mr. Nordstrom has made many improvements on this farm, both in the land and in the buildings. In 1895 he purchased from John Moss 240 acres of section 10 in Stocking precinct, and upon this farm he now resides. He built a large, handsome residence and other fine buildings, not omitting to set out orchards and shade trees. Upon this farm he feeds from 100 to 150 head of cattle and generally keeps from 100 to 200 head of hogs.

Mr. Nordstrom married Nellie Nelson, a daughter of Albert Nelson. Albert Nelson was born in Skane, Sweden, and came to America in 1855. He first settled in Chicago, Illinois, where he became a wagon-maker. Later he went to New Orleans where he took large contracts for clearing timber. From there he traveled by water to California and engaged in erecting buildings in San Francisco. He was subsequently engaged in mining for about fifteen years. He then went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he conducted a hotel for some

time. In 1871 Mr. Nelson returned to Sweden to get his family, and upon his return to the United States he became a contractor for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, working from Omaha to Plattsmouth. Later he settled in section 16, in Wahoo precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. He was a public-spirited citizen and served four years as county commissioner, after which he retired. His death took place in 1894 at the age of seventy-two years. He married Ellen Johnson, whose death preceded his demise by eleven months. She was sixty-nine years old. Two children were born to them: Nellie, the wife of Mr. Nordstrom, and Jonas, a citizen of Humboldt, Nevada.

Mr. and Mrs. Nordstrom have four sons: Jonas Sigfrid, who is engaged in farming; Ernst Arvid, who devotes his time to business in Omaha, and Carl Fritheof and Berger Theodore, who are staying at home.

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**H**ENRY FASE, a highly esteemed citizen and very successful farmer of Richland precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, was one of the very earliest settlers of that locality. He started wholly without means, having borrowed enough money to make the voyage from Germany to America, but possessing an abundance of energy and good business ability, he worked his way gradually to the front, and is now one of the substantial citizens of the county.

Mr. Fase was born in Germany in 1839, and

is a son of Andrew and Sophia (Fricke) Fase. His father died in Germany at the age of thirty-three years, and his mother came to America with her family in 1857, and died here at the age of sixty-five years. Their children were: Andrew, Henry, and Christian, who died in infancy.

Henry Fase settled with his mother in Ohio, where he followed farming until 1861. He then enlisted in a regiment of cavalry from Wheeling, West Virginia. He served with bravery for a period of three years, and then returned to his home, where he remained until the following June. He then came to Nebraska and worked out as a farm hand until the fall of 1865. He had previously purchased a tract of 80 acres of wild prairie land where the town of Portal is now located. He set out a grove in 1869, made many improvements, and cultivated the land until 1887, when he disposed of it. He next bought 240 acres of Edward Huff, in section 36, Richland precinct, Sarpy county (where he now lives), also purchasing an adjoining 80 acres of A. Snyder in section 35. He erected a fine set of farm buildings, remodeled and enlarged his own home, and built an adjoining home for his son. His farm is in excellent condition and is one of the most productive in the precinct, the average yield being 55 bushels of corn and 40 bushels of oats to the acre. He has 75 head of cattle and as many hogs, and has met with great success in the cultivation of all kinds of fruit.

Mr. Fase was united in marriage in 1867 with Mary Uhe, a daughter of Andrew and

Mary (Bomgarten) Uhe, who, upon coming to this country from Germany, first located in Ohio and then at Omaha, Nebraska. They later lived with their son William where Mrs. Uhe now lives, at the age of seventy-two years. Andrew Uhe died at the age of sixty-nine years. They were parents of five children: Dora, Elizabeth, Lena, William and Mary. The last named, Mr. Fase's wife, was born in Germany in 1850 and was two years of age when brought to this country. Mr. and Mrs. Fase are parents of the following children: Caroline, wife of Jacob Pfluck, by whom she has two children, Mattie and Walter; Herman, who married Ella Gillette and has three children, Grant, Arthur and Earl; Lydia, wife of John Kincade, and William, who married Etta Ward. The subject of this sketch served two terms as assessor and officiated on the school board and as road supervisor for many years.

JOHN D. GLESMANN, one of the most prominent and successful farmers of Richland precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, is of sturdy German extraction, having been born in Holstein, Germany, in 1846. He is a son of John D. Glesmann.

John D. Glesmann, the father, was born in 1816 in Holstein, Germany, and his wife, Elizabeth Roennau, was also born there, in 1817. They were the parents of a family of nine children, as follows: Elizabeth, the wife of J. Roennau; Christina, the wife of C. Witt; John D. Jr.; Henry C.; Carl, deceased; Chris-

tian, deceased; Ernest; Augusta, the wife of H. Gottsch; and Fred, deceased.

Our subject, with his brother, Henry C., came to this country and located in Davenport, Iowa, in 1868, but they remained there only about nine months, when they left for Council Bluffs, Iowa. There they continued to work on the farm until they located in Sarpy county, Nebraska, where they rented land for five years, during which time they succeeded in accumulating a small sum of money. Then, with the assistance of their father, in 1876 they bought a half section, where John D. Glesmann, the son now lives. Being industrious and determined to have a fine farm, they began making improvements, and in 1877 they set out a fine grove consisting of cottonwood, walnut, and maple trees, some of which have grown to be 20 inches in diameter. The subject hereof now owns this grove, in the center of which is located his house, which he built in 1897. The old barn, which was erected in 1876, is now used as a granary and tool house. The present fine barn was built in 1897, and has a fine basement under it, used for cows. Mr. Glesmann keeps about 45 cows and about 70 hogs, continuously, and on his place he has a fine corn-crib and good substantial outbuildings. As a proof that he has got his land into a very fertile condition, he raises as much as 70 bushels of corn to the acre, and 50 bushels of oats per acre. He also has a fine orchard, which may be classed among the best and most improved within Sarpy county. He enjoys a wide circle of friends throughout his adopted community, who know him to be a

good friend and neighbor, an enterprising farmer and a loyal citizen.

Mr. Glesmann was joined in marriage with Annie Gottsch, a daughter of Henry Gottsch, Henry Gottsch was born in Germany in 1821, and is a son of Klaus and Annie (Stuhr) Gottsch. He came to this country in 1885. He is now living a retired life, after spending many years engaged in the grain business, and following his trade as a weaver. He married Margaret Kuhl, who died in 1899, aged seventy-one years. They had the following children: August, Mary (deceased), Henry, Emma, Mary, and Annie, wife of the subject hereof. Mr. and Mrs. Glesmann are the parents of ten children: John (deceased), Herman Henry, William Frederick, August Adolph, Elizabeth Pauline, Minnie Lucy, Carl Christian, Emma Margaret, Martha Annie, and Henry. Mr. Glesmann has served on the school board in his district, and as road supervisor. In religious views he and his family are Lutherans.

JOHN M. WARD, a resident of Richland precinct, is one of the progressive and representative farmers of Sarpy county, Nebraska, which he has assisted in bringing into prominence as one of the best agricultural districts in the West. With the assistance of his sons, he carries on farming on a very large scale. He was born in Delaware county, Ohio, in 1851, and is a son of John and Margaret (Jones) Ward.

John M. Ward was a small child when his

father died. In later years his mother was wedded to Abraham Snider, a native of the state of New York, who came to Nebraska from Iowa in 1874. From Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Snider bought 160 acres of bare prairie—the land adjoining John M. Ward's property on the west—and today he is now living a retired life, and enjoying the benefits of his early toil. His entire farm is now being tilled by his sons. He made many improvements upon his farm, such as putting out shade and fruit trees, and building barns, outbuildings and a fine residence.

John M. Ward was a lad of five years when his parents moved to Iowa, where he first attended the public schools, and afterwards became a student in the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City, and as he was reared to agricultural pursuits, he decided to make farming his life's work. He first bought 40 acres in Johnson county, Iowa, and in 1873 he disposed of his farm there and purchased of Annie Sheath 160 acres in section 1, Richland precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska. At that time it was raw prairie and Mr. Ward built a house having dimensions of 14 by 20 feet, on the property, and in March, 1876, he enlarged it. In 1880 he erected a new home on the present site, moving the old one to the rear and using it for a tool house. In 1899 he built his present fine house, which has all the latest improvements. During all those years he was steadily making improvements upon his farm, in the way of cultivating the soil and putting up barns, etc. His present barn is 60 by 60 feet in dimensions; his cow shed is 32 by 48 feet, and besides he has a buggy shed, and a large corn-crib. In

1893 he built the first silo in this section of the state. It is 20 by 20 feet in size, and has a capacity of 144 tons. In 1876 Mr. Ward set out an orchard, which under his careful treatment has produced an abundant quantity of fruit; he now has 30 acres in fruit trees. He also has a large grove of shade trees, and around his beautiful home he has a number of evergreens. He has two tubular wells, a depth of 115 and 175 feet, respectively, which furnish a water supply both for his residence and his barns and feed lots. The house has all the modern conveniences of city property. He also has a fish pond which is stocked with German carp and catfish. The pond is supplied by a natural spring and by the wells. He has purchased property at different times from the earnings of his first farm. He bought 160 acres from the Hamilton heirs, which was pre-empted by E. T. Huff; 160 acres in Platford precinct from E. T. Hilton; 160 acres of E. E. Moyer, also in Platford precinct, and he owns 640 acres in Perkins county, Nebraska. On each of these farms he has erected new barns, new outbuildings and a neat house. He keeps from 150 to 200 head of cattle, most of which are thoroughbred Shorthorns, and about 150 hogs. He also devotes much attention to raising fine mules, and during his time he has raised many premium winners. The subject of this sketch is an enterprising and progressive farmer, and throughout his community and county he enjoys the reputation of being a good neighbor and an honest and upright citizen and business man.

Mr. Ward wedded Eliza Evans, a daughter



of William Evans, of Adair county, Iowa, and to them were born the following children: William, who married Rena Wilbur, and has one child, Ruth; Frank, who wedded Mamie Kennelly, by whom he has one child, May; Etta, who is the wife of William Fase; Charles and Chloe, twins, who are deceased; Pearl; Jessie; Maggie; Mittie; Lucretia; and John McKinley. In politics Mr. Ward is a staunch Republican, and has held the following offices in his community. One term as county commissioner; three terms as assessor; road supervisor and school director. Religiously, he is a member of the Congregational church.

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**M**ICHAEL DUNN is one of the few pioneer farmers who have spent many years in the upbuilding and advancement of the state of Nebraska. When he pre-empted his first 160 acres there was no Sarpy county, but in after years he assisted in the surveying of that county. In those early days the white people were thinly scattered throughout Nebraska territory, but the Indians were plenty, and the forests abounded with game, while the rivers and creeks were full of fish. By grim determination and perseverance Mr. Dunn's efforts were crowned with success, and he has transformed his first purchase into fine fertile fields, which today consist of the best farming land in Sarpy county. He was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1828, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (O'Mara) Dunn.

Michael Dunn's father died when in his forty-ninth year, leaving a wife, six sons and two daughters, and Michael was obliged to help in making a livelihood for the family. In his early youth he was a shepherd, but later on he followed lath splitting, which trade he had learned from his father. The family subsequently went to England, where the subject hereof continued lath splitting, and in 1852 Michael and his brother Thomas came to the United States. Upon landing in New York City Mr. Dunn went immediately to Chicago, and from there he went to La Salle, Illinois, where he worked on the Illinois Central Railroad. He then went west to Omaha, where he became a cook for John Painter, a surveyor, whom he afterwards assisted in making surveys. In 1856 he pre-empted 160 acres in Fairview precinct, section 23, township 13, range 12, on which was a large forest. On this property was a fine spring which has never failed to furnish water. Going to Omaha, he bought lumber enough to build a house near the spring. He has since erected a fine residence and has put up a fine barn and outbuildings. He has a good orchard of four and one-half acres, and in addition to the raising of grain he raises fine cattle. He also owns 640 acres in Greeley county and 160 in Cheyenne county. Our subject is a good conscientious farmer, and is deserving of the esteem and respect in which he is held by his fellow citizens and neighbors.

Mr. Dunn was joined in marriage with Mary McBride, who, with pluck and faithfulness, has withstood the hardships of a pioneer life, and has done her share toward making a pleasant

home for her husband and children. Their children numbered eleven—namely: Thomas, a printer at Omaha; Samuel, who works on a ranch in Cheyenne county; Patrick, also a ranchman in Cheyenne county; Ignatius, an attorney at Omaha; John, who assists in conducting the homestead; Cletus, a student at Fremont Normal School; Mary; Ida, a teacher in the grammar schools at Papillion, and Clement, Michael, and a babe, who are deceased. Mr. Dunn and his family are members of the Catholic church. The subject of this sketch is a Democrat and has served nine years on the school board in his district.



**J**ONAS BENDER, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Union precinct, is one of the many successful men of Saunders county, Nebraska. Mr. Bender was born in Preble county, Ohio, February 6, 1837. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Brown) Bender.

John Bender was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, where his early life was spent. Leaving there, he settled in Ohio, when that state was in its early stages of progress. His sole occupation was farming. He died in Ohio.

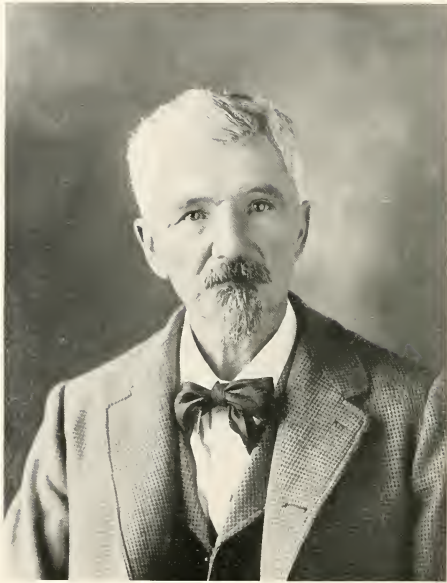
Jonas Bender was reared on his father's farm. He spent several years in La Salle county, Illinois. In 1882 he came west, to Nebraska, and purchased land in Union precinct, Saunders county. He purchased 427 acres of land in sections 15 and 10. This land

was settled by Joseph McKee and "Nick" Rogers, and when purchased by Mr. Bender, was not fenced in. It contained a house and barn. These buildings were enlarged and remodeled by Mr. Bender, who now has a beautiful residence and a fine set of buildings. He also set out fruit and shade trees.

Mr. Bender married Isabelle Wampler, and they are the parents of ten children, namely: Lydia A., Effie Jane, John C., Luther E., Elizabeth I., Rachel I., Emma I., William C., James A., and Harry R. Emma I. and Harry R. are deceased. Lydia A. is a dressmaker by occupation. Effie Jane is a milliner in Norfolk, Nebraska. William C. is a farmer. John C., a hardware merchant, married Mattie Grout, of Rogers, Colfax county, Nebraska, and they have three children,—Chester, Blanche and Hazel. Luther E. is a baker by trade. Elizabeth I. married W. G. White, of Fremont, Nebraska, and they have one child, Mildred. Rachel I. married H. Van Deusen, of Scribner, Nebraska. They also have one child, Dorothy. James A. is a stenographer.

Mr. Bender is an ardent supporter of the Populist platform. He has served his party as justice of the peace. He is a member of the Lutheran church, and makes liberal donations toward the maintenance of that domination. The subject of this sketch is a man of sterling worth and stands high in his community. His farm is among the most productive in the vicinity. A part of it is situated on the flats which border the Platte River, and from his residence can be obtained a grand view of the fertile valley of the Platte. Mr. Bender keeps





PHILIP ZWIEBEL.

a fine herd of thoroughbred Shorthorns and graded stock, and also a large number of hogs. In farm products he raises principally grain and corn, of which he plants only the best. He has calls in the county to serve as auctioneer, in which occupation he has had fine success, having followed that business for many years.

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**P**HILIP ZWIEBEL, a large land owner and prosperous farmer of Sarpy county, Nebraska, is also an old settler, as he located within the borders of Sarpy county in 1856, and since that year he has labored constantly, pursuing the vocation of a farmer. He was born in France, in 1836, and is a son of Michael Zwiebel, who moved with his family to Ohio, where he carried on farming until his death.

When Philip was a lad of fifteen years, he started to learn the trade of a blacksmith, but as he did not like it, he went west, in 1856, and located in Sarpy county, where he bought a pre-emption of 160 acres for \$150. He afterward bought about 160 acres in sections 19 and 30, LaPlatte precinct, and 371 acres from J. F. Payne. All of this property is in one farm, upon which Mr. Zwiebel has spent much time in putting it in a fine state of cultivation. Besides general farming, he raises about 200 hogs per year. He has established a record for corn raising which is a hard one to beat, having raised 100 bushels to the acre, and his oats also yield more per acre than the average farmer raises. This goes to show

what a thorough state of cultivation the land is in, and accounts for the reputation which Mr. Zwiebel bears throughout his community as an up-to-date, progressive and conscientious farmer.

Mr. Zwiebel wedded Annie Barbara Elsis, of Ohio, and they have seven children, namely: George; Frank; Christina; Sophia, wife of J. Seefus; Caroline, the wife of W. Jackson; Benjamin, deceased; and Tilda. Politically the subject of this sketch is a Democrat. He has served on the school board, and he and his family are members of the Lutheran church. A portrait of Mr. Zwiebel, executed from a recent photograph, is shown on a preceding page.

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**J**OHN WEBER, a prosperous farmer of Sarpy county, Nebraska, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1847, and is a son of John Weber, Sr., who came to this country in 1857, with his family, and located in La Salle county, Illinois, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits.

John Weber, the son, was reared in La Salle county, Illinois, but in 1882, when thirty-five years of age, he settled in Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he purchased of Horace Rogers and son 160 acres of land in section 9, township 13, range 12. A small house stood on the farm and but very little of the ground had been broken, though there was an orchard of two acres, to which the subject hereof has since added three acres. He has put his farm into a fine state of cultivation, and his record of

80 bushels of corn to the acre is a hard one to beat by the Sarpy county farmers. Besides raising grain, much of his time has been devoted to the raising of live stock, of which he has always kept from 30 to 40 head—formerly having Holsteins and Jerseys, but now breeding mostly Shorthorns. In 1894 he bought 80 acres of John Seiford, in section 4, but he rents this piece of land. Mr. Weber is a practical farmer, having met with the best of success in pursuing this vocation, and he enjoys the friendship and confidence of hosts of acquaintances throughout the county.

Mr. Weber was married in 1876 to Paulina Rinker, a daughter of Christian Rinker, of Grand Rapids, and they had four children: Elmer, J. Will, Paulina, and Charles, of whom the last two are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Weber are members of the Lutheran church. In politics John Weber is a Republican.

CLARENCE E. KEYES is an extensive land-owner and a prominent and well-to-do farmer of Richland precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he has spent many years pursuing his present vocation. When he decided to make farming his occupation he had no knowledge whatever of it, but by grim determination he has succeeded admirably. He is a native of Massachusetts, having been born in Worcester county, in that state, in 1849. He is a son of Edward and Rachael (Moore) Keyes, who until their death, made their home with the subject hereof. The father died aged

seventy-one years, while the mother lived to be seventy-three years old. They were the parents of but two children, Clarence E., and Antoinette, the wife of L. A. Burt, of Connecticut.

Clarence E. Keyes received a good common school education in his native town, and early in life obtained a clerkship in a grocery store in Boston; he then worked some time in a crockery store, and in 1868 moved to Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he joined his brother-in-law. At that early date he had no thoughts of engaging in farming, for he did not know the rudiments of that occupation, nor could he even harness a horse. Determined to invest his savings in Nebraska lands, he bought a farm in LaPlatte precinct, with his brother-in-law, Mr. McKee. He ran it until 1874, when he disposed of it, and then purchased 160 acres in section 11, Richland precinct, from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. He subsequently bought 160 acres of adjoining land from J. J. McLain. The property was all raw land, and only a small house stood on the farm. He enlarged the house, in which he continued to live until 1894, when it was destroyed by fire, and he afterward put up his present fine residence. He has good buildings on his farm—a large barn and large cattle sheds—and in 1874 or 1875 he put out a great many shade and fruit trees. He first set out 100 fruit trees, but now has 680 trees, and around his house he has some fine shrubbery. Mr. Keyes deals extensively in cattle, keeping from 50 to 75 thoroughbred Holstein cattle and from 100 to 200 hogs. He has a good well on his premises 60 feet deep, which furnishes plenty of good water.

Mr. Keyes has done much toward the cultivation of the soil, as shown by the fact that he has raised 75 bushels of corn, 55 bushels of oats, and 30 bushels of wheat to the acre, which speaks very highly of the fertility of his farm.

Mr. Keyes was joined in marriage with Annabell Hodge, a daughter of George H. and Elizabeth (Geddis) Hodge. Her father was born in Scotland, and during his early life he followed railroading at Toronto, Canada, being employed on the Grand Trunk Railway. He ran as conductor and served as yardmaster at North McGregor and South McGregor, Iowa. At St. Joseph, Missouri, he met with an accident, being crushed between the cars, and he never afterward followed railroading. He then went to Hot Springs, Utah, where he followed farming, but later moved to Springfield, Nebraska, where he died. He left a wife and five children: Annabell, Libbie, the wife of J. S. Miller; Jane, the wife of M. B. Jones; Georgiana, the wife of D. Barrett, and a son, John, who died aged twenty-two years. The subject hereof and his wife have been blessed by the following children: Nettie, who is the wife of J. K. Phelps, and has three children; Lee Donald, and a baby; Georgiana, deceased; Edward, who is studying medicine at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and married Vinnie Sanborn, by whom he has one child; Annabell and Idelle, both teachers; Chester; and Robert. Mr. Keyes is a staunch Republican, and in 1893 served as a representative in the legislature, and has served on the school board in his district. He is prominent in that district and enjoys a wide acquaintance, which holds him in high esteem.

WILLIAM A. JAMISON is a worthy member of one of the oldest families of Saunders county, Nebraska, and he is well known throughout the county as an enterprising and up-to-date farmer. He was born in Illinois, and is a son of Andrew J. and Elizabeth (Alexander) Jamison, who were born and reared near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. They had seven children, as follows: Martha, John, Mary, Lydia E., Eliza A., William A., and James. Martha is the wife of a Mr. Cook, a mail carrier, and they have the following children: Ralph D., Andrew J., Bertha E., Harry, and Bird L., who is railroading. John is a druggist at Alvo, Cass county, Nebraska, but formerly conducted a store and erected the building now occupied by C. E. Lillibridge's hardware store in Weston; he married Flora B. Rogers, by whom he has two children—Dee and Max. Mary, deceased, was the wife of William Brown, who now cultivates a farm in Butler county, Nebraska, but who formerly lived in Newman precinct, Saunders county. Mr. and Mrs. Brown had a family of six children, namely: Phoebe, the wife of a Mr. Scott, of Butler county; John T.; James D., deceased; Andrew J., and William and George, who are at home. Lydia E. (Baker) lives at Lake Charles, Louisiana, where her husband is a produce commission merchant, and they have four children: Maude, Alice, Goldie, and George. Eliza A. (Hedges) of Valparaiso, Nebraska, is the mother of six children: Clinton, Harvey, William, Ethel, Stella, and Chester, and her husband is a well-borer. William A. is the subject of this sketch.

James, the youngest, lives on and cultivates a part of the other 160 acres of the original homestead, which lie in the southeast quarter of section 29; he married Stella Chambers. Andrew J. Jamison located in Scott county, Iowa, shortly after his marriage, and there he operated a grist and saw mill. Thence he went to Arkansas, where he spent several years. From 1861 to 1865 he lived in Illinois, but in the latter year he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, where members of his family live at the present day. He first located near Weston, on the Joseph B. Bartek farm, which land he bought from Mr. Barnhill, and which consisted of 80 acres in section 24, township 14, range 5. He was the first settler in that locality, his nearest neighbor being some miles distant. For years his place was known as the A. J. Jamison ranch. The family lived there until 1870, when Mr. Jamison, the father, bought a quarter of section 32 and a quarter of section 29, township 14, range 5. The land was originally taken by land warrants and college scrip. Their first house was put up in 1878, and stands on a knoll well suited for a house site. Down the slope from the house William A. Jamison erected a barn in 1898, the dimensions of which are 30 by 36 by 16 feet; he also has good granaries and outbuildings. His house is surrounded by nice shade trees and beds of flowers. The father died November 1, 1883, and the mother lives with the subject hereof. Andrew J. Jamison was a strong Democrat, while his son, William A., is a Populist. The old homestead was situated on the government road from Ashland to Columbus and Fort Kearney.

Mr. Jamison is located on the northeast quarter of section 32, while his brother James is located on the southeast quarter of section 29.

The subject of this sketch has held numerous offices in his precinct. During the early "nineties" he served two terms as assessor. In 1898 and 1899 he was road overseer; and at present he is school treasurer. He and his mother are Presbyterians in religious attachments.

THOMAS J. PICKETT, who for the past five years has been editor and manager of the "Wahoo Wasp," at Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a writer of exceptional talent, well informed on all matters of general interest to the public. He conducts a wide-awake paper, Republican in political complexion, though devoted to the best interests of the community. He is a man of tried business ability, and by shrewd management has increased the circulation of his paper over 500 copies since he assumed control. Mr. Pickett was born at Peoria, Illinois, December 27, 1850, and is a son of Thomas J. and Louisa (Baily) Pickett.

Thomas J. Pickett, Sr., who was born March 17, 1821, was a man of considerable prominence in newspaper work, his entire business life being devoted to that vocation. When he was a boy, he worked in the printing office of George D. Prentice, and in 1840 located at Peoria, Illinois. He had the honor of being the first president of the Illinois Press Association. He was very prominent in Masonic



circles and served as grand master, both in Illinois and Kentucky. He was one of the organizers of the 69th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, of which he was lieutenant colonel. At the expiration of the term of service of the 69th Regiment, he organized the 132d Regiment, and was made its colonel. He was among the first to write to Abraham Lincoln urging that he accept the presidency, and a facsimile of Mr. Lincoln's reply appears in a work devoted to the life of Lincoln. In politics, he was originally a Whig, but was a delegate to the first national convention of the Republican party at Philadelphia, which nominated John C. Fremont for the presidency. He was a state senator, for the term beginning in 1860, from Rock Island, Illinois, where he then lived, having located in that city in 1858. At the close of the war he removed to Paducah, Kentucky, where he served as postmaster and also as clerk of the United States district court. He remained there until the spring of 1879, when he removed to Nebraska City, where he lived but one year. He then went to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he lived until his death, which occurred while he was on a visit to the home of his son at Ashland, Nebraska, December 24, 1891. He formed a matrimonial alliance with Louisa Baily, a native of Maryland, and she died while visiting relatives in Chester county, Pennsylvania. This union resulted in the following offspring: Horace G., George, Charles, Thomas J., and Mildred (Terrell). Mr. Pickett formed a second marriage, wedding Libby Smith, of Peoria, Illinois, who now resides in Lincoln, Nebraska.

They were the parents of three children: Harriet (Guthrie), May (Boswell), and William L.

Thomas J. Pickett, the subject hereof, received his early education in public and private schools. After working as a printer for several years, he began his journalistic career. In 1871, with H. F. White, he established the "Nokomis Gazette," at Nokomis, Illinois, and in 1872 he was appointed printer expert for the state, with office at Springfield, Illinois, subsequently disposing of his interest in the newspaper to Mr. White. He held the state office for nearly two years, after which he served as editor and manager of the "Fulton Journal," at Fulton, Illinois, until 1879. He then established the "Nebraska City Sun," at Nebraska City, which he and his father conducted as a daily morning paper. One year later he located in Ashland, Saunders county, and purchased the "Saunders County Reporter," the name of which he changed to the "Ashland Gazette," and its politics from Greenback to Republican. He continued to edit, manage and control the same until 1893, when he sold out the property. He served as postmaster for eight years under presidents Arthur and Harrison, and in 1888 was elected float senator from Saunders and Sarpy counties. In 1895 he located in Wahoo, and purchased a controlling interest in the "Wahoo Wasp," a Republican paper, of which he has since been editor and manager. He has been very active in politics, and in 1898 served as state central committee-

man. November 2, 1875 Mr. Pickett was united in

marriage with Kate C. Snyder, a daughter of Dr. W. C. Snyder, of Fulton, Illinois, and they are the parents of four sons, as follows: Stanley, who is with the Carpenter Paper Company, of Omaha, Nebraska; William, with R. G. Dun & Co., at Omaha; Henry, who is in the freight department of the B. & M. R. R. R. at South Omaha, Nebraska; and James, a member of the class of 1900, in the Wahoo High School. Fraternally Mr. Pickett is a member of Pomegranate Lodge, No. 62, A. F. & A. M., of Ashland, Nebraska.

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**J**OHAN JACOB ZEEB, an industrious and conscientious farmer of Sarpy county, Nebraska, has met with the best success in following his present independent vocation, and enjoys a reputation throughout his community as a good neighbor and citizen. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1840, and is a son of Jacob Zeeb.

The subject hereof was reared in Germany, and served six years in the army. In 1867 he came to the United States and at once settled in Illinois, where he was engaged in farming four years. He subsequently rented a tract of land in Sarpy county, but two years later, in 1884, he bought of Marion Fish, 80 acres in section 3, township 13, range 12. At that time there was a small house on the farm, and little improvements had been put on the land. He built a large barn and a granary, erected a new house, put out an orchard of 400 trees, consisting of nearly all kinds of fruit, and also set out

a vineyard. Besides raising considerable grain, he devotes much time to live stock, having about 70 hogs the year round, and a large number of milch cows, from which he makes butter, which sells at all times for 25 cents per pound. He has one of the best fruit farms in Fairview precinct, and is certainly an honor to his chosen occupation. He is economical and enterprising, and is esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Zeeb wedded Lena Gutbrod, by whom he had eight children. They are as follows: Annie, the wife of J. Lutz; Mary, the wife of Martin Houck; Jacob, who wedded Mary Hoehning; William, Lena, Tillie, Amelia, and Carrie, who died, aged sixteen months. Mr. Zeeb and family attend the Lutheran church.

