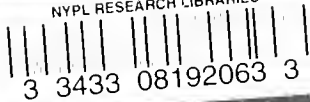


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A  
GENEALOGICAL  
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OF  
KEOKUK COUNTY  
IOWA

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J. W. Brooks

**A GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL  
HISTORY  
OF  
KEOKUK COUNTY, IOWA.**

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HON. JOHN TINLEY BROOKS.

This is a utilitarian age, in which effort must contribute to some line of usefulness whereby may be promoted the welfare of the individual or the public. The marvellous energy and enterprise of the west has brought about a great change in the cities there. This change is the result of the aggregate effort of thousands of enterprising, wide-awake, and industrious citizens, of which class the gentleman named above is a representative. He entered upon his business career with little capital, but he possessed determination and a willingness to work. Indolence and idleness constituted no part of his nature, and as his financial resources have increased, he has made judicious investments, which have classed him among the substantial residents of his community. His business methods are progressive. He is systematic in all that he does, and as the architect of his own fortunes he has built wisely and well. As time has passed, the life of Mr. Brooks appealed to his friends as one which was worthy of honor, and he is therefore the honored representative of

is a strict by the state senate. Mr. Brooks is actively engaged in the business life of the stirring little city of Hedrick, being at the present time the president and cashier of the First National Bank and cashier of the Hedrick State Savings Bank, both in Hedrick.

Mr. Brooks was born October 17, 1850, the place of his birth having been Benton township, Keokuk county, Iowa. He is the son of John G. and Mary (Kyger) Brooks. John G. Brooks was a native of Butler county, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood, and came to Keokuk county in 1842. Two years later he permanently located in Benton township, where he passed the life of a highly respected citizen engaged in farming, his death occurring in 1880 at the age of sixty-two years. Until the breaking out of the Civil war he gave allegiance to the principles of the Democratic party, but on the issues which precipitated that great struggle he followed Abraham Lincoln's principles, for whom he voted in 1860, and thereafter supported the Republican party. He filled some of the minor offices of the township, having been a justice of the peace for a period of years. He was an active member of the Methodist church from boyhood. His marriage to Mary Kyger occurred in Butler county when he was in young manhood. She died in 1873, aged about thirty-three years. She bore her husband six children, viz.: Joseph Walker (deceased); Daniel Bigelow, (deceased); Elizabeth, (deceased); Samuel K., of Hedrick; John Tinley, subject; and Mary Frances. Joseph Walker Brooks and Daniel Bigelow Brooks, of these children, served in the Civil war. The former enlisted as private in Company E of the Seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in 1861, and was afterward transferred to the Thirty-third Missouri Infantry, as first lieutenant, and as such was in command of his company at Helena, Arkansas, where in battle he was killed July 4, 1863. The latter



served as a private in the Nineteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry from the summer of 1862 until he was killed in action at Sterling farm, Louisiana, in the summer of 1864.

Mr. Brooks was reared in Benton township, and the old homestead was the scene of the boyhood labors and pleasures in which he indulged, he in the meantime becoming familiar with the branches of study taught in the district school. This was later supplemented by more advanced work in the schools at Sigourney, and at the Iowa Wesleyan University, at Mount Pleasant, where he graduated in 1875. Deciding on the law as a profession, Mr. Brooks then entered the office of Woolson & Babb, at Mount Pleasant, and after finishing the required course of reading passed an examination before the court and was admitted to the bar at Sigourney in 1876. He immediately formed a partnership with Hon. John A. Donnell, with whom he continued in association for five years. While successful in the practice of law, the forces of circumstances and opportunity led him, in 1881, to discontinue the active practice of law and engage in the banking business as cashier of the Union Bank at Sigourney. He has, however, maintained his law library and continued his professional studies, though not practicing. In company with Mr. W. H. Young, he bought in 1882 the Waugh farm, in Benton township, and thereon laid out the town of Hedrick. Soon after this, in connection with the same gentleman, Mr. Brooks established the Bank of Hedrick, a private banking institution, which they conducted until 1890, when it was merged into the Hedrick State Savings Bank, and of this our subject has continued as cashier, and Mr. Young is the honored president. In 1900 Mr. Brooks became interested with others in the organization of the First National Bank of Hedrick, of which he is vice-president

Mr. Brooks is also connected with the Hedrick Telephone Company as president. He is extensively connected with the various agricultural interests of the county and takes great interest in the raising of fine stock.

The public life of Mr. Brooks has been one of equal activity and interest with his business life. He served a period of ten successive terms as mayor of Hedrick. He has been for seventeen consecutive years the treasurer of the Independent district school board. His political relations have always been with the Republican party, in whose pre he has been a tower of strength in the local organization. His standing in the community and the services which he has rendered the party in the past made him a marked man in the conventions of the party as the time passed, but not until 1901 could he be prevailed upon to accept of a nomination. In that year he became a candidate for state senator for the Twelfth senatorial district, and in the election which followed he was chosen to fill that office. Fraternally Mr. Brooks is a sought Templar Mason. The family life of Mr. Brooks began November 21, 1876, when he chose for a life companion Miss Lucy J. White, daughter of James H. and Emeline White, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, who presides with grace over his pleasant home. She is the mother of four bright and interesting children, namely—Mary, Florence, Alice and John W.

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#### SAMUEL SINGMASTER.

No history of Hedrick county would be complete without mention of Samuel Singmaster, a factor for many years contributed largely to the development of the county and to its progress and improvement along substantial lines. He is a man whom to know was to respect and honor,

Without ostentation or display, he lived so as to win the high regard and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. There were no exciting chapters in his life history, yet there was much worthy of emulation, for he was always true to his friends, faithful to his family and reliable and trustworthy in business. He passed away April 18, 1899, and it is safe to say that no death in the community has ever been more deeply regretted than that of Samuel Singmaster. He accomplished much in life that yet benefits those who knew him and he left to his family an untarnished name, which is above great riches.

Mr. Singmaster was born in McCungie, Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, September 17, 1807, and was therefore ninety-one years of age when called to his final rest. His parents were also natives of Pennsylvania and were of German lineage. In their family were eight sons and one daughter. During his early youth Samuel Singmaster labored industriously upon his father's farm, receiving but limited educational privileges. He served a three-years' apprenticeship in a tannery of Philadelphia and afterward worked for two years in the same establishment for the small salary of seventy-two dollars per year. When twenty-four years of age he accompanied his parents on their removal to Perry county, Pennsylvania.

An important event occurred in his life the following year, for he was married in Berks county, Pennsylvania, to Mary C. Seischolts, a young lady then twenty-two years of age. For many years they traveled life's journey together, sharing with each other the joys and sorrows, the adversity and prosperity which checker the careers of all. They reared, too, a family who have been a credit to their name. The year after his marriage Samuel Singmaster and his brother Jacob established a tannery in Millerstown, Perry county, which they conducted successfully for a

few years, when they sold out and with the proceeds built a larger tannery in the same town. Their business increased until it enabled them to employ sixty men. However, they sold their second factory in order to build a still greater one and the third one was sold to Mr. Miller, their brother-in-law. He found it impossible to pay promptly and after a time the tannery was destroyed by fire, causing a total loss, as there was no insurance. Mr. Singmaster and his brother never tried to collect the consideration and therefore they suffered to a considerable extent from the fire.

About that time our subject removed to a more western district in Pennsylvania and turned his attention to farming, purchasing one hundred and twenty acres of land, upon which he made partial payments. In speaking of this period of his life he said he had "four work horses with one eye among the whole drove." He possessed a resolute spirit and determination and from early morning until dewy eve he was found in the fields, and in harvest time he reaped a good crop of wheat, about three hundred bushels. This brought a good price, one dollar and a half per bushel, and enabled him not only to meet his indebtedness, but also to have one thousand dollars clear as his earnings. He then sold his farm and purchased a larger one of one hundred and forty acres, paying one-half of the amount down. A year later he sold this place at a good profit and at that time took up his abode in Millerstown, about forty miles from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he purchased a home worth fifteen hundred dollars. With his remaining capital, and also a sum that he borrowed, he embarked in the cattle business, purchasing drives of from sixty to one hundred head of cattle in Ohio and driving them to the Philadelphia market. This enterprise also proved a profitable one. He also drove some sheep and horses to market, but he found

that he could realize nothing off of these and accordingly confined his attention to dealing in cattle. One of the marked characteristics of Mr. Singmaster's career was the readiness with which he recognized that business conditions would prove either profitable or disastrous, and choosing, of course, the former, he carried forward his labors until they brought to him a very desirable competence. Attracted by the opportunities of the growing west he made his way to Missouri, in 1842, but finding that he could not obtain a clear title to land in that state he came to Iowa. He was pleased with the west and in Keokuk county he purchased in 1843 a claim on which were a few hogs and cattle, buying these of George Washington Maley, one of the honored pioneers of the county. He paid fifteen hundred dollars for a tract of land comprising three hundred and twenty acres. Returning home he sent out Frank North to take charge of the purchase. In 1844 he sold his real estate in Millerstown for fifteen hundred dollars. Of this amount five hundred dollars was paid in cash and for the remainder he took wooden clocks and leather, but while the family were en route from the Keystone state to Keokuk county, Iowa, the weights of the clocks were either lost or stolen between Pittsburg and Burlington, and in consequence the time-pieces sold for a mere trifle. He retailed the clocks and leather among his neighbors in Iowa, but as he gave credit to many new acquaintances he afterward found that it was difficult to make collections. He however brought with him one thousand dollars, which in 1844 he invested in calves, and thus he became one of the first cattle dealers of Keokuk county. He was assisted in his work by his son Charles and it was a noticeable fact concerning the family history that the father and sons always worked together in entire harmony, continuing business as a family affair through many years. For a long period Mr. Singmaster

carried on his stockraising interests with success. His first large sale was hundred head of cattle, which brought him twenty-five hundred dollars. His first home was a primitive log cabin, such as was common in pioneer times, and after he had made his sale of the one hundred head of cattle he had his sons haul lumber from Iowa City, with which he erected a larger and more modern residence, which remained his home until his death. As time advanced his profits increased, he made judicious investments in real estate, becoming one of the most extensive land owners of this part of Iowa. The business was conducted by the father and sons until the time of the death of William Singmaster, his youngest son, in 1891. When Charles, another son, arrived at the age of fifty-two years, his father deeded to him eight hundred acres of land on which he yet resides, while the son Thomas remained in partnership with the father until the latter's demise. The Singmasters probably became more widely known through their importations of fine horses than in any other of their business transactions. In 1875 the firm began business in this way, William and Charles having charge of the enterprise while the father furnished the capital. In that year they imported four head of horses and gradually increased the number until their importations were very extensive, and between the years 1884 and 1888 each son imported from eighty to one hundred and forty head.

When Mr. Singmaster removed to Iowa, the family consisted of himself, wife, and five children, namely: Charles F., born February 29, 1834; Sarah, born June 15, 1836; Eliza, born March 9, 1838; Thomas, born February 16, 1840; and James, born July 4, 1842, died on June 16, 1866. The same year another child, Henry, was added to the family. He was born October 18, 1844, and died December 18, 1845. Will-



iam was born April 16, 1848, and died in Keokuk county, April 17, 1891. Mary Etta, born December 18, 1849, was married October 22, 1878, to Conrad Range, and died February 20, 1898. On the 13th of September, 1853, Eliza was also called to her final rest. Three of the children are still living. Charles F., whose personal sketch appears elsewhere; Sarah, the only surviving daughter, is the wife of David Keiser, of Keota; and Thomas, the other surviving member of the family, is represented on another page of this work. Mrs. Singmaster passed away a few years prior to the death of her husband. She was born in Pennsylvania, July 15, 1810, and died December 17, 1894, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

Mr. Singmaster departed this life April 18, 1899, when more than ninety-one years of age, dying after a three weeks' illness of la grippe. From the obituary notice which appeared in one of the local papers, we quote the following because of the estimate it gives of the life and character of him of whom we write:

"What can I say of Samuel Singmaster? You have all known him. You have all loved him. You have all respected and honored him. He was a man through and through—every inch a man. He was held in the greatest esteem by his neighbors, friends and acquaintances. Such an ideal estimation is truly coveted by all. The deceased was a man in whom all sought counsel in time of trouble. He never faltered in responding as a wise counselor to a troublesome or vexed problem of a neighbor."

In the family Mr. Singmaster was a most devoted husband and father, and to his friends he was ever loyal and true, while his business associates found him to be reliable, trustworthy and courteous. All who knew him had for him the highest respect, and his memory is yet enshrined in the hearts of many with whom he was associated.

## GILBERT S. MORGAN.

Almost fifty years have passed since this gentleman arrived in Keokuk county and he is justly numbered among her honored pioneers and leading citizens, his home being in Adams township. As an agriculturalist he has been prominently identified with her up building and development. His is an honorable record of a conscientious man, who by his upright life has won the confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

His father, Hon. Theron Avery Morgan, was one of the prominent citizens of this locality in early days. He was born in Massachusetts in January, 1809, and was principally reared in that state. From there he removed to Ohio and in 1854 came to Iowa, locating in Keokuk county, where he entered land from the government and improved the farm on which our subject now lives. In early life he married Sylvia Malloy, also a native of Massachusetts, and to them were born five children, all of whom reached man and womanhood. Both parents lived to a ripe old age, the mother being eighty-one at the time of her death, and the father ninety-two. Some idea of the high esteem in which he was held by his fellow citizens can be gathered from an obituary published at the time of his death, which is as follows:

"At the little village of Webster, Keokuk county, at ten o'clock, February 6, 1901, occurred the funeral services of the Hon. Theron Avery Morgan. While the bells of the village church were tolling and the people were gathering from all the country-side to pay their last respects to one of their oldest citizens, the funeral carriages were driven from the home of Gilbert S. Morgan to the Methodist church of Webster. It was this farm from which he took his last journey, that a half century ago Mr. Morgan, then in the prime of vigorous manhood, en-

tered as a homestead, and it was from then that his life became closely mingled with the early life and development of Keokuk county. At the church the services were conducted by the Rev. Smith of the Methodist Episcopal church, assisted by the Rev. Matlock of the Congregational church. Among those gathered there were men who when they, beardless boys of twenty, had marched out to defend the Union, had spoken of the then gray-bearded Lieutenant Morgan as "Father Morgan." Rugged men with heads of gray were assembled to pay a last token of respect to their fathers' old friend and contemporary. Rev. Smith spoke of Mr. Morgan's life in Keokuk county, how in social life, in philanthropy and in politics he had ever represented that which was noblest and best. He dwelt upon the strength, purity and nobility of the life which had given of its vigor to uphold and support our legislature in those days in the '50s and '60s when men of strength were needed. Men and women were present who knew of the unselfishness and practical Christianity of his life as a neighbor. Men were present who knew of his sterling integrity and steadfast honor in political life and in positions of public trust. Children and grandchildren were present who knew of the sweet, unselfish nobility of his family life, which constitutes true greatness. The relatives present were Mrs. Victoria Morgan, of Grand Junction; Mrs. Mary M. Griswold, of Ottumwa; Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Morgan, of Webster. The grandchildren present were Misses Daisy and Mary Griswold, Morgan Griswold and George O. Griswold and Mrs. W. T. Wilson of Ottumwa; Avery Morgan, of Washington; Mr. and Mrs. William Montz, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cook, Mr. and Mrs. William Heaton and Alden Morgan, of Webster. Among others from abroad were Mrs. John McDonough, of New Sharon; and Theron Morgan of South English. The pall bearers were D. P. Brown, Alex

Hearst, D. Swails, John Van Tyle, T. Goeldner and Hon. Fred E. White. The interment took place at the little cemetery of Webster, where twelve years ago was buried Sylvia (Mallory) Morgan, wife of the deceased. Every one felt to be true the words of Rev. Smith in his sermon: "A strong man has fallen."

Gilbert S. Morgan was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, April 17, 1841, and was the fourth child and third son in his father's family. He was about thirteen years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Keokuk county, and on the home farm in Adams township he grew to manhood, acquiring a good practical education in the schools of the neighborhood and also gaining an excellent knowledge of farm work in its various departments. He remained with his parents and continued to assist in the operation of his father's land until twenty-nine years of age.

On the 14th of November, 1860, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Morgan and Miss Sarah A. Ervin, who was born in West Virginia, December 15, 1848. Her parents, Elias and Maria (Messenger) Ervin, were also natives of that state, the father's birth having occurred in Preston county. In 1865 Mr. Ervine brought his family to Iowa and after spending about a year in Iowa county came to Keokuk county and took up his abode in English River township. To him and his wife were born fourteen children, twelve of whom reached mature years and seven of the number are still living. In this family Mrs. Morgan is the seventh in order of birth and was about sixteen years of age when she came to Keokuk county. She received a good common school education. By her marriage she has become the mother of four children, namely: Stella, wife of William Heaton of English River township; Alden, who married Leonia Hall and resides in Adams township; Rollin E., who mar-

ried Mayme Lechty and lives in Iowa City; and Virgil G., who is at home and assists his father in the operation of the farm.

After his marriage Mr. Morgan located on the old homestead where he now lives, and devoted his entire attention to general farming and stock raising until 1872, when he went to California and spent one year on the Pacific coast engaged in fruit farming. At the end of that time he returned to this county and has since followed general farming and stock raising uninterruptedly, owning a well improved and valuable place of three hundred and twenty acres, which was once the property of his father

Politically Mr. Morgan has been a life-long Republican, and has taken quite an active interest in local politics, serving two terms as assessor, and justice of the peace for several years. Socially he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Through the long years of his residence in this county he has become widely known, and his many excellent traits of character have gained him the high regard of his many friends.



#### JAMES BROOKS AYERS ROBERTSON.

For over a third of a century James Brooks Ayers Robertson has been among the progressive and energetic citizens of Keokuk county, and at present is living practically retired at his pleasant home in Keswick. For three years he served his country during the war of the Rebellion, participating in some of the most arduous campaigns of that terrible conflict, and in years of peace, no less than in those of war, he has bravely performed his duty, and is justly entitled to a place in the nation's roll of honor.

Mr. Robertson was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, on the 7th of September, 1830, and is a son of John Robertson, a native of Philadelphia. His paternal grandfather, John Robertson, Sr., was a native of England and was a sea captain, who was lost at sea when his son John was but eight years old. The latter was then bound out and was reared in a Quaker family about sixty miles from Philadelphia. There he was united in marriage to Miss Maria Frieze, a native of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and they began their domestic life in Downington, that county, Mr. Robertson being engaged at that time in teaming between Philadelphia and Pittsburg. Later he removed to Wrightsville, York county, Pennsylvania, and for two years was engaged in boating on the canal. His next home was at Safe Harbor, Lancaster county, the same state, where he was employed in the iron works for seven years, and in April, 1855, he came to Iowa, landing at Davenport on the 17th of that month. He first located in Muscatine county, but in the fall of 1855 removed to Cedar county, where he entered land and engaged in farming until 1863. Selling his property there he then came to Keokuk county and settled where our subject now lives. Here he died at the age of seventy years, honored and respected by all who knew him. Politically he was a life-long Democrat, and religiously was an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, taking an active part in its work for many years. His estimable wife died at the age of seventy three years. They were the parents of seven children, two of whom died in infancy, while the others reached man and womanhood and four are still living. Three of the sons were numbered among the boys in blue during the Civil war, these being John S., George A. and our subject. John enlisted in the Thirteenth Missouri Infantry in 1861, and was captured at Lexington, Missouri, afterward



paroled and came home and later re-enlisted in the Eight Iowa Cavalry; he was captured at Macon, Georgia, and held a prisoner at Andersonville for about six months. George A. belonged to the same company and regiment as our subject and served about three years.

Mr. Robertson, of this review, was the second child and second son in his father's family, and was about eighteen years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to this state. He had already acquired a good common school education. While a resident of Cedar county he was married, January 19, 1860, to Miss Clarissa M. Wright, a native of Ohio, who came to Iowa with her parents when a small child and was reared in Cedar county. By this union there were eleven children, and the family circle has never been broken by the hand of death, the youngest being now eighteen years of age. In order of birth they are as follows: John H., now a resident of Nebraska; Anna M., the wife of John Schuble of Oklahoma; George Allen, a merchant of Oklahoma; Maggie, the wife of John Brandenburg of California; James, B. A., a prominent lawyer and now county attorney of Lincoln county, Oklahoma; Elizabeth A., wife of Michael Gill of Altoona, Pennsylvania; Meda, a teacher in the high school of Chandler, Oklahoma; Alice M., who is attending the Methodist Episcopal Training School in Chicago; Warren K., who is attending college in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Charles Howard, a printer of Chandler, Oklahoma; and Ralph K., who is at home with his parents and is still in school.

After his marriage Mr. Robertson began farming upon rented land and later purchased a small tract which was covered with a heavy growth of timber, and to the improvement and cultivation of that place he devoted his energies until he entered the service of his country during the Civil war, enlisting in August, 1862, as a private in Company B, Twenty-

fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry; but he was afterward transferred to the First Battalion Veteran Reserve Corps and was promoted to fourth corporal, serving with that rank when discharged on the 20th of June, 1865, after three years service.

At the close of the war Mr. Robertson removed from Cedar county to Keokuk county and was first engaged in farming upon rented land in Adams township for three years. He then purchased eighty acres of land on the north side of Eagle river and was engaged in the improvement and cultivation of that place for six years. In the meantime he established a store at Aurora, Adams township, the first in this township, and conducted the same for four years, during which time the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad was built, and having faith in the future development of Keswick he removed to that place in the spring of 1880 and erected the second store building there. He carried on general merchandising here with good success for twenty-two years and he still owns the store building, which he now rents, having retired from mercantile pursuits.

Mr. Robertson has taken quite an active and prominent part in public affairs, being elected county commissioner in 1886, and so acceptably did he fill that office that he was re-elected, serving in all six years with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He has also filled the offices of justice of the peace, school director and constable, and his official duties have always been the most promptly and faithfully discharged. By his ballot Mr. Robertson supports the men and measures of the Democratic party, and in his social relations he is connected with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which lodges he has filled all the chairs. He has been active in promoting the interests of his adopted county along many lines and

has materially aided in its upbuilding and development. As an honored pioneer and representative man of the community he is also worthy of the high regard in which he is uniformly held.



THOMAS A. MORGAN.

Thomas A. Morgan is a leading representative of the business interests of Webster, Iowa, where he is engaged in general merchandising, and he also carries on general farming and stock raising in this county. Of excellent business ability and broad resources, he has attained a prominent place among the substantial citizens of his part of the county and is a recognized leader in public affairs. He has won success by his well directed, energetic efforts, and the prosperity that has come to him is certainly well deserved.

One of Keokuk county's native sons, Mr. Morgan was born in English River township, May 17, 1867. His father, Thomas Morgan, is a native of Kentucky, from which state he removed to Indiana with his parents during boyhood, and was there reared and married. In 1846 he came to Iowa and settled in English River township, Keokuk county, where he took up a tract of government land and engaged in farming throughout his active business life. This worthy pioneer is still living at the ripe old age of eighty-two years, honored and respected by all who know him. He is a staunch supporter of the Republican party and has acceptably filled the offices of township trustee and assessor. Religiously he is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has taken quite an active part in its work. He was twice married and by the first union had eight children. For his second wife he wedded Miss Mary McBride, the mother of our subject. She was born and reared in Penn-

sylvania and died in Iowa when about sixty-five years of age. She was the mother of four children, of whom Thomas A. is the youngest.

In the county of his nativity Thomas A. Morgan grew to manhood, receiving a good practical education in the common schools of English River township. With the exception of six months spent in California, his entire life has been passed in Keokuk county. He followed farming until 1893, when he removed to Webster and embarked in general merchandising, opening a store at that place which he still conducts. He carries a well selected stock of dry goods, groceries, etc., and by fair and honorable dealing has built up an excellent trade, which is constantly increasing. Besides his store he owns other property in the town and has a valuable farm of four hundred and forty acres, all in English River township with exception of eighty acres. With the assistance of hired help he operates this land and is meeting with marked success as a farmer and stock raiser.

In November, 1887, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Morgan and Miss Malissa Axmear, a native of Virginia and a daughter of John and Julia Axmear, the former of whom was born in Holland and the latter in Germany. To our subject and his wife have been born five children, as follows: Clarence, Ada, Blanch, Grace and Helen. By his ballot Mr. Morgan supports the men and measures of the Republican party. He is a worthy representative of that class of progressive business men who lead quiet, industrious, honest and useful lives, and constitute the best portion of a community. Wherever known he is held in high regard, and is certainly deserving of honorable mention in the history of his native county.

SAMUEL CONNER.

Among the many well-to-do and able farmers of Lancaster township none have attained a more enviable reputation for integrity and general ability than Samuel Conner. The interests of township and county have been closely identified with his history from the early days. Coming as he did in the year 1844 to Keokuk county, when the pioneers were just beginning to settle here, it early devolved upon him to lend his arm and his brain to the development of the lands and institutions of the new country.

He was born on November 9, 1836, in Tippecanoe county, in the state of Indiana. His father, Daniel Conner, was born and reared in Ohio until he arrived at the age of nineteen, at which time he settled in Indiana. In 1843 he again moved to Iowa and in the year 1844 settled in Lancaster township, there being at that time almost no settlers in that part of the state, so that it was necessary to reclaim the land and clear it for farming. The father of Daniel Conner was of Irish descent and spent the greater part of his life in old Virginia, dying in Iowa in advanced years. Samuel's mother died when he was a very young boy so that he remembers but little about her and her family, except that she was a woman of fine qualities and well connected.

He was one of four children, there being two daughters and one son besides himself. He came to Lancaster township at the early age of nine years, long before the schools had been developed as they now are. He, however, made the best use of all opportunities presented to him in the old log schoolhouse. He remained upon the farm at home assisting in its multitudinous duties until he arrived at the age of twenty-three years, when he married Mary E. Jordan, who also came to Keokuk county when a small child, being a native of the state of Illinois. After his

marriage he at once located in the old farm house about two hundred yards from where he now lives and here he has remained throughout the years following carrying on the varied and arduous business of an agriculturist, and giving all his time and enegies to the care of his farm and large family. Nine children in time were gathered at his hearthside, six daughters and three sons. These were Oliver, now dead; Lottie, wife of John W. Scott, a prominent farmer of Lancaster township; Kohena, wife of W. B. Morrow, also a prosperous farmer in the same township; Eva, now dead; Daniel F., who is doing a successful business in Hayesville as a dealer in fine horses; Tima, wife of C. D. Parkhill of the same township; Iona, now dead; Effie, who is unmarried, and Isaac A. remain at home.

Mr. Conner has always been a successful and representative farmer, now owning two hundred and eighteen acres of finely cultivated land, which constitutes one of the best farms in all the adjacent country. In political beliefs he has been throughout his life an ardent Democrat and has rendered to Democracy many invaluable services and has held various important offices in the county. The large family of children born to Mr. Conner, while adding to his responsibilities and labors, must prove a source of much gratification to him. Any parent might well be proud of a life-work exemplified in children of the character and attainments of these, and as the years go by upon the old homestead, the subject of this record, surrounded by the many evidences of this life-work and its successes, may well say "It is well."

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VARON BUCHER.

There are some compensations to the man who in early life is deprived of parental care and nurture. It is indeed hard for a child to

work out his own destiny, to choose a vocation in life and qualify himself for it, but in the end the rigorous experiences undergone serve but to strengthen and make self-reliant the developing man and leave an imprint which all time cannot eradicate in the character subjected to such influences. Such a man, hewing his own way, unaided by the strong arm of a helping father or the tender love and sympathy of a mother, was Aaron Bucher.

He was born January 27, 1835, in Sandusky county, Ohio, the state which has furnished so many of the strong energetic sons who have helped to make the west what it now is. His father, Frederick Bucher, was a native of Pennsylvania and died when our subject was only twelve years of age. His mother, Susanna Wimer, also died when he was only seven years old. Thus he was deprived, while very young, of the example and support of both parents and from that time on was thrown solely upon his own resources. He made his home with George Wimer from the death of his father until he was twenty-two years of age; on November 20, 1844, he located in Keokuk county, where during the long winter months he went to the old log schoolhouse, and by his diligence and earnest effort acquired a good education, which was of great assistance to him in his later years. As soon as he was large enough he went to work at farming and with his accustomed zeal and ability soon became familiar with all its varied duties and responsibilities. At the age of twenty-three years he had become fully qualified to assume the maintenance and responsibilities of a home, and November 1, 1857, was united in marriage to Martha J. Chastain, who also came to this county in the early days when it was still undeveloped; she was a native of Illinois and came to Jefferson county, Iowa, in 1843, and to Keokuk county in the spring of 1844. She proved to be a helpmeet not in name alone, but in

the working out of the future of all the family. Three children were born to Mr. Bucher: Iowa Keaster; Janette, wife of Jacob Conner, a prosperous and well-known farmer of Lancaster township; and Fannie, wife of Charles Conner, likewise an able and well established farmer of the same county.

He owns three hundred and forty acres of fine farm land and also some valuable properties in Hayesville. In 1874 Mr. Bucher located on the farm, where he now lives. This he cleared and improved, putting up the houses and barns now there, and constructing fences, tilling the soil and developing the farm in every way until it has become one of the most fertile and inviting in the country. He has carried on all branches and departments of farming most successfully, and has been noted for the fine character and abundance of the stock which he has raised and sold from the farm.

He has been a life-long Democrat, at all times espousing the interests and being true to the principles of the Democratic party, to which he has rendered invaluable services as occasion gave opportunity. He was treasurer of his school district for some nine years, during which time he advocated and carried out many reforms and improvements in the schools. He is one of the oldest settlers of Lancaster township and has left the stamp of his influence and ability upon many of its institutions. He is now reaping the rewards of his early efforts and trials. He has reared his family in plenty, giving them all the advantages the country affords, and has lived to see his untilled and uncultivated farm "blossom as the rose." He has seen it constantly improving and his fortunes increasing, and it cannot but afford him great satisfaction to look back, amid the respect and admiration of all, through his long line of successes,



GEORGE RICHARDSON.

Prominent in the affairs of Lancaster township and well known to all its citizens is the firm of Richardson Brothers in Hayesville. Of the firm George Richardson is the junior partner, but active in its management and in the assumption of its varied responsibilities and innumerable duties. His history has been for many years past intimately associated with that of his brother, Joel Richardson, whose life attainments have been elsewhere recounted herein.

He was born September 19, 1848, in Steady Run township near Tickridge, and is the seventh child and fifth son in his family. When a youth of fourteen he moved to Lancaster township, where he received his education in the district schools, and at nineteen became, like his brother, a teacher in Lancaster township. He taught and studied during the long winter months for about eight years and employed his summers in farming and carpentering.

He was united in marriage on the 24th day of October, 1875, to Anna Lister, who was born in Clark county, Indiana, April 14, 1850, and was the daughter of Abram and Lucinda Randolph. Her mother was also born in the Hoosier state and her father was born in England, whence he came to America after having passed but four summers, and was reared in Indiana as a farmer, removing to Keokuk county in 1868. He located in Steady Run township and died in the year 1894. Lucinda Randolph is still living and is the mother of seven children, five sons and two daughters, of whom Anna Lister was second daughter and third child. She received a superior education in the common schools of the township.

Mr. George Richardson came to Hayesville in 1881 and opened up business as a general merchant, in which his efforts were crowned with

more than ordinary success. In 1882 President Arthur recognized his fitness for the position and appointed him postmaster, and he has continued in the same position under succeeding presidents until the present time. In 1885 he formed a partnership with his brother Joel, whom we have before referred to, and continued the business in the name of Richardson Brothers. He has been a staunch supporter of the Democratic principles and candidates, was township clerk for about two years, served as road supervisor, and in many other capacities has rendered efficient and highly acceptable services. The diversity of experience which has fallen to the lot of Mr. Richardson has been in itself an education, and coupled with the energy and ambition that have always characterized him, has given him a breadth of view and action that few possess.

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SAMUEL PARKHILL.

The subject of this sketch has resided in Keokuk county for thirty-four years and is one of its old substantial farmers, who has now retired from active life. Hugh Parkhill, his father, a native of Scotland, followed farming all his life and died there aged fifty-six years. His wife was Sarah Fitzpatrick, a native of Ireland, and died there at the age of fifty-eight. They were the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters, all reaching maturity except the youngest daughter.

Samuel Parkhill, the third child and third son, had his birth in northern Ireland, May 31, 1838; there he enjoyed the advantages of the schools until sixteen years of age. In 1853 he ventured alone on the voyage across the Atlantic and first settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where for five years he engaged in the bakery business. In 1858, removing to Johnson county, Indiana, he conducted a farm until August, 1862, and

then enlisted in Company K, One Hundredth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving until the end of the war. He was mustered out as sergeant in 1865. In this long period of service Mr. Parkhill took part in the following engagements: Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge; he was with Sherman on the march to the sea, and took part in the review at Washington at the close of the war.

At the end of his service he returned to Johnson county, Indiana, and was there married on November 15, 1865, to Louisa Young, born in that county, December 15, 1840. Her parents were Joseph and Mary (Moore) Young, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Ohio, and they were early settlers of Johnson county. The father died at the age of seventy years and the mother in her sixty-fifth year, and they had nine children, who grew to maturity, of whom Mrs. Parkhill was the seventh child; her parents came to Iowa in 1853 but returned to Indiana in 1862.

Mr. and Mrs. Parkhill moved to Jefferson county, Iowa, in 1865, where they remained until January, 1869, and then bought a farm of eighty acres in Lancaster township, Keokuk county; to this he afterward successively added eighty, eighty and one hundred and twenty-six acres, making a finely cultivated estate of three hundred and eighty-six acres, of which he still owns one hundred and sixty-six acres. He carried on his successful farming operations until 1899, when he retired from active work to Sigourney.

The family consists of four children, Laura E. having died when one year of age. Willard W. is a farmer in Lancaster township; Sarah A. Utterback resides in Sigourney; Charles D. is a farmer in Lancaster township; and Joseph Y. is also a farmer in Lancaster township. In his political views Mr. Parkhill is a staunch Republican, is a member of Robert E. Low Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and

belongs to the Christian church. While not yet an aged man, Mr. Parkhill, after a life of such varied experiences, may well rest and enjoy the competency which he has earned.

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JOEL RICHARDSON.

Joel Richardson well illustrates that type of man who, in a new country, begins his career in a log schoolhouse as pupil, then as teacher, then as a growing factor among his fellows, and in later years holds one after another of responsible offices until he becomes a recognized leader of men. Such meteoric development we are inclined to look for in fiction rather than in every day life, but in him whose record follows, it is sober truth.

He was born in McDonough county, Illinois, on the 11th day of August, 1839. His father, Anson Richardson, claims Ohio as his natal state, whence he moved to McDonough county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, going from there to the state of Iowa and locating at Steady Run in Keokuk county, finally settling in Lancaster township in the year 1862, where he still lives at the advanced age of eighty-seven years.

His mother, Lydia Weller, came with her people from Kentucky in the early days and settled in Indiana. She also lived to the ripe old age of seventy-two years, having celebrated her golden wedding in the bosom of her family and her friends, an occasion which was made a time of great rejoicing and festivity. Sixteen children were born to her, eight of whom lived to maturity.

Of these children Joel was the third and was eight years old when he came to Keokuk county and thence went to Steady Run, where upon

the rough slab benches of the old log schoolhouse he learned his early lessons and became so proficient that at the age of twenty-two years he was given the position of teacher and for eighteen years thereafter in the winter time continued his work of teaching, doing farming and carpentering in the summer time. His first marriage in 1860 in Steady Run was to Mary C. Brown, who died leaving three children, Schuyler; Julia, wife of Perry Weller of Sigourney, a prosperous photographer; and Viola, unmarried. By his second marriage in 1876 to Mary E. Hubbard he had five children. His wife was born in Lancaster, Keokuk county, Iowa, and was the daughter of William H. and Samaria (Chastain) Hubbard, who were early settlers of Keokuk county. Their children were Lucia, Ralph, Carl, Ray and Frank. In 1863 he came to Lancaster township and located on the farm where he now lives. This consists of one hundred and ninety-one acres of rich bottom land running down to Skunk river, and from the porch of his house may be had a beautiful view across his highly improved fruitful land. He does a general merchandise business together with his brother George, whose history appears in this work, and combines with this very successfully the managing of his farm.

He espouses the principles of Democracy and usually casts his vote in support of the Democratic candidates. He has risen from one position to another as the years go by, having served in many township offices; he was justice of the peace for about ten years, during which time his decisions and official acts were guided by great discretion and wisdom; was also clerk of the courts for a considerable time; and during all the fifty-seven years of his residence in Keokuk county he has been intimately identified with the growth of its institutions, and has always been esteemed as one of the most influential and competent men of the

county. He made use of every opportunity in life, and obstacles to him were but stepping stones to further achievements and development.

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HON. JOHN MORRISON.

Among the many prominent sons of pioneers in Keokuk county, Iowa, is the postmaster at Hedrick, the honorable gentleman named above, who is a native of Scotland, where he was born January 30, 1835. Noting briefly the salient points in the family history of Mr. Morrison, the father's name was John, and he was a native of the same country, and by occupation was a cotton spinner. He grew to maturity in the old country, married, and with his family in 1842 came to America and located in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. He engaged in the cotton spinning business for a period of two years, and then returned with his family to his native land. In the spring of 1848, however, he again resolved to try his fortunes in the new world, and this time tried the west, where he remained for a short time in Wisconsin. He, however, soon came east and located in Ohio, and for several years plied his trade in the city of Steubenville. In 1854 he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and located on a farm in Benton township, on which farm he lived until his death, in 1872, at the age of sixty-three years. His father before him was named John, and was a weaver by occupation. He also came to America with his family and settled in Ohio, in about the year 1846. His wife died soon after coming to America, and he started on a return soon afterward to the old country, but on the voyage he was taken sick and died. The mother of the immediate subject of this sketch was Katherine Marnoch. She also was a native of Scotland, and coming to America



*John Morrison*





with her husband died in 1873, at about the age of seventy-two. Her father was James Marnoch, who lived and died in Scotland. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison became the parents of four children, James, living in Hedrick; Robert, deceased; Mary, the deceased wife of Henry Dean; and John, the subject of this sketch.

John Morrison was a lad of seven years when the family first came to America, and on the second trip was but fourteen. He was given a very fair education in his youth, and began work quite early for himself in the cotton factory at Johnston, Scotland. He engaged in this business for the first ten years of his business life in different places in the east, and came with the family at the time stated above to Keokuk county. He had learned the timer's trade in the east, and continued to work at that trade during the first part of his life in the west at Pella, Iowa. Mr. Morrison married on Christmas day of 1856, Martha Doolittle, who was a native of the Hoosier state, and whose family had removed to that state from the old Green Mountain state of Vermont. In 1857 her people settled on a farm in Benton township. After the marriage of our subject he settled on a farm in the township near his people and had just begun to get it into proper shape when the war cloud gathered over the nation. Putting aside all other considerations, for he felt that his duty was to his country, he enlisted in the army as a private soldier and enrolled in Company K, of the Second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which organization he served for three years. He was in some of the most severe battles of the middle west, was at the surrender of Fort Donaldson, the battle of Shiloh, and in many minor engagements. Just subsequent to the battle of Shiloh he sickened of the typhoid fever and passed a period in the hospital. In 1864 he received his honorable discharge on ac-

count of expiration of term of service, and returned to the bosom of his family. He did not remain long at home, however, for he received an appointment as foreman of a government tin shop at Nashville, Tennessee, and repairing to that place he passed the last year of the war in the service of the government. Returning to Keokuk county, he followed farming until 1875, in the meantime serving as member of the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth general assembly, representing Keokuk county, the dates being 1868, 1870 and 1872. In the latter year he was appointed as a special envoy by President Grant to carry to the German and Austria-Hungarian empires a postal and trades mark treaty to each country. In 1874, after his return from the old country on this mission, Mr. Morrison was elected to the position of county auditor of Keokuk county, and removed to the county seat, Sigourney. Here he remained until 1886. In 1882 he received the appointment of postmaster at Sigourney, and he served until President Cleveland removed him for offensive partisanship in September, 1885. In 1886 he removed to Hedrick, then a new town and in partnership with J. T. Brooks and W. H. Young, he erected a flouring mill at that point, which he conducted for a period of some ten years, being also actively engaged in the buying of grain during that period. In 1896 he was elected to the legislature by the Republicans of his district, in which he served with great credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. In the following year he was appointed postmaster at Hedrick, a position which he still holds. It is unnecessary to say that Mr. Morrison is a staunch Republican, and an earnest supporter of the administration. He has been a Republican ever since the party was organized, and he is proud to state that his first vote was for John C. Fremont in 1856. Fraternally Mr. Morrison affiliates with the

Masons, and is a member of J. M. Hedrick Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, of which he is past commander. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison are the parents of a family of seven children, Jessie, the wife of John Palmer; Mary, wife of Charles Wharton; Mina, wife of J. C. Burns; Jenny, wife of Professor Samuel Byers, Ames, Iowa; John, Jr.; Ruth, a graduate of Ames College; Josiah S., also a graduate of Ames, and at present engaged with the Chicago & Northwestern railroad as a civil engineer. The son mentioned above as John Morrison, Jr., was a well-educated boy, a graduate of West Point Military Academy. At the time of the breaking out of the Spanish-American war, he was assigned to duty with Troop A, Fourth United States Cavalry, in the Philippines, where he was killed January 18, 1901, while in command of Troop A. Mr. Morrison and his family have always been prominently identified with the social life of the sterling little city of Hedrick, where they are held in the highest esteem by a large circle of friends. Mr. Morrison has a wide acquaintance in the county, and his fidelity to all duties in life's relations has gained him the regard of his fellow men to a high degree.



ELI H. CARRELL.

Eli H. Carrell, a retired citizen of Sigourney, Iowa, was born in Logan county, Ohio, August 15, 1838, and is a son of George B. and Censaline (Shirley) Carrell, both of whom were natives of Virginia. The Carrell family is of Irish origin, while the Shirley family originated in England. George B. Carrell was reared in Virginia, where his father had located when he came as a lad to America. At Charlestown Mr. Carrell married and with his wife moved to Greene county, Ohio,

about 1836, and two years later to Logan county, Ohio, where our subject was born. Mr. Carrell was a cabinet-maker and learned his trade in Charlestown. In connection with this he was also undertaker, as was the custom at that time, and he laid away the remains of fully six hundred persons in Logan county and vicinity; he following carpentering also. He was much respected as a true, honest and upright man. About 1866 he moved to Iowa and located on a farm in Washington county. His death occurred at Adell, Dallas county, Iowa, and his burial was at Mount Pleasant. His eighty years had not only silvered his hair, but had made a record for him of an exemplary life. He was one of the most active supporters of the Methodist church in his neighborhood and was always ready to promote its usefulness to the extent of his means. Formerly he was a Whig, but embraced the principles of the Republican party at a later date, and was a great admirer of John C. Fremont. He filled many offices of trust and was a justice of the peace both in Ohio and Iowa.

The mother of our subject was born at Charlestown, Virginia, and her father, William Shirley, was a soldier in the war of 1812, holding high rank. She died in her seventy-fifth year. She bore her husband six sons and three daughters: William C., who is a merchant at Charlestown, Virginia; Samuel S., who is in the oil business at Hartford City, Indiana; Edwin, who is in business at Adell, Iowa; Eli H., who is our subject; Miss Annie, who resides at Adell; Margaret, who is the wife of Milton Singmaster of Mountaingrove, Missouri; George W.; Censaline L., who is Mrs. Holpway; and James, who died at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, aged forty-one years.

Eli H. Carrell, a retired citizen of Sigourney, Iowa, was born in Maine until about nineteen years of age, receiving his education in the

common schools and assisting his father. At the age of eighteen he went as a carpenter's assistant with his brother Edwin in Logan county, and the next year accompanied him to Mercer county, Illinois, but two years later he returned to Ohio. Here he soon built up a good business in carpenter work, extending it to building and contracting, remaining so engaged until 1862. He then went back to Mercer county and remained there at work until his brother and family decided to move to Washington county, Iowa, when he accompanied them. For one year he was in the pump business, but again returned to Ohio and remained there until 1868, when he rejoined the family in Washington county, Iowa. In 1873 he came to Keokuk county, and opened a furniture and undertaking business, in which he continued at Richland for eight years, changing to dry-goods and groceries for two years, and then bought a farm in Lancaster township. Mr. Carrell operated the farm for three years and then located in Sigourney, engaging in the grocery, flour and feed business, in which he continued until December 12, 1901, at which time he sold out and retired from activity.

Mr. Carrell is regarded as a very substantial citizen of the county. For many years he was prominent in politics and very acceptably held many of the local offices. In national affairs he supports the Republican party, but in local matters he uses his own judgment. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic fraternity. In June, 1874, Mr. Carrell was united in marriage with Mary A. Swearingen, who was born in Montgomery county, Indiana, on June 3, 1854, and is a daughter of W. A. and Elizabeth (Hall) Swearingen, and three children were born to this union, namely; Dr. Oscar Vane, a dentist of Sigourney; Owen G., a teacher in the Deaf-Mute College, at Austin, Texas, being a deaf-mute himself and well ed-

uated; and Laura A. As one of the influential citizens of Sigourney Mr. Carrell is highly regarded, but he is also esteemed as a reliable, public-spirited, charitable and most useful resident by the large circle who have known him for so many years.



#### CALVIN McCAY.

Since an early epoch in the development of Keokuk county, Calvin McCay has been numbered among its citizens. To know the early life of our subject in this county, we have but to picture the conditions common here five or six decades ago. Much of the land was wild, awaiting the awakening energy of civilization to transform it into richly cultivated fields. Schools were primitive, and the curriculum limited. The now thriving towns and cities were merely hamlets, or had not been founded, and the settlers were deprived of many of the comforts and conveniences of the older east; but they were people of resolute thrift and with determined purpose well fitted to the work of making homes in the wilderness. Calvin McCay bore his part in the task of breaking up and developing the wild land, and now in the evening of life is enjoying the results of his well directed labors. Washington county, Pennsylvania, was the place of the nativity of Mr. McCay, his birth occurring there November 26, 1830. His father, James McCay, was a native of the Keystone state, and was by occupation a farmer. His mother was Sarah Stoolfire, also a native of the Keystone state. They were the parents of twelve children, all of whom grew to maturity, and ten of whom still live: William, Calvin, Charles, Matilda, Susana, Phoebe, Catherine, Elizabeth, Mary, Samuel, Joshua, and Thomas.

Mr. McCay, on account of the large family at home, was early in

life bound out to a Mr. David McKune and remained with him until he reached his majority, engaged in the labors of farm life. During this time Mr. McCay was treated as an own child by Mr. and Mrs. McKune. They gave him the best education that could be secured in his district. At the age of twenty-one he started out for himself with nothing of capital but good health, an earnest and determined spirit. He first worked by the month for different farmers about the neighborhood and in 1853, with his mother and two sisters, came out to Edgar county, Illinois, where they remained a short time. They later were joined by his brother, Charles, and the family settled in Shelby county, Illinois, where they lived for three years. Mr. McCay was married in Macon county, Illinois, on the 4th of July, 1858, to Cynthia J. Wells, and after marriage came to Keokuk county, where he located in German township, near where he now resides. Here he purchased a farm of forty acres, and has since that time been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in this part of the county. In 1870 he bought his present farm, on which he has since lived. Here he has one of the finest rural homes in the county, and has the satisfaction of knowing that he made all the improvements himself. Mr. McCay has had a more or less eventful life, devoted to activity in different branches in his earlier history. In 1863 he made a trip across the plains, visiting Salt Lake City, and later going on to Virginia City. This trip consumed about a year and he returned by the water route.

The lady who became the wife of Mr. McCay was born near Danville, Illinois, July 19, 1836. She was the daughter of Bazzell E. and Katherine (Jones) Wells, father a native of Ohio, and mother of Kentucky. They became the parents of eleven children, six of whom grew to maturity. This lady has borne to Mr. McCay the following family:

Arnold, David, Alice, Gertrude, Granville, Emma, and Lindlay. All the children save Alice were born in Keokuk county, and she was born in Macon county, Illinois. In political faith Mr. McCay adheres to the principles of the Democracy and has been honored frequently by being chosen to some of the minor offices of the township, having served a period as trustee. He is proud to claim that he is a self-made man in the highest acceptance of that term, and he is certainly deserving of that appellation, for he has secured his competence by his own exertions. He and his family are held in the highest repute by an extensive circle of friends in Keokuk county.



#### AUGUST POLKE.

August Polke, a prominent farmer and representative citizen of Van Buren township, Keokuk county, Iowa, was born in Germany, December 26, 1823, and is a son of Matthew and Flora (Kornanski) Polke, both of whom were natives of Germany, and lived and died in their own land. They were the parents of three children, namely: August, Albert and Ferdinand, the last of whom is deceased; all were born and reared in Germany.

August came to America on 1857, accompanied by his younger brother; he was then about thirty-four years of age and for ten years thereafter worked on farms in the state of Illinois. In 1867 he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and obtained one hundred and fifty acres of raw land, and immediately, with energy and perseverance, started upon its clearing and cultivation. This was but the beginning, for now Mr. Polke owns four hundred and twenty-four acres of fine land and is one of the most substantial men in the township. He has engaged in gen-



eral farming and has been particularly successful in the raising of stock, hogs, sheep and cattle.

In 1853 Mr. Polke was married in Germany to Henrietta Nickel, a native of Germany, who was reared there, and a family of ten children has been born to our subject and estimable wife, as follows: Helmont; Adeline, deceased; Henrietta deceased; Augusta; Albertine; Rudolph; Hannah; Edward; Richard; Rosa Paline. Mr. Polke and family belong to the Lutheran church in Sigourney, to the building of which he was a generous contributor. The family is one which is held in high esteem in Van Buren township and our subject is one of the leading citizens.