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**H**ON. EDGAR HOWARD is a native of Osceola, Iowa, where he was born September 16, 1858. He is a son of James D. and Martha J. (Daniel) Howard. The former is deceased, while the latter now resides in Des Moines, Iowa.

When Mr. Howard was a lad of seven years, his parents moved to Glenwood, Iowa, where he attended the public schools, and worked at the printing trade until he was eighteen years old. He then started out through the country, and worked on various papers as printer and reporter. During 1881 and 1882 he held the position of city editor of the "Herald," at Dayton, Ohio. He then located in Omaha, where he found employment on the "Repub-

lican." In 1883 he went to Papillion, Nebraska, where he took charge of the "Times" for the executors of the estate of Henry Carpenter. He afterwards purchased the paper and conducted it for three years, after which he sold out to Hancock Brothers, and at Benkelman, Nebraska, he established the "Dundy Democrat," which he issued for two years. Selling out, he returned to Papillion, where he again purchased the "Times." Having studied law in Drake University at Des Moines, Iowa, he was admitted to the bar in 1885. In 1894 he was nominated by the Democratic convention by acclamation as a candidate for representative in the Ninth Legislative District, and was elected against the votes of Populists and Republicans. In 1895 he resigned his position in the legislature to accept a nomination for county judge. He was elected, and was afterward re-elected for a term of two years. As a Democrat, he has always taken an active part in all political matters.

Edgar Howard and Elizabeth Burtch of Clarinda, Iowa, were joined in marriage, November 11, 1884. She is a daughter of Alexander and Sarah (Bennett) Burtch. To this union a family of four children were born, namely: Fin, aged fifteen years; Mary, aged twelve years; Martha, aged nine years, and Helen, aged seven years. Mr. Howard is a member of the following fraternities, in which he takes a prominent part: Papillion Lodge No. 39, F. & A. M.; Omaha Chapter No. 1, R. A. M.; Omaha Council No. 1; Mt. Calvary Commander; Lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F., at Papillion; K. of P. No. 3, at Papillion; Modern

Woodmen of America, Camp No. 1791, at Papillion; Woodmen of the World, Seymour Camp, at Omaha; Imperial Mystic Legion, Papillion Castle; Elks, No. 39, Omaha.

CHRIST STUEHM is one of the leading and progressive farmers of Richland precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska. He was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1862, and is a son of Asmus and Esther (Hapman) Stuehm.

Asmus Stuehm lived in Germany all his life and died at an early age. By his union with Esther Hapman he had four children, as follows: Henry, of Douglas county, Nebraska; August, Joseph, and Christ. Mrs. Stuehm came to this country, having previously married John Hahan, by whom she has four children: Minnie, John, Annie, and Henry.

Christ Stuehm came to America and located in Nebraska in 1880, where he worked out for some time as a farm hand. He later rented a farm, and met with such success that he was enabled to buy one in 1892. He purchased 160 acres known as the Jones farm, in section 36, Richland precinct, Sarpy county, on which were located a few small buildings. He remodeled the buildings and enlarged them and set out a fine two-acre orchard. His land is under a high state of cultivation, and has a large average yield in corn, wheat and oats. The farm is well stocked, having 25 head of cattle, 60 hogs, and horses of good quality. He has given his entire time and

attention to making a success of his farm, and the results have exceeded his fondest expectations.

Mr. Stuehm was united in marriage with Cecelia Arp, a daughter of Klaus Arp. The latter came to this country from Germany and followed farming in Sarpy county for a period of three years, after which he returned to his native land. Six children have blessed this union, namely: Laura, August, Annie, Tena, Herman, and Lena. Religiously, the subject of this sketch is a faithful member of the Lutheran church. He is a man of pleasing personality, and is held in the highest esteem by his fellow citizens. In politics, Mr. Stuehm is a Democrat.

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**A**W. TRUMBLE is one of the oldest settlers of Sarpy county, Nebraska, within whose borders he located in 1855, when the white settlers were very few. The present position which Sarpy county occupies among her sister counties is due to such sterling, enterprising and progressive farmers as the gentleman whose name appears at the opening of these lines. He was born in Orleans county, New York, in 1830, and is a son of Abner Trumble.

A. W. Trumble was reared upon his father's farm, and the mental training he obtained in the district schools of his native place was supplemented by a course of study in Brockport Collegiate Institute. He taught school in the vicinity for four years, and, after visiting many places, he arrived at Belle-

vue, Nebraska, in 1885. That locality seemed to have a very promising future, and he accordingly decided to engage in agricultural pursuits there and to grow up with the West. He took up a claim in Fairview precinct, where Richard Kane now resides, and there he began to till the soil. In 1856 he sold that farm and took up 320 acres of his present farm. He began to break the sod, and one of his first labors was to build a small house of cottonwood timber. He also set out shade trees, but, about two years later, his house was struck by lightning, and he was compelled to build another house, which he continued to live in until about the year 1866, when he changed his location to the present site. He built a large house and set out a row of maple trees, some of which have grown to be about three feet in diameter. He also planted a locust grove, with seed brought from the state of New York. Besides shade trees, he put out a fine orchard, which now bears abundantly, and by constant laboring, he soon had his farm in a good state of cultivation. Mr. Trumble has always been a hard worker, and his life has been worthy of imitation. He helped to establish a school in his district, in which he taught one term, and his early neighbors speak of him in the highest terms as a successful teacher. He owns 720 acres in Richland precinct, of which he disposed of 60 acres for railroad purposes, and for the town site of Chalco. He also owns the McLaughlin farm in La Platte precinct, which consists of 400 acres, of which 100 acres is a dense forest. He keeps about 25 horses, besides a





CHARLES REICHERT.

large number of cattle and hogs. He deals extensively in live stock and also raises considerable grain. In some years he has raised 70 bushels of corn to the acre; 50 bushels of oats, and 20 bushels of wheat.

Mr. Trumble wedded Cordelia Kingman, of Orleans county, New York, and to them were born the following children: Fred, a farmer in Papillion precinct; Elizabeth, who is the wife of J. M. Yates, of Bellevue; Edith, who was wedded to Samuel M. Gramlich; William; Jesse, a farmer of Gretna, Nebraska; Clarence, a railroad contractor and builder; Maud, unmarried and living at home; and two sons and a daughter who died in infancy. Mr. Trumble has held many public offices of trust, having served as sheriff, in 1858-1859; county commissioner, assessor, and superintendent of roads. In 1862, 1866 and 1867, he was honored with a seat in the legislature, during the closing days of Nebraska as a territory, and the beginning of her statehood. In 1866-1867, he served on the school board, and has officiated in that capacity for the past twenty years. The subject of this sketch is prominently known throughout the county as an up-to-date, honest and enterprising farmer, and few of the pioneers are more favorably regarded than Mr. Trumble.

when he was eight years of age, and settled in Pike county, Ohio. His father was a farmer, and Charles worked on the home farm until he was twenty-two years of age. His only schooling was acquired during the winter months in the district school. At the age of twenty-two years he left home, going to Cass county, Nebraska, where he took up a farm and worked it for a period of four years. In the fall of 1861 he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, being one of the earliest settlers in the county, where he has since continued. Lumber could not be procured in those days, so he built a log house, in which the family lived for several years before he built his present residence. He owns the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 22, fractional, comprising 140 and 85-100 acres, and also 45 acres in the northwest quarter of section 17. In common with the other settlers of that period, Mr. Reichert experienced great hardships, but could not be deterred from clinging to what, at times, notably during the grasshopper invasion, seemed a hopeless chance. He now owns one of the finest farms in the northern part of Saunders county.

In 1856 the subject of this sketch married Dora Stellar, and after her demise, in 1867, he married her sister, Mary Stellar, a daughter of George and Anne Elizabeth Stellar, of Jackson county, Ohio. He is the father of ten children, as follows: Philip, born in 1859; Mary, born December 20, 1861; Kate, born May 29, 1868; Rose, born December 22, 1869; Annie, born December 25, 1871; Henry, born in October, 1874; Andrew, born in 1876;

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**C**HARLES REICHERT, a well-to-do farmer of Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Bavaria, Germany, March 4, 1834. The family moved to the United States

Charles, born in 1878; Ella, born June 10, 1882; and Daniel, born August 1, 1884. Philip married Clara Whitten, and now lives in Madison county, Nebraska, with his family of seven children, as follows: Theodore, Agnes, Charles, Jessie, Ada, Joseph, and Philip. Kate married Peter Metz, and with their two children, Ella and Katy, they are living in Fremont, Dodge county, Nebraska. Annie married William Duhardt, and with their three children, Ella, Emma, and Charles, they are living in Madison county, Nebraska. The subject of this sketch, with J. Richardson, was the first road supervisor in the district. Politically he is a Populist. A portrait of Mr. Reichert accompanies this sketch.

**P**AUL BOOB is one of the most successful and influential farmers of Sarpy county, Nebraska, in which he owns about 1,200 acres of land. He is extensively engaged in raising and shipping cattle, and his farm is especially adapted to the pursuit of that occupation.

Mr. Boob was born near East St. Louis, in Clair county, Illinois, in 1837, and is a son of Fred and Catherine (Craemer) Boob. He spent his early life on a farm in Illinois, and received his mental training in the district schools there. In the spring of 1859, at the time of the Pike's Peak excitement, he went west with the intention of digging gold. However, instead of mining, he purchased a yoke of oxen and en-

gaged in freighting across the plains, making in all sixteen round trips from the Missouri River to Pike's Peak, and one trip to Salt Lake City. Having spent eight or nine years in this manner, he decided to settle down. In 1868 he located on his present farm of 160 acres in section 30, township 13, range 11, in Sarpy county, which had been pre-empted by John Drexel, of Omaha, but was unimproved. He sold his oxen and purchased a span of mares and a colt, and this was practically all he had to start with. His first house was a small shanty, which has since been moved from its original location, and is now used as a repair house for the farm. His property is at the head of Buffalo Creek, along which there is considerable natural timber, and there he got the poles which formed the frame work of his first barn, covering these with straw. He planted a cottonwood grove, from which he had 18,000 feet of lumber sawed in 1898, to use in the construction of his corn cribs. He still has a heavy grove to the north and west of his buildings. The first ten or fifteen years of his life on the farm he worked very hard. As an example of his untiring energy, he was wont to start for Omaha, then the only market, in the evening, to return the following forenoon, and to devote the rest of the day to hard work. He put out a small orchard of 40 trees at first, but they did not do well, and three or four years later he set out an orchard of seven acres, which, with some replacing, has thrived and is now in excellent condition. His first house was 12 by 22 feet in dimensions, and consisted of two rooms, and in this he lived until about



1880, when he built the first part of his present house, to which he has twice added. It is L shaped, the main part being 14 by 30 feet in dimensions, with an L of equal size. It is furnished throughout with modern conveniences, and has a dining room measuring 20 by 16 feet, and a kitchen with dimensions of 12 by 14 feet. The house is supplied with water throughout, and is provided with a bathroom. Mr. Boob's first frame barn was erected in 1887 at a cost of \$1,100. It has a stone foundation and the basement is arranged for the stabling of horses. The dimensions of the barn are 38 by 40 feet, with 16-foot posts above the foundation. To this an addition was built, 40 feet wide, which is used as a machine shed. The next building to the east is a large granary and corn crib, with ample buggy shed in the middle. The granary, with a capacity of 1,800 bushels of small grain, and the double corn-crib, with a capacity of 3,000 bushels, are located on the west side, and on the other side of the building is a shed for calves and colts. This was built in 1888. An ice house of the size of 12 by 14 feet is located near by. Next is the hog house and calf shed, 100 feet long and 18 feet wide, opening on the east, and the corn-crib, built in 1893, 80 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 14 feet high. The cattle shed, built on the south, making it an L-shaped building, is 16 feet wide and 80 long. Near by are the scales and a tubular well 109 feet deep. The well is supplied with a windmill and a tank of 100-barrel capacity, from which the automatic watering trough is filled. Mr. Boob raises and ships cattle extensively, having on hand at all times from 100

to 150 cattle, and about 100 head of hogs. He raises mixed Norman and English Shire draft horses, and also has some standard-bred drivers. He has a pretty herd of white Angora goats, numbering about 100 head.

In 1868 Mr. Boob was united in marriage with Julia Hare, while in the west; owing to the fact that a minister was a rarity, Jacob Fackler, a justice of the peace, performed the ceremony. Mrs. Boob was born in Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of John and Elizabeth Hare, her father having located in Sarpy county, Nebraska, in 1859. She has a sister, Mrs. George Case, residing near Gretna, in that county, and also a brother within the county limits. Her union with Mr. Boob was prolific of ten children, as follows: Mary, who lives at home; Clara, wife of James McLean, who lives near Gretna; John, who is married and lives on one of his father's farms; Alfred, who lives at home; Mary Jane, deceased, who was the wife of Frank Cunningham, who also lives on Mr. Boob's farm; Annie (Sandy), who lives near by; Thomas, who lives at home; George, Minnie, and Paul, an infant. Paul Boob is Democratic in politics, and served as school treasurer in district 29 for two years. He belonged to the Grange before that order became extinct. His family are strict adherents of the Lutheran faith.

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JAMES E. JOHNSON carried on farming in Sarpy county, Nebraska, for many years, being one of the old pioneer settlers there, and as a result of his untiring

energy and persevering industry he has succeeded in accumulating a handsome fortune which enables him to spend his latter days in quietude and peace. His birth occurred at Columbia, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1832, and he is a son of Bartus and Mary (Shubert) Johnson, to whom were born eleven children, of whom three are now living. Those living are Angeline, the wife of Oliver H. Kitchen, of Berwick, Pennsylvania, who has two children,—Frank R. and Jennie E.; William, who came west in 1868, but being of a roving disposition and having no permanent abode, spent many years in the Dakotas, where he has served as state senator; and the subject hereof. James E. Johnson's father died in Pennsylvania, while the mother passed from this life several years after she moved to Sarpy county, Nebraska.

Mr. Johnson remained under the parental roof until he became of age, during which time he worked on his father's farm, but on attaining his majority he began to learn the trade of what is known as keeper in the iron works at Danville, Pennsylvania, and remained there three years. He then followed his trade at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for two years, but in the hope of bettering his condition he settled in Sarpy county in the spring of 1858. He took the train, which then ran as far west as Iowa City, Iowa, but from there he was obliged to continue his journey by stage, going by way of Des Moines. Four other men also took the stage at Iowa City, and after they had reached a point several miles on the other side of Des Moines the stage broke down several times, causing considerable delay. Mr. Johnson ar-

rived in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 26, 1858, and at once purchased a land warrant for \$165, which he holds to this day, and on which are no signs of a transfer or mortgage. He walked from Omaha to Bellevue, and thence to his land on the Platte River, the tract being located on the north half of the northeast quarter of section 31, and the south half of the southeast quarter of section 30, both in township 13, range 12. To comply with the law in regard to making improvements, he bought a 12 by 14 foot house from a neighbor, who had once used it, and moved it on his farm. After remaining there the necessary time to establish his right, he returned to Iowa, where he worked two years around a saw mill for Peter A. Sarpy, after whom Sarpy county was named. Returning to Sarpy county, he brought with him a horse, but no money. During the first six months he worked out at \$20 per month, and for day he took a yoke of steers, which were then used to break the land. He turned under from 10 to 20 acres per year, and used hay stables, the frame work consisting of poles. He afterward built a log house in which he lived until 1882, the dimensions of the house being 14 by 16 feet. In the fall of 1882 he tore the old cabin down and built a frame house 24 feet square. In 1891 he put up a frame barn 24 by 18 feet in dimensions, and on the old barn site he erected a cattle and buggy shed 40 feet in length. As there was no natural timber on the place, he set out cottonwood trees along the north and east sides of the house, the slips being obtained from an island in the Platte River. Having no means to haul

them to the house he carried them home, often carrying from 50 to 100 slips. He has lived to see these very slips grow into trees from one foot to four feet in diameter. He recently cut 50 cords of wood from them. Sometimes after setting out the slips he bought five acres of timber land for \$11 per acre, the tract being an island. An abundance of water can be obtained at a depth of from 20 to 22 feet, and besides there are two fine springs on the property. Mr. Johnson has an orchard which has not proven very successful. In former years he devoted the most of his time to the raising of grain, but later put in potatoes, which often brought \$3 and \$3.50 per bushel. Still later he began to deal more extensively in live stock, raising mostly Shorthorn cattle. He has successfully raised Berkshire, Chester White, and Poland-China hogs, but he prefers the Chester Whites. Mr. Johnson now rents his farm, and since the spring of 1900 he has been residing in Springfield, where he bought three lots, upon which was a small house, which he has remodeled and enlarged into a comfortable cottage. The subject of this sketch has been very successful at farming, and is a thoroughly self-made man. He enjoys a wide acquaintance throughout the county, and is an honest and upright citizen.

Politically, Mr. Johnson is a staunch Democrat, and he has served as road overseer for a score of years. His niece keeps house for him. He took two children to raise. They are: Mrs. McDonald, of Richfield, Sarpy county, who is the mother of one child, Katie, and Everett McMahon.

**W.** H. PETERS, who has been a resident of Sarpy county, Nebraska, since 1856, is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on his farm in Springfield precinct.

Mr. Peters was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1836, and is a son of John and Esther (Walkly) Peters. Eight children blessed this union, as follows: Henrietta (Koch), who died in Sarpy county; Anna (Wright), also deceased, who is survived by two children, Mary and Annie; W. H., to whom this record pertains; John, who has always lived at Bellevue, Sarpy county, since first locating there, and is the father of four children, Harry, Mary, Maggie, and John, the last named being in a shoe store at Omaha; Amos, deceased, who was a carpenter by trade, his family being in Omaha; Lucetta (Bachelder), of La Platte, Nebraska; James, who was drowned in the Missouri River, near Kansas City, in July, 1899; and Charles, who is a miner in Idaho. Mrs. Peters died in August, 1856, and her husband died in October of the same year.

W. H. Peters, when in his twentieth year, came to Sarpy county, Nebraska, with his parents, in 1856, locating at Bellevue when there were only a few houses in the town. His father followed wagon and carriage making there until his death, and then the subject hereof, being the oldest son and also a mechanic, was obliged to support the family. He followed the wagon-making business for a period of twenty-five years, with much success, and an effort was made to keep the family of nine children together, but they finally scat-

tered, and John is the only one remaining in Bellevue. He owned 40 acres of land in Fairview, and in 1879 or 1880 purchased 80 acres at \$8 per acre,—it being his present home, near Springfield. He purchased it of Mr. Sexon, who had begun to break the land, and he hired the remainder broken. He located upon this property in 1883, building his present house, the main part of which in dimensions is 22 by 30 feet, and one story high, with an L, 14 by 18 feet in size, and one and a half stories high. Springfield was then but one year old. Mr. Peters set out an ample orchard west of the house, which has been bearing finely, also many small fruit trees, to which he has added from time to time. He has a very pretty house and grounds, located near the road, and box elders, elms, maples, and a few silver-leaved maples, ornament the yard. There is an excellent spring on the south side of the farm, which supplies water for the stock. Mr. Peters has a 30-acre pasture, in which there is also a spring. He got the supplies for his first shop at Glenwood and Council Bluffs, as there was nothing but government buildings at Bellevue then. The latter town was always filled with people, however, and was a very lively place. Mr. Peters has often had deer hunts close to Bellevue.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage at Xenia, Nebraska, with Ellen M. Bates, oldest daughter of J. A. Bates, an old settler of the county. He was the father of seven children: Ellen M., Mary C., deceased; Nathalie; William; Henry; Louis, who runs a drug store at Springfield; and Eva, deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Peters have five children, as follows: Mattie, who lives at home, and is engaged in school teaching; J. Arthur, who is studying medicine in the Omaha Medical College, and has two more years before graduation; Joseph W., who travels out of Omaha for a shoe house; Etta, a music teacher of recognized ability; and Augustus, who is living at home. Mr. Peters was formerly a strong Democrat, but is now a Prohibitionist. He served as a member of the town council and as justice of the peace for two years at Bellevue. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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ROYAL G. GLOVER located within the borders of Sarpy county, Nebraska, in 1856, where he has since continued to reside. He is now practically retired, as he has rented his farm and from choice lives in a small house in the woods in section 2, township 12, range 10. Throughout his adopted county he has hosts of friends, and he is regarded as a good neighbor and citizen. He was born October 22, 1846, in Jasper county, Indiana, and is a son of John B. and Eliza (Child) Glover.

John B. Glover was born January 25, 1810, in Kentucky. He died in 1894, at Lincoln, Nebraska, and now lies buried at Tabor, Iowa. With his family he settled in Sarpy county in 1856, crossing the Missouri River April 17 of that year. His family consisted of a wife and six children. As each settler took what land he wanted, he "squatted" on 320 acres in sec-

tion 2, township 12, range 10, and as he had disposed of his farm in Iowa for \$1,600 in gold he was better equipped financially than the majority of farmers at that early date. He immediately built a house of rough logs, in which the family lived until October, when it was turned into a stable, and he hewed out timber enough to build another house. The first year he broke 22 acres, which he planted in sod-corn and pumpkins, the latter being very acceptable to eat during the following winter. After living in the old log house several years the father built a frame house measuring 16 by 32 feet, with an 8-foot shed along one side. The lumber for the house was obtained at a saw mill at Forest City. As he drove through from Iowa with four horses and twelve or fifteen head of cattle, his live stock began to increase quite rapidly, so the old hewed log house, which was 16 by 20 feet in extent, by 10 logs high, was turned into a barn. In those days he raised wheat, oats, corn and buckwheat, and, as he invested his earnings in farm land, before he retired he owned several hundred acres. He retired in 1880 to Louisville, Nebraska, where he bought a neat little home on the Platte River, and there he spends his last days in quietude and comfort. His wife, Eliza Weld Child, was born November 22, 1812, in Vermont, and she died October 13, 1887, and is also buried in Iowa. The old homestead is now owned by other parties. They were the parents of the following children: Mary E., Ezra Child, Henry Clay, Lucy Helen, John V., Royal G., Eliza Ann, Sarah P., and Minerva Grace. Mary E., born December 27, 1832, is

the wife of Mr. Lesler of Gordon, Nebraska, and they had five sons: Henry C., William, Oliver P., and Millard and Charles, twins. Ezra Child is deceased. Henry Clay was of a roving disposition, and the last time he was heard from he was in Washington. Lucy Helen wedded a Mr. Tower, of Ashland, Nebraska, and they had one child, Bertha. John V. was killed several years ago at Los Angeles, California; he was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war. Royal G., is the subject of this record. Eliza Ann is the wife of a Mr. Woods, of Tabor, Iowa. Sarah P. was joined in marriage with Mr. Chessington, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and they have two children, Buel and Aura. Minerva Grace, the youngest, is now Mrs. Hilderbrand, of Clearwater, Nebraska, and has two children, Carl and Edna. The Glovers formerly lived in Indiana, but in 1853 the father moved to Iowa, where he spent two and one-half years before he entered Nebraska.

Royal G. Glover had few school privileges, and remained at home until he became of age. He then purchased his present farm in section 5, township 12, range 11, and all the improvements upon it are the results of his own work. About the year 1880 he put up nearly all the present outbuildings, the barn and the house. He has a first-class orchard. For six years he kept a store across the road from his house. On account of sickness he has been compelled to abandon hard labor, and he is now living a comfortable life in the woods. He has always been very fond of the woods, and during the pioneer days he delighted in hunting, as the

timberland was full of all kinds of game.

Mr. Glover was joined in marriage with Jane Kennedy, a daughter of James Kennedy, and they have had eight children, namely: Olive M., who is the wife of Frank E. Dowling, of Papillion, and has a daughter, Zella; Waldo William, who is deceased; Ralph Rollins, who owns a farm near where his father lives; Kate L., who is deceased; Birdie, who is at home; an infant son, who died when quite young, and Perry Clay and Nellie Alice, who are at home. In politics the subject hereof is a staunch Republican, and has served on the school boards in both districts in which he has lived. Religiously, he is a Methodist, and as he is a carpenter by trade he not only contributed in money, but in labor also, for the erection of a church.



**S**OLOMON ZEORIAN, a prosperous farmer of Springfield precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, was born in Switzerland, February 22, 1844, and is a son of Christ Zeorian.

Christ Zeorian died when Solomon was but two years of age. He was the father of seven children, of whom nearly all are dead. Solomon was the only member of the family to come to this country. Their names are as follows: Christ, Jr., Mattie, Mary, Barbara, Susie, John, and Solomon.

Solomon Zeorian began work as a boy at herding cattle, sheep and goats, as his home was in the mountains of Switzerland and not much farming is done, except in the valleys.

When about eighteen years old, he left his home for America, in company with two other young men. He landed in New York City with but little money, and soon located at Alliance, Ohio, where he engaged in farming for three years. He was married at Canton, Ohio, and then moved to a small town near St. Joseph, Missouri, where his wife died. He was discouraged and tempted to return to his home in Switzerland, but was first persuaded by friends in Saunders county, Nebraska, to make them a visit. So pleased was he with the farming opportunities of that state that he homesteaded near Yutan, Saunders county, and in the same spring worked for a Mr. Gantz, and later for Mr. Schaup in the mill at Papillion. He kept the homestead for some time and then sold out. He bought his present farm in Sarpy county, Nebraska, from Ham Hinkel. It consisted of 160 acres, and to this he added a tract of 80 acres, making 240 acres of finely improved farming land. He also had a timber claim in Furnas county, and some land in Hamilton county, Nebraska, which he sold. He removed to his present home during the winter succeeding his purchase, and erected a small house and a temporary barn, which were shortly after destroyed by fire. Another was built on the present site, and from the 80 acres which he purchased he moved the small house as an addition to it, making it a comfortable and roomy home. He subsequently built a substantial barn, 28 by 32 feet, in size, with a granary and corn crib attached. Previous to the purchase of his home, Mr. Zeorian worked for J. D. Spearman, being employed in hauling

and teaming to and from Omaha. He has made all the improvements upon the property, which is in as good condition as any in the district. In 1884 he set out cottonwood, maple, and ash trees, and has a grove of two acres. He has about 18 acres of fruit trees in all, consisting of three different orchards, one of five acres near the house, another of eight acres south of the house, and a third of five acres on the 80-acre tract which he last bought. He set out three acres of peach trees in the spring of 1899, which are growing well and give much promise. He has a large pasture of 50 acres, through which there is a stream of running water supplied by a strong spring. It was the water supply that induced Mr. Zeorian to build so far back from the road. The spring supplies water for all the stock, and there is also a 30-foot well near the house. Mr. Zeorian has met with success in raising Shorthorn cattle, and Poland-China hogs, preferring the latter to any other kind, after having given them all a thorough trial.

Mr. Zeorian formed a second matrimonial alliance, in this instance with Florence Rarick, a daughter of J. W. and Mary Rarick, of Iowa, the latter being the parents of five children: Gloriana, who died at the age of twenty years; Florence, Mr. Zeorian's wife; Sherman, who lives in Iowa; Mattie (Maxwell), of California; and Mrs. Frank Orth, of Portland, Oregon. Two children, Laura and Beulah, are deceased. Mrs. Zeorian was reared, mainly, in Ohio. She is of English descent, and one of her uncles has traced the family history, on the mother's side, back to Oliver Cromwell.

The subject of this sketch and his wife have ten children, all living, as follows: Pearl; Elmer; Roy; Mattie B.; Minnie May; William E.; John W.; Solomon, Jr.; Ralph Dewey, and James Kirk. In politics Mr. Zeorian is a Republican, while in religious attachments he is a member of the Congregational church.

JOHN PETTY, who has been located in Sarpy county, Nebraska, since 1866, has a fine farm in Springfield precinct, and is extensively engaged in general farming, dairying and stock raising. He is one of the reliable citizens of that district, and is held in the highest esteem.

Mr. Petty was born in Ontario, Canada, in November, 1837, and is a son of John and Phebe (Bell) Petty,—his parents being of English descent. Seven children were born to his parents, as follows: John, the subject of this sketch; Thomas, deceased, who lived in Nebraska for a time; Edmond, of Hot Springs, South Dakota; Joseph, a ranchman and speculator of the same place, who owned the farm on which that town is now located, and also started the town; Anne, who lives in Canada; Phebe, who also lives in Canada; and one who died young.

John Petty moved to Sarpy county, Nebraska, from Ontario, Canada, in 1866. The trip was made overland by wagon, drawn by two horses, and consumed five weeks and two days. He settled first in section 11, just north of his present home, on supply school land,

where he made quite extensive improvements. He was later completely burned out. He rebuilt and lived there until 1894, when he purchased his present fine farm of 120 acres at \$57 per acre. He remodeled and added to the house, which is now a double one, 16 by 20 feet each way, and also built a barn 20 by 30 feet in dimensions, with corn crib adjoining. He built corn cribs, cow sheds, and other necessary outbuildings, and the farm is now in excellent condition for successfully carrying on his business. His original farm of 160 acres he sold to Mr. Shubert. The orchard on his present farm was set out in 1883, and he has set out a young orchard which promises well. His house and the surrounding grounds cover five acres and present an attractive appearance from the road. In early days the yield of his land was very heavy, and he now plants, principally, corn. He is also engaged in dairy,—milking 14 cows,—and supplies the creamery at Springfield. He has high grade stock, and favors Shorthorns. He has a good 100-foot tubular well, which is equipped with a windmill.

Mr. Petty's first wife died in 1880, having given birth to three children in Canada, and two in Sarpy county. They are as follows: Jennie Correll, of Oxford, Nebraska; John, deceased; James, a farmer and ranchman of South Dakota; Julia (Cunningham), of Sarpy county; and Phebe, who is single, and is now visiting in this state. Mrs. Petty's maiden name was Elizabeth Coleman, and she was a sister of Thomas Coleman, a prominent farmer and ranchman of Sarpy county. Mr.

Petty subsequently formed a second marriage, wedding Dora Barton, of Iowa, and they have had nine children, eight of whom are living as follows: Annie; Cora; Lucy; Kate; Ray; Earl; Mary; and John, Jr. Politically the subject of this sketch is a Democrat.

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**E**DWARD E. GOOD, a leading attorney of the Saunders county bar, has been practicing law at Wahoo ever since his admission, in 1885, and has met with good success. He is one of the most active and enterprising men of the town, and in addition to his practice, has been identified with a number of public ventures, which have been of material benefit to the place.

Mr. Good was born near Bloomfield, Davis county, Iowa, May 13, 1862, and is a son of William H. and Mary (McCullough) Good. He attended the Southern Iowa State Normal School, of Bloomfield, and pursued his legal studies at the State University of Iowa, from which he graduated with the class of 1885. During his college days, he and Hon. B. F. Good, the present judge of the Fifth Judicial District of Nebraska, were associates, both being in the same college class. After graduation, together they located at Wahoo, forming a partnership which existed until January 1, 1900. Edward E. Good has devoted his entire time to his practice, and a good paying clientage has been his reward. In politics, he is a Republican, and takes an active interest in the workings of the party. He is a director



in the First National Bank of Wahoo, and also a director in the Wahoo Building & Loan Association, of which he served as president for four years.

Mr. Good was united in marriage with Orpha Gillilan, of Central City, Iowa, in 1885. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic Order, belonging to blue lodge, the chapter, commandery and the shrine. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias; the A. O. U. W., and the Woodmen of the World.

 H. DAVIDSON is one of Nebraska's pioneers, who has been ambitious to develop the rich resources and further the useful enterprises of his state, and to that end he has devoted much time and labor. He is a prompt and careful business man, and by strict integrity and persevering industry, he has amassed a comfortable fortune. He is now the owner of over 1,500 acres of good farming land, and a number of buildings, and is president of the Sarpy County State Bank, which is located at Springfield. He was born in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1853, and is the only child of James and Sarah J. (Murphy) Davidson, the latter a native of Pennsylvania, while the former was born and reared in Ohio, although his parents were originally from Pennsylvania.

James Davidson crossed the Missouri River November 1, 1856, and took up a warrant of

160 acres of land near the Platte River, in Sarpy county, located in section 18, township 12, range 11, 40 acres of which were never transferred. In the following spring his wife and his son, W. H., joined him. W. H. Davidson still has a good recollection of the many incidents that took place on the boat from St. Louis, Missouri, to Bellevue, Nebraska. After the father had spent the required five days and nights\* on his farm, he pre-empted another tract of land near the South Bend bridge, on the old town site of Platford. This land is now owned by J. H. Preston, and Mr. Davidson was obliged to pay 60 per cent for the money he borrowed to pay on the farm. About that time an uncle pre-empted a tract of land in Sarpy county, but in 1858, he moved to Omaha, and from there to Nebraska City, where he remained until he enlisted in the Union army. He spent three years in the army and was mustered out as a captain. W. H. Davidson's father built a house on the old Platford town site, in which he lived two years, and in the fall of 1859 he moved to the present homestead, in section 5, township 12, range 11. On the 40 acres west of the present buildings, he built a log house and a straw stable. Around the house he set out many cottonwood shoots, which were obtained from the Platte River. Some of the trees grown from them now have a diameter of 32 inches each. In 1861, W. H. Davidson set out a twig, which broke and caused a large gnarl in the huge tree, as it still stands. Five and six yoke of oxen were then used in turning the soil. This work was hired by James Davidson, and he was

obliged to pay \$4 and \$5 per acre, which was more than the land cost. In 1865-1866, Mr. Davidson helped to set out a two and one-half acre grove of cottonwood trees, which were recently sawed into 17,000 feet of lumber, a 16-foot cut of one tree making 320 feet of lumber. He also helped to set out an orchard of 50 trees in 1863, but the trees were all killed during the following winter. In 1858 Mr. Davidson took the contract for carrying the weekly mail from Bellevue to Platford, for four years; he made a trip by horseback every week for a short time, when he sold the route, and was succeeded by Horace Rogers. For many years his produce was marketed at Omaha, which city had but few improvements at that time. Mr. Davidson has a good recollection of the road along which he traveled, and of the two old wooden bridges across Buffalo and Papillion creeks. Wheat was raised extensively by James Davidson, which, after being cradled, was threshed either with a flail or by allowing the animals to tramp out the grain. The first thresher seen in his section of Sarpy county was a horse-power machine, in 1862, and all the neighbors were wont to assist each other; the threshers each furnished one team and charged 8 cents a bushel. The subject hereof has spent many a day operating the self-raking harvester and helping to bind, and he remembers the first wire binder that made its appearance, in 1878. The machines cost from \$300 to \$350 each, and James Davidson bought a half interest in a Plano binder for \$250. In 1883 twine-binders came into use, and at that time, twine was worth 22c

per pound. The early pioneer knew little of screen doors and windows, which came into use about 1874. Mr. Davidson had a great number of cows, and in 1865 he sold to H. K. Clark, of Bellevue, 800 pounds of butter, which he had helped to churn by hand. This was hauled to Denver, Colorado, by oxen. He also had a number of steers, which were then used for all farming purposes. An unbroken steer cost \$45 and \$50, while a good pair of oxen brought as much as \$140. Horses were then very high-priced, and were considered quite a luxury. His first frame barn was built in 1870. It still stands, in a good state of preservation, and is used for a shed and granary. At that time pine shingles cost \$4 per thousand, while flooring lumber cost \$50 per thousand. The money for building this barn was raised by selling wheat, which the subject hereof hauled to Omaha, bringing back a load of lumber. W. H. Davidson's present residence was built in 1874. The main part was 18 by 28 feet in dimensions, and a story and a half high, the original building being of logs, and consisted of a room 16 feet square. To the west of the house W. H. Davidson assisted his father in setting out a walnut grove, containing four long rows. Some of the trees have grown to be 50 inches in circumference. He also helped put out a hedge, which extends about half a mile along the road. In 1892 W. H. Davidson's present barn was built, which is 32 feet square, with 16-foot posts. Two large cattle sheds and corn cribs have also been built. One is 100 by 20 feet in dimensions, and holds 5,000 bushels of corn, while the size of the other is 112

by 20 feet. In the center of his cattle yard is a self-feeder, which holds a large supply of corn. James Davidson managed the farm until 1892, when he retired from active life and moved to Springfield, Nebraska, where he passed from this life, in 1895. He was one of the largest stockholders in the Sarpy County State Bank. At the time of his death, he owned 1,000 acres of good farming land, all of which was in one body, and W. H. Davidson was the only heir to the same. James Davidson was an influential farmer and citizen of Sarpy county, and his death was deeply deplored by his many friends, who knew him to be upright and honest in all his transactions.

W. H. Davidson received his educational training in the district school of district 9, which extended across the county, and Miss Bates, now Mrs. A. V. Rogers, of Springfield, was his first teacher. He also attended the Bellevue graded school, and the state university at Lincoln. He assisted his father in operating the farm, and since 1892 he has managed it alone. Since August, 1895, however, he has devoted most of his time to the management of the bank of which he is president. He owns 32 of the 36 shares, which are valued at \$500 each, and as he is a man of good financial ability, through his exertions the bank is able to keep pace with the rapid growth of Sarpy county. The Protestant church in the vicinity was built, in 1885, by public subscription. For many years previous to that time church meetings were held at the different homes—as elections were often held. Before the death of his father, W. H. Davidson had purchased 527

acres of land, all of which is adjoining the homestead, with the exception of 120 acres. The most of his farms are rented. There are six tenement houses on these farms. From the one operated by the subject hereof he ships several carloads of cattle each year, raised thereon. He has three wells, one of which is tubular and 70 feet deep, while another is 10 feet in depth, both being operated by windmills. The third well is used for domestic purposes. In politics Mr. Davidson is a staunch Republican, and has served on the school board. In 1879 he wedded Olive Lefler, who came to Sarpy county from Indiana, on a visit of a year's duration. They have five children: James, assistant cashier in the bank; John, Floyd, Sarah, and Charles. The two last named attended school in district 17, while John and Floyd attend the high school in Springfield. Mr. Davidson is widely known throughout the county, and regarded as an honest, upright and straightforward business man, and one who always lends his influence to promote the welfare of his community and state.

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ANSEL SPALDING JUCKETT, one of the representative citizens of Saunders county, Nebraska, resides upon his excellent farm of 160 acres in Pohocco precinct. He was born at Whitehall, Washington county, New York, and is a son of Daniel and Rachael (Wheaton) Juckett, and a grandson of Michael Juckett, who settled at the head of Lake Champlain shortly after the Revolutionary War. Mr. Juckett's parents are both living,

Mrs. Juckett's maiden name being Wheadon, a highly connected family of that period. The family consists of four children, all of whom are living, as follows: Ansel Spalding, Byron, Marsellous, and Martha, the wife of James Wilson. With the exception of Ansel, all, with their families, live near their parents at Whitehall, New York.

Ansel Spalding Juckett's early life was spent on a farm, and influenced by the same conditions that affected all alike in his time. Boys were taught to swing the ax in the forest and assist in earning a livelihood, taking at odd times what schooling the community afforded. However, through his parents' especial care, and by reason of his own perseverance and ambitious disposition, he managed to acquire a very good common school education. Upon approaching his majority, his younger brothers having grown up to relieve him of his cares and duties at home, he went out on his own responsibility. For a short time he worked as a farm hand, but finally turned his attention to canaling, serving at different times both as boat hand and on the tow path. It was not long until he got a position in Ami Gibbs' company store, at Whitehall, New York, and this position he held for some time, at last taking almost entire charge of the management. It was while there that he formed the acquaintance of and married Marge L. McConnell, a daughter of Daniel and Lauretta McConnell, then living at Mooers, Clinton county, New York. The succeeding ten years were spent in mixed farming, dairying and gardening in Washington and Warren coun-

ties, New York. He then became interested in the development of the West, and came to Nebraska in the spring of 1876, leaving his family to follow a few months later. Through the advice of friends familiar with the different portions of the state, he settled in Saunders county. Although the country was yet very new, the real hardships to which earlier settlers had been exposed were over. The country at this time was just beginning to prosper, and to offer assurance of permanent homes. The summer of 1876 was spent in work upon the construction of the new Lincoln branch of the Union Pacific Railroad, from Valley, Douglas county, and Mr. Juckett, with ox teams, broke the land for the town site where Yutan now stands. His family having arrived in the fall, he rented a farm in Marble precinct, for a home, and continued to rent for three successive seasons, when he purchased his present home, which had previously been homesteaded by Abner Smith. This farm of 160 acres is situated in the north-east corner of Pohocco precinct, six and one-half miles southeast of Fremont, Dodge county, Nebraska.

Mr. Juckett's family consists of two children: Delbert B., who is engaged in public school work; and Frances, wife of Dr. M. W. Page, of Spencer, Clay county, Iowa. They were both born in the state of New York. The subject of this sketch has been prosperous and quite successful, and is loyal to the state of Nebraska and her interests. Since leaving New York he, with his family, has made three visits to his old home and relations. He is a

member of the M. E. church, and a Populist in politics. He has never held office except that of member of the school board, and could not be persuaded to enter public life in any capacity.

Delbert Byron Juckett, the only son of Ansel S. and Marge L. (McConnell) Juckett, was born in Whitehall, Washington county, New York, April 28, 1869. At the age of eight years, Mr. Juckett came to Nebraska, with his parents. From that time his boyhood experiences were molded by conditions surrounding a family trying, in a new country, to make the best of adverse circumstances and to build up a home for the future. His attendance at school was consequently more or less irregular. However, he managed to get what was to be had in the district school, and at the age of nineteen years entered the Fremont Business College, graduating in one year. He then entered the Fremont Normal School, from which he was graduated with the class of 1894. In the meantime he taught school at intervals, and therefore his college course was by no means continuous. D. B. Juckett has been engaged in active school work for some time. As principal of public schools, he has filled positions as follows: One year at Linwood, Butler county; three years at Malmo, Saunders county; and three years at Morse Bluff, Saunders county. He is engaged for the present at Weston, Saunders county.

Taking advantage of summer vacations, Mr. Juckett has availed himself of the opportunity to see the greater portion of our own

country, visiting on different occasions, the cities along the Atlantic coast, the Pacific coast, and portions of Canada and the South. In political faith he is a Fusionist, and a great admirer of Mr. Bryan. He believes that every voter should be a politician, so far at least, as his responsibility to government goes.

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**W**E. MILLER is one of the enterprising and prosperous business men of Springfield, Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the drug business, and he undoubtedly carries a larger line of drugs than any druggist in his section of the county. He is an active, wide-awake and conscientious business man, and in both business and social circles he has many friends. He was born in Aylmer, Canada, in 1857, and is a son of John H. and Mary (Curtis) Miller, who drove through to Sarpy county by wagon. John H. Miller bought land three miles northeast of Springfield, and at first lived with his family in a dug-out. He set out a 10-acre orchard, from which he sold \$1,800 worth of apples in one year, besides raising considerable other fruit. He also built a fine house and several outbuildings. He gave W. E. Miller an 80-acre tract, which he still owns. John H. Miller continued to till the farm there until his death, March 20, 1900, and his widow now resides on the farm. W. E. Miller has a brother and three half-sisters, namely: James C., who is now editor of the "Springfield Monitor," and is also a physician and pharmacist,

having operated a store in Springfield before the subject hereof opened his store; Mrs. W. W. Dowe, who is the wife of a stockman and butcher of Springfield, and has one daughter, Mrs. George Snyder, of Hooper, Nebraska; Mrs. W. L. Williams, who resides at Papillion, Nebraska; and Mrs. Reynolds, who lives in Fairview precinct.

W. E. Miller was reared on his father's farm, and during 1873-1874 he was a student at the state university, but in the following year he began to hustle for himself. In 1877 he started in the drug business, buying out Dr. Clark's old stand in Sarpy Center. In 1880 he sold his place of business and homesteaded a farm in Holt county. When the town of Springfield was started, in the fall of 1881, Mr. Miller was engaged in various enterprises until 1888, when he re-entered the drug business. He continued to conduct that store for three years, and then sold out to O. F. Harlan & Brother. Two and one-half years later he re-purchased the store, and in 1891 he erected his present store building, which is a two-story structure, 22 by 40 feet in dimensions. It is a handsome pressed-brick building, and was completed at a cost of \$2,500. The large stock carried is also worth about \$2,500. Mr. Miller's wife owns considerable real estate in Springfield, while he owns two fine farms, one of which consists of 80 acres, and is located three and one-half miles west of town—the west half of the southeast quarter of section 20, township 13, range 11. The other farm is located on the east half of the southwest quarter of section 8, township

13, range 12, and situated about three and one-half miles northeast of town. Mr. Miller's home was erected at a cost of \$3,000 in 1899, and the main part is 24 feet square, to which is added an L, 22 by 16 feet in dimensions. Mr. Miller is popular in both business and social circles, and his many friends regard him as a good upright business man and loyal citizen.

W. E. Miller was joined in marriage with Henriette Miller, of Sarpy county. Her father, Louman Miller, was one of the pioneer settlers there. He died in 1860, and her mother passed away in 1879. Three children were born to this union: Genevieve, deceased; Grey, who is a partner in Mr. Miller's drug store; and John L. The subject of this sketch is a strong Democrat in politics, while in a religious connection, he is a member of the Methodist church, of Springfield, which has an enrollment of about 60 members. Fraternally, he is a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge No. 112, of Springfield, and is secretary of the Springfield Lodge No. 102, I. O. O. F.

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**B**ENT PETERSON, a retired farmer of Gretna, has been a resident of Sarpy county, Nebraska, since 1869, and is still a land owner in Forest City precinct.

Mr. Peterson was born in Sweden in 1825, and is a son of Peter and Ann Larson. He was reared and schooled in that country, and there learned the tailor's trade, but did not follow it long. In 1864 he came to America and





JOHN. L. COLEMAN.



located in Utah, where he engaged in farming, and also teaming on the railroad until 1869. He then located at Papillion, Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he rented and conducted a farm a short time. He homesteaded 80 acres of land in Forest City precinct, and on this he erected a set of buildings and put out many shade and fruit trees. To this tract he later added  $47\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and successfully engaged in farming, until 1898. He then retired from active work, buying a lot at Gretna, on which he erected a cottage. He has since made his home there, renting his farm.

Mr. Peterson was united in marriage in Denmark with Mary Everson, a daughter of Ever and Mary Peterson, by whom he had eight children, as follows: Antony, deceased; August, deceased; Emily, wife of William Morrison, whose biography appears elsewhere herein; Sophia, wife of Swan Akerson; Annie, wife of John Fowler; Ella, who lives at home; and Benjamin and John, both of whom died in their infancy.

JOHN L. COLEMAN, one of the representative citizens of Saunders county, Nebraska, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page, is now serving his second term as treasurer of that county, to the utmost satisfaction of his constituents. He has always been a most earnest advocate of Populistic principles, and is active in the workings of that party. He was born March 2, 1850, in St.

Lawrence county, New York, and is a son of William, and Margaret (Fay) Coleman.

William Coleman, Sr., the grandfather of John L., was born in the north of Ireland, and came to this country in 1820, locating in St. Lawrence county, New York. The family moved to Bremer county, Iowa, in 1856, where he died at the age of eighty-one years. His family consisted of four daughters and two sons, namely: John, Mary, Esther, Nancy, Eliza, and William, Jr.

William Coleman, Jr., the father of John L., was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1834, and was reared upon a farm. He followed farming in a very successful manner all his life. He died in 1869 from the effects of an injury received from a threshing machine. He had married Margaret Fay, and they were the parents of three children: John L., Levina (McKeowan), and James.

John L. Coleman received his primary education in an old log school house in Bremer county, Iowa, where he lived until 1873, the year in which he moved to Saunders county, Nebraska. Like his father, his vocation was that of a farmer, and he located upon a farm near Wahoo. He has been engaged in agricultural pursuits all his life, but for a number of winters after settling in Nebraska he taught school. He is a staunch supporter of the Populist party, and has been called upon to serve in a number of capacities. He served as assessor of his precinct for fourteen years, and in the fall of 1897 was elected county treasurer, to which office he was re-elected in 1899.

Mr. Coleman was united in marriage in 1879

with Miss N. C. Palsey, a daughter of Jacob Palsey, of Wahoo, and they are the parents of four children: William, Lewis, Ralph, and Dora.

REV. S. J. STEWART is a minister of the Gospel, and was born in Steuben county, New York, in 1844. He is a son of S. W. and Mary R. Stewart, who were the parents of the following children: Charles, a resident of Creston, Iowa, who is married and has three children,—Mary, Samuel E., and Andrew, having lost a son, Grant; Jane, deceased, who was the wife of John McCaddam; Sarah, who is the wife of B. F. Bear, of Iowa, and had five children, of whom three are living, Frances, Andrew J. and James; Edward, who died in the army during the Civil War; Henrietta, who is the wife of H. B. Hughes, a farmer in Iowa; William A., who was killed in the battle of Shiloh, in 1862; Hughie, who died in the state of New York, while a mere boy; S. J., and Mary, his twin sister, who is the wife of Mr. Clough, a farmer and stock raiser in Arkansas, and has four children, John, Annie, Perry and Mary; Lydia, who is the wife of Robert Higgenbottom, an Iowa farmer, and has two children, Edgar and Robert; and Elvaleria, who died in the state of New York, when two years of age.

Rev. S. J. Stewart's parents moved to Carroll county, Illinois, in 1850, where he attended the district schools until he was sixteen years of age. The following two years were spent

at Mount Vernon, Illinois, in attending school. Toward the close of the Civil War he enlisted in the 142nd Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for a term of nine months. After the close of that deadly struggle, in 1865, the family moved to Hardin county, Iowa, near Eldorado, and there S. W. Stewart, our subject's father, engaged in farming. In 1877, the family moved to Sarpy county, Nebraska, where they settled on May 20, and S. J. Stewart bought the south half of the northwest quarter of section 19, and the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 19, township 13, range 12. He had two teams of horses and money enough to pay for his farms, and he at once put up a rude house, 16 by 20 feet in dimensions, to which he afterward added 18 by 24 feet. He turned 40 acres under, and proceeded to make other improvements. Upon his return trips from Omaha, which was his only marketing place, he brought back enough lumber to build a barn. At that early date the postoffice was at Sarpy Center, but in 1881, the entire village, consisting of the postoffice, blacksmith shop and a shoe and drug store, was moved to Springfield. Rev. Mr. Stewart assisted in the moving of all the buildings, with the exception of one store. In 1892 Rev. Mr. Stewart erected his barn, which was 18 by 22 by 14 feet in dimensions, and he continued to till the farm until 1886. In the following year he disposed of all his possessions there, and received \$40 an acre for his land. He was then sent by the Methodist conference to occupy the pulpit at Peach Grove, now known as Gretna. The town re-

ceived its name in honor of a number of related families, who moved to that point from Indiana, and all set out peach orchards. He was there two years when he was sent to Gosper county, where he had four circuits, but for two years made Homerville, Nebraska, his headquarters. He then spent two years at Hillsdale, Wet Mountain Valley; three years at Howard, Pleasant Valley; three years at Wathrop; and one year at Pueblo, Colorado. In the spring of 1898 he returned to Sarpy county, Nebraska, owing to the sickness of his son-in-law, and he is now working temporarily in Mr. Brawner's store, which that gentleman opened at Springfield, December 16, 1881.

Rev. Mr. Stewart is a Republican in politics, and while a resident of Hardin county, Iowa, served as constable and deputy sheriff. In 1866, Rev. S. J. Stewart was united in marriage with Susan Cantonwine, a daughter of Jacob Cantonwine, and they have two children, namely: Nettie, who is the wife of E. T. Hoyt, and resides two and one-half miles from Springfield; and Alice R., who is the wife of E. L. Wetzler, of Hardin county, Iowa, and has four children—Le Roy, Louella, Harris, and a baby.

**M**ARTIN E. BALLOU, a prominent farmer of Clear Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, belongs to one of the first families who settled in this part of the state. He is a son of Emor S. and Susan (Van Buren) Ballou.

Emor S. Ballou possessed ample means, and in 1867 or 1868, with his wife and family, he left Ashtabula county, Ohio, to seek a home in the West. He found a desirable location in Saunders county, Nebraska, and purchased 160 acres of land in Clear Creek precinct. This land immediately adjoins the city of Ashland, which at that time contained only a few houses and was known as Salem Ford. Mr. Ballou at once proceeded to improve and beautify his place. He built a small house, which was moved some time later to Ashland, and is now owned by C. Hackney.

In 1891, with the assistance of his only son, Martin E., he built the present large and beautiful residence and spacious barns. They are said to be the largest house and barn in that portion of the county, and can be seen for many miles. Together the father and son planted orchards and set out shade trees. Mr. Ballou sold a part of his land to Orin M. Carter, who, in 1874, built a flouring mill upon the same site now occupied by the electric light plant. E. S. Ballou then purchased more land adjoining his farm, which he cultivated. In 1890 he lost his beloved wife, who died at the age of sixty-seven years. Five years later he followed her to the grave, and it is said that their funerals were the largest ever held in Clear Creek precinct. They were sincerely mourned as prominent and worthy citizens, whose loss was greatly felt in that community. They lived and died happy in the Baptist faith, and Mr. Ballou was, during life, a staunch Republican. He left each of his children a nice property. Their names are: Susan H., Henri-

etta, Elizabeth, and Martin E., the subject of these lines.

Martin E. Ballou is a native of Ohio, and was fourteen years old when his parents moved to Nebraska. As before mentioned, he assisted his father on the farm, and upon the death of that beloved parent, he succeeded to his portion of the estate. The principal products of the farm are various kinds of grain, but Mr. Ballou also raises a great deal of stock, especially cattle, of which he generally has 200 head.

Martin E. Ballou married Jessie Bissell, a daughter of James and Sarah Bissell, of Valparaiso, Indiana. Mrs. Ballou's father died in the Civil War. Her mother went to Saunders county, Nebraska, where she had relatives, and finally died there. Mr. and Mrs. Ballou have six children, as follows: Emor S., James B., Jessie C., Elizabeth A., Ollie M., and Susie M. The family unite in worshiping at the Congregational church. Mr. Ballou is regarded as one of the most progressive farmers in Clear Creek precinct. In his political views he is a Republican.

ERIC JOHNSON, editor and proprietor of the "Saunders County New Era," and also of "The Coming New Era," is a gentleman whose prominence is not confined to the limits of his own state. His career has been a varied one, and in whatsoever line of business he has ventured, his efforts have borne the same fruitful results.

Besides his connection with many well-known newspaper publications in different states, he has often been called upon to fill offices of public trust, and always acquitted himself in such a manner as to gain the hearty approval of the public, regardless of political attachments.

Mr. Johnson was born in Sweden, July 15, 1838, and came to America in 1846, with his father, Eric Jansson, who was the founder of the Bishop Hill Colony, of Henry county, Illinois, which remained in existence until 1860. The subject hereof began farming on his own account in Henry county, Illinois, in the spring of 1861, but in September of that year, he enlisted as a private in Company D, 57th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being elected first lieutenant of the company upon its organization. He was promoted to be captain, after the battle of Shiloh, and served in the western army under General Grant. In the latter part of 1862 he was compelled to resign from the army, on account of sickness, and the certificate of the attending surgeon bears evidence that this course was necessary in order to save his life. After his restoration to health, he went into the grocery business, in 1863, in Galva, Illinois, and continued thus for one year. In the summer of 1864 he embarked in the newspaper business as editor and proprietor of the "Galva Union," and, in 1869, he founded at Galva what has since become the leading Swedish paper in America, now published at Chicago, Illinois, the "Svenska Tribunen." He severed his connection with that paper in January, 1871, when he was elected journal clerk of the Illi-

nois House of Representatives. In 1873 he moved to Kansas, and laid out the town of White City, in Morris county, where he started the first store, grain elevator, lumber yard and hotel, successfully conducting all these enterprises. He remained there until December, 1875, when he moved back to Henry county, Illinois, and engaged in the lumber and hardware business, at Nekoma, until 1879. Then, in connection with C. Fr. Peterson, of Chicago, he compiled, edited and published a history of the Swedes of Illinois, a book of over 500 pages. In 1880 he commenced at Moline, Illinois, the publication of a newspaper in the interest of the Swedish-American population of the West, printed in the English language. During the second year of its publication he took in as his partner J. E. Osborn, to whom he sold his entire interest, in 1882, when he accepted a clerkship at Washington, D. C. In 1885, owing to ill health in his family, he resigned his clerkship, and moved to Stromsburg, Nebraska, where he leased the "Stromsburg Republican" for one year. From there he went to Holdrege, Nebraska, where he remained in the newspaper business until the close of the year 1890. At the election in 1888 he was elected, as an independent candidate, to the state legislature. Upon the expiration of his term of office, a handsome gold watch and chain and a purse of \$60 in money were given to him, the watch bearing on the inner plate the inscription: "From the people of Phelps county to Captain Eric Johnson, for honest and faithful work as legislator, in 1889." In 1891 he was elected chief clerk of

the Nebraska House of Representatives, and at the close of the session, in 1892, became editor of the "Progress," at Clay Center, Nebraska. In 1893 he was re-elected chief clerk of the House, securing the unanimous vote of all the parties,—an evidence of popular favor never before shown to a holder of that office. In the early part of 1894, Mr. Johnson went to Texas, and engaged in the real estate business at League City, and, December 3, 1896, he located in Wahoo, Nebraska, and bought the paper known as the "Saunders County New Era." In addition to conducting this paper, he established, in 1900, the paper called "The Coming New Era." These papers are both Populistic in principle and both have large circulation. Mr. Johnson is a man of deep learning, and is well versed in the affairs of the world, besides being a clever and versatile writer. He takes an earnest and active part in the affairs of his party, and was chairman of the delegation chosen to represent Saunders county at the state convention, in 1900. He was also chosen as a delegate to the National convention at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

December 31, 1863, the subject of this sketch was joined in matrimony with Mary O. Troil, (who died in 1890), and their union resulted in the following children: Mary, who died in 1888; Axel T., who resides in Wahoo; Sarah O., who died in 1892; Julia C.; Ernst G., who also resides in Wahoo; and Sixtus E., who died October 2, 1899.

Sixtus Eric Johnson, the sixth child of his parents, was born at Nekoma, Henry county,

Illinois, April 30, 1877. Before finishing his education at the state university, he entered the field of journalism in association with his father, being local editor on the "New Era." His early life gave great promise of success as a newspaper man and writer, but it was willed otherwise. As soon as the war with Spain broke out, he was eager to go to the front, but yielded to the wishes of his father and remained at home. When the Third Nebraska Regiment was recruited, his burning patriotism was intensified by his great admiration for Colonel Bryan, and he could no longer restrain his patriotic impulses, but enlisted in Company H of that regiment upon its organization. His captain at once recognized his worth by appointing him company clerk, and so painstaking and accurate was his work that at the division inspection the inspector general complimented him for having the best kept books. When he was taken sick, he had been performing the duties of first sergeant, as all the sergeants were sick or on furlough. He fell a prey to typhoid fever at Pablo Beach, Florida, and died on Sunday, October 2, 1899. His death was the cause of much mourning in the vicinity of his home, for he was well known and very popular, and in him the city lost one of the most promising of its young men.



**H**ENRY MOWINKEL is one of the most extensive and most successful farmers in Sarpy county, Nebraska, and owns a fine property in Richland precinct.