#### FRED SCHWENKE.

Fred Schwenke, who resides on one of the well improved and fertile farms in section 6, German township, Keokuk county, Iowa, is one of the leading German-American farmers of this section, who since 1851 has been a resident of the United States. The birth of Mr. Schwenke took place in Hanover, Germany, April 1, 1827, and he remained in his native place until he was twenty-five years of age. Until he was fourteen years old he went to school and then began work as an apprentice to the tailor's trade; he completed the term of his apprenticeship in three years and then worked as a journeyman until he came to America in 1851. His parents died when he was about four years of age and he was reared by his father's sister. He landed in this country at the port of New Orleans and there for nine months he was employed at his trade. Times becoming dull in that locality, our subject decided to make his way to Keokuk county, Iowa, tales of the rich farm land in this section having reached him. Hence he started up the Mississippi river, reaching Bur-

lington, and later came by team to Sigourney. While working through the succeeding three years at his trade in Lancaster, he sought out a valuable tract of land, entered it from the government and founded his home.

The first marriage of Mr. Schwenke was to Caroline Oldenburg, and one son, Henry, still survives from this union. After the death of his first wife, our subject married Anna Mary Luers, who was born in Hanover, Germany, March 28, 1840. She came to America in 1861 and to Keokuk county in the same year. A family of nine children was born to this union, as follows: David, still unmarried, who operates the farm; Herman D., who is a druggist in Sigourney; Caroline, who married Ferdinand Bulnemann, lives in German township; Mary C., who married Fred L. Strohmann, lives near Delta; Fred G., who conducts a grocery business at Sigourney; Miss Martha M. resides at home; John follows the trade of carpenter; Dora M., who married Charles M. Goeldner, lives on a farm in German township; and George H. W., who is a teacher, lives at home.

Mr. Schwenke is one of the pioneers of Keokuk county, and during his fifty years of residence has gained the esteem of all who know him. He owns one of the well improved and valuable farms of German township, comprising one hundred and twenty-seven acres, and his buildings and farm surroundings testify to the excellence of his methods of agriculture, as well as his thrift and good management. In politics he is a Republican, and has served very acceptably as school director. His religious membership is with the Evangelical church and in its founding and progress he has had much to do. His influence has always been in the direction of improvement and no worthy enterprise in the township finds him indifferent. He has been an important factor in the develop-

ment of his part of the county and is ranked among its representative men.



FREDERICK MEYER.

One of the most highly esteemed and prominent old settlers of German township, Keokuk county, Iowa, who resides upon a fine, well improved farm in section 9, is Frederick Meyer, who came here in 1854. The birth of Frederick Meyer was on January 3, 1853, in Hanover, Germany, and his father, John Meyer, was born in the same place, and there married Margaret Muller. In 1854 John Meyer and family came to America and settled in Keokuk county, Iowa, where he bought eighty acres of land which was still raw prairie; with great industry he cleared this and placed it under cultivation. This first eighty acres had been purchased of the government and he paid one and one-quarter dollars an acre for it. His second purchase cost him more, but he kept on adding until at one time he owned three hundred and twenty acres. He was a leading member of the Evangelical church and very materially assisted in the building of what is the leading house of worship for that religious body in this township. His death occurred when he was about sixty-eight years of age. His widow still survives, at the age of seventy-two years. They reared all of their seven children, six sons and one daughter. These are as follows: Frederick, the subject of this sketch; William, a resident of Nebraska; Kate, the wife of Charles McKue, of Colorado; John, a resident of Nebraska; Louis, a general farmer on the old homestead; George, a druggist in Hancock county, Iowa; and Henry, also a druggist there.

Frederick Meyer, of this sketch, was about one and one-half years

old when his parents brought him to German township. Here he was reared and attended school, assisting in the farm work, driving oxen, plowing and breaking up the prairie land. After he was twenty-one years old he worked for a neighboring farmer for one year, and in June, 1879, was married to Miss Mary Cassens, who was born in Hanover, Germany, on November 13, 1847. She came to America with her parents when about five years of age and was reared in German township. Her first marriage was to Ernest Fauth, and five children were born to this union, namely: Henry, John, Charles, Anna and Matilda. The children born to our subject and wife are the following: William, Gustaf, Mary, Louisa and Emma.

In addition to being an extensive farmer, Mr. Meyer is a large stock raiser and owns eight hundred acres of land. He has taken a prominent part in politics and has held various offices, being township trustee for three years. He is fraternally connected with the order of Modern Brotherhood of America and belongs to and liberally contributes to the support of the Evangelical church. He is one of the responsible, substantial and representative citizens of German township.



#### HENRY FREDERICK DUENSING.

Henry Frederick Duensing, a prominent farmer and old settler of German township, Keokuk county, Iowa, owning a fine farm in section 6, was born in Hanover, Germany, March 14, 1844, and is a son of Christian and Dorothe (Völtmer) Duensing, both of whom were natives of Germany. Prior to coming to America in 1845 Christian Duensing was a farmer and oil mill operator in his native land. He landed

in New Orleans, where he spent six months, and then came up the river as far as St. Louis, Missouri, but three weeks later came on to Keokuk county, Iowa, and settled in German township, in May, 1846. Here he took up one hundred and eighty acres of government land, built a log house on it and moved his family there. This log cabin has a historic interest, as it was the second house erected in German township and still stands on the farm which our subject now owns. There the family lived until the father later built a second log house, as the family was increased by the birth of three more children, consisting then of three sons and three daughters. The father died in 1879, in his sixty-ninth year. The mother lived until she was seventy-six years of age. Both parents were most worthy, industrious and kind-hearted people, who were esteemed by all who knew them; they were pioneers who were of great value to German township. Of their children three daughters and one son, our subject, grew to maturity.

Henry Frederick Duensing was the fourth child and the second son born to his parents, and was two years and two months old when his father came to Keokuk county, making him one of the old residents. His education was obtained in the log schoolhouse with its puncheon floor, and the writing lesson was given to the pupils as they rested on their knees and made desks out of their slab seats. He also attended a German school for a time and thus acquired an excellent knowledge of all the necessary branches. He began to assist on the farm as soon as he was old enough and has always been interested in agricultural matters.

On December 27, 1867, Mr. Duensing was united in marriage with Adeline Bruns, who was also born in Germany, March 6, 1851, and came to America when not quite seventeen years of age and joined

her sister in Keokuk county, Iowa. After marriage they settled on the old homestead, which is a fine farm of three hundred and forty acres, and in addition to this he owns another valuable tract, comprising one hundred and fifty acres, in Lancaster township. Not only has he been a very successful farmer, but he is one of the largest stock raisers in the township, making a specialty of sheep and cattle raising. His farms are generally acknowledged to be the finest in Keokuk county. During his fifty-six years' residence in German township he has seen many changes, and can recall the time when there were but three houses in Sigourney, which is now a thrifty town of about two thousand population.

The twelve children born to our subject and wife were as follows: Christian, deceased; Anna, the wife of John Seger, of Idaho; Mary, the wife of Henry Speiss, of Keokuk county; Henry Ferdinand, married Kate Reck, of Keokuk county; Dorethe W., the wife of Arthur Goeldner, of German township; Katherine E., single, at home; as are also John C. G., Fred D., Hannah W., Adeline M., Sophia L., and Arthur L. Mr. Duensing has been a life-long Democrat and has held many of the local offices in the township, being one of its most honest and upright citizens. He has long been a member and a very liberal supporter of the Evangelical church, of which the family also are members.



#### JAMES ALLEN RENTFRO.

James Allen Rentfro, a successful farmer and representative citizen of Keokuk county, Iowa, was born in Illinois, near Springfield, on January 10, 1834. His parents were John S. and Telitha (Hollenbeck) Rentfro, the former of whom was born March 1, 1806, in Kentucky

and was taken when young to Illinois by his grandfather, by whom he was reared to manhood. John S. grew up a farmer, and with his neighbors took part in the Black Hawk war. He married Telitha Hollenbeck, who was born in Kentucky in 1810, a daughter of Abraham Hollenbeck, who moved to Illinois and there reared his children. This family was of Dutch descent. In 1849 Mr. Rentfro moved to Keokuk county, Iowa, and lived in Steady Run township for six years, removing then for a short time to Sigourney, and about 1882 located on the farm of two hundred acres in Van Buren township, which is now the property of our subject. Mr. Rentfro was a hard-working, industrious man and made valuable improvements wherever he located. In political sentiment he was a Republican. A family of twelve children was born to him and wife, as follows: Mary, Elizabeth, James Allen, William, Nancy, Joseph, Rebecca, Margaret, John, Perry, Robert and Martha; Mary, Nancy, Perry and Robert being deceased.

Our subject was reared until his fifteenth year in Illinois and then accompanied his father to Iowa. Here he assisted on the farm until the outbreak of the Civil war, when with loyalty he offered his services to the government, enlisting in July, 1861, in the Fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel Worthington, and serving faithfully for three years. Mr. Rentfro took part in the siege of Vicksburg and was wounded at Iuka, Mississippi, on September 19, 1862, so seriously that he was kept for four months in a hospital and was then transferred to the veteran reserves. He was mustered out at St. Louis, Missouri, on July 4, 1864, with a fine record. After his return from the army our subject resumed farming and after his father's death purchased the old home farm, which he has continued to successfully operate ever since.

The first marriage of Mr. Renfro was to Lovinia McMillian, and two children were born to this union, both of whom died in infancy. His second marriage was to Arilla D. Curtis, who was born in November, 1851, in Ohio, and is a daughter of Benjamin F. and Amanda Curtis, both of whom were born in Ohio and became early settlers in Iowa. To this marriage a family of eight children has been born, all of whom survive except the eldest, John S. The others are: Clarence C., Bessie L., Harley A., Charles C., Earl, Clarkson, and Benita A., all of whom were born and have been reared and educated in this county. The eldest son is a minister in the Advent church, to which religious body the family belongs. Our subject is assistant in the Sunday school and an honored deacon in the church. In politics he is a Republican and takes a somewhat active part in its local organizations. Mr. Renfro is a hero of the Civil war, a hard-working, honest and upright man who enjoys, as he deserves, the respect of the community in which he lives.

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#### LEONARD CLARY.

Leonard Clary, who during life was a prominent farmer and representative citizen of Van Buren township, Keokuk county, Iowa, was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, July 14, 1827, and died March 21, 1893. His parents were George and Frances (Seibold) Clary, the former of whom was born in Maryland and went to Kentucky when he was very young, his parents moving to that state. When he attained maturity he was married to Frances Seibold and they reared five children, two boys and three girls; of these our late subject was the oldest, two of the family being now deceased.

When Leonard Clary, of this sketch, was four years of age his



parents moved to Indiana, where they resided for nine years, moving then to Keokuk county, Iowa, and settling in Van Buren township. In the eastern part of the township Mr. Clary entered six hundred and forty acres of land, providing a farm for each of his children in this way. Each settled on his own land and undertook the clearing of it. In 1858 Leonard Clary moved to Missouri and there engaged in farming until 1861, when he came back to Van Buren township and settled on a farm which he operated here for ten years, moving then to Union county, but in 1877 located on the farm now occupied by his family, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres.

In December, 1849, Leonard Clary was united in marriage with Emily Asberry, who was born March 21, 1833, in Indiana, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Mary H. (Porter) Asberry, both of whom were natives of the south, the former of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky. While still quite a young man, Mr. Asberry settled in Kentucky, where he married, and then moved to Indiana, where he followed his trade of blacksmith. In the fall of 1850 he removed to Monroe county, Iowa, and engaged there in farming for about twenty-two years, going then to Ringgold county, Iowa, where he died at the age of ninety-six years. During the Civil war he served during 1863 in what was called the Iowa Gray Beards regiment, coming home then on account of disability. The mother of Mrs. Clary, Mary H. Porter, belonged to an old Kentucky family of prominence. These parents had a family of five boys and two girls, of which family Mrs. Clary was the second child. The names are noted as follows: Samuel, deceased; Emily; Joseph, deceased; Thomas; William; Mary Ann, and Benjamin; all of whom were born in Indiana, and in that state Mrs. Clary was reared and educated. To her marriage with Mr. Clary were

born eight children, namely: Henry, W. W., Maylon, Thomas, Mary E., Amos, and Ida M., all born in Keokuk county, and one died in infancy.

During life Mr. Clary was a most respected member of society. He took a great interest in all matters concerning his family and township and never spared time or expense to advance their interests. In politics he was a Democrat and filled the office of assessor with credit to himself and the public. He had many warm friends and was known for his honesty and integrity.

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MADISON PARK ELDRIDGE.

In the death of this man, March 16, 1897, the township of Lancaster lost one of its old and influential citizens and a most successful agriculturist. Coming here in the early days, and never shirking responsibility, he assisted in the molding and development of local institutions, and at the same time so conducted his own affairs as to win for himself and family a very solid prosperity.

Mr. Eldridge was born in Cayuga county, New York, August 27, 1815, and was of a family well known and highly respected in that vicinity. His father, Richard Eldridge, was also born in New York, and there for the most part made his home. He was a patriotic citizen, and when the war of 1812 broke out enlisted and served as a private. He married Tacy Parker, and after her death he formed a second union. By the first marriage there were eight children, of whom Madison Park was the second. Mrs. Eldridge was of Welsh descent.

Madison Park Eldridge remained under the sheltering influence of a good home until he was nineteen years old, and in the common

schools of his neighborhood procured a thorough rudimentary education. Upon leaving home he went to the growing state of Ohio, where, making his home with an uncle, he hired out by the month as a farm hand. By attending strictly to his business he made good wages, and continued the work for some time. He later traveled extensively though the south, and finally coming to Stephenson county, Illinois, settled upon a farm, where he remained for some years. Previous experience as a farm hand had made him familiar with the different methods of agriculture, and possessing the wisdom to apply the best to his own farm management he was enabled to earn more than a comfortable living for himself and family. He continued his work here with only one interruption until 1864. The break in his regular routine was caused by the Civil war. Though past the prime of life when this occurred, he did not hesitate to offer his services, and in 1862 enlisted in Company H, Ninety-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front as a private. After a year, however, on account of being disabled, he was honorably discharged. Soon after returning to his home he disposed of his Illinois farm and moved to Keokuk county, Iowa, settling upon the farm where his wife still resides. Here from year to year he made new improvements and cleared new tracts and he continued his labors here for thirty-four years. The place now embraces three hundred and twenty-three acres of good land, largely under cultivation, and is one of the most productive farms in the section, being a part of the bottom lands. In 1849, while still residing in Stephenson county, Illinois, Mr. Eldridge married Sophia Gaylord, who was born in Perrysburgh, Cataraugus county, New York, January 24, 1827, and who at the age of twelve years moved with her parents to Stephenson county, Illinois, where in one of the rude log schoolhouses she procured her

education. She is now residing on the splendid farm in Lancaster township, which was left her by her husband. To Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge have been born the following children: Barber, who died young; Lucretia, who married F. D. Hicks, a farmer of Lancaster township, and they have two children, Zoe and Ruby; Lucy married Oliver Glass, and they have four children, Lottie, Mamie, Minnie and Max; Dan, residing in Arkansas; Jessie, deceased; Minnie, now deceased; Ettie, who married J. E. Flanigan, and they have four children, Lola, Ruth, Paul and Eugene.

Mr. Eldridge possessed to a marked degree the sound judgment, the physical vitality and the ability to keep before him one clear, steadfast purpose, which go into the make-up of a successful agriculturist. Yet while succeeding in business, he never neglected his social and public obligations. As a Civil war veteran he was long prominent in the Grand Army of the Republic. He was known all over the county, and everywhere highly esteemed.

The Gaylord family to which Mrs. Eldridge belonged was from Connecticut. Both her grandfather, Amos Gaylord, and her father, Hiram Gaylord, were natives of that state, the latter being born in Hartford. The grandfather moved to Illinois with his son and died there. The father was reared in Connecticut, but when a young man left the state and settled upon a farm in New York, where he engaged in agriculture successfully for some years. In 1839 he moved to Illinois and settled upon a farm in Stephenson county, where he spent the rest of his life, dying there at the age of sixty-five. After coming to New York Mr. Gaylord married Lucinda Chapin, who was born in Brattleboro, Vermont, and when nine years old came with her parents, Daniel and Lucy Chapin, to Oneida county, New York. Her parents were





*John Armeas*

both born in Vermont, but were of Welsh and Irish descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord were born eight children, three sons and five daughters. One child died in infancy. Mrs. Eldridge was next to the youngest.



JOHN AXMEAR, SR.

It is astonishing to witness the success of young men who have emigrated to America without capital and through their own unaided efforts have arisen to positions of wealth and prominence. The readiness with which they adapt themselves to circumstances and take advantage of the opportunities offered brings to them success and wins them a place among the leading men of the community in which they reside. To this class belongs John Axmear, Sr., a prosperous citizen and retired farmer now living in the village of Keswick, Iowa.

He was born in Amsterdam, Holland, on the 30th of November, 1822, and was reared and educated in his native land, attending school until sixteen years of age and acquiring a good knowledge of the common branches of learning. He then clerked in a store for two years, and at the end of that time entered the army, in which he served for four years. On leaving the service he resumed clerking and was thus employed for five years. In the meantime he was married, the lady of his choice being Duty Deline, by whom he had five children, four sons and one daughter, namely: John, Emily, Jacob C., William and George W. The mother of these children died in 1860, and for his second wife Mr. Axmear married in 1861 Julia Ann Martin, a native of Bavaria, Germany, and by this union he has one daughter, Malissa, wife of T. A. Morgan, of Webster, Iowa.

It was in 1850 that Mr. Axmear emigrated to the new world and

took up his residence in Baltimore, Maryland, but after a short time spent in that city he removed to Cumberland, the same state. In the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad he was later sent to Virginia, where he held the position of boss of a gang of seventy-five Irish laborers, who were employed in laying the first track at Oakland, Maryland. For thirteen years he remained in the service of that company, during which time he had charge of the workmen laying the track from Oakland, Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia.

Seeking a home in the west, Mr. Axmear came to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1863, and bought a farm of one hundred and four acres of land in Adams township, which he at once began to improve and cultivate. Meeting with success as an agriculturist, he has added to his property from time to time as his financial resources have increased, until to-day he and his sons together own about two thousand acres of valuable land, most of which is in Adams township, this county, though three hundred and twenty acres are in Minnesota. Mr. Axmear continued his farming operations until 1890, when he removed to Keswick and retired from active labor. His property in town consists of thirteen acres, it being one of the finest places in Keokuk county, as the grounds are laid off into a beautiful lawn, which show the skill of an expert landscape gardener. Here, surrounded by all the comforts which make life worth the living, Mr. Axmear expects to spend his remaining days, enjoying a well-earned rest. He deserves to be classed among the purely self-made men who owe their advancement entirely to their own well-directed efforts. Industry, enterprise and good management have been the means whereby he has achieved his success, and his course in life has ever been such as to win for him the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. In his political affiliations Mr.



Axmeear is a staunch Republican, who has ever taken a commendable interest in the affairs of his adopted country.



### JOHN AXMEEAR, JR.

This well-known and prominent agriculturist, residing on section 3, Adams township, has shown in his successful career that he has the ability to plan wisely and execute with energy, a combination which, when possessed by men in any walk of life, never fails to effect notable results, and Mr. Axmeear is to-day one of the most prosperous citizens of his community. He was born in Cumberland, Maryland, October 3, 1850, and is the oldest son of John Axmeear, Sr., whose sketch appears above. During his boyhood the family made their home in West Virginia and in the subscription schools of that state he acquired his primary education. He was twelve years of age on the removal to Iowa, and he was later a student in the district schools of Adams township, this county, and the high school of Sigourney. When out of school he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm.

In 1882 Mr. Axmeear was united in marriage to Miss Cordelia Wyant, who was born and reared in White Pigeon, this county, and they have become the parents of five children who are still living, namely: Jennie, Etta, Katie, Clara and John. There was also one child that died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Axmeear began their domestic life upon the farm in Adams township, where they still reside. In connection with his farming operations, our subject engaged in teaching school for twenty-two terms, two of these being in the village school of South English, and the remainder in the district schools of this county. He taught his last school in the winter of 1882-3. During his vacations

and out of school hours he engaged in feeding cattle, chopping wood and working at various occupations whereby he might increase his income. Since 1882, however, he has given his undivided attention to general farming and stock raising and has met with most gratifying success in his labors. He is to-day the owner of a very valuable and highly productive farm of six hundred and sixty-nine acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation, transforming it into a model farm with the best of improvements. In 1893 he erected an elegant ten-room house and the other buildings upon the place are in keeping therewith. In addition to the raising of crops best adapted to the soil and climate, he gives considerable attention to the raising of stock, making a specialty of polled Angus or Aberdeen cattle, having a fine herd of about one hundred and twenty-five. Mr. Axmear is also a stockholder, director and president of the Farmers' Savings Bank of North English, which was organized October 1, 1897, and has a capital stock of ten thousand dollars. He was one of its organizers, and it owes its success largely to his capable management and good business ability.

In his political affiliations Mr. Axmear is a staunch Republican, and he has taken quite an active part in local affairs, serving as assessor of Adams township and president and secretary of the school board. Fraternally he is an honored member of the Masonic lodge at Sigourney. In business affairs he is prompt, energetic and notably reliable and generally carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.



#### J. C. AXMEAR.

J. C. Axmear, one of the representative citizens and successful farmers and stock raisers of Adams township, whose home is on section

1, first opened his eyes to the light of day in Preston county, West Virginia, September 6, 1854. He is the second son of John Axmear, Sr., whose sketch appears above. From the age of nine years our subject has made his home in this county, and is indebted to its public school system for his early educational privileges. Under the able direction of his father he acquired an excellent knowledge of all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and he continued to assist in the operation of the home farm until his marriage.

That important event in his life occurred December 4, 1879, Miss Rosa Brakel becoming his wife. She is a native of Johnson county, Iowa, and was there reared and educated. Seven sons bless this union, who in order of birth are as follows: Arthur, who is a graduate of the Keswick high school and now has charge of his father's farm in Wilkin county, Minnesota; William, who is also a graduate of the Keswick high school and is now at home; Fred and George, twins; Sidney, Bruce and Cecil, all at home.

Since leaving the parental roof Mr. Axmear has always resided upon his present farm on section 1, Adams township, and in its operation he has met with excellent success. He has erected thereon a good residence, barns and other outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, and to-day he has one of the best improved farms of the locality. It comprises four hundred and thirty-nine acres, and besides this valuable tract Mr. Axmear owns a half-section of land in Wilkin county, Minnesota, and business property in North English, Iowa. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Savings Bank of that place and is recognized as one of the leading business men of his community. He is actively interested in raising, feeding and shipping stock and at the present writing, in 1902, has a herd of one hundred and thirty cattle upon his place. This

branch of his business has added very materially to his income, and he is one of the most substantial men of his community, as well as one of its most honored and highly esteemed citizens. The Republican party has always found in him a staunch supporter of its principles, and he takes a commendable interest in public affairs.

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GEORGE W. AXMEAR.

The subject of this personal narrative is one of the most successful and progressive farmers within the borders of Adams township, where almost his entire life has been passed. He is a native of West Virginia, however, born on the 17th of April, 1858, and is the youngest son and fifth child in the family of John Axmear, Sr., who is represented above in this work. George W. Axmear was only four years old when the family took up their residence in Keokuk county, and with its development and upbuilding they have since been prominently identified.

Our subject passed the days of his boyhood and youth upon the old homestead in Adams township and is indebted to the district schools of the neighborhood for his educational advantages. He labored in field and meadow, assisting in the operation of the farm for five years after his marriage, which important event in his life was celebrated in 1885 in Adams township. The lady of his choice was Miss Rosa Lane, who was born in Wisconsin in 1866 and was very young when brought to Iowa by her parents, Hiram and Jane (Bennett) Lane, early settlers of Keokuk county, where Mrs. Axmear was reared, remaining under the parental roof until her marriage. Her father, who was a farmer by occupation, died in Woodbury county, Iowa, in 1897. Unto our subject and his wife have been born six children, one son and five daughters,

namely: Lulu, Gale, Pearl, L. V., Bertha and Neva, all born and reared on the old homestead.

As previously stated, Mr. Axmear continued to engage in farming upon the old home place with his father and brothers for five years after his marriage, and in 1890 began farming alone upon four hundred and twenty-eight acres of the old homestead, a part of which he cleared, and he made a number of improvements thereon. He continued to reside upon that place until 1901, when he removed to his present home on a separate farm of one hundred and twelve acres of land, it being a rich and valuable tract under a high state of cultivation. Here he has built a nice home and good barns and other outbuildings, which stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. In fact, he has made all of the improvements on the place, which ranks among the best farms of the neighborhood. In connection with general farming he also carries on stock raising with good success. He is a stockholder of the Farmers Savings Bank of North English and is one of the most reliable business men of his community. Both Mr. and Mrs. Axmear are members of the Methodist Protestant church of Adams township, and since attaining his majority he has always affiliated with the Republican party, taking quite an active interest in public affairs, as every true American citizen should.



#### HENRY FOLLMAN.

Henry Follman, a well-to-do farmer and old settler of Lancaster township, in this county, is a born worker and a man of remarkable push and energy. Losing his father at an early age in a foreign land, he came to this country when quite young, and not only took a hand at

earning his own living but also assisted in the maintenance of his mother and sisters. Deciding to follow farming and shunning no hardship, he bravely pushed west and in this way came into possession of some of the best land our country had to offer. Mr. Follman was born in Germany, July 7, 1830, and is the son of Frederick and Frances Follman, both natives of Germany. The elder Mr. Follman was reared and educated in Germany, and there married and made his home. To him and his wife were born in that country four children—Frederick, Henry, Lucilla and Louisa. Mr. Follman died in his native land. After the death of the father the family came to this country and settled in Illinois, where Mrs. Follman spent her last days.

Henry Follman was but twelve years old when he came to this country. In spite of his youth, however, he took up the active duties of life like a man, hired out at anything he could turn his hand to, and in this way purchased a farm, where he with his mother and her other children resided for many years. As the land was new and mostly unbroken, with determination he set to work and assisted in clearing it, and made it in time the equal of any in the vicinity. In 1856 he and his brother left their mother and sisters in possession of the farm they had worked so hard to earn, and in an emigrant train started to the newly settled state of Iowa, there to make their own fortunes. After some looking about Mr. Follman settled upon a fifty-acre tract in Lancaster township, a little west of his present farm, now known as the Barlow place. Here he remained eight years clearing and cultivating the land and making many improvements upon it. In 1877 he purchased his present farm, a splendid one hundred and seventy-five acre tract, which, however, needed considerable clearing and breaking. This work experience had enabled him only too well to do, and in time he had one

of the best farms in his vicinity. By observation and the exercise of good judgment he has acquired the knack of making his place yield large and excellent crops, and he is looked upon as a man who thoroughly understands his work.

In 1864 Mr. Follman married Esta Maxwell, who was born in Indiana, and who when rather young came with her parents, J. W. and Mariah Maxwell, to this county, where they afterward resided. Mr. and Mrs. Follman have had eight children, all of whom have been born and reared in Lancaster township: William H., Frederick E., John A., Lucy, Fulton, Stella, Elsie and Minnie. As one of the highly respected old settlers of the township, Mr. Follman has always had his say in the management of local affairs. He is exceedingly popular and has filled with marked ability several offices in the township. In politics he affiliates with the Democrats.

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EUGENE DOGGETT.

One of the prominent farmers in Keokuk county, Iowa, resides on section 27, Lancaster township, and was born on the farm which he now owns and operates on December 8, 1856. He is a son of A. J. and Mary (Gilliland) Doggett, who for many years were most highly respected residents of this county. Early in the settlement of Keokuk county, when no more than nine families had yet dared the certain privations of pioneer life in what was then a wilderness, Presley Doggett came from his Kentucky home and located a small claim on a tract adjoining our subject's present farm. Here he built his cabin and cleared his fields, rearing a family and offering a welcome to the faithful preacher who made his circuit through the woods on his mis-

sion, for Mr. Doggett was one of the founders of the Baptist church in this locality. His life did not extend over fifty-seven years. The father of our subject, son of this early pioneer, was sixteen years old when he came to Keokuk county, and he later located on our subject's present farm, where he engaged in extensive stock raising, buying and selling the same also, and shipping more than almost any other resident of the township at that time. He died at the age of seventy years to the day. In politics a strong Democrat, he was equally staunch in his adherence to the tenets of the Baptist church.


The mother of our subject was born in Indiana and was reared there until the age of fifteen years, when she accompanied her parents to Keokuk county, Iowa. She is a daughter of James and Susan Gilliland, both of whom were natives of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Doggett had born to them a family of twelve children, eight daughters and four sons, of these, six daughters and our subject alone survive.

Eugene Doggett received his education in the common schools of Lancaster township and grew to manhood, assisting on the farm and gradually becoming financially interested in the handling and shipping of horses. He now owns a large and productive farm, comprising four hundred and sixty acres of well cultivated land, and is justly regarded as one of the leading men of substance in this locality. He carries on a general line of farming, does some stock raising and rents a portion of his land.

On January 26, 1889, Mr. Doggett was married to Phronia Myers, who was born in Keokuk county, Iowa, and was a daughter of Asa and Rachel Myers, a family of early settlers. Mrs. Doggett died May 9, 1898, leaving a family of three children, namely: Myrtle, Bruce and Blanche. The second marriage of our subject was to Mary Jackson,



who was born in Jackson township, Keokuk county, and to this union have been born two sons, Howard and Homer. Mr. Doggett has spent his whole life in Lancaster township and is widely known as a man of reliability and uprightness. He has been a life-long Democrat, but he has never sought office, his large agricultural interests engaging his time and attention.



### LOUIS FOLLMAN.

Louis Follman, a prominent farmer of Lancaster township, Keokuk county, Iowa, was born February 26, 1858, and is a son of Frederick and Frances (Lefler) Follman, both of whom were natives of Germany. Frederick Follman was but a small boy when his mother brought him to America and settled for a short time in Missouri. The mother later took him to Illinois, where he grew up, working on various farms, and later came to Iowa. He settled on a farm in the western part of Lancaster township, only renting the land, as he was a skilled stonemason and soon found plenty of employment in his line. Finding conditions favorable, Mr. Follman later bought a small farm of forty acres, selling it, however, in 1878. He is now engaged in business as a book agent at Martinsburg. He is a Democrat in politics and has at various times very efficiently filled a number of the local offices. His marriage took place in Illinois to Frances Lefler, who also came to America from Germany when quite young, accompanying her parents. Four children were born to this union, namely: Louis, our subject; Frank J.; Louisa; and Adeline, deceased. All of these children were born and reared in Lancaster township.

Our subject, Louis Follman, acquired an excellent common school

education and remained with his father until twenty-one years of age. He then joined a government survey expedition and went to California, where he remained for five years, coming back to the old home in 1884. Mr. Follman then engaged in farming on the farm he now owns, comprising eighty acres, about one-half of which he cleared himself and on which he has made the excellent improvements. In the spring of 1884 he was married to Cynthia Childs, who was born in Van Buren township in 1864 and was about twelve years old when her parents moved to Lancaster township. Her father, Aaron Childs, was born April 28, 1826, in the state of New York, where he lived until his marriage to Fatima Marsh, who was also born and reared in New York. Some time in the forties they came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and here Mr. Childs died in December, 1896. A family of six children was born to Mr. and Mrs. Childs, namely: Florence, Alvin M. and Florence C., deceased; O. W.; Cynthia; and Myrtle E. The three survivors were born in this county. The children born to our subject and wife are the following: Patti, Fatima, Floy, Ruth and Jean, all of whom were born on the old homestead.

Mr. Follman now owns a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which is productive and very valuable. In politics he is a Democrat and has very efficiently served the township in many positions, and is now its capable clerk. He has been connected with the order of Odd Fellows in Sigourney for many years and is a liberal contributor to the support of the Methodist church, of which his family are members.

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EDWARD SCHILTZ.

There is probably no more enterprising citizen in the township of Lancaster than this prominent young agriculturist residing on his care-

fully cultivated and attractive farm in section 29. Besides managing his own affairs with the wisdom and science that would do credit to a man of twice his years, he takes a leading hand in all public doings and is one of the most prominent lodge men in the vicinity. His high intellectual endowments and energy and push, which have thus brought him to the front, he has undoubtedly inherited from his good German ancestors.

His grandfather, John Schiltz, possessed to a remarkable degree these same traits, added to a dauntless courage, which made him bold to undertake what to other men would seem the impossible. He was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1821. Desiring when a youth of nineteen to seek his fortune in America, though possessed of scarcely money enough to pay his passage, he bravely ventured forth and upon landing in New York had but twenty-five cents in his pocket. Undismayed, however, he wisely set to work and soon found what was equivalent to money to him, a good position in a flouring mill, whose owners, two brothers, also possessed a large elevator. Here he remained for a considerable time, acquiring a knowledge of milling of great value to him in later years. After a few years, however, he left New York and went west, locating at Peru, Illinois. Here he purchased a mill and engaged in business for himself for awhile. Though successful, he finally sold out and came to the new territory of Iowa, settling first in the vicinity of Solon. Purchasing a water-power mill near by, he conducted an extensive manufacturing industry for a short time, which proved highly profitable. Seeing, however, a better opening for his business at Riverside, he soon disposed of his Solon property and moved there, purchasing at the same time another large mill. This he managed with more than his usual good fortune, and kept it in

operation for many years. Later, in 1857, while residing in this same place, in company with a Mr. Steavenson, he built what has been widely known as the Black Hawk Mill, on North Skunk stream, in Clear Creek township, Keokuk county. The mill is a large one, was then run by water power, and proved as a business venture the crowning success of his life. He continued to run it to the time of his death, which occurred in 1869. While residing in Peru, Illinois, Mr. Schiltz married Josephine Wendling, who was born in Germany. She died at Riverside, in 1857, and some years later, after moving to Keokuk county, Mr. Schiltz married Anna M. Baker, who was also born in Germany. She survived her husband many years. By the first marriage there was one child—Frank, who is mentioned below. By the second marriage there were five children. Mr. Schiltz's eminently successful career commended him to the confidence and respect of all who knew him, and his influence was felt far and near in any community in which he happened to reside. To his children he left not only a large inheritance of brains, but also considerable property as a stepping stone to success in life.

Frank Schiltz, the well known proprietor of the Sigourney Rolling Mills, even surpasses his father as an efficient business man, has also been eminently successful as an agriculturist, and now owns two large farms in Keokuk county. He was born in Riverside, Johnson county, Iowa, May 31, 1855, being but two years old when the family came to Keokuk county, where he has resided most of his life. In his youth, however, he spent considerable time with his maternal grandparents, who were residents of Iowa City, and there in the public schools received a good practical education. While in that city he also worked for some time in a mill as a preparation for the business he intended

to pursue in life. Having some means with which to start in life, in 1874 he purchased one-third interest in the Black Hawk Mill, in which his father had taken a hand in building, and he remained with the firm for about three years, earning for himself a large income. After selling out he purchased a farm in Lafayette township, which he carried on for five years, meeting with the most gratifying results. Having by this time, March, 1886, saved considerable money, he purchased a two-third interest in the Black Hawk Mill, and here again carried on a flourishing business for five years, that is, until 1891. Then selling out his interest, he once more turned to agriculture, this time in Lancaster township, where he purchased another large farm. Applying both science and practical experience to his efforts, he caused his place to yield large and valuable crops, and gained the reputation of being one of the most successful agriculturists in the vicinity. In November, 1897, he came to Sigourney and purchased the Rolling Mills, of which he has since been the proprietor. He has conducted here a large and increasing business, giving employment to many men, and deriving for himself good profits. He has done well in all his business ventures, and is now a large property owner, possessing among other real estate the two farms already referred to.

In 1875 Mr. Schiltz married Elizabeth Stein, born in Keokuk county, of German descent, and they had seven children. Mr. Schiltz has always been an influential man in the community in which he happened to reside, and his large business interests have greatly benefited the county. He is an influential member of the Catholic school.

Edward Schiltz, son of Frank, was born in Black Hawk Mills, in Clear Creek township, September 9, 1876, and was the oldest of his parents' seven children. In the district schools of his neighborhood

he received his early education, and later attended the Bloomfield Normal School for a while and the Normal Institute of Keokuk county, where he prepared himself for teaching. After leaving school he taught for two terms in Keokuk county, giving excellent satisfaction. Deciding, however, to turn his attention to agriculture, in 1899 he rented the old Reynolds farm in section 29, Lancaster township, where he still resides. This place is a large one hundred and thirty-five acre tract, is well improved and here he carries on general farming and engages in some stock raising. An excellent manager and possessed of a large capacity for work, he is meeting with splendid results, and is looked upon as one of the most progressive and yet practical agriculturists in his county. Mr. Schiltz has recently purchased the old Mintur farm, consisting of sixty acres and situated a mile and a half southeast of Sigourney, on which he intends to make his future home.

In 1898 Mr. Schiltz married Alice Utterback who was born in Lancaster township, daughter of Corbin and Jane (Lippard) Utterback; she received her education in the common schools of the neighborhood. Though quite young, Mr. Schiltz's remarkable capacity for leadership has commended him to the confidence of the people, and he is exceedingly prominent in the public affairs of his community. As a staunch Republican he is now serving as chairman of the central committee of the township, and has in other ways made his influence felt. He is one of the most prominent members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, has completed every degree, and filled all the chairs of the order. A man of brilliant social attainments, he is well known throughout the county, and has many warm friends.

NANCY MARTIN HART.

Nancy Martin Hart, now residing on her large and attractive farm in section 28, Lancaster township, is one of the old settlers of Keokuk county, having lived here since February, 1854, with the exception of seven years spent in Clarke county, Iowa. She was born in Holmes county, Ohio, July 7, 1833, and is the daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Knox) Martin. Her grandfather, Edward Martin, of German descent, was also a resident of Holmes county, Ohio, for many years, having moved there from Virginia in the early days and settled upon a farm on Martin's creek, a stream named in honor of his family. Here he engaged very extensively in agriculture, and also conducted for many years a large sawmill. Being an excellent farmer and a judicious business man he became possessed in time of considerable wealth.

Joseph Martin, born in Virginia, was only a mere child when the parents moved to Ohio, and there in the common schools of Holmes county secured his education. By assisting his father upon the farm in the early days he became well trained to agriculture, and upon reaching manhood followed it as a regular occupation. It was in this same place where he was reared and educated that he married Rebecca Knox, who was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and came to Holmes county, Ohio, when a child, with her father, David Knox, one of the pioneer farmers and saw-mill operators of the county. She died at the age of fifty-one. By this marriage there were eight children, Anna, Eliza and Mary Jane, now deceased; Edwin M., a resident of Shelby county, Iowa; Nancy M., who is mentioned below; Catherine and Louisa, now deceased; and Joseph L., who became a soldier in the Civil war and died during the service. In 1843 Mr. Martin, deciding

to seek his fortune with the pioneers of the rich lands of Iowa, came to that state and settled upon a farm in Van Buren county. Here he remained for eleven years, clearing and breaking the land, and making other improvements, so that the place became in the course of his stay there one of the valuable pieces of property in the county. In 1854 he moved to another farm in Lancaster township, Keokuk county, which he managed with his usual success, and where he remained for the rest of his life, dying there at the advanced age of eighty-nine. He was a man of influence in the community, especially in religious circles. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, took an active part in all the efforts of that denomination, and often officiated as pastor. In politics he was at first a Whig, and later a staunch Republican.

Nancy Martin Hart passed that character-developing period of youth, that is the years between the ages of ten and twenty, in the wild pioneer settlement of Van Buren county. Here in the rather primitive schools of the new community she secured her education, which, while limited, afforded training in the essential virtues of self-reliance and industry, without which no character is complete. When her parents moved to the Lancaster farm in Keokuk county, she came with them, and there a year later, in July, married Samuel Hart, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, May 15, 1830, and when a small boy came with his parents to Morrow county, Ohio, where he was reared, and in the common schools received his education. About 1852 he came to Iowa, and locating in Muscatine county, remained there for some time. After their marriage he and Mrs. Hart settled upon a farm in Clarke county, Iowa, where they remained until 1862, when he left home and family at the urgent demands of his country for soldiers, and enlisting in Company F, Sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, went to the



front as a private. After participating in many a hard fight, May 13, 1864, in the battle of Resaca, he received a mortal wound and died a few days later, May 24. He was buried in the hospital cemetery at Resaca. Mr. and Mrs. Hart had three children: Clark and Mary A. died in infancy. Emma L. married Kline Keaster and they have had five children, four of whom are now living: Joseph B., who is attending Iowa City Medical College; Leonard, who carries on the homestead for his grandmother, Mrs. Hart; Ella R.; Sidney H.; Carl J. died in infancy. Some time after the death of her husband Mrs. Hart moved to her farm in Lancaster township, where she now resides. Her grandson, who carries on the place, is making a great success of his farming, and Mrs. Hart receives a very comfortable income. She is an excellent business woman and is esteemed as such throughout the community. She is well known all over the county. Prominent in religious circles, she is an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church at Lancaster, of which she is a highly respected member.



### JAMES M. SWEARINGEN.

James M. Swearingen, a wealthy agriculturist and extensive stock raiser, now residing at his splendid farm in section 34, Lancaster township, possesses those strong traits of character which would have brought him to the front in any occupation he might have chosen in life. Endowed with foresight, good judgment, self-assertive powers, he might have made a magnificent business man. Or his remarkable executive ability and his large capacity for leadership might have given him prestige in the political field. Content, however, to follow the occupation

to which he was reared, he has here put his forces to good service, and has had some to spare for the discharge of public duties.

Mr. Swearingen comes of a family of agriculturists. His great-grandfather, Charles Swearingen, followed that occupation for the most part of his life, first in Ohio, and later in Montgomery county, Indiana; he was a German by descent. John Swearingen, grandfather of James M., was also a farmer. Born in Ohio, he was reared there, and upon reaching manhood followed agriculture for some years. Later he moved with his family to Indiana, where he spent his last days, dying there.

William A. Swearingen, father of James M., likewise took a hand in the development of the agricultural resources of the middle west. Born in Butler county, Ohio, he was but eight years old when his parents moved to the growing state of Indiana. Here in Montgomery county he received his rearing and his education, which was that of the ordinary farmer's boy of his time and place. As a young man he spent some years upon an Indiana farm, where, conducting a flourishing industry, he made in time considerable money. Impressed with the vast resources of the further west, in 1868 he moved to Keokuk county, Iowa, and there settled upon the farm where James M. now resides. The place entirely fulfilled his highest anticipations, and here he remained and worked for some time. He spent his last days with a son in Hedrick, dying there in his seventy-ninth year. Mr. Swearingen married Margaret E. Hall, who was born in Newberry, South Carolina, and when nine years old moved with her father, Thomas Hall, to Indiana. Mr. Hall, a man of Irish descent, was a farmer by occupation. He had two brothers who served seven years in the Revolutionary war under General George Washington. Mrs. Swearingen's mother was a native of Ire-

land and died in South Carolina before she and her father moved to Indiana. Mrs. Swearingen was a wise and faithful helpmate for many years. She died in her sixty-third year. To her and her husband were born nine children, seven of whom are now living. Of these James M. is the oldest. M. Swearingen was a man of pronounced political views; in the early days he was a Whig, but later affiliated with the Democrats.

James M. Swearingen was born in Montgomery county, Indiana, and there grew to manhood. In the common schools of his neighborhood, which he attended for a few months each year, he received a good fundamental education, which he has in later years supplemented by extensive reading and the practical work of life. In 1868 he moved to Keokuk county with his parents, and there taking up the manly duties of life, he assisted his father in purchasing the farm, which has since come into his possession; in fact, with the exception of nine hundred dollars contributed by his father, he paid for the property himself. For two years after coming to Iowa he clerked in a drug store in Ollie, acquiring a practical knowledge of business and an aptness for the work which would certainly have proved a stepping stone to something higher in that line had he chosen to continue the work. The large homestead, however, requiring his attention, he decided to give his undivided efforts to it, and returning home he has since remained there. Here he carries on general farming, and also engages in stock raising, being successful in both lines. He has made many improvements upon the place, clearing and breaking new lands. The property now embraces one hundred and thirty-two acres of some of the most productive land in the vicinity. Mr. Swearingen has made his land pay well, and as fast as he has earned money he has made investments in local industries. He now owns a large amount of stock in the Ollie Savings Bank.

November 29, 1900, Mr. Swearingen married Lillia Wilkins, of Chicago, who was born in Ohio, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Brant) Wilkins, who were both born in Ohio and are still living there at Lebanon; he follows farming and the trade of a carpenter. To Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins have been born eight children, one son and seven daughters, Mrs. Swearingen being the oldest of the daughters. Coming to Iowa some years ago she remained in Fairfield for a while, but later went to Chicago, where she resided for thirteen years, until her marriage.

Mr. Swearingen is one of the most active men in public affairs in his township, and as a man of marked ability has served as constable for fifteen years, and as secretary of the school board, of which he is still a member, for ten years. He stands high with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Ioka Lodge No. 173, having filled all the chairs of the order. As a member of the Mission Baptist church he is also influential. He is well known all over the county, where he has many warm friends. When the rural delivery route was established some time ago his energy and popularity helped him to secure it and he has since had it in charge.

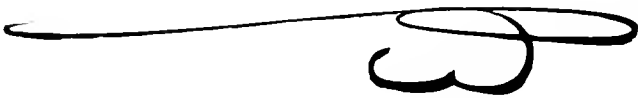


#### FINLEY M. SMOCK.

From the time of the establishment of the town of Keota, Mr. Smock has been deeply interested in its welfare and active in its advancement and promotion. Therefore no history of the place would be complete without mention of his life. He was born in Johnson county, Indiana, February 18, 1844. The ancestry can be traced back through four generations to Holland. His father, Rev. David V. Smock, was born near Madison, Indiana, and for many years was an active minister of the Presbyterian church. In 1853 he came to Iowa,



*A. M. Smock.*





settling in Birmingham, Van Buren county. He afterward located in Sigourney, and became the first pastor of the Presbyterian church of that place in 1858. During the war he removed to the vicinity of Keota, in which town he died. His life span covered three-score years and ten, and surely the world is better for his having lived. He was a man of marked influence and his efforts for the elevation of his fellow men were of no restricted order. He married Margaret A. Brown, a native of Virginia, in which state she was also reared. She was of French and Scotch lineage, and died when forty-four years of age. In their family were four children, of whom Mr. Smock of this review was the third in order of birth.

When nine years of age F. M. Smock accompanied his parents on their removal to Iowa, and at the age of fourteen he came to Keokuk county. He attended the public schools, acquiring a good education, and at the age of fourteen began learning the wagon-maker's trade. He was seventeen years of age when, in 1861, in response to his country's call for troops, he joined the army, enlisting as a member of Company F, Fifth Iowa Infantry. This was the first company raised in Keokuk county and he served for four years and one month, having in the meantime re-enlisted as a veteran of the same company and regiment. He was afterward transferred to Company G of the Fifth Iowa Cavalry and took part in many of the principal battles of the war. He was with Fremont's command in Missouri and participated in the engagement at Madrid. He was also in the siege of Corinth, the battle of Iuka, the second battle of Corinth, the siege of Vicksburg, and took part in the engagements at Champion Hills, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta campaign, Franklin, the siege of Nashville, and was at the front all the way with Wilson's cavalry in the raid

made in the spring of 1865. Other engagements of lesser importance were participated in by Mr. Smock. He was wounded at Champion Hills through both legs by a minie ball, and was in the hospital for most of the time for eight months. As soon as he had sufficiently recovered, however, he rejoined his command in active field service and was a brave and loyal soldier, his valor equaling that of many a man of twice his years. He received an honorable discharge in August, 1865, and with a most creditable military record he returned to his home in Keokuk county, Iowa.

From 1866 until 1871 Mr. Smock was engaged in business in Sigourney and then came to what is now Keota, locating upon a farm known as Sunnyside. It was on a part of this farm which was owned by his brother that the town of Keota was built. There was no idea of this at the time and the foundation of the present thriving village had not then been laid. However, it was established in 1872, and Mr. Smock engaged in the manufacture of wagons and buggies, carrying on business with a fair degree of success here for about twelve years. He then turned his attention to the farm implement business, which he conducted for three years, and he spent the years of 1880 and 1881 in western Kansas and Colorado. On returning to Keota he served as deputy postmaster under J. F. Wilson for about four years and through the succeeding four years he was engaged in the insurance business. He was then appointed postmaster, acting in that capacity for four years, and on the expiration of that period he resumed his operations in insurance and real estate. In 1894 he was elected a clerk of the district court for a term of four years, upon the Republican ticket, and at the close of that time he retired from office as he had entered it - with the confidence and good will of all concerned. He then re-



turned to Keota and was again engaged in the real estate business for two years. In 1900 he formed a business connection as secretary with the firm of Singmaster & Sons, importers of fine horses, and this relation has since been maintained.

In 1867 Mr. Smock was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Stranahan, and they have six children: Gertie A., the wife of John C. Richardson, one of the editors of the Keota Eagle; Winnie M., the wife of S. A. Dougherty, of Muscatine, Iowa; A. Cleave, who married Nellie Randolph, daughter of John Randolph, and is now living in O'Brien county, Iowa; Mattie B., at home; William S., who is clerking in a store at Keota; and Bessie L., who is also at home.

In his political affiliations Mr. Smock has always been a staunch Republican and has been honored with various official positions. He served as mayor of Keota for a number of terms, was also justice of the peace and has filled other local positions. He was one of the incorporators of the town and has been deeply interested in everything pertaining to its progress and improvement. He belongs to Ed Carris Post No. 333, Grand Army of the Republic, in which he has filled all of the offices. He has also served on the staff of Commander Bailey, of the Iowa department, and has represented his state at the national encampment of the order at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1899. He takes a very active and helpful interest in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic and is widely known among the honored veterans of the Civil war. He also has a wide acquaintance in Keokuk county, where he is known as an enterprising and progressive citizen, and in Keota the circle of his friends is very extensive.