Mr. Mowinkel was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1849, and is a son of John and Dorothy (Grell) Mowinkel. His mother died at the age of thirty-five years, and his father was again married. Our subject was reared in his native country and lived there until 1868, when he came to the United States. He located in Iowa and followed farming until August, 1877, when he removed to Sarpy county, Nebraska. He purchased 160 acres of Mr. Martin, who had broken about 100 acres of it, and built a small house. In 1883, he built his present modern home, which is large and commodious. He set out shade trees and three and one-half acres of orchard, which has thrived and is now in excellent condition. He later bought 80 acres of land in section 21, and adjoining his original farm in section 28, he purchased 160 acres, on which he built a new house, and set out three acres of orchard and shade trees. He later bought 160 acres, the southwest quarter of section 20. His property is well supplied with wells from 40 to 50 feet deep, but formerly water was very scarce, and it was almost useless to drill for it. His land yields heavily, his best average being 75 bushels of corn and 60 bushels of oats to the acre.

Mr. Mowinkel was united in marriage with Dora Schultz, a daughter of Frederick and Christina (Hei) Schultz, both of whom are deceased. Her father went to Davenport, Iowa, where he followed the tailoring business. Thirteen children blessed the union of the subject hereof and his wife, as follows: Christina, wife of Marcus Jungjohann, by whom she has three children—Raymond, Earl, and

Christ; Albert, deceased; Jette, wife of Fritz Voss; John, deceased; William, deceased; Henry; Fritz; Theresa, deceased; Maggie, deceased; George; Dora; Lily; and Luzetta. Mr. Mowinkel is a member of the school board, and takes an earnest interest in educational affairs.

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**W**ILLIAM K. TITUS, proprietor of a livery establishment at Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, has one of the finest liverys in the southeastern part of Nebraska. This livery was started by John Cregelston. It is a large double barn, situated on Sixth street, near Silver, in the business center of Ashland. One side is used solely for carriages and office purposes. Mr. Titus keeps twelve fine roadsters. His stable is finely equipped with carriages, hacks, etc. He is in a condition to supply the public with the best of rigs, and also the best of service, as he keeps three of the most competent assistants obtainable, and is frequently obliged to hire extras. He runs a bus to meet all trains, and has built up a large patronage.

William K. Titus was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, in 1860. He is a son of Daniel W. and Maria (Langdon) Titus. His father was a prosperous farmer in Erie county, where William K. was reared. When eighteen years old, Mr. Titus took his first trip west. He returned to the East again, however, and followed farming until 1882, when he again went West. He followed similar pursuits in Saunders county, Nebraska, for some time, and then

returned to Pennsylvania, where he farmed until 1897. But the West held out strong inducements for him, and October 1, 1899, he bought out the livery business of W. A. Bailey at Ashland, Nebraska, which he has conducted ever since in a manner satisfactory both to himself and to the community in which he lives. Mr. Titus married Alta Butler, a daughter of R. E. Butler, a popular business man of Ashland.

R. E. Butler was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania. He is a son of Timothy and Caroline Butler, and was reared on a farm. His parents went west to Nebraska, locating on a farm, where they spent their declining years. When Mr. Butler was twenty-one years old he left the farm and went into the oil fields as an engineer. Later he learned to dress tools at Titusville. There his marriage with Charlotte Rockwood took place, and they decided to seek a home in the West. In 1881, they went to Ashland with \$650. They purchased a home for \$600, and had but \$50 left. Mr. Butler immediately went to work at the blacksmith trade for Henry Doudney. He subsequently rented a place, and in company with Frank E. Marcy started into business. The partnership then formed has been mutually agreeable and exists to the present day. Their large shop is located on the corner of Sixth and Silver streets. From the wielding of the hammer and dealing in real estate, Mr. Butler has accumulated a handsome property. He owns two large farms in Saunders county, besides considerable real estate in Ashland. He also owns a 160-acre farm in Kansas. He and his

wife were blessed with three children, namely: Alta, Mr. Titus' wife; Eva, wife of J. Aughey; and Willis, who married Edna Vanderman.

Mr. and Mrs. Titus have one daughter, Helen. They entertain broad and liberal ideas on religious subjects, and politically, Mr. Titus is a staunch Republican. Fraternally, he is a member and past grand of the I. O. O. F., and also a member of Rebecca lodge. Mr. Titus is popular, and is considered one of the most successful business men of Ashland.



**P**ATRICK H. GILLESPIE, a highly respected citizen and a successful farmer of Forest City precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1833.

Mr. Gillespie is a son of William and Mary (Thomas) Gillespie, who came to this country in 1850, locating first in Illinois, and later in Iowa. William Gillespie died in Iowa at the age of forty-five years. His wife then moved to Sarpy county, with her children. She was the mother of fourteen children, eight of whom grew up. Three brothers, Patrick H., William, and Michael J., were all early settlers of Sarpy county, and are now neighbors in Forest City precinct.

Patrick H. Gillespie, when a young man, spent five years in handling freight in Nebraska City, having a good team and wagon when he started. He had \$5 in money also, but in a short time he added two yoke of oxen and broke the prairie for his neighbors,

thus getting his start. In the spring of 1869 he bought 80 acres of land in Forest City precinct, the east half of the northeast quarter of section 24. There he built a sod house, with dimensions of 24 by 14 feet, in the corner of his present yard. In 1870 he built a small frame house, which burned down and was replaced in 1887 by a large one. He also erected a good barn and other desirable farm buildings. In 1874 he began setting out shade trees, and some of his maples and cottonwoods have grown to be two feet thick. There was at one time a good-sized stream running through the farm, but this became smaller year after year until it was totally dry in 1896. He has a fine supply of water, however, from a 25-foot well. He set out four acres of orchard, with which he has been quite successful. At an earlier period he kept a considerable number of hogs and cattle, but now devotes his entire time to grain raising, sowing his land to corn, oats, millet, and wheat. He is a very prosperous man, and owns three 80-acre tracts, adjoining each other.

Mr. Gillespie was united in the holy bonds of wedlock with Margaret Clancy, a daughter of John Clancy. She was born in Massachusetts, reared in Nebraska City, and died in 1881, aged thirty-eight years. This union was the source of the following children: Mary, wife of J. Dillon, by whom she has the following children—Margaret, Mary, Nellie, Patrick H., William J. Bryan, and James; Elizabeth, who married George Heffley, and has five children—Roy, Sarah, Gertrude, Irene and Maggie; Bridget, who married Arch-



ibald Morrison, and has two sons—Charles R. and Archibald H.; Ellen, who is the wife of Edward Heffley, and has one son, Charles G.; Thomas Francis, who conducts the home farm; Catherine; Alice; Margaret, deceased; and Anna, deceased. Mr. Gillespie was one of the organizers of the school board, and, beginning in 1871, served fourteen years as director. He also served as road supervisor for fourteen years.

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**B**ERNARD MONAHON, one of the earliest settlers of Forest City precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, first located there in 1858, but is now living in practical retirement.

Mr. Monahon was born in County Fermanagh, Ireland, in 1832, and is a son of Bernard and Mary (McGuire) Monahon, his mother having been born in County Tyrone, Ireland. He was reared in Ireland, and at the age of sixteen years came to this country and located at Newtown Square, Delaware, twelve miles from Philadelphia. He served a regular apprenticeship to the trade of a tanner, and then followed that trade for two years. He then went to Cambria county, Pennsylvania, and engaged in railroad contracting until the completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in the fall of 1853. He then followed railroad work in Alabama for a short time, after which he returned to the Pennsylvania Central, in Indiana county, Pennsylvania. He next became interested in mining at Johnstown. He had a friend who crossed the plains to California and

who wrote to him of the fine country through which he had passed. He decided to investigate and set out for the West. As his wife had a brother who was a surveyor in Nebraska, he went there and stopped in Sarpy county. This was in the year 1858, and but few had yet located in that county. He took up 160 acres in Forest City precinct, section 35, and later added 46 acres to his former purchase. He built a log house of natural wood on the farm, and this has long since given way to the present fine residence. He built excellent barns and corn cribs, and other needed outbuildings, and has placed the land under a high state of cultivation. He subsequently bought 160 acres in section 35 and built a set of buildings upon the tract, afterward purchasing 160 acres in section 1. He also erected the necessary buildings on this property, and planted a large orchard of all kinds of fruit, including apples of many varieties. When he first located in this section the streams were well filled with water during the entire year, but are now dry. Some of his land became so moist in the spring it could scarcely be plowed, but it is now always dry. Good water may be had at a depth of 80 feet. In 1893 Mr. Monahon purchased the M. Langdon farm, adjoining Gretna, which is a fine farm in a highly improved condition. It is possessed of a fine grove, and on it he erected a new house, barns, cribs, etc. He was formerly a large stock raiser, and made a specialty of Hereford cattle, but in more recent years he has been living in virtual retirement.

Mr. Monahon was united in marriage with

Margaret Howe, a daughter of Richard Howe, who was born in Ireland, and their children are as follows: Mary, widow of Charles Waterman, by whom she had one daughter, Kate, who lives with her grandfather; Maggie, who died in infancy; Henry, a farmer, who married Theodate Nelson, and has four children—John, Mattie, Laura, and Florence; Maggie, wife of Leif Nelson; Kate, wife of Gus Rosensteihl, by whom she has one child, Margaret; Annie, wife of Burt Wilbur; and William, who conducts the home farm. Mr. Monahan has been deeply interested in educational matters, and has taken an active hand in establishing and keeping up the schools. For the past twenty-seven years he has been treasurer of school district 10. In politics he is a Democrat.



**M**Y. RISHEL, one of the leading agriculturists of Sarpy county, Nebraska, has been located on his present farm since the year 1868. He is a man of high standing in his community, and enjoys the esteem and respect of a host of acquaintances.

Mr. Rishel was born in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, in 1841, and is a son of Adam and Sarah (Miller) Rishel. His father died in Pennsylvania, and his mother in Sarpy county.

Mr. Y. Rishel learned the trade of a carpenter at an early age, and went to Omaha in 1865, and worked at his trade. He continued

there a few months and in 1866 began farming in Sarpy county, leasing, in 1868, the 80 acres of land where he now lives. He leased this property for two years, and in the fall of 1890 purchased it. At the time of his settlement there his nearest neighbors were H. Schal and J. Weath, many miles distant, and the wild prairie abounded in deer and antelope. He also received daily visits from the Indians. The streams of running water, in which there were many fish, are now dried up. He broke the prairie and improved his farm as best he could, and it is at the present time under a high state of cultivation, yielding as heavily in grain as any farm in his section. He built a small house near the present site, later added to it, and in 1900 took it away and erected a new and modern home. In 1868 he set out cottonwood trees, which now measure three feet in diameter. He also has an excellent grove of maple and walnut trees, and box elders. He has three acres of fruit trees, and has been particularly successful in raising pears and peaches, in which so many have had failures. His farm is in excellent condition, and is well stocked, having about 20 head of fine cattle and 40 hogs.

Mr. Rishel was united in marriage with Esther Booze, a daughter of Peter H. and Catherine (Dresser) Booze. Her father was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, May 13, 1811, and in 1878 located in Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he purchased 40 acres of land adjoining Gretna. There he built a home and resided until his death, in February, 1890. His wife, Catherine Dresser, a daughter of John

Dresser, was born in Snyder county, Pennsylvania, February 8, 1817, and now resides on the old homestead in Sarpy county. She was the mother of fourteen children, eleven of whom are now living. Their names are: William H., Sarah A., C. Elizabeth, Mary Jane, Esther, Lydia A., Joseph, Jerome, George, Maria, David, Clara, Hannah S., and Alice E. The subject of this sketch and his wife became the parents of the following children: Louise, deceased; Sarah, wife of William D. Labord; Ida, wife of Daniel Zurbic; Elmer; Edwin; Effie Irene, wife of John Warren; Bert; Lorraine B.; Walter; and three others who died in infancy. Mr. Rishel served as road supervisor for two terms, and has always taken a deep interest in the development of the county. In politics, he is a Democrat.



**W**ILLIAM MORRISON, who was one of the very first settlers of Forest City precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, has a very fine estate in that county. He endured all the hardships of pioneer life and often had poverty staring him in the face, but with ceaseless energy and willing hands he surmounted all obstacles and worked his way to success.

Mr. Morrison was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in 1820, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Kelly) Morrison. He came to New York on May 1, 1848, and went to Albany, where he worked at gas fitting and plumbing, for six years. He then located in Buffalo,

New York, and later in Illinois, where he hunted up a brother. Preferring the East, he returned and located at Poughkeepsie, New York, and was foreman of the gas company for three years and five months. He then followed his trade at New Orleans, Louisiana, for a time, after which he went up the Mississippi River. He settled on Walnut Creek, sixteen miles from Leavenworth, Kansas, where he bought and improved a claim. During the Kansas "border ruffian" days he was forced to leave, and as a result lost all he had. On April 18, 1856, he found himself with but \$13, but in the same year he took up 160 acres in section 22, and 120 acres in section 27 of Forest City precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska. He immediately set about breaking the land, and erected a shanty. In 1858 he rented his land and went with the Mormon expedition to Salt Lake, as teamster for Major Russell. He met with many hair-breadth escapes, and on his return home many of the party were frozen to death, but his sturdy constitution, seasoned by the hardships of years gone by, enabled him to hold out. He reached Old Ford Bridge and went to herding, but in 1858 he returned to Fort Laramie and bought a team and provisions enough to last one year and then started for Cherry Creek, Colorado. He reached Denver in January, 1859, and remained there during the summer of that year, when he returned to his property in Sarpy county. He built a log house, which is still standing on the place, and later erected a handsome residence. There was a natural forest at the foot of the bluffs, which he has preserved, in addition

to setting out many trees. He has a good two-acre orchard and his land is planted in corn, oats, and wheat, the yield being exceedingly heavy. He has purchased additional property from time to time, and now has an immense estate all lying together, with the exception of 80 acres near South Omaha. When he first settled in Sarpy county his nearest neighbors were miles away, and Indians were every-day visitors. Deer, wolves, and other large and small game were plentiful. He has a choice herd of graded cattle and hogs, and with the assistance of his son conducts most of the farming, but rents several of the farms.

Mr. Morrison was first married to Elizabeth McDowell, a daughter of John McDowell. She was born in Ireland, and died in 1854, leaving one child, Alexander, who has been employed in the book binding department of the government for sixteen years, and is now at the Paris Exposition. He formed a second matrimonial alliance by wedding Emily Peterson, a daughter of Bent Peterson, whose biography appears elsewhere in this work, and they are parents of the following children: John K., a graduate of the high school; William, Daniel, Benjamin, James, and Erin. For sixteen years Mr. Morrison served as treasurer of the school board. In politics he is a Republican.



**W**ILLIAM H. SMITH, after a life of arduous labor in the vocation of an agriculturist, has been living for the past fifteen years in quiet retirement in Bellevue

precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska. He was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1824, and is a son of Edward Smith.

Mr. Smith received his early schooling in his native town and then took up the trade of a machinist, which he mastered in the course of a few years' training. He then engaged with a firm that made machinery for the manufacture of cloth. In 1853 he and his brother Charles came to Nebraska, where they intended buying cattle to drive to Denver, Colorado, but when they arrived at Council Bluffs, Iowa, they found the market quite unfavorable for such an undertaking. The subject of this writing remained in the West about three months, when he returned to the East. In 1855 he went on with his family to Sarpy county, and soon pre-empted 160 acres. The two erected a log house on the property now owned by his brother Charles, and in 1859 William H. Smith built a house on his present farm in section 14, range 13, and at once began to make other improvements upon the farm. At that early date deer were very plentiful. The forests that fringed the water courses were filled with game, and the neighbors were mostly Indians, who were very peaceable and friendly. Mr. Smith continued to make improvements upon his farm, which he soon had in a fine state of cultivation. General farming and stock raising continued to be his chief pursuit for many years. He sold 30 acres of his ground to the Omaha Hydraulic Pressed Brick Company, which now has a large plant there, and gives employment to many men.

Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Em-

meline F. Brown, of Rhode Island, and they had a family of six children, namely: A son that died in infancy; Horace B., deceased; George H.; Mary, wife of C. Johnson; Hattie, wife of W. H. Richardson; and Fred, deceased. The subject of this sketch has always taken an active part in promoting the welfare of his adopted community, but has never sought political positions. For thirty years he has served as a director of schools, and officiated one year as assessor. Religiously, he is a Baptist. Mr. Smith has a multitude of friends throughout Sarpy county, who know him as a good, honest and straightforward citizen and business man.

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**C**ALEB H. ROSE, deceased, was one of the early merchants of Ashland, Nebraska, but later in life was a stock dealer and extensively engaged in raising stock. He was a large land owner in Saunders and Lancaster counties, and was one of the most enterprising citizens of Ashland, where he was held in the highest esteem and enjoyed the confidence and friendship of every one.

Mr. Rose came of a prominent family in Ohio, and was a native of that state, having been born on what has for many years been known as the Rose farm, in Morgan county. His grandfather was Robert Rose, who was born in Virginia, but in 1809 settled in Morgan county, Ohio, on the Perry county line, being one of its earliest settlers. He became the owner of large lauded interests, and was a very

prominent man in that section. His son, Jacob, the father of Caleb H., was born on the old homestead and lived there all his days. He served in the Civil War in the 62nd Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and bore an honorable record. The Rose family, as far back as a record can be obtained, has been composed of men of good calibre, men who have accomplished their aims in life, leaving this world truly better for their having lived in it, and the present generation of the family can justly point with pride to its ancestry.

Caleb H. Rose was reared on the farm, and when eighteen years old went to the front as a drummer boy in the 114th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, re-enlisting later in the National Guard. During his service he contracted a stomach trouble, with which he battled the rest of his life, finally succumbing to it April 13, 1898, when fifty-two years of age. After the close of the war he returned home and was shortly afterward united in marriage with Margaret Adamson, a daughter of Rev. Washington Adamson, a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church in Muskingum county, Ohio. They, with H. Nelson and John Colbert, and their families, decided to go overland by team to Kansas, of which they had received so many favorable reports. They started on September 14, 1860, with wagons and teams and all their worldly effects, leaving behind kindred and friends. They wended their way westward, stopping only to rest their teams and cook their meals, sleeping in the wagons and on the ground. The pleasures they anticipated before starting were

conspicuous by their absence, and instead of enjoyment, they were compelled to endure privations and hardships. They met many families returning from Kansas, and all were in a pitiable condition, looking starved and wretched. Thereupon the party experienced a change of mind and decided to go to Nebraska, where they located in Ashland, then called Saline Ford, on October 25, 1869, feeling willing to accept anything for a rest. But a house could not be found, and so they camped along the creek. In getting their meals they used the creek water, which seemed to make their coffee salty, and upon investigation they found they were using water from Salt Creek. In their party were twenty-three people, inclusive of children and the hired men, and it was difficult to secure any kind of accommodations. They finally found a small building, 16 by 20 feet in dimensions, two and a half miles southeast of the Ford, but in order to get it they were obliged to buy the wheat with which it was filled. They managed to get an old stove, but they stayed in the house for some time without any other furniture, not even a table on which to eat. Each head of a family immediately set out with different objects in view: one for wood, another for corn, and a third went to a mill. Mrs. Rose, having a sister, who with her husband, W. J. Weller, had previously located in Lancaster county, Nebraska, took her children to their home, while her husband went to the land office. He pre-empted 160 acres of land in Lancaster county, fourteen miles from Ashland, and built a sod house on it with dimensions of 30 by 10 feet,

having a board cover and being lined on the inside with the covering of the wagon—black oil cloth. There was one door and two windows in the house. The next June, Mr. Rose's father visited him and declared his son's health would not permit him to live thus and advised him to move to Ashland, which he did as soon as he could pay off his pre-emption indebtedness. He bought a small house, where Oscar Hoffman now lives, and in 1870 he built a store on Main street, at the east end of Salt Creek bridge, and opened up a general merchandise business. He was also appointed express agent, and while serving as such met with some amusing experiences. During the temperance crusade two lady lecturers were in town and one called for express and found in the office two kegs of beer awaiting the owner. She fumed and raged at the idea of having beer come into town through the express office, and Mrs. Rose, who was in charge on account of the illness of her husband, could not get rid of her. The temperance woman seized an ax and broke in the heads of the kegs of beer and that seemed to satisfy her. Mr. Rose conducted the mercantile business until 1883, when his health failed him and he was obliged to give it up, but he invested in real estate and at the time of his death owned his original tract of 160 acres, and 460 acres in Clear Creek precinct, on which stands an old log house built by Martin Swafford in the "sixties." In 1875 Mr. Rose bought land and built the home in which Mrs. Rose now lives, and later rebuilt it into a large and handsome residence. During his last years

he was engaged in stock raising quite extensively.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rose: Annie, an artist of exceptional talent; Edgar J., one of the largest stock dealers of Ashland; Lizzie, the wife of Charles Keetle of Cass county, by whom she has two children, Don and Leota; Corwin H., who married Lena Gates, and lives on one of the Rose farms; Della Blanche, the wife of Charles Taylor, by whom she has three children, Floyd, Ernest and Florence; Lola Belle, and Jennie Grace.

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**S**AMUEL B. HALL, the efficient and accommodating postmaster at Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, enjoys the distinction of being one of the pioneer settlers of this state. When he came to Nebraska the trip was made in a wagon covered with canvas and drawn by three horses. This wagon contained all his belongings and the trip consumed twenty-two days. Their only guide was a trail which they followed as best they could, no roads having been laid out. When night overtook them they camped. One can scarcely realize at the present time that most of the beautiful county of Saunders was a bleak wilderness a little more than half a century ago.

Samuel B. Hall was born in Hancock, Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, September 20, 1841. His father, William P. Hall, was a shoemaker, in early manhood, when footwear was all made by hand. Later in life, however,

he became a painter. He married a Miss Russell, who died early in their married life. William P. Hall still resides in his native state, and is now eighty-eight years old.

When but fourteen years old Samuel B. Hall left home and went west, to El Paso, Illinois, in company with Gardner Nay, for whom he worked four years. During the summer seasons he followed farming, and attended school through the winter sessions. Thinking his taskmaster was too strict, young Hall left him and went to Clinton, Dwight county, Illinois, where he remained one year.

In 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company F, 41st Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served in the Civil War for three years and one month. He participated in many hard battles, being detailed as color bearer. He was wounded while carrying the colors and was taken prisoner, his flag also being captured. This flag was sent to Washington and is now in Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Hall was wounded four times and lost his right thumb in the service.

Having been honorably discharged, our subject returned to Clinton, Illinois, and learned the butcher's trade. In 1869 he came to Nebraska and took up a homestead claim in Ellenwood precinct, Cass county, where he lived until June 18, 1878. He then sold his farm to Mr. Travis, who still owns it. Mr. Hall removed directly to Ashland, Saunders county, and opened a butcher's shop in company with S. S. Abbott. The following June Mr. Hall purchased his partner's interest and conducted the business alone for nine years.

Selling his butcher's shop, he opened a drug store on Silver street, and also engaged to some extent in the real estate business. He built a very handsome residence in 1885, and a short time afterward in company with S. G. Bryan he also built a large brick double store, which they sold later, realizing a neat profit on their investment. At the present time Mr. Hall owns a third interest in the I. O. O. F. block, and his drug store is situated there. May 1, 1899, he was appointed postmaster at Ashland, relieving Mrs. Catherine Debois. He sold his drug store, but has a lien on it and still retains the management of the business.

Mr. Hall married Alice Morris, a daughter of S. M. Morris, now of Ashland, but formerly of Ohio. Seven children blessed their union, as follows: Isa M., Mont B., Harry E. M., Nellie, Bruce W., Ralph, and Maud, who died at the early age of five years. Isa M. Hall is the wife of E. D. Johnson, a prosperous butcher of Ashland; they have four children. Mont B. Hall is also a butcher by trade. He married May Ennis, and has one child. Harry E. M. Hall is a druggist. Nellie Hall is a deputy postmaster. Ralph Hall is assistant postmaster. Bruce W. Hall follows the butcher's trade.

Mr. Hall is a prominent G. A. R. man. He is a member of Bob McCook Post, No. 31. He is also a member and past grand of I. O. O. F. Lodge, No. 17, and has served as grand patriarch of the jurisdiction of Nebraska, being also a member of Rebecca Lodge. He furthermore affiliates with the Modern Woodmen. The subject of this sketch was a member of the city council for two years, during which he served

on various committees. He is well known throughout Saunders county, and is esteemed by all. He is not only well fitted for his duties as postmaster, but is a public spirited citizen as well.

**H**ON. SAMUEL HENRY SORNBORGER, judge of the district court of the Fifth Judicial District of Nebraska, was born October 1, 1847, in Hudson, Michigan. He is a son of Hamblin and Sarah (Hume) Sornborger.

Hamblin Sornborger was killed by an explosion in a saw mill in 1852, being only twenty-five years old at the time of his death. He was survived by his wife and two sons, Samuel H. and Mills M.

Samuel Henry Sornborger received his primary education in the Hudson schools. In the fall of 1868 he went west to Washington county, Nebraska, and in the spring of 1869, he crossed the Platte River into Saunders county and took up a homestead in Marietta precinct. He resided thereon six or seven years, when, in the fall of 1875, he went to Wahoo and commenced the study of law, with N. H. Bell. In the fall of 1877, he was admitted to the bar of Saunders county. He immediately began the practice of his profession, and has since been one of the leading attorneys of Saunders county. He was county attorney of Saunders county in 1894 and 1895.

In the fall of 1899 Mr. Sornborger was elected to a judgeship for the Fifth Judicial District of Nebraska, for a term of four years.







HON. JAMES HASSET.

The Judge fought his political battles under the Populist banner. He was one of the prime factors in the organization of that party. He is an active worker and his influence is felt throughout the district.

Judge Sornborger married Ella Chollette in 1890. They have two children, Walter and George.

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**H**ON. JAMES HASSETT, an influential and distinguished member of the Sarpy county bar, whose portrait is shown herewith, has practiced his present profession at Papillion since the year he was admitted to the bar, in 1883, and during his residence in the county he has honorably discharged the duties of several offices conferred upon him by the people. He was born in Plymouth county, Massachusetts, February 15, 1858, and is a son of John and Mary (Sheehy) Hassett, both of whom are now deceased.

James Hassett's parents located in Whiteside county, Illinois, in 1860, near the village of Morrison, and there he was reared to manhood, while his elementary mental training was obtained in the public school at Round Grove, Illinois. He afterward attended the State Agricultural College of Iowa, at Ames, and was graduated from that institution in 1880. He then entered upon the study of law, and in 1883 he was admitted to practice in Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he has since gained considerable distinction as an attorney. He was elected county judge for the 1888-1889 term, and county attorney for the years 1899 and 1900.

The duties of these offices he discharged in such a manner as to win the admiration and esteem of all. He is now serving his second year as county attorney.

Judge Hassett was united in marriage in 1884 with Abbie Holloway, a daughter of Charles T. and Mary Holloway, of Papillion, Nebraska. To them have been born the following children: Lola, aged sixteen years; Thomas, aged fourteen years, and Lester, aged twelve years. Judge Hassett is a member of the Papillion Lodge, No. 39, F. & A. M., and of the Bellevue Lodge No. 3, K. of P. In politics he is an uncompromising Republican.

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**H**ANS J. HARDER, a well-to-do farmer of Richland precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, is a gentleman of high standing in the community. He was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1851, and is a son of George Harder, also a native of Germany.

Hans J. Harder was reared and schooled in his native country, and came to America in 1873. He was a poor boy when he landed in Omaha, and he immediately set to work at farming. He was industrious and economical, saving his earnings until 1887, when he was enabled to buy 160 acres of unimproved land of J. Delf. He broke the soil and set out an abundance of shade trees and three-fourths of an acre of fruit, also making many other desirable improvements. He built a house and barn, and has one of the best watered farms in the surrounding country. A large stream runs

through it, and in addition to several springs, there are two wells on the place, one of the depth of 28 feet, and the other 12 feet deep. Mr. Harder has about 15 head of high grade cattle, and 30 hogs, as well as some good horses. He is well known throughout his section and has many firm friends.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Mary Ehlers, a daughter of Jacob Ehlers, an early settler of Sarpy county, and they became parents of the following offspring: Jacob, Celia, Lena, Hans, Mary, John, Amanda, and two who died in their infancy. Mr. Harder served as road supervisor for two years, and as a member of the school board three years. Religiously, he and his family are faithful members of the Lutheran church.

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**L**OUIS LESIEUR has had a long and successful business career at Papillion, Nebraska, which has given him a large number of acquaintances, among whom he is known as an honorable, conscientious and upright citizen. At present he is engaged in the real estate and insurance business, and is also called upon to settle estates. He was born in Sannois, France, October 1, 1845, and is a son of Louis and Stefanie (Guerin), Lesieur, both deceased.

As Louis Lesieur's parents died when he was quite young, he was cared for during his early years by his grandparents, who came to the United States in 1855 and settled in Canton, Ohio. They resided there about one year,

when they moved to Chicago, where Louis attended the public schools until he was seventeen years of age. Though a mere boy, he joined the Union army, January 28, 1863, becoming a member of Company M, 16th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, and until January 3, 1864, he participated in many engagements, but on that date he was taken prisoner at Jonesville, Virginia. He was held a captive sixteen months, being set free at Jacksonville, Florida, April 28, 1865. During the period of his captivity he was confined in the prisons of Belle Isle, Andersonville, Milan and Thomasville. Upon being paroled, he returned to the city of Chicago, where he remained only a short time, and then located at Forest City, now Gretna, Sarpy county, Nebraska. He has continued to live in that county ever since. There he took up a homestead of 80 acres, lying in section 26, township 13, range 10, and for several years general farming was his chief pursuit. Moving to Papillion, he conducted the Papillion Hotel until 1883. In January of that year he entered upon the duties of county clerk, to which office he had been elected the previous fall. He was afterward twice re-elected to the same office. Upon going out of office he engaged in his present business, and today he is regarded as one of the representative business men of Papillion.