## CRISLEY TERRELL.

Crisley Terrell, a prosperous agriculturist of Lancaster township, also engaged in the deep well business, possesses those sterling traits of character, a large capacity for work, sound judgment, and a willingness to make the most of what life offers him, which in themselves insures success to a man at every step in life. Like many of the farmers of the vicinity, he came here in the early days, and has taken a keen interest in the growth of the community and all the civilizing influences brought to bear upon it.

Mr. Terrell comes of good stock and is the son of Robert R. Terrell, who was born in Virginia, and who, in the early days, about 1810, settled in Ohio. Here as a bricklayer he carried on a lucrative business for many years. Later he engaged in building, and many residences of Cincinnati were the results of his industry and supervision. Mr. Terrell was married to Barbara Miller, who was born in Ohio, and they became the parents of five children, three sons and two daughters, all of whom grew to maturity, and of whom Crisley was the youngest. Mr. Terrell died in 1846, and his wife's death occurred in Indiana many years later.

Crisley Terrell was born in Fayette county, Ohio, April 28, 1846, and at the early age of five months, by the death of his father, was deprived of that parent's fostering care. He remained at home with his mother, however, until he was twenty-one years old, and received a good common school education, and was disciplined to habits of industry and attention, which had not a little to do with his future success in life. With little, if anything, but his own hands to depend upon, he came to Keokuk county in 1868 and hired out as a farm laborer. At-

tending strictly to business, he found no difficulty in holding positions, and continued this line of work for two years, receiving his wages by the month. Ambitious for something better, at the end of this period he rented a farm and settled down to work for himself. In 1869 he married Lucretia Reed, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, and in 1855, when nine years old, came with her parents, Park and Lorana Reed, to Keokuk county, where the family afterward resided. To Mr. and Mrs. Terrell have been born nine children, five of whom have been married, as follows: Park, in business with his father, and a resident of Sigourney, married to Elva Fair; Mattie, married to Charles W. Arganbright, and they reside in the city of What Cheer; Gusta, a resident of Pringhar, Iowa, married to C. W. Martin; Annis, married to C. L. Beall, a farmer of Lancaster township; Mary has taught school since she was seventeen years old without missing one term, and recently married Dr. Floyd G. Bott, of Iowa City. The other children are: Lottie; Edna Fern, who is now deceased; Georgia; and Avery, who is in business with his father.

Mr. Terrell met with most excellent results as a farm tenant and continued on the rented place until 1899. Then, having saved considerable money, he invested in his present farm, a splendid eighty-acre tract of well improved land in Lancaster township. This place, which he has come into possession of by his own thrift and industry, is one of the most productive in the vicinity, and here he is still carrying on a flourishing industry. Besides attending to his farming he has for some time been engaged in the deep well business. The industry has proved a profitable one and he has taken in as partners his sons, Park and Avery. The firm, known as Terrell & Sons, has an excellent reputation throughout the county, where it is doing a large business. Mr. Ter-

rell has for thirty-four years been a resident of the county, and during that time has always evinced a keen interest in public affairs. He is especially interested in the establishment of good schools, and the furthering of higher education. He is liberal in local politics, but in national affairs always votes the Democratic ticket. Fraternally he affiliates with the Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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JOHN HOLLIN McCORMICK.

Coming from staunch old Scottish ancestry, than which there is none more true, manly and capable, John Hollin McCormick in the early days of the settlement of Iowa came to join the adventurous ones who were seeking homes in the untrammelled west. He was born on the 22d day of February, 1838, in Portage county, Ohio. His father, James McCormick, was a native of Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, and lived there from the time of his birth on February 11, 1796, until the year 1837, when he removed to Portage county, Ohio, where the subject of this narrative was born. In 1853 he changed his place of residence, again moving to Keokuk, Iowa, where he died on April 30, 1869. His political persuasion was that of a Whig, and he rendered valuable services to that party, holding local offices at various times. He was also an active member of the Presbyterian church. His paternal grandfather, John McCormick, was born in Scotland and came to America before the Revolution, locating in Pennsylvania.

His mother, Sarah Barber, was born in Pennsylvania on July 25, 1812, and there passed her childhood days. After her marriage to James McCormick they removed first to Ohio and later to Keokuk, Iowa, where she died on April 14, 1894. Her father was a native of

Ireland. She was second wife of James McCormick, whose first wife was a Miss Hall. Ten children were born of the first marriage, of whom nine grew to maturity; of the second union eleven children were born, of whom nine reached the age of adults, and of both families ten are now living.

John Hollin McCormick was the third child and eldest son of the second marriage. He was reared in Summit county, Ohio. In 1857 he went to Van Buren county, Iowa, and eventually settled in 1859 in Lancaster township, Keokuk county. At the age of fifteen years he began working at the blacksmith trade, which he continued in Summit county, Ohio, for some three years, when he removed to Iowa and resided for a period of one year, and again removing to Ohio, spent one year in that state, from whence he ultimately came to Lancaster township, where he formed a partnership in the blacksmithing business. In the fall of 1861 he removed to Sigourney and was there till 1866, when he located on the farm where he now resides, since which time he has been engaged both in the business of farming and blacksmithing.

On April 17, 1861, he was married to Hulda Stone, who had removed to Iowa from the Hoosier state, where she was born on October 21, 1833. Her father, Martin Stone, was born in Genesee county, New York, but came to Indiana when he was about eighteen years old. He was twice married, his second wife being Mary G. Lindsay. Charles L. Stone, her half-brother, lives at Brighton, Washington county, Iowa. One other child of this second marriage died in infancy. The mother of Mrs. McCormick, Caroline Cole, was born in Bennington county, Vermont, but came to Indiana at the same time that her husband made the trip. Mrs. McCormick was the fifth child of a family of six daughters and four sons, and came to Keokuk county with her parents

in 1854, locating in Lancaster township, where she pursued her education in the common schools and afterward taught in the schools of Keokuk county. Four children were born to them, Donald, who died in infancy; Fred A., who is now living at home with them; Cora V., wife of Harry Harlan, of What Cheer, Iowa; Lottie A., wife of Howard Richardson, of Ottumwa, Iowa, who is a telegraph operator at that place.

Mr. McCormick has a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which his home is situated, and sixty-eight acres east of his home place, and has long been in the business of general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of fine blooded trotting horses, many of which have made splendid track records. Among these are Rinaldo, record 2:11 1-2; J. H. McCormick, record 2:29; and Major Lacy, record 2:29. Of late years he has made a specialty of raising short-horn cattle, in which he has been exceedingly successful.

In his somewhat varied career Mr. McCormick has encountered many difficulties, none of which, however, were sufficient to daunt him. He has steadily overcome all obstacles and has himself alone to credit for his many successes, since he has accomplished all unaided. He has long been one of the enterprising and leading citizens of the county, is a Republican in principle and action, a member of the order of Masons at Sigourney, where he holds high rank in the esteem and respect of his brothers, and generally has been pronounced one of the ablest and most successful men of his day.



#### JAMES LINDER.

James Linder has lived for fifty-five years in Keokuk county and is

one of the very well known and honored citizens who have placed their impress on the development of the country. His father, Robert Linder, was a native of Kentucky, but early came to Keokuk county, at a time when there were only six families in the county. In 1850 he went to California and died at the age of seventy-six in Montana; by occupation he was a harness maker, carrying on this trade in Sigourney; he also owned a farm. Our subject's mother was Sarah Barnett, a native of Illinois, and she still resides in Sigourney at the age of eighty-two. They were the parents of six children, four daughters and two sons; only two yet survive, James and Robert, the latter residing in Nebraska.

James Linder is the fifth child and oldest son, born in Sigourney January 17, 1846. There he was reared and educated in the public schools; in 1872 he located on a farm east of Lancaster, in Lancaster township, and engaged in farming for twenty-six years. In 1898 he sold this farm and bought the farm of one hundred and thirty-six acres on section 8, Lancaster township, where he now resides, surrounded by all the comforts of country life.

In 1870 Mr. Linder became the husband of Cordelia Strong, a native of Sullivan county, Missouri, who came to Keokuk county with her parents when only two years old and was there educated. Mr. and Mrs. Linder became the parents of seven children; the eldest died in infancy; Edward married in Missouri and is now living in Lancaster township; Ted is now in Seattle, Washington; Fred; Zelpha; Izette and Berton. Mr. Linder has always held an independent position in politics. In his long life in this county he has ably performed all the duties devolving upon him as a citizen and no stain may be found on his reputation.

## JACOB CONNER.

Another enterprising son of Daniel Conner, the pioneer whose life-work and achievements are recounted elsewhere in this work, was Jacob Conner, a brother of Samuel Conner, whose biography also appears herein. Jacob Conner was born on March 25, 1857, in Lancaster township, Keokuk county, and has ever since made his home in this fruitful section of the Hawkeye state. His father twice married, his second wife being the mother of the subject of this record. Her name was Elizabeth Wyant and she was born in the Blue Grass state, moving, however, when of tender years to Indiana. She was twice married, her first husband being a Mr. Pennington. By her first marriage she had three children, and six more were added to the flock in her union with Daniel Conner. Of these five are now living, Jacob Conner being the first born, and receiving an excellent education in the schools of Lancaster township.

He worked for his father until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, when he married Zanette Bucher, the daughter of Aaron and Martha (Chastain) Bucher, a history of whom is also given in this volume. Mrs. Conner was also born in Lancaster township, Keokuk county, Iowa, on the 16th day of June, 1865, and has spent all of her life there. She received a very fine education in the common schools of the township, and from independent reading and study of her own selection.

After living on the old homestead about one year after his marriage, Mr. Conner and his wife located where they now live, and by his industry and good management improved and built up his farm until in its appearance, efficiency and value it ranks with the best in the



township. In the year 1900 he built the handsome residence now there and put into it all the modern improvements and many conveniences dictated by the taste of himself and his wife. He has also built a finely appointed barn thirty-six by sixty feet in dimensions and has constructed many other good buildings upon the farm, which consists of one hundred and sixty acres as well as some timber land.

One child, a daughter, was born to them, whom they named Mattie Elizabeth; she is still unmarried and at home, and is a very accomplished and attractive young lady. In their beautiful home Mr. Conner and his family keep abreast of the times and fully informed upon all matters. They are liberal in their views upon political and religious questions and present good examples of the progressive, prosperous and leading people of the county. Mr. Conner is in politics a Democrat; is widely known throughout his section of the state, actively participating in matters of public interest. He has been a member of the school board for several years, during which time he has contributed much to the success of the educational methods employed, and has assumed many other responsibilities in behalf of the county.



#### WILLIAM R. KELLEY.

William R. Kelley, a prominent agriculturist of Lancaster township, stands as a type of man who has achieved success by constant and unflinching adherence to one line of business in life. Reared to farm work, he has for the most part followed this occupation. Only once has he swerved from his purpose, and then it was for the laudable cause of serving his country in its struggle for the preservation of the Union.

As a soldier he did his duty nobly, and as a citizen he has made the best of the opportunities that life has offered him.

Mr. Kelley comes of a family of agriculturists. His grandfather, William Kelley, was for many years a prominent Pennsylvania farmer. He was born and reared in that state, and upon reaching manhood there married Elizabeth Frampton, also of Pennsylvania, and they had twelve children, all of whom grew to maturity: William, George and John, who are now deceased; Permelia; Tamazine; Fannie and Salley, now deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Zephaniah, father of subject; and three others whose names are not recalled. Besides farming Mr. Kelley followed weaving for awhile. He was a man of influence in his community, and in politics he affiliated with the party from which the present Democracy is derived.

Zephaniah Kelley, father of William, won his place in life by keeping in touch with the agricultural movement and venturing out into newly settled regions. He was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, in 1816, and there obtained his education. During his young manhood he married Mary Berlin, who was born in Pennsylvania, daughter of David and Nancy (Koffman) Berlin, who were of German descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Kelley were born five children: Reuben B., now deceased; William R., who is mentioned below; Mary M., now deceased; Sarah J.; and George W. The first three were born in Pennsylvania; the two youngest in Illinois. Some years after his marriage Mr. Kelley moved his family to the fertile district of Illinois, where, settling upon a farm, he engaged in agriculture very successfully for many years. As a skillful and untiring workman he succeeded in making his land yield large and profitable crops, and in time became a man of considerable means. In 1885 he disposed of his Illinois property and

came to Keokuk county, Iowa, locating at Ollie, in Jackson township. After a few years' residence here he went to live with his son, William R., where he spent his last days. He died December 7, 1893. Mr. Kelley was one of the leading men in his community, and was a Republican, an earnest Christian and belonged to the Baptist church. Fraternally he affiliated with the Free and Accepted Masons.

William R. Kelley was born in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, May 30, 1842, and there resided until he was seven years old. Then he moved with his parents to the Illinois farm, where he was mainly reared and educated. His training was that of the ordinary farm boy of his day, a few months' attendance upon a country school for a number of years, and a great deal of vigorous farm work. After leaving school he engaged regularly in active duties on the home place until he was twenty-one. Then the Civil war was raging, and in 1863 he enlisted in the Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry and went to the front. He fought in several hot skirmishes, and in the hard battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Here, June 27, 1864, he was wounded. He remained in service, however, a year longer, and June 2, 1865, was discharged at Davenport, Iowa. Returning to Illinois, he there engaged in farming until 1871, earning for himself a very comfortable competence. In that year he married in Illinois Martha J. Jones, who was born in Holmes county, Ohio, in 1845, and was there reared and educated. Her parents, John J. and Sarah (Flack) Jones, were of Welsh and Scotch-Irish descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Kelley have been born five children: Florence A.; Lucy G.; Ralph W.; John H.; and Jennie G. Mrs. Kelley died May 29, 1900, and Mr. Kelley has since, May 4, 1902, married Mrs. J. H. Davis, who was born in Kentucky, in 1845.

In the year of his first marriage, 1871, Mr. Kelley disposed of

much of his belongings, and taking some with him, joined the emigrant trains so frequent in those days and moved to Montgomery county, Iowa. Here settling upon a farm he remained for two years, becoming during this time well acquainted with the region and the best farming districts. At the end of the period, however, he returned to Illinois, where he remained for about a year, settling up his business. Then, in 1875, he came back to Iowa and purchased the farm in the township of Lancaster where he has since remained. This property consists of ninety acres of excellent farming land, much of which he has himself cleared. He has made many improvements upon the place, and has it well under cultivation, and he is still carrying on here a flourishing industry. Mr. Kelley is considered a man of enterprise and thrift, and is well known throughout the county. In politics he is a Republican and takes an active interest in local affairs. As a Civil war veteran he belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic of Sigourney.



#### SAMUEL ELWOOD BAMFORD, M. D.

The flourishing town of Sigourney, Keokuk county, Iowa, has cause for congratulation when its list of capable and reliable professional men is recalled, and among these Dr. Samuel E. Bamford worthily represents medicine and surgery. Dr. Bamford is a son of the state, born in Muscatine county on April 1, 1850. His parents were Rev. Robert L. and Eliza (Davis) Bamford, the former of whom was born in Knox county, Indiana, a son of Robert Bamford, who was born in 1800, in New York. The early ancestors of the family were of English origin and settlers in Canada, from whence they came to New York. Robert Bamford married Matilda Ludington. In search of a

new home, they went into what was then the wilderness of the state of Indiana, and Robert took part in the Black Hawk war. Still adventurous, in 1834 the family went as pioneers to Iowa and located permanently in Muscatine county.

Rev. Robert Bamford was born in Indiana, May 2, 1826, and was eight years of age when the Iowa home was secured. Both his life and that of his only brother, George Bamford, were devoted to the ministry of the gospel in the Methodist church, of which the former is now a superannuated minister, residing at Allerton, Iowa. The mother of our subject was born in Indiana, and was a daughter of William Davis, who was a native of Virginia, from whence he removed first to Indiana and then to Muscatine county, Iowa. A good Christian mother, she cared tenderly for her seven children and passed out of life on November 1, 1897. The children born to Rev. Robert and wife were: Morris, a minister of the Methodist church; Bentley, also a minister in the same denomination; Dr. Samuel, of this sketch; Alice M.; Elmer E., a physician of Centerville, Iowa; Isaiah D., a resident of Wayne county, Iowa; and Mattie.

As is not infrequently the case, our subject enjoyed great privileges as a son of a clergyman, but found the accompanying straightened circumstances would not permit him to follow a professional career in early manhood. His education finished in the public schools, he engaged in teaching in order to provide means for his education in medicine. He spent nine years in farming, during which time he stored his mind with the necessary facts and had the satisfaction of graduating creditably, in 1889, from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Keokuk, Iowa. Dr. Bamford located at Clio, Wayne county, Iowa, and continued there in successful practice for a period of seven years. In 1895 the growth

of Sigourney offered a prospective field for excellent work and since locating here he has built up a large and lucrative practice.

Dr. Bamford is a member of the board of pension examiners and is a valuable member of the state and county as well as the American Medical associations, and also of the Association of Iowa Physicians. In politics Dr. Bamford is identified with the Republican party, and fraternally he is connected with the order of Odd Fellows. An early marriage left him with two daughters, who are now teachers in Wayne county. His second marriage took place in 1901, to Miss Anna A. Cogley, of Sigourney. The Doctor is also interested in farming and handles considerable stock in the way of horses and cattle.



#### ALEXANDER M. NEAS.

Alexander M. Neas is one of the progressive and public-spirited citizens of Sigourney, Iowa, where he conducts a large and constantly increasing lumber business. Mr. Neas was born in Butler county, Ohio, October 6, 1857, and is a son of Levi M. Neas. He was reared on a farm until he was thirteen years of age, at which time his parents removed to Sigourney, Iowa, where his father found constant and remunerative employment in the growing town, working at his trade of brick and stone-laying. After obtaining a good, common school education, Alexander learned the trade of brick and stone masonry and followed it until he was twenty-six years old. During the succeeding years he was very successful at bridge contracting and at the end of that period purchased a lumber yard in this city. Since 1889 he has carried on a lumber business, which has required all of his time and

energy to properly manage, and which is one of the important and reliable industries of Sigourney.

In 1882 Mr. Neas was married to Miss Mollie Mackey, who is a daughter of Col. C. H. Mackey, of Sigourney, and two children have been born to this union, namely: Henry M. and Edith Gertrude. In political sentiment Mr. Neas is a Republican, and he is fraternally associated with the orders of Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen. He is one of the solid, trustworthy citizens of Sigourney, honest and upright, fair in his business dealings and ready to cast his influence at all times in the direction of education and morality and to further enterprises of permanent good to his community.

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CHARLES E. McQUAID.

Charles E. McQuaid, a member of the lumber firm of McCann & McQuaid, at Sigourney, Iowa, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, November 15, 1858, and is a son of James F. and Amanda (Cort) McQuaid, both of whom were natives of the same county. The ancestry of the family is Scotch-Irish on the paternal side and German on the maternal, both James McQuaid and Joseph Cort, the grandfathers, being born, however, in Pennsylvania. The father of our subject was a merchant for many years in Westmoreland county. In the year 1869 he removed to Beaver county, Pennsylvania, where his widow still resides. He died in 1890, aged sixty years. A family of nine children was born to the parents of our subject, two of whom are deceased.

Charles E. McQuaid, the subject of this sketch, was ten years old when his parents moved to Beaver county. His rearing was on a farm,

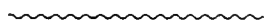
and his primary education was obtained in the public school, supplemented later by two years at the State Normal School at Edinboro. The succeeding three years were spent as a teacher in his native state, and then he accepted a position as bookkeeper with a wholesale and retail hat, cap and fur establishment in Pittsburg, remaining with this one firm for nine years. In April, 1890, he located at What Cheer, Iowa, and for the two succeeding years was the traveling representative of the Crescent Coal Company, and for two more years for the C. L. Dering Coal Company, wholesale, of Chicago, returning to the former company for two and one-half years again.

In the spring of 1898 our subject became associated with Lee McCann in business in Sigourney, under the firm name of McCann & McQuaid, which since that time has been a leading factor in the lumber trade of this section. This firm succeeded to the oldest lumber yard of Keokuk county and have instituted progressive methods which have been met very favorably by the public. Mr. McQuaid has been very active in looking after all lumber interests and for two years was the president of the Southeastern Iowa Retail Lumber Association.

Mr. McQuaid was married in 1890 to Miss Lavina Sampson, who is a daughter of the late Judge E. S. Sampson. Both our subject and wife are prominent in the Presbyterian church, and for three years he has been the efficient superintendent of the Sunday school. He is also president of the Keokuk County Sunday School Association. In public matters our subject has always shown a public-spirited interest, has served as town councilman, as a Democrat, has been a very acceptable member of the school board, and in 1902 was chairman of the Democratic county central committee. Mr. McQuaid's fraternal relations are with the Royal Arch Masons, Canton Lodge of Odd Fellows, the



Modern Woodmen and the order of Fraternal Choppers. As a business man, citizen, Sunday school superintendent and member of the social circle, Mr. McQuaid is a man to be esteemed, and he enjoys to the highest extent the respect and kind wishes of his community.



GILBERT BEEBE RICHARDSON.

One of the leading business men of Sigourney, Iowa, dealing principally in music and musical instruments, is Gilbert Beebe Richardson, who was born on a farm in Steady Run township, Keokuk county, Iowa, on April 14, 1858, and is a son of Thomas and Eliza Ann (Weller) Richardson, whose history is recorded in the biographic sketch of Joseph M. Richardson, elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Richardson was reared on a farm and obtained his education in the common schools. At the age of nineteen years he began teaching school in the rural neighborhoods and continued in this profession for three years. In 1883 he went into railroading and became agent and telegraph operator for the Burlington & Western railroad, a position he held for twelve years. Our subject then engaged for a short time in the hardware business at Martinsburg, but later sold this business and re-entered the employ of the same railroad, taking a position in the train dispatcher's office at Burlington, serving two years as assistant and one year as chief dispatcher. On account of failing health he then felt obliged to give up telegraphic work and seek some other employment. In 1901 he purchased a grocery store, in Sigourney, but he has since then changed his stock to music, this being more in accordance with his tastes.

In 1880 Mr. Richardson was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. McKinnis, of Keokuk county, and four children have been born to

this union, namely: Pearlle L., Edna G., Jesse T. and Leona M. With wife and children, our subject belongs to the Presbyterian church. His career in this community has won for him the esteem of the citizens and he has a wide and pleasant acquaintance with the traveling public in this locality, numbering many friends, who value him highly.

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HENRY F. WAGNER.

One of the leading young members of the legal profession, who has chosen the flourishing town of Sigourney as the scene of his labors, is Henry F. Wagner, who has already made very gratifying progress, although but a few years have elapsed since his admission to the Keokuk county bar. The birth of Mr. Wagner occurred on February 11, 1874, in Lancaster township, Keokuk county, Iowa, and he is a son of John M. and Caroline (Meyer) Wagner, the former of whom was born in Snyder county, Pennsylvania, on October 22, 1831, and the latter in Licking county, Ohio, on February 6, 1845. Both parents are of German descent. They were married in Ohio and came to Keokuk county in 1871 and in 1872 purchased their present fine farm in Lancaster township. They have four surviving children, namely: Ida Ann, Mary C., Susan Belle and Henry F. Mr. Wagner has always followed an agricultural life, and has actively supported the Republican party. The family is a much respected one in Lancaster township.

Our subject was reared on his father's farm and attended the country schools until he was fourteen years old, completing the course at that age. In 1891 he graduated from the Sigourney high school and at the age of nineteen began teaching in the country schools. For three years he worked industriously, working through the summers on the





DANIEL SWICKARD.



MRS. DANIEL SWICKARD.



farm and spending the fall and winter terms in teaching. He entered the law department of the Iowa State University and at that institution was graduated in June, 1898. He immediately began practice in Sigourney and has already won attention from his brother attorneys by his legal ability and thorough knowledge. In politics he is a Republican, while fraternally his associations are with the Royal Arch Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. On October 12, 1898, he was married to Miss Lilian Updegraff, of Keokuk county, and a little daughter has been named Gladys. A very promising future opens before Mr. Wagner, and his friends predict for him a successful legal career.



DANIEL SWICKARD.

Prominent among the representatives of Martinsburg, Keokuk county, who have by honest toil and industry succeeded in acquiring a handsome competence and are now able to spend the sunset of life in quiet and retirement, is the gentleman whose name appears above, a man who has for the past forty-six years been very eminently connected with the development and growth of Keokuk county. He is to-day one of the best and most favorably known men in the county, and has the confidence and the respect of a large body of associates. Briefly touching upon the family history of our friend, we note that his people came from the Keystone state to Steubenville, Ohio, where our subject was born February 1, 1822. His father before him was Daniel Swickard, who prior to coming to Ohio had served gallantly as an officer in the army during the war of 1812, being under the noted General Harrison. He was a farmer by occupation, and was also interested in the distilling business. He was a very large real estate owner. Later in life he removed

from near Stenbenville to Franklin county, Ohio, where he owned a body of land of twelve hundred acres and for a period of twelve years was a man of influence in that community. He served during that time as justice of the peace, and at his death, which occurred at the age of eighty-six years, was regarded as one of the best citizens of the county. In political belief he followed the teachings of the Whigs, and was later a supporter of the Republican party. His religious affiliations were with the Evangelical church, in which organization he was an earnest and active worker. Grandfather Daniel Swickard was born in the fatherland, he having come to Pennsylvania in early life, and later to Ohio, where he died at the age of eighty-four years. Concerning the maternal ancestry of Mr. Swickard, his mother was Mary Magdaline; she died in 1894 at a very advanced age and was the mother of twelve children, all of whom grew to maturity but one. After her death Mr. Swickard was again married, there being but one child born to the second marriage.

Of the first family Mr. Swickard, our subject, was the seventh child. His early youth and boyhood were passed in Franklin county, Ohio, where he was given a fair education in the log schoolhouse of that early time. He remained at home until the date of his majority, when he apprenticed himself to the shoemaker's trade, at which business he worked for a period of some twelve years. He then engaged in farming. The primary cause of the change was his failing health. He arrived in Keokuk county in 1856 and purchased a farm in Steady Run township, which he conducted for a number of years, and which he brought to a very high state of cultivation. He continued the operation of this farm until 1890, when he removed to a Martinsburg, since which time he has not been actively engaged in business. He married



in 1844 a lady by the name of Elizabeth Campbell, a sister of Mr. John Campbell, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this book. Her death occurred in about 1893 and Mr. Swickard again married, the lady being his present wife, whose maiden name was Miss Carter, the date of the marriage being 1894. Mrs. Swickard was born in Plain township, Franklin county, Ohio, and was there reared and educated. Her father was D. Carter, a native of Virginia and a pioneer in Franklin county. Her mother's maiden name was Nancy Noe, who was a native of New Jersey. They were parents of four daughters and one son. Mr. and Mrs. Swickard are prominent and worthy members of the Methodist church, in which organization they have always taken a very active part, Mr. Swickard having been a member for sixty years, and during many years of that time has held the office of class leader and steward. In political affiliations he supports the Republican party, having come to that party from the old Whig organization. It is due to Mr. Swickard to say that he is beloved and respected by all who are acquainted with him, and his honorable association with the development of the county entitles him to representation in this volume.

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JOHN FREDERICK GOELDNER.

Among the worthy and substantial citizens of Keokuk county, Iowa, who developed a fine farm in Clear Creek township and became one of the leading agriculturists, was the late John Frederick Goeldner, who was born in Schlesien, Germany, on April 23, 1831, and passed out of life on his farm in German township, to which he had moved about six years previously, on August 5, 1897. Mr. Goeldner was reared in his native country and there learned the trade of plasterer and acquired a fair

education in the local schools. He reached America in the fall of 1852, prior to his marriage, accompanied by several of his brothers, and all for a time remained in Baltimore. It was the object of our subject, however, to obtain land in some new state and develop it and establish a home. From Baltimore he drifted to near St. Louis and finally reached Keokuk county, Iowa, where he soon purchased land in Clear Creek township. Here he went industriously to work and in the course of years became the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres. He was a successful man, but this success may be entirely attributed to his own efforts. At the same time that he was acquiring property and thus securing the comfort of his family, he was growing in the esteem of his fellow citizens.

In 1856 he married Theresa Nauman, who is a sister of Charles A. Nauman, elsewhere mentioned; she was born in Saxony, Germany, June 2, 1840, and accompanying her parents to America in 1853. The marriage took place in Keokuk county, Iowa, and seven children were born to them: Otto T., born October 16, 1858, who is a farmer in Clear Creek township, Keokuk county; Hulda E., May 25, 1861, died October 26, 1901; Ida M., August 20, 1863, who is the widow of A. G. Schulte; Guido H., January 21, 1866, of Clear Creek township, where he is farming; Arthur E., February 11, 1869, who is a farmer in German township; Hugo F., April 10, 1873, who is an attorney in Sigourney; and Charles M., January 29, 1877, who is a farmer on the home place, his mother residing with him there. In political sentiment Mr. Goeldner was a Republican.

Hugo F. Goeldner, one of the leading young attorneys of Sigourney, Iowa, was born in Clear Creek township, Keokuk county, on April 10, 1873. He was given excellent school advantages and graduated

from Sigourney high school in 1894, entering immediately upon the study of law and graduating with honor from the law department of the State University in 1897. He was admitted to practice in Keokuk county and entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, A. G. Schulte, the firm name being Schulte & Goeldner, the firm only being dissolved upon the death of Mr. Schulte on January 30, 1900. In politics our subject is an active Republican and he is fraternally connected with the Royal Arch Masons. The success which he has attained in his chosen profession has been most gratifying and argues for still higher honors in the future.

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FRANCIS A. SCHIPFER, SR.

Francis A. Schipfer, Sr., was born in the kingdom of Prussia, Germany, on February 12, 1831, and is a son of Kaspfer and Barbara (Wessbecher) Schipfer, who lived and died in Germany, their native land. Eight children were born to Kaspfer Schipfer and wife, but Francis A. was the only one who came to America. At that time he was a fairly well educated young man of twenty years and had already sufficiently filled a clerical position in a mercantile establishment. In 1851 he landed in the great metropolis of New York, but he remained there but a short time, spending over a year looking about for a suitable place in which to locate, and visiting Newark, New Jersey; Hamilton, Ohio; and then Burlington, Iowa. In that city he lived for two and one-half years, coming to Sigourney on July 3, 1856. Prior to this location he had filled clerical positions, but here he embarked in business for himself, opening up a general store, his business house continuing all these years. Mr. Schipfer is the only merchant of Sigourney who was in

business when he settled here. His success has been very satisfactory, although several changes have been made in the firm style. It began as the firm of F. A. Schipfer, later was changed to Schipfer & Sons, and about 1890, when the sons took active charge, the name became Schipfer Bros., as it now appears to the trade and the public. In 1890 Mr. Schipfer made a visit to Germany and renewed old associations.

In 1858 Francis A. Schipfer was married in Sigourney to Emily Knappe, who was also born in Germany. The children born to them are: Francis A., Herman J., Louis J., Oscar A., Eugene, Fred C. and Clara, all of the sons and the daughter making up the present firm of Shipfer Bros. Mr. Schipfer has never been active in politics, but votes the Republican ticket.

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SCHIPFER BROS.

In the biographical sketch of Francis A. Schipfer, Sr., some history of the business firm of Schipfer Bros. is indicated. The business has resulted from that established by Francis A. Schipfer, Sr., in 1856. As his sons grew into years of usefulness as clerks, they entered their father's store and were brought up and trained to the business. About 1890 the father relinquished active connection with the business, and the firm of Schipfer Bros. came into existence. The business is conducted in three adjoining store rooms, one room being devoted to dry goods and notions, one to clothing and one to groceries. In these lines of merchandise a large and well selected stock of goods is carried. The firm enjoys an extensive trade, and is noted for its fair dealing and courtesy, and is perhaps the leading business firm of Sigourney, to the growth and development of which town it has materially contrib-

uted. Francis A. Schipfer, Jr., is the senior member of the firm, he being the eldest of the brothers. While all the sons and their only sister constitute the firm, the sister and Herman J. are not active members of the firm. All save these two are identified closely with the management and direction of the affairs of the firm. Herman J. is interested in farming. All the sons and the father are numbered among the enterprising and representative citizens and the entire family are noted for much merit, enjoying the esteem and confidence of a wide circle of acquaintance.



#### PHILIP CRONEWETH.

One of the oldest and most highly respected residents of Sigourney, Keokuk county, Iowa, is Philip Croneweth, who has made his home here since 1854. His birth occurred in Baden Baden, Germany, in 1822, where he remained until about the age of nineteen years. Coming to the United States in the hope of bettering his condition and wishing to take advantage of the larger opportunities offered young men in this country, Mr. Croneweth put into practice the habits of thrift which he had learned in his native land, and in the course of time accumulated ample means. Mr. Croneweth engaged in chair-making and house painting at Blooming Grove, Morrow county, Ohio, for some years, and there married Miss Mary Mark, who was also born in Germany and still survives. Three children were born to this union, but the only survivor is John W., a well known citizen of Sigourney. In 1854 Mr. Croneweth removed from Ohio to this city and here followed both house painting and cabinet-making.

John W. Croneweth was born in Morrow county, Ohio, July 29,

1848, and was six years of age when his parents came to Iowa. His education was secured in the public schools, and at the age of eighteen years he engaged in the grocery business, and during this period also handled jewelry as a side line. Thus he became acquainted with the jewelry business and trade and learned it thoroughly. For a time, with a partner, Mr. Croneweth operated a hotel, a restaurant, a grocery and a jewelry business. When these many enterprises became too large to be handled together, the partnership was dissolved and our subject took the jewelry business as his own line of activity. For twenty years he has conducted the same, with great success, in this city, and by his honest methods and his intimate relation with the trade, which enable him to make reasonable prices, he has won the confidence of the community and enjoys a large patronage. In 1887 Mr. Croneweth was married to Miss Rose Constant, and to this union was born one son, Harry, who is a bright student in the city schools.

Mr. Croneweth is a man of substance and prominence, gaining his ample means by his own efforts, and the approbation of his fellow citizens by his business ability and exemplary life. For a number of years he has been active in the Republican party and has served efficiently on the city council and in the office of recorder. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and also to the Masonic Blue lodge.

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#### LEANDER DELONG.

Prominent among the citizens of Keokuk county who have witnessed the marvelous development of the state in the past half century, and who have taken an active part in its development and progress, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, a well known and pros-

perous farmer of German township. Mr. Delong is a son of David and Jane (Law) Delong, and was born in Perry county, Ohio, February 12, 1829. He passed the early days of his boyhood and youth on the farm, and attended a district school, where he acquired his elementary education. Arriving at maturity, in 1850 he crossed the plains with an ox team to California, where he remained for a period of a year engaged in an attempt to secure some of the gold dust that had been discovered at the famous Sutter's Mill. He, however, was not very successful in this attempt, and after a twelve months' trial returned to civilization by way of the Isthmus. His trip home took him to the island of Cuba, and from thence by way of New Orleans he came home to Washington county. Remaining here for a period of about a year, he settled in Keokuk county, the year being 1856. His farm here consists of three hundred acres of land, most of which he cleared and broke himself, and has himself placed all of the valuable improvements which are to be found on the farm. The marriage of Mr. Delong occurred in the year 1856 in Keokuk county, the lady's name being Sarah Brannan. This lady was born in Canada. Her people later settled in the Keystone state, her father's name being Dennis Brannan and her mother's being Sarah. They were both natives of Ireland. Mrs. Delong was reared in the Keystone state, and early in the fifties came to Keokuk county with her parents. Mr. Delong is looked upon as one of the leading agriculturists in Keokuk county, and worthy in every respect of the esteem in which he is held by a host of admiring friends.

Mentioning the salient points in the family history of Mr. Delong, his father was David Delong, as stated above, a native of Kentucky, who settled in Ohio on a farm in Guernsey county. After a short residence there the family moved to Perry county, he first contracting mar-

riage in Guernsey county with Miss Jane Law, the date being 1811. She was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, from which point her parents removed in her girlhood to Guernsey county, Ohio. Mr. Delong is a member of a family of eight boys and three girls, all but two of whom grew to maturity. In 1841 the parents removed to Washington county, Iowa, where they settled on a farm, and continued to reside there until their death.



#### JOSEPH M. RICHARDSON.

According to the best information obtainable Mr. Richardson is of Scotch descent. The great-grandfather is said to have come from Scotland. He must have lived for some time in the state of New York, for there a son, Joseph, was born. This son became one of the early settlers of Ohio, later went to Indiana and subsequently moved to McDonough county, Illinois, where he died at the age of sixty-two.

Joseph M. Richardson, the subject of this sketch, was the son of Thomas and Eliza Ann (Weller) Richardson. The father was a son of the elder Joseph and was born September 8, 1809, in Ohio. He early went to Indiana and in 1836 removed to Illinois, McDonough county. He remained here until 1845, when by covered wagon he came to Iowa. This was two years after the western part of the state was opened for settlement. Thomas took up farming land from the government in Steady Run township, Keokuk county, where he lived until the time of his death, in 1872. The date of entry is fixed as 1846 and the land is still in the family. As pioneers they naturally underwent many hardships, but trials shared in common are the meeting ground for congenial people, and the steadfast, trustful nature of both man and



wife secured for Mr. and Mrs. Richardson the joy of many friendships. They were parents of twelve children, namely: Lydia M.; Joseph M.; Benjamin F., of Martinsburg, Iowa; Francis P., living on the old homestead; Mary Ellen; James W., deceased; David, residing in Lewis, Iowa; Eliza Jane; Bennett J., who died; Gilbert B., of Sigourney; Harriet and Emma, who have both died. Thomas Richardson was originally a Whig but later joined the Democratic party. Both he and his wife were members of the Predestinarian Baptist church.

Eliza Ann Weller was born in Kentucky, December 30, 1815. Her father, Joseph Weller, was a pioneer settler of Indiana, in which state he died. His wife was Margaret Fry, a native of Kentucky, whose family came originally from Pennsylvania. The Weller and Fry families are both of Dutch descent. Eliza Ann Weller was a woman of sweet yet forceful character. She died in Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1894.

Joseph M. Richardson was born on a farm in Vermillion county, Indiana, January 7, 1836. At the age of six months his parents moved to Illinois, and when only nine years old he went with them to Iowa. His life has been that of a pioneer with limited advantages for education, small leisure and plenty of hardship, privation and strenuous labor. He was reared on the farm and the ordinary common schools were his means of instruction, save those surer and more effective means which try the mettle and prepare admirably for life; we mean the struggle with pioneer difficulties, the revelations of and communions with nature and the actual contact with real men. He early went to work for strangers, on the farm as the all-around hand and in the country store as clerk. Up to his twentieth year his wages went to his parents. At that time, in 1856, he married and settled on a farm in Lancaster township. There he lived until 1869, devoting his time chiefly to farming and car-

penentering. In April, 1869, he moved to Ioka, Iowa, where he opened a general store, which he conducted for fourteen years. He spent one year in farming and in 1884 went into the general merchandise business at Martinsburg, Iowa. In 1885 he was elected on the Democratic ticket to the office of county auditor. He moved to Sigourney in the spring of the following year. In the fall of 1887 he was re-elected by his party and at the expiration of his second term, in the spring of 1890, he moved to a farm near Martinsburg, which he had received in exchange for his general store. In 1891, in February, he sold this farm and returned to the merchandise business, this time at Sigourney, which city he has since made his home. He conducted this general store for nine years, sold out and after a lapse of one year bought a half interest in a retail hardware business. After one year he sold his share in that store and now he is living a retired life, enjoying the rewards of years of labor.

On October 9, 1856, Mr. Richardson married Miss Emily, daughter of John C. and Pamela Jacobs, who came to Keokuk county about 1846. She is a native of Indiana. The union was blessed by the birth of nine children: Henry L., deceased; Frank P.; Malissa E.; William H., who has also held office as county auditor; Edward E.; Thomas S., deceased; S. Walter; Albert L.; and Susan J. Richardson. Mr. Richardson is a splendid example of the self-made man; his life is an illustration of what industry, application and perseverance will accomplish.



#### S. W. BRUNT.

In reviewing the life of S. W. Brunt we are dealing with the history of a family that has been connected with the development of several

states for several generations. James Brunt, the grandfather, was born in Currituck county, North Carolina, in 1770. He was the eldest son of Richard and Nancy (Bisco) Brunt; his ancestors had come from England in the very early days of colonization, settling in his native county. James married a young woman descended on paternal and maternal side from the French Huguenots. She was Sarah Harris, daughter of William and Ann (Cowel) Harris. For several years after his marriage James remained in Currituck county, where all his children were born save William Harris, the youngest. In 1809 the family moved to Rowan county, North Carolina. Here the seventh child, William, was born March 22, 1810. Here James joined the Baptists and his wife entered the Methodist church. In 1829 they moved to Indiana, settling in Rush county and later, in 1836, removing to Madison county, Indiana, where they spent the last years of their lives and where all that remains of these brave pioneers, in an earthly way, lies buried. The six eldest children were: Lydia, Mary, Ann, John, Polly and Thomas.

William Harris Brunt, the youngest, was nineteen years old when he came to Indiana with his parents. He had received a fair education while in North Carolina and upon entering his new state he engaged in teaching, saving thereby enough money to buy eighty acres from the government. This land he cleared and in 1836, when his father located in Madison county, William Harris entered some new land in the same county, moved his own family there and remained for fully eleven years. Then in the spring of 1848 he cast his eye farther west and took up more government land in what is now Lancaster township, Keokuk county, Iowa. Thus, for the third time in his life, he became a pioneer and in all his efforts he was nobly aided and encouraged by his wife, a

woman of sterling qualities, large heart and generous mind. He had married her in the old Indiana home while still in Rush county. She was a native of Maryland, who had been reared in Kentucky, and who was Nancy Williams, daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth (Laufitis) Williams; she was excellently prepared to furnish the lighter element to happiness and still exert a benign influence through her calm and purposeful life. She was born August 14, 1807, and it was her good fortune before her death, which occurred on October 25, 1874, in Keokuk county, to see honor and distinction come to the man of her maiden dreams and to see her husband rise in the estimation of the community and win the respect and esteem of his fellow men. They had been married February 21, 1832. In 1839 they joined the Christian church and to this faith they ever afterward remained firm adherents. He was ordained a minister of this church in Indiana, and until old age forced his retirement he continued in the ministry, his labors being mostly those of a local minister. Their children were: Sarah, widow of Jacob Shoemaker, living in Grand Island, Nebraska; James M., who died at the age of seven years; John M., of Lincoln, Kansas; Samuel W., the subject of this sketch; and Elizabeth, wife of J. S. Morrow, a farmer of Lancaster township, this county. They all received a liberal education and excellent home training. John M. Brunt was during two terms clerk of the courts of this county and for one term he served as county treasurer.

William H. Brunt was a public-spirited man, a liberal patron of church and school. He was an organizer of the Christian church at Lancaster, Iowa, and was a principal donor to the construction of the church building. He was a strong Union man during secession times, though in politics he identified himself with the Democratic party. He held the office of county treasurer, was school fund commissioner and member of

the county board of supervisors. He filled all these positions with entire satisfaction to all concerned and ingratiated himself in the heart of the community. He lived on the farm on which he first settled when he came to Iowa until his death on July 17, 1898.

Samuel W. Brunt was born in Madison county, Indiana, October 4, 1840. He was in his eighth year when his parents brought him to Keokuk county. They gave him a fair education, and with industry aiding natural ability, Samuel reached sufficiently high scholarship to warrant his entering the profession of teaching. He soon turned his sole attention to farming. In 1874 he went to California, spent about six years there in civil engineering and upon his return to Iowa resumed farming, devoting his main efforts to stock raising and buying and selling cattle. It was about this time, somewhere along in the eighties, that he held the office of county surveyor. Politically he accepts the traditions of his father and associates himself with the Democrats. For ten years previous to January, 1900, he was cashier of the Keokuk County State Bank. The confidence in his integrity was so great that the directors intrusted him with the entire management, never once during the entire ten years requiring him to furnish a bond. He was careful and conservative, and on retiring from the position of cashier he was elected president of the bank, but declined the position.

In 1866 he married Miss Rebecca Payne, daughter of Rev. Samuel and Lucy Payne. Their two children are living; they are: Arthur H., cashier in the Keokuk County State Bank, succeeding his father; and Lulu, wife of U. G. Dawson, residing in Ottumwa, Iowa. Mrs. Brunt is a native of Iowa. In October, 1861, Mr. Brunt enlisted in Company D, of the Thirteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He served as a private three and a half years and was honorably discharged in 1865. He saw

some very active service, being in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, the siege of Vicksburg and Atlanta. He was captured at Atlanta, July 22, 1864, and for seven months thereafter was held a prisoner of war at Andersonville and Florence, North Carolina. He belongs to the Robert F. Lowe Post, No. 167, Grand Army of the Republic. Fraternally Mr. Brunt is a Mason and a Shriner. He is a member of the Webb Lodge, No. 182, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is prominent as a York Rite Mason. He belongs to Jopa Chapter, No. 40, Royal Arch Masons, of the De Payne Commandery, No. 6, Knight Templar, of Oskaloosa, Iowa; Kaaba Temple at Davenport, Iowa.



#### GOTTLIEB E. KLEINSCHMIDT.

Gottlieb E. Kleinschmidt was not quite seven years old when his parents and four children left Prussia, Germany, and settled in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1854. Nicholas Kleinschmidt, the father, had no brothers; his only sister and his parents remained in the fatherland. He was born in Prussia, April 14, 1816, received a fair education and learned the trade of a wagon-maker. At the age of twenty-two he married Dora Schacht, who was born in Prussia, April 6, 1815. They had five children: August, who died in Dakota in 1891; Amelia, wife of George Pennington of Morgan county, Indiana; Gottlieb E.; William C., a farmer in Keokuk county, Iowa; and Louis, a farmer of Washington county, Iowa. The first four were born in Germany; Louis in America. The family lived in St. Louis two years, where the father worked at his trade. In the fall of 1855 he went to Sigourney, bought a lot and built a house for his family, who moved into the new home the following April. He opened a blacksmith and carriage shop and conducted

his business with great success. In 1883 he gave the management to his son, Gottlieb, though for a few years longer he continued to take an interest in the business. He died December 18, 1901; his wife, on June 6, 1883. They were members of the Lutheran church and trained their family according to the doctrines of their faith. He was a Republican in politics. His life was a personification of faithful, continued labor, frugality, honesty and wisdom. He was a thoroughly successful business man.

His son Gottlieb has carried on the business established on worthy principles of fair dealing and efficient service. He learned the business of wagon-making and blacksmithing from his father, with whom he worked and whom he superseded as head of the establishment in 1883. He has associated with him his own son, George, who since 1900 has charge of the affairs. Gottlieb E. Kleinschmidt was born in Prussia, Germany, December 28, 1847. He obtained a common school education, worked hard at his trade and in 1884 took an active interest in the organization of the Keokuk County State Bank. He was made a director at the time and has continued in that position ever since. He was for ten years vice-president of the board and in 1899 he was elected president of the bank. Since 1899 the bank has done an increasingly large business, due in great measure to the efforts of Mr. Kleinschmidt.

In 1875 he married Miss Sophia, daughter of Charles and Sophia (Votmer) Backhaus. She is a native of Keokuk county. Mr. and Mrs. Kleinschmidt have ten children: five daughters and five sons. He belongs to the Democratic party, but has never held office. Fraternally he is a member of the local chapter of Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he affiliates with Webb Lodge, No. 182, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Sigourney.

## JOHN J. KELLY.

John J. Kelly was born in Ireland, November 24, 1826. He was the son of John and Catherine (Griffin) Kelly. The mother died when John J. was a boy of eight years and some time later the father entered upon a second marriage. At the age of fifteen John J. left home, went to England, where he worked in the coal mines, and five years after, in 1846, came to America. He settled in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, worked as a miner in the coal fields of that district and became later a contractor in coal mine and railroad construction work. In the fall of 1863 he went west, spent the winter at coal mining in Illinois and in April, 1864, took his family to Liberty township, Keokuk county, Iowa. There he successfully engaged in farming for many years, devoting considerable time to stock raising and cattle buying.

About 1853 he married Bridget Lagan, who had come to Pennsylvania from Ireland with her parents when she was a girl of thirteen years. She died in May, 1890, aged fifty-seven years. Of his marriage six children were born, namely: Thomas; Patrick, a farmer in Keokuk county; John, who died at the age of about thirty-three, leaving a wife and three children; Mary, a resident of Chicago; Anthony, who lives on the old homestead; and Bridget, wife of Andrew Hayes, a farmer of Liberty township, this county. John J. Kelly died in Sigourney, Iowa, October 17, 1898. He was a Roman Catholic and reared his children in the faith of his fathers.

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THOMAS KELLY.

Thomas Kelly was born in Pennsylvania, June 26, 1854, son of John J. and Bridget (Lagan) Kelly. He was reared on the farm and



after completing the course in the common school he went to Dubuque, Iowa, for two years of training at St. Joseph's College. He returned to the farm and for three years he worked in the fields in the summer time and taught school in winter. He was then appointed deputy county treasurer, and at the end of two years went into the general merchandise business at Kinross, Keokuk county. The following year, 1890, he was elected county recorder and returned by his party for a second term. In 1894 he was appointed assistant cashier of the Sigourney Savings Bank, a position which he has held ever since. Thomas Kelly is a Democrat and an active man in his party. He was delegate from his congressional district to the national Democratic convention at Kansas City in 1900. Mr. Kelly was married in 1879 to Miss Anastasia Slattery, a native of Keokuk county, and the marriage has given issue to nine children.



JOHN G. and FERDINAND L. GOELDNER.

John G. Goeldner was born in Prussia, Germany, January 14, 1812. His parents lived and died in Germany, the mother dying when John was a boy of six or seven years. At the age of twenty-seven he married; his wife died leaving him two daughters. He married a second time, choosing Rosa Liersch as wife. In 1858 the family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Goeldner, two daughters by the first wife and two sons by the second, came to America and settled in Clear Creek township, Keokuk county, Iowa. He bought eighty acres, involving himself to some extent in debt but soon gaining a more than an ordinary income and through continued industry arriving at considerable wealth. In 1876 the family moved to Lafayette township in the same county; and there they live now (1902), Mr. Goeldner holding possession of about

two hundred forty-eight acres of fine farming land. The children by his first wife are: Ernestine, widow of Charles Nauman; Hannah, wife of Fred Just. By his second wife he had the following children: John A., living in Adams county, Iowa; Frederick T., of Keokuk county; Herman, of Washington county; Henry, living in Keokuk county; Ferdinand L., living at Sigourney; Alvina, who lives at home with her parents; Mary V., widow of Herman C. Axthelm; John G., who died at the age of sixteen; and Rosa, who is still at home. He is a Republican; religiously he and his wife are of the Lutheran persuasion, both being prominent members of the church and highly respected and esteemed by friends and acquaintances.

Ferdinand L. Goeldner has had better educational advantages than his father, in fact better advantages than most men of his age and community, and his life has been more eventful than ordinary and marked with singular success. He was born on a farm in Clear Creek township, this county, on March 5, 1864. His early education began at the little country school near his home. Later he attended the Keota high school and graduated from that institution in May, 1884. At Ames he attended the Iowa Agricultural College for two years. His was not a consecutive course of training, for at intervals he taught in the public schools. In the spring of 1886 he became deputy clerk of the district court and for four consecutive years he filled that office with universal satisfaction. In the meantime he studied law with the Hon. G. D. Woodin and on May 11, 1892, he was admitted to the bar before the supreme court of Iowa. The next day he was admitted to the United States circuit court, southern district of Iowa, at Des Moines. January 1, 1893, he opened an office in Sigourney and began the practice of law. Mr. Goeldner is a Republican and an active man in his party. In 1893

he was chairman of the Republican central county committee and in the fall of 1894 was elected county attorney for Keokuk county. His party kept him in office for a second term and at the expiration of that time he resumed his law practice. Mr. Goeldner is a member of the Knights of Pythias and belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is still a young man and has already met with that degree of success which indicates a brilliant future.



A. M. ASHCRAFT.

A. M. Ashcraft was born in Carmi, White county, Illinois, March 5, 1871. He was the son of Thomas and Cornelia I. (Rice) Ashcraft. The mother was born and reared in White county; the father was of southern extraction. Thomas F. Ashcraft was born in North Carolina and at the age of ten moved with his parents to Mississippi. Here he learned the harness-maker's trade. When the secession spirit in the south grew strong Thomas found it uncomfortable, for he was a strong southern Union man. He was forced to leave the south and made his way to St. Louis. But even Missouri could not tolerate him, so he started for Illinois and finally settled in Carmi. There he followed his trade for many years and married and reared a family.

A. M. Ashcraft, the son, was born and bred there. At the age of sixteen he began teaching. In the spring of 1881 he entered the ranks of the traveling salesman and followed that occupation until January 1, 1896. He had married Miss Ida Jessup, daughter of John Jessup of Sigourney, on September 19, 1894, and henceforward that city became his home. In January, 1896, husband and wife went to Iowa City, where both entered the law department of the University of Iowa. They grad-

uated in June, 1897, and were together admitted to the bar that same month. They returned to Sigourney and Mr. Ashcraft at once opened a law office and began practicing, being ably assisted by his wife, who is a practical stenographer and who does the office and reference work with precision and ability. Mrs. Ashcraft formerly taught school for a number of years. She and her husband are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Ashcraft is certainly one of the rising young men of this county; as an indication we mention his recent election to the office of county attorney; in 1898 the Republican party nominated him for the office but he was defeated. His party has had such confidence in his ability and merit that they renominated him in 1900 and this time with success, and he was renominated by acclamation in 1902. He is filling the position with honor to his party and credit to himself, and without doubt there is much in store for this ambitious and honorable young man.



#### FRED D. STROHMANN.

One of the progressive and successful farmers and old settlers of Keokuk county, Iowa, is Fred D. Strohmann, who has been one of the important factors in the agricultural development of German township, where in section 7 he owns a fine farm of one hundred and seventy-one acres. By birth and ancestry Mr. Strohmann is German, his parents Diederich and Doretta (Buckhous) Strohmann being natives of Hanover, Germany, where he also was born on September 26, 1848.

Diederich Strohmann was born in 1819 and served for six years in the German army, three years as a volunteer. He married and brought his wife and four children with him to America, in 1856, landing at New



FRED D. STROHMANN AND FAMILY.



Orleans. Following the Mississippi they finally landed in Iowa and at once located in Keokuk county, on section 5, in German township. Here Mr. Strohmamm died in 1884, but his widow still survives at the age of eighty-four years.

Our subject was the eldest of the family of children born to his parents and was eight years of age when they came to Keokuk county. His primary education in the German schools has been very thorough and he was not able to add much to his knowledge of books in the little log schoolhouse in German township, for in those times the hours of work were early and continued long. The land was unimproved and he was needed to assist in its clearing and cultivating. Until his marriage on October 21, 1870, to Christine Voltmer, he remained at home. Mrs. Strohmamm was born August 13, 1851, in a little log cabin on the farm which is now the family home. She is the eldest of fourteen children and has lived her whole life in German township. Her father David Voltmer was a pioneer in this county of 1846.

Mr. and Mrs. Strohmamm after marriage located on this farm, and for two years lived in a log cabin, erecting then the handsome, modern residence which is now the comfortable family home. This contains ten rooms and is fitted up with taste and regard to comfort. The thirteen children of our subject and wife were born here and all survive with three exceptions,—Fred, Edward and Ella. The others are: Deitrick, a prominent farmer of this county; Minnie, a popular teacher for eight years, educated at Highland College, Dixon, Illinois; Matilda, the wife of Albert Blaise, a prominent farmer of German township; Dora, the wife of Louis Goldner, a prominent farmer of Clear Creek township; Sophia, a graduate of the Sigourney high school, a successful teacher; and Lucy, David, Lewis, Walter and Mable, at home.

Mr. Strohmann has long been regarded as one of the most prosperous farmers of the county, and is also one of its most intelligent and progressive men. Formerly a Republican, he has in later years been identified with the Democratic party and was its candidate for supervisor, running far beyond his ticket on account of public confidence. He has always been a leader in all movements looking to the best interests of German township and is one of the most substantial as well as reliable and upright citizens of this section of the county. Almost all of his life has been devoted to the advancement of this locality and it is a matter of comment that some of the best educated and most influential citizens have been born and reared in this vicinity.



#### CURTIS G. JOHNSTON.

Among those of this county who are prominent in the legal profession we mention Curtis G. Johnston of Sigourney. Although he had the advantages of a college training, his advancement is due largely to his own efforts and private study. He was born on a farm in Jefferson county, Ohio, June 17, 1837. His father, William, was the son of John Johnston, a native of Ireland and one of the very early settlers of Jefferson county, Ohio. It is very probable that William was born in the Buckeye state. He was a carpenter by trade but also engaged in farming and in connection therewith operated a saw and grist-mill. He married twice; by his first wife he had three children, and he had several more by the second wife, who was the mother of Curtis. She was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and traced her ancestry back to one Hugh Scott, a native of Scotland. Her maiden name was Rosanna Todd. She and her husband were members of the Protestant Methi-



odist church. William Johnston belonged to the Whigs. Both he and his wife died in Ohio.

After finishing the common school Curtis Johnston attended a college in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He taught school several terms and then went west, arriving at Davenport, January 13, 1858. He secured a clerical position in a law office at that city, and thus his law studies began. In March, 1859, he was admitted to the bar upon examination before Judge John F. Dillon. In April of the same year he left Davenport, returned to Ohio, entered a law office, continued his studies and in January, 1860, was admitted to the bar of Ohio. He opened an office in Steubenville, but soon after left for Washington, D. C., where he secured a position in the treasury department under Secretary Chase. He held the position four years. In September, 1867, he went west under leave of absence, visited Sigourney and decided to locate in that city. He resigned his position at Washington and moved to Sigourney December 16, 1867. He opened a law office and has continued his practice ever since. Mr. Johnston is not an office seeker; he belongs in the ranks of the Republican party.

On February 26, 1867, Mr. Johnston married Hannah Updegraff in Ohio; she is a native of that state. They have four children: Edward A., an attorney-at-law; Josiah M., a physician at Des Moines, Iowa; Zella, wife of S. Carl Quinby, of Des Moines; and Thomas K., who lives at home. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston are members of the Adventist church. In the summer of 1864 Mr. Johnston joined a party of volunteers in the noble service of the hospital corps. They cared for the sick and wounded through the campaign of the Wilderness under the surgeon general of the United States army.

## A. G. BROWN.

Abner Gregg Brown was one of the founders of this county. His unexcelled business ability, his progressive spirit and public mindedness made him one of the moving forces of the community. He was born near Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in October, 1823. In 1833 his parents moved to Xenia, Greene county, Ohio. Abner's early training was that of the farm and common country school. At Xenia he held a clerical position for a mercantile house and became the station agent for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In 1855 he came to Iowa, settling in Sigourney and engaging in the general merchandise business for a number of years. When the increasing business of the city demanded a local bank, A. G. Brown was among the first to arrange for the organization of the First National Bank. He became one of the directors and continued in that office for years. He purchased land near the southeast limits of the town, engaged extensively in stock raising and met with such success in all his business enterprises that he became the owner of eleven hundred acres of fine land. He was a member of the Republican party and for years served on the school board of Sigourney. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In 1862 he married Miss Etta Yerger, a native of Pennsylvania. She died in 1886 at the age of forty-three. Abner G. Brown died in Sigourney March 13, 1890. They had two children: Harry G., and Bernice A., wife of W. G. Jordan of Ottumwa, Iowa.

Harry G. Brown was born in Sigourney, December 29, 1865. He was reared and educated in his native city and in 1893 he married Miss Grace G. Harlan. Mr. Brown has gone into the business of stock raising and in that line is proving himself a worthy successor to his father.

He is a Republican in politics. Fraternally he belongs to the Knight Templar Masons and is a Shriner of the Kaaba Temple at Davenport.

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JOHN HOGE.

The close of the great Civil War marked the beginning of an unprecedented emigration to the west, the spirit of unrest seeming to affect all classes of society, but being especially strong among the agriculturists. Iowa's fertile prairies and shaded woodlands proved an irresistible attraction to the larger number of these homeseekers and the young state was soon the scene of an enormous activity.

The honored name which appears at the head of this sketch is a familiar one to residents of Keokuk county, for though his life was passed in the traditional peace and quiet of the Quaker, John Hoge, by his consistent and upright Christian life, and his fair dealings with friend and neighbor, made for himself a lasting monument in their affections. His death, in 1900, was a distinct loss to the people among whom he spent his life.

Mr. Hoge was born in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1820. His parents, William and Sarah (Wright) Hoge, were early settlers in the Buckeye state, being Pennsylvanians by birth. They were of that sturdy class of pioneers which early made Ohio famed in song and story, and they lie buried in the state of their adoption. Three boys and the same number of girls composed the family they reared. At the age of twenty-two years John Hoge was united in marriage to Lydia Branson, a native of the same county. She passed to rest but a few months prior to her husband, aged seventy-eight years. To them a family of nine children were born, three of whom died in infancy. They lived

in Belmont county until 1865, when removal was made to Prairie township, Keokuk county, where for many years Mr. Hoge was a successful farmer. He and his wife were of the Quaker faith, exemplifying its beautiful tenets in their daily lives. While a strong Republican in politics, Mr. Hoge had no taste for official life.

Smith B. Hoge was the third son of this family and was born in Belmont county, Ohio, May 14, 1852. He was a wide-awake lad when the family removed to the west, and as he grew to manhood contributed much to his father's success by his manly qualities. The ordinary country school education was supplemented by a course at Penn College, Oskaloosa, after which he returned to the farm and began the battle of life for himself. Until 1895 Mr. Hoge cultivated his farm exclusively, following in his father's footsteps and establishing for himself a reputation for absolute honesty and integrity. In this year the Republican party, attracted by the solid character of the man, selected him for a place on the ticket as county treasurer, to which office he was easily elected. Two years later he was again successful and at the close of his four years' service turned the office over to his successor without the loss of a penny. Mr. Hoge did not return to the farm but bought an interest in a clothing business in Sigourney, where he is now engaged, the firm name being Hoge & Kadel.

Mr. Hoge was married in 1875. Eliza Mead, his wife, is a native of Ohio, the daughter of Oscar and Catherine (Crouder) Mead, also pioneer settlers of Keokuk county. They have three children—Marie, Sidwell and Anna. Mr. and Mrs. Hoge are members of the Methodist church, he being also a chapter Mason.

WILLIAM PFANNEBECKER, M. D.

The medical fraternity of Keokuk county has an active and honored member in the gentleman named above. He is proud to date his birth among the solid farming element of the county, the time being May 31, 1863, his parents, Henry and Eva (Hofmann) Pfannebecker, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Dr. Pfannebecker passed the life of the average country boy, securing a rudimentary education in the schools of his neighborhood, and later attending an academy in Iowa City. For a period of four years following he taught country schools in his home county with success. During the last year he formally began preparation for his life work by beginning the reading of medicine with Dr. W. A. Dorman, of Sigourney. Selecting Missouri Medical College, of St. Louis, he continued his studies, and in 1891 finished the course. He immediately began practice of his profession in Sigourney and has more than realized the expectations of his friends by the splendid character of his work. The Doctor is a close student of his profession, and has supplemented his former course by post graduate work at his alma mater. He is a Republican in politics, and a worthy member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Miss Margaret Hensler, of Monroe county, Missouri, became Mrs. Pfannebecker in 1891, and their home is brightened by the presence of two lovely children.



CHARLES A. NAUMAN.

There must be something ennobling in the life of the agriculturist, else why does urban society recruit so largely from the ranks of country-bred men and women? In these latter days, when so many prove victims to the allurements of city life, and forswear the place of their birth

and rearing, it is refreshing to record the life of a man who lived out the measure of his days on the farm, proud always to be known as one of the "sons of toil."

Charles A. Nauman (deceased) was born in Saxony, Germany, January 29, 1833. After passing nearly a lifetime in the old country, his parents emigrated with their family to America, Charles A. being at that time twenty years of age. Another son and three daughters made up the family, two of whom now live in Sigourney. This family came direct to Keokuk county and settled on a farm in Clear Creek township, where the parents continued to reside until their death.

Charles A. Nauman was of that thrifty class of Germans who give solid strength to any community in which they may settle. His parents had given him a liberal education in the fatherland, even adding the accomplishment of speaking the English language. When he came to America he was therefore better equipped than the average foreigner, and he was not alone proficient in the spoken language, but wielded a facile pen as well. During his lifetime he was a frequent and valued correspondent for the local press. Following the custom of middle-class Germans his parents had apprenticed him to a trade, and he was possessed of a good knowledge of blacksmithing as a result.

When the war for the preservation of the Union began, Mr. Nauman was one of the first to offer his services, becoming a private in Company F, Eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he served for a year. The rigors of army life were too great, however, and a chronic weakness of the throat developing into bronchitis, as a result of which he secured his discharge. It was this disease, together with other complications, which finally caused his death in February of 1893. In 1863 Mr. Nauman married Miss Mary Goeldner, daughter of John G. Goeldner, who

has mention elsewhere in this volume. To the union eight children were born, all now living but one.

Mr. Emil D. Nauman, eldest son of the above, was born in Keokuk county, December 19, 1864. He was given a liberal education in the common schools and at Iowa City Academy and Commercial College. For five years thereafter he taught successfully in the schools of the county and for several years engaged in farming, but is now a book-keeper. Mr. Nauman is quite active in Republican circles, his first entrance into politics being in 1895, when he was elected assessor of Prairie township, and also the following year. In 1900 he was selected to take the census of Prairie township. In school affairs he has always taken a keen interest and has served as secretary of the school board of his district for five years. In 1890 he was married to Miss Emma Goodman, of Keokuk county, who has borne him one child, a daughter, named Anna. Since January, 1902, the family have resided in Sigourney.



GEORGE L. BARTOW.

A school man of unquestioned ability, both in the schoolroom as principal and in official life as superintendent of Keokuk county schools; an honored member of the newspaper fraternity, fearless and able as an advocate of Democratic principles; a lawyer of undoubted ability; and above all, a gentleman! George L. Bartow receives and merits the confidence and esteem of a very large circle of Keokuk county citizens. The family of which Mr. Bartow is an honored member dates back to the time of the French Huguenots, those fearless disseminators of civil and religious liberty, whose progeny inherit to a large extent their sterling qualities. Our subject takes the name of his grandfather Bartow (the

French spelling of which was Barteau), who lived in Harrison county, Ohio, from an early day until 1851, when he settled his family in Jefferson county, Iowa.

George P. Bartow, the father of our present subject, was born in Ohio and educated in the New Market Academy. To this literary foundation he added a course in medicine at the John M. Scudder Eclectic Medical College, of Cincinnati. He engaged in the practice of his profession in Jefferson county, Iowa, until 1880, when he removed to Richland, Keokuk county, where he lived until the time of his decease, in 1885. He was a physician of fine attainments and a man who was very successful in his business ventures. At the time of his death he had accumulated a comfortable competence. He was not covetous of political preferment, but always stood for what was best in the Democratic party. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Knights of Pythias, and both he and Mrs. Bartow, who still survives him, were faithful and consistent members of the Methodist church. Unto his marriage were born four children, as follows: Albert C., Sigourney; George L.; Alpheus M., dry goods merchant of Sigourney; Mary J., deceased.

The literary education of the subject of this review was obtained in the country schoolhouse and the Pleasant Plains Academy, where he was graduated in 1886. For a period of fourteen consecutive terms Mr. Bartow then gave his attention to disseminating knowledge in the schoolroom, a period in which he demonstrated conclusively that he not only had the knowledge, but the ability to impart it to others—not always co-existent. His success was such in the schoolroom that when his political party needed the attraction of an unusually strong name they found it in that of George L. Bartow, and for two successive terms he served



acceptably the school interests of the county. While in the schoolroom he was principal successively at Thornburg, Richland and Martinsburg. His residence at Richland was also the date of a year's experience with Uncle Sam, he having served that period as postmaster. At the close of his service as superintendent of schools Mr. Bartow secured control of the Sigourney Review and for three years thereafter the Democratic party of the county and state had an organ upon which it could depend for the faithful exposition of its most cherished principles, while the people were given a paper which fearlessly printed the news, without equivocation. Previous to his election to the office of county superintendent of schools he served for two years in the United States railway mail service.

During his public life as superintendent and editor Mr. Bartow had become much interested in the law as a profession, and it was therefore a comparatively easy matter for him to enter upon its practice, which he did after passing a brilliant examination at the local bar. During the comparatively short period of activity in the profession he has demonstrated that the human mind, at least some human minds, are of so facile a nature as to do many diverse things equally well. His standing at the bar is without question, and he is rapidly building up a splendid practice. It is probably unnecessary to state that Mr. Bartow is a simon-pure, uncompromising Democrat. He is affiliated with the order of Odd Fellows and he and his family are communicants of the Methodist church. Mr. Bartow was joined in wedlock to Miss Belle Pfaff, of Sigourney. Two children, Vora S. and Vera A., have come to add delight to their pleasant home.

## CAP E. MILLER.

The welfare of any community depends on the number of strong young men it can muster. Old men for wisdom; but it takes the elastic energy and fire of youth to carry great projects through. Old men think; young men act. And, though it be true that young men may act without sufficient thought, yet even failure, with strength and a will to do again, discounts the conservative halting of old age. Keokuk county has a goodly stock of these young men, alert, active, awake to the probabilities and possibilities of life, and keeping the car of progress in the van of the procession. Many of these are worthy sons of well-to-do sires, equipped at their expense for the battle of life, while others have fought their way to success by their own unaided personal effort. Of this latter class is the subject of this article. At an age when most young men are just beginning to take life seriously, he is superintendent of schools of Keokuk county.

Cap Miller was born and reared to man's estate on a farm in English River township, one of a family of nine children. The education he received in the country school served but to whet the boy's appetite for something broader and deeper. The parents, though willing to sacrifice much for their son's advancement, were able to help but little and do justice to the other members of their large family, and he was thus thrown upon his own resources. Such a state of affairs, however, did not dampen the ardor of the youth; indeed, it had challenged the spirit of self-help which had been lying dormant, and led him to resolve that he would secure the object of his desires, come what may. The way opened for him, as it had for others of like mind before, through the arduous work of the schoolroom. Teaching one season and attending

the next constituted his life for several years. After two years at Hedrick Normal, he matriculated in the Iowa State Normal, from which excellent institution he graduated in 1901. Even before graduating from the State Normal Mr. Miller had won an enviable reputation as an educator. Here his worth was immediately recognized by President Seerley, and he was frequently sent to take temporary charge of schools throughout the state in the absence of superintendents and principals, an honor which came to no one not fully deserving, as the reputation of the State Normal was at stake.

Prior to graduating from the State Normal, Professor Miller took charge of the Millersburg schools, and the two years of his incumbency were marked by thorough organization and effective class work. Upon graduation he was offered the principalship of the DeSoto schools, and accepting, he taught until the holidays, when he resigned to enter upon the duties of his present office, to which he had been elected on the Democratic ticket, over a strong man on the Republican ticket, and this in a Republican county. Since that time this office has felt the rejuvenating effect of his master hand, the school system of Keokuk county never having been on a better basis than at the present day.

The family of which Mr. Miller is a member still resides in South English. The parents, David Wesley and Margaret (McWilliams) Miller, are natives of the Buckeye state, having come to Iowa in early life. They belong to the substantial farming element and are regarded as among the best citizens of the county.

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JOSIAH UTTERBACK.

Josiah Utterback has lived in Sigourney since 1892. He was born on a farm in Johnson county, Indiana, May 15, 1834. His parents were

Corbin and Sarah (Hanks) Utterback, both natives of Kentucky and early settlers of Johnson county, Indiana. In 1850 they came to Keokuk county, Iowa, settling on a farm about three miles southeast of Sigourney. They lived there until their death; the mother passing away at the age of seventy-one and the father when nearly ninety-four years old. Of their twelve children nine are living, of which number Josiah is the eldest. Corbin Utterback was a successful farmer and extensive stock raiser. He belonged to the Democratic party.

Josiah received only a common school education and most of his life has been devoted to farming and stock raising. In 1853 he married Frances Dyer, a native of Johnson county, Indiana, and by this union they became the parents of eight children. At the time of his marriage Mr. Utterback moved to a farm in Lancaster township, this county, and here he made his home until 1892. He was one of the organizers of the Sigourney Savings Bank and became its first president. Through a period of ten years he has directed the bank's affairs with the utmost care and success, and he has been retained at its head to the present time. Mr. Utterback is still interested in farming and still engages in the buying and selling of stock. Some time along in the eighties he was made treasurer of Keokuk county. He has also taken an interest in public affairs and found the Democratic principles such as he could best accept.



#### ELLIOTT UTTERBACK.

Elliott Utterback has long been a resident of Lancaster township, Keokuk county, Iowa, and was born in Johnson county, Indiana, April 14, 1842, son of Corbin and Sarah (Hanks) Utterback. His father's

history is recorded in the personal sketch of Josiah Utterback, elsewhere in this work. Mr. Utterback was the seventh child and fourth son and was about eight years old at his coming to Keokuk county. He was educated in the district school of Lancaster township and assisted his father on the farm. In 1859, when in his eighteenth year he lost a leg, but notwithstanding he has had a successful career. He owns a fine, well improved farm of two hundred acres.

On December 14, 1869, he married Olive Beall, who was born in Holmes county, Ohio, March 15, 1847. Her father was Brooklyn Beall, a native of Maryland, and an early settler in Holmes county, Ohio, where he died at the age of forty-three. Her mother was Mary Ann Sigafos; she was born in Pennsylvania, came when a small girl to Ohio and later, in 1865, came to Keokuk county, where she died in her seventy-eighth year. She was the mother of eleven children, of whom Mrs. Utterback was the eighth. The latter was seventeen years old when she came to Keokuk county. Mr. and Mrs. Utterback located at the west end of Lancaster township. They were the parents of five sons: Lester C., married Julia Pennington, of Lancaster; Vernon D., the husband of Maud Jacobs, of Lancaster; S. Curtis, who married Florence Gladfelter and resides in Lancaster; Chelley C., married Artie Long and lives in Lancaster; and Elver C., at home, assisting on his father's home.

Mr. Utterback holds membership in the Christian church at Lancaster and is one of its trustees. In politics he is a Democrat. He is one of the substantial old settlers of the county and has been actively interested in all the affairs pertaining to the advancement of the community.

## HARMON HENKLE.

The fitting reward of a well spent life is retirement from labor and a period of rest in which to enjoy the fruits of former toil. This has been vouchsafed to Mr. Henkle, who is now living in Keota—a town in which he has been a very important factor as a promoter of many lines of progress and improvement contributing to the general good. He was born in Fayette county, Ohio, April 7, 1832, and is a son of George W. Henkle. The grandfather also bore the name of George Henkle. The former, a native of Virginia, was a farmer by occupation and came westward to Iowa in 1840, settled in Washington county, where he entered land from the government and improved a farm, making his home thereon for many years. He died, however, in Keokuk county, Iowa, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. His political support was given to the Whig party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the Republican party, which was then formed, and marched under its banners throughout his remaining days. He was honored by his fellow townsmen with a number of local offices and was a consistent member of the Episcopal church. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Polly Bush, died in Washington county, Iowa, when the subject of this review was about sixteen years of age.

Harmon Henkle was the second child in his father's family and was eight years of age when he came with them to Iowa. He was reared and educated in Washington county, pursuing his studies in a log schoolhouse there such as was common at that time. After arriving at the age of maturity he was married in Washington county in 1854 to Lydia J. Wartenbee, a native of Ohio, who came in early girlhood to Iowa. To this marriage were born five children; three of whom

are living: Ella, now the wife of E. M. Richey, of Keota; Watson D., who married Emma Hunter and is a farmer of Van Buren county; and Clara, the wife of E. E. Bowers, a general merchant of Keota, carrying on business as a member of the firm of Bowers & Sanders.

After his marriage Mr. Henkle located in Richmond, Washington county, where he followed carpentering until about 1859, when he removed to Iowa county. There he engaged in farming for two years and in the spring of 1861 took up his abode at a place which has since been called Henkletown, trading his farm property for a saw-mill there. He was then engaged in the manufacture of lumber until the close of the war and in the meantime he also turned his attention to general merchandising, which he followed successfully until his removal to Keota. In 1872 this town was laid out and Mr. Henkle became one of its first merchants, erecting the second or third building of the place. He and his partner removed their stock of goods from Henkletown and conducted a general store in Keota until 1886, and in addition carried on an extensive lumber business under the firm name of Henkle, Littler & Company. This partnership was maintained for several years. About 1886 our subject purchased a third interest in a steam grist-mill at Keota and carried on general merchandising in connection with his milling interests, his enterprise contributing materially to the rebuilding and substantial improvement of the town. In August, 1891, he removed his mill to Weiser, Washington county, Idaho, where he conducted business until July, 1899, when he sold his interest in the mill and returned to Keokuk county, Iowa. Mr. Henkle has also been a factor in agricultural interests here, owning and operating a farm in Lafayette township, adjoining Keota. He became interested in banking affairs here as one of the stockholders of the Keota Bank, which in

1890) was merged into the State Bank. Of this institution he has been the vice-president for many years and its successful conduct is due in no small degree to his efforts. He has valuable property in the town and in all his business affairs has met with creditable success. His prosperity is due entirely to his own efforts and as the architect of his fortunes he has builded wisely and well.

Mr. Henkle is known as a prominent and exemplary Mason, belonging to Adelpi Lodge No. 333, Free and Accepted Masons. His connection with the fraternity dates from 1863. He was treasurer of the lodge in Greene township, Iowa county, and in his life shows forth the helpful and benevolent spirit of the craft. He is also member and one of the trustees of the Baptist church. Since the days of the Civil war he has been a staunch Republican in his political views and has held a number of local offices in his township. No man has taken a more active or helpful interest in Keota than has the subject of this review, who has wrought along the lines of the greatest good to the greatest number. His business affairs have been not only a source of revenue to himself, but have also contributed to the general prosperity, and in many other ways he has aided in the progress and improvement of this section of the state. Patriotism may well be termed one of the keynotes of his character and among Keokuk county's valued citizens he deserves honorable mention.



#### A. J. ULIN.

A. J. Ulin, one of the enterprising farmers and early settlers of Keokuk county, is a native of the Buckeye state, his birth having occurred in Hardin county, Ohio, on the 27th of December, 1843. His



father, A. J. Ulin, was a native of Ohio, and in the year 1849 came to Iowa, settling in Keokuk county, where he engaged in the milling business, following that pursuit for about twelve years prior to his death. He was married in his native state to Miss Elizabeth Obenour, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, and they became the parents of sixteen children, twelve sons and four daughters, of whom three sons and one daughter are yet living, namely: A. J., of this review; William W., of Seattle, Washington; John C., of Warren township; and Sarah, the wife of Jerome Shadwick. The mother of these children is still living at the advanced age of eighty-four years and now makes her home with her son John. The father was at one time a member of the Masonic fraternity and in his life exemplified its beneficent and helpful spirit. His political support was always given to the Democracy and he was a devoted and faithful member of the Christian church.

Mr. Ulin, of this review, spent his early childhood days in his native state and with his parents came to Iowa when about seven years of age. He lived at home until he had attained the age of twenty-three and early became familiar with the work of the fields. From the time that he could handle the plow he assisted in the cultivation of the crops. He was married in May, 1864, to Samaria J. Wilcox, who was born in Indiana, but was reared in Iowa, her father, Ephriam Wilcox, having been one of the early pioneer settlers of Keokuk county. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Ulin has been blessed with ten sons and two daughters, namely: Mary E., who is deceased; Andrew E.; John T.; Alfred, deceased; Elmer; James W.; George R., deceased; Jesse L.; Cora, the wife of Nason Lisk, of Warren township; Clyde; Walter, deceased; and Arthur. All of the children were born in Keokuk county.

They were provided with good educational privileges and have been a credit to their parents.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Ulin purchased the farm upon which he now resides, and it has since been his home. It comprises two hundred and forty acres of land under a high state of cultivation. He raises the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate, and annually the products of his fields return to him a good income. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and formerly he was identified with Keota lodge, but at the present time his membership is in Chicago Lodge No. 385, of Delta. He indorses the political views which are embodied in the platform of the Democratic party and he is a member of the Christian church. His life has ever been an honorable and upright one, and though quietly passed, his example is well worthy of emulation because he has always been found loyal to the truth and to the right.



#### GEORGE OLDENBURG.

On March 29, 1901, there died at his farm residence in German township, a gentleman who was for long years connected with the development of Keokuk county, and in whose death the county suffered a severe loss. There have been few residents in this portion of Iowa who have enjoyed in a greater degree the esteem and friendship of a larger circle of friends than George Oldenburg. He was a man of sterling worth, of genial disposition and of unflinching courtesy, and these qualities rendered him popular, while his sterling character enabled him to retain friendship when gained.

Mr. Oldenburg was a native of the fatherland, where he was born in



W. R. G. L. NIPP & ANI FAMILY



Landesbergen, Hanover, May 15, 1843, son of Frederick and Wilhelmina (Bakehaus) Oldenburg. His parents lived and died in Germany. They had three children, viz., Henry of Oklahoma; George and Charlotte, of Hampton, Iowa, the last two being twins. The mother was the father's second wife, his first wife being a sister of the second. By the first marriage there were the following children: Diedrick, deceased; Wilhelmina, deceased; Louise, of Sigourney; Caroline, deceased; Frederick, deceased; Dorethe, of Sigourney; Frederick, of Germany; and Sophie, of Sigourney. He passed his boyhood and youth in the old country, where he received the excellent education which the German people insist on giving to their children, and on arriving at maturity he, in 1864, came to America. He settled immediately in Keokuk county, where for a period he worked by the month. His habits of thrift and economy were such as to enable him to save a portion of his wages, with which in 1873 he bought the farm where his widow now resides. The farm was of primitive soil, and presented a very different appearance from what it does now after years of cultivation under a master hand. The original purchase was of eighty acres, to which he added at different times until it was increased to one hundred and seventy-four. All of the improvements on this valuable farm were made by Mr. Oldenburg. In political faith Mr. Oldenburg voted with the Democratic party until 1896, at which time he transferred his allegiance to the Republican party. As stated before, he was a man of sterling integrity, a kind husband, and a good father. Mrs. Oldenburg's maiden name was Anna Bruns. She was the daughter of John H. and Elizabeth (Harmeling) Bruns and was born in Herzogthum Brunswick, Germany, on the 19th of August, 1853. Mrs. Oldenburg was one of a family of three children, two daughters and one son. The son and both of the parents died

in the old country. The sister married Mr. H. F. Duensing, of this county, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Oldenburg is the youngest child of the family and came to America with her sister in 1867. She married Mr. Oldenburg in 1873, and became the mother of eight children: Minnie A., deceased; George F., who lives in Kansas; Doris L.; Adelheid M.; Louise D.; Augusta A. M.; Frederick H., deceased; and Charlotte A. Minnie A. died when an infant, and Frederick when nearly ten years old. Since the death of Mr. Oldenburg Mrs. Oldenburg continues the conduct of the farm, and is making a brave fight to educate her children to make them worthy and respectable citizens. She is lady of many fine traits of character, of good business judgment, and merits the highest esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.



#### BENJAMIN F. CROCKER.

There are few states in the Union more favored than Iowa. She has splendid natural resources that have yielded rich returns for the labor of men of energetic purpose, who realize that work is the key that causes the portals to swing wide open for prosperity. The natural advantages of this section of Iowa attracted at an early day a superior class of settlers, thrifty, industrious and law-abiding, whose influence gave permanent direction to the development of the new locality. They founded homes and established families, whose representatives are now well known among the substantial residents of the commonwealth. Belonging to the latter class is Squire Benjamin F. Crocker, justice of the peace and notary public, residing in the beautiful little city of Martinsburg. Squire Crocker is a native of Indiana, where he was born in Franklin county, October 2, 1821.

Benjamin Crocker, his father, was a New Englander by birth,

where he was reared to manhood and married in the state of Massachusetts. About the year 1810 he emigrated to Indiana, and established himself in Franklin county. In his younger days he was a shoemaker by trade, and he continued this business in connection with the clearing up of his farm in Franklin county. Here he lived out a long life of usefulness and died at the age of seventy-five years. The grandfather of our subject was also Benjamin, he having been the original American ancestor who emigrated from England. On the maternal side Mr. Crocker remembers less concerning his family, his mother, Elizabeth Bourne, having died when he was but three years old. It is known, however, that they were early settlers in Massachusetts. Mr. Crocker's father was twice married. To the first marriage six children were born and to the second there were three children, the Squire being the fourth child of the first marriage.

He was reared in his native county in the Hoosier state and received a fairly good education in the common schools of his district. He remained at home until he was sixteen, when he was apprenticed to the blacksmith trade. In the severe labor of this trade he was engaged for the apprentice period of three years. In all he was engaged in this business twenty-five years of his life, during which time he made the reputation of being one of the best workers in iron in the community. Squire Crocker married in Franklin county, Indiana, February 4, 1840, Miss Elizabeth Cassaday, who was a native of New Jersey. She became the mother of eight children, four of whom are now living: Thomas, the eldest son, lives in Washington state; Harry lives in Martinsburg and is at the present time postmaster of the city; Sumner resides in Kansas; Patricia is the widow of John Behm, now residing in Martinsburg. The mother of this family died

May 10, 1870. For a period of fourteen years after establishing himself in business, Mr. Crocker continued in Decatur county, Indiana, engaged also in agriculture in connection with his blacksmithing. In the year 1854 he was carried on the great wave of emigration that set in toward the west to Henry county, Iowa, but after a year settled in Keokuk county, locating east of Martinsburg. Here he engaged in farming and blacksmithing, carrying on the business until 1861.

He had been an interested participant in the discussion of the questions which had threatened war, and his inherent patriotism was such as to cause him to drop all consideration of business and tender his services in sustaining the country in its dark days. He enlisted in Company 1, of the First Iowa Cavalry, as a private soldier, in which organization he served until 1864, having been promoted to the office of quartermaster sergeant in the meantime for meritorious conduct. His military service was largely seen in the west with the guerillas, among whom he had some startling experiences. He served for a period of three years and three months. Receiving his honorable discharge, Mr. Crocker returned to his home, where he continued in the business of farming for a period. He then started the first hardware business which had ever been conducted in Martinsburg, and which he continued for a period of thirteen years, when he disposed of his interest to his son.

For eighteen years Squire Crocker has been the honored justice of the peace and notary public in Martinsburg, and during that time has been prominently identified with the public life of the county. In political faith he supports the principles of Lincoln and is proud to be known as one of the organizers of that party in the fifties. Fraternally he affiliates with the Masons and is a charter member of the first lodge started in Martinsburg. For a period of fifty years he has been earnest



and devoted in his adherence to the principles and faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, being at the present time one of its trustees. The career of Squire Crocker has been one of marked activity and usefulness, and demonstrates the possibilities of labor in America, where opportunity is not hampered by caste or class. His energy has been the foundation of his success, and on it he has erected the superstructure of a comfortable competence. He is a highly esteemed resident of Martinsburg, and as such we gladly give him representation in this volume.



CHARLES F. KENDALL.

From an early epoch in the development of Keokuk county Charles F. Kendall has made his home here and is now well known as a leading and successful farmer of Warren township. He was born in Monmouth, Warren county, Illinois, August 4, 1842. His father, Francis G. Kendall, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1811. He spent his early childhood there and acquired his education in the public schools, remaining with his parents until he had attained his majority. When a young man he emigrated westward to Warren county, Illinois, and was married in Monmouth to Jane E. Merrifield, a native of Ohio, who spent her girlhood days in Cincinnati. They became the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters, and of this number two daughters and a son are yet living. The family record is as follows: Selurus W., deceased; Louisa Jane; Charles F.; Clark A., deceased; Sarah Adelaide, deceased; Mary E.; and Emma A., deceased. The last two were twins. It was in the year 1844 that the father of these children came to Iowa, settling first at Grand View, Louisa county.

where he remained until 1856. He then removed to Keokuk county, locating on a farm of two hundred and thirty acres, which he purchased. It was raw prairie land at that time, but soon his labors wrought a transformation and the tract became well improved and productive. Upon the farm he remained until 1885, when he removed to What Cheer, Iowa, there making his home until within a short time prior to his death. He died at the home of his daughter in What Cheer, in February, 1894, when eighty-three years of age. A member of the Democratic party, he kept well informed on political issues, but was never an office-seeker. At one time he held membership in the United Presbyterian church.

Charles F. Kendall was only two years of age when his parents became citizens of Louisa county, Iowa, and there he remained until about sixteen years of age, when he accompanied them to Keokuk county, in February, 1856. He continued to assist in the cultivation of his father's land until eighteen years of age, when on the 21st of October, 1861, he responded to his country's call for aid, enlisting in Company D, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, being mustered in at Davenport. He served for three years and nine months as a loyal defender of the old flag and the cause it represented and was mustered out on the 4th of July, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky. He had participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Atlanta, Nashville, and Kingston in North Carolina. He was wounded three times, but was not disabled for any great length of time. He was mustered out as seventh corporal. He had command of Company A, First Battalion, Second Brigade, of the Army of the Tennessee, was in command about six months and during that period his company was engaged in the battles of Nashville, Tennessee, and Kingston, North Carolina. His

company was captured, but he being wounded at that time was prevented from being with his company and he thus escaped a term of imprisonment in Andersonville prison. After receiving an honorable discharge, having faithfully performed every duty devolving upon him in army life, he returned to his home and resumed the occupation of farming. He purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Washington township, Keokuk county, which he cultivated and improved, and the well tilled fields yielded to him in return rich and abundant harvests.

On the 29th of December, 1868, Mr. Kendall was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Vickrey, a native of Keokuk county, and a daughter of Cyrus Vickrey, a pioneer settler of Keokuk county, who was born in Highland county, Ohio, February 21, 1827. His father was of Scotch and his mother of English descent, tracing their ancestry to the family of Sir Walter Raleigh. Mr. and Mrs. Kendall became the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter, as follows: Cyrus G., now residing in western Colorado; William Franklin, who is living in Warren township; Sarah Adelaide, the deceased wife of F. A. Black; and Freddie N., at home with his parents. Mr. Kendall resided upon the farm which he improved for eleven years. He then sold it and went to Colorado, where he engaged in teaming for about four years. On the expiration of that period he returned and located on a farm in Warren township. This farm comprised nine hundred acres, which he purchased. He still owns of this eight hundred and forty-five acres, all under a high state of cultivation. He resided upon this farm until about 1899. He then built the attractive and substantial home in Delta where he now resides. He is sixty years of age and his wife is fifty. His careful supervision of his farming interests

has brought him splendid returns and he is one of the influential men of his community, where he is also honored and respected for the good he has accomplished, the many acts of kindness shown toward those in need, and his well spent life, which has been spent in strict accord with the principles of truth and right.

He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Delta, Chicago Lodge No. 385, and is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, whereby he maintains pleasant relations with his old comrades who, with their hearts filled with love and honor for their country, wore the blue upon southern battlefields and fought so nobly for the preservation of the Union. Mr. Kendall is a Democrat in his political views and indicates his religious faith by membership in the Christian church of Delta, his wife also being a member of this church. He and his wife have many friends in the community where they reside and both are valued and respected citizens.



#### JOSEPH B. JACOBS.

Joseph B. Jacobs, a retired farmer and old settler of Warren township, Keokuk county, was born in Johnson county, Indiana, February 28, 1836. His father, Austin Jacobs, was a native of Kentucky and in that state spent his childhood days and acquired his education. His natal day was October 21, 1803, and he remained with his parents throughout the period of his minority, removing with them to Wayne county, Indiana. He was married in Wayne county to Susan Borzworth, a native of Preble county, Ohio, in which state she remained with her parents until her marriage. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs were born seven children, four sons and three daughters, as follows: Dru-

silla, now deceased; Bennett; Nancy; Henry, also deceased; John, who died in infancy; Joseph, and Ruth, who also died in infancy. The mother of these children passed away in 1840 in Indiana, and the same year the father was again married, his second union being with Hannah Walker. They, too, had seven children, namely: Whitcomb, Sarah Frances, Austin, Hannah, Frank, Perry and Anson. The second wife died in 1853. Five years previous to this Mr. Jacobs had brought his family to Iowa, locating in Keokuk county, near Lancaster. He purchased a farm of seven hundred acres, which was partially improved, and made his home thereon until 1870, when he traded his property for the Goodhart mill and turned his attention to the milling business. On the 24th of December, 1861, he was badly injured in the mill, his clothing being caught in the machinery so that he was thrown into the works and badly crushed, but he recovered and lived until October 21, 1873, when he was called to his final rest, being at that time seventy years of age. His death occurred at his home near the mill and was keenly regretted by many friends. He was always a member of the Democratic party and also of the Baptist church.

Joseph B. Jacobs spent his early childhood days in Indiana and at the age of twelve years accompanied his father to Iowa. He remained at home until twenty-two years of age and on the 24th of December, 1858, made preparations for having a home of his own by his marriage to Mary H. Vittetoe, a native of Morgan county, Indiana, where she spent her early childhood, coming with her parents to Iowa when a maiden of seven summers. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs was blessed with six children, four sons and two daughters. These were: William Chester, who died in infancy; Isabelle and Luella, both deceased; Edson M.; James and John, who

are deceased. The mother died August 2, 1869, at her home three miles south of Delta, and on the 2d of February, 1870, Mr. Jacobs was again married, his second union being with Mary A. Coble, a native of Morgan county, Indiana. They are the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters: Joseph, Florence, John, all deceased; and Minnie, the wife of John Hasty, Jr. The mother of these died September 16, 1883, and September 24, 1884, Mr. Jacobs married Mrs. Sarah Frazer, nee Bass.

After coming to Iowa Mr. Jacobs resided upon his farm until the death of his first wife. Since 1884 Mr. Jacobs has resided in Delta. He has led an agricultural life and gained a comfortable competence, which now enables him to put aside business cares. He is a staunch advocate of the Prohibition party and has been honored with a number of political positions of trust and responsibility. In 1884 he was elected a member of the board of county supervisors and filled that position for three years. He has also held all the township offices and was a member of the town council of Delta, of the school board and was mayor of the town. He holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Delta and gives an active and earnest support to every measure and movement which he believes will contribute to the general good. For more than a half century he has lived in this county and well deserves to be numbered among its honored pioneer citizens.



#### ELLIS FRITZLER.

Ellis Fritzler, who is an enterprising farmer and a native of Keokuk county, was born in Washington township, January 13, 1845. His father, Andrew Fritzler, was a native of Germany, born near Berlin,

May 8, 1815, and was thirteen years of age when in 1827 he came to the United States in company with his parents, the family being established in Miami county, Ohio, where he remained until he came to Iowa, in 1842, and settled in Henry county, near Winfield. He was married in Ohio, the lady of his choice being Polly Ellis, a native of the Buckeye state. They were the parents of ten children, seven sons and three daughters, and is a remarkable fact that the band of children still remains unbroken by the hand of death. These children are: Henry, Albert, Ellis, Hannah, John A., Thomas J., Andrew L., Anna M., Alfred W. and Barbara B. All of the children were born in Iowa with the exception of the eldest. As above stated, the father came to this state in 1842, taking up his abode upon a farm in Henry county, where he remained for about a year. He then removed to Keokuk county and located in Washington township, where he entered a farm. All was raw land upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but soon the track of the shining plow was seen across the prairie. He continued the work of improvement and development until his place became very valuable. He afterward sold the farm and purchased another tract of land in the same township, retaining this in his possession until a few years prior to his death, when he sold it and removed to Springfield, in the same township, where his remaining days were passed. He departed this life December 20, 1894, at the age of seventy-nine years, seven months and twelve days. He was a member of the Democratic party and a leading and influential member of his community, enjoying the respect of his fellow-men by reason of his genuine worth.

Ellis Fritzler spent his early youth upon the home farm in Washington township, remaining with his parents until his marriage. That

important event in his life occurred November 4, 1866, the lady of his choice being Miss Martha McNabb, a native of Keokuk county, where she was born and reared. They were the parents of but one child, Andrew, who is now deceased. Soon after his marriage Mr. Fritzler purchased a farm in Warren township comprising three hundred and twenty acres, the greater part of which was still in its primitive condition, but he at once began to clear and cultivate the land and in course of time the well tilled fields returned to him golden harvests. He sold that farm in 1879 and purchased another near Delta, and the latter property he still owns, his attention being given to its further cultivation with excellent results.

In 1872 Mr. Fritzler was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife, who died on the 10th of May of that year, at the home of her husband's father, in Delta, being at the time twenty-four years of age. On the 24th of November, 1876, Mr. Fritzler was again married, his second union being with Nancy McNabb, a sister of his first wife and at that time the widow of George Clubb, formerly of Van Buren township. She was the first white female child born in Warren township, May 17, 1844, and has always lived in this county, being a representative of one of the honored pioneer families. By her first husband she had two children, Susie Clubb, and Georgia, deceased. Mr. Fritzler is a staunch Prohibitionist in politics and he and wife are members of the Christian church of Delta. Temperance and morality have always received his support and he is ever found as the friend of all measure calculated to uplift mankind and to promote the welfare and progress of the community of which he is a resident.



## JACOB S. HAWK.

In this publication, which has to do with those who have been in the past or are to-day prominently concerned in the business, professional, political and social life of Keokuk county, we are gratified to give a specific consideration to Jacob S. Hawk, of Martinsburg, for his life has been one of activity and he is widely known throughout the county. He is a native of the Buckeye state, where he was born in Jackson township, Madison county, September 28, 1827. He comes of an old Virginia family, his father, William Hawk, having been born there, and reared and educated. Upon arriving at maturity he moved over into Ohio with his father, Jacob Hawk, and the rest of the family. Here our subject's <sup>father</sup> married and began his life as a farmer in Madison township. In the year 1853 he joined the great wave of emigration that was setting in toward the west and located in Keokuk county, where he took up land in Steady Run township. Here he continued to cultivate his farm until 1855, in which year he died at the age of fifty-eight years. He was a staunch <sup>Republican</sup> Republican in politics and is remembered to have been a very worthy citizen of that section of the county. The mother of our subject was Leah Switzer, also a native of the Old Dominion state. She died in 1840 at a comparatively early age, being the mother of nine children, four sons and five daughters, all of whom grew to maturity, and seven of this family being still alive. The whole family came to Keokuk county in 1853.

Mr. Hawk was reared to farm life, and given a fair education. He assisted his father on the farm until the date of his marriage, September 6, 1849, when he set up an establishment of his own, continuing in the agricultural life to which he had been reared. His wife was

Electa J. Henson, who was a native of Jackson county, Ohio. Upon arrival in Keokuk county Mr. Hawk took up land in Steady Run township, where he engaged actively in farming until 1890, at which time, having by thrift and economy acquired a fair competence, he retired from active business, and purchasing a home in Martinsburg has since that time resided in that city. He retained his farm of one hundred and sixty-six acres up to the year 1900, when he sold out. Mr. and Mrs. Hawk had five children, three of whom are living: William, residing at home; John, at Martinsburg; M. J., wife of Millard Parish, residing in Oregon City, Oregon.