Mr. Lesieur on February 20, 1876, was joined in marriage with Susan Dowd, of Hollandale, Wisconsin, a daughter of Patrick and Catherine (Conway) Dowd, both deceased. They have a daughter, Susie, born November 11, 1881. Politically the subject of this sketch is a Democrat, while in religious views he is a

member of the Roman Catholic church. He belongs to the Dahlgren Post, No. 55, G. A. R., and the Andersonville Survivors' Association.

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**R**ATHAN DUNLAP, as proprietor of the "Dunlap," the leading hotel of Wahoo, Nebraska, has established a wide reputation, and the hostelry he conducts enjoys the patronage of the better class of the traveling public.

Mr. Dunlap was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1842, and is a son of William and Delila (Fluck) Dunlap, his father being a cooper by trade. The son was reared on a farm in Illinois. After his marriage he rented a farm in Illinois, but later went to Saunders county, Nebraska, where he rented a farm near Wahoo. He successfully carried on farming until 1880, when, deciding that Wahoo afforded a good opening for a restaurant, he established one. Such was his success that at the end of one year he embarked in the hotel business on Fifth street, conducting that establishment until 1892. He then went to Clarinda, Iowa, where he operated the Henshaw house for one year. As a brick building had been erected adjoining his old property in Wahoo he returned there in 1894 and in it established the Dunlap House, which is widely known throughout the state. It has 45 handsome rooms, 35 of which are bedrooms all nicely furnished, and it contains a fine sample room. Mr. Dunlap has paid particular attention to his table and culinary department, which

outclasses that of any hotel of equal size in the state of Nebraska. He employs ten hands, and has a 'bus to meet all trains and carry the mail. His enterprise and untiring efforts to please his patrons have resulted in deserved success, and he possesses the respect and friendship of the citizens of Wahoo to a marked degree. The name of the house was changed to the "Dunlap" in 1899.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage with Elizabeth Blue, a daughter of John H. Blue, a retired farmer, who is now living with Mr. Dunlap, being eighty-two years of age. This union resulted in three children: John W., who died at the age of eighteen years; Bert A., and Frank.

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**J**OHN F. SHERMAN, as editor and proprietor of the "Wahoo Democrat," has attained an enviable reputation throughout this section of the state. The paper exerts a strong influence in the inculcation of Democratic principles, and the furtherance of all enterprises and measures tending toward the betterment of Wahoo and the county at large. As a writer Mr. Sherman is versatile and original, and has the courage to give expression to the convictions of his mind. His management of the paper has met with the universal commendation of its subscribers, who number more than a thousand. Mr. Sherman was born in New York City, February 10, 1853, and is a son of Philip and Caroline (Smith) Sherman. Philip Sherman was a native of Frankfort-on-

the-Main, Germany, and in early manhood came to this country, making his home in New York City, although he was a deep sea sailor. He served in the Civil War and participated in the first battle of Bull Run. His health was very badly impaired by the constant exposure to which he was subjected, and as a consequence he died in 1863, at Xenia, Ohio. He married Caroline Smith, a native of New York, and she died in 1860. Their union was the source of three children: Emma J. (Delamater), deceased; David T., deceased; and John F.

John F. Sherman became a resident of Xenia, Ohio, in 1861, at the age of eight years, and he there received his mental training in the public schools. He was left an orphan at the age of ten years. His first work was on a farm, at which he continued until he was twenty-one years old, when he started to learn the trade of a printer, with his brother at Seward (then Aurora), Nebraska. In 1889 he purchased the "Wahoo Democrat," and has been its editor and proprietor since that date. He conducts the only Democratic paper in the county, and has been actively identified with politics since he has been located at Wahoo.

On June 28, 1892, Mr. Sherman was united in marriage with Helen R. Negley, a daughter of James S. Negley, of Wahoo, Nebraska. In April, 1893, he was appointed postmaster of Wahoo, and served for four years. Mrs. Sherman was appointed his deputy, and served equally as well in that capacity. In 1899 he was elected mayor of the city, his term expiring May 1, 1900. He has served on numerous committees, and has been a delegate to various

conventions. Fraternally, he is a member of the following orders: Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World, Star of Jupiter, and Royal Neighbors of America.

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PETER CAMPBELL is a worthy member of one of the oldest and most representative families of Hall and Saunders counties, Nebraska, which has done its share in the development of these two counties. He is esteemed as one of the most progressive and enterprising farmers of Chapman precinct, Saunders county, where he has spent the greater part of his life, engaged in tilling the soil. He was born in Scotland in 1863, and is a son of Peter and Agnes (Rentoul) Campbell.

Peter Campbell, Sr., was born in Scotland, September 22, 1822, and was a son of John Campbell, who settled in Hall county, Nebraska in 1835, remaining there until death claimed him. John Campbell was the first of the family to come to this country; his son Peter, with his family, was the last to come to the United States, arriving here in 1865. In the fall of 1865, Peter Campbell, Sr. located on a ranch on the Platte River, near Fort Kearney, and continued to live there until July 24, 1867. During his stay there his home was visited by the Indians, while all the men were in the fields at work. The Indians carried away with them four of his children, the oldest of whom was nineteen years of age, while the youngest was but four years old. They were Christina, Jessie, and the twins, Peter and

Daniel. The children remained in captivity about three months, when upon the payment of \$2,000 they were released by the United States peace commissioner. Upon their restoration to the family Mr. Campbell at once left for Saunders county, settling in Chapman precinct in the spring of 1868. He remained there until his death, November 15, 1875, at which time he was the owner of 240 acres of land. He first bought 80 acres,—the south half of the northeast quarter of section 10—and later he inherited the northwest quarter of section 10, which was homesteaded by his brother Dan, who died a bachelor. This brother was killed in 1870 by a falling log, and lies buried in the cemetery at Wahoo, Saunders county. The wife of Peter Campbell, Sr., was Agnes Rentoul, also a native of Scotland, who died at Fort Kearney in February, 1866. Peter Campbell, Sr., was one of the first to settle in Chapman precinct, and he built the first log house, near the creek, its dimensions being 14 by 20 feet, and its height a story and a half. He also built a log barn large enough for two teams, and for the first three years he was engaged in breaking the land. Near the creek was a heavy forest, which, with the orchard he set out, was destroyed by fire.

The subject of this sketch has six brothers and sisters, namely: Christina, Jessie, John R., Agnes, Daniel, and Elizabeth. Christina lives in Butler county, Nebraska. Before her marriage to James Dunlap he homesteaded the north half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 14, range 6. She has five children: Nelson, a teacher at Lincoln, Nebraska;

Agnes, wife of H. N. Lynn, a school teacher at Weston, Nebraska; Christina, Patience, and Louis. Jessie wedded a Mr. Land, and died, leaving five children. John R., who lives in Illinois, married Arletta Hadsell; they had five children, namely: Joseph, deceased; Emma, deceased; James, Lila, and Donald. Agnes, deceased, was the wife of F. F. Herring, and died in 1897, leaving four children: Gertrude, Owen, Grace, and Bertha—the last named was very small at the time of her mother's death, and now lives with a Mr. Griffin, at Eckley, Colorado, who is a relative of Mr. Herring. In 1897, Daniel, the twin brother of the subject hereof, married Emma Stoner, of Illinois, and he lives on the farm adjoining the one owned by Peter Campbell; he has two children, Josie, aged two years, and John, a babe. Elizabeth, the youngest daughter of Peter Campbell, Sr., is the wife of O. A. Herring, a farmer in Chapman precinct, and they had seven children, of whom six are living, namely: Ernest, Albert, Harry, Hazel, Myrtle, and Ruth; the deceased one was Rachel. All the children of Peter Campbell, Sr., were born in Fife county, Scotland, 30 miles from Edinburgh.

The subject of this sketch married Josie Webster, a daughter of R. F. Webster, a sketch of whom also appears in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have three children—Ethel, Dan, and Letha. In politics Mr. Campbell is a solid Free Silver Democrat. He is a member of the K. of P. Lodge, No. 95, of Weston, in which he has held several offices; and of the A. O. U. W., of Weston, Lodge No. 291. In

1893 Mr. Campbell built his present comfortable home, whose dimensions are 16 by 26 feet, and he also built a kitchen 12 by 12 feet in size. In 1895 he bought the 80 acres owned by his brother, John R. Campbell, and moved the house standing thereon to his present premises, to be used as a barn. He has a 40-foot well, and his farm is one of the best improved in Chapman precinct.

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**H**ARVEY CARPENTER HENRY, a retired farmer and esteemed resident of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, is one of the early settlers of this state. Mr. Henry is a son of William and Eunice (Carpenter) Henry. His parents were both natives of Ohio. They located in Nebraska in their declining years and finally died there, the father at the age of seventy years, and the beloved mother at the age of seventy-nine years. They reared seven children, namely: Parker C., George W., Nancy J., Harvey C., Charles, Lorring, and Rachel.

Harvey C. Henry was born in Athens county, Ohio, where he was reared and schooled. In 1861 he enlisted as a private in the Union army, being a member of Company B, 36th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served three years and was honorably discharged. He immediately re-enlisted and served until discharged as a sergeant in 1865, on the successful termination of the war. Among the principal battles in which Mr. Henry took active part were Chickamauga, Antietam, South Mountain,

Winchester, and Chattanooga. He was slightly wounded at Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley, captured, and was held as a prisoner for four months.

Having been mustered out of the service, Mr. Henry married Mary D. Miller, a daughter of Amos and Louisa (Deterly) Miller, and granddaughter of Abel and Mary (Jones) Miller. This happy event took place March 30, 1864. Abel Miller was a native of Connecticut. He was born at Middlefield April 12, 1772, and died April 23, 1827. His wife was a daughter of Thomas Jones. She was born at Brownsville, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1778, and died May 4, 1827. They were early settlers in Ohio, where Mr. Miller was a man of considerable importance. He was among the first judges of Athens county, in that state, and was highly educated. Five children were born to him and his wife, as follows: Elijah, Amos, Mary, Eliza, and Maria.

Amos Miller was born July 27, 1807, in Athens county, Ohio. He died August 14, 1886. He graduated from the state university at Athens, Ohio, and afterward became a teacher in the preparatory department of the university. After a number of years' teaching he established Miller's Academy, and his children were all students of that institution. He followed the profession of teaching for half a century, and was also engaged in farming. He married Louisa Deterly, who was born in 1806, and died in 1882. Six children were born to them, as follows: Abel D., Charles D., Paul D., Michael D., Mary D., the wife of Mr. Henry, and Margaret P.



After marriage Mr. Henry followed farming in Ohio until 1875. He then decided to go west, and advance himself with the successful men of the day. He first went to Lancaster county, Nebraska, where he purchased some railroad land. Two years later he settled in Ashland, and engaged in the grocery business. He purchased what is now the Frank McIntyre property. Two years later he also purchased 160 acres near Memphis, in Clear Creek precinct. Subsequently he added 80 acres which he purchased from the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and which was immediately adjoining his 1160 acres.

Upon this fine farm Mr. Henry lived until 1898. He made many and extensive improvements, remodeling buildings and erecting new ones. He also set out beautiful shade trees and fine orchards. He sold 46 acres of this tract, however, to the Armour Company for an ice plant. In 1898 Mr. Henry left the farm and went to Ashland to spend his declining years. He purchased a corner lot, upon which he built a handsome modern residence and a convenient barn. Six children were born to him and his wife. Their names are: Cora, Lena, Frank M., Maggie, Charles G., and Jessie M. Cora married D. M. Roberts, and died at the age of thirty-two years, leaving one daughter, Mary E. Lena is a successful teacher in the public schools. Frank M. is a farmer by occupation, owning a fine farm in Clear Creek precinct. Maggie and Jessie M. are still at home, while the youngest son, Charles G., is a farmer.

Mr. Henry is a staunch Republican, and

served his party as justice of the peace one term. He is reaping the reward of honest toil, and is spending his declining years in ease, surrounded by his loved ones.

FRANK HRUBY, a well-to-do and upright citizen, and one of the older settlers of Saunders county, Nebraska, has met with excellent success in his present vocation—farming—having been engaged in agricultural pursuits ever since coming to this country. He is a son of Wenzel Hruby, and was born July 13, 1854, in Branna, Bohemia, a populous village situated near the border of Germany. He was educated in the Bohemian language and also learned some German. When he left Bohemia he parted with his father and mother, brother, and a wealthy sister, who was married to Vinzens Tost, in Langenau. His parents are still alive, and are living with their son in Bohemia.

On the 28th day of April, 1880, Mr. Hruby bade good-bye to his relatives and friends in Bohemia and set out on his journey for America, accompanied by his wife, Wilhelmina (Scharf), who was born in Hennersdorf, Bohemia, November 6, 1857, and one son, Joseph, who was born in the same village as was his father, October 11, 1879. They sailed from Bremen, Germany, May 2, on the ship "Salier," and arrived in New York City May 15. On the same vessel also came his brothers-in-law, Wenzel Hakel and Joseph Scharf and their families. After a limited stay in New York

City Mr. Hruby started for the far West, and arrived at Wahoo, Saunders county, May 18. From there he took his family to the Bohemian settlement near Prague, and until he secured a home for them they were guests of Frank Ostry, who had a comfortable sod house. After looking about him for a suitable location, Mr. Hruby bought 160 acres of raw prairie land in section 20, near Weston, and on it built his first sod house, and at once started in to engage in American farming. He had \$500 with which to commence his operations, and part of this he invested in the first payment on his farm, which cost \$6 per acre. He also purchased a stove and other necessary household articles, a yoke of oxen with which to break the prairie land, a cow with a calf, and three hogs. By the time he had made his purchases his money gave out, and he worked that summer for other farmers in order to provide the necessities of life for his family. The winter was very severe, and the snow had drifted so much that it was hard to get anywhere. The neighbors came and borrowed cornmeal, which was a luxury in those times. The third season he hauled corn to market in a dry goods box on a sled, using a single ox to pull the load. After three years of toil, during which time he had succeeded in putting 50 acres of his land under cultivation, he sold the property for \$12 per acre, and bought 80 acres of land one and a half miles southeast of his first purchase for \$6 per acre. Shortly after this he also bought another 160-acre tract four miles west of his first location. This last mentioned property, which is in section 26, Newman precinct, has ever

since continued to be our subject's home. No time was lost in making improvements; many acres of the prairie were broken and put under cultivation. There was a sod house on the land, which was built by Jacob Soukup; other buildings were added as fast as possible. He built a corn-crib and barn, but when the first crop was raised and threshed, sparks from a Union Pacific Railroad engine set fire to the dry grass along the railroad, that runs across his property, and before the fire was extinguished, his corn-crib, granary with grain, lumber and farm implements were destroyed. This unfortunate accident happened October 9, 1885. The railroad company paid \$400 for the damage caused, although the estimated loss was \$912.45. The following year he parted with the old sod house and built a frame dwelling 26 by 16 feet, 10 feet high, with an addition 12 by 14 feet, which is used as a kitchen. This is his present residence. He also built a barn and corn-crib; a little later he had a tubular well 96 feet deep constructed, and a windmill erected which cost \$300 complete. Afterward he built a granary with a capacity of about 2,500 bushels, and is now contemplating building a large barn, 40 by 28 feet and 16 feet high, in modern style.

In 1892 Mr. Hruby bought 160 acres from Frank Prazak, which is well improved and still in his possession. He has 80 acres also in Butler county, Nebraska. His second purchase of land, 80 acres in extent, he sold to Vaclav Malousek for \$2,800. In 1894 he bought 160 acres near Touhy, and also 160 acres adjoining his home in section 27, Newman precinct. The

160 acres near Touhy were sold to Ernest Tomes in 1896 for \$5,500. This makes the total amount of land in Mr. Hruby's possession 560 acres; however, he has a plan to exchange the 80 acres in Butler county for 160 acres, which corners one-half mile from his other property. General farming and stock raising are our subject's chief pursuits, and he enjoys an enviable reputation of being a good, conscientious, up-to-date farmer. In 1899 he received from his brother in Bohemia 60 pounds of Bohemian rye, on which the freight, customs, and other expenses incurred in bringing it to him were \$7.28. This rye was planted and harvested in 1900. Unfortunately on August 11 a number of wheat stacks from 20 acres of land were struck by lightning and they were burnt, along with the rye stack that stood near at hand.

There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hruby, since they became residents of Saunders county, the following children: Frank, born June 6, 1881; Annie, born March 29, 1883; Sophie, born May 25, 1885; Stephen, born January 26, 1887, who died July 18, 1887; Marie, born January 20, 1889; Karl, born December 5, 1890; Edward, born October 13, 1892; Adolph, born December 17, 1894; Valclav, born September 8, 1897; and Emil, born August 16, 1899. All the children are receiving the benefits of an education in the Bohemian and English languages; they are all at home at present, enjoying the best of health, and assisting materially in the labors and duties of the farm. Mr. Hruby belongs to the Roman Catholic church at Weston, of which he

was elected treasurer for the year 1895. He is also a member of the Catholic Workmen and Z. C. K. J., a benevolent Catholic society. He served six years as a member of the school board, as director of district 74, and in 1900 was elected again for a term of three years. For some time Mr. Hruby has been a member of the Weston Grain & Stock Company, and upon its reorganization he was elected a director; he was a member of the committee for buying the old elevator. Our subject is well pleased with the success he has achieved, which is the result of hard labor and incessant toil by himself, his wife and members of his family.

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**S**IAS B. BACHELDER, a prominent and well-to-do pioneer settler of Sarpy county, Nebraska, has done his share toward developing the rich resources and furthering the useful enterprises of his adopted county and state. The date of his entering the limits of the county is June 9, 1856. He was born at Rangemont, Lower Canada, in 1835, and is a son of Daniel and Electa (Killeen) Bachelder.

Mr. Bachelder's early youth was spent under the parental roof, and his mental training was obtained in the district school of his native place. When he attained his majority he started out to go to California. Upon the above mentioned date he reached Sarpy county, Nebraska, which then showed signs of a very prosperous future. He decided therefore to make it his home, and at the Rankin & Lamar mill he

obtained his first position. The mill was situated two miles east of La Mare City, now known as Laplatte. Mr. Bachelder worked there two and one-half years, and then, with T. B. Holman, he bought the mill, his interest being but a third. For his share he traded 160 acres of land, now the property of C. Tuttle, which he took up from the government in 1857. The farm was located in section 25, township 13, range 13. The mill was moved to Elkhorn in after years, where it was conducted until Mr. Bachelder and Levi Kimball established a ferry across the river. They conducted the ferry until the railroad was built, and the following fixed prices were allowed by legislature: \$1 for a team; 75 cents for a horse and buggy; 30 cents for a horse and man, and 10 cents for a footman. The ferry was 44 by 14 feet in size, and was operated by a cable 2,200 feet long, and had a capacity for three teams. Mr. Bachelder also ran a stage line between Omaha and Plattsmouth, in partnership with Levi Kimball. Five years later he sold out and kept a store. His old store building is now used for a school house. He then made three trips freighting goods to Denver, Colorado, and other points west, after which he settled down on his present farm of 130 acres, which he purchased of Joseph Brock. He now has a walnut grove of five acres, thirty-one years old, which he set out himself. The first house in which he lived was built of logs, but he now has a handsome residence, which is surrounded by a well kept lawn and fine shade trees. He also cultivates 80 acres in the bottoms and 160 acres in Cherry county. He is a

very successful farmer and ranks among the foremost in his community. He is a good neighbor and citizen and has many friends throughout his adopted county.

Mr. Bachelder wedded Louetta Peters, of Bellevue, Nebraska, and they had the following children: Daniel, deceased; Nellie Lucetta married Allen Frazee, and they have three children—Leslie, Wilma and Harriet; Harriet is the wife of Chester Hamilton, and they have three children—Olive, Lloyd and Gale; Electa is the wife of Albert Mills; Arthur, Curtis and William are deceased; Edith and Hazel deceased. The subject of this sketch has served twenty years as justice of the peace; he has served on the school board, as road supervisor, and as assessor. Religiously he is a Presbyterian.

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**F**ON. ABEL B. FULLER, a prominent citizen of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, has spent a most eventful life on the plains of the West. In his early days he, in association with others, was engaged in the freight business in Nebraska, and the many adventures of this class of workers in pioneer days, when wagon trains were the only safe way of getting from one point to another, would form a most interesting chapter in this volume. Mr. Fuller, as a business man, possesses exceptional ability, and no man has done more to promote the growth and general welfare of Ashland than has he. He has been identified with many public enterprises which have made the busy little city it now is, and at

the present time he is superintendent of the electric light plant.

Abel B. Fuller was born in Jackson county, Michigan, November 26, 1837, and is a son of Andrew S. Fuller. The latter was born and reared in Vermont, but in 1833 moved to Michigan, where he followed farming until his death at the age of fifty-four years. Abel B. Fuller was reared on the farm and received his intellectual training in the district schools, after which he followed farming and school teaching. He started out upon a western tour and went to St. Joseph, Missouri, where he was persuaded by a friend to accompany him to Nebraska. He went to Plattsmouth and there, with others, was interested in the freight business for about eight years, their chief work being for the government. They employed teams in hauling merchandise over the country to various small towns. There were no railroads at the time, and wagons were exclusively used. No less than a hundred wagons would go together, as a sufficient force was required for defence against the attacks of hostile Indians, which were of frequent occurrence. Mr. Fuller passed through many highly exciting experiences during this period on the frontier, and he now bears scars from arrows, evidencing a condition of affairs which will never again exist in this country. In 1862 he settled at what is now Ashland, and having erected a rude building, 40 by 20 feet in dimensions, near the old ford, conducted, in partnership with Myron Moe, the first store in the town. In 1863 he sold his interest to Alexander Hinkley. He then spent one year in Montana, after which he returned

and in 1866 went into the real estate business. He laid out the city as it is today, its location then being at the ford, its name being Saline Ford. Lee Warbritton first built where Ashland is located, calling it Parallel City. By an act of the legislature in 1866 the two places were included in one and called Ashland, the name being given by Mr. Argyle, an ardent admirer of Henry Clay. Mr. Fuller built and sold many houses, disposed of many lots, and assisted materially in establishing churches and schools. He served as deputy of the first clerk of Saunders county, and, in 1867, was appointed land agent for the B. & M. R. Railroad and the U. P. Railroad, doing much to establish good homes for the present residents of the county. In 1865-1866 he served in the legislature of Nebraska territory, and in 1867 in that of the state of Nebraska. In 1873 he built his present fine residence at Fifth and Oak streets. He then purchased some 500 acres of land and raised sheep and cattle on a large scale, until 1890. In that year an electric plant was built by a stock company on Wahoo Creek, and he has since served as superintendent of that concern. He was also a director of the National Bank of Ashland, and helped to establish the "Times." He served on the school board, and as a trustee of schools.

On September 28, 1870, Mr. Fuller was united in marriage with Violette Laverty, of Jackson, Michigan. In religious views he is an Episcopalian, and his wife is the only surviving resident member who assisted in the organization of the church of that denomination at Ashland, in 1873. Fraternally, he is a charter

member of Pomegranate Lodge, No. 110, A. F. & A. M., of Ashland, and served as master for ten years. He was a charter member of Jewel Chapter, No. 34, of Ashland, of which he served as high priest. He also belongs to Mt. Moriah Commandery, of Lincoln.

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**R**EV. P. F. MASTROM, the beloved pastor of the Swedish Mission church of Swedesburg, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a native of Sweden, where his birth occurred in 1848. He is a son of Per Frederick Mastrom, who came to America and settled in Swedesburg, Nebraska, where he is now living in retirement.

Rev. Mr. Mastrom was reared and educated in his native land, where he also worked in the rolling mills. He became a Christian in 1877, and felt called upon to preach the Gospel. He seemed to receive a Divine call to preach, which he did for the love of Christ. But not wishing to become a minister, he came to the United States, locating in Chicago, Illinois, where he worked in the McCormick machine shops for some time. There he met many of his old acquaintances and was again urged to preach the Gospel. This he did in their homes and in Sunday schools for a period of five years.

Mr. Mastrom moved to Red River Valley, Minnesota, as many Christians were located there who had neither church nor minister, and they desired him to establish a church there. After preaching there for about five years, hold-

ing meetings in houses, Mr. Mastrom was at last enabled to institute a church at that place. This church was located in Teien township, Kittson county, and was the only mission church for a distance of 300 miles.

December 1, 1897, Rev. Mr. Mastrom was called to the Mission church at Swedesburg, Saunders county, Nebraska. This church was founded twenty-five years ago by Rev. Andrew Hallner. He was succeeded by Rev. J. E. Swanson, and the latter was in turn succeeded by the subject hereof. In 1896 the church was burned to the ground. Soon afterward a new one was built, containing 300 seats. In 1898 a vestry was added, containing 100 seats. This church now has a membership of 140 souls.

Rev. Mr. Mastrom married Matilda Forsburg while still a resident of Sweden. They have four children: Charles F., Ida M., Emma Y., and Amy C. Ida married H. Nyquist. Rev. Mr. Mastrom possesses many Christian virtues and is much beloved among his parishioners.

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**C.**F. CALHOUN is a prominent and enterprising business man, of Springfield, Nebraska, who has become prominent through his ability and persevering industry, and all his worldly possessions are the result of many years of constant and arduous labor. He did not have the advantages that most young men have when they begin the struggle of life. When he was but a lad of twelve years he was compelled to earn his own livelihood, and the success which he has at-

tained shows that he possessed a notable amount of pluck, energy and determination. He is a native of Bloomington, Illinois, his birth having occurred April 15, 1862, and he is a son of William and Sarah J. (Wise) Calhoun. His father located in Sarpy county, Nebraska, in 1896, but died two years later. C. F. Calhoun's only brother, William F., spent nine years in Sarpy county, from 1884 to 1893, but now lives in Oklahoma.

Mr. Calhoun was a lad of seventeen years when in 1879 he located in Sarpy county, where until 1883 he worked upon a farm. In that year he entered the dry goods store of J. D. Spearman, as a clerk, and while serving in that capacity he gained a good insight to the business. Mr. Spearman died January 11, 1891. Mr. Calhoun continued work as clerk until February, 1886, when he went to Fort Robinson, Nebraska, but in April, 1887, he returned to Springfield, and on May 16 he began to fulfil the duties of cashier of the J. D. Spearman & Co. Bank. He is now cashier and manager of that institution, which position he fills with credit to himself and employers. He also deals extensively in real estate, and is considered the best live stock auctioneer in his community. He is a wide-awake and hustling business man, always working for the advancement of his adopted county and state, and by his many friends he is known as a good, upright and honest citizen. He has one of the finest homes in Springfield, the house being 30 by 40 feet in dimensions. It is surrounded by 20 acres of land, which is kept in excellent condition, adding much to the appearance of his home.

Mr. Calhoun married Etta J. Spearman, a daughter of J. D. Spearman, February 20, 1884, and to this happy union six children have been born. They are as follows: Roy S., Lina S., Alice E., James W., Kirk, and a baby, Charles W. Since 1896 Mr. Calhoun has been a strong Democrat, while in religious views his family favor the Congregational church, although his oldest son, Roy, is a Methodist. His son is now in the senior class of the Springfield High School, and is very popular among his classmates. The subject of this sketch is chairman of the town board, and for the past seven years he has been a member of the school board, of which he is treasurer. He is also treasurer of the fair association and driving park.

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**J.** ALFRED FROSTROM, a prominent and widely known farmer, residing in Chapman precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Gothland, an island off the mainland of Sweden, and he is a son of J. P. and Elizabeth (Donaldson) Frostrom.

J. P. Frostrom married Miss Donaldson, and they had four sons: John, who is married and in business at Malmo, Nebraska; Alfred; Emil, who is a farmer, of Banner county, Nebraska, and married Eva Helsing; and Nicholas, also a farmer of Banner county, who married Emma Swanson. J. P. Frostrom borrowed money, with which he bought a ticket to the United States. At first he worked on the Union Pacific Railroad, and in Wyoming, and when he had earned enough money to bring his family

over he sent them the necessary funds. When the family arrived in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1870, they had but \$16, and that was paid to Nels Edlund, who hauled them to their present farm. Mr. Frostrom in 1869 had homesteaded the west half of the northwest quarter of section 4, township 14, range 6, and in the center of the farm he built a dug-out 12 by 14 feet in size, in which he, his wife and four sons lived. As they were unable to get any water there the father built in 1872 a frame house on the present site, the dimensions of which were 14 by 20 feet. The road then ran across the corner of their farm, and the first barn Mr. Frostrom put up was in the slough near the house, and it had a straw roof. In those early days four farmers—Jacob Hanson, Hans Jacobson, John Larson, and J. P. Frostrom—jointly owned an ox team, but later two of them sold their interests to the other two, who took turns in using the team. J. Alfred Frostrom was ten years old, and his brother John was then twelve years old, and while one drove the other held the plow. The first slips set out were cottonwood, and were obtained at Fremont, and the present orchard was set out in 1880. They have since put out another orchard, and around the house many elm and maple trees have been planted. In 1884 a barn 24 by 28 feet in dimensions was built; a year later a shed 14 by 24 feet in size was put up; a corn-crib 24 by 36 feet was next completed; a machine shed and hog house were built measuring 20 by 40 feet; then a granary 16 by 16 feet, and a blacksmith and repair shops were the latest addition. J. P. Frostrom made several pur-

chases, as follows: In 1877 or 1878 he bought the east half of the northeast quarter of section 5, just across the road from his house, this last piece having been bought by our subject in 1897. In 1880 he bought the north half of the southwest quarter of section 32, township 15, range 6, for which he paid \$500. He then bought the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 32, paying therefor \$1,000, which shows the land had increased in value just four times. The two brothers went to Banner county, Nebraska, where they homesteaded a farm. J. Alfred Frostrom has resided on the old homestead for the past twelve years, and he cultivates about 280 acres every year. No better farm in Saunders county can be found than the one owned by him, and he is recognized as one of the most progressive and up-to-date farmers in this section of the state.

The subject of this sketch was married in 1891 to Emma Olson, a daughter of John and Martha (Johnson) Olson, a homesteader of Mariposa precinct, and they have a daughter, Ebba Lillian Alfrieda, born in 1899. John Olson, Mrs. Frostrom's father, took up the north half of the northwest quarter of section 8, township 15, range 6, and later bought an adjoining 40 acres. He sold his farm in 1890 to J. Frahm, and then moved to Knox county, Nebraska. J. Alfred Frostrom's wife is one of a family of twelve children. They are as follows: Christine, who died in Sweden; Carl Gustaf, a well known minister, of Wausa, Knox county, Nebraska, who married Jennie Monson, and has five children: Avoda, Mauritz, Ebba, Carl, and Luther; Beda, who is the wife



of John Eklund, of Knox county, Nebraska, has three children,—Effie, Theodore, and Wall-fred; Toby, who homesteaded a tract of land in Boyd county, South Dakota, and married Christine Anderson, by whom he has six children,—Arthur, David, Clarence, Ruth, Reuben Toby and Richard Willoughby; Emma, who is the wife of the subject hereof; Hannie, who is the wife of John Frostrom, of Malmo, Nebraska, has two children—Edith Antonio Cordelia and Clarence Alvin; Albin, who is a farmer, of Knox county; Otto, who married Ella Sunstrom and is farming in Knox county; Lydia, Tena, and David, who are deceased; and Joseph, the youngest, who also lives in Knox county, Nebraska.

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**R**EV. S. G. LARSON, who bears a wide reputation as a result of many years' active work in the church of God, was one of the earliest settlers of Wahoo precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska.

Mr. Larson was born in the Province of Kalmars, Sweden, January 20, 1833, being a son of Lars Larson. He attended school in his native country until he attained the age of twenty-five years, when he came to the United States. After studying in Springfield, Illinois, and Chicago, for three years, he resided in Burlington, Iowa, two years, when he moved to Knoxville, Illinois, where he remained until November 20, 1868. He was then sent for by the church at Omaha to preach, and in that city he found many Swedes who had come to this country

from Sweden and were in search of homes. He, together with two other gentlemen, went to Lincoln and looked up land for the homesteaders, inspecting Saunders county from one end to the other. He located many of the early Swedish families in this section, and in 1869 he himself took a homestead of 80 acres,—the west half of the southeast quarter of section 14, —where he is now living. For some time he preached in a sod house, and then built a church on the northeast corner of section 4, which has since been moved to Mead. After a few years he was called by the Sycamore, Illinois, congregation to go east, and most of the time since he has been a traveling mission minister. He spent five years in Worcester, Massachusetts, and about the same time in Kansas City, Mo., and Pueblo, Colorado. He is a man of noble impulses and a devout Christian, and the vast good accomplished in his years of active work in the cause of Christianity entitles him to spend the sunset of life in retirement. In 1900 he retired to his homestead and has since given his attention to its improvement. He has set out shade and fruit trees, and remodeled and greatly enlarged his house. He is well known throughout this section of the state, and enjoys the respect and friendship of every one with whom he is acquainted.

Rev. Mr. Larson was united in marriage with Johanna C. Lagerstrom, November 17, 1861, and nine children were born to them: David, of Wahoo; Annie Elizabeth, the wife of Rev. Dr. E. Nelander, of California; Samuel, of Wahoo; Cornelius, who has taken the name of Cornelius Lenard, and is a practicing

physician of Chicago; Huldah (Lindberg), of Pueblo, Colorado; Julia P., a graduated physician in California; Theodore, a law student; Lydia C., and Amalia, of Lincoln, Nebraska.



**A**LBERT PARSONS BUTTERFIELD is a native of Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Bellevue precinct, being owner of a part of the old homestead settled by his father. He is a practical and enterprising farmer, and enjoys an enviable reputation among his fellow citizens as a good neighbor and honest citizen.

Charles Emerson Butterfield, father of the subject of this article, crossed the Missouri River January 1, 1853. Locating in Bellevue precinct, Sarpy county, he took up 144 acres, 140 acres of which are in section 10, while the remainder is in section 11, township 13, range 13. He built a log house on the site of our subject's present residence, and there lived many years; he also erected a fine barn and a number of good out-buildings. Farming was not his only occupation; he had, before locating in Sarpy county, practiced medicine for many years, and he never entirely relinquished his professional work, being the first and best physician in his community. He was among the early settlers who experienced a great deal of trouble with the Indians, and afterward with "claim jumpers." He lived in a time when he had to carry his sack of corn many miles to a mill to obtain breadstuff. During the first

eighteen months he lived in Nebraska he had but 40 pounds of flour for his family. He experienced many troubles and privations in his struggle to hold and develop his farm, but he finally managed to forge ahead, and his farming operations at last became profitable. After a few years travel set in for the West, and Mr. Butterfield was among the first to shoulder his ox whip and start across the plains with provisions for the new-comers. He had killed the first hogs he had raised on his farm, and cured the meat; this pork he sold for 50 cents per pound. Much of the land he farmed has since been sold to the railroad company, and much of it is included in lots that lie within the limits of the village of Fort Crook. He planted a large grove of walnut trees on his farm, and these trees are still bearing. During the early Indian wars Mr. Butterfield was a commissary sergeant in the army, and held his post until his company (Company D, 1st Nebraska Volunteers) was mustered out of service. During the last few years of his career he led a retired life, but still lived on the old homestead, where his death occurred in 1886 at the age of fifty-nine years. In early life he married Isabella Stebbens, who now lives in Omaha, and to them were born twelve children, as follows: Frances C., wife of J. C. Monninger; Sarah Jane, deceased, was the wife of Orrin Edwards; Charles A., a carpenter, wedded Sophia Julyan; Albert Parsons, our subject; Carrie I., wife of W. W. Wood; George E., who married Minnette Stover; Polly A., wife of Henry Croft; William W. died in 1888 at the age of twenty-one years; Mary H. is a telephone op-





PAUL ERNEST KOERBER, M. D.

erator; Clayton and Clinton, twins, died in their infancy; and Orilla May, who is a bookkeeper and stenographer.

Albert Parsons Butterfield was reared to farming, and his early education was received in the school of district 4 and in Bellevue. He learned engineering, which he followed with good success fourteen years, the last five years of which period being spent with the Omaha & Grant Smelting Company at Omaha. As his health failed him, he was compelled to seek open air exercise, and accordingly went back to the homestead and to his old occupation as a farmer. His agricultural operations have been attended with considerable success; he has raised as much as 80 bushels of corn to the acre, and now has a crop of oats that will yield 60 bushels to the acre. Besides cultivating the homestead, he rents an adjoining piece of property and devotes his entire time to farming.

Mr. Butterfield was married to Margaret Ferrill, and has one child, Nora Belle. Since the village of Fort Crook was incorporated, he has served as a trustee of the village; in 1900 he assisted in the taking of the United States Census, being assigned to his immediate vicinity.

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**P**AUL ERNEST KOERBER, M. D. The subject of this sketch is descended from a line of physicians, reaching many generations back. He is a physician of eminence as well as an author of considerable note. He is a son of Adolph and Paulina (Schmidt) Koerber, being the second of a

family of six children: Adolph, Paul, Arthur, Viola, Amanda and Elvira. His father is a retired physician and still lives in Stuttgart, Germany.

Dr. Paul E. Koerber was born in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1874. His early education was acquired in Stuttgart, where he mastered Latin and Greek and laid a good foundation for his future studies in botany and chemistry. He came to the United States at the age of eighteen years, and studied medicine at the University of Omaha, where he graduated and received his diploma. He then returned to Germany to study in the University of Munich, where he received his degree. An appointment as assistant in the university hospital for women, was tendered him. The position was accepted and filled by him until he returned to the United States.

At the earnest solicitation of the faculty of the University of Omaha, Dr. Koerber accepted the position of instructor in materia medica. But as broader fields opened to him, he resigned the position and established an office at Yutan, where he has since been practicing his profession, and where he owns a drug store. He has built up a large and lucrative practice, and has the unbounded confidence of the community. His skill in surgery is noted throughout the country, and his services are in constant demand.

Dr. Koerber is the author of several works of note, one being a microscopic production relating to Indian corn which will in future be of immense value to the corn planters of Nebraska, as well as those of other states. Po-

litically, Dr. Koerber advocates the principles of Jackson and Jefferson. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, and belongs to the A. O. U. W., the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Woodmen of the World. A portrait of Dr. Koerber, executed from a recent photograph, is shown on a preceding page.

JOSEPH B. BARTEK is one of the influential and substantial farmers of Newman precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he has resided since July, 1870. He has always taken an active part in the welfare and upbuilding of his adopted country and state, and has an extended acquaintance throughout the county. As sheriff he officiated one term, and is now serving as assessor of Newman precinct, which office he has filled a number of times before. He was director of school district 98 until he moved to district 74, of which he now serves as director. He was treasurer of the Weston Catholic church, secretary of the Weston Catholic Cemetery, and is director of the Weston Grain & Stock Company. In 1890 he was one of the organizers of the first independent Bohemian paper in the United States, and helped to make it a success and keep up interest in the venture by contributing many independent articles for the publication. Its name, *Pritel Lidu*, meant "The People's Friend." It was originally published in Wahoo, Saunders county, but its home is now in Wilbert, Nebraska. Mr. Bartek is a son of John and Veronika (Plutnar) Bartek,

and was born in 1857 in Moravia, in the north-eastern part of the section known as Upper Becva, Wallashko, Beskydi mountains.

John Bartek came to the United States in July, 1870. He had intended coming to America in 1867, but had not been able to sell his two farms, consisting of 30 "mirs" each, one known as "Lucinski" and the other as "Jancikovice," until the summer of 1870. For these two farms he received 2,800 "zlatek." He then set out to follow his friends who had left Bohemia for Iowa and Texas between the years 1850 and 1870. When he reached Bremen, intending to take his passage in a boat to Texas from that port, he found that the vessel for Galveston, which sailed once in two weeks, had departed on the preceding day. He then took ship for Baltimore, Maryland, with the intention of going from there to Tama county, Iowa. After having been on board the boat for nine weeks, he met some emigrants who were going to Saunders county, Nebraska, knowing that there was more government land there to be occupied. Once again, to meet the exigencies of the moment, he changed his plans, and, without stopping in Iowa, he traveled direct to Saunders county. He crossed the Platte River at North Bend in the old ferry that then provided transportation across that stream, and first stopped with a Mr. Killian. Mr. Bartek and his family were the first emigrants from Wallashko, Moravia, to settle in this part of the state. In July, 1870, Peter Kastl took the family and household effects by wagon and team to the west half of the northeast quarter of section 12, township 14, range 5, which John

Bartek homesteaded. In 1872 the east half of the northeast quarter of section 12 was homesteaded by a Mr. Flint, who at that time was teaching in the old sod house of Mr. Venc, on the east half of the southwest quarter of section 12, which served for organizing the first school. Later districts were formed, which now comprise school districts 68, 74, 98, and 113. John Bartek's first house, to some extent, partook of the nature of a dug-out. As he was a carpenter by trade, he cut timber from section 4 to use in constructing the frame portion of his residence. Ash poles were used as rafters, and the roof was covered with rails, slough grass being utilized to thatch it and render it impervious to the rain. Ashes mixed with red clay served as a whitewash. As he did not have much money he worked out for the neighboring farmers, to earn enough money to buy windows and boards for a door and necessary household supplies. After the harvest, in which cradle scythes were utilized for cutting the grain, Mr. Bartek went to Omaha on foot, wading the Platte River, and worked on the foundations of the Union Pacific Railroad bridge on the Missouri River. He also had enough left with which to buy two cows, these animals also serving as his first team in this country. In 1876 he built a log house, which still stands, though it is sided over now. He also filed the south half of the northwest quarter of section 12, but this property was later homesteaded by Mr. Tomes, who had been a near neighbor of his in Wallashko, Moravia. As the children were getting to be of good size, the two older sons—John, Jr., and Joseph B.,

our subject—were hired out to a Mr. Watson, and for their year's work Mr. Bartek received a yoke of steers. The larger children, the two sons just named, and Mary, since deceased, were working out for the Americans in the eastern part of the county, in order to gain a better command and knowledge of the English language. John Bartek, our subject's father, started a grocery and dry goods store in Weston in 1880, and continued in business there for a number of years, finally selling his stock and the good will of the business to L. Larson. He then moved to the farm and lived there till his death, which occurred December 29, 1891. John Bartek, Jr., bought the east half of the northeast quarter of section 12, which was homesteaded by Mr. Flint, and is now farming the same. Mr. and Mrs. Bartek had a family of eight children, as follows: John, Jr., born in 1855, who lives on the homestead, married Mary Stransky, by whom he had eight children,—Edward, John, Victoria, Louis, Thomas, Philip, Albert, and Matthew; Joseph B., our subject; Mary, deceased; Frank, who married Barbara Simanek, lives in Chapman precinct, Saunders county; Lucas, who married Victoria Bartek, lives two and one-half miles west of Valparaiso on his 240-acre farm, which is part of a ranch of C. Dickson; Phebe, wife of Mr. Kabourek, of Brainard, Nebraska; Agnes, wife of Mr. Cech, a farmer, of Wahoo, Nebraska; and Veronika, wife of Mr. Tomes, a farmer of Weston, Nebraska.

Joseph B. Bartek, our subject, remained at home until 1880, when he came into possession of 160 acres in section 1. Twenty years ago

the farm work was done almost without machinery; the grain was bound by hand, and the corn was checked in by hand, the rows being marked by a marker, constructed at home, which required the skilled work of two men to operate. He continued to live there until he was elected sheriff of Saunders county in 1891. In 1888 he purchased the first 80 acres of his present home, which consists of the west half of the southwest quarter of section 24, township 14, range 5, for which he paid \$1,000. He also purchased the John Jamison ranch, for which he paid \$3,000, on which he was given five years' time, the note drawing interest at the rate of seven per cent. Five years later he purchased an adjoining 80 acres, which makes him the owner of 480 acres of land. On the farm last purchased by him there was an old house, its dimensions being 16 by 32 feet, and this makes the two north rooms of his present fine house, completed in 1894, which is a two-story dwelling, 36 by 32 feet, having an arched wind-cave and brick and stone wall cellar. He has a good barn, 32 by 34 by 16 feet, with a good basement for his horses, and he also has fine out-buildings. His farm is well supplied with water, for it is situated near the south branch of Wahoo Creek, the banks of which are fringed with a heavy growth of oak, elm, walnut, ash, willow, cottonwood and box elder trees, of which some are upward of a century old, being four feet in diameter. He has also a 30-foot well, which is pumped by a large wind mill. The fine orchard he set out bears fruit of all kinds, and his farm is one of the most improved in his precinct. He carries on general

farming and stock raising, and also cultivates considerable broom corn and sorghum, manufacturing from the latter in his cane mill sorghum for his neighbors and himself.

Mr. Bartek was married in 1880 to Mary Kovarik, a daughter of John Kovarik, who came from Kameny Masti (Stone Bridge), Caslav, Bohemia, and settled in Saunders county about 1879, and to this union twelve children have been born, as follows: Jaroslav, born April 2, 1881; Joseph, born August 13, 1882; Charles, born January 7, 1884; Josie, born March 16, 1885; Emma, born in September, 1886; Frank, born January 20, 1888; Mary, born in April, 1889; Ralph, born March 21, 1890; Henry, born in February, 1892; Phebe, born March 31, 1895; Millie, born August 25, 1897, and Willie, born May 13, 1899. The two older sons, Jaroslav and Joseph, attended the Fremont Normal School in 1899, and Jaroslav is now a teacher. It is Mr. Bartek's intention to give his children the benefit of good educations.

Our subject was a stanch Democrat in politics until 1889, since which date he has favored the Populist party.

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REV. JOHN TORELL, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church at Swedesburg, Richland precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Sweden in 1853. His father, Andrew Johnson Torell, was a shoemaker by trade, and after coming to America settled in Oakland, Nebraska.



Mr. Torell's education was commenced in his native land and completed after reaching this country. He attended Augustana College at Rock Island, Illinois, entering the junior class in 1875. In 1877 he graduated from that institution. He was immediately sent out to build up the Swedish congregations all over the state of Nebraska. He was located at Saronville for two years, and eight years at Oakland, and made trips to various parts of the state, either driving or riding horseback. His trips varied from 20 to 92 miles in length. He held services either on Sundays or week days, preaching the gospel in sod houses, log houses or in churches. He was an indefatigable worker, and held both day and night services until January 1, 1888, when he received a call as pastor of the Lutheran church at Swedesburg, which pulpit he continues to fill up to the present time.

The Swedish church at Swedesburg was established in 1870 by Rev. S. G. Larson, who built a small frame church after preaching several years in private houses. In 1887 this church was enlarged and a basement was put under it. It is now one of the largest and best churches in the southern part of the county, and has a seating capacity of 338. At first a small frame house was erected as a parsonage. This was replaced in 1899 by a handsome, large, modern residence. The church property consists of about 40 acres of land, containing fine lawns beautifully shaded with handsome trees. Convenient horse sheds have also been added.

Rev. Mr. Larson was succeeded by Rev. L.

P. Ahlquist, who was succeeded by Rev. F. N. Swanburg. The last named was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Torell, who has made many additions to the church property, and is popular among members of his congregation. Rev. John Torell was joined in marriage with Anna Hakanson, a daughter of John Hakanson, of Edgar, Nebraska. Eight children blessed this union, namely: Mary, Althea, Emil, Esther, Edith, Judith, Harold, and Gerhard. Mary is deceased; Althea is a teacher in Swedesburg, while Emil is attending college at Rock Island, Illinois.

JOSEPH PTACEK has been a resident of Saunders county, Nebraska, since 1885, when he purchased a part of his present farm, which lies in Elk precinct, near the Butler county line; he is one of the most prosperous and enterprising farmers of his community. He was born in Bohemia, December 8, 1851, and is a son of Joseph and Josephine (Kradlubec) Ptacek.

The parents of the subject of this sketch came to this country in 1869, landing in New York City July 10, with all the members of their immediate family but one. They settled in Cleveland, Ohio, where many of them still reside. The children of the family were as follows: Joseph, the subject of this biography; Mary, wife of Mr. Ptak, of Cleveland, Ohio; Vaclav, who is married, and engaged in farming on his property in section 18, township 15, range 5; Annie (Kovar), who is a widow, and lives in Cleveland, Ohio; John, who lives in

Cleveland, Ohio; Frank, who lives in Oklahoma territory; and Anton, who resides in Bruno, Nebraska.

Joseph Ptacek, of whom this sketch treats, commenced to learn the bricklayer's trade in his native country, and mastered his trade in Cleveland, Ohio. He is also a master of the clarionette. He resided in that city until 1885, when he removed to Saunders county, Nebraska, and from Christian F. Peets bought the west half of the southeast quarter of section 19, township 15, range 5. As there were a number of buildings on this property, he at once took up his residence there and lived on the farm until 1891, when he bought 120 acres from Mr. Ptak, 80 acres of which are in the northeast quarter of section 19. On this last mentioned piece of land he has built his house and farm buildings. The purchase price for this farm of 120 acres was \$20 per acre. In 1887 Mr. Ptacek bought 40 acres more from Mr. Ptak, his brother-in-law, who, with Joseph Ptacek, Sr., had bought 200 acres in section 19 and 160 acres in section 18, which they in later years divided. Mr. Ptacek has made many improvements upon his farm. He built a good frame house; a barn, 28 by 60 by 16 feet in dimensions; a granary measuring 32 by 24 by 9 feet, and set out a two-acre orchard. He has three good wells, 52, 34 and 10 feet deep, respectively, the last mentioned being a spring well. A windmill and water tank are also features of the place. Mr. Ptacek is interested in a new threshing machine.

Joseph Ptacek was married in Cleveland, Ohio, to Anna Cerny, a daughter of John Cer-

ny. In 1886, the year after Mr. Ptacek located in Saunders county, Mrs. Ptacek (Anna Cerny) died, after a very short illness, leaving to mourn her loss a loving husband and four children; namely: Edward, Emma, William, and Charles. Charles, the last named, being a babe at the time of his mother's death, was taken care of during his infancy by his grandmother, Mr. Ptacek's mother. The remains of Mrs. Ptacek (Anna Cerny) were laid to rest in the Plasi cemetery. The eldest of the four children, Edward, upon coming to manhood's estate, married Martha Rosentrater, and has one child, Edward, Jr. In 1887 Mr. Ptacek, the subject of this sketch, married Anna Jel-inck, of Saunders county, Nebraska, and the fruits of their marriage have been three sons and two daughters, namely: John; Frank; Joseph, Jr.; Mary, deceased; and Ludmila. Mr. Ptacek, with his family, attends the Catholic church of Plasi, Saunders county. He is treasurer of his school district, and takes a prominent part in advancing the welfare and growth of his county and home vicinity.

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**J**OHAN HALLNER, who located in Wahoo precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1870, began in a small way as a farmer and blacksmith, won his way to the front rank among the leading agriculturists of the county, and is now living in practical retirement.

Mr. Hallner was born in Sweden, in 1820, and is a son of Andrew Olofson, who was a

blacksmith by trade. The subject hereof learned the trade of a blacksmith and followed it with his father, until 1863, when he came to the United States. He was located in Iowa for one and a half years, and then in Minnesota, where he lived until 1870, when he removed to Nebraska. He homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 10, in Wahoo precinct, Saunders county, and built a sod house. He possessed about ten dollars' worth of tools, and there he set up a general blacksmithing and wagon repairing business in addition to farming. He later built a frame house, with dimensions of 14 by 14 feet, and his children assisted him in his farm work. He has always followed his trade as a blacksmith, and today may still be found in his little shop upon his property. He is of an inventive turn of mind and has patented two monkey wrenches, and two kinds of barbed wire, one yielding him returns amounting to \$5,000 and the other \$20,000. He has erected a very handsome residence, and good farm buildings, and set out large orchards, shade trees and evergreens. He subsequently purchased 160 acres in section 3, and one half of section 15, which he has divided among his children, all of whom are good business men and prosperous citizens.

Mr. Hallner was united in marriage with Johanna Erickson while in Sweden, and they became parents of the following children: Rev. Andrew, a missionary who lives at Kingsburg, Fresno county, California, where he owns a large fruit farm, married Ida Norman, and has the following children,—Anna E., Samuel

(deceased), Esther I., Judith, Joseph (deceased), David (deceased), Emanuel, Reuben, Elvira (deceased), Agnes and Mabel O.; Mary (deceased), who married John Smith, by whom she had six children,—John E., Annie D. (deceased), A. Cornelius, David S., Carl A. and O. Victoria; Hannah E., who married Samuel Rylen, and has three children,—Hann E., Carl I. and Joseph N.; August, who lives upon the home farm and is engaged in general farming and stock raising; Carl, who resides at home, and is traveling agent for the Minnesota Chief Threshing Company; Christine, who lives at home; and John, who owns one of his father's old farms, and married Anna Marie Carlson. The subject of this sketch has served as a member of the school board for a number of years. In religious faith and fellowship, he is a Lutheran. In politics he is a Populist.

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**W**N. BECKER, Jr., editor and proprietor of the "Ashland Gazette," was born April 16, 1852, in the town of Sharon, near Sharon Springs, Schoharie county, New York. In descent he comes from the original Dutch settlers who peopled the Schoharie and Mohawk valleys; the earliest founder of the family having been Cornelius Becker, who settled early in the 17th century near where Troy, New York, now stands. His father, W. N. Becker, Sr., was a successful business man for years, well known in Schoharie and Montgomery counties, New York, and later in western Iowa. He died in Mead,

Nebraska, in 1891. When our subject was two years of age he moved with his father's family to Esperance, Schoharie county, remaining there until he was fourteen years of age, when the family moved to the town of Glen, Montgomery county, New York. One year later his father, W. N. Becker, Sr., moved to Burtonville, where he engaged in the general merchandise business, continuing to be thus occupied for four years, the subject of this sketch acting as salesman. While a resident of Burtonville, in 1872, our subject was married to Amanda Patterson. In 1875, with his father, he moved to West Side, Iowa, where he clerked for several years, afterward engaging in the job printing business.

In 1879 W. N. Becker, Jr., located at Mead, Saunders county, Nebraska, engaging in the general merchandise business in partnership with his father, under the firm name of W. N. Becker & Son, remaining in that connection two years. In 1881, he returned to Iowa, and founded the "West Side Dispatch," which was continued for four years, when it was merged with the "Denison Review," its editor returning to Mead to re-engage in the general merchandise business, and also establishing the "Mead Advocate," in partnership with Peter Anderson. In one year from that time his place of business and the "Advocate" plant were destroyed by fire. Rebuilding his store, he continued in the mercantile business until 1889, when his store was again destroyed by fire.

In 1892, the subject of this sketch located in Ashland, purchasing the "Ashland Gazette," and has continued the publication of that paper.

He is also quite extensively interested in farming, owning three farms in the vicinity of Ashland that he rents. Mr. Becker received his education only in the common schools. He received a license as a lay preacher in 1878, from the Iowa state convention of Universalists, and under the authority of that denomination preached for a number of years in western Iowa and eastern Nebraska. He takes a great deal of interest in philanthropic and humanitarian work, especially in the Knights of Pythias, being chancellor commander of Star Lodge, No. 9, of Ashland, Nebraska.

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JOSEPH B. LA CHAPELLE, the popular editor of the *Saunders County Journal*, is a highly esteemed resident of Ashland, Nebraska. The "Saunders County Journal" is one of the brightest papers published in southeastern Nebraska, and is a thoroughly Populist organ. It is a seven-column, eight-page, spicy publication, and started with a circulation of 700, which has now swelled to over 900.

Mr. LaChapelle was born in St. Albans, Vermont, December 30, 1860. His father, E. LaChapelle, was a native of Paris, France, and at the age of sixteen years, having moved to Canada, served in the War of 1837, which threatened to overthrow existing conditions in Canada. He was a cabinet maker by trade. Later in life he moved from Canada to the United States, settling in Vermont, where he followed agricultural pursuits for many years. He sub-

sequently moved to Rhode Island, where he now lives in retirement.

Joseph B. LaChapelle was educated in the high schools of New England. After his graduation he came west to Omaha, Nebraska, in 1878, and in 1880 started in that city the "Saturday Evening Times." Later, with C. T. Bunce he established the "Saturday Budget" in Omaha. Some time afterward he sold his interests, and moved to Glenwood, Iowa, where for some twelve years he ran the "Mills County Journal." He also conducted the "Fremont County Journal," the "Fremont Courier," the "Daily Evening Times," and a number of papers in Iowa. At one time he was city editor for Charles Collins on the "Sioux City Daily Times." His next newspaper venture was to establish the "Saunders County Journal," at Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, which paper he still edits.

Mr. LaChapelle married Rose Lyon, of Glenwood, Iowa, July 2, 1885, and they have two children: Robert L. and Harold L. The subject of this writing is a thorough journalist and is very popular throughout the county.

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**F**RANK HAKEL. While the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, yet the law of destiny rarely fails to accord a successful career to a man of energy, industry and sterling ability. Toil begun in early youth seldom fails of its due reward, for "in the sweat of thy brow shalt thou earn thy daily bread."

Frank Hakel was born in Hennersdorf, near

Hohenelbe, Bohemia, March 3, 1865; there were five other children in the family, of whom all died in infancy, except a sister, Marie (Meduna), who resides on a farm near Weston, Saunders county, Nebraska. His father was born April 7, 1839, in Hennersdorf; while hunting on his farm near Weston, he was accidentally shot close by his sod house (the oldest in his section of the county), and died March 12, 1900. Anna (Scharf) Hakel, the mother of our subject, was born October 11, 1839, in Hennersdorf, Bohemia, and was married to Wenzel Hakel, our subject's father, in 1862; she is now living in Weston. Both Wenzel Hakel and his wife were educated in the German schools. Wenzel Hakel was a butcher by occupation, but for a number of years before coming to this country he was engaged in weaving fine linens, towels, handkerchiefs, etc., which occupation he found quite profitable; the work was done by hand, and several men were employed to assist in the weaving, and these had to be supplied with filled spools for shuttles. At the age of five years, Frank Hakel commenced to assist in the work by filling the spools for the weavers. From that time on he was busied at that work, and in attending school, which was in the German language. In his thirteenth year he passed a very satisfactory examination in the highest grade of the village school, and was excused from further obligatory school attendance when he was fourteen. In August, 1878, he chose to learn the cabinet-maker's trade, which he determined to follow as his life work.

On April 28, 1880, with his father and mother and sister, Marie (now Mrs. Meduna), Frank Hakel set out from Bohemia for the United States, the reason for such a journey being contained in their belief that they could make an easier living in the new world than they had been accustomed to. On the 2d of May the family went on board the steamer "Salier" at Bremen; the voyage for a few days was very pleasant, and then all began to be seasick; finally the vessel ran aground on a reef one night and everyone thought that their last hour had come, but in the morning a start was made and New York City was at length reached on May 15. On the 17th of the month they arrived in Chicago, and a day later saw them in Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska. From there they were taken to some of their old-country neighbors, who had sod houses for homes. The wheat, which had been sown, had been carried with the soil by the wind over the country and piled up in drifts in sheltered places, just as if it had been snow. Many acres of the unbroken prairie had small drifts of wheat and soil of this nature, and the scene was one never to be forgotten. In locating, our subject's father bought 80 acres of land of Frank Kliment, on which one payment was made. Funds were getting low, so Frank Hakel, though only fifteen years old, at once assumed a place as a man in the domestic economy of the home and assisted all in his power to help provide the family with the necessaries of life. The first carpenter work he did in Weston was in the erection of the first dwelling built on the south side

of the railroad track; he also did other jobs of carpenter work, such as roofs and the frames for sod houses. Later on he secured employment in cutting broom corn. After several weeks of work he and his father had earned enough to make another small payment on their farm. Late in the fall, when they began corn picking, they experienced the hardest work of any they had attempted. The snow fell early and the corn had to be husked on the ground; as a team could not be obtained and the weather continued very cold and severe, the wages paid up to Christmas were 50 cents per day, without board. Toward the close of the year the weather became very stormy, and the snow fell in great quantities, so that in drifts it was as much as 20 feet deep in places; the country had an unusually level appearance. People had all they could do to keep warm, for fuel was very scarce; coal was hard to get, and very little wood was used, many keeping warm as best they could with fires of corn and corn-stalks and tall, heavy weeds. Oxen, instead of horses, were used for the farm work and in hauling. During January and February, 1881, as there was no work that could be done then, the subject of this writing attended school, in order to become familiar with the English language and with the American system of education. For three months in the spring of 1881 he worked on a nearby farm for \$9 per month; it was not much, but his parents made good use of it in those hard times.