Mr. Hawk has been continuously connected with the affairs of Steady Run township for forty-five years. He is a staunch Republican in politics, and has filled some of the minor offices of the township, having been constable for a period of fourteen years. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a Mason, having his membership at Martinsburg; he is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It is worthy of note in connection with the record of this worthy gentleman that at the time when his country needed his services he enlisted in Company F, Thirty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry, as a private soldier. In this organization he saw some severe service. During the service he was promoted to the position of sergeant of his company. The life of a soldier, however, was too severe for his constitution, and he was honorably discharged on account of disability.

Mr. Hawk is one of the stockholders and directors of the Martinsburg National Bank, one of the strongest organizations in Keokuk county. Although he is retired from active life as carried on by the farming element, he still keeps up his interest in everything that looks

to the advancement of the material interests of his county. His acquaintance throughout the country is such that his advice is frequently sought in matters of investment by the younger men of the community, who have great confidence in his judgment in matters of land investment. In business Mr. Hawk has attained a very desirable success. Dependent entirely upon his own efforts, he has surmounted the obstacles in his path, and the difficulties which he has encountered have served as an impetus to renewed labor. In this way he has advanced steadily to a position of influence and now, having acquired a handsome competence, he is enjoying a well earned rest.



#### JOHN C. FOSTER.

This prominent and representative citizen of Hedrick was born in Henry county, Illinois, October 27, 1865. He is a young man of push and energy, and a worthy member of a community in which young men take the leading part. His father was M. B. Foster, a native of Illinois, and for long years a prominent farmer in that state. He is now a resident of Colorado. Mr. Foster's mother was Clara L. Weatherby, now deceased. Mr. Foster is the only living child of their marriage. He was educated in the public schools of Chicago, and leaving school at the age of fifteen, began life for himself. He worked on a farm until 1894, when he came to the new town of Hedrick and became connected with the public service, serving a period of eight years as constable. He was then marshal of the city for a period of three years, and for the following four years was night watchman of the city. He is at the present time engaged in the real estate, insurance and loan business.

Mr. Foster was married on the 19th of January, 1890, to Miss Minnie B. Koontz, a native of Keokuk county and a daughter of Henry Koontz, one of the pioneers of Benton township. He settled there about 1840, having removed from North Carolina. Mrs. Foster's mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Grimes. Mr. and Mrs. Foster have three interesting children: Belya L., Addie and Vernie. Mr. Foster has always taken a very prominent interest in the public life of the community in which he resides and holds to a marked degree the confidence of his associates. In 1901 he was nominated on the Republican ticket for sheriff of Keokuk county. He made a gallant race, but owing to local complications he was not able to overcome the large majority against him. The vote, however, was very close. For a period of four years he acted as secretary of the board of education. Fraternally he affiliates with the Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 398, the Modern Woodmen of America, No. 1937, in both of which orders he has taken a very active part, and in which he is held in high esteem.

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EZRA HAWK.

On section 22, in Steady Run township, in this county, lives the gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph, and who has resided in the same locality for an even half century. He was brought to the county when he was a child, and he and other members of the family have been identified with its agricultural development since that time. He is a son of David Hawk and is a native of the Buckeye state, having been born in what is now known as Vinton county, March 22, 1840. The family comes from old Virginia state, David Hawk having been born in Greenbrier county and having removed with his

parents at a very early day to Athens county, Ohio. Here he was reared amid the pioneer scenes of the Buckeye state and learned the lessons which later stood him in good stead in carving out for himself a home amidst the pioneer scenes of this western state. He grew to manhood and married in Ohio, and in 1849 came to Keokuk county and entered land from the government. He did not remain long at that time, however, but returned to Ohio, where he continued farming until 1853, when he brought his family to Keokuk county and settled on the tract of land which he had entered five years previously. He continued to cultivate this land until 1868, when he moved to the farm upon which our subject's brother Allen now resides. This farm he continued to cultivate until the date of his death, that event taking place at the age of seventy-one years. Mr. Hawk is remembered as being a man of many noble qualities of character, was most industrious and a man of good business judgment. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in the line of politics was a supporter of the old Whig party, and when the Republican party was organized he became a staunch supporter of the principles promulgated by that organization. During the period of his residence in Steady Run township, he served in the different local offices with great acceptance. His father before him, Jacob Hawk, had also been a native of Virginia and was one of the pioneers of Athens county, Ohio, having removed there after his marriage in Virginia, which event occurred about 1813. It is remembered as a tradition in the family that the Hawk Virginia holding was in the same locality as the Washington plantation, and our subject's grandfather had a neighborly acquaintance with General George Washington.

On the maternal side of the family Elizabeth Loveing, our subject's mother, was also a native of the Old Dominion state, where she was

born in Fluvania county, and was brought to Ross county, Ohio, by her parents when a girl of twelve years of age. She was a daughter of John Loveing, who had joined the great tide of emigration in the early part of the century which had set in from Virginia to Ohio, and he settled in Ross county before the war of 1812, where he continued to cultivate his farm until his death. On the paternal side Mr. Hawk is of mixed German and Holland-Dutch extraction, while from his mother he gets an English strain of blood. His parents had a family of nine children, six sons and three daughters, eight of whom grew to maturity. Of this family Mr. Hawk is the fourth child and the third son.

He was about thirteen years old when the family came to Keokuk county. He received most of his education in the district schools of Vinton county, Ohio, though he remembers instruction in the little old log schoolhouse which is still standing in Steady Run township. He remained at home engaged in the hard labor of clearing up a pioneer farm, and no special event of importance occurred to mar the monotony of his existence until that great event which changed the current of the lives of so many of the youths of the country in the sixties—the great Civil war. Mr. Hawk was reared to principles of intense loyalty to the government, and was thus ready at the very outset to give himself, if need be, as a sacrifice for the maintenance of the constitution. He became a member in 1861, of Company I, First Iowa Cavalry, as a private soldier, in which organization he served for a period of three years and three months; being at his post of duty during all of that time, except a short period which he passed in the hospital on account of sickness. He was promoted during this service to the position of corporal. He participated in the following principal battles, his services being mainly west of the Mississippi river: Black Water, Missouri; Silver Creek;

Prairie Grove, Arkansas; and he was in at the taking of Little Rock, Arkansas. There were a great many smaller skirmishes in which he participated and an immense amount of scouting service, his command having been for a considerable period detailed to look after the noted guerilla band led by Quantrel. In all of this service he was faithful, and was at his post of duty at all times; he received his honorable discharge at Davenport, September 9, 1864. He then returned to his home and took up the thread of life where he had laid it down in 1861, and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits within the bounds of the township where he was reared. He owns here a large and well appointed farm of two hundred and ten acres, and is also cultivating another holding on section 27-28 of one hundred and sixty acres. He also has an interest in a tract of one hundred and sixty-seven acres in Steady Run township in company with his brother Elijah.

Mr. Hawk began his family life in 1869, when on the 3d of March he was joined in marriage to Liza A. McGee. This lady was a native of the Hoosier state, having been born in Orange county, June 18, 1851. She was the daughter of Henry and Mary E. (Ham) McGee. Her father was a native of Kentucky, as was also her mother. They removed from the Hoosier state to Keokuk county when Mrs. Hawk was a child of seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Hawk are the parents of seven children, Ida, the wife of Hubert Lewis, a Steady Run township farmer; William H., deceased at the age of eight; Frank, deceased at four years; Otis, Earl, Clifton; and Raymond; all children at home. Fraternally Mr. Hawk is a prominent and worthy member of the Masonic fraternity, having his membership in No. 106 Lodge, at Martinsburg. He, like his father before him, is a staunch Republican and has been honored with several of the local offices during his lifetime here in

Steady Run township. He is a man who is well and favorably known all over the county as one of the most substantial of the farming element. He can always be depended upon to aid in any enterprise that has for its purpose the advancement and progress of society in his immediate community. His many noble qualities of citizenship attract to him the kind offices of a large number of friends.



#### ALLEN HAWK.

This gentleman is the youngest child of David and Elizabeth Hawk, as referred to above. He is the present efficient trustee of Steady Run township and is a man of influence in the affairs of the county. In connection with his farming, which is conducted upon the Hawk homestead, where the father lived a long time and died, he is also interested in the financial institutions of the town of Hedrick, being stockholder in two of the banks of that city. Mr. Hawk was born on the 2d of January, 1855, on the old home farm where his brother now resides. He received his education in the little old log schoolhouse of the home district and was reared with the rest of the children to the severe labor of a pioneer farm. He remained at home until his marriage, which occurred on the 24th of October, 1877. The lady he married was Miss Sara Bottorff, a native also of Steady Run township, the daughter of J. L. and Mary M. (Heninger) Bottorff. Her father was a pioneer of the county, who emigrated to the west from the Hoosier state. The parents of Mrs. Hawk were married in this county and remained here until their deaths. After his marriage Mr. Hawk immediately began housekeeping on the old homestead, where he has since continued to reside, engaged in farming and stock raising. They have two children, Roy and Lulu.







*A. M. Utterback.*

The farm which Mr. Hawk cultivates consists of two hundred and forty acres at the home place, which body of land is regarded as one of the best and most highly improved farm properties in Keokuk county. He also operates a tract of one hundred and twenty acres on section 29.

As stated in the first part of this article, Mr. Hawk is also interested in the banking business, being a stockholder in the First National Bank and also in the Savings Bank of the neighboring city of Hedrick. He supports the party of Lincoln and Garfield and is at present serving his fourth year as trustee of Steady Run township. Mr. Hawk is very actively interested in the Masonic fraternity, having his Blue lodge membership in Martinsburg, a member of the chapter at Sigourney, and a member of the commandery at Oskaloosa. In these different branches of the order he has served frequently in the different chairs. He was master of his lodge for a continuous period of twelve years, senior warden for four years, and is now master of the lodge at Martinsburg. He is a man who has passed his entire lifetime within the bounds of his native county, is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, and his prominent identification with the business interests of the county all go to make him universally recognized and honored. The authors of this volume are glad to give representation to this family in the pages of a work which is devoted to the honorable families of Keokuk county.



HON. A. M. UTTERBACK.

Among the well and favorably known citizens of Keokuk county is

Mr. Utterback was reared on the farm and given a common school education. He remained at the parental home until he was married, in 1879, Miss Julia E. Hayes becoming his wife. Her parents, J. W.

and Esther (Brolliar) Hayes, were among the earliest settlers of Keo-numbered A. M. Utterback, of Hedrick. He is a native of this county. His birth occurred in Lancaster township, April 9, 1860. Of Josiah Utterback, his father, a biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

For the three years succeeding his marriage, Mr. Utterback was engaged in farming, and then for one year was in the lumber business at Delta, Iowa. He then removed to Martinsburg, where he was engaged in the same business for a very brief period. For several years thereafter, Mr. Utterback followed agricultural pursuits together with stock raising and dealing, in Steady Run township. He left the farm in 1892, and removed to the town of Hedrick, which has since been his place of residence. In company with others he became interested in the Hedrick race course, of which he later became sole proprietor. Under his ownership and management for four years this race course became famous and yielded him good revenue, contributing at the same time materially to the up-building of Hedrick, which also became well advertised by reason of the excellent and well attended races. This business interest he sold after conducting it alone for four years. In 1902, in association with others, he was an organizer of the Hedrick State Bank, of which he has been president since its organization. For many years Mr. Utterback has extensively dealt in stock,—in cattle mostly, and is reckoned among the leading stockmen of the county.

Politically he has always affiliated with the Democratic party, and as the Democratic candidate, he was elected in 1901 to the lower house of the Iowa legislature as representative from the Twenty-fourth district. He has also served one term as a member of the county board of supervisors. As a citizen Mr. Utterback's course in life has been

that of public-spirited man. His business career has been characterized by enterprise and success. His genial disposition and pleasing manners have gained for him innumerable friends. Five children have been born into his home. Their names are Hubert, Blanche, Alta, Fred and Ruth. The family is numbered among the leaders of social circles in Hedrick, where they are held in highest esteem.



JOHN M. ELLIS.

Iowa owes her development, prominence and prosperity largely to her agriculturists and in turn she has been kind to them. Many of those who came here at an early day and took part in the development of the wild land have found that it was rich in resources and that as the years have passed their success has increased until their labors have brought to them comfortable competences. Such has been the case with Mr. Ellis, who is now a retired farmer of Warren township. He was born in Allen county, Ohio, February 2, 1838, a son of John and Hannah (Brainard) Ellis. The father was born in New York and remained in that state during the period of his early youth, after which he removed to Ohio, where he followed the occupation of farming. In the year 1841 he came to Iowa, locating first in Henry county, where he remained for about two years. On the expiration of that period he moved to Keokuk county, locating in Washington township, and there he remained upon a farm until 1859. In that year he removed to a farm near Delta, which continued to be his place of residence until his life's labors were ended in death. He passed away in February, 1882, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years. He was married in Ohio to Miss Hannah Brainard, a native of that state, and they were people of the high-

est respectability. They became the parents of ten children, three sons and seven daughters, all of whom were born in Ohio. In early life the father gave his political support to the Whig party and upon its dissolution joined the ranks of the Republican party and continued to follow its banners until his demise. Both he and his wife were consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

John M. Ellis was only about three years of age when brought by his parents to Iowa and has since been a resident of this state, so that his entire life practically has been passed here. He has therefore been a witness of much of the growth and development of Iowa and feels just pride in what has been accomplished, for the state has made rapid strides in progress, improvement and up-building. He remained at home with his parents until his marriage, and in fact, lived with them until they were called to their final rest. He has always followed the occupation of farming and he still owns a small tract of land near Delta. At the time of the Civil war he manifested his loyalty to the government by offering his services in 1861 and joining Company D of the Thirteenth Iowa Infantry. He was mustered in at Davenport and served for three years and one month, during which time he was twice wounded, once in the head and again in the hip. He took part in a number of important engagements, including the skirmish at Pittsburg Landing and the entire siege of Vicksburg. He was also in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, where he received his first wound, and this so incapacitated him that he was never again with his regiment in active field service. He received an honorable discharge in November, 1864, and was mustered out at Chickamauga, Tennessee.

On the 18th of February, 1866, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Ellis and Miss Nancy Casey, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Ben-

jamin Casey, one of the pioneer settlers of Keokuk county, who arrived here in 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis now have five children, namely: James W.; Lillie Adel, the wife of E. Greely; Emma Luella, the wife of E. A. Garrett; Henry Walter; and Charles, deceased. The children were all born in Warren township and the sons still live in that township, but the daughters are both residents of Oklahoma. Mr. Ellis has ever been known as a loyal and public spirited citizen, interested in the welfare of his community and its promotion. He has always been identified with the Republican party since he became a voter and believes firmly in its principles, although he has never sought or desired office. He holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and throughout the community where he has so long resided he is widely and favorably known. In matters of friendship he is faithful, is true to all the ties of the home, in business is reliable and as a citizen is as true and loyal to his country and her welfare as when he followed the stars and stripes on the battle-fields of the south.

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WADE KIRKPATRICK.

The city of Hedrick is one of the latest additions to the galaxy of municipal stars in Keokuk county, but in the short period of its existence has shown such vigorous growth as to bid fair to outstrip its older competitors. Its phenomenal increase in population and the metropolitan character that it has rapidly taken on has been due to the stirring up-to-date class of citizens which have been in control of its municipal organization. We are privileged here to present the name of one of the gentlemen who has had much to do with the development of this sturdy little city, and who is ready at all times to sacrifice time and money in its

progress. He is at the present time justice of the peace and mayor of Hedrick, and is a man of sterling worth and character in the community.

Mr. Kirkpatrick is a native of the state of Ohio, having been born in Madison county, November 9, 1846. He is the son of Minor and Hannah (Godfrey) Kirkpatrick. The Kirkpatricks are originally from Virginia, the father having been born there, and at age of fifteen years removed to Madison county, Ohio. He was by occupation a farmer, and in the great wave of emigration that came into Iowa about the close of the Mexican war, he came to the state, the date being 1848. In 1850 he returned to Ohio and brought his family to Wapello county, locating at a point four miles south of the present city of Hedrick. Here he lived until 1885, engaged in agricultural pursuits. He died in the city of Ottumwa in 1894, at the age of seventy-eight years. Grandfather Thomas Kirkpatrick was also a native of the Old Dominion state, and was an early settler in Madison county, Ohio, the date of his removal there being about 1830. The Kirkpatricks are of Scotch-Irish extraction, our subject's great-grandfather, Hugh Kirkpatrick, having been the original ancestor, who came to America about the time of the Revolutionary war, in which as a young man he participated. It is also noted of the grandfather, Thomas Kirkpatrick, that he took a creditable part in the war of 1812. On the maternal side of the family, the Godfreys were also from the Old Dominion state, moving into Ohio at about the same time with the Kirkpatricks. Our subject's maternal grandfather was Lewis Godfrey. The marriage of our subject's parents took place about the year 1840, and they became the parents of seven children, of which family our subject is the third child.

He was but four years old when he came to Wapello county, and is therefore entitled to be considered almost a native of Iowa. He was



reared and educated on the farm, receiving a fair common school education, and being taught at home habits of economy and industry. He was but a lad when the war cloud burst with its destructive effect over the country, and he chafed restlessly under the restraint of home influences during the early period of that sanguinary struggle, for the patriotism of the boy was such that he longed to be at the front defending Old Glory. His opportunity came, however, and in 1864 he enlisted as a private soldier in Company K, of the Second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was immediately sent to the front, arriving in time to participate in the Atlanta campaign. Here Mr. Kirkpatrick had the misfortune to receive a severe wound in the left leg, which caused amputation of the same and incapacitated him for further service. He received his honorable discharge in March, 1865, after which time he returned home. After the war he entered a harness shop, and learned that trade, which he worked at for the following seven years, chiefly in the city of Ottumwa. In 1872 he was elected county recorder of Wapello county, which office he held for a period of eight years and administered with entire satisfaction to his constituency, having received re-election three different times. Upon retiring from this office, from the period of 1881 to 1888 he engaged in agriculture on a farm three miles south of Hedrick. In the latter year he gave up his farming pursuits and moved into the city of Hedrick, where he has since resided. Here, as before stated, he has been very intimately connected with the public life of the community, and has manifested a most commendable degree of activity in its interests. Mr. Kirkpatrick is of a social, jovial disposition, and enters into the fraternal life of the community with zest. He is a member of the Masonic order, and is prominently identified with the

Grand Army of the Republic, being past commander of J. M. Hedrick Post, No. 424. In political faith, Mr. Kirkpatrick is a Republican.

Our subject was married in 1875 to Lydia J. Spilman, and to this marriage were born three children, two of whom died in infancy. The other, Wade Thomas Kirkpatrick, now nineteen years of age, is a student in the Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa. Mrs. Kirkpatrick died in 1887. Mr. Kirkpatrick was again married, to a Miss Lucinda V. Neff, who died in 1893. In 1896 Mr. Kirkpatrick was married to Miss Anna B. Hill, a native of Wapello county, Iowa, and daughter of N. C. and Mary (Blake) Hill, a prominent pioneer family of Wapello county. Mrs. Kirkpatrick was born in 1853 and was reared and educated in the county above stated, where she was for many years a popular and successful school teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Hedrick, Iowa.



#### JAMES A. HAMILTON.

James A. Hamilton has always resided in the Mississippi valley, and the spirit of progress and improvement which has dominated the west has been exemplified in his life. Industrious and energetic, his work in former years has enabled him to now largely put aside business cares. He was born in Putnam county, Missouri, March 7, 1848, a son of Wilson C. and Rachel (Summers) Hamilton. The father was a native of Virginia, born in Roanoke county, in October, 1814. When a young man he left home and in early life engaged in school teaching. When the country became involved in war with Mexico he joined the American army and fought for the rights of his nation. He married Rachel Summers, a native of Virginia, and they became the parents

of five sons, of whom four are yet living, as follows: Junius A., James A., Carrie S., and Wilson B. It was in the year 1863 that the father came to Iowa, settling in Keokuk county. Soon afterward he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the greater part of which was still in its primitive condition, but with characteristic energy he began to clear and cultivate his land and in course of time it was transformed into rich fields. He carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred on the old family homestead in Warren township, in March, 1899, when he had reached the ripe old age of eighty-four years. His political support as given the Democracy.

James A. Hamilton remained under the parental roof through his boyhood days and at the age of sixteen years came with his parents to Iowa. He assisted in the cultivation and improvement of the home farm until he had attained his majority, when he started out in life for himself. He was united in marriage, July 16, 1869, to Matilda Vert, who was born in Washington county, Iowa, a daughter of Reason Vert, one of the pioneer settlers of Keokuk and of Washington counties. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton has been blessed with nine children, five sons and four daughters, as follows: Rachel, now deceased; Ella, the wife of Vinton Dawson, of Keokuk county; Mary, deceased; Wilson, James, Cleveland, Jesse, Jennie and Fred. The eldest son, Wilson, is an attorney of Sigourney, where he is practicing as a member of the firm of Talley & Hamilton, and in the fall of 1902 was elected county attorney.

For about a year after his marriage Mr. Hamilton remained upon the old home farm and then purchased a tract of land in Warren township comprising three hundred acres, which he yet owns. He remained upon that farm until 1890, when he built a home in Delta, where he is

now living, one of the respected retired farmers of the place. He belongs to Delta Lodge No. 385, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in his life exemplifies the spirit of the fraternity. His political support has ever been given to the Democracy, and as every true American citizen should do, he takes a deep interest in the political issues and questions of the day, although he has never been an office seeker. His life has been quietly passed, yet he has always been found true to public and private duties and to the obligations of the home and of friendship. He has a wide acquaintance in Keokuk county, where he has now long resided, and the large majority of those who know him give him their friendship.



#### DAVID HALFERTY.

In the pioneer epoch in the history of this section of Iowa David Halferty, who was born in county Down, Ireland, was educated for the substantial development and permanent improvement of Keokuk county. He saw the wild lands transformed into fine farms, while industrial and commercial interests have been introduced and thus towns have become thriving cities. In the work of progress he did his share and was particularly active as a representative of the agricultural interests of the community. He was one of the oldest settlers of Richland township at the time of his death, which occurred August 31, 1902.

Mr. Halferty was born on the 9th of November, 1817, in Fairfield township, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, of which state his father, John Halferty, was also a native. His paternal grandfather, Edward Halferty, who was born in County Down, Ireland, was educated for the priesthood, came to this country with a brother at an early day and took up his residence in the Keystone state. From Pennsylvania John

Halferty removed to Ohio, becoming a pioneer of Richland county, where he made his home throughout the remainder of his life, dying at about the age of sixty-five years. By occupation he was a farmer. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Nisbet, was also a native of Pennsylvania and was of Welsh and German descent. She died when about seventy years of age. In the family of this worthy couple were twelve children, eleven sons and one daughter, and with one exception all reached man and womanhood, there never being a death in the family until all were grown. The sons were all stout and quite large. Three of the children are still living, namely: Zepheniah; Jacob; and Elizabeth, the wife of Allen Armentrout of California.

The subject of this sketch was a child of about six years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, and in Richland county he grew to manhood, his education being obtained in an old time log schoolhouse, Samuel Kirkwood being one of his teachers. On reaching man's estate he was married in Knox county, Ohio, November 2, 1843, to Miss Mary Brolliar, who was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, on the 24th of May, 1824, and was but four years old when her family removed to Stark county, Ohio. Two years later they took up their residence in Knox county, where she was reared and educated, attending school near Ankenytown, which place was named in honor of her uncle, Mr. Ankeny, who was a prominent man of that locality and represented his district in the Ohio legislature. Mrs. Halferty was also the sixth in order of birth in a family of twelve children, six sons and six daughters.

Our subject and his wife began their married life upon the old homestead near Ankenytown in Knox county, Ohio, but in 1845 they decided to try their fortune on the other side of the Mississippi and came

to Keokuk county, Iowa, by teams, locating at once in Richland township, where a little log house was built in the midst of the forest. Although this primitive dwelling contained but one room, the latch-string was always out and many a guest was made welcome within its hospitable doors. Upon this farm Mr. and Mrs. Halferty had lived for fifty-seven years, when he died, and during this time it has been converted from a wild tract to one of great fruitfulness. Throughout his active business life our subject followed agricultural pursuits. He took up land from the government and at one time owned three hundred and sixty acres, but disposed of much of this, though at his death he owned one hundred and thirty acres, which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. Having retired from active labor he rented a few years before his death the farm, and enjoyed a well earned rest.

To Mr. and Mrs. Halferty were born eight children, as follows: Elenora, now the wife of Dr. John Roop, a resident of Nebraska; Jordan A., deceased; Columbus D., who married Alwilda Clevenger; Zepheniah, who married Venishia Stewart; Leonidas C., who married Hattie Powell; Isadora, deceased; Van, who married May Jolly; and Dora, the wife of S. E. Chacey. The parents of these children celebrated their golden wedding in 1893, having for over half a century traveled life's journey together, sharing its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity. Their married life covered a period of fifty-seven years, and they had twenty-one grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

After attaining his majority Mr. Halferty supported the Democratic party until 1853, when he became a Whig, and on the organization of the Republican party he joined its ranks and thereafter continued a staunch supporter of its principles. From 1857 he was a member of the Baptist church and took an active part in church work. His

estimable widow, however, holds membership in the Adventist church. She survives him and resides on the old home.

Mr. Halferty was universally respected by all who knew him, and during the fifty-seven years he lived in Richland township he was never sued or ever brought suit in court, and no quarrel or serious trouble ever arose between him and a neighbor. He retained his mental faculties in full vigor up to the hour of his death and the data for this sketch of his life was furnished by him a short time before his death.



#### SAMUEL YULE.

Samuel Yule is a stock farmer of Richland township residing on section 19, where he owns and operates two hundred and ten acres of good land. He was born in Ashland county, Ohio, January 12, 1844. His father, John Yule, was a native of Scotland, born in Aberdeenshire, and in his native land was reared and married. In 1836 he crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in Ashland county, Ohio, where he followed his trade of stone cutting and also assisted materially in building many of the foundations that were laid in Ashland county at an early day. His last days were passed upon a farm in Keokuk county, Iowa, where he arrived in 1854, taking up his abode on the farm which is now the home of our subject. There he died on the 7th of February, 1880, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Jeanette Thompson, was a native of Baufr Shire, Scotland, and reached a very advanced age, namely, ninety-one years. This worthy couple were the parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters. Three of the number were born in Scotland, while the others were born in Ashland county, Ohio. These are: James, de-

ceased; John, who like his brother died in California; George, a resident of Colorado; William, who makes his home in New Mexico; Margaret, the widow of David Baughey and a resident of Iowa; Ellen, the wife of A. J. Ramsey, of Richland, Iowa; Samuel, of this review; and Joseph, who is living in Colorado.

Mr. Yule, whose name introduces this record, was the seventh in order of birth in his father's family and was a youth of eleven summers when he came with his parents to Keokuk county, Iowa, being reared upon the farm which is now his home. He continued to care for his aged parents until they were called to their final rest and throughout the years of his active manhood he has devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits with excellent success. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Sarah Wharton, and after two years of happy married life he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife. In 1875 he was again married, his second union being with Sarah M. Wagner, a native of Indiana and a daughter of Abraham and Catherine Wagner, in whose family were eight children, Mrs. Yule being the fourth in order of birth. With her parents she was brought to Keokuk county during her early childhood. By her marriage she has become the mother of four children: Anna B., the wife of Jean Davis, a resident of Richland; Lulu E., the wife of Roy Davis, who is living in Jefferson county, Iowa; Nettie C., the wife of Frank Shelley, whose home is in Jackson township, Keokuk county; and James B., who is assisting his father on the home farm.

Mr. Yule owns an excellent tract of land of two hundred and ten acres, which is well improved. He is a stock farmer and keeps on hand a fine herd of Galloway cattle. In his stock dealings he has prospered, his annual sales bringing to him a good financial return. He is



now recognized as one of the prosperous farmers of Richland township, where he has made his home for forty-eight years, his upright life winning for him the confidence and friendship of those with whom he has been brought in contact. He is a leading and active member of the Congregational church and is a staunch Republican, doing all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of his party, yet he has never sought or desired office. Fraternally he has for some years been connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a public-spirited man, taking an active interest in everything pertaining to the general welfare. In 1892 he made a trip to the west, visiting Greenwood Springs, Denver and other places of interest in Colorado. He is content, however, to make Keokuk county his home, for here he has found good business opportunities, and as the result of his industry and untiring enterprise he has steadily progressed until he has gained for himself a comfortable competence.

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JONATHAN F. RICHARDSON, M. D.

Dr. Jonathan Franklin Richardson is a retired physician living in Keota and is a man whose upright life as well as professional ability have gained for him the respect and confidence of his fellow-men. He was born in Vermilion county, Indiana, July 30, 1836, and is the eldest in a family of thirteen children, whose parents were Anson and Lydia (Weller) Richardson. The father was born in Ohio on the 2d of December, 1814, and was a son of Joseph Richardson, whose birth occurred in England. After acquiring his education in the common schools Anson Richardson learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for many years. In 1836 he came from Indiana to Illinois and in 1845

came with his family to Keokuk county, Iowa, where he is still living, his home being now in Lancaster township. He married Lydia Weller, whose birth occurred December 2, 1818, and was of German descent, her mother having been born in the fatherland. Mrs. Richardson lived to be about sixty-three years of age.

The Doctor was only about six weeks old when his parents removed to McDonough county, Illinois, where he remained until a youth of nine years, when the family came to Keokuk county, Iowa. Here he was reared and in the district schools he pursued his education, the temple of learning being a log building in which the furnishings were crude and the methods of instruction were also somewhat primitive. Outside of school hours, however, he has greatly broadened his knowledge by reading, experience, observation and study, and is to-day a well informed man of scholarly attainments. Wishing to devote his energies to the practice of medicine he began study for the profession under the direction of Doctor Flint, of Ottumwa, Iowa, in whose office he remained for about four years. He then began practice and in 1861 removed to Keokuk, where he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of that city, being graduated there with the class of 1864. He then took up his abode in Keokuk county and in 1872 removed to Harper, this county, where he was continuously in the practice for nineteen years, enjoying a large patronage, which was accorded him by reason of his acknowledged skill and ability as a member of the medical profession. In 1891 he came to Keota, where he remained in active practice until about 1894, when he retired to private life to enjoy the rest which he has surely earned and richly deserves. During the long years of his active connection with the medical profession he kept in touch with the progress of the times through reading and study and thus

continually broadened his knowledge and promoted his efficiency in the work of alleviating human suffering.

On the 20th of October, 1859, Dr. Richardson was united in marriage to Martha Jacobs, who was born in Johnson county, Indiana, on the 14th of June, 1839, a daughter of John C. and Permelia (Craig) Jacobs. Her parents were both born in Kentucky in the year 1811 and became the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Richardson is the third in order of birth. She was brought to Keokuk county in 1846 when but seven years of age, the family becoming pioneer settlers of this portion of the state. By her marriage she became the mother of six children: Edward Lee, who died at the age of two years; Adla, at home; Robert Lee, who is engaged in the furniture business in Keota; John C., who is a printer by trade; Anson, who died at the age of nine months; and Austin, who is editor of the Eagle, a paper published at Keota.

The Doctor gave his political support to the Democracy until 1896, when his views concerning the monetary question and other important issues before the people led him to ally his forces with the Republican party. His fellow-townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, elected him to the office of mayor of Keota, but he resigned before the expiration of his term. He has served as pension examiner for twenty years and for many years he was a valued member of the County Medical Society. He is the oldest physician of the county to-day, having been here for nearly sixty years. In the early days he traveled far and wide to administer needed aid to the sick and suffering, and he won the love and gratitude of many a household. Few men in the county are more widely known than the Doctor and none more deserve the high regard extended to them than does this honored member of the medical profession.

## JAMES R. SPEIRS.

Among the well known and highly respected citizens of Keokuk county, who for half a century has played an important part in the development of this section of the state, is James R. Speirs of Martinsburg, at the present time the honored president of that staunch financial institution, the Martinsburg Bank. There are few men whose lives are crowned with the honor and respect that is universally accorded Mr. Speirs, and through long connection with this portion of the state his has been an unblemished character. With him success in life was reached by sterling qualities of mind and heart, true to every manly principle. He has never deviated from what his judgment indicated to be right and honorable between his fellow-men and himself. He has never swerved from the path of duty, and along many substantial lines of progress he has labored for the welfare of the people among whom he has resided. No citizen of the county is more deserving of representation in a volume which purports, as does this one, to set forth the more honorable families which have been connected with the development and growth of Keokuk county.

James R. Speirs is a Buckeye by birth, born in Butler county, September 20, 1828. His father, Robert Speirs, was a Scotchman by birth, born in Glasgow about 1793. He remained in the old country until he was twenty-eight years of age and as a single man came to America and located in New Jersey, where he began his married life. He later removed his family to Butler county, Ohio, where he worked at his trade, for a few years, that of a weaver. He married in New Jersey, Miss Mary Burk, and in 1864 removed to Steady Run township, Keokuk county, where he passed the remainder of his life in the cultivation

of the farm, on which he died at the age of eighty-six years. The mother of our subject was a native of New Jersey, the Burks being of Irish extraction. They were also weavers by occupation. Their family consisted of twelve children, eleven of whom they reared to maturity.

The subject of this sketch is the fifth son and the fifth child of the family. He removed with the family to Indiana at the age of three years, in which state he was reared to manhood. His education was of a rather primitive and limited kind, he being able to go to school but three months in the year. He remained dutifully at home until his marriage, engaged in helping his parents in the battle of life. October 9, 1852, marks the date of his marriage with Katherine Stenger, who was a native of Preble county, Ohio, where she was reared to womanhood. To this marriage were born three children, Mary E., deceased; Sara A., also deceased; and Anna, wife of John McCreary, a prominent farmer of Jackson township, Keokuk county. Mr. Speirs married his present wife in the year 1860, the exact date being January 26th. Mrs. Speirs' maiden name was Phyllis Flint, and she is a native of Franklin county, Indiana. In the year 1854 Mr. Speirs removed with his family to Keokuk county, where he settled in Jackson township, and where for thirty-six years he continued to reside engaged actively in the cultivation of his farm. In 1890 he located in Martinsburg and bought an interest in the Martinsburg Bank, of which he became vice president. On the 6th of February, 1899, this bank was reorganized and Mr. Speirs was chosen as its president. This is one of the most solid financial institutions of the county, its officers being men of the very highest standing and character. They are as follows: Our subject is the honored president; Mr. I. N. Ogden, vice president; Earl Young, cashier; John Speirs, nephew of subject, is assistant cashier; while W. R. Speirs,

another nephew, is a stockholder. The capital stock of the bank is \$600,000. Besides his banking interests Mr. Speirs is very largely interested in real estate in the city, and also has interest in farming property in Keokuk county.

Ever since the organization of the party Mr. Speirs has been a staunch and earnest supporter of Republican principles. He has served in different positions of trust, having been a trustee of the township for a considerable period. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and for fifty years has been prominently identified with the Presbyterian church, in which he is an honored elder. At the time of the Civil war Mr. Speirs was found a loyal citizen, who valiantly espoused the cause of the Union and went forth to do battle for the stars and stripes. In 1862 he enlisted as sergeant in company F, Thirty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and his period of service covered three years. His command became part of the army of the West and saw service in many of the hard fought battles, and in many smaller skirmishes with Indians and guerillas. At the battle of Helena he was unfortunate enough to receive a wound in the arm by a minie ball, but was not incapacitated for service. He received an honorable discharge from the service at New Orleans in August of 1865. Mr. Speirs takes active interest in the affairs of Keokuk county, being particularly interested in the pioneers who came to the county in the early day, and who are responsible for its marvelous growth and progress. He was instrumental in the formation of the Old Settlers' Organization and takes great delight in its yearly meetings at Sigourney.

In all life's relations James R. Speirs has followed a course at once honorable and upright, and his life demonstrates the worth of

integrity and enterprise in the busy affairs of the world. His life has been honorably associated with the history of Keokuk county, and in business he sustains an unassailable reputation. He and his family receive and merit the encomiums of a very large circle of friends.



JAMES MORRISON.

In every community are found quiet and retiring men who seek no public honors or public notice, yet exert a strong influence on the community by reason of their upright lives, their fidelity to principles and their devotion to the good of their community. Such a man is James Morrison, who was for long years an honored representative of the agricultural interests of Benton township, and his life in many respects is worthy of emulation. He is at the present time residing in the town of Hedrick, where he is living a retired life on the competence which his well directed efforts in earlier manhood have brought to him.

James Morrison is of Scottish descent, having been born in Scotland, August 27, 1836. He is the second child of John and Katherine (Marnoch) Morrison. For further mention of his parental history see the personal sketch of John Morrison, of Hedrick, who is his brother. James Morrison was a mere lad when he came to America with his parents, who remained six years in the state of Ohio and came in 1854 to Keokuk county, where they settled on wild land in Benton township. Here James was reared to manhood and, was taught the habits of industry and perseverance, which have ever been traits of his character. In 1862 he enlisted in company F, Thirty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry, as a private soldier. In this organization he served until the close of the war, mostly in the west. In all his service he passed not a single day

off duty and was always found at his post. He received an honorable discharge at New Orleans in 1865, on account of the close of war, having served well the country of his adoption. On the 16th of April, 1868, he was joined to Rachel Hudson, daughter of Joseph and Rachel Hudson. Mrs. Morrison is a native of Virginia, where she was born in Washington county in 1843. When she was ten years old her parents removed to Jefferson county, Iowa. Her father was a native of England, and her mother was a native of Virginia; they had four sons and four daughters, all of whom are living but one daughter, and all are married and have families of their own. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Morrison there were born six children; Mary, wife of Jos. Davis, of Eddyville; James, residing in Hedrick; Margaret resides at home; Hugh is a farmer in Benton township; Walter is a son at home; Katy, who died in girlhood. After their marriage Mr. Morrison located at the old homestead in Benton township, where they resided for the next thirteen years engaged in farming and stock raising. In 1881 Mr. Morrison bought a farm in another part of the township, upon which they lived until they retired from active work and removed to the town of Hedrick. He still retains this farm of one hundred sixty acres. Mr. Morrison is one of the old pioneers of the county, and his life has been such as to secure him the friendship of a numerous acquaintance.

In political affairs he has always been a staunch Republican, and is proud of the fact that he was one of the early supporters of that party. He has been honored with some of the minor offices of his township, having served as trustee for a period of years. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic order, having his membership in Garfield Lodge, No. 485. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, J. M. Hedrick, Post No. 424. Mr. Morrison has been very successful in the pursuit



of agriculture, due largely to his untiring industry and excellent business judgment, steadily pursuing his way undeterred by the obstacles and difficulties in his path. Steady application, careful study of business methods to be followed, close attention to details, combined with untiring energy—these are the traits of character which have brought to him success. He is passing his life in easy retirement among an extensive circle of friends.

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ROBERT S. BRICE, M. D.

Dr. Robert Stockton Brice is one of the oldest resident physicians in Keokuk county and has easily maintained a position in the front rank of the medical fraternity in this part of the state throughout the years of his residence here. He now makes his home in Keota, where he has resided almost continuously from the establishment of the town. His practice extends over a wide territory, and in a calling where success and advancement depend upon individual merit, upon comprehensive learning and marked ability, he has won distinction, gaining a very enviable reputation, yet he is not less esteemed for his personal worth than for his professional ability.

The Doctor was born in Belmont county, Ohio, July 7, 1838, and comes of a family of Scotch lineage. His grandfather, the Rev. James Brice, was a native of Virginia and was a minister of the Presbyterian church. His son, John Brice, the father of our subject, was also born in the Old Dominion and was a farmer by occupation. He married Agness Byers, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Andrew Byers, whose birth occurred in the Keystone state and who was of German descent. He, too, carried on agricultural pursuits to support his family.

The Doctor was the sixth child and fourth son in a family of eight children, five sons and three daughters, all of whom reached years of maturity. He was reared in his native place, pursued his early education in the public schools and continued his studies in the West Alexandria Academy, where he was graduated. Turning his attention to educational work, he successfully engaged in teaching for many years and for two years was the principal of the Powhattan school. Wherever he was employed his services were highly satisfactory, for he was a capable instructor, imparting with clearness to others the knowledge he had acquired. At length he determined to enter the medical profession and therefore began studying, with Dr. R. M. Bain, of Powhattan, Ohio, as his preceptor. He continued to read under his direction for two years, when he offered his services to his country and became an assistant surgeon, remaining with the army for two years. He was stationed at Brown Hospital, at Louisville, Kentucky, and at Floating Hospital, at New Albany, Indiana. In 1864 he resumed his studies in the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and the following years he came to Iowa.

Dr. Brice made his way direct to Keokuk county and located for practice in Talleyrand, where he remained until 1872, when on the establishment of the town of Keota, he came to this place, where he has remained continuously since with the exception of a period of three years, from 1890 until 1893, when he was in Denver, for his health. During that time he also engaged in practice. He was the first physician of Keota and from the time he located here he has enjoyed a good patronage. In 1882 he pursued a course in medicine at Louisville, Kentucky, and he has continually added to his knowledge concerning the healing art by reading, research and investigation so that his under-





*Gen. Brown*

standing of medical principles is broad and comprehensive, and he has always been quick to adopt any new methods of treatment that he believed would prove beneficial. He has been a member of the Keokuk county medical society, the Washington county medical society, the state medical association and the National medical association and he is special examining physician for many insurance companies.

In 1871 Dr. Brice was united in marriage to Mrs. Minerva Smith, nee Butler, and they now have one daughter, Nellie, who possesses excellent musical talent and is now acting as organist in the Presbyterian church. The Doctor is now the only charter member of Enterprise Lodge, No. 159, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; he was at one time very active in its work and has been honored with all of the offices within the gift of the fraters of the lodge. He is a prominent member of the Presbyterian church, is active in its work and has for a number of years served as one of its elders. He was also chairman of the building committee at the time of the reconstruction of the house of worship. Local advancement and national progress have ever been causes dear to his heart and Dr. Brice has co-operated in many movements for the welfare and advancement of Keota and Keokuk county. His sterling worth has gained for him friends in all walks of life and he is held in the highest esteem by young and old, rich and poor, while in his profession he has long maintained a leading position as a medical practitioner of Keokuk county.



C. M. BROWN.

C. M. Brown is a native of Knox county, Ohio. He was born November 9, 1845, and is the son of Garretson and Ann (Holland)

Brown. The father was of Welsh descent. His early ancestors settled in Maryland and there, in Montgomery county, Garretson was born in 1802. His wife was of German descent, one of a family of twelve children who all grew to maturity. She was born in Monongalia county, West Virginia, and for a short time after her marriage to Mr. Brown continued to live in her native state. Later they moved to Knox county, Ohio, where Mr. Brown engaged in farming for many years. In 1872 they settled in Keokuk county, this state, still interested in farming. The wife died in 1874 at the age of seventy, and the husband remained on his farm until the time of his death in 1889. Three of their nine children died in infancy, four are now living; two sons and one daughter in Keokuk county and one son in Muscatine county.

C. M. Brown was reared on the farm in Ohio and his education was begun in the district schools of the county. Later he entered the high school at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and subsequently spent a year at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. He taught school for two terms in his native state and in 1868 came west and taught for two years in the schools of Muscatine county, Iowa. Before leaving Ohio he had already begun the study of law and in 1871 he graduated from the law department of the state university at Iowa City. He at once located in Siggourney, where he has continued ever since with the exception of about five years spent at Whatcheer, Iowa. He is actively concerned with the political affairs of his state. In 1881 his party, the Republican, nominated him for state senator. He was elected and held the office for four years. In 1874 he married Miss Flora Sampson, daughter of Judge E. S. Sampson. They are the parents of four children, namely: Anna, wife of Ernst E. Brackin of Coal Creek, Iowa; Roy C., an attorney-at-law associated with the father and having charge of a law office in What-

cleer, the firm being Brown & Brown; Millie E. and Helen, who are both at home. The son saw active service during the late Spanish-American war. He was a member of the Fifty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry and spent one year in the Philippines. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are both members of the Presbyterian church. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is prominent in Grand Army of the Republic circles. In 1863 he enlisted with the national guard in Ohio, and on May 2, 1864, entered Company A of the One Hundred Forty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He ranked as a private, and at the expiration of his term of service he was discharged, in September, 1864. He is a member of the Robert F. Lowe post and has been commander for two years. He has served for one year on the staff of the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, an index of Mr. Brown's popularity and executive ability.

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RALPH G. COFFMAN.

Ralph G. Coffman was born in Washington county, Iowa, August 15, 1875. His father, the Rev. J. W. Coffman, was a native of Virginia and pursued his education in Shurtleff College, at Chicago, and Morgan Park Seminary. He became a minister of the Baptist church and for many years engaged in preaching the gospel both in Illinois and in Iowa. About 1865 he took up his abode in Washington county, Iowa, and for some time was also located in Burlington. He is now retired from the ministry and makes his home at Keota, but his interest in church work is deep and abiding and his influence is yet given to the advancement of the cause of Christianity, of which he was so long a faithful representative in ministry. He married Margaret Bear, a

native of Washington county, Iowa, and a daughter of Gideon and Mary Bear, who were among the pioneer settlers of that county. Her father was a farmer by occupation, one of the leading land holders of Washington county, becoming a wealthy man so that he was enabled to provide well for each of his ten children. Of this family Mrs. Coffman was the third child and second daughter. To Rev. and Mrs. Coffman were born four children, two sons and two daughters, namely: Carrie; Northrup, a farmer of Washington county; Ralph G., our subject; and Mary, who is living at the parental home.

Ralph G. Coffman pursued his education in public schools and in Central University of Iowa, located at Pella, Iowa, where he pursued a classical course. He then began teaching school and followed that profession for four years, during which time he spent one year as principal of the schools of Lancaster, Iowa. In 1898 he was tendered the position of secretary and bookkeeper by the firm of Keiser Brothers, of Keota, and accepting this position he held the same until recently, and at present is in the employ of the Keokuk County News.

On the 21st of November, 1900, Mr. Coffman was united in marriage to Georgia Green, a daughter of H. F. and Lizzie (Ramsey) Green. Mr. Coffman holds membership in the Masonic fraternity and has taken the Royal Arch degrees. He is also connected with the Knights of Pythias fraternity and is a man well known and well liked throughout this portion of Iowa. His scholarly attainments, his courtesy and his genial manner have made him a pleasant companion and a popular gentleman, and in the history of Keokuk county he well deserves mention.



SAMUEL DINGS, M. D.

Among the medical practitioners of Keota is numbered Dr. Samuel Dings, who is accorded a liberal and lucrative patronage by reason of his ability in the life work he has chosen. He was born in Washington county, New York, October 23, 1857. His father, John Dings, was also a native of the Empire state and there the grandfather, Adam Dings, was likewise born. The family is of English lineage and was early established in New York. John Dings became a carpenter and farmer and for many years resided in Argyle, New York. He wedded Margaret McFadden, a native of the Empire state and of Scotch lineage. The Doctor is the second of their four children, two daughters and two sons, all of whom are yet living. The father, however, passed away in Argyle, New York at age of sixty-five years, while the mother died in Crawfordsville, Iowa, when thirty-three years of age.

Dr. Dings is the only member of the family living in this state. He is indebted to the public school system of New York for the early educational privileges he enjoyed, having pursued his studies in Washington county. He afterward attended Howe's Academy, at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and also the academy in Washington, Iowa. He came to this state in 1876, locating in Washington county, and here he engaged in teaching to some extent. In 1882 he went to Kansas, locating in Nortonville, where he engaged in farming for about five years, and on the expiration of that period, having determined to enter the medical profession, he took up the study of medicine in 1886. In 1887 he matriculated in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of Keokuk, Iowa, and on completing the regular course was graduated with the class of 1889. The same year he located for practice in Keota, where he has

since remained. Whatever tends to promote the interests of his profession and place before man the key to the mystery of that complex problem which we call "life" at once attracts the interest and co-operation of Dr. Dings. He is an extremely busy and successful practitioner, many professional as well as social demands being made upon his services.

In 1881 occurred the marriage of Dr. Dings and Miss Ida May Hood, a daughter of Samuel Hood, who was born and reared in Louisa county, Iowa, and pursued her education there. Unto them have been born two children: Samuel E., and Harold H. Both the Doctor and his wife hold membership in the United Presbyterian church, take an active part in its work and at the present time the Doctor is serving as superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is a Republican in politics with strong Prohibition tendencies. In the line of his profession he is connected with the county medical society and the Eastern Iowa District Medical Society, and through the interchange of thought and experience in the brotherhood of these organizations he is continually broadening his knowledge concerning the medical profession and the methods of practice in vogue with the members of the fraternity. His own research, experience and experimenting as well as careful observation have also heightened his skill, and he now enjoys a liberal practice in Keota and the surrounding country.

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MORGAN HAWK.

Having put aside farm work Morgan Hawk is now living a retired life, making his home in the town of Delta, where he is widely and favorably known. He was born in Union county, Ohio, July 4,

1838, and comes of an old Virginia family. His father, Jacob Hawk, was born in Hardy county, Virginia, and there spent the days of his boyhood and youth, but in early manhood he left the Old Dominion and in 1830 traveled westward to Knox county Ohio. There he located and after a time removed to Union county, that state, where he remained until 1854. In the latter year he determined to establish a home beyond the Mississippi, attracted by the possibilities of this great and rapidly developing section of the country. Making his way to Iowa he settled in Warren township, Keokuk county, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and ninety acres of partially improved land. He was married in Virginia to Seden Real, a native of the Old Dominion, where she remained until her marriage. They became the parents of ten children, seven sons and three daughters: Eunice B., Martin; Dolly, who died in infancy; Isaac; William and John, deceased; Anthony, Sarah, Morgan, and Vanson. The father of this family remained upon the old home farm in Warren township until his death, which occurred in 1878, when he was eighty-four years of age. He was a life-long Democrat and was a member of the Baptist church. In whatever community he resided he was known for his sterling worth, his fidelity and manly principles and his devotion to truth and the right.