After working through most of the harvesting and haying season, R. H. Thomas, a popular merchant of Weston, called on him to assist

in erecting an addition to his store building; when the carpenter work was about completed Mr. Thomas offered to engage him as a clerk in the store. This proposition was accepted without delay, and led to his career as a merchant. While working for Mr. Thomas his wages were gradually increased every year, without special requests for such action. All of his earnings were turned over to his parents, and with these savings a team and farm implements were bought, and payments on the land were made. The mutual confidence that existed between employer and clerk induced Mr. Thomas to take Frank into partnership with him, in 1886, thus changing the firm name to Thomas & Hakel. This occurred when our subject was twenty-one years of age. Soon after Mr. Thomas moved to Ogallala, Keith county, Nebraska, being successful in his search for a new location. This left Mr. Hakel to look after all the interests of the firm in Weston; his management of the business was very successful and satisfactory to both parties concerned. In 1890 the partnership was discontinued and the stock divided, Mr. Hakel still continuing in business in Weston, and Mr. Thomas moving his goods to a new location. Our subject remained in the original store structure, purchasing Mr. Thomas' share in the building; in 1891 he erected a new two-story frame building, which is now occupied by a large and complete stock of general merchandise that is a credit to the town and the whole surrounding vicinity. In 1892 he employed seven clerks, and the total sales for the year reached nearly \$50,000. Four years

later dry weather and hot winds made the crops very short, which with the money panic of 1896 caused a depression in business that continued for three or four years. When the times improved, business enterprises revived again.

Frank Hakel was married July 7, 1886, to Anna Novak, being the second couple to be married in the new Catholic church in Weston, which was built in 1885. Mrs. Hakel was born August 4, 1865, and is a daughter of John V. Novak, who died Sept. 30, 1899. John V. Novak, and his wife, who died December 7, 1877, were among the oldest of the Bohemian settlers of Saunders county; Mrs. Novak left four small children at her death. The matrimonial life of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hakel has been blessed by the birth of two children—Freddie, born July 20, 1891, and Gertrude, born March 4, 1895. The home is a very happy one indeed. Our subject is arranging to have his son and daughter educated, so that they will follow in the footsteps of their parents, and make good, clean records for themselves. He is now the pioneer of the business men of Weston, with his hair already turning gray, although he is only thirty-five years old, and nothing could please him and his wife more than to see their hopes and wishes in respect to the children gratified. Besides his linguistic acquirements—he has a perfect knowledge of the Bohemian, German and English languages—he has excellent business qualifications and an energy that never tires; these characteristics have enabled him to achieve the brilliant success that is his. Adhering sincere-

ly to the faith of the Roman Catholic church, he is one of the most prominent and generous members of St. John's Catholic church at Weston, and a member of the Catholic Workmen. He ranks high in social circles and is greatly esteemed in the whole community as a man of standing and strict integrity.

**J**OHAN N. MILLER, a retired farmer of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, is an esteemed and respected resident of that city, and ranks among the self-made men of today. Mr. Miller was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, in 1841. He is a son of James and Mary (Baker) Miller.

James Miller was born in Lancaster county, Ohio, where he followed farming until early in the "sixties." He then went to Minnesota, and was one of the pioneer farmers of that state. As one of his sons had located in Nebraska, Mr. Miller was induced to leave Minnesota and go there also. In 1870 he took up a homestead adjoining that of his son Charles in Saunders county, Nebraska. The trip overland was made in a covered wagon drawn by a team of oxen. Later the elder Mr. Miller sold his claim to his son and purchased the William Lawson claim, where he lived up to the time of his death, in 1887, at the age of seventy-one years. Together he and his wife improved their farm. They built a handsome residence, barns, and other buildings, and set out a great many shade and fruit trees. This farm is still owned by John N. Miller's mother, who

is still living. She resides in Ashland in her own house, close to that of her son, Charles, and is now more than eighty years old. Her maiden name was Mary Baker. She is a daughter of Jacob Baker, of Johnstown, Licking county, Ohio. Ten children were born to her and her husband, as follows: Enos, who died in infancy; John N., the subject of this biography; Enoch, deceased; Charles, a resident of Ashland; Elijah, deceased; Jemima, wife of Samuel Merriman; Mary, wife of George Herron; Oliver, deceased; Rohama, and Tina, wife of L. T. Farmer. The parents of these children were devout members of the Baptist church.

John N. Miller was reared to farm life. In 1864 he enlisted in Company B, 7th Reg. Minnesota Vol. Inf., and served until the successful termination of the Civil War. In 1876 he decided to go to Nebraska, where his father and brother Charles had found a beautiful country, free to those who chose the opportunity. He married Maranda La Barre, a daughter of John La Barre, of Olmsted county, Minnesota. This lady possessed rare courage and was willing to leave home and friends and seek a home with her husband in Nebraska. Together they went to establish this home, promising to the eye, but where hardships and privations awaited them. They purchased Union Pacific Railroad land for a trifling sum of money, and settled on section 15, township 13, range 8, in Green precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. This land was a bare rolling prairie, with only a few small berry bushes along a creek.



Mr. Miller built a small house, in size 20 by 16 feet and 8 feet high. He had 160 acres of land which he proceeded to cultivate. In a comparatively short time Mr. Miller had won for himself a prominent place among the progressive farmers of Saunders county. He enlarged the house and built better barns and buildings. His first barn was a small one, 14 by 16 feet in dimensions. He also set out a fine orchard of 260 trees, besides groves, hedges, etc.

Mr. Miller devoted much time and attention to stock raising. He started with only one or two cows and increased the number to 130 head of cattle—raising all his own stock. He purchased 40 acres of land adjoining his homestead property, and later added 120 acres to it. This latter tract was bought from the U. P. R. R. Company by Alfred Eyre. In addition to this Mr. Miller purchased 40 acres of bottom land. In 1892 he decided to retire from the farm, that he and his wife might spend a few years in comfort and ease. He rented his farm and purchased land in Ashland, upon which he built the handsome modern residence in which he now lives. Three children were born to him and his wife, namely: Wealthy, Jesse, and Ira. The eldest child died at the early age of two years. Jesse married Zella Hoffman, and resides in Ashland, while Ira is still at home.

Mr. Miller began his political career as a Democrat, but later voted the Republican ticket, and has supported it ever since. He is not a member of any church. Fraternally he affiliates with Lodge No. 110, F. & A. M., of

Ashland, of which he is past master. He is also a member of G. A. R., Post No. 31.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have a wide circle of acquaintances and friends and enjoy the esteem of all.

JOHN THEEDE, a gentleman engaged in agricultural pursuits in a practical and successful manner, is well and favorably known in Mariposa precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he owns about 200 acres of highly improved farm land.

Mr. Theede was born in Germany, in 1865, and is a son of Jurgen and Anna (Cook) Theede, his father being a carpenter by trade. The family came to America, in 1873, locating in Illinois, where his mother soon afterward died. He has two brothers and two sisters; the brothers being Henry, who married Minna Anthony, and lives on a farm adjoining that of John Theede, and who has two children—August and Landy; and Gustav, who married Ann Mohr, a daughter of J. M. Mohr. The sisters are: Emma, wife of Fred Amlke, who resides in Fremont, Nebraska, and has five children—Esty, Linda, Otto, Fred and an infant; and Anna, wife of William Silk, who lives in Grant Park, Illinois. John Theede also has a half brother, Claus, who lives in Fremont, Nebraska. In 1876, Jurgen Theede, with his then young boys, came to Saunders county, Nebraska, and bought railroad land in Mariposa precinct, at \$5 per acre, acquiring the west half of the southeast quarter of section 9, township 15, range 6, and the southeast quarter

of the southwest quarter of section 9. Owing to the prevalence of grasshoppers and the drouth, he, like many others, lost his land, but with firm faith in his ability to eventually succeed, and with a perseverance that must be admired, he determined to try again. He again purchased the same land, in 1879, under a new contract, and immediately built a small house, with dimensions of 14 by 16 feet, to which he added an L in 1887—the dimensions being 16 by 24 feet. He had a frame shanty for his horses, but subsequently built a barn, 32 by 40 feet in size, and still later, added a shed to the north side of it. In 1885, he set out a fine grove of about two acres, which is now in excellent condition. Mr. Theede started an orchard in front of the house in 1882, and has always cared for it himself, raising fruits of all kinds. He was particularly successful with his peach trees, which he kept from freezing, by surrounding and wrapping each one with straw—building racks around them to keep the straw from being blown away. Mr. Theede began in Saunders county, with only \$5, but at the time of his death, in 1889, he was one of the most prosperous men in the community. He left no will, and the three brothers conducted the farm together until 1894, when the property was divided by the court—John Theede retaining the home property.

The subject of this sketch attended the schools of Germany before coming to this country, and is now a well-read man. He has shown good business ability in the management of his affairs, and is among the best known of the

younger class of farmers, in this region. He keeps about 200 hogs, 33 head of cattle, and enough bees to supply honey for his family's use. His farm is in excellent condition, in every respect, and is supplied with an artesian well which fills tanks for the stock. Mr. Theede was united in matrimony with Miss Tassar, and they have five children (who are at home and attending school), as follows: Henry, John, Mamie, Annie and George. Politically, Mr. Theede is a sturdy Republican.

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CHARLES F. SHEPARD, a well known citizen of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, holds the responsible position of roadmaster on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad.

Mr. Shepard was born in Ashtabula township, Ashtabula county, Ohio, February 22, 1846, and is a son of Captain Charles and Hancy (Gifford) Shepard. Peletiah Shepard, the grandfather of Charles F., came from Connecticut, and settled in Ashtabula, Ohio, in March, 1808. He, together with Anan Harmon, built and equipped the first vessel, the "Tempest," at Ashtabula, all of his sons assisting in the work. He was a sailor all of his life.

Captain Charles Shepard was born in May, 1808, being the second white child born in the township of Ashtabula, and was the third of twelve children—eight sons and four daughters. All of the sons became sailors, commanding lake crafts, except George, who, when a young man, was drowned from the schooner

"Parrott," off Ashtabula, in 1835. At the age of nineteen years Charles Shepard shipped aboard the schooner "Columbus," at Ashtabula, and thus commenced his career as a sailor, which extended over a period of thirty years during the season of navigation. His industry, honesty and good judgment soon secured promotion for him early in his career, and he was placed in command of the schooner "Geauga," of Fairport. He was subsequently master of the "Atlas," "Reindeer," "Antelope," and mate on the steamer "Robert Fulton." He commanded the following schooners: "Atlanta," "Huron," "President," "Windham" and "Philaena Mills." He was then mate, one season, on the "Cleveland," after which he was captain of the schooner "Raleigh," which marked the end of his career on the water. During this long period he was remarkably fortunate in that he never lost a vessel or met with a serious mishap, although he encountered storms, and met with difficulties incident to the early navigation of the lakes with inferior craft. In all this time there was but one life lost aboard his boats, that of William Shears. In 1852, Captain Shepard left the deck, and bought a farm overlooking the beautiful lake on which his life had been spent. There he followed farming until 1866, when he received a paralytic stroke. He then moved to the city of Geneva, where he died on January 29, 1872. His wife, who was born in 1818, died in 1882. Their children were as follows: Albion E., who owns a large sheep ranch in Texas; Isadore M., deceased; Benjamin G., living in Ashtabula; and Charles F.

Charles F. Shepard was reared and schooled in Ashtabula township, and assisted on his father's farm until January, 1864, when he enlisted in the 2d Battery Ohio Light Artillery, and served until the close of the war, mostly on the Red River Expedition and on Ship Island, as guard of the rebel prisoners. He returned home at the close of the war, and went on the lakes as a sailor before the mast. After a period of two years, he left the lakes. He came west, in 1867, having married the preceding year Susan H. Ballou, a daughter of Emor S. and Susan (Van Buren) Ballou, her father also being one of the early settlers of Saunders county. Mr. Shepard located in Green precinct, Saunders county, and then returned for his wife, at the same time inducing her father to come back with them. They shipped their goods to Council Bluffs by railroad, and then Mr. Shepard, with a team belonging to his wife's father, started with what goods he could take, but owing to high water and ice, he only got across the Platte River. Learning of the condition of affairs at the landing, he and his wife left their belongings and walked to their new home. It was about seven miles to the new Ohio settlement, and there they stopped with Mr. Woodbury until Mr. Shepard cut trees, hauled them to Ashland (then called Saline Ford), had them sawed and constructed a rude house. He had a farm of 80 acres in section 22, township 13, range 8, Green precinct, now owned by Mrs. Moon. After cultivating the farm for two years, during which time he broke the sod for his neighbors in order to get money to live on, he went to

work with a shovel, in the spring of 1870, on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, which was being constructed through that part of the county. On August 1, 1870, he was made section foreman at Waverly, Nebraska, and continued thus for five years. After this, he ran a construction train on the Eastern Division, from Plattsmouth to Omaha, and to Lincoln, until the spring of 1886. He was then promoted to be roadmaster for the division, from Grand Island to Alliance, Nebraska, a distance of 287 miles, and he lived at Ravenna, Nebraska, until July 4, 1890. He was then transferred to Ashland, and has the division from Lincoln to Schuyler and Columbus, a distance of 125 miles, with offices at Ashland and Lincoln. He has been entirely successful in his work, and stands high in the esteem of the officials of the road. He owns 160 acres of land in Hayes county, Nebraska, which he rents, and his wife inherited 40 acres of her father, it being located in the village. In 1892, he erected the handsome residence in which he now resides.

Mr. Shepard and his wife are the parents of five children, as follows: Martin E., a conductor on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, who married Anna Weythman, by whom he has three children,—Pardon B., Ernest W. and Cecil C.; Charles Ernest, also a conductor on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, who married Irene Ong, by whom he has a son, Charles F.; Susie H., who is the wife of D. F. Clark, a freight agent; Pardon B., a brakeman, who married Jennie M. Stewart, and has one son, Pardon S.; and Etta M.,

who married V. A. Clark, their only child, Susie F., being deceased. Politically, the subject of this sketch is a Cleveland Democrat. In a religious connection, he adheres to the faith of the Baptist church. Fraternally, he is a member of the A. O. U. W. and the G. A. R.

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THOMAS KNIGHT CHAMBERLAIN, a gentleman who for many years pursued that independent calling, farming, in Clear Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he was one of the earliest settlers, has been living a retired life, since 1890.

Mr. Chamberlain comes of good old New England stock, born in Topsham, Vermont, in 1833, and is a son of James and Hannah (Scribner) Chamberlain. He was reared upon his father's farm, one of the finest in that part of the state. At about the time he reached manhood, some of the most enterprising and far sighted citizens of the vicinity were discussing the advisability of locating in the West, and growing up with the then new country. He was much taken with the idea, and questioned many of his friends who had seen the country, and pursuant to their advice, he came to Nebraska territory, then a wild and rolling prairie. In 1857, he pre-empted a claim of 80 acres in section 18, and another one in section 19, in what is now Clear Creek precinct. He built a small house and tilled about 40 acres of land. In 1859 he went to Colorado, where he spent nine years, engaged in cattle





MR. AND MRS. JOHN STENDER AND FAMILY

raising and identified with mining interests. His business on the ranch prospered, and upon selling out and returning to Nebraska, he purchased the tract of 320 acres on which he now lives. He built a house and set out trees from the seed, sowing cottonwoods, some of which now measure over nine feet in circumference. He has a fine variety of shade and fruit trees, and has erected good, substantial farm buildings.

His land is as good in quality as any in the county, and he devoted his efforts to raising grain and stock, until 1890, since which time he has lived in retirement. After his many years of active work, Mr. Chamberlain is now enabled to enjoy the sunset of life in the manner he chuses. He occupies much of his time in travel, spending the winter months in southern California. He is a man of high character, takes an earnest interest in public affairs, and enjoys the respect and friendship of all with whom he is acquainted.

Mr. Chamberlain was united in marriage with Hattie Bowley, a daughter of Jacob Bowley, who was a resident of Vermont. She departed this life in 1881, leaving one daughter, Isabelle. Politically, the subject of this sketch is a staunch adherent of the principles of the Republican party. He is liberal in his religious views.



**J**OHN STENDER is one of the representative farmers of Richland precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska. Beginning at the bottom, he applied himself to his work with

great diligence and, solely through his own individual efforts, grew to be one of the prosperous men of his community.

Mr. Stender was born in Germany in 1844, and is a son of Frederick and Fredericka (Hein) Stender. He was reared in that country, where he learned the trade of a shoemaker, at an early age, and in 1869, came to the United States. He located at Omaha, Nebraska, where he followed his trade one year, and then worked out for a like period, as a farm hand. After his marriage, he rented a farm until 1875, when he purchased his present farm of 160 acres of wild prairie, in section 35, Richland precinct, Sarpy county. He built a small house, which he has since greatly enlarged, and set out a grove consisting of cottonwoods, maples, box elders and walnuts; some of these trees have grown up to be two feet in diameter. Mr. Stender also has an excellent orchard of three acres, of all kinds of fruit. The land is under a high state of cultivation, and has yielded as much as 60 bushels of corn, 22 bushels of wheat, and 35 bushels of oats, to the acre. He has erected a roomy barn, corn crib, and other desirable outbuildings, and everything about the place bears an air of that prosperity, which comes of hard work and careful management. He has his farm well stocked with Holstein cattle, and horses and hogs of high grade. By his hard labor and constant exposure to all kinds of weather, he contracted the rheumatism, and although it causes him considerable trouble, he is able to oversee the affairs of the farm.

Mr. Stender was first united in marriage with

Mattie Brock, a daughter of Hans Brock, an early settler of Sarpy county. She died at the early age of twenty-two years, leaving one son, Fred, who lives at home and assists in the work on the farm. His second matrimonial alliance was with Sophia Lupteen, a daughter of Peter Lupteen, and she died in 1891, aged thirty-seven years. By this union, he had five children: William, who manages the affairs of the farm; Ella, Agnes, John, and a son who died in infancy. Mr. Stender served several terms as school trustee, on the school board, and as road supervisor. A picture of Mr. Stender and his family, as it was constituted a number of years ago, is shown on a preceding page.



JACOB FACKLER is a pioneer settler of Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he still owns considerable farming land; after many years of unremitting toil in the occupation of a husbandman and a stock raiser, he succeeded in accumulating a comfortable competency, upon which he is now living in retirement. He is a typical self-made man, and has many friends throughout the county, who know him to be an honest and upright citizen, whose word is always good as his bond. He was born in Miami county, Ohio, July 18, 1825, and is a son of Valentine and Elizabeth (Miller) Fackler.

The subject of this writing was practically reared in Iowa, for in 1836 his parents moved there from Ohio, settling on a farm in Louisa county, near the mouth of the Iowa River.

About two years later they moved to Johnson county, Iowa, where Jacob Fackler lived until he went to Nebraska, during which time he assisted his father in farming and followed his trade as a carpenter. In 1855 he purchased 80 acres of land and two good steers, for which he was to pay \$100. By hard and steady work he succeeded in paying for both. He continued farming in Iowa until 1858, when he sold his place, and on April 17 of that year started to drive to Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he arrived on the 8th of May. He first stayed with Charles Wilson, who owned a farm in township 13, range 11. In a short time he took his family to Sarpy county, his family then consisting of his wife and three children. He brought with him to Nebraska a Black Hawk warrant, which he secured in Iowa from Mrs. Kester, a widow of a soldier of the Black Hawk War. From the government Mr. Fackler purchased 120 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre, the land being situated in the southwest quarter of section 34, township 13, range 11. During the first summer the subject hereof lived on the Boyer farm, a mile and a half distant from his property. With the coming on of winter he returned with his family to Iowa, where another child was born. In the spring of 1859 he returned to his claim, and in the fall of that year he bought 120 acres in section 16, township 12, range 11, from "Uncle Jimmy" Russell, and also entered 40 acres. He also bought at that time a quarter section which had been pre-empted by Benjamin Driscoll. During the winter of 1864-65 he sold the Driscoll farm to Joseph Briscoe, and about the same time disposed of 120 acres



to Mr. Kerl. He resided upon his first farm until 1865, and occupied himself in breaking his land, and giving the necessary amount of care to his initial crops. In 1865 he sold his first warrant of land, and bought 120 acres located near the Platte River, in section 30, township 13, range 12, from A. Kingman. Upon this farm he took up his residence. A few years later he bought an adjoining 160 acres, in section 31, and, as he had accumulated a large herd of cattle, he made cattle raising his chief pursuit, carrying on general farming also to a considerable extent. He lived on this farm of 280 acres until March, 1898, a period of thirty years, and then moved to his present residence in Springfield, Nebraska. He still owns his farm, and no small amount of town property. Mr. Fackler lived in a rude log house until 1876, when he built an elegant stone house, which is 32 feet long by 18 feet wide, with an L 20 feet long; it is certainly a substantial structure. About 1876 his barn was struck by lightning and destroyed, a number of horses perishing in the flames, but he immediately set about the construction of his present barn, which has a large basement under it. There is no lack of water on the farm, for two springs furnish an abundance of it, sending a cold stream through the milk house, thence through the cattle yards, and on out through the pasture. For many years Mr. Fackler sold his produce in Omaha, but since the town of Springfield was started and attained a degree of prosperity, he has used that place as his market. He helped to build the postoffice at Springfield, bringing the lumber from Omaha.

In 1851 Mr. Fackler was married to Elizabeth Nicholson, and they have the following children: Samantha Ann, deceased; Mary A., who has four children, and lives in Kansas; James A., who is engaged in farming in Idaho; John B., a farmer and blacksmith living in Kansas; Alice, the wife of Byron Dill, of South Bend, Cass county, Nebraska, and mother of eight children living and one deceased; Zrealda A., wife of George T. Burchett, living in Kansas, who has three children living and one deceased; Jacob, Jr., deceased; Sarah, wife of Mr. Heacock, who lives five miles north of her father's farm, and has three children: George, who lives in Kansas, 90 miles south of his father's farm; and David, who lives in Springfield, Sarpy county, Nebraska. Politically, Mr. Fackler is a Democrat, and has held the office of school director and officiated as justice of the peace.

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**M**AGNUS NELSON GRANQUIST, a retired farmer of Clear Creek precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, is a native of Sweden, where he was born in 1836. His father was Nelson Granquist and died when his son, Magnus, was but seven years old.

In early manhood Mr. Granquist followed farming in his native country and was afterwards employed in a saw mill. In 1860 he married Mary Anderson. Accompanied by his wife and one daughter he crossed the ocean to America, drifting to Omaha in 1869. One year later they took a homestead claim upon

their present farm. They were entirely without means, but had strong constitutions. They determined to have a home they could call their own. Mrs. Granquist was plucky, and never failed to do her part. They built a sod house having dimensions of 10 by 14 feet, with one window and one door. Mr. Granquist made a rude bed, which can be seen at the present day, by the side of a shed at his home. There they lived one year without making any further improvements. The only means by which Mr. Granquist supported his family was by working on the B. & M. R. R. Later he purchased a shed or stable from a neighboring farmer and converted it into a house 12 by 14 feet in size. There in that rude home happiness began, although they used boxes for chairs and tables.

Mr. Granquist subsequently cultivated his farm, which in time he was able to improve. He built a comfortable residence, barns, stables, etc., and set out orchards and shade trees. Four children blessed their union, namely: Mary, Carl, Emma, and Lewis. The last named is now deceased. Mary married Charles Eggert, of Kansas. She died leaving seven children whose names are: Leslie, Edna, Elmer, Earl, Harrison, Lily, and Eva. Carl died in Sweden. Emma married Emery Parrish, and conducts the home farm; they have one son, Harley.

Mr. Granquist follows the leadership of the Republican party. In his religious views he belongs to the Methodist church. May 24, 1898, he was called upon to mourn the loss of his beloved wife, who had stood by him so

faithfully. She was fifty-eight years old at the time of her demise. The subject of this sketch is now spending his declining years in comfort and ease. He showed true manhood and heroism by making a home for his family amid such difficulties, and deserves his present exemption from toil.

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**P**ATRICK J. HALL, ex-member of the legislature from Saunders county, Nebraska, is an 1869 homesteader and prominent farmer of Clear Creek precinct. Mr. Hall was born in Rockbrook, County Wexford, Ireland, in 1838. His father, John Hall, came to the United States and soon afterward took part in the Mexican War. He was never heard from again. His widow, who was Bridget Summers before her marriage, took care of the children, whom she reared and educated as best she could.

When Patrick was twelve years old he began working in a crockery store at \$1 per week, and boarded at home. Later he obtained a situation in the "Boston Transcript" bindery, at \$10 per month. When sixteen years old he accompanied his mother to Lee county, Illinois, where he followed farming until 1861. He then enlisted in the Union army as a private in Company D, 34th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving three years.

After his experience in the war, Mr. Hall returned to Illinois, and rented farms for several years. He married Cecelia Becker, a daughter of Charles and Mary Becker. They started life

together on a farm and in a few years accumulated a little property, but not enough to buy a home in that locality. So they took what they had, consisting of \$400, their horses, a wagon, and one child, Mary, and went west to seek a location.

They took up a homestead claim of 80 acres, which is a portion of the same farm where they still reside. Mr. Hall built a house 12 by 20 feet in size, which is a part of their present residence, taking the precaution to sod the side for winter protection. He subsequently purchased 160 acres of Union Pacific Railroad land, and now has a splendid residence and a fine set of buildings on his farm. He also set out a large number of fruit and shade trees. He owns the only oak grove in his section of Saunders county.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hall—namely: Mary, Harry, and twins, whose names are Fred and Paul. Mary married Charles Wallen, and they have four children: Charles, Ethel, Julia, and Gertie. The others are still at home.

Mr. Hall is a staunch Republican, and has served his party in many different ways. Chief among these was as member of the legislature, to which he was elected in 1885. He also served as tax collector in Illinois and as assessor in Nebraska, filling that office in a capable manner for ten years. He takes a very decided interest in educational matters. He was instrumental in establishing a school upon his farm, and has been a school director since 1870. He is a past commander of the G. A. R., and has passed all

the chairs of that organization and of the K. of P.

Mr. Hall can truly be called the architect of his own fortunes. Aided only by his beloved companion, he has worked his way up from a modest beginning to a place of prominence in his community, which owes a part of its growth and development to him.

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**J.** B. NICHOLSON, a well known and successful farmer of Platford precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, was born in Washington county, Indiana, in 1838, and is a son of G. B. and Angeline (McClure) Nicholson. He was one of five children: Elizabeth, John R., M. G., N. H., and J. B. Elizabeth is the wife of Jacob Fackler, a record of whose life appears elsewhere in this volume. John R., who is a farmer of Springfield precinct, has seven children, namely: E. B., J. B., and D. H., who have families and reside in Springfield; J. R., Jr., who lives in Springfield; Thomas and George, who live at home; and Emma Jane (Ball), of Louisville. M. G., a half brother, is a retired business man and former justice of the peace of Springfield; N. H., a half sister, is now Mrs. Driscoll, of Fremont, Nebraska; J. B. is the gentleman to whose life this sketch is devoted.

J. B. Nicholson's childhood was spent in Indiana; in 1847 he was taken by his parents to a farm near Mt. Vernon, Iowa, where they lived until 1858, when they moved to Nebraska. He then went with his father to Sarpy county,

and located on the bottom land near the river, now owned by Mr. Barker. He pre-empted 80 acres of land, in section 2, and his father pre-empted 160 acres in section 2, township 12, range 11, paying the government price of \$1.25 per acre. It is now worth \$45 per acre. After remaining two years, our subject returned east and in Iowa was married to Miss Warner. He and his father left two men in charge of their claims, but one of them deserted and our subject lost his 80 acres. Leaving his young wife at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, in 1862, he enlisted in Company F, 24th Regiment Iowa Vol. Inf., and served three years, or until the close of the war. He was in many important engagements, including Vicksburg, Champion Hill, and Cedar Creek, Va., under generals Grant, Sheridan, and Banks. He was taken captive at Cedar Creek and held a prisoner until the close of the war. Returning to Iowa, he and his wife at once started for Nebraska, where he began farming in the same section in which his original pre-emption was located. He settled on school land in section 36, which was opened for sale, and remained there for two years. About 1870 he sold that property and purchased his present home, a farm of 82 acres, from state "supply" school land, at \$7 per acre. It was raw land and wholly unimproved. He built a frame house, 16 by 24 feet, hauling the lumber from Papillion, and this, with an addition in front of 14 by 24 feet, still stands and is in good repair. He built a large barn at the same time, which is also in excellent condition now. He first set out cottonwood trees, and an excellent grove

now surrounds the buildings. He has a fine orchard of one and one-half acres, and a 78 foot well, with a windmill. He has been most successful in his work, having overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles confronting him, and is now recognized as one of the prosperous men of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson are the parents of ten children, namely: J. H., who is engaged in farming in Butler county, Nebraska; Ida L. (Byers), of Sarpy county; N. Z. (Hinkel), whose husband is in the restaurant business at Brock, Nebraska; M. Z. (Foote), of Louisville, Nebraska; S. P., who lives at home; S. E. (Hester), of Louisville, Nebraska; Henrietta, a daughter living at home; and three children who are deceased. Politically, the subject of this sketch is a strong Republican. Religiously, he holds to the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a man of public enterprise and has aided largely in the up-building of his neighborhood.

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**W**ILLIAM H. THOMPSON, a well known citizen of Sarpy county, Nebraska, is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in Richland precinct, where he owns a fine property. He is a son of John W. and Matilda (Key) Thompson, and grandson of Greenville and Malinda (McLain) Thompson. His grandfather came to Sarpy county, Nebraska, at the time of the War of the Rebellion, and lived in retirement until his demise.

John W. Thompson was born in Nodaway county, Missouri, January 23, 1844, and removed to Sarpy county, Nebraska, in 1864. There he was married to Matilda Key, a daughter of James and Susanna (Ward) Key, two of the earliest settlers of Sarpy county. In 1872 Mrs. Thompson inherited 80 acres of land and money for building a home now owned by Alfred Thompson, and upon this tract they located. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson built a fine home and set out many fruit and shade trees. Their efforts met with success from the start and they were subsequently enabled to buy an adjoining quarter section of land; 80 acres on the east of D. O. Tunison's property; 80 acres of G. Thompson; and 160 acres of new land in Papillion precinct. All of this they greatly improved and erected many new buildings thereon. They raised 90 bushels of corn per acre on the new land, 50 bushels of oats, and 25 bushels of wheat. In later years the yield decreased to an average of 50 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of oats, and 15 bushels of wheat. They raised about 50 head of fine thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and fed about 75 head per year, and from 100 to 200 hogs. He divided the property among his sons, and then spent two years in South Omaha in the livery business, after which he purchased a large ranch at Long Pine, Rock county, Nebraska, where, in connection with his sons, he has been largely engaged in raising and feeding cattle. Beginning at the very bottom as a young man, he has forged his way to the front and is now a prominent and influential citizen. As a result of his union with Matilda

Key he had twelve children, nine of whom are now living. They are as follows: William H., our subject; George E., who is associated with his father, married Mary M. Nicholas; Alfred is engaged in farming and is a machine agent for Russell & Company; Susanna is the wife of John J. Lutz, Jr.; a son who died in infancy; Charles E., who married Mary Raymond; Thomas E.; Granville, deceased; Mae M.; John H., deceased; Fred Earl; and Avery.

William H. Thompson was born in Sarpy county, Nebraska, November 7, 1866, and taught school six terms in the two adjoining school districts, in addition to carrying on farming. He has an excellent farm in Richland precinct, which he is conducting in a most capable manner, and also has an interest in his father's business. He is a man of high character, and is held in the highest esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Matilda (Key) Thompson, the mother of the subject of this biography, was a woman of rare judgment and business ability and was one of the many brave pioneers, who through their untiring efforts in all lines of work, stability and uprightness of character, have made Sarpy county and Nebraska what they are today. Of all the gentle and noble women of which the state can boast, she has done her part from the days when the country was a wilderness and the chief inhabitants were wolves and ferocious Indian savages, down to its present high state of civilization and prosperity. Her life work ended December 31, 1895, and she was laid peacefully to rest

on January 5, 1896, in beautiful Papillion cemetery, her bier being followed by representatives of every family in the neighborhood. She was one of whom we may truthfully say: "Well done, good and faithful servant, thy life work finished, come home to rest."

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**T**ORGNY ANDERSON, M. D., enjoys the reputation of being the only Swedish physician and surgeon in the city of Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska. He located in Wahoo, in May, 1893, and from the first was successful. His practice at the present time is very extensive, and his reputation as a skilled physician and surgeon is well established. His office and consultation rooms are located in the Opera House Block and his fine, large residence is on Broadway.

Dr. Anderson is a native of Stockholm, Sweden. He is a son of Nils Anderson. He was reared in his native city, and was educated in the University of Stockholm. After his graduation, he came to America, and entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, Illinois, from which institution he was graduated in 1887. He then returned to his native country, and spent one year in Stockholm. Arriving again in America, he located in Chicago, Illinois, where he opened an office and practiced his chosen profession until November, 1892. Leaving Chicago, he went east, and practiced as house physician in the Presbyterian Hospital, of New York City, until May, 1893.

Dr. Anderson then came west to Omaha, Ne-

braska, in quest of a good field for exertions. Friends advised him to locate in Wahoo, which he did, and has had no reason to regret so doing. His success has been greater than he anticipated, and he enjoys the patronage of a large circle of clients.

Dr. Anderson has been twice married, and twice he has been deprived by death of a beloved wife. Each wife left him one son and one daughter. His first wife was Hannah Broman, of Sweden; his second, Miss Bruce, of Saunders county, Nebraska.

Dr. Anderson is a valued member of the Nebraska State Medical Society. He also affiliates with the Hollanders, and with the Ben Hur, and A. O. U. W. organizations. He is favorably known throughout Saunders county where he enjoys the confidence of the people. In the winter of 1895-1896, he was elected on the Republican ticket, coroner of Saunders county, and filled that important office in a very creditable manner.

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**W**ILLIAM H. ORME,\* senior member of the firm of W. H. Orme & Son, hardware and general merchants of Colon, Saunders county, Nebraska, is virtually the father of Colon. Mr. Orme is a self-made man in the truest sense of the term, and the progress of the little town of Colon has resulted from his efforts.

Mr. Orme was born at Ashton, England, in 1836, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Chadwick) Orme. William Orme was killed

by an accident in a coal mine before the birth of his son, William H. His widow, with her children, came to America, in 1840. The family located in Paterson, New Jersey, and young Orme began work in New Brunswick, New Jersey, at the early age of eight years, in a wallpaper manufactory. Shortly afterward, his mother moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey, where the subject of this review obtained work at 80 cents a week. They next moved to Allegheny, Pennsylvania, where William H. Orme secured employment in the Arbuckle coffee plant at \$1 per week. They remained there two years, when they returned to New Brunswick. From there they moved to Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania, where William H. worked in a cotton mill, and on a farm. After one year's residence there, they moved to Philadelphia, where the subject hereof worked in a millinery store. After living there eight months, they moved to Allegheny, Pennsylvania, where he was employed as a printer's devil in the "Pantograph" office for about five months, at 75 cents per week.

Some time afterward, the family moved to Chicago, and young Orme sailed on the great lakes during the summer season and worked at lumber jobs during the winter, for several years. He subsequently went to Aurora, Illinois, and learned the shoemaking and harness-making business, but did not like it, and again returned to the lumber business at Kewanee, Illinois. His next venture was at railroading. He began as fireman and rose to be an engineer. He then served as brakeman, and rose to a conductorship. Thus far in life, Mr. Orme had

tried everything that he wanted to undertake, in the hope of finding something which exactly suited him, but he had not.

Returning to Aurora, he worked nine and one-half years longer at the shoemaking business. After his marriage, which took place in 1858, he rented a farm one year, after which he again returned to shoemaking. In 1862, he followed both farming and shoemaking and was able to save a little money. Investing what money he had, and borrowing \$500 to put with it, he went into the shoe business in Aurora, in 1865, and continued thus until 1871. He built up quite a large and paying business, and after a short time sold out for \$5,800.

Mr. Orme then came west to Saunders county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead claim in section 26, township 16, range 7, which he owns at the present day. He built a board house, with dimensions of 8 by 10 feet, set out about one and one-half acres in fruit trees, and large tracts of shade trees, hedges, etc. Some cottonwood trees of his own planting are now three feet in diameter.

Mr. Orme at first devoted his time to raising wheat, but this proved a failure. One year alone, his wheat cost him 57 cents a bushel, and he sold it for 40 cents. After such a dismal failure as that, Mr. Orme abandoned the idea of raising wheat and turned his attention to corn and cattle. The result has been very satisfactory. In 1888, he went to Colon, built a store there and opened a hardware business. In 1890, this was converted into a general store and is conducted as such at the present time, under the firm name of

W. H. Orme & Son. They carry a fine, large stock of everything the community demands, including farm implements. The firm has also represented the Farmers and Merchants Insurance Company, for the past eight years, and is agent for the Columbia Insurance Company, of Omaha.

Mr. Orme was joined in marriage in 1858, with Eliza Etta Philip, a daughter of Jacob Philip, of Illinois. They have two children—George Albert and Lizzie May, the latter residing at home. George Albert is postmaster at Colon. He married Jennie Crinklaw, and they have two children, Mabel and Hattie Ruth. He built a fine large residence in Colon, and is junior member of the firm of W. H. Orme & Son.

Mr. Orme is a staunch Republican. He has served as justice of the peace for sixteen years, as assessor, one year, and is also a notary public. Upon first locating in Colon, the place did not contain a hall or any place where even a Sunday school could be held. Mr. Orme started a subscription, heading the list with his own donation of \$50, for a hall, and succeeded in raising \$830 in three weeks' time. A committee was appointed to build the hall, as the town site company had donated a lot. An additional lot was purchased and the hall was built. In 1895, Mr. Orme was instrumental in getting the village incorporated, which meant for its residents many improvements, such as sidewalks, school money, etc. In 1899, a jail was also built, but it is a fact worthy of mention that no one was ever put into it. The town now has 23 voters, 19 of whom are Republican.

Mr. Orme also built a handsome residence and several tenement houses, in Colon. He is a public spirited and enterprising citizen, and is one of the most highly esteemed residents of Center precinct.

CHARLES M. JOHNSON,\* one of the representative farmers of Richland precinct, Sarpy county, Nebraska, has lived an industrious and frugal life, and what he possesses today represents years of honest toil.

Mr. Johnson was born in Danmark, Sweden, in 1861, and is a son of Jens and Annie (Nelson) Jensen. His parents came to the United States in 1869, and settled in Omaha, Nebraska, where his father rented a farm. He later bought the one on which Mr. Johnson now lives, and built a small house near the road. He sold his property and went to Platte county, where he bought a farm and lived there until 1899. He then retired, and now lives in Omaha. His wife died in 1898, at the age of seventy-six years. Their children were as follows: Annie Mary, deceased; a son, who died in infancy; James C.; Nels; John; Charles M.; and Helena C.

Charles M. Johnson succeeded his father as owner of his present property, in 1884, paying all debts, and starting with what money he had saved while working by the day. With this small beginning he worked his way to the front, and now has 80 acres of well-improved farm land. He built a home in



1884, and enlarged it in 1888, and also built barns, corn-cribs, and other necessary out-buildings. He set out a fine orchard and shade trees, some of the trees now measuring two and a half feet through. The farm is abundantly supplied with running water. His land has a good yield, and some years has produced 60 bushels of corn and 45 bushels of oats to the acre. The place is well stocked, and he always has from 12 to 15 cattle and from 30 to 40 hogs, as well as good horses.

Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Christina Lund, a daughter of Jacob and Dorothea (Stoll) Lund, of Omaha. She became the mother of two children: Leonard Arthur, and a daughter who died in infancy. Religiously the family are adherents of the Lutheran faith.



**A**NTON BARRY\* is a prosperous and enterprising farmer of Saunders county, Nebraska, and his fine farm is located two miles northeast of the village of Weston. He was born February 20, 1849, in Halland, Sweden, near the town of Warberg, and he is a son of Swan and Beatta (Bankson) Barry. He is the oldest of the family, the other five children being as follows: B. E., who is a farmer in Sand Creek; Anna, who lives in Sweden, and married to a Mr. Larson; Swan, who is married and lives in Sand Creek; Carl, who lives in Sweden, and has three children; and John, who lives near Colon, Saunders county, and has four children.

Anton Barry came to the United States in

1870, and upon landing in New York City went directly to Driftwood, Pennsylvania, and for the first six years followed railroading. He then went to Watertown, New York, but in 1871 he located in Muncy, Pennsylvania. In 1874 he moved to Larry's Creek, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, and in the following year he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, where he purchased 160 acres of railroad land. His property consisted of the north half of the southeast quarter and the east half of the northeast quarter of section 3, township 14, range 6. He paid \$7 per acre, having five years' time, but as the crops were poor he was obliged to make a contract for ten years, with interest at six per cent. In the fall of 1876 he built a frame house 14 by 22 feet in size, also a barn with a straw roof, and with the money he had saved while railroading in Pennsylvania he paid \$335 for a team of horses, a wagon and harness. He set out a fine orchard of plums, apples, peaches, and other fruit, and also put out shade trees around the house, which now make the yard look beautiful. He also dug a 50-foot well, and made many other improvements. As fortune favored him, he bought, in 1880, 80 acres, comprising the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter, and the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 2 for a consideration of \$2,500. He has about 100 hogs and 50 cattle, with about 46 or 47 acres in pasture and meadow. The subject of this sketch is a hard worker, and through his determination to get ahead he has met with considerable success.

Mr. Barry and his wife Hannah, whom he

married in 1874, have the following children: Hilma, who is at Omaha; Sophia, Gustav, Emil, Edwin, and Ideal. In politics he is a Populist, while in religious views he belongs to the Lutheran church.

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**M**ARTIN VAN HORN,\* a prosperous farmer and extensive fruit grower of Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska, owns one of the finest and best improved farms in Ashland precinct. Mr. Van Horn was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1843. He is a son of William and Catherine (Roller) Van Horn. His father first saw the light in 1797 and died in 1844. His mother died in 1879, aged sixty-seven years. Four children were born to them, namely: Mary, Henry, Aaron, and Martin, of whom this writing is a memoir.

Henry Van Horn was born in Green township, Mahoning county, Ohio, in 1833. He purchased and settled upon the 80-acre farm formerly owned by D. J. Sheldon, in Green township. This farm contained a house known as the granite, stone and plaster house, as it was made mostly from granite. Henry Van Horn continued to reside in this granite house from the fall of 1872 to the spring of 1876. He then built a handsome modern residence and also has a fine set of buildings. He still lives upon the same farm and devotes his time to raising stock and grain. His marriage with Mary Miller, a daughter of Simon Miller, of Ohio, resulted in three children, as follows:

Ellen J., wife of D. Miller; William, deceased; and Ida, wife of George Wallen.

Martin Van Horn was reared and educated in his native county. On August 11, 1862, he enlisted in the Union army as a private in Company A, 111th Reg. Ohio Vol. Inf., and served until the close of the war. He participated in many of the fiercest battles, and endured many hardships. He served all through the Atlanta campaign, and has a record of being 72 days under fire, and 120 days without having his shoes off. He had several narrow escapes, the most remarkable of which was the removal of the skin from his temple by a bullet.

At the close of the war Mr. Van Horn went home and was soon filled with a desire to go west. In 1869 he came to Nebraska, where he worked out during the busy season for several years. At odd times he looked over the country and enjoyed some fine sport in shooting and fishing. To this day he is a skilled marksman.

In 1872 he purchased 80 acres of land which had been pre-empted by Emelin Rockwell, now residing in Green precinct. Upon this land, Mr. Van Horn built a house having dimensions of 16 by 24 feet, the lumber of which he bought in Ashland, and the studding, which was part cottonwood, on the Elkhorn River. A pole and straw barn was also constructed. In 1892 these buildings were replaced by a handsome modern residence and a large, commodious barn 30 by 50 feet in size. Since then the old house has been utilized as a corn-crib. In 1873 Mr. Van Horn set out a fine orchard which he subsequently greatly enlarged. He now has a

great variety of choice fruit-bearing trees. In addition to this he has fine groves of evergreens, etc.

Martin Van Horn married Agnes Wilson, a daughter of Nathaniel and Mary Wilson. In 1894 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his beloved companion, who died, aged forty-eight years. They were not blessed with a family of their own, but adopted a daughter, whom they called Eva. Eva married Charles Weir, and has one daughter, Viola. They reside upon the farm with the subject of this sketch, and help to brighten his home.

Mr. Van Horn is highly esteemed by his neighbors. In politics he is independent, and he entertains broad, liberal ideas on the subject of religion.

PETER SWANBERG,\* a prominent farmer living near Malmo, Saunders county, Nebraska, is one of the representative citizens of that section, in which he owns considerable property.

Mr. Swanberg is a native of Sweden, and a son of Swan and Ingery (Bentson) Nelson, both of whom are deceased. He was the second of five children, as follows: Nils, who is married, and is a farmer living south of Wahoo, Saunders county; Peter; Sigura, who lives in Swenden; Hannah, a resident of Saunders county; and Charles, who lives in the same section as does Peter, in Mariposa precinct. Peter Swanberg came from Sweden to the United States and located in the state of Illinois. In

1873 he moved west to Omaha, Nebraska, and remained there for four years, being a portion of the time in the employ of J. P. Poppleton. He then located in Saunders county, Nebraska, and first bought the north half of the northeast quarter of section 21, where his home now is. He subsequently leased 80 acres, the north half of the southeast quarter of section 16, which he purchased some four or five years later. He set out a grove and fruit trees, and built his first house with dimensions of 12 by 14 feet, the lumber for which he hauled from Fremont. A few years later he erected a good, large barn and other substantial outbuildings, including a crib and granary. A further addition was made to his house in 1885, and in 1898 another good-sized barn was built to the west of the house. He is engaged in grain and stock raising on a large scale, making a specialty of white-faced cattle and Poland-China hogs. A creek runs through the property, furnishing a fine supply of water for the stock nearly the whole year. In 1900 he increased his orchard by about 30 or 40 trees, raising a large variety of fruit. In addition to the property already mentioned, he purchased 192 acres of the Mary Fisher estate, upon which Malmo is located, the last purchase being a very desirable piece of property. He formerly did his business at Weston, and also received his mail there, but he now trades at Malmo. He is a wide-awake and intelligent business man, and enjoys the friendship of a host of acquaintances.

Mr. Swanberg was united in marriage with Anna Swanson, who died in 1897. Their union

resulted in the following children: Nettie, who died when quite young; Will; Henry, deceased; Nettie; Henry; Otto; Clarence; a daughter who is deceased; and Victor. The subject of this sketch was again married in 1898 to Anna Erikson, by whom he has a daughter, Manuel. In politics Mr. Swanberg is a Republican. He is a faithful member of the Lutheran church, of Malmo.

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**OSCAR HANSON,\*** deputy county treasurer of Saunders county, Nebraska, was born in Stocking precinct, Saunders county, November 9, 1873. He is a son of Hans Hanson, who was born in Sweden, and came with his wife to the United States in 1871.

Hans Hanson first located in Fremont, Nebraska, where he remained one year. In 1872, he settled on a farm in Stocking precinct, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. The last few years he has not been actively engaged in the management of the old homestead, but has left this to the care of his son John. There were reared six children, as follows: Hans, Jr., who conducts a hardware store in Wahoo; John, now engaged in the management of the homestead; Nels, who is engaged in the implement business in Wahoo; Ernest, a telegraph operator; Oscar, the subject hereof, and Aaron.

Oscar Hanson was educated in the district schools, and in Luther Academy, of Wahoo. His education was supplemented with a course at the Lincoln Normal University. In 1893,

he went to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he held a position as bookkeeper, for one year. He then returned to Wahoo, and was engaged in the implement business one year. In 1895, he became clerk for the county treasurer, B. P. Olson, and on January 1, 1898, he received the appointment of deputy county treasurer, under J. L. Coleman, and is now the incumbent of that position.

In 1898, he was married to Nora Ryan, a daughter of Mike Ryan of Wahoo. They have one son, Lyman. Mr. Hanson is a Populist, but is holding office under the banner of the Fusionists. He is a very progressive young man, and has many admirers of his sterling worth and business ability.

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**JAMES SCHULZ,\*** an enterprising and successful man of Union precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska, has attained considerable prominence through his large stock farm. He makes a specialty of the Percheron breed of horses, importing many from France and raising others, many of which have been sold at very high prices. In addition to conducting his farm, he is the owner and proprietor of a fine saloon in Yutan, complete in all its appointments.

Mr. Schulz was born in Handorf, Germany, in 1851, and is a son of Jurgen and Margaret (Mather) Schulz. His father was born in Handorf in 1823, where he followed agricultural pursuits until 1867. In that year he emigrated from Germany to America, first locating in Kankakee county, Illinois, and later in

Booneville, Dallas county, Iowa, where he remained until 1871. He then removed to Saunders county, Nebraska, by team and wagon, taking his family and all his belongings. He purchased 80 acres of land of Mr. Cooley, on which there was a small building, with dimensions of 14 by 20 feet, and into this he moved with his family. He afterward bought three 80-acre tracts of railroad land and established a good residence, setting out many trees and making other important improvements. He owned some property in Yutan, and there he spent the last seven years of his life, dying in July, 1897. His widow survives him and resides at Yutan, being eighty years old. The following children were born to them: Augusta, who died in Germany; John, a record of whose life appears elsewhere in this biographical record; an infant son and Daniel, both of whom died in Germany; James; Anna, the wife of Hening Henck, of Yutan; Hans, of Union precinct; and Margaret, the wife of J. Seiver, of Yutan. He was a Republican in politics, and in religious faith a Lutheran.

James Schulz spent his early manhood in Illinois and Iowa engaged in farming, and came west to Nebraska with his father in 1871. They went by wagon and endured all of the hardships incident to pioneer life, as he drove the cattle, and they were obliged to camp out wherever night overtook them. In 1875, after his marriage, in consideration for faithful services rendered at home, his father gave him 160 acres of land in section 33, Union precinct, Saunders county, Nebraska. There he erected a small frame house and improved the place in

different ways, setting out an orchard and many shade trees. He subsequently erected a fine residence, and also built a large barn, as well as other needed farm buildings. He afterward bought 160 acres of land in section 29, of M. White, in 1877. In 1884 he purchased the thoroughbred stallion Tobias, a fine Percheron horse, and 13 fine brood mares of the same stock, and began to raise Percheron horses. In 1887 he imported seven car loads of horses from France, and continued to import horses until 1890, when horses had so far depreciated in value that there ceased to be any money in them. He has sold from his stock farm many horses, ranging in price from \$250 to \$2,000 each. At one time he was offered \$7,000 for a horse, which died but a short time after his refusal to sell. He has a fine herd of 200 cattle, and has fed as many as 12,000 head per year, marketing in Omaha and Chicago. In 1899 he opened a saloon in Yutan, which he runs in addition to the farm, with the assistance of his son John.

Mr. Schulz was united in marriage with Franke Seiver, a daughter of John and Magdalena (Wick) Seiver. Her father died in Germany in 1861, and his widow resides at the home of John Schulz, in Union precinct. Ten children were born to them: Etta, the wife of Peter Ferguson, by whom she has a son, Harry; John; George; Henry; Christ; Annie; Lena; Benjamin, and his twin brother who died in infancy; and a daughter, who died in infancy. Fraternally Mr. Schulz is a member of the K. of P. lodge and the A. O. U. W.





	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
Harder, Hans J. . . . .	285	Larson, John . . . . .	33	Perry, Charles . . . . .	64
Harmon, William J. . . . .	101	Larson, Lars . . . . .	116	Peters, Otto F. . . . .	113
Harrell, J. W. . . . .	63	Larson, Rev. S. G. . . . .	299	Peters, W. H. . . . .	253
Hassett, Hon. James . . . . .	285	Laudenschlager, Louis . . . . .	179	Peterson, Bent . . . . .	264
Hatfield, Isaac B. . . . .	117	Lesieur, Louis . . . . .	286	Petty, John . . . . .	257
Hawkinson, A. F. . . . .	187	Lichtenberg, Louis . . . . .	76	Phelps, Douglas R. . . . .	122
Hawthorne, Vincent L. . . . .	136	Liles, James . . . . .	211	Pickett, Thomas J. . . . .	242
Heaton, Robert A. . . . .	182	Lillibridge, C. E. . . . .	106	Pospisl, Anton . . . . .	65
Hecklander, Otto . . . . .	193	Lind, John A. . . . .	154	Pospisl, J. J. . . . .	204
Henry, Harvey Carpenter . . . . .	290	Lindau, P. O. . . . .	179	Ptacek, Joseph . . . . .	307
Henry, Mrs. Lucy J. . . . .	84	Lindblad, John . . . . .	145		
Hill, Professor Samuel M., A. M., L. H. D. . . . .	133	Lundquist, F. A. . . . .	66		
Hills, M. Stillman . . . . .	143			<b>R</b>	
Hiltsher, Joseph . . . . .	205	Madigan, Thomas . . . . .	163	Railsback, John C. . . . .	222
Holman, Thomas Berton . . . . .	15	Mastrom, Rev. P. F. . . . .	296	Reed, James A. . . . .	34
Horn, John Wesley . . . . .	223	McCluhan, Ira . . . . .	58	Rehak, Frank . . . . .	108
Howard, Hon. Edgar . . . . .	244	Meiners, George . . . . .	191	Reichert, Charles . . . . .	249
Hruby, Frank . . . . .	291	Mengel, Ellis V. . . . .	195	Reynolds, James W. . . . .	12
Hurst, Ernest . . . . .	104	Meredith, George W., M. D. . . . .	207	Rishel, M. Y. . . . .	276
		Merriman, Samuel . . . . .	220	Robinson, Sanders P. . . . .	121
<b>I</b>		Miller, Abraham B. . . . .	218	Rogers, Henry . . . . .	208
Isaacson, Lave . . . . .	141	Miller, Charles . . . . .	173	Rogers, William . . . . .	103
		Miller, Fred . . . . .	74	Rose, Caleb H. . . . .	279
<b>J</b>		Miller, John N. . . . .	314	Roslund, Andrew . . . . .	37
Jamison, William A. . . . .	241	Miller, W. E. . . . .	263	Rutter, Taylor Vail . . . . .	76
Johnson, Charles M. . . . .	330	Monahan, Bernard . . . . .	275	Ruttman, C. F. . . . .	148
Johnson, Charles O. . . . .	83	Morrison, William . . . . .	277		
Johnson, Eric . . . . .	270	Mosier, Charles W. . . . .	58	<b>S</b>	
Johnson, James E. . . . .	251	Mott, John H. . . . .	217	Sams, Peter . . . . .	131
Johnson, Ralph C. . . . .	54	Mott, William C. . . . .	212	Sander, Herman A. . . . .	27
Johnson, Rodney K. . . . .	61	Mowinkel, Henry . . . . .	272	Schere, Lewis J. . . . .	43
Johnston, Fred . . . . .	165	Mullins, George M. . . . .	25	Schram, George . . . . .	27
Juckett, Ansel Spalding . . . . .	261			Schulz, James . . . . .	334
		<b>N</b>		Schulz, John . . . . .	125
<b>K</b>		Nelson, N. H. . . . .	147	Schwenck, William A. . . . .	23
Keetle, Christopher . . . . .	216	Nelson, Olof . . . . .	55	Shanahan, William . . . . .	44
Kerr, Rev. David Ramsey, Ph. D., D. D. . . . .	17	Nelson, P. T. . . . .	146	Sharp, Charles L. . . . .	24
Keys, Clarence E. . . . .	240	Nicholson, J. B. . . . .	325	Shepard, Charles F. . . . .	316
Killian, Charles A. . . . .	47	Nigh, Charles Henry . . . . .	192	Sherman, John F. . . . .	287
Kirkpatrick, Charles F., M. D. . . . .	221	Nordstrom, John . . . . .	230	Shirley, Silas . . . . .	17
Knapp, Albert C. . . . .	93	Nygren, Peter . . . . .	35	Smith, Charles Edward . . . . .	22
Knapp, John W. . . . .	197			Smith, John . . . . .	45
Koerber, Paul Ernest, M. D. . . . .	303	<b>O</b>		Smith, John G., M. D. . . . .	88
Kolb, Johann Friederich . . . . .	98	Ockander, Jacob . . . . .	57	Smith, William H. . . . .	278
Kraus, Joseph . . . . .	42	O'Kane, John W. . . . .	78	Smith, Zenas B. . . . .	167
Krause, Frank . . . . .	56	Olson, Eric . . . . .	41	Snelling, John A. . . . .	201
		Olson, John Albert . . . . .	194	Snyder, F. J. . . . .	158
<b>L</b>		Orme, William H. . . . .	328	Soland, Adolph . . . . .	84
LaChapelle, Joseph B. . . . .	310	Ostenberg, Otto . . . . .	107	Sornborger, Hon. Samuel Henry . . . . .	282
Lambert, G. S. . . . .	67			Soukup, Anton . . . . .	118
Larson, Gust . . . . .	226	<b>P</b>		Stender, John . . . . .	321
		Pallas, James . . . . .	186	Stewart, Rev. S. J. . . . .	268
		Peck, Ernest French . . . . .	51	Stone, Melville W., M. D. . . . .	184
		Perkey, Charles . . . . .	21	Stuart, Andrew E., M. D. . . . .	105





## Portraits

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
Acker, Warren E. . . . .	110	Harmon, William J. . . . .	100	Reichert, Charles . . . . .	248
Boulier, Hon. Alexander . . .	50	Hassett, Hon. James . . . . .	284	Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Sanders	
Bush, J. C. F., M. D. . . . .	40	Isaacson, Mr. and Mrs. Lave .	140	P., and family . . . . .	120
Coleman, John L. . . . .	206	Johnson, Rodney K. . . . .	60	Sams', Peter . . . . .	130
Dech, Hon. William H. . . . .	90	Koerber, Paul Ernest, M. D. .	302	Snelling, John A. . . . .	200
Fiedler, Mr. and Mrs. James,		Liles, James . . . . .	210	Stender, Mr. and Mrs. John, and	
and family . . . . .	70	Madigan, Thomas . . . . .	161	family . . . . .	320
Fleming, Walter . . . . .	30	Madigan, Thomas, residence of	160	Will, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. M.,	
Fritzinger, Samuel H., residence		Meiners, George . . . . .	190	and family . . . . .	80
of . . . . .	228	Miller, Mrs. James, Charles,		Zwiebel, Philip . . . . .	238
Good, Hon. Benjamin Franklin	10	Thomas J. and Martha . . .	172		
Goss, Hon. John Q. . . . .	150	Perkey, Charles . . . . .	20		