Morgan Hawk was the sixth son and ninth child in his father's family. Under the parental roof he spent the days of his childhood, and with his parents came to Iowa when fifteen years of age, remaining with them until they were called to their final rest. He afterward became the owner of the old homestead, which remained in his possession until 1901. He has resided in Delta since 1899. He bought a lot here and built his present home. Throughout the years of his business life he carried on agricultural pursuits, his training at this work in youth hav-

ing brought him practical experience which well fitted him to take charge of the farm on attaining manhood. He followed progressive methods, keeping in touch with the advancement of the times, and everything about the place was indicative of the careful and enterprising spirit of the owner, whose efforts at farm work were crowned with a high degree of success which now enables him to put aside business cares and rest in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

Mr. Hawk was married in Warren township to Miss Sarah Jane Scott, a native of Indiana and a daughter of John Scott, who was born in Kentucky and became one of the pioneer settlers of Keokuk county, Iowa, arriving here in the year 1844. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hawk has been blessed with ten children, four sons and six daughters, as follows: John, Edward, Mary, Lacey, Amanda, the wife of Lee Dawson; Clara, the wife of Wesley Snider; William; Della, the wife of Virgil Bell; Gertrude, the wife of John S. Scoonover; and Jessie, deceased. All of these children were born on the old family homestead and with the exception of three, all of the living are yet residents of Warren township, and those three reside in neighboring townships, so that the surviving members of the family are all near to their parents. Mr. Hawk has ever devoted his political work to the support of the Democracy and has kept well informed on the issues of the day, so that he has been enabled to support his position by intelligent argument. Both he and his wife are faithful and devoted members of the Christian church, are well known in the community where they make their home and are highly respected by reason of their many excellent qualities of heart and mind. They have long traveled life's journey together and have many friends.

CHAUNCY RICHMOND.

Chauncy Richmond, who is now living a retired life in Webster, but for many years was actively associated with farming interests in Keokuk county, was born in Loraine county, Ohio, February 12, 1818. His father, Amos Richmond, was a native of New York and was of English parentage. He spent the days of his youth in the Empire state, acquired his education in its public schools and remained with his parents until he had attained early manhood. He served his country throughout the war of 1812 and when a young man left the Empire state and removed westward to Ohio, settling in Loraine county, where he carried on the work of tilling the soil. He was married in that county to Miss Alvira Bronson, a native of Connecticut, where she was reared and educated. They were the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters.

Chauncy Richmond is the eldest son and now the only surviving member of the family. He spent his early childhood in the county of his nativity and is indebted to its public school system for the educational privileges he enjoyed. He remained at home until fifteen years of age and then went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he became connected with the tanning business, which he followed there for three years. He next became a sailor upon Lake Erie, and after a year spent in that way he left Cleveland, removing to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he secured a position as a watchman on the steamboat Favorite, on which vessel he made the trip from Pittsburg down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans and thence across the gulf of Mexico to Mobile, Alabama. He remained upon the Favorite throughout the winter, but in the spring returned to New Orleans and thence made his way up the Missis-

sippi river to St. Louis, Missouri. From there he went to Louisville, Kentucky, and ran on a boat from that city to Pittsburg, remaining in that position for about a year. Leaving the boat at Louisville, he proceeded to St. Louis and from there went up the river to Warsaw, Illinois, where he engaged in farming, remaining there for about three years.

During that period Mr. Richmond was married on the 27th of February, 1841, in Carthage, Hancock county, Illinois, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth Marsh, a daughter of Benjamin Franklin Marsh, a native of Vermont, and a sister of Colonel B. F. Marsh, who was a soldier of the Civil war and has since been prominent in politics in Illinois. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Richmond has been blessed with eight children, four sons and four daughters, of whom three sons and three daughters are yet living. The family record is as follows: Benjamin F.; Charles Amos, now deceased; Sophia R., who died in infancy; Charlotte A., the wife of Bacon Holmes, of Smith county, Kansas; Elvira R., the wife of Delbert Hoyt, a retired farmer living in Webster; Arthur M.; Alice B., the wife of Joseph Herrick, of German township, Keokuk county; and George H., who completes the family.

After his marriage Mr. Richmond left Illinois and went to LaGrange county, Indiana, where he settled upon a farm which he had bought, all of which was then raw land, but he made excellent improvements upon it and transformed it into an excellent property. All of the children were born upon that farm. In 1865 Mr. Richmond removed with his family to Iowa, settling in English River township, Keokuk county, near Webster. He secured one hundred and sixty acres of improved land and continued its further cultivation and improvement until 1891, when he put aside the work of the fields and removed to Webster, where

he built a house in which he is now living in the enjoyment of a well earned rest. He was energetic and active in the prosecution of his work, reliable in his business transactions and of strong purpose, and those qualities brought to him a competence which now supplies him with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

From its organization Mr. Richmond has been identified with the Republican party, and his study of the political issues of the day and the attitude of the parties concerning public questions has never caused him to want to change his political allegiance. He and his wife have long been Congregationalists in religious faith and their membership is now with the church of that denomination in Webster. They are both highly respected residents of the town, well worthy of representation among the valued citizens of their adopted county.



### JOHN ENGELDINGER.

Among the many worthy foreigners who have come to this country and helped make it what it is and rendered uncleared land to flourish and blossom like the rose is the family of our subject. John Engeldinger, the father of our subject, was a Prussian, a farmer by occupation, reared and educated in his native land, and married Anna Mary Nittler, also of Prussia. They had six children, of whom our subject was the fourth child, three boys and three girls: Anna, Mary, Nicholas (deceased), John, Peter and Anna, all of whom were born and reared in Prussia. In 1855 the father and family came to Keokuk county and settled on forty acres of raw land in Clear Creek township; this land he cleared, and he built the first log house this side of Clear Creek. He died in 1862

and was buried in the church burying ground of the Catholic church of Clear Creek, of which he had been a member. In politics he was a Democrat.

John Engeldinger, the subject of this sketch, was born May 11, 1844, in Prussia; he was reared in Keokuk county and remained on the home place until after his father's death. In 1889 he came to his present location and bought eighty acres, mostly uncleared land, which he improved and added to until now he has one hundred and eighty acres of valuable farming land. Mr. Engeldinger took as his wife in 1868 Susan Schilz, who was born in Germany in 1844, where she was reared: she was the daughter of Peter and Marguerette Schilz, who were old settlers in this county. Nine children were born to our subject, six boys and three girls: Peter, Susan, John C., Henry, Edward, George, August, Anna and Mary T., all of whom were reared and educated on the old homestead.

Mr. Engeldinger is a faithful member of the Catholic church of Clear Creek township; he helped to build the present edifice, and he has always taken an active part in school affairs, having served as trustee for twelve years. As a zealous and active Democrat, he was for eight years township trustee and also holds other local offices. In all affairs he has shown himself earnest, active and loyal and is one of the well known men of the county.



#### JOSEPH A. RANGGER.

Father Rangger is one of the most prominent workers in the Catholic church in this section and has devoted many years of his life to the advancement of its cause among his fellow-men. His influ-



ence is ever found on the side of progress, of liberty and of right, and the effect of his labors has been far reaching. He is the loved pastor of the church in Clear Creek township, Keokuk county. Father Rangger was born in Voels, near Innsbruck, in the Tyrol, Austria, on the 16th of January, 1867, while his father was also a native of that country and was a farmer by occupation, being born on the farm on which the Rangger family have resided for three hundred years. For his wife he chose Victoria Woerndle, also a native of Austria, having been born and reared in the region of the Alps. This union resulted in the birth of eight children, four sons and four daughters, as follows: Katherine and Mary, both deceased; Juliana; Francis; Anna; Joseph A., the subject of this review; Marcus, who is now a priest in Vienna, Austria; and Anthony, who still resides on the old home farm in Austria, where the children were all born and reared.

When twelve years of age Joseph A. Rangger entered a seminary at Brixen, where he remained for three years, and on the expiration of that period in 1881, he became a student in the Royal Gymnasium at Halle, there continuing his studies for two years, while for the following year he was at Innsbruck. When but eighteen years of age he bade adieu to the home of his youth and crossed the broad Atlantic to the United States, and after his arrival in the new world he completed his studies in the St. Francis Seminary, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1891. In that year he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Cosgrove, and shortly afterward returned on a visit to his native Austria, spending six months amid friends and relatives and viewing again the scenes of his boyhood and youth. After his return to America he made his way to Wilton Junction, Iowa, where for three months he ministered to the needs of the parish, their regular pastor, Father Duggan,

being then ill. His next place of residence was at Davenport, Iowa, where for four months he had charge of a hospital, while for the following three months he served as a substitute to the church at Perry, this state.

Since the 14th of April, 1893, he has ministered to the needs of the congregation in Clear Creek township, and during his pastorate the old brick church, which was erected in 1863, has been replaced by a new and beautiful edifice, the school building repaired and a new parsonage erected at an expense of two thousand, five hundred dollars. During this time the Sisters have taken charge of the school and the attendance has increased one hundred per cent. Through the entiring efforts of Father Rangger congregation increased so rapidly that it became necessary to secure larger accommodations, and accordingly in 1898 they laid the foundation for the present structure. The laying of the corner stone, on Wednesday, June 8, 1898, for this beautiful edifice, was one of the most notable events in the history of Catholicism in Clear Creek township, and was witnessed by from fifteen hundred to two thousand people. It was an impressive ceremony and one that will long be remembered by those who were present. The old church witnessed the passing of a generation, and there the ancestors of the present congregation went to worship and offer up prayer and also to listen to the divine words of their pastor. The sermon was conducted by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Cosgrove, assisted by the visiting clergy and the cost of the building was about eleven thousand, five hundred dollars. Father Rangger is widely known in Catholic circles throughout this section of the state, and his daily life has been a light guiding many to the better way.

NICHOLAS KRAMER.

It is an evidence of stability of character when a man has remained and been successful throughout his life in one place, and it is upon such men that the nation's faith and strength depend. Such a man is Nicholas Kramer, who was born in Keokuk county and has lived here for more than fifty years. His father, John Peter Kramer, was a German, and received his training in the excellent institutions of that sturdy nation. In 1840, when he was about thirty years of age, he emigrated to America and took up his abode first in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, but in 1843 he moved westward and settled in Lafayette township, Keokuk county, Iowa, before this now great state had been admitted to the Union. Here he entered three hundred and twenty acres of raw land from the government and by industrious toil soon possessed an improved and highly cultivated farm. He also entered and enclosed four hundred acres more. He was then one of the earliest settlers of Keokuk county; his political views were Democratic and his church membership was with the Roman Catholic church in Clear Creek township. He died in this county about 1887. In 1844, in Keokuk county, he was married to Anna Kelson, who was born and reared in Germany and came to this country soon after Mr. Kramer did. Mr. and Mrs. Kramer were the parents of two children: Nicholas, our subject; and Lena, who was reared in Keokuk county, but is now deceased; the latter was the wife of John Bermel, whose sketch will be found in another part of this book.

Nicholas Kramer was born on his father's farm in this county on September 22, 1850. Like the other boys of the neighborhood he attended the district schools during the winter and worked on the farm in the summer. On leaving school at the age of eighteen, he helped

his father and was instrumental in clearing the farm. He continued with his father until his marriage, when he moved to the north of the old homestead and in 1876 settled on two hundred acres of mostly new land and has since improved and added to it until he now has two hundred and eighty acres, all improved. In 1875 Mr. Kramer wedded Josephine Conrad, who was born in Pennsylvania, but soon went to Wisconsin, where she lived until she was eight years old; she then came to Keokuk county with her parents and there grew to womanhood. Her parents were Jacob Conrad and Margueretta Wilhelme, natives of Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Kramer were born three children: John Peter, deceased; Margueretta; and Threasa C. Mr. Kramer belongs to the Democratic party and has held several local township offices, for ten years being supervisor. He is a zealous member of the Harper Catholic church and is active in church affairs, being on the church board, and he also helped to build the church. Respected and esteemed by all, he is a valuable citizen.



#### JOHN BERMEL.

Perhaps no one foreign nation has contributed more sturdy men to the building up of agriculture in America than has Germany. The farms of German settlers are always well tilled and prosperous looking and are an ornament and model to the community. Our subject, John Bermel, is a descendant of one of these pioneers from the fatherland.

Anton Bermel, born in Germany, came to America when he was about eighteen years of age and for a short time cast his lot in Ohio; he returned to the old country for a short time and his second coming ended in his taking up his residence on a farm in Muscatine county, Iowa, about 1850, being, therefore, one of the old settlers of the state,

and one of the enterprises in which he assisted was the building of the first railroad from Davenport, Iowa, west. He was always interested in the success of the Democratic party and was a member of the Catholic church. His death took place in Muscatine county when he was seventy-eight years old. His wife was Katherine Oller; she lived in Germany until she was grown, and then she ventured, the first one of her family, to come alone to America, her parents following her the next year. She came directly to Iowa and was married to Mr. Bermel in Muscatine county. Five children were the fruit of the marriage, as follows: John Bermel, the eldest, Katherine, Paulina, Peter and Frank.

John Bermel was born in Muscatine county, in April, 1855; in the district school of his neighborhood his young mind was trained and at his eighteenth year he began his practical life on his father's farm, where he worked for three years. At the age of twenty-one he married and went to farming in Lafayette township, Keokuk county; it was on that farm that the first white man was born in the township. Taking up two hundred acres of land owned by his father-in-law, J. P. Kramer, by his own efforts he brought it under a fine state of cultivation. Mr. Bermel still owns the farm that he started with and is one of the successful agriculturists of the county.

His first wife, whom he married in 1876, was Mary M. Kramer, born in 1857, and one of the first children born in Lafayette township; she was the child of John Peter Kramer, whose history is recorded in another chapter. There were four children born of this marriage: John (deceased), Nicholas, Anton, and Christina. Mrs. Bermel passed away in 1890 and in 1892 Mr. Bermel took his second wife, Mary Mengold, a native of Scott county, Iowa, born July 19, 1860, and her education was received for the most part in the schools of Davenport. She is

the mother of four children: William, Anna, Margueritte, and Agnes. Mr. Bernel is interested in the Democratic party, is school director, takes a prominent part in educational affairs, is a member of the Catholic church at Harper, and is well thought of wherever known.



#### HARRY D. WILLIAMS.

In commercial circles in Keota Harry D. Williams occupies a creditable and honorable position. He conducts a general store, dealing in drygoods and groceries, and his trade has reached gratifying proportions in recognition of his honorable business methods and because of the excellent line of goods which he carries. His commercial interests have brought to him a wide acquaintance and as he has gained many friends in Keokuk county we know that the history of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers.

Mr. Williams was born in Marshall county, Indiana, on the 11th of August, 1865. His father, J. H. Williams, was a native of West Virginia, whence he removed westward, becoming a factor in the development of the great Mississippi valley. In 1872 he removed to Keokuk county, locating in Keota, where he engaged in merchandising, continuing business along that line up to the time of his death, which occurred in April, 1884. He was one of the pioneer merchants of the town and a respected and worthy citizen. He married Harriet Hawley, a native of Virginia, and the subject of this review was their only child.

Harry D. Williams was a little lad of seven summers when he accompanied his parents to Keota. Here he entered the public schools, acquiring a knowledge of the common branches of learning, and later he entered the Davenport Business College, in which he was graduated. He

was also a student in the Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, for a time. He entered upon his business career in the capacity of a clerk in his father's store, and when nineteen years of age he began business on his own account in the building in which he is yet located. Although but a young man he is, however, one of the oldest merchants of the place, having for eighteen years been a representative of the trade interests of this town. He carries both drygoods and groceries and is enjoying a liberal patronage which he well merits. His attention has been given throughout his business career to this enterprise and because of his close application, his energy and perseverance, he has met with gratifying success.

On the 22d of November, 1888, Mr. Williams was united in marriage to Nora Daiber, a daughter of Michael and Lizzie (Smeltzer) Daiber. She was born in Muscatine, Iowa, in 1867, and is a graduate of Keota high school. Three interesting children grace this union: Hazel D., H. Gale, and George D., who are still under the parental roof. The parents hold membership in the United Presbyterian church and are highly esteemed people of the community, who enjoy the hospitality of the best homes here. In manner Mr. Williams is kindly and genial, and his genuine worth and jovial nature have made him a popular resident of Keokuk county.



#### DAVID KEISER.

The story of the discovery of gold in California and early mining experiences there now read almost like a romance, so different are the present conditions of that state from those existing when the first rush was made to the gold fields. David Keiser was among those who at that

early day sought a fortune on the Pacific coast and has many interesting incidents to relate of his life in California. Three times he made the trip to the coast, but eventually he turned his attention to farming in Keokuk county, Iowa, and having prospered in his undertakings so that he won a handsome competence, he is now living a retired life in Keota.

Mr. Keiser is a native of Perry county, Pennsylvania, born May 4, 1828, and comes of an old family of German lineage that was founded in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, prior to the Revolutionary war. Isaac Keiser, the father of our subject, was born in Lancaster county, but was reared and married in Perry county. A blacksmith by trade, for a number of years he conducted a shop in Bloomfield, Perry county, and when he sold his smithy he purchased a farm in that county, making it his home until 1846, when he came to Iowa, locating in Des Moines county near Burlington. His last days were spent in that city, where he died at the age of seventy-five years. The mother of our subject died when he was but two weeks old, he being the youngest of six children. The father afterward married a Miss Bower and to them were born three children. Of these nine children but two are now living: David, and his half-brother, Samuel Keiser, who lives in New London, Henry county, Iowa.

David Keiser was eighteen years of age when he came to Iowa with his father. He worked in Burlington for two years at the wagon-maker's trade and for about a year was employed in the pineries of Michigan. In 1849, attracted by the discovery of gold in California, he made the long journey across the hot and arid sand plains and through the mountain passes with an ox-team, and after reaching his destination he worked in the mines for five years, meeting with splendid success and taking out as high as five thousand dollars in a single day. He



also went through the experiences of mining life there which now seem so marvelous, and the story of that five years is now an interesting chapter in his life's history.

In 1854 Mr. Keiser returned to Iowa and the following year was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Singmaster, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Sweetwood) Singmaster. Her father was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, and in 1846 came to Iowa, casting his lot with the pioneer settlers of Keokuk county, Iowa. He lived to the advanced age of ninety-one years, while his wife, who was a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, reached the age of eighty-four years. They were the parents of nine children: Charles F., Sarah, Eliza, Thomas, James, Marietta, William, and two who died in infancy. Mrs. Keiser is the second child and eldest daughter and was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, January 15, 1836. She was ten years of age when she came to Keokuk county, where she has since made her home. The wedding trip of Mr. and Mrs. Keiser consisted of a journey to California, and they were gone from home for six months. They went by the way of New York and returned by the Nicaragua route. On again reaching Iowa they located in Burlington.

Mr. Keiser there engaged in the milling business, operating what was known as the Farmers' Grist-mill. About 1864, however, he sold that mill and again crossed the plains to California, with a pony train, visiting the Golden state and also Oregon. In the spring he returned by way of Oregon and Idaho, making the trip from the latter state to Iowa on horseback. He and his brothers were the discoverers of two deep mines at Georgetown and Mammaluke Hills, which became known as the Keiser mines, and have yielded much gold. On the return from from his third trip to California, Mr. Keiser purchased a farm about

seven miles west of Burlington, where he was engaged in general farming and stock-raising for seven years. He then came to LaFayette township, Keokuk county, where he purchased a farm, which he conducted successfully until 1901, when he retired from active farm life and removed to Keota, where he is now living. He still owns three hundred and twenty acres in the home place, and has in all about five hundred acres of valuable land in this county.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Keiser has been blessed with six children: William S., a prominent farmer of South Dakota; Samuel I. and Charles O., who are representative citizens of this county and are mentioned elsewhere in this work; Allie U., at home; Lola I., the wife of E. Gilbert, of Keota; and John D., who is operating the home farm. The parents are earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Keiser is serving as trustee, and he belongs to Adelpi Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Mason of Keota. He is a stalwart Republican in his political views and is widely known as a leading and highly respected citizen of the county. His residence in the state covers more than half a century and thus he has been a witness of much of its growth and development. His has been a somewhat eventful career, in which there have been some exciting chapters, but wherever he has been and in whatever condition of life, Mr. Keiser has commanded esteem by his sterling worth and won friends by his genial nature and kindly disposition.



#### CHARLES A. TRUMBAUER, M. D.

Exacting demands are made upon the physician. Of him we demand not only a thorough knowledge of the medical science and marked skill

in his profession, but also a genial nature, a sunny disposition and kindly sympathy. Dr. Trumbauer, meeting these requirements, has already gained success as a member of the medical fraternity, although he is yet a young man. He was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, November 30, 1870, and comes of a family of German lineage. His father, Addison Trumbauer, was born and reared in Pennsylvania and by occupation was a farmer. He removed to Iowa in 1884, locating in Independence, Buchanan county, on the 3d of April of that year. He now resides at Waterloo, this state. In early manhood he wedded Mary Romig, a native of Pennsylvania, who was of Holland descent and who died at the age of fifty-two years. This worthy couple were the parents of ten children, of whom five daughters and three sons are yet living.

Dr. Trumbauer is the fourth child and the second son of this family and was thirteen years of age at the time of their removal to Iowa. His education, which was begun in the schools of Pennsylvania, was continued in this state and for two years he was a student in the high school of Jesup, Iowa. When he was eighteen years of age his father gave him his time, and for five months thereafter he was employed in the insane hospital at Independence. He then entered Central College, at Pella, Iowa, where he pursued a three years' preparatory course. He then went to Kansas and entered the normal at St. John and in the fall of the same year became a student in the Keokuk Medical College, of Keokuk Iowa, where he was graduated in the spring of 1897. Dr. Trumbauer then located at Eldon, Iowa, where he remained for six months, and in August of the same year he took up his abode at Harper, in Keokuk county, Iowa, where he was in practice until January, 1902, when he located at Keota. He has already won recognition here by reason of his

skill in practice and his thorough understanding of the principles of the medical science.

On the 25th of March, 1897, the Doctor was united in marriage to Laura L. Bryson, a daughter of J. K. and Harriet (Dunham) Bryson. Socially the Doctor is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In his political views he is independent when casting his ballot at local elections, supporting the men whom he thinks best qualified for office. He belongs to the Baptist church and is deeply interested in everything pertaining to the general good along social, intellectual and moral lines. His professional connection is with the Keokuk County Medical Society and he now has a good practice, being recognized as one of the leading physicians of the county.



## H. H. REINERT.

H. H. Reinert is proprietor of the leading drugstore of Keota, an establishment which would be a credit to a city of greater size because of its neat and tasteful appearance, the excellent line of goods carried and the obliging courtesy of the proprietor. Mr. Reinert is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Sigourney, November 8, 1871. He is the fourth child of Michael and Mary (Horras) Reinert and comes of a family of German lineage. He was reared and educated in this state, pursuing his studies in the public schools of Sigourney, and he entered upon his business career in the capacity of a clerk with his brother, C. C. Reinert, at South English, in whose service he remained for two years. Later he was salesman in the employ of J. E. Graff, in Sigourney, and afterwards purchased his brother's store and conducted it for several years. He then became connected with the drug

trade in Tipton, Iowa, where he remained for about two years, having also purchased a store there. In April, 1901, he came to Keota, where he established his drugstore and is now doing an excellent business, having the leading establishment of its kind in the town. His experience in the business covers eleven years and his marked success is attributed to the fact that he is thorough and painstaking in all that he does. In February, 1896, he passed the state examination before the board of pharmacy and was the only one who passed in a class of fourteen applicants. During his residence in other towns he gained the confidence and esteem of a large circle of patrons and friends, and his history in Keota is similar. He carries a large and well selected stock of goods—drugs, proprietary medicines, toilet articles, and a large and varied line of jewelry, silverware, clocks, watches and diamonds. The fine display of toilet articles and other goods, with the jewelry, tastefully arranged, add to the attractiveness and value of the stock. Neatness and taste characterize the store in every department, and Mr. Reinert now has a very liberal patronage, which is constantly growing.

On the 30th of October, 1898, Mr. Reinert was united in marriage to Ressa Wagner, a daughter of Edward and Celia (Munn) Wagner. She was born in Iowa county, Iowa, and pursued her education in the public schools of this state and in Fremont, Nebraska, also taking a commercial course in a business college of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is the eldest in a family of seven children and is a most estimable lady, who shares with her husband in the regard of their many friends. Mr. Reinert belongs to the Masonic fraternity and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is also a member of the Eastern Star and the Rebekahs, the ladies' degrees of those organizations. In politics he is independent, voting for the men whom he thinks best qualified for office.

He holds membership in the Catholic church, in the faith of which he was reared. In Keota he is a popular merchant, genial, courteous, and obliging, and well does he deserve the success which has come to him, making him one of the leading business men of his town.



#### MICHAEL REINERT.

Michael Reinert, one of the old settlers of Keokuk county, Iowa, whose fine, well improved farm of one hundred and forty-seven acres is located in German township, is one of the prosperous and well-known farmers, who, although born in another country, has become a valued citizen of this. Mr. Reinert was born in Prussia, Germany, January 1, 1843, and is the youngest of four sons and three daughters constituting the family born to John and Angelica (Leinen) Reinert, both of whom were also born in Germany, where they lived all their lives. Michael attended the common schools in his native land until he was thirteen years old and then was employed by neighboring farmers to assist them and continued to be so employed until he started for America. In 1861 he reached New York and came on to Keokuk county, Iowa, working at farm labor through the summers of 1861 and 1862. In the fall of the latter year he enlisted for service in the Civil war, entering Company B, Second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, as a private, and performed the duties of a faithful soldier until the spring of 1864, when on the 27th of May of that year he was mustered out, having received an honorable discharge.

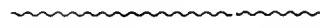
After completing his army service, our subject returned to Keokuk county, and was soon engaged at farm work by the month; continuing with various farmers of the county until 1865. In February of that

year he was united in marriage with Mary A. Horas, who was born in Germany and came to America with her parents when she was an infant. She was reared and educated in Keokuk county and is an admirable housekeeper, a kind neighbor and a most devoted and helpful wife and mother. A family of nine children was born to this union, their names being the following: Frank, who is a porter in one of the leading hotels at Long Branch, New Jersey; Casper, who is a druggist, is now engaged in real estate business in North Dakota; Charles, who is a farmer in German township, married Jennie Killmer; Henry H., who is a druggist at Keota, Keokuk county, married Ressa Wagner; William, who is a farmer in Clear Creek township, married Lucy Klett; Miss Bertha, who resides at home; Bessie, who is the wife of John Strupp, a prominent farmer of German township; Gustave A., who is a farmer in North Dakota; and Fred, who has enjoyed a college education, resides at home.

Immediately after marriage Mr. Reinert took up his residence upon his present farm, the home being in a log cabin standing on the place. His energy and industry have made wonderful improvements which have changed the whole appearance of the place. His residence is one of comfort and convenience, his barns are substantial and commodious, while the other improvements show the thrift and good management which prevail on this place. Mr. Reinert engages in general farming and stock-raising and has been very successful in all his efforts. He is regarded as one of the substantial men of German township.

During the war our subject was a staunch Republican, but in late years he has been more liberal and generally votes in local matters for the man he feels best qualified for office. His own reliability and the estimation in which he is held by his neighbors, has been demonstrated by his

election to almost all of the township offices; he has performed the duties of trustee, school director, clerk and others, with the utmost efficiency. Mr. Reinert is a very prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, belonging to the Robert F. Lowe Post, in Sigourney. He is the intelligent promoter of all worthy enterprises for improvement in the township, votes and works for good schools and good roads and is in every way worthy of the high esteem in which he is held.



#### JOHN LINN RAMSEY.

J. L. Ramsey, the subject of this review, is a self-made man who without any extraordinary family or pecuniary advantages at the commencement of life has labored earnestly and energetically and by indomitable courage and integrity has achieved both character and fortune and by sheer force of will and untiring effort he worked his way upward and was during many years a leading business man of Keota, and at the present time he is living a retired life there.

Mr. Ramsey was born in Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, on the 17th of September, 1830. His father, Eben. Ramsey, was also a native of the old Granite state and by occupation was a farmer. His father, Samuel Ramsey, came from Scotland to the new world in colonial days and when the Revolutionary war was begun he joined the army and fought for the independence of the nation. He married Elizabeth Wilson and settled in Greenfield, Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, upon a farm. He entered his land from the government and improved the property, becoming one of the active and honored pioneer settlers of the locality. The father of our subject having arrived at years of maturity, was united in marriage to Mary D. Butler, a relative of Franklin Pierce,





*J. L. Ramsey*



once president of the United States, also of Horace Greeley and of General Benjamin Butler. Mrs. Ramsey was born in Bennington, New Hampshire, and was a daughter of Moody Butler, whose birth occurred in the old Granite state, the Butlers being a pioneer family there. They were of Scotch-Irish descent. Unto the parents of our subject were born four sons. The father died in 1836 and the mother afterward married again, becoming the wife of Amzi Jones, by whom she had two sons and one daughter. Her death occurred at the advanced age of eighty-five years.

J. L. Ramsey, of this review, is the second son born of the first marriage. He remained in his native place until sixteen years of age and in 1846 removed to western New York, locating at Yates, about forty miles from the city of Buffalo. He went there with a Mr. Grant and his cousin, David B. Ramsey, and for a year he attended school and afterward engaged in teaching in that locality for two years. In 1849 he sought a new home, locating near Lexington, Kentucky, where he engaged in teaching for about a year. He then went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and secured a position on the Dayton & Hamilton Railroad, acting as fireman for six months. He was then promoted to engineer, acting in that capacity in Ohio until 1854, when he became a resident of Chicago. There he entered the service of the Rock Island Railroad Company as an engineer, the road at that time having just been extended to Peoria. He was one of the first engineers on the line and he traveled all over the road on construction trains, remaining in the employ of the company for twenty-five years. He also had charge of the round house of Chicago, at Rock Island, Peoria and Peru. During the last years of his connection with the company he acted as station agent in Bureau Junction, Illinois. He was one of the most trusted employes of the company—a fact which

is well indicated by his long service covering a quarter of a century.

In 1880 Mr. Ramsey came to Keokuk county, Iowa, locating in Keota, where he engaged in the grain business, building the first elevator at this place. When a young man in the employ of the railroad he had run an engine from Chicago to Rock Island and there transferred his load to coal barges, which were sent down the river to Muscatine, Iowa. He also hauled the material which was used to build the Wilton branch of the Chicago & Rock Island road from Wilton Junction to Muscatine, so that he had previously visited the state prior to locating in Keota. He continued in the grain trade here until 1893, when he sold out and retired from active business to enjoy a well deserved rest from further labor.

On the 28th of January, 1857, Mr. Ramsey was united in marriage to Mary E. Nelson, who was born in Lexington, Kentucky, December 14, 1833, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Taylor) Nelson, the former a native of Kentucky while the latter was born near Richmond, Virginia. Mrs. Ramsey is their only child and was reared and educated in her native place. By her marriage she has become the mother of six children: Elizabeth, the widow of Forrest Green; Virginia, the wife of Dr. J. W. Blythin, a resident of Gordon, Wisconsin, John N., who wedded May Newton and resides in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Georgia T., the wife of A. A. Hulse, a merchant of Keota; Eben J., a furniture dealer of this place; and Emma C., the wife of Charles B. Galbreath, who resides in Carroll, Iowa.

Mr. Ramsey is a staunch Republican in politics, and has been from the organization of the party. In an early day he was personally acquainted with many of the leading men in politics, including such celebrities as John A. Logan, General Sherman, Richard Yates, Sr. He has held several positions of honor and trust. For twelve years he served

as mayor of Keota and his administration was practical and progressive, largely promoting the welfare of the town. For about fifteen years he was a member of the school board, taking an active interest in everything pertaining to the general good here, his labors being very effective in behalf of the same. He is a prominent Mason, belonging to Adelpi Lodge No. 353, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Keota. He was an organizer of the council of the fraternity at Peru, Illinois, the chapter at Rock Island, and belongs to the commandery at Washington, Iowa. In the Scottish Rite he has attained the thirty-second degree. He has also held all of the offices in the Blue lodge, the council and commandery. He was also grand engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, though for years he has not been active as such. Mr. Ramsey is a gentleman who at all times and in all places has commanded the respect and esteem of his fellow men. His life has been characterized by fidelity to duty, whether in or out of office—and faithfulness to duty and strict adherence to a purpose in life will do more to advance a man's interest than wealth or advantageous circumstances. The successful men of the day are they who have planned their own advancement and have accomplished it in spite of many obstacles and with a certainty that could have been attained only through their own efforts. This class of men has a worthy representative in J. L. Ramsey.



#### CHARLES A. JOHNSON.

Charles A. Johnson, the father of the leading physician of Sigourney, Iowa, Dr. Johnson, was born May 8, 1825, at Yster, Sweden, a son of Peter and Boel Johnson, who passed their whole lives in that country

and reared a family of eleven daughters and one son. At the age of sixteen years, this son left home and traveled from place to place, working at tailoring, through Sweden, Norway, Russia, England and France. After an absence of eight years he returned to the old home and for three years conducted a tailoring shop there, but he started then upon his travels again, which landed him in New York in September, 1851. He remained in this city until the following April and during this time met and was warmly welcomed by his famous cousin, the Swedish nightingale, Jenny Lind. From New York City he drifted to Albany, thence to Buffalo, Dunkirk, Detroit and then to Chicago, leaving the latter place hurriedly on account of the prevalence of cholera. For a short time he was at La Salle, Illinois, and then remained for six months in Princeton, went then to Peoria, on to St. Louis, to Burlington and Fairfield, Iowa, and on May 24, 1854, located at Lancaster, Iowa, where he opened a tailoring establishment.

In September, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, and served his adopted country faithfully for three years and two months and is now an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1855 he married Mary Gray, who became the mother of eight children, and died in 1896. In 1900 he married Mrs. Eliza (Davenport) Roberts. Mr. Johnson has traveled over almost all of the west and has spent considerable time in Kansas and Colorado.



#### ALBERT P. JOHNSON, B. C. E., M. D.

Albert P. Johnson, M. D., is a leading physician of Sigourney, Iowa, in which state he was born, in the village of Lancaster, Keokuk county.

May 29, 1862, and he is the son of Charles A. and Mary G. (Gray) Johnson, who are mentioned above.

The rearing of Dr. Johnson was among farm surroundings and his education was obtained in the public schools, later becoming an instructor himself in the country neighborhoods. After a year of teaching he entered the Iowa State Agricultural College, where he graduated in the department of civil engineering in November, 1886. Prior to this, however, he had spent two years engaged in surveying in Wyoming and New Mexico, and immediately after graduating was offered and accepted the principalship of the schools of What Cheer, Iowa. Two more years were devoted to civil engineering in the upper peninsula of Michigan, and then he was prepared to put into operation a plan which had been his desire from youth, that of studying medicine. In 1889 he entered the Missouri Medical College at St. Louis, Missouri, and graduated therefrom in 1891, locating at Sigourney, where he has since remained. In 1892 he took a post-graduate course in the Post-Graduate School of Medicine, at St. Louis, and thus thoroughly equipped, has built up a large and lucrative general practice.

Dr. Johnson is not only educated in his special line, but, as we have seen, is thoroughly competent to fill other professional positions. He is a deep thinker and great student and keeps abreast of the discoveries in his science, and is an active and useful member of Keokuk county, the South-eastern Iowa and the Iowa State medical societies, and is also a member of the insane commission for Keokuk county. In politics he is a Republican, but his strenuous life leaves little time for activity in that direction. His fraternal connection is with the Knights of Pythias. In 1891 Dr. Johnson was united in marriage

with Miss Viola Passig, of Sigourney, and one son has been born to this union, namely Alcuin Passig.



#### LEONARD BRIGGS OLIVER, M. D.

Among the representative physicians and surgeons of Iowa, Dr. Leonard Briggs Oliver, of Sigourney, occupies a prominent place. He was born in Davenport, Iowa, January 20, 1858. His parents were Albourne and Eliza (Newhall) Oliver, both natives of Massachusetts. The progenitor of the Oliver family in America came from England and settled in Boston as early as 1632. Our subject's parents removed from Massachusetts to Iowa in 1856. They located in Davenport, and here spent the rest of their lives. The father died in 1877, aged sixty-three years. The mother's death occurred several years later, she being sixty-seven years of age at her demise. In Massachusetts, during his early life, the father was successfully engaged in the manufacture of morocco leather, but after removing to Davenport the remainder of his days were spent in partial retirement. Unto these parents twelve children were born, our subject being the tenth in the order of birth.

He received a liberal literary education, and in the fall of 1884 entered the medical department of the Iowa State University, where he graduated three years later. Locating at Dublin, Washington county, Iowa, he practiced there with success for a period of three years. He then took a post-graduate course at the Chicago Post-Graduate school and in May of 1891 located in Sigourney, where he has continued in an active general practice, also doing much work in surgery. He has gained reputation as a skillful physician and surgeon. In surgery he has performed innumerable and successful operations, and is local sur-



geon for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway, and is a member of the International Society of Railway Surgeons. He is also a member of the Keokuk county and the Iowa state medical associations. The Doctor is a Knight Templar Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine—Kaaba Temple, Davenport.

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GEORGE B. BAKER.

The subject of this review, who holds marked prestige among the members of the bar of Keokuk county, is a lawyer who is using his profession for the benefit of his fellow-man, to advance the interests of good government, to promote the general welfare, entertaining a just conception of the purpose of law as the conservator of the rights of the people, as the protector of the weak against the strong, the just against the unjust. As few men do, he will live to realize some of the ideals of the profession to which he devotes himself, and his reputation as a young lawyer has been won through earnest, honest labor, and his high standing at the bar is a merited tribute to his ability.

Mr. Baker is at the present time a resident of the stirring community of Hedrick, in whose marvellous advancement he takes a keen interest. He was born in Placerville, California, October 13, 1870, and is a son of Adam M., and Mary (Engledeiger) Baker. Mr. Adam Baker was a native of Germany, emigrating to this country when a lad of sixteen. He located in Iowa in 1838, settling first in Washington county, but in 1858 he moved to California. He came to Keokuk county in 1873, and located in German township, where he died at the age of sixty-seven years, and where his wife still continues to reside.

Mr. Baker is one of seven children, and was but three years of age

when he came Keokuk county. He was reared on a farm, where he passed his boyhood days quietly, and in the district schools of German township acquired his elementary education. He later became a matriculate of the Iowa City Academy, where he graduated in 1889. For a period following he taught school in the district schools of Keokuk county, and deciding upon law as a profession, began his reading. He was for a number of years engaged in the drug business. In 1897 he sold out this business and entered the law department of the Iowa State University, where he graduated on the 7th of June, 1899, with the degree of LL. B. He located immediately at Hedrick, and has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. Here he has secured the confidence of the public to a marked extent, and is gradually building up a lucrative practice.

Mr. Baker was married in 1893 to Ella Jester, of Marshalltown, Iowa. This lady was the daughter of William and Martha Jester, and has borne her husband two children: Marie and Millard F. The social life of Mr. Baker takes in a number of the prominent fraternal organizations, he being a member of the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, and the M. B. A. In political affiliations he is an earnest supporter of the principles of the party of Lincoln and Garfield. Mr. Baker is an example of what any young man of hustling qualities can do in this western country without assistance from any source and depending entirely upon his own exertions. He is a representative of that class of citizens who deserve and receive recognition at the hands of an admiring public.

DR. J. W. PORTER.

An instance of what persistence and concentrated effort will do for a man in any given line coupled with a mental temperament and educational equipment adapted to that line may be found in the case of Dr. J. W. Porter of Hedrick. In the twenty-three years of his practice this gentleman has made for himself a reputation unsurpassed in Keokuk county, as a general practitioner, his broad and comprehensive knowledge of therapeutics causing him to be much sought after. He is a deep student of the profession, and is always on the alert for new methods of the treatment of disease. He was the very first physician that located in the city of Hedrick, and has always commanded a large and lucrative practice.

Mentioning briefly the salient points in the life of Dr. Porter, his birth occurred in Bourbon county, Kentucky, March 24, 1854, he being the son of Rev. H. C. Porter and Jane Dougherty. His parents were natives also of the Blue-grass state. Rev. Porter was reared in Paris, the county seat of Bourbon county, and educated at Georgetown College. He passed an active life in the ministry of the Baptist church, and is still living at the age of eighty years, though he has retired from the active work of the ministry. Dr. Porter's mother died in 1871. There were ten children in the family of which he was a member, eight of whom are still living, the doctor being the eldest of these children. Amid the refining influences of a good home our subject was reared, and in the public schools he secured his scholastic training, completing the prescribed literary course in the Normal school at Ottumwa. For ten and a half successive terms he engaged in teaching in the public schools. During this time, having decided to make the medical profes-

sion his life work, he began reading with Dr. W. B. Searle, of Ottumwa, and matriculating at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago he became a graduate there in 1889. To evidence the light in which Dr. Porter regards his profession, and to show his character as a student, we note here that he has taken four special courses since that time in Chicago, and several others in different branches of his profession. He first located at Long's Mill, Iowa, but on the organization of the town of Hedrick he cast in his lot here, as stated, being the first physician on the ground. This was in the year of 1882, and he has been constantly engaged in that profession in the city of Hedrick since that time. During that time the doctor has kept himself in close touch with his brother physicians through being a member of the Des Moines Valley Medical Society, and of the Keokuk County Medical Society. In religious belief Dr. Porter favors the Baptist faith, of which church he is a member at Hedrick. The doctor was united in marriage September 3, 1882, to Miss Phoebe Ebelsheiser, daughter of John and Caroline Ebelsheiser, old settlers of Keokuk county, where Mrs. Porter was born. To this marriage there were born one son and one daughter: Mamie, and James Arthur.

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JOSEPH K. McELROY.

Joseph K. McElroy is a well-known citizen and an old resident of the state. Since 1856 he has been identified with many of its business interests and has a wide acquaintance with its leading men. The birth of Joseph McElroy occurred May 2, 1836, in Columbiana county, Ohio, and he is a son of Hugh and Fredericka (Mueller) McElroy.

Hugh McElroy landed in Philadelphia, an Irish lad of twenty-one years, and almost immediately entered upon a successful business career. He was born near Belfast, county Down, on December 26, 1798, a son of Andrew and Mary Jane McElroy, who lived out their lives in their native Ireland. Securing a position as clerk in the great mercantile house of Dickie Hewey and Stephen Girard, he very soon attracted the attention of his employers and in less than two years was sent by them to Pittsburgh to manage their flour shipments to New Orleans. Young Hugh accompanied the flour to the southern city on the flat-boat, as that was the means of transportation afforded at that time, but his impatience made him return by foot to Philadelphia, rather than await the slow river route. Another trip was successfully undertaken, and from this trip he returned by sea.

Soon after, his business instincts and an adventurous spirit induced him to make his way to the new portions of Ohio and after making a trial venture in the mercantile business in Somerset, Perry county, he embarked on a larger scale at New Lisbon, in Columbiana county, operating a store and a distillery and introducing the first steam engine ever in use in the state. To conduct his business properly it was necessary for him to make frequent trips to various points and as this was prior to the building of any railroads in this vicinity, Mr. McElroy crossed the Allegheny mountains fifty-two times, either on horseback or by the lumbering old stage. In 1838 his business enterprise induced him to locate at Sidney, in Shelby county, Ohio, and here he became the first merchant and also built and operated a grist-mill, a carding-mill, a saw-mill and also a cooper shop, providing thus for the wants of the community, and accepting raw material in return for merchandise, a great accommodation on account of the scarcity of money in these

regions. In 1840 he was one of the prime movers in the building of the Ohio Mainland canal, sixteen miles in length, which has a feeder located at Lockport, Ohio. After promoting all these activities, his energies turned in another direction, and in 1850 he sold his interests and embarked in the business of pork packing, at Sidney, Ohio; Madison, Indiana; Peoria, Illinois; Muscatine and Keokuk, Iowa; and Hannibal, Missouri. To buy pork he made his first trip to the west in 1856, making his head-quarters at Oskaloosa, Iowa, paying unheard of prices for the commodity and returning in the same business in 1857 and 1858. Mr. McElroy then disposed of his business and closed out his trade relations, and went back to his old home at Sidney. There as one of the leading capitalists, he opened a state bank, known as the Shelby State Bank, and continued his financial operations until his death in 1864. His was a remarkable career. Born with great natural gifts, he developed them for the benefit of others as well as himself, and attached to him many of the leading men of his time. It was no secret that he was a valued adviser of Salmon P. Chase even after the latter had attained his high office in the government.

In his early voting days, Hugh McElroy was a Whig, and later became a zealous Republican and exerted decided influence in his party. Mr. McElroy was twice married. His first wife was Frederica Mueller and was of German parentage, the three sons born them being: John Andrew, who resides at Beloit, Kansas; William B., who is deceased; and Joseph K., who is the subject of this biography. The death of William B. McElroy took place in 1857, in Sigourney, Iowa. He was a man of education, in earlier years had an adventurous life in whaling vessels, but later operated a hardware store in this city, where

he was well known and respected. The second wife of Hugh McElroy was Ann Stephenson, by whom there were no children.

Joseph K. McElroy was reared in Sidney, Ohio, and obtained his education there in the public schools. In 1856 he accompanied his father to Iowa, and upon the death of his brother, William, settled up the latter's business affairs at Sigourney. He then went back to Sidney and engaged in the hardware business, removing in 1859-60 to Marion, Indiana, in the same line of business, and in the spring of 1863 located permanently in Sigourney and followed farming until 1865. Our subject then opened up a general store in this city, which he successfully conducted for a period of twelve years, selling out in order to enter upon a partnership with E. Laffer in another similar enterprise, which continued for two years, and for two more years he was associated with A. G. Brown in the dry-goods business. In 1889 Mr. McElroy first engaged in the hotel business in Sigourney, selling out three years later. He conducted hotels at several other points for short seasons, at Keota, and Winfield, and remained two years at Columbus Junction, returning to Sigourney in 1898, at which time, in partnership with his son-in-law, C. C. Berry, he took charge of the Merchants Hotel. In the fall of 1902 he disposed of his interest in this business.

Mr. McElroy has been a life-long supporter of the Republican party and well recalls the occasion of his first presidential vote, cast for John C. Fremont. He numbers many friends among the old residents of Sigourney and has been identified with much of the permanent development of Keokuk county.

In 1858, at Sigourney, Mr. McElroy was united in marriage with Miss Harriet E. Cattell, and one daughter, Cora, was born to this union, she now being the wife of C. C. Berry. She was born in Marion, Ohio,

and her one son, Leonard, is now agent for the United States Express Company at Sigourney.

The birth of Mrs. McElroy was in Stark county, Ohio, and she is a daughter of Samuel G. and Elizabeth (Hair) Cattell, the former of whom was born January 11, 1812, at Mount Holly, New Jersey, and died in Sigourney in February, 1900. His widow resides with her daughter, Mrs. McElroy. In 1857 Mr. Cattell located in Sigourney and followed an agricultural life. He was a quiet man of exemplary life and character, a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and a good citizen. He voted with the Republican party. His two children were a son and daughter, the former of whom is John B. Cattell, a resident of Wichita, Kansas. For a number of years the mother of Mrs. Cattell lived in Sigourney and her venerable appearance is still recalled, as her age reached ninety years. A most interesting picture is in the possession of the family, which shows five generations together, all at one time residing with our subject.



#### JOSEPH H. WENGER.

Joseph H. Wenger resides in Liberty township, where for many years he was an active factor in agricultural circles, but at the present time he is leaving the work of the farm to others and is enjoying a richly merited rest. He was born in Edom, Virginia, November 15, 1835, and comes of a family of German lineage. Christian Wenger, his paternal great-grandfather, was born in the Palatinate, Germany, where he remained until 1727, when he braved the dangers incident to an ocean voyage at that day and crossed the Atlantic to the new world. He



located in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where he married Eve Grebiel and reared his family and made his home until his death.

Among his children was Joseph Wenger, the grandfather of our subject. He was born, reared and educated in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and in the year 1785 removed to Edom, Virginia, settling on a farm of between five hundred and six hundred acres, which he purchased, cleared and improved, making it a productive property. He there married Barbara Hoover and they become the parents of thirteen children, seven sons and six daughters. His first wife died in January, 1792, and on the 1st of December, 1793, he married Anna Hockman, a native of Page county, Virginia, by whom he had five children, three sons and two daughters, of whom the eldest was Joseph Wenger, Jr., the father of our subject. His birth occurred in Edom, September 17, 1794, and there he spent his early childhood, acquiring his education there and also following the occupation of farming in his youth. He was married April 28, 1818, to Barbara Beery, a native of the Old Dominion, born near Newmarket, March 12, 1795, and a daughter of John Beery, of Edom. To the parents of our subject were born ten children, five sons and five daughters: Catherine and John B., both deceased; Elizabeth, who is living in Georgia, at the age of eighty years; Isaac, who is now seventy-nine years of age; Abraham, Anna, Jacob and Barbara, all deceased; Mary, who lives at the old homestead in Edom, Virginia; and Joseph H., of this review.

After his marriage the father of our subject removed to the old homestead upon which all of his children were born. He was a farmer by occupation and there carried in agricultural pursuits until his life's labors were ended in death, February 14, 1865, when he was seventy years of age. Throughout his entire life he was identified with the

Whig party and was a member of the Mennonite church, his life being actuated by his Christian principles.

Joseph H. Wenger spent his childhood in the county of his nativity, being trained to habits of industry, economy and honesty upon the home farm and thus laying the foundation of an upright character. He assisted in the cultivation of the fields upon the old homestead until twenty-five years of age, when he came to Iowa, reaching Liberty township, Keokuk county, in September, 1861. There he was employed in various ways, although his attention was principally given to farming. In 1866, however, with the money he had saved from his earnings he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Liberty township, just east of South English, and began farming on his own account. This land was partly under cultivation, and he at once began to further improve and develop it. As his financial resources were increased he also added to the property until he had over five hundred acres of very rich, arable and valuable land, which he has since divided among his children, while he is now practically living retired from the active duties of the farm.

On the 5th of April, 1868, Mr. Wenger was married to Elizabeth McAfferty, a native of Wayne county, Ohio, but reared and educated in South English. They are the parents of four children, three sons and a daughter: John H., who is living in South English; Benjamin F., who died May 1, 1896, at the age of twenty-five years; Homer C., who resides upon a part of his father's old farm; and Mollie D., the wife of William D. Groves, who is also living on the old homestead. The parents are members of the Dunkark church, of Liberty township and are both well known and highly respected people of the community. Mr. Wenger has had a successful career and though when he left home

he had no money and was dependent entirely upon his own resources for a living, he prospered as the result of his energy and capable management, became a prosperous land owner and is now the possessor of a handsome competence.



### LANDON UTTERBACK.

Landon Utterback, son of Corbin and Sarah (Hanks) Utterback, of whom mention is made in the personal sketch of Josiah Utterback elsewhere in this volume, was born September 3, 1845, and was about five years old when the family came to Iowa. In the district school of the neighborhood he received his early instructions. At an early age he began to assist on the farm and throughout his life has been a successful farmer. His farm consists of one hundred acres of finely cultivated land, on which he carries on a general farming business.

Mr. Utterback was twice married. In 1868 Hannah M. Moore became his wife and bore him one son, Allen F., a resident of Ottumwa, Iowa. His second wife was Julia J. Vittetoe, of Keokuk county, and of one of the oldest families of the county. Her father was a native of Tennessee and her mother of Kentucky, and they came to Keokuk county in 1845. Mr. and Mrs. Utterback had four children: Lustella, deceased; Alvin L. deceased; Arthur C., at home; and Lullu M., at home.

Our subject is a life-long Democrat and has never missed voting on election day since he became old enough. He belongs to the lodge of Woodmen of the World at Sigourney; and he is a faithful member of the Christian church at Lancaster. Among his fellow men he commands the respect of all and his career is one of which he may be proud.

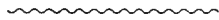
## DEIDRICH HENRY STROHMANN.

D. H. Strohmamm, one of the oldest settlers and prominent farmers of Keokuk county, Iowa, whose fine farm is located in section 31, German township, was born in Hanover, Germany, on February 18, 1851, and is the second child and the second son of Deidrich and Dorothe (Backhaus) Strohmamm, both of whom were natives of the same part of Germany. The father died July 9, 1883, aged sixty-four years, and the mother resides with our subject and is eighty-three years old. These parents emigrated to America in 1856 and came to Keokuk county, Iowa, when the young Deidrich was not quite six years of age.

Our subject's education was obtained in the German schools of the Evangelical association and in the district schools, and he assisted his father on the farm until the date of his marriage. On February 24, 1880, he was united in marriage with Henrietta Kracht, who was born at St. Louis, Missouri, January 14, 1857, and is a daughter of Emil and Lucetta (Klett) Kracht, both of whom were natives of Germany, and after coming to America located at St. Louis. Mrs. Strohmamm was seven years of age when her parents moved to Keokuk county and she is the fourth member of her parents' family of five children. Her mother died July 19, 1881, aged sixty-four years, and her father died May 4, 1900, aged eighty. The family of Mr. Strohmamm consists of himself, wife, and daughter Emma, born January 5, 1884, the latter being a very intelligent student in the public schools.

In 1877 Mr. Strohmamm located on his present farm, where he erected a comfortable residence and a commodious and substantial barn. This farm comprises one hundred and twenty-five acres and it has been developed into one of the very finest estates in this neighborhood.

through the industry and excellent agricultural methods employed by its owner. In politics he is a Democrat, but a liberal one, and endeavors to secure the best man for the offices, irrespective of politics. Mr. Strohmam is regarded with feelings of respect and esteem in his locality, his position before his neighbors always demonstrating his integrity and reliability. He takes a great interest in public matters, especially those pertaining to his township, and is always ready to do his part in making improvements.



R. S. MARTIN.

Among the many worthy enterprises of the stirring little city of Hedrick, Keokuk county, Iowa, none are more deserving of commendation than the one which is being conducted by the above gentleman and his sons, who are editors and proprietors of the Hedrick Journal, a newspaper which has done very valuable service in bringing the development of the youthful city to the attention of the capitalists of the east. Mr. R. S. Martin is a native of Licking county, Ohio, born February 4, 1836. He was the son of Daniel and Sara E. (Hagan) Martin, natives of Pennsylvania. After marriage they removed to Ohio, where he became a prominent and influential citizen, having been judge of the court of common pleas in Licking county. In 1854 the family removed to Iowa and located at Steady Run township, Keokuk county, where the father continued to reside until his death at the advanced age of ninety-one years. He was a man of very fine mold of character, and during his life time spread an influence for good in every community in which he resided. The parents of Mr. Martin had a family of eleven

children, ten of whom grew to maturity, Mr. Martin being the seventh child and fourth son.

He remained at home until his majority, coming to Iowa with the family. The first active work he engaged in was the teaching profession, which he followed for two or three years previous to the war. In 1861, however, he put aside all considerations of business and was found a loyal citizen who valiantly espoused the cause of the Union. He was among the first to enlist, entering the army in 1861 as a private soldier of Company D, Thirteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. In this company he served three years, and passed through some of the most hotly contested battles of the army of the Cumberland. The first of these battles was Shiloh, then came the sieges of Corinth and Vicksburg; after which he was on the Atlanta campaign and in other minor engagements. At the battle of Shiloh he received a bullet wound, but it did not incapacitate him for duty. He was also wounded in front of Atlanta. He received an honorable discharge from the service on the 1st of November, 1864, and returned to his home with the consciousness of having served his country faithfully and well. After the war he continued in the teaching profession until 1886, when he in company with his sons, W. D. and C. J., established the Martinsburg Journal. This plant they conducted until 1889, when they removed to Hedrick and consolidated it with the Hedrick Enterprise, the name of the paper since that time having been the Hedrick Journal. This enterprise has been very successful, the paper having one of the largest circulations in the state and being a power in the moulding of public opinion in its various departments. Mr. Martin and his sons also do a very large business in job printing.

The marriage of Mr. Martin occurred in Keokuk county, Iowa, on





*William E. Harding*



15th of January, 1865, when he led to the altar Martha J. Hampton. This lady is a native of Tennessee, from which state her family removed to Kentucky and in 1856 to Iowa. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Martin three children were born, Walter D. and Charles J., both in business with their father, and Anna who is the wife of A. A. Buck, of Fremont, Nebraska. The Martin family has been a very prominent one in this section of the state of Iowa ever since their removal here. The father, Daniel Martin, leaves his name to posterity in the name of the town of Martinsburg, Iowa, which he laid out in 1855. He was a man of much public spirit, which he bequeathed to his son, who has a live interest in every movement affecting the welfare of his fellow-townsmen and advocates and assists to the extent of his ability every measure which in his judgment tends to the advancement of the interests of his county and state.



WILLIAM E. HARDING.

One of the prominent farmers and resident citizens of Adams township is William E. Harding, whose home is on section 7. A native of the Buckeye state, he was born in Morrow county, Ohio, on the 25th of September, 1859, and is a son of J. H. Harding, whose birth occurred January 8, 1821, in what was then Richland county, Ohio, but is now Morrow county. The paternal grandfather was Mordica Harding, who was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1796, and died March 21, 1870. At an early date he removed with his parents to Richland county, Ohio, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of that locality. His father was Amos Harding, who was of English descent. In his family were seventeen children, Mordica being the ninth in order

of birth. This family was prominently identified with the early development of Richland county, Ohio. The maternal grandmother of our subject was Julia Flint, born May 14, 1790, and died in May, 1862. His grandmother was Susan Harding, born March 24, 1794, and died March 30, 1851.

In the state of his nativity J. H. Harding, the father of our subject, grew to manhood and was united in marriage to Miss Emily A. Flint, who was born at Mansfield, Richland county, her parents having located in that place when the town consisted principally of a block house built for the protection of the early settlers from the Indians. In 1862 Mr. Harding left Ohio and came west, taking up his residence in Prairie township, Keokuk county, Iowa, but two years later he removed to Adams township, where he continued to make his home throughout the remainder of his life, his death occurring there November 15, 1892, when he was seventy-one years of age. His wife passed away at the age of seventy-three on August 11, 1897. She was a daughter of Eliphalet Flint, born June 6, 1782, and died in March, 1860; he was of Welsh descent and became quite a prominent man of Richland county, Ohio. In religious faith J. H. Harding was a Baptist, holding membership in that church for many years. His political support was given the Republican party and he was called upon to fill a number of local offices of honor and trust. For about eleven years he served as president of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company and was a man widely and favorably known throughout Keokuk county. His family consists of four sons and two daughters, one of whom died at the age of two and one-half years and another at the age of seventeen; Rosella Pine, wife of William Pine, died April 30, 1891; she was the widow of Francis M. Brown, whom she married in 1867; two sons by her first husband

are living, Howard and Berton R. Those of the family still living are O. C., a resident of Keswick; Harriet, widow of Reuben Davis of Oskaloosa, Iowa; and William E., of this review.

Mr. Harding of this review is the youngest of the family and was but four years old when brought by his parents to Keokuk county, where he spent the days of his boyhood and youth in much the usual manner of farmer boys and early acquired an excellent knowledge of all the duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. When he located upon his present farm, which is the old homestead, it was all wild prairie and he assisted in the arduous task of transforming the land into rich and productive fields. His education was obtained in the district schools of the neighborhood, and during his youth he experienced many of the hardships and privations which fall to the lot of the pioneer. As a boy he herded sheep until fifteen years of age and has since given his attention exclusively to agricultural pursuits.

On the 3rd of August, 1881, Mr. Harding married Miss Jane C. Orr, a native of County Down, Ireland, who came to America with her parents, John and Eliza (Dunnin) Orr, when about eight years old. The family first located in Illinois, but afterward came to Iowa and settled in Iowa county. Though born in Ireland her parents were of Scotch descent, the family being originally from the land of the heather. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Harding, namely: Clela M., J. Harvey and Harry F. The older son is now attending school at Oskaloosa, Iowa, and the others are still at home. Mr. and Mrs. Harding began their domestic life upon a farm on section 8, Adams township, where they made their home for nine years, but in 1889 they returned to the old homestead, to the cultivation and improvement of which he has since devoted his attention, and

Mr. Harding is now the owner of two hundred acres of well improved and valuable land. In connection with general farming he carries on stock raising. For forty years Mr. Harding has been identified with the interests of Keokuk county and has ever borne his part in the work of up-building and improvement. Politically he is identified with the Republican party and socially is connected with the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the lodge at Thornburg. As a citizen he ever stands ready to discharge any duty devolving upon him and justly merits the high regard in which he is held.



JOHN S. STOUTNER, M. D.

Dr. John S. Stoutner, of Keota, has passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey and is now living in honorable retirement from labor. His life record has been characterized by many of the sterling qualities of upright manhood, and wherever known he has won the respect and good will of those with whom he has been associated. Now in the evening of life he receives the veneration and esteem which should ever be accorded to those who have advanced far on life's journey. He is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Bedford county on the 5th of April, 1822. His father, Benjamin Stoutner, was born in Maryland and there spent his boyhood and youth. The grandfather, John Stoutner, was also supposed to be a native of Maryland and was of German descent. On leaving his native state Benjamin Stoutner took up his abode in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where he carried on blacksmithing. He was married in Pennsylvania and several years later located in Richland county, Ohio, where he spent his remaining

days, dying when eighty-four years of age. His life was in consistent harmony with his profession as a member of the Lutheran church and in politics he was always a staunch Democrat. His wife bore the maiden name of Catherine Shertzer, a native of Pennsylvania, where she was reared. She also died in her eighty-fourth year. Her father, Jacob Shertzer, was born in the Keystone state and was of German lineage. To the parents of our subject were born ten children, four sons and six daughters, all of whom reached adult age with the exception of one son who died when ten years old.

Dr. Stoutner is the eldest of the family. He was reared in the place of his nativity until seventeen years of age, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Richland county, Ohio, remaining with them until he had attained the age of twenty-two years. He then went to Massilon, Ohio, and took up the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. John Shertzer, who directed his reading for two years and ten months. He afterward pursued a course of study at Willoughby college, Ohio, twenty miles east of Cleveland. When he had become well qualified for the active practice of the profession he located in New Washington, Crawford county, Ohio, where he opened an office and was there in practice for five years, during which time he acquired a good patronage. He then went to Ganges, Richland county, where he remained for one year, after which he came to the west. It was in 1854 that he made his way to Iowa, locating in Washington county at a place called Paris. For nine years he practiced successfully there and at the end of that time abandoned his profession in order to give his attention to agricultural pursuits. He purchased two farms in Washington county and on selling that land bought property in township 76 of Washington county, becoming the

owner of three hundred and twenty acres upon which he located, devoting his energies to its development and improvement. His labors wrought a transformation in the place so that it became a very valuable and attractive farm, and thereon he continued to make his home until 1890, when he retired from farm life and purchased a residence property in Keota. He had added to his land until he was the owner of seven hundred and ninety acres of as rich land as can be found in the country. He gave to his son, Oliver, a tract of eighty acres, a similar amount to his son William, and they are now prominent farmers of Washington county.

On the 28th of October, 1847, the Doctor was united in marriage to Mary Ann Keith, a native of Richland county, Ohio, born January 5, 1824, and a daughter of Michael and Margaret Keith, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. In their family were two sons and five daughters, and death did not sever the family tie until after they had reached mature years. Mrs. Stoutner is the youngest of the children and was reared and educated in her native place. By her marriage she has become the mother of six children: Margaret, now deceased; Oliver, a resident farmer of Washington county; Naomi, the wife of Warren Stewart, a stockman of Keota; William, also a farmer of Washington county; Edward, deceased; and Nettie, the wife of Squire H. S. Statler, of Keota.

The Doctor is a staunch Democrat, having firm faith in the principles of the party, which he also supports by his ballot and his influence. He is a member of the Christian church, in which he has taken an active part, doing all in his power to promote its growth and upbuilding. In his business affairs he has prospered and is to-day in comfortable financial circumstances, whereby he is enabled to enjoy many of the luxuries as

well as of the necessities of life. He is a well preserved man of eighty years, for nature is kindly to those who abuse not her laws. His life has in many respects been highly commendable and his example is therefore well worthy of emulation.

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CURTIS CRABB.

Curtis Crabb, who carries on general farming on section 9, Lafayette township, was born in Carroll county, Maryland, on the 22d of April, 1857. His father, George Crabb, was a native of the same locality and was a blacksmith by occupation. The year 1872 witnessed his arrival in Keokuk county, Iowa, and he located on a farm which is now the home of our subject, making it his place of residence until his death, which occurred in his sixty-first year. He was a member of the Winebrennerian church. He wedded Susan Winters, also a native of Carroll county, Maryland, and she, too, died in her sixty-first year. They were the parents of two children, a son and a daughter.

Curtis Crabb is now the only living member of the family, his sister, Elizabeth, having died when a small child. He was about thirteen years old when he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and here in the public schools he continued his education, which had been begun in the common schools of his native county. When but a small boy he had to begin work to provide for his own support, and he cared for his father and mother in their later years, thus repaying with filial love and attention the care which they had bestowed upon him in early youth. In 1890 he was united in marriage to Miss Clara McVay, a daughter of John and Abigail (Moon) McVay.

Mr. Crabb is the owner of an excellent farm of eighty acres and carries on general farming and stock raising with a fair degree of success. He is recognized as one of the progressive men of the township. In politics he is an earnest Democrat, and on the ticket was elected to the office of assessor, but did not serve on account of physical disability. He belongs to Adelphi Lodge, No. 353 of Keota, and is true to its teachings and its tenets, for in his life he closely follows the principles of the craft.



#### ALEXANDER WARNOCK.

Alexander Warnock, a prominent farmer and representative of Adams township, Keokuk county, was born on the 20th of April, 1845, in county Down, Ireland, and is a son of John and Mary (Campbell) Warnock, who were also natives of the Emerald Isle, the former born March 23, 1820, and the latter on the 18th of June 1815. Mary Campbell was a direct descendant of the long famous house of Argyle. Both parents were reared and educated in their native land and there continued to reside for several years after their marriage, four of their eight children being born there, while the birth of the others occurred after the emigration of the family to America. By occupation the father was a farmer. It was in 1849 that the family crossed the broad Atlantic and took up their residence in Rock Island, Illinois, where the father accepted a position on the *Enterprise*, a steamboat plying on the Mississippi. He was thus employed the first summer after coming to this country and then began work for the firm of Bailey & Boyle, who owned and operated a sawmill, in which he worked for about two years. He then rented the property and ran it on his own account for some time, after which



the family removed to the country in the spring of 1854, and he broke and improved one hundred and sixty acres of land. He afterward lived on several other farms in Rock Island county and continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until life's labors were ended in death on the 27th of August, 1887. In politics he was a staunch Republican and took an active interest in public affairs. He was an earnest and consistent member of the United Presbyterian church in Rock Island county and was a man highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. His children were: Margaret; William, deceased; Alexander; David; James C., John, deceased; Hugh and Janet.

Alexander Warnock was only four years old at the time the family came to the new world and in Rock Island county, Illinois, he passed the days of his boyhood and youth in much the usual manner of farm boys, no event of special importance occurring to vary the routine of farm work during that time. On leaving home in 1868 he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and settled upon his present farm in Adams township, which consists of one hundred sixty acres of rich and arable land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with good and substantial buildings. In connection with general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of a high grade of pedigreed stock, making a specialty of short-horn cattle, of which he has a fine herd upon his place.

At Oskaloosa, Iowa, on the 9th of March, 1869, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Warnock and Miss Agnes McCracken, who was also a native of Ireland, born on the 25th of December, 1847; her parents being James and Elizabeth (McCormick) McCracken, both natives of the same country. In 1849 she was brought by her parents to the United States and the family became early settlers of Keokuk county.

Her father, who was a prominent farmer, died in 1887. Mrs. Warnock was reared and educated in Rock Island county, Illinois, and by her marriage to our subject became the mother of seven children, four sons and three daughters, who in order of birth are as follows: John, born in the fall of 1869; Elizabeth, September 19, 1871; James M., September 10, 1873; Mary, in 1875; Jefferson Clarke, in 1879; William, December 8, 1881; and Gertrude, April 3, 1894. All were born on the home farm.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Warnock has been a life-long Democrat and has taken quite an active interest in local politics, while religiously he is a member of the United Presbyterian church and is a man who commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact, either in business or social life.



#### WILLIAM W. GWIN.

It is now our privilege and pleasure to trace the life of one of Keota's most honored citizen from the time his grandfather came to this country over a century ago, until the present, when the grandson after a successful life is spending his remaining days in peaceful contemplation of the past and hope of the future. Isaac Gwin, grandfather of William W. Gwin, was a native of Ireland; his wife was Mary Canterbury; he left the land of his birth when very young, and settled with his wife in Tennessee about the time it became a state. By trade he was a miller and by profession a Baptist preacher. Although a slave holder, the practice was abhorrent to his nature, and in 1820 he freed his slaves and moved to Indiana, that he might be in a state opposed to slavery, and in this state he died. He was the father of ten

children, the father of our subject being the ninth child and the youngest son.

R. W. Gwin, the father of William W., and an early settler of Iowa, was born on his father's homestead in Tennessee on January 30, 1804, and there his boyhood was passed, and he received such educational advantages as were then to be had. He was not yet twenty years old when his father removed to the free state of Indiana. There he was married when twenty-one years of age and five years later moved to Illinois and occupied a farm of one hundred and sixty acres east of the Illinois river. In 1831, crossing the Illinois, he settled on another farm of one hundred and sixty acres and remained there about five years. His next move was across the Mississippi into Des Moines county, Iowa, where he lived for two years; then for five years he was in Louisa county, and in 1843 he bought, in Washington county, four hundred acres of land from the government, which he improved and cultivated until 1858. Then emigrating with part of his family to Kansas, he settled on five hundred acres of partly improved land, on which he built a house and made many improvements; about 1878 he moved further south to Montgomery county, Kansas, purchasing a fine farm and town property in Independence, and here in 1885 he ended his long and useful life. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Sons of Temperance. His wife was Nancy Watkins, born in 1807 in Kentucky, where she was reared and educated; her parents were John and Mary Watkins, who removed to Indiana about the same time Mr. Gwin's father did. Mr. and Mrs. Gwin were the parents of fifteen children, five boys and ten girls. One child died in 1843, and from then on until 1885 the family was unbroken by death. The children are as follows: Mary (deceased), William W., Jane, Sarah,

Martha (deceased), John, Louisa, Nancy (died in 1843), Elizabeth, Marguerette, Caroline, Anna, Richard, Martin, and Walter.

Our immediate subject, William W. Gwin, whose father and grandfather we have just sketched, was born in Indiana on September 29, 1827, and so, was nine years old when his father crossed the Mississippi river into Iowa. And in 1858, when his father removed to Kansas, he had already acquired a fine farm of two hundred acres in Washington county. He had purchased his land from the government between the years 1847 and 1855 and had brought it into a fine state of cultivation. In 1885 Mr. Gwin moved to Keokuk county and bought a house and lot in Keota, and retired from active farming. For two years he was engineer in a flour mill, and in 1889 he engaged in the lumber business by buying out the old Hinkle lumber yard. This venture proved very successful, and later he took in S. S. Wright as partner; in 1895 he sold his interest to his partner, and has since lived retired, having well earned a rest and freedom from business cares.

Mr. Gwin was married in 1851 to Catherine Bush, who was born in 1833 in Ohio, where she remained till she was thirteen years old; she is the daughter of Absalom Bush and Violet Arnold, who came to Iowa and settled on a farm in 1846. Mr. and Mrs. Gwin were the parents of ten children, six boys and four girls: Joshua (deceased), Anderson (deceased), Nathan A., Violet (deceased), Smiley (deceased), Ella May, Williard D., Nora A., Lillie, and Orley.

Mr. Gwin is a charter member of Masonic Lodge, No. 96, at Richmond. He is a charter member of the Christian church at Keota, helped to build it, and among the first officers of the church he was chosen the first elder and the third trustee, and is now also president of the official board. As a Republican he has served as a member of

the city council. His life spent in varied activity has reflected honor not only upon himself but upon those with whom he has lived.

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ANANIAS A. SHRADER.

Ananias A. Shrader is a well known business man of Keota, Keokuk county, Iowa, where he carries on a contracting and building business, and many structures in the town and throughout the county attest his skill and industry. His father was Samuel W. Shrader, who was born in the state of Pennsylvania, and after receiving his education learned the trade of a millwright and lived in that state until he was forty years of age. In 1856 he moved with his family to Iowa and settled on eighty acres in Muscatine county; he conducted this farm and engaged in milling for eight years. In 1864 he went to Iowa county and bought a farm, for the most part well improved; after remaining here until 1880 he took up his residence in Keota and there lived retired from active labor until his death, April 23, 1893. He was a member of the Democratic party and was connected with the Lutheran church. While in Pennsylvania he married Sarah Aldinger, a native of that state and born in 1826. Six children were born before they left Pennsylvania and one in Iowa, three boys and four girls: Joseph A., Mary, Katherine (deceased), Ananias, Susan, Rebecca (deceased), and Samuel H.

Ananias Shrader was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, April 8, 1849, and was seven years old when his father left that state and came to Iowa. Up to his twenty-fifth year he farmed with his father, and then in 1875 he was married to Emma Pugh, a native of Illinois and a daughter of William and Sarah Pugh, old settlers of

that state, where both of them died. Mr. and Mrs. Shrader had two boys, but both are now dead, one of whom was named William; they were born in Iowa county, Iowa.

In 1881 our subject removed from Iowa county to Keota, and for two years was employed in the Henkle and Ritche furniture store; at the end of that time he and his brother opened a general store, which they successfully carried on for three years. After selling out his business in 1886 he began contracting and building and has engaged in this ever since. The principles of the Democratic party have appealed to his political reason; in religion he is an ardent member of the Methodist church and helped financially and also erected the present church at Keota.



#### DAVID P. MARTIN.

Among the well known and respected retired farmers of Keota, Iowa, is David P. Martin, who for many years carried on the most honorable pursuit of agriculture and now is spending the remaining days of life in the enjoyment of his well earned competency. His father, David M. Martin, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1816, and was a jolly miller of that locality, and here he married and his children were born, but in 1853 he came west and went to farming in the state of Illinois, where he remained until his death in 1892. His wife was Elizabeth Palmer, of Pennsylvania, and she was the mother of six children, three boys and three girls, David being the fourth in order of birth and the eldest son: Rebecca, Maria, Harriett (deceased), David P., Samuel and Solomon; all of these spent their early life in their home in Pennsylvania.

David P. Martin was born on the 6th day of January, 1839, and spent the first fourteen years of his life in the old Pennsylvania home, and there received the rudiments of the education which he completed in Illinois. His school days were finished in his twentieth year and then he worked on the farm until he was of age. In that year, 1860, he was married, and in the spring of 1862 he enlisted in the First Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, Company G, and after being in the service for a few months was mustered out in July of the same year. Returning to the farm in Illinois, he remained there until 1869, at which time he took his family to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Lafayette township, Keokuk county, Iowa. This land was uncleared, but in a short time by his assiduous labor it was brought under a fine state of cultivation. In 1888 Mr. Martin sold his farm and retiring to Keota purchased three lots and three houses and has since lived in this place; he also purchased a half interest in a general store and continued in its management for six years, but then sold it back to H. F. Williams, and has since enjoyed the pleasure of domestic life, untrammelled by the cares of business.

Mr. Martin was married to Hortensia J. Golden, daughter of John and Lucila Golden, of Ohio, where she was born; she came to Illinois with her parents and remained there until her marriage. They have no children of their own, but adopted three: Leona R., who is now dead; Ellie Romines, and Lottie Glen (deceased). The Republican party finds a loyal supporter in Mr. Martin; the family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is not only a member but an active worker for the cause of religion, being a trustee, and he was on the building committee when the present church was erected. His hon-

orable and active career has not failed to bring him many friends and make him a prominent figure in his city.



#### JOHN CAMPBELL.

As a man travels on in the journey of life and passes the prime of manhood, his strength and energy are somewhat lessened by age, which is an indication that it is intended that his last years should be, at least to some extent, a period of rest. Not all who pass the meridian of life are permitted to put aside business cares, for through the lack of business ability or mismanagement they have not acquired capital sufficient to supply their needs in their declining years. We here present, however, a gentleman who is enjoying a well earned rest. Long connected with the agricultural interests of the county, his capable management and the careful husbanding of his resources brought to him a very desirable competence, which now supplies him with all the necessities and many of the luxuries that go to make life worth living.

This rather brief and imperfect sketch of the Campbell family will serve to place before our readers a record that can be safely emulated by all young men. Mr. John Campbell is a native of Franklin county, Ohio, born December 25, 1829. His parents were Robert and Phoebe (Martin) Campbell, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. They were married in Franklin county, and located in Plain township. The mother died at the birth of our subject and the father died here at the age of sixty-six years. He was an active and earnest member of the Methodist church, and a follower of Jefferson in politics. His father before him was born in Ireland and came to America when but a boy with his two brothers. The grandmother of Mr. Campbell was June



Meads, a daughter of an old pioneer family of Pennsylvania. The mother of our subject was also a native of Pennsylvania. She became the mother of four children, three sons and one daughter, of whom our subject is the youngest, and all of whom grew to maturity and lived to a good old age.

Our subject is the only living member of the family. He was born, educated and married in his native county. The date of the marriage was August 30, 1854, when he was joined to Miss Sara Thrall, a native of Licking county, Ohio, and the daughter of Dr. B. F. and Eliza (Pyle) Thrall. Her father was born in Vermont, and was a practicing physician for a number of years in Licking county and during the Civil war was a surgeon in the Federal army. He was a man of fine education and of excellent reputation in his profession. He had a family consisting of ten children, five sons and five daughters, all growing to maturity. Our subject remained in Ohio until 1855, when he came to Iowa, where he located first in Des Moines county, and in the fall of 1859 came on to Keokuk county and located in Martinsburg. Here he remained for two years, during which time he was postmaster and hotel keeper. He then removed back to Ohio, and remained there two years, and then returned to Keokuk county, where he purchased land and engaged in farming. Since coming to Iowa Mr. Campbell has had a very busy existence, and has been prominent in the local life of the different communities in which he has resided. He has lived in several localities in the county and has always been prominently identified as a member of the agricultural and stock raising class. By the use of good business judgment, and a life of energetic activity, he has been enabled to accumulate a considerable property. In 1900

he retired from active business and has since resided at Hedrick in enjoyment of the competency which he has so well earned.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell are the parents of eight children, B. Frank, a farmer of Keokuk county; Daniel, a farmer in Steady Run township; Phebe, wife of Dr. W. H. Wilson of Table Rock, Nebraska; Eliza, wife of Geo. R. Davis, Steady Run township; Minnie, single and at home; Robert, a farmer of Steady Run township; Homer, deceased at nine years; and a son, who died in infancy. These children were given fair educational advantages, and given also excellent financial aid for the beginning of their several battles of life. In political faith Mr. Campbell has always adhered to Democratic principles, and during the long fight for the principles of prohibition in Iowa has been exceedingly active in favor of the prohibition legislation that has been enacted. He has held only minor offices, never being a seeker of political preferment. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church, in which he has been active as an official and has been a liberal contributor.



### JOHN CLARK.

At an early day in the development of Keokuk county the late John Clark became one of its residents. Many years have passed since then, bringing great changes, and in the work of transformation he bore his part as a loyal and interested citizen. He carried on farming on section 9, Lafayette township, where he had a good home and valuable property. Mr. Clark was born in Lincolnshire, England, March 25, 1830. His father, Thomas Clark, also a native of that country and a farmer by occupation, died in England when about eighty years of age. His wife,

Rebecca (Cunningham) Clark, was also born, lived and died in England, passing away when the subject of this review was only about a year old. The father was three times married, the mother of our subject being his second wife, and to them were born three children. The brothers of our subject were David and Daniel. They, too, came to the United States and both died in Illinois in 1902.

John Clark was the youngest of the three brothers and was a self-made man whose strong perseverance and diligence were the means of bringing to him creditable success in life. He was about twelve years of age when he began work by the week, receiving twenty-five cents for a week's wages. He was willing to take any employment that would yield him an honest living. For three years he remained with Mrs. Back, his first employer, and then entered the service of Mr. Wilson, a farmer with whom he remained for a year. He next entered the service of Mr. Cullum, also a farmer, with whom he continued for about a year. He next worked for Mr. Stewart, near Spalding, England. Thus another twelve months passed and he then went to the home which his father owned and worked in that locality, as he could find employment. Believing that he could enjoy better business opportunities in the new world he came to America with his brother David in the year 1852. They first located in Washington, Illinois, near Peoria. They had about five hundred dollars in money when they reached that place and thus they began life in the new world. Mr. Clark of this review remained in Washington or its vicinity for about eight years, working by the month.

In the meantime, in 1855, Mr. Clark was united in marriage to Margaret Ferguson, a native of Scotland, and in 1857 he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, locating on the land on which was his late home

and where his daughter now resides. Here he improved a place which, when it came into his possession, was entirely wild and uncultivated, although the land was fenced. He built the residence, barns and other outbuildings upon the place, added all the modern equipments which are here seen and cultivated the fields until now they are very productive. For forty-five years he made his residence here and lived to witness much of the growth of the county. He had two hundred and six acres of land and throughout the years of his residence successfully carried on general farming and stock raising.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Clark were born four children who are yet living and two who have passed away, namely: William, a resident farmer of Keokuk county; Eliza, the wife of John Herr, who also follows farming in this county; May the wife of George McDonald, who operates her father's land; Catherine, the wife of Benjamin Showalter, of East Chicago, Indiana; and David and Benjamin, both deceased. The mother passed away February 13, 1898, dying in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which she was a consistent and loyal member. She possessed many excellent traits of heart and mind, which have endeared her to her friends as well as to her immediate family. In his political views Mr. Clark was an earnest Republican, whose study of the questions and issues of the day led him to give his aid to that party. His life serves to illustrate what excellent business opportunities are furnished in America to young men of ambition, determination and industry. Success may here be won by these qualities unhampered by caste or class. Desiring to provide well for his family, Mr. Clark labored untiringly at farm work until several years ago, when his health failed him and at the time of his death he was numbered among the men of affluence of the community and as a substantial and repre-

sentative citizen connected with agricultural interests in Keokuk county. His name is also on the role of pioneer settlers, for through almost a half century he lived in this part of Iowa. Mr. Clark died on October 23, 1902, and the event was the occasion of sincere regret throughout the community of his friends and neighbors.

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SIMON P. HERR.

Simon P. Herr, who is connected with the farming interests of Lafayette township, makes his home on section 7 and has here an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land. He is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Montour county, on the 26th of January, 1848. His parents were Michael and Catherine (Sandle) Herr, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. The father was born in Lancaster county and was there reared and married. In 1858 he came to Iowa, taking up his abode in Liberty township, where he purchased a farm, and it remained his place of residence until he was called to his final rest in his seventieth year. His wife also died in this county when about sixty-two years of age. They were the parents of eight children, and Simon P. is the fifth of this number.

Simon was about ten years of age when he came with his parents to Keokuk county and on the home farm in Liberty township was trained to habits of industry and economy, honesty and integrity. He enjoyed the pleasures in which most boys of the period indulged and also assisted in farm labor as his age and strength would permit, while in the district schools near his home he mastered the branches of English learning usually taught in such institutions.

In 1875 Mr. Herr was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Ferguson, a native of Illinois, who came to Keokuk county with her parents in her early girlhood. The young couple began their domestic life in Liberty township, where they remained for about six years, and then came to their present home on section 7, Lafayette township. Here they have since remained and Mr. Herr has devoted his time and energies to to the general work of tilling the soil and raising stock, placing his one hundred and sixty acres of land under a high state of cultivation, so that it compares very favorably with the best improved farms in this portion of the state.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Herr was blessed with five children: Charlie, Mabel, Daisy, Earl, and Willie. For his second wife Mr. Herr chose Anna Heyer, who was the first girl born in Harper, Iowa, her parents being John and Mary (Pauly) Heyer, who were early settlers of Harper, locating there at the time the railroad was built. Mrs. Herr accordingly spent her girlhood days in that town and was a student in its public schools. Their three living children are: Leona, Earnest, and Lillian. They have also lost two children, Cecilia and Lawrence. From pioneer times down to the present Mr. Herr has been identified with the growth and progress of Keokuk county, taking an active and abiding interest in all that has pertained to the general welfare and to the public good. He is a Democrat and has held local offices, discharging his duties with marked promptness and fidelity; he has served as road supervisor and as school director. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and his life has been in strict conformity with its teachings and its principles.

JONATHAN DUNCAN.

Speaking from an historical point of view, it is only a short time since the region west of the Allegheny mountains was a "howling" wilderness and the land producing nothing beneficial to civilization. And men who came to the middle west even in the middle of the last century are looked upon as old settlers and almost patriarchs of the country. The subject of this sketch has been in Iowa ever since 1854, locating in Washington county, where he engaged in farming, and is one of the old and respected farmers of Keokuk county, having lived here a good many years ago, and two years ago he removed here again from Washington county. The grandfather of Jonathan Duncan was of Scotch descent, as the name indicates, and was a native of Pennsylvania and lived during the struggle of the colonies for independence. William Duncan, the father of Jonathan, was born in Pennsylvania in 1776, and was reared and educated on a farm and in the schools of the times, followed the occupation of a farmer, and in politics belonged to the old Whig party. His first wife was Jane Drennen, who was the mother of six children: William, James, David, Mary, Eliza and Eliza Ann, all of whom are deceased. His second wife, the mother of our subject, was Mary Kinsie, born and reared in Pennsylvania. They had five children, of whom Jonathan was the eldest. The others were: Samuel (deceased), Hiram, Rachel (deceased) and Sarah (deceased), all born and reared in Pennsylvania.

Jonathan Duncan was born on the 30th of March, 1824; he learned the trade of a blacksmith and after serving an apprenticeship of three years went into business on his own account. At the age of thirty he decided to go west, and accordingly came to Iowa in 1854 and settled

on a farm in Washington county; here he remained a short time and then came to Keokuk county, where he conducted a farm for twenty years. In 1874 he returned to Washington county and carried on farming there for some time, but finally returned to this county and has since been living in Keota.

Mr. Duncan's first marriage was to Elizabeth Moore, a native of Pennsylvania; this took place in 1861, and she died in 1872, the mother of four children, William, Ida, Mattie and Charles. In 1875 he again married, and his wife was Mary Tennent, who was born in New York city and came with her parents to Ohio when she was about ten years old and was there educated. Her parents, John and Mary Tennent, were natives of Ireland, coming to Ohio at an early day, and there they died. Mr. Duncan was a believer in the principles of the Whig party while that organization was in existence and he later became a Republican. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church of Keota, and is an influential and upright citizen of his community.



#### CHARLES C. WONDERLICH.

In studying the early history of Keokuk county, Iowa, we find that Frederick A. Wonderlich, the father of our immediate subject, was one of the very earliest settlers of this county. A native of Germany, he remained in his fatherland until he was thirteen years old, when he came to Ohio, where he remained for some time. It was in the '40s that he came to Keokuk county and settled on eighty acres in Jackson township, which he labored hard to clear and cultivate. His political beliefs were strongly Republican and he was always interested in the







*Robert M. Howell Sr.*

public weal of his community. He was married in Keokuk county to Adeline Bottger, who came from Germany to this county in 1854. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wonderlich, of whom our subject is the oldest. In order of birth they are: Charles C., John Philip (deceased), Sarah A., Anna A., Abram L., Aaron A. J., George and Ollie; these children were all reared in Keokuk county.

The birth of Charles C. Wonderlich occurred in Jackson township, Keokuk county, on the 6th of September, 1856. Until he was twenty-six years old he spent his time on his father's farm, going to school and assisting in the duties of the farm; in 1882, however, he began farming on his own account on an adjoining place. He now has ninety acres of excellent and well improved land.

On the 14th of December, 1881, Rosa I. Wheeler became his wife; she is a native of the same county and her father was Calvin Wheeler, who was an old settler and died while in the army during the Civil war. Miss Wheeler's mother was Sarah M. (Baker) Wheeler. Mr. and Mrs. Wonderlich have two children, boy and girl: Dora A., who was born on the farm September 10, 1882, and Frank H., born August 26, 1888. Mr. Wonderlich was road supervisor in his district and takes an active interest in the Republican party. His has been a varied and busy life, which may well serve as a model for those who follow him.



ROBERT McDOWELL, SR.

Tales of heroism have been the theme of song and story throughout the ages. The soldier has figured prominently in all writings, yet there is another kind of heroism which is as worthy of mention, and

that is such as is done by the pioneer settlers who meet the difficult conditions of life upon the frontier when cut off from the comforts of the older east. They establish homes in a wild country, perform the arduous task of developing new land with few of the conveniences and comforts which they have previously known. The struggle is often a stern and hard one, but it has been met by men of strong courage and unfaltering purpose. Such a one is Robert McDowell. These men deserve all praise and honor and the splendid states of the west will ever stand as monuments to their memory.

Mr. McDowell is now living a retired life in Kinross, Iowa. He was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on the 14th of January, 1818, and comes of Scotch ancestry. His paternal grandfather, Sutton McDowell, was a Revolutionary soldier under General Washington and had his leg shot off in the battle of Billet. He was an officer and after losing his leg he obtained a cork leg and remained in command of his company until the close of the war, proving a valiant soldier. He lived to be about one hundred years of age. General McDowell, who fought in the first battle at Bull Run, was a second cousin of the subject of this review. Samuel McDowell, the father of our subject, was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and by occupation was a farmer and weaver. He married Rebecca Hallowell, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her father lived to be about eighty years of age, while her mother reached the very advanced age of one hundred and three years. Leaving the Keystone state the parents of our subject removed westward and both died when sixty years of age, Samuel McDowell passing away in White Pigeon, Michigan. His wife came of English ancestry, who were Quakers in religious faith. Eight children were born unto this worthy couple, of whom Robert McDowell is the oldest.

He was reared in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, from the age of five years. His father moved across the mountains at that time, by wagon, settling near Fort Washington. In early life Mr. McDowell was for some time a captain of a boat which sailed on the Susquehanna, Delaware and other rivers, and also made coasting trips. He was thus engaged for about twelve years. In 1839 he was first married, Miss Catherine Herr becoming his wife, and unto them were born twelve children, ten of whom reached years of maturity. The mother passed away in Keokuk county, Iowa, about 1893. After their marriage the young couple took up their abode in Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Rock Island county, Illinois, and in 1852 became residents of Keokuk county, Iowa, locating in Liberty township, among its first settlers. Mr. McDowell secured government land on the prairie, built a log house and, after cutting away some timber, began the development of a farm which bordered on the English river. There he improved his land successfully, carrying on general agricultural pursuits until about 1885, when he rented his land to his sons and took up his abode in Kinross, where he has since lived. He was a progressive agriculturist, wide-awake and enterprising, and his work was successfully carried on. He accumulated a large tract of land, at one time becoming the owner of sixteen hundred acres. He was also for many years engaged in the stock business, buying and shipping, and his annual sales brought to him an excellent income in the line of work which he undertook. He possessed sound business judgment and enterprise and his efforts proved very efficient in winning success.

Mr. and Mrs. McDowell traveled life's journey together as man and wife for fifty-six years. Theirs was a happy married life, in which their confidence and love increased as the years went by. Their children

were as follows: David, who now resides in Keokuk county; Catherine, deceased; Martin, a resident of Keota; Lovina, the wife of William Kent, of Nebraska; Ellen, the wife of George Dillen, of Keota; Elizabeth, the wife of John La Fever, of Washington county, Iowa; Sarah, the wife of Theodore Green of Washington county; Mrs. Hattie Winter, deceased; Robert, who resides upon the old home farm in Liberty township; Nancy, the deceased wife of John Lawler; and William and Johnie, who have passed away. In 1898 Mr. McDowell was again married, his second union being with Mrs. M. E. (Crosby) Oldaker, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, a daughter of Edwin and Dianna (Green) Crosby. The mother was a descendant of the well known Green family and the father was born in Rhode Island and came of an old New England family, his ancestors having crossed the Atlantic in the Mayflower. Mrs. McDowell was their sixth child and was reared in Licking county, Ohio, until she was about twelve years of age, when she became a resident of Iowa City, Johnson county, Iowa. On the 1st of January, 1860, she gave her hand in marriage to H. J. Oldaker, and became the mother of six children, five of whom are living, namely: H. E.; A. J., deceased; William G.; H. W.; Beulah, the wife of Robert Thomas; and Lola, the wife of Ivan E. Coffey. A. J. Oldaker served as county recorder of Iowa county for four years and was a prominent and influential resident there, while H. E. Oldaker served as deputy county clerk of the county for eight years.

In his political affiliations Mr. McDowell has been a life-long Democrat and in early manhood cast his ballot for James K. Polk. His fellow-townsmen had honored him with a number of local offices and he has taken an active part in the upbuilding of schoolhouses and churches and has been the friend of every movement for the promotion

of the general good and for the development of the county in which he has lived for so long. He was reared in the faith of the Society of Friends and with that denomination has always been identified, exemplifying in his life his Christian faith. In 1876 he made a trip to Philadelphia, where all his relatives were living, he being the only one of the family who resides in Keokuk county. He is now enjoying a well-earned rest from labor. By carefully watching and improving his business opportunities and laboring untiringly for the achievement of a competence, he gained an honorable place among the substantial residents of this portion of the state.



#### JAMES J. TERRELL.

One of the honored citizens and distinctively representative business men of the thriving village of Ollie, which is located in Jackson township, Keokuk county, is Mr. Terrell, and his progressive and public spirited attitude has greatly benefited this section of the county, in whose industrial and civic advancement he has ever shown marked interest. James J. Terrell was born in Fayette county, Ohio, on the 6th of June, 1848, being a son of Samuel C. Terrell, who was born in Virginia, in February, 1802. The latter's father, Samuel Terrell, was likewise a native of Virginia and was a member of the Society of Friends. By reason of his great repugnance to the institution of slavery, which so greatly obtained in his native state, he emigrated thence to Ohio in an early day, his son Samuel C. being at the time a mere child, and he was numbered among the pioneers of Highland county, having located on the site of the present village of Leesburg. He there reclaimed and developed an excellent farm, and it may be noted that

he had one of the most extensive maple-sugar camps in that section, which still continues to be celebrated for its products in this line. He was finally compelled to abandon this farm, the government authorities deciding that this and other land in the vicinity was the property of the heirs of General Lee, a distinguished officer of the Revolution. Mr. Terrell then purchased another tract of land in the same locality and also brought this under effective cultivation.

On that farm the father of our subject was reared, amid the environments of pioneer life, and after his marriage he continued to make his home in that locality for several years, his first wife dying there, in 1844. They became the parents of three children, all of whom are now deceased. In 1847 Samuel C. Terrell consummated a second marriage, being then united to Mrs. Malinda (Johnson) Horton, the widow of Greenbury Horton. She was born and reared in Ohio, being the daughter of Micajah and Rachel Johnson, who were pioneers of the Buckeye state, where they died, her grandfather having previously been the owner of a valuable estate in North Carolina and having been a clergyman. Samuel C. and Malinda (Johnson) Terrell became the parents of four children, of whom one died in infancy, while the three surviving are: James J., the immediate subject of this sketch; Sarah V., the wife of R. H. Cutler, of Sigourney, this county; and Samuel C., of Lancaster, Iowa. In the year 1855 Samuel C. Terrell removed with his family from Ohio to Iowa, locating in Jackson township, Keokuk county, on a farm of seventy-five acres, which he improved, and there he continued to reside until he had attained the venerable age of eighty-seven years when he retired from active affairs and thereafter made his home in Ollie, with his son James J., until his death, which occurred in April, 1880, his wife passing away in October, 1891.



James J. Terrell remained at the parental home until he had attained the age of twenty-four, and on the last day of the year, 1881, he located in Ollie, where he opened a blacksmith and wagon shop, which he successfully conducted for several years. He finally established a feed mill here and afterward erected and equipped a saw-mill, conducting operations with marked success until 1895, when he disposed of his interests in the enterprises noted. Eventually, however, he again became identified with the industrial activities of the place, and he is now the owner of the planing mill and wagon and machine shops, which are among the important business establishments of the town. He was the first president of the Bank of Ollie, originated the plans for its building and was chairman of the committee which had charge of the erection of the same, in which connection he drew the warrants in payment for all work done on the structure. Mr. Terrell has shown marked executive ability and keen business discrimination and he has attained a position of independence, being known as one of the substantial citizens of the county, while his course has ever been such as to retain to him unqualified confidence and esteem.

In politics Mr. Terrell has given an unswerving allegiance to the Republican party and has been an active worker in its cause, while he has ever taken a deep interest in public affairs of a local nature, and has naturally been called upon to serve in offices of trust and responsibility. In 1894 he was elected a member of the board of county supervisors, retaining this incumbency for a period of six years, while he has held various other local offices and has been president of the school board for a long term of years. He is a member of the Baptist church at Ollie, as is also his wife, and both have taken an active part in its work. Fraternally our subject has been identified with the Independent

Order of Odd Fellows for the past thirty years, being a member of Kossuth Lodge, No. 32. He is also a member of the time-honored fraternity of Freemasons, in which he served his lodge as master, at various intervals, for a period of about eight years, while he also represented the same in the grand lodge of the state. He is a member of the lodge of Knights of Pythias at Ollie and also of the Mutual Benefit Association here, having been the first president of the latter.

In 1883 Mr. Terrill was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Bowersox, who was born in Pennsylvania, on the 21st of September, 1851, and who accompanied her parents on their removal to Iowa when she was a child. They first located in Washington county, and when Mrs. Terrell was about sixteen years of age they came to Keokuk county. To Mr. and Mrs. Terrell have been born eleven children, their names, in order of birth, being as follows: Oscar S., Mary M. (deceased), David S., Nannie A. (deceased), Frank A., William A., James W., Gertrude A., Mary and Martha (twins, both deceased) and Charles C. (deceased.)



#### CHARLES McKINNIS, M. D.

So dependent is man upon his fellow-men that the worth of the individual is largely estimated by what he has done for humanity. There is no class to whom greater gratitude is due than to those self-abnegating, noble-minded men whose life work has been the alleviation of the burden of suffering that rests upon the world, thus lengthening the span of human existence. Their influence can not be measured by any known standard and their power goes hand in hand with the beneficent laws of nature that come from the source of life itself.

Among the able representatives of the medical profession in Keokuk county is Dr. McKinnis, who is established in practice of medicine and surgery in the thriving town of Ollie, his support being of a distinctly representative order and his standing in the community, both as a man and a physician, being such as to establish him high in the confidence and regard of all who know him.

The old Buckeye state figures as the place of Dr. McKinnis' nativity, since he was born in Vinton county, Ohio, on the 22d of April, 1851, being a son of Jesse McKinnis, who was likewise born in the same state in 1830 and was there reared to maturity. At the outbreak of the war of the Rebellion he enlisted as a private in an Ohio regiment of volunteer infantry, with which he was in active service for a period of ninety days, within which he contracted a disease which resulted in his death about a decade later. In the fall of 1863 Jesse McKinnis, in company with his wife and their children, all of whom were born in Ohio, came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Jefferson county, where he continued in agricultural pursuits until 1865, when he removed to Washington county, where he was engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1872. In his native state he was united in marriage to Miss Allie Wilson, who was born in Maryland, whence her parents emigrated to Ohio when she was about ten years of age, her father becoming one of the successful farmers of the Buckeye state. They later moved to Iowa, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Their names were William and Elizabeth Wilson. Jesse and Allie McKinnis became the parents of three sons and one daughter, namely: Charles, the immediate subject of this sketch; George, a resident of Ollie; Mary E., the wife of G. B. Richardson of Sigourney, this county; and Jasper, who died at the age of nineteen years.

Dr. McKinnis received his early educational discipline in the public schools of Ohio and Iowa, and that he made proper utilization of the advantages afforded him is evident when we revert to the fact that he became eligible for the pedagogic profession when a youth, having been a successful teacher from the age of twenty-one until that of twenty-five years, within which interval he taught one year in the public schools of Washington county and the remainder in the schools of Keokuk county, having been twenty-two years of age at the time of his father's death. After giving up his pedagogic work the Doctor engaged in the drug business at Ioka, where he remained until 1882, when he established himself in the same line of enterprise in Ollie and also entered upon the general practice of medicine here, having thoroughly prepared himself for the work of his profession and having been in practice in Ioka prior to coming to Ollie. His technical education was received in Keokuk Medical College, where he prosecuted his studies with energy and marked discrimination.

In Jefferson county, in 1872, Dr. McKinnis was united in marriage to Miss Laura Helen McCarty, who was born in Washington county, this state, in 1851, being the daughter of Robert and Rebecca McCarty, who emigrated from Pennsylvania and became numbered among the pioneers of Washington county, Iowa, where their children were reared and educated. Dr. and Mrs. McKinnis are the parents of three children, namely: Mollie B., who is the wife of R. L. Grimes, a jeweler of Dows, Iowa; Ivy, who is the wife of C. W. Long, a hardware merchant of Dows Iowa; and Stella Grace, who still remains at the parental home: all were born and reared in Keokuk county.

Dr. McKinnis is one of the public spirited citizens and popular physicians of this section of the county, and he still continues to conduct

a drug store in Ollie in connection with his general practice, which is of wide extent. He has taken at all times a deep interest in public affairs of a local nature, and has given his influence and aid in support of such measures as have tended to the general welfare, while in his political proclivities he has been a stalwart adherent of the Republican party, as had been his father also. Fraternally he is identified with Ollie Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; with Ioka Lodge, No. 173, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; with the organization of Modern Woodmen at Richland, the Triple Alliance and the Mutual Benefit Association at Ollie, while he is one of the prominent and honored members of four different medical societies. The Doctor and his wife hold membership in the Baptist church at Ollie, and he has been clerk of its official board for a number of years past, taking a zealous interest in both the spiritual and temporal work of the organization.



WILLIAM R. WOODS.

Each calling or business, if honorable, has its place in the scheme of human existence, constituting a part of the plan whereby life's methods are pursued and man reaches his ultimate destiny, and thus there is maintained a social balance to which each contributes. The dignity of honest toil and endeavor is the only true dignity, and thus unqualified respect is due to those who are of the rank and file of the world's workers. The subject of this review, who is one of the honored pioneers of Keokuk county, where he has maintained his home for nearly forty years, may well be classed as one of the world's workers, for his life has been one of consecutive endeavor and his course has been such as to commend him to the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has

been thrown in contact in the various relations of life, while he is clearly entitled to representation in this volume.

William R. Woods, who is engaged in the blacksmithing business in the village of Ollie, is a native of Dearborn county, Indiana, where he was born on the 5th of December, 1836, being a son of Joseph and Elizabeth J. (Bushfield) Woods, both of whom were born and reared in Pennsylvania and both of whom were of Scotch-Irish lineage. Shortly after their marriage they removed from the old Keystone state to Dearborn county, Indiana, and there the father of our subject took up a tract of government land, whose reclamation and improvement he forthwith instituted. Finally, however, he disposed of this farm and removed to Jefferson county, in the same state, where he continued in agricultural pursuits until his death, in his fifty-fourth year, his wife having passed away about 1838. Of their eight children the subject of this sketch was the youngest and he is one of the two survivors, the other being his brother James, who is a resident of Jefferson county, Indiana. Those deceased are as follows: Elizabeth, Samuel, Margaret, Joseph, Charles L. and one who died in infancy.

William R. Woods was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm and remained on the homestead until the death of his father; his early educational advantages having been such as were afforded in the primitive schools of the pioneer epoch in Indiana. After the death of his father Mr. Woods went to the town of Greenwood, Johnson county, where he entered upon an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, serving for three years and receiving as compensation the sum of one hundred and thirty-five dollars, together with his board and clothing. After completing his apprenticeship, and having become a skilled artisan, he continued in the employ of his instructor for one year, and then proceeded to the

west, being employed as a journeyman at his trade for the succeeding three years, within which he lived in various localities. In 1858 he returned to Indiana, and there in the following year he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth J. Brenton, who was born in that state in the year 1840, being a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth E. Brenton, and after his marriage our subject engaged in the work of his trade on his own responsibility, establishing himself in business in Johnson county, Indiana. At the expiration of three years he removed to Marion county, where he was employed as a journeyman until 1866, when he removed to Illinois, where he carried on a shop about three months, and then came to Keokuk county, Iowa, where he has ever since maintained his home. He located in the village of Ioka, where he opened a blacksmith shop and conducted business for nearly fifteen years,—until 1880. Thereafter he was engaged in various pursuits for a number of years, and in 1892 he took up his residence in Ollie, where he has since been successfully engaged in the blacksmith business, having a well equipped shop and securing an excellent patronage. To him and his estimable wife two children were born, the elder of whom, Elizabeth, died at the age of two years, while the younger daughter, Maggie M., is the wife of Homer Pridey of Harrison, Nebraska.

In politics Mr. Woods is a stalwart adherent of the Democrat party and he has been an active worker in its cause, while he has been called upon to serve in various offices of public trust and responsibility, having given able service as mayor of Ollie, while he was incumbent of the offices of justice of the peace and township clerk for a number of years each. Fraternally he is a popular member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias.

## CHARLES REED.

Charles Reed is an old settler and retired farmer now living in Webster, Keokuk county. He was born in Marion county, Indiana, October 1, 1840. His father, Isaac Reed, was an old settler of Keokuk county, Iowa, and a native of Tennessee, where his birth occurred in 1805. He was there reared and educated and afterward engaged in farming to some extent in his native state. However, he removed from Tennessee to Indiana when a young man, settling on a farm in the latter state. He was married in Tennessee to Sarah Morrison, a native of Kentucky, and they became the parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, of whom Charles was the youngest son and the seventh child. These are: William; one who died in infancy; Alexander; another who died in infancy; James, Griggs, Charles, Eliza, Sarah, Margaret, and a third who died in infancy. Of the children who reached mature years nearly all were reared in Keokuk county, for in 1850 the father removed with his family to Iowa, settling in German township, Keokuk county, upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of improved land. The following year, however, he removed with his family to English River township, where he located upon a farm of a quarter-section of raw land. Here with the aid of his sons he cleared the tract and improved the place, making it a valuable and highly productive farm. His death occurred in 1865, after which his son Griggs lived upon the old home place until his death, and his widow yet owns the farm. In early life Isaac Reed gave his political support to the Whig party and upon its dissolution he joined the ranks of the new Republican party. He held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Webster, aided in erecting a house of worship there and took an active interest in promoting the cause of Christianity.



Charles Reed was reared on the old home and is indebted to the public school system of the country for the educational privileges he enjoyed. He was about twenty-five years of age at the time of his father's death. He then purchased a tract of land in English River township of one hundred and fifty acres, which was wild and uncultivated, but with characteristic energy he began its cultivation and improvement and made his home thereon for thirty-four years, his attention being given continuously to his farm work. He placed his fields under a very high state of cultivation and added all modern equipments and accessories to the place.

On the 28th of October, 1871, Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Laura A. Holliday, a native of Illinois, born February 12, 1853. When two years of age she was brought to Keokuk county, Iowa, by her parents, H. M. and Nancy Ann Holliday, who were early residents of this portion of the state. They settled in Adams township upon a farm of two hundred acres of raw land and her father at once began to plow the fields, plant his crops and in course of time garnered rich harvests. It was upon this farm that Mrs. Reed spent her girlhood days. Her mother died upon the old homestead and her father passed away on a farm not far distant. To Mr. and Mrs. Reed have been born seven children, five sons and two daughters: Stella, Frank, Edward L., Doma A., Benjamin, Morgan, and Fred. Of this number Frank is now deceased. All were born and reared on the farm in English River township.

In 1900 Mr. Reed left the old homestead and removed to Webster, retiring from active farming life. He purchased a lot in the town and built a home there and is now comfortably situated. In his younger days he was identified with the Republican party, but for the last several

years has advocated "greenback" principles. Socially he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of South English. He is a member of the Methodist church of Webster, which he aided in building, and takes an active interest in church work and is serving as one of its trustees. At the time of the Civil war he manifested his loyalty to his country by enlisting in 1861 in the Eighth Iowa Infantry, in which he served for one year, being mustered out in 1862. He then resumed farm work which he continued with success until his retirement to private life. He is now one of the oldest residents of this portion of Keokuk county and has witnessed its improvement as the years have passed, bearing his part in all the work of development.



#### ROBERT H. GEMMILL.

Robert H. Gemmill is one of the highly respected citizens of South English, whose useful and well spent life has not only gained for him the confidence of his fellow men, but has also secured for him a comfortable competence which enables him to lay aside all business cares and spend his declining days in ease and retirement. His father, John Gemmill, was a native of Paisly, Scotland, and on his emigration to America in 1846 settled in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, where he followed his trade of a weaver for about two years. He then removed to Potters Mills, the same state, and remained there until 1854. His next place of residence was Milroy, Pennsylvania, where he made his home until his death, which occurred in 1887. In 1838 he was united in marriage to Miss Jane Dempster, also a native of Scotland, and they became the parents of ten children, seven sons and three daughters, who in order of

birth were as follows: William; John, James W. and Maggie J., all three deceased; Annie; Robert H., our subject; Mathew, deceased; John D.; Alexander, deceased; and Kate.

Mr. Gemmill was born, reared and educated in Centre county, Pennsylvania, the date of his birth being April 9, 1850. He remained with his parents until he reached the age of nineteen years, and on leaving home came to Keokuk county, Iowa, locating in Lafayette township, where he worked at farming in the employ of others. In June, 1873, he married Miss Elizabeth Archer a native of Scotland, and to them were born two children, but both are now deceased.

After his marriage Mr. Gemmill removed to German township, where he continued to work for others until 1884, when he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which was all raw land when it came into his possession and which he improved. However, he continued with his former employer, David Archer, until 1892, when he took up his residence upon his own place and devoted his energies to its improvement and cultivation until his removal to South English in 1901. He has since lived in practical retirement, enjoying the fruits of his former toil, surrounded by all the comforts which make life worth the living.

Fraternally Mr. Gemmill is an honored member of Naphthali Lodge, No. 188, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of South English, and the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 263, of the same place. Politically he has always been identified with the Republican party since attaining his majority, and in religious belief is a Presbyterian, being an active and prominent member of his church. He is a man of upright character and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

## A. S. HURST.

For many years the subject of this sketch was one of the active and progressive agriculturists of Keokuk county, as well as one of its most reliable and honored citizens, and now in his declining years he is enjoying a well earned rest at his pleasant home in Webster, free from the cares and responsibilities of business life. Mr. Hurst was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, on the 11th of October, 1843, and is a son of Henry P. Hurst, who was a native of Lancaster county, that state, where his early childhood was passed. The father was quite young on the death of his parents and he subsequently made his home with his uncle, Philip Hurst, until he attained his majority. He then went to the city of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for nine years, and from there removed to Clarksville, Greene county, that state, where he continued to follow the same pursuit until his marriage. His next home was in Jefferson, Greene county, where he worked at his trade for about three years, and then removed to a farm in the same county, though he continued to follow the occupation of carpentering. After spending two years there he located on another small farm, which he purchased and improved, devoting his energies to its cultivation for about seventeen years in connection with work at his trade. In 1866 he came to Iowa and bought an improved farm of one hundred acres in Keokuk county, to which he removed his family the following year. This farm was in English River township, and he made it his home until called to his final rest on the 2nd of February, 1870, when fifty-seven years of age. In 1842 he had married Miss Melvina Stewart, a native of Greene county, Pennsylvania and a daughter of Alexander Stewart. She was of German descent. By this union were born two children, a son and daughter, both of whom are still living, our subject being the eldest.

A. S. Hurst passed the days of his boyhood and youth in the county of his nativity and is indebted to its public schools for the educational privileges he enjoyed. He remained under the parental roof until he reached the age of eighteen years and then learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in Pennsylvania until 1864. On leaving home he went to Knox county, Ohio, where he continued to follow his chosen occupation for about a year, and then, after a brief visit at home, he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, arriving here on the 18th of February, 1865. He located in English River township, where he worked at his trade for one year and then took charge of his father's farm, continuing its operation after the death of his father until the spring of 1898, when he removed to his present home in Webster, where he is now living a retired life.

In the fall of 1867 Mr. Hurst was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Miller, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Samuel Miller, who was born in Pennsylvania and was a farmer by occupation. She was born June 28, 1846, in Hancock county, Ohio, where her early life was passed and where her education was obtained. In 1855 she accompanied her parents on their removal to Keokuk county, Iowa, and became a resident of English River township, remaining at home until her marriage. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hurst were born four children, two sons and two daughters, but the first born died in infancy. Henry P. Hurst, the next of the family, is now operating the old homestead farm, a part of which he owns. Elizabeth is the wife of S. E. Heaton, a hardware dealer of Webster. Samuel M. is clerking in his brother-in-law's store. As a public spirited and energetic citizen Mr. Hurst has ever borne an important part in public affairs and was a member of the vigilance committee of Keokuk county until it was disbanded. His political support has always

been given the Democratic party and he has taken an active part in promoting its interests. He is an old and highly respected citizen of his adopted county and is justly deserving of prominent mention in its history.



WILLIAM B. WORLEY.

"The talent of success is nothing more than what you can do well and doing well whatever you do, without any thought of fame," says Longfellow. A practical illustration of this sentiment is given in the life record of Mr. Worley, who is one of the honored pioneers of Iowa, a veteran of the war of the Rebellion and one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of the town of Ollie, Keokuk county, where he has long been engaged in the furniture and undertaking business. Springing from sturdy German ancestry, it has been his fortune to inherit the best elements of that industrious and intelligent people, and his career has been such as might naturally be expected from such a combination of attributes. He has achieved a definite and worthy success through his own efforts, has ever been as true to the duties of citizenship as he was loyal to the old flag whose fortunes he so valiantly followed on the battlefields of the south, and he is peculiarly deserving of representation in a work of the province of this publication.

William B. Worley is a native of the old Keystone state of the Union, having been born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, on the 1st of October, 1827. His father, David Worley, was born in Wittenberg, Germany, where he was reared, and when a young man he severed the ties which bound him to home and native land and emigrated to America, locating in Pennsylvania, where eventually was solemnized

his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Althouse, who was born in that state, of which her parents were pioneer settlers, both being of staunch old German lineage. David and Elizabeth Worley became the parents of eight children, of whom all are now deceased except our subject and his brother George, who is a resident of Ohio. The names of the children are here entered in the order of birth: John, Julia Ann, William B., Susan, George, Katherine, David and Aaron.

When the subject of this review was a mere child his parents removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio, becoming numbered among the pioneers of Richland county, where they passed the remainder of their lives, the father having there reclaimed and improved a good farm. William B. was reared amid the surroundings of the pioneer farm and he early began to contribute his quota toward the work involved in its improvement and cultivation, while his educational privileges were such as fell to the lot of the average youth of the locality and period. He remained on the homestead until the death of his father, after which he went to the village of Newville, where he learned the trade of cabinet-making, while at the expiration of one year he turned his attention to work at the carpenter trade, in which line he became a skilled artisan. In 1852, when twenty-five years of age, Mr. Worley left his native state and came to Iowa, passing the first winter in Cedar county and thence going to Washington county, where he was engaged in the work of his trade until 1860, when he went to Missouri, where he remained until after the harvest season of that year, then returning to Iowa. This was in the crucial epoch which led up to the Civil war, and when the rebel guns thundered against the ramparts of old Fort Sumter Mr. Worley's intrinsic patriotism and loyalty were roused to action, and in 1861 he tendered his services in defense of the Union, enlisting as a private in

Company I, Fortieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years, the regiment being commanded by Colonel Garnett. He participated in the battle of Seven Pines and in numerous other minor engagements, but the regiment was assigned to garrison duty during the greater portion of the time, and our subject was in the quartermaster's department at the time of the expiration of his term, receiving his honorable discharge in 1864, at Iowa City. He then came to Keokuk county, where he had taken up a tract of land shortly before enlisting for the war, and here he established himself upon his farm, which comprised eighty acres, engaged in agricultural pursuits, making excellent improvements on his place, while he worked more or less at his trade, having erected three residences in Jackson township for his own use prior to taking up his home in Ollie, where he has resided since 1888. Here he engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, and he now has a large and well equipped establishment for a town of the size, while his appointments for the proper conducting of his enterprise as a funeral director are of the best order. Mr. Worley has ever shown a spirit of absolute fairness and impregnable integrity in all his dealings, and thus he has gained the confidence of the community and secured an excellent supporting patronage, while he is honored as one of the pioneers of the county and as one who has ably played his part in furthering the advancement and civic prosperity of this favored section of the Hawkeye state.

In politics he has given an unequivocal allegiance to the Republican party from the time of its organization, and while he has not been afflicted with political ambition of a personal sort he has ever taken a deep interest in the party cause, while he has served in various offices of local order. He and his wife are consistent members of the Baptist church in their home town and aid in its direct work and collateral



benevolences, while their pleasant home has ever been notable for the cordial hospitality which is there ever in evidence. In the state of Ohio, in 1851, Mr. Worley was united in marriage to Miss Jane Crowner, who was born there, a daughter of John Crowner, one of the pioneers of the Buckeye state. To our subject and his estimable wife have been born nine children, their names, in order of birth, being as follows: John, Sabina, Lane, Gertrude, Ada, George, William, Ollie and Frank. All are living except John and Gertrude and all are well established in life.



#### JOSEPH BROWN.

To endure the toils of early pioneer life, not to give up amid the many discouragements that beset one who ventures beyond the beaten paths, and at last to feel that the vast structure of civilization around him has been partially reared by himself, is a reward that comes to the early settlers of our country and causes a feeling of contentment with life's efforts. In the history of Keokuk county Joseph Brown and his father deserve a prominent place.

Thomas Brown, the father of our subject, was born and reared in Pennsylvania, was one of the brave men who struggled for the second and complete vindication of America in the war of 1812, and shortly afterward came west and settled in Knox county, Ohio. There in the forests, from which the Indians and wild beasts had not yet been driven, he cleared a farm and built his home. Here was his residence until 1848, and then in a wagon he journeyed to Iowa with his family; he took up the present farm of one hundred and sixty acres and brought it into a state of cultivation; this he later increased by three hundred acres.

He lived faithful to all the duties of citizenship, allied with the Democratic party, and passed away in 1854. While in Ohio he married Nancy Markley; she came from Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, to Knox county, Ohio; her parents were among the earliest settlers of the latter county. To this worthy couple were born sixteen children, of whom only three are now (1902) living.

Joseph Brown was the fifteenth in order of birth of these children and was born December 22, 1833, in Knox county, Ohio. It was in his sixteenth year that he came with his father to Iowa, and there he completed his education in the district schools. His father died when he was twenty-one years old, and then he rented the old home place and one hundred acres besides; the latter he had to clear before it was suitable for cultivation. He now owns two hundred and twenty acres of fine land. In August of 1861 Joseph Brown enlisted in the Fortieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and through three years he served in many of the important engagements of the war, being on the skirmish line at the siege of Vicksburg. Being mustered out in 1864, he returned to his farm labors.

In 1876, in Pennsylvania, Mr. Brown married Sarah Hice, who was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, in 1838; she came to Iowa when thirty-five years of age. Her parents were William and Hannah Hice, both old settlers of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two children, one of whom is dead. Henry Hice was born in 1879 and is now farming the old homestead. Mr. Brown is identified with the Republican party, and is prominent in the affairs of the Baptist church, which he helped to build. All matters of importance to the community have found in him a zealous supporter, and his influence has ever been on the side of right.

DeWITT C. BAKER.

A retired farmer and representative citizen of the village of Ollie, Mr. Baker has been intimately identified with the industrial activities and material progress of this favored section of the Hawkeye state, and he is most appropriately given a place in this compilation, which has to do with those who have been the founders and builders of Keokuk county.

Like many another of the sterling citizens of this state, Mr. Baker is a native of Tennessee, having been born in Jefferson county, on the 22d of July, 1833. His father, John Baker, was a native of the Old Dominion, having been born in the state of Virginia, the family having been there established in the colonial epoch of our national history. He removed from his native state to Tennessee and became one of the honored citizens of that state, having been a powder manufacturer by vocation and having been a colonel in the state militia. He was loyal to the section in which he had been reared, and when the Civil war was inaugurated he enlisted for services in the Confederate army and did valiant duty in behalf of the cause, while previously he had attained no little distinction as an Indian fighter. He was prominent in the ranks of the Democratic party in Tennessee, and there he died in the year 1872, at the age of seventy-six years, having been born in 1796. He was a man of ability and sterling integrity, ever commanding the esteem of those with whom he came in contact. In Tennessee he was united in marriage to Miss Martha Frazier, who was born in Pennsylvania, whence, in her childhood, she accompanied her parents on their removal to Tennessee, where she passed the remainder of her life, her death occurring on January 9, 1866, at the age of seventy-five;

she was born in 1791. John and Martha Baker became the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest, the others being Mary (deceased), Elsie, and Charles and John, both of whom are deceased. The father of our subject became a prominent drover in Tennessee, purchasing large numbers of horses and mules annually and driving them through to Florida, and his efforts in this line of enterprise were attended with marked success.

DeWitt Clinton Baker, to whom this review is dedicated, was reared and educated in his native state, where he completed his education at the age of twenty years. He forthwith gave inception to his independent career, since he then came to Iowa in 1853, and became one of the pioneer settlers of Keokuk county. He located on a tract of government land in Richland township, where he developed a fine farm and where he continued to maintain his home until the year 1876, having been successful in his enterprise, which included diversified farming and stockraising. In the Centennial year he removed to Jackson township, where he became the owner of a landed estate of about four hundred acres, the major portion of which he reclaimed and placed under effective cultivation, while his business ability and progressive spirit was shown in the work which he accomplished in connection with the development of the agricultural resources of this section, since for a period of about eight years he devoted his attention largely to the buying of raw land, clearing and improving the same and then disposing of the property, whose value had been, of course, greatly enhanced. Thus he contributed in no small measure to the substantial progress of this section, and his course was ever such in connection with his various transactions as to retain to him unqualified confidence and respect on the part of all with whom he had dealings.

On the 28th of December, 1854, Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Virtue A. Edwards, who was born in Brighton, Washington county, Iowa, the daughter of Joseph and Margaret Edwards, who were pioneers of that county, as were they later of Keokuk county. Of the ten children born to our subject and his estimable wife, three are deceased,—Margaretta, Melissa and Lela. Those surviving are as follows: Martha, Joseph E., Ella, John C., Nora A., Charles D. and William F., all of whom were born and reared in this county. Mrs. Baker died November 7, 1890, at Ollie, Iowa. In March, 1892, Mr. Baker married Martha A. (Brown) Fye, widow of W. G. Fye, who was born in Keokuk county, May 19, 1855. She was the daughter of James and Rebecca Brown, who came from Ohio and settled in Iowa in the early days; they spent their declining days and died in Iowa. Mrs. Baker has two daughters by first marriage, Lillian and Bessie Fye.

At the time of the Civil war Mr. Baker enlisted in the Third Missouri Volunteer Infantry, a mounted regiment, with which he served six months. In 1862 he enlisted a second time, for three years, becoming a private in Company I, of the Fortieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he was in active service until January, 1865, when he received his honorable discharge, having done valiant service in support of the Union during the great fratricidal conflict in which a man's foes were veritably of his own household, as was exemplified in the case of our subject, for his father was a soldier in the Confederate service, as has already been noted. During his long term of service the subject of this review was in many notable conflicts, having participated in the siege of Vicksburg and been present at the time of the taking of the city of Little Rock, Arkansas, while his regiment also took part in Banks' celebrated Red river expedition and participated in the battle

of Jenkins' Ferry and several minor engagements. Mr. Baker was mustered out of the service at Little Rock, Arkansas, in January, 1865, and after receiving his honorable discharge returned to his home in Keokuk county and turned his attention to farming in Richland township, of which fact mention has already been made. In 1889 he took up his residence in the thriving town of Ollie, where he is the owner of considerable property, while he still retains in his possession a good farm of eighty-eight acres.

Mr. Baker has ever maintained a lively interest in public affairs of a local nature and has done all in his power to forward the advancement and material prosperity of his home county. His political support was given to the Democratic party until 1866, and when he became a Republican, and he has been called upon to serve in various offices of trust and responsibility, among which it may be noted that he has been incumbent of the position of justice of the peace in Jackson township for fifteen years, while for three years he was a member of the county board of supervisors. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias, while he and his wife are devoted members of the Baptist church in their home town, taking an active part in its work. The family has long been prominent in the social life of the community, and its members all enjoy the unqualified esteem of those who know them, while a refined hospitality is ever in evidence in the attractive home of our subject and his wife.

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JOHN P. JONES.

Among the prominent agriculturists of Keokuk county, there are few better known or more widely respected than Mr. Jones, the veteri-

nary surgeon and horse dentist of Steady Run. Coming to this region in 1845, when a mere infant, he has grown up with the country, and having spent the greater part of his life on the farm, there are few, if any, who excel him in practical knowledge of agriculture. He was born in Jefferson county, Iowa, February 27, 1844, and is the son of Alexander and Comfort T. (Ford) Jones.

Alexander Jones, also a veterinary surgeon and a prosperous agriculturist, was one of those strong, vigorous men who assisted in the opening up of this county to settlers. Born in North Carolina, August 8, 1806, he was, by his father, of Welch extraction and by his mother of English. When a lad nine years old he moved with his parents to a farm in east Tennessee, where he spent his youth and early manhood. In the schools of his neighborhood he received a fair education, and on the home farm practical training for his life work. At the early age of eighteen he rented a farm in his vicinity and started life for himself. At this same time he married Comfort T. Ford, who was born in Tennessee, July 31, 1800, and there grew to womanhood. Of this union there were seven children, the first three of whom were born in Tennessee,—Henry, October 16, 1825; Mary, October 8, 1828; and Sarah, May 16, 1831. William was born in Indiana, November 27, 1833; Cynthia Ann, February 24, 1836; John P. is mentioned below; and Alexander was born on the Steady Run homestead, September 29, 1846. Mrs. Jones was a sympathetic wife and mother and a great help to her husband. She died June 14, 1878.

Alexander Jones continued on the rented farm in Tennessee until he was twenty-seven years old, when he moved his family to Indiana, where he settled on a farm of his own. Here he put forth his strong manly efforts in the opening up of the new country, and made his farm

one of the most productive in his section. After eight years, however, he decided to cast his lot with the new settlers of Iowa, and moved with his wife and children to Jefferson county in 1841. Here he rented a farm upon which he remained until 1845. In the meantime he found in Keokuk county a hundred and twenty acre tract of new land which struck him as an excellent place for a permanent settlement, located as it was in the fertile district of Steady Run. Coming into possession of this in 1845, he moved here and spent the rest of his active life in clearing up and improving it. He had in time a very attractive place, and became one of the well-to-do farmers of this region. Besides attending to the active duties of his estate he was employed by farmers far and near as a veterinary surgeon. This profession he had learned from his forefathers, many of whom had practiced it for generations. Being very successful in this line he materially increased his income by his practice. He lived to the age of seventy-eight, and died December 3, 1884. His last days were spent in retirement. As one of the intelligent early settlers of the county Mr. Jones always had a great deal to do with public affairs. For a number of years he served as trustee of his town, and managed affairs with a wisdom and fidelity, which reflected great credit upon his integrity, and his remarkable business ability. He was one of the substantial members of the Methodist Episcopal denomination of his place, and assisted materially in the building of the church.

John P. Jones has spent the greater part of his life in Keokuk county. Coming here with his father when but one year old, he received his education in the schools of his neighborhood, which he attended at irregular periods until he was twenty-three years old. During this period of his life especially during the later years he assisted his father



in clearing up the farm, and also in his professional duties, becoming an adept in the last. At the age of twenty-three he assumed the entire management of the farm, which he has since continued. On September 1, 1867, he married Martha J. Stubbs, who was born in Tennessee, November 1, 1837, and there grew to womanhood. In 1865 she moved with her parents, C. N. and Mary E. Stubbs, to a farm in Keokuk county, where she resided until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have had seven children: Henry L., born June 7, 1868; Mary A., October 24, 1869; Sarah E., September 4, 1871; John W., August 26, 1873; Julia A., October 10, 1875; Lucie C., January 11, 1878; and Alexander J., June 22, 1880. All were born and reared on the family homestead.

Mr. Jones has proved himself quite as able an agriculturist as his father was, and he has a farm of which he may well be proud. As a farmer, he is progressive and thoroughly up-to-date, and at the same time is extremely practical. Aside from his agricultural work, he has an extensive practice as a veterinary surgeon and horse dentist, at which he is very successful. He has made well out of his different lines of business, and is considered one of the well-to-do farmers of his county. As was his father, Mr. Jones is an ardent Democrat in politics and takes an active interest in public affairs. Reared in the Methodist faith, he is an earnest member of that church, of which he has held several offices and is now acting as trustee, performing his duties with fidelity and marked ability. He is well and favorably known and has hosts of friends throughout his county.

## JAMES A. GREENLEE.

James A. Greenlee, of Richland, has for years been one of the prominent stock dealers of his section, and is still carrying on an extensive trade in this line. He not only speculates in cattle, but raises and breeds some of the finest in his state. Having invested a large amount of the proceeds of his business in real estate he is also a large landowner; in fact he is one of the largest in the county. Mr. Greenlee comes of a family of pioneer settlers. His grandfather came from Pennsylvania in the early days and settled in Kentucky. His father, John Greenlee, was an energetic man, who assisted in the opening of this county to settlers. Born in Kentucky, in 1807, he spent his early days in that state. In 1841 he moved to Miami county, Ohio, where he remained for about four years. Later, in 1845, he decided to cast his lot with the men who were gaining possession of the rich lands of Iowa. Coming to Keokuk county, he purchased land of George Cook, of Sigourney, a fine tract three-fourths of a mile from Blackhawk Mills in the township of Clear Creek. Here he spent many years in clearing and improving his land, and became one of the most successful farmers in the region. He spent the last seven years of his life in Richland township, four miles north of Richland, and died at the age of sixty-seven. During his young manhood he married Nancy Blyen, who was born in Kentucky in 1807. She died in the same year as her husband, 1874. By this marriage there were seven children, two sons and five daughters, James A. being the third child and the oldest son.

James A. Greenlee was born in Lewis county, Kentucky, March 4, 1838, and was but seven years old when the parents came to Iowa. It was therefore in the new township of Clear Creek that he received his

rearing and the training for his lifework. Here in a little log school-house he obtained his education, acquiring habits of self-reliance and alertness, which were of value to him in later years. After leaving school he remained at home for some time, assisting in the management of his father's farm. While living here he married Sarah John, and among their children was a son named John, who is now in business with his father. Shortly after his marriage Mr. Greenlee settled upon a farm in the township of Richland, five miles north of the city of that name. Here he engaged in general farming and gradually worked into the stock-raising business. Investing in thoroughbreds he made a specialty of breeding them, and in time began shipping them to eastern markets. Fairfield in Jefferson county is one of the shipping points in his vicinity, and from this place he annually shipped large droves of cattle. As his stock has been among the best put on the market it has always commanded for him a high price. His general farming he has by no means neglected, and his crops have been large and among the best in the county. He has from time to time purchased new land and now owns about five hundred acres of rich land, which is well improved and largely under cultivation. For twenty-four years he has been a resident of Richland and now owns one of the handsomest residences in the vicinity.

Mr. Greenlee is a public spirited man, who has all his life helped to further both by word and deed the up-building of all beneficial industries in his section. He is popular in his county and has filled local offices with eminent ability. He has pronounced political convictions and affiliates with the Gold Democrats. Fraternally he has belonged to the Free and Accepted Masons for thirty-six years, and for eighteen years has served as treasurer of his lodge, exercising both wisdom and

marked fidelity in the discharge of his duties. There are probably but few better known or more highly esteemed men in the county than Mr. Greenlee.



PERTILLER WHITSON.

The great and prosperous commonwealth of Iowa had as sterling and heroic a band of pioneers as can be claimed by any other state in the Union, and those who aided in laying broad and deep the foundations upon which has been reared the magnificent superstructure of material prosperity and enlightened and worthy citizenship well merit a place on the pages of history, in order that a perpetual record may be left concerning their labors and personalities. The distinction of being one of the honored pioneers of Keokuk county belongs to the gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph, and it was his to contribute his quota to the development of the resources of this section and to attain a definite success through his efforts in connection with the great basic industry of agriculture. He has passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten, and while retaining exceptional mental and physical vigor, has practically retired from the more onerous duties and cares of active business, enjoying the dignified repose which is the just reward of his years of ceaseless toil and endeavor. He has a pleasant home in the village of Ioka, where he has the confidence and esteemed of all who know him, while his memory forms a connecting link between the early pioneer days of the state and those of the present, as the glorious twentieth century rolls into the cycle of the ages.

Pertiller Whitson was born in White county, Tennessee, on the 18th of July, 1828, being a son of Reuben Whitson, who likewise was born in that state. The latter was there reared to manhood and

followed the vocation of farming until 1841, when he became numbered among the pioneer settlers of Iowa, locating on a tract of government land in Keokuk county, and here he and his sons gave themselves to the task of reclaiming the land and placing it under cultivation. In 1843 he disposed of his farm, which was located in Jackson township, and thereupon effected the purchase of a tract of two hundred acres lying one-half mile west of his original place. This farm also was placed under effective cultivation and good improvements of a permanent nature were made on the same. He later passed one year on another farm in this township and on May 1, 1854, he died in the village of Fairfield, where he had made his home less than one year. In the state of Kentucky Reuben Whitson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Bray, a native of that state, and of this union ten children were born, namely: Nancy, James, Richard and Jerry, who are deceased; Pertiller, the subject of this sketch; Andrew; Elizabeth; Reuben, Jr., is dead; William; and John Calvin, who is deceased. All except the three youngest of the children were born in Tennessee, the latter having been born after the removal of the parents to Iowa. The father of our subject was a Whig in his political proclivities and both he and his wife were members of the Separatist Baptist church, and the former assisted in the erection of the first church of that denomination in Keokuk county. The mother of our subject died in 1878.

Pertiller Whitson, the immediate subject of this review, was a youth of about sixteen years at the time when the family came to Iowa, and thus he has passed the major portion of his life in this state, his early educational discipline having been completed in the district schools of Keokuk county, while he continued to assist his father in his farming operations until he had attained his legal majority, when he gave incep-

tion to his independent career by locating upon a farm of forty acres in Jackson township, clearing and improving the place and showing marked discrimination and energy in his labors, through which he bought his farm under an excellent state of productivity. He there continued to maintain his home for a period of five years, at the expiration of which he took up his residence in Fairfield, where he was engaged in the teaming business for the ensuing two years. He then went to Lucas county, where he remained for a time, after which he settled in Jefferson county, where he was successfully engaged in farming for an interval of twelve years. Mr. Whitson then disposed of his interests in that locality and returned to Keokuk county and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Jackson township. This he developed into one of the valuable places of the county, making excellent improvements and bringing the land under a fine state of cultivation. He continued to give his attention to diversified farming until 1891, when he retired, taking up his residence in Ioka, where he has a pleasant home.

In the year 1849 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Whitson to Miss Arida Bussell, who was born and reared in Tennessee, being a daughter of George Bussell. Of this union three daughters were born: Elizabeth S., Gathie E. (deceased) and Mary Jane. Mrs. Whitson was summoned to eternal rest in 1854, and in 1858 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Brown, who was born in Ohio, and was there reared and educated. Her father, Thomas Brown, removed thence to Iowa in the early days and became one of the pioneer settlers of Keokuk county, where he passed the remainder of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Whitson are the parents of three children: Sarah A., Elizabeth A. and Nancy A.





W.G. Cover



In politics Mr. Whitson accords allegiance to the Democratic party, and his religious faith is that of the Missionary Baptist church, of which he and his wife are both zealous and consistent members. He aided materially in the erection of the church edifice in Ioka and is incumbent of the office of deacon, taking an active part in the advancement of the spiritual and temporal work of the church. He has ever shown a deep interest in all that makes for the well-being of the community and has been known as a progressive and public spirited citizen of the county where so many years of his life have been passed and where he is known and honored for his sterling worth of character. Such are the men who have been the founders and builders of this great commonwealth, and Mr. Whitson is eminently entitled to representation in this compilation.

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ULYSSES GRANT COVER.

Prominent among the business men of Keswick is one who for several years has been identified with the financial interests of the village, U. G. Cover, the present cashier of the Cover Banking Company of that place. He is a native of Iowa, born in Millersburg, Iowa county, January, 12, 1865, and is a son of Aaron Cover, one of the prominent old settlers of the county and the president of the Cover bank. The father was born in Maryland and in 1855 came to Iowa, afterward settling in Iowa county. He began life in this state as a blacksmith at Millersburg and was then in limited circumstances, but through his own energy and well directed efforts he became quite well-to-do and is to-day one of the substantial citizens of Iowa. He married Mahala J. Huff, a native of Ohio, born near Fostoria. She died at the age of fifty-

seven years. There were six children born of that union, four sons and two daughters, and of these our subject is the second in order of birth and the second son.

U. G. Cover spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Millersburg and to its public schools he is indebted for his early educational privileges, though he later pursued a commercial course at the Iowa City Business College. He began his business career as manager and part owner of a store at Keswick, which was continued under the firm name of Cover & Baird. He was only eighteen years of age when he became connected with that establishment as clerk and three years later he became a member of the firm. He continued to engage in mercantile business until 1900, when the Cover Bank was organized and he was made its cashier, a position which he has since successfully filled. This bank has a capital stock of thirty thousand dollars and is one of the leading institutions of the county, its success being certainly due in a large measure to the efficiency of our subject, who is one of the principal stockholders and manager of the same. Although still comparatively a young man, Mr. Cover has been in business in Keswick for twenty years, and his ability, enterprise and upright methods have established for him an enviable reputation. He is well known throughout the county as one of the most progressive and reliable business men within its borders. On the 31st of October, 1900, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Cover and Miss Cora A. Butcher, a daughter of George Butcher, and a native of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Cover occupy quite a prominent position in the social circles of Keswick.

WILLIAM H. BRAGG.

More than half a century has fallen into the abyss of time since was witnessed the arrival in Keokuk county of the family of which the subject of this review is an honored representative, and within all the intervening years the name has been consecutively and intimately associated with the industrial development and material and civic advancement of this favored section of the Hawkeye state. It is thus needless to enter into any series of statements as showing how clearly is Mr. Bragg entitled to specific mention in a compilation of this character, and he stands to-day as one of the successful and representative farmers of Jackson township, while his is the distinction of being a native son of the county where he has practically passed his entire life.

William H. Bragg was born in Jackson township on the 3d of August, 1847, being a son of Marshall E. Bragg, who was born in the state of Kentucky in 1812 and was there reared to the age of eighteen years when he removed to Illinois. He located on a farm near Springfield, in Sangamon county, and there devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits for a period of fifteen years, also finding no little demand for his services as a wagonmaker, a trade which he had acquired in his early youth. In 1845 he disposed of his interests in Illinois and came to Keokuk county, Iowa, settling on a farm of forty acres in the immediate vicinity of the present thriving town of Ollie. The land had never been turned by the plowshare, but Mr. Bragg at once turned his attention to its development and cultivation, thus continuing until the spring of 1852, when he disposed of the property and secured another tract of raw land, two miles west of his former place, also clearing and improving this tract, which comprised fifty acres. In 1858

his health became so greatly impaired that he disposed of his farm, his intention being to return to Kentucky, but his strength was not sufficient to justify him in attempting the trip, and in the same year he purchased forty acres of the present home farm of our subject, which continued to be his home until his death, which occurred in 1861, as the result of paralysis. He was a man of the highest integrity in all the relations of life and was honored by all who knew him, while through his efforts he did effective service in forwarding the development of this section of the county. In politics he was a staunch Democrat, and he held the office of township trustee and was shown divers other evidences of public confidence and esteem. His religious faith was that of the Baptist church, and he was one of the prominent members of the church organization in the county, having assisted in the erection of the first church edifice built by this denomination in Keokuk county, while both he and his devoted wife were zealous and faithful workers in the church.

In the state of Illinois Marshall E. Bragg was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Antle, who was born in Kentucky in the year 1811 and removed thence with her parents to Illinois in 1830. She died in Jackson township, this county, in 1889, and her memory is held dear by those who came within the sphere of her gracious and kindly influence. Her children were eleven in number, the subject of this sketch having been the ninth in order of birth, while five of the children died in infancy. Of the others: Mary Ann, Elizabeth, and John C., are deceased; Martha J., is the wife of L. W. Smithart; William H., is the subject of this sketch; and Susan is the wife of Melvin Widner.

William H. Bragg, to whom this sketch is dedicated, was reared under the invigorating discipline of the farm, early beginning to assist

in the work pertaining thereto and receiving his early educational training in the pioneer schools, which he was able to attend only in a desultory way. He was but thirteen years of age at the time of his father's death, and from that time forward he was compelled to depend largely on his own resources. That his self-reliant spirit, his industry and his keen business sagacity have proved adequate to meeting all contingencies and emergencies, his position to-day assures. He had on the start a farm of forty acres and to this he has added until he now has a well improved, highly productive and most attractive place of one hundred and ninety acres, while prosperity has crowned his effective and well-directed efforts. He is one of the progressive and public spirited citizens of the county and takes a lively interest in local affairs, being a stalwart supporter of the principles and policies of the Democratic party. He was incumbent of the office of township trustee for the long period of sixteen years, while he also rendered effective service as justice of the peace, his fairness and good judgment gaining to him unequivocal confidence. The family take a prominent part in the social life of the community, and their pleasant home is a center of refined hospitality.

In 1870 Mr. Bragg was united in marriage to Miss Mary Curtis, who was born in Indiana and who was a mere child at the time her parents, Henry and Eliza Curtis, removed thence to Iowa, being numbered among the early settlers in Keokuk county, where they took up their residence in 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Bragg became the parents of six sons and six daughters, and six of the number are deceased. The names of the children are here entered in the order of birth: Nora, deceased; John C.; Andrew and Harry, both deceased; William R., Marshall E., Willard T., Eva and Sadie; and Louraine, who is deceased, as are also two other children, who died in infancy.

## ANDREW GARRETT.

Among the representatives of the agricultural interests of Keokuk county that Virginia has furnished to this state is Andrew Garrett, who was born in Morgan county of the Old Dominion, on the 22d of March, 1836. His father, Silas Garrett, was also a native of that state, where he spent his early childhood, and then went with his parents to Kentucky, where he remained with his father until his marriage. He wedded Elizabeth Cheatam, a native of Kentucky, and they became the parents of eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, as follows: Jeremiah, John and Milton, all deceased; Eliza J., the wife of Caleb Reynolds, of Delta; Robert, deceased; James H.; Mary, the widow of Sam White; Andrew; Laurael, who has departed this life; Eliza; and William. All of the children were born in Iowa, with the exception of the first named, who was born in Kentucky. For a time the father resided in Indiana, but leaving that state he came with his family to Iowa, locating in Jefferson county, near Fairfield, making his home on a farm there for nine years. He then came to Keokuk county and settled on a farm in Washington township. Here he purchased two hundred acres of land, but soon afterward sold that tract and bought another farm in the same township. The second farm he subsequently sold and then went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Reynolds, dying at her home at the advanced age of ninety-three years. He was always a staunch Republican from the formation of the party and was at one time a member of the Christian church, but later in life joined the United Brethren church. His life was honorable and upright and he left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name.

Andrew Garrett spent his childhood days in Indiana, remaining

with his parents until about twenty-two years of age, when, desiring to have a home of his own, he completed his arrangements for this by his marriage to Miss Hester Crocker, a native of Pennsylvania, in which state she spent her early childhood, remaining with her parents until her marriage. Eleven children have been born to them, six sons and five daughters, of whom eight are yet living, namely: Marion; Thomas A.; Elizabeth, the wife of Perry Nelson, of Deep River, Iowa; Samuel E.; Grant; Frances, the wife of Delmar Hewitt; Ida May, the wife of Henry Bell; and Earnest.

After his marriage Mr. Garrett located upon a farm of eighty acres in Washington township and made his home thereon for two years. He then removed to the farm where he now lives and at one time had a large tract of land here and was extensively engaged in general farming, but of recent years he has sold all of the place with the exception of eighty acres, which he has under a high state of improvement, equipped with the accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century. His farm work has been the means of bringing to him a comfortable competence and his career has been a prosperous one, owing to his diligence and capable management. When age gave him the right of franchise he cast his ballot for the men and measures of the Republican party and has since followed its banner. He is a member of the Kendrick Chapel Methodist Episcopal church and is found as a friend of all measures for the promotion of the county's best interests.

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LEVI ATTIG.

A representative of the agricultural interests of Keokuk county for many years, Levi Attig is now living retired. He is one of the early set-

tlers of this portion of the state and has therefore been an interested witness of the growth and development which have wrought a marvelous transformation here. He was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, January 22, 1831, and is a son of George and Susan (Gable) Attig. The father, also a native of the Keystone state, spent his entire life there and throughout his business career worked at the tailor's trade, following that pursuit until he reached an advanced age. In his political views he was a stalwart Democrat in early life, but on the organization of the Republican party joined its ranks and continued one of its faithful followers until his death. His religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Winebremerian church, or Church of God. He died in 1870 at the age of sixty-seven years. He had married in 1828 in Perry county, Pennsylvania, and his wife, who bore the maiden name of Susan Gable, was, like him, a native of the Keystone state. They became the parents of six children, five sons and one daughter. Mrs. Attig had been previously married and had one son by that union, Samuel Melenicon. The children born of the second marriage were: Valentine G., now deceased; Levi, the subject of this review; William, deceased; Peter; Lydia, who is also deceased; and Henry H.

Levi Attig spent his early childhood days in Perry county, Pennsylvania, and from the age of fifteen years was dependent upon his own resources for a living. He was first employed as a farm laborer and about 1851 secured a position as a boatman on the Pennsylvania canal, following that pursuit for two years. He afterward worked at rail-roading for about twenty-two years, but at the time of the Civil war he put aside all business and personal considerations and offered his services to the government, enlisting in August, 1862. He became one of the boys in blue of Company I, One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsyl-



vania Infantry, and was at the front for nine months, after which he was mustered out at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He took part in the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville and was ever found at his post of duty as a loyal defender of the old flag. After his discharge he again followed railroading until March, 1875.

In the meantime Mr. Attig was married, his wedding being celebrated on the 23d of December, 1852, in Perry county, Pennsylvania, when Miss Barbara Kunkle became his wife. The lady was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters: George, William D., Mary C., Elsmore, Harry S., Laura A., the wife of Charles Leathers; and Cora, the wife of George Sides. Of the above named, George and Mary C. are now deceased. All of these children were born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, and with their parents came to Iowa.

On emigrating westward Mr. Attig took up his abode near Talleyrand, Keokuk county, where he remained for about two years and then removed to Washington township, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres of improved land, which he still owns. This is under a good state of cultivation and annually returns to Mr. Attig a good income. He has followed farming since he came to Iowa until a recent date and now is practically living retired from further labor. In 1898 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 10th of January, of that year, at her home in Washington township when sixty-seven years of age. On the 12th of September, 1899, Mr. Attig was again married, his second union being with Elizabeth M. Earnest, a native of Perry county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of John H. Earnest, a resident of that county. She was the widow of Theophilus Miller and by her first marriage had three children, all of whom are yet living.

namely: Emery E.; Josephine L., the wife of William Fickes; and Edward A.

Mr. Attig belongs to Chicago Lodge No. 385, Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Delta, and is a staunch advocate of the Republican party, having supported its men and measures from the time it was formed. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Springfield and is ever loyal to its interests, contributing liberally to its support and doing all in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence. He has now passed the Psalmist's span of three-score years and ten and in the evening of life he receives the respect and veneration of his fellow-men because his has been an honorable and upright career.



#### SAMUEL E. HEATON.

Prominent among the business men of Webster is numbered Samuel E. Heaton, an enterprising hardware dealer. No one in the locality is better known, for here his entire life has been spent, and all of his interests from boyhood have been closely associated with those of the locality. In business he has met with good success, and by the energy and zeal which he has manifested he has won the confidence and esteem of the public.

A native of this county, Mr. Heaton was born in English River township, July 27, 1862, and is a son of Lemuel H. Heaton, whose birth occurred in Tiffin, Ohio, in 1830. At the age of seven years the latter accompanied his mother on her removal to Greene county, Pennsylvania, his father having died when he was quite young, and there he was reared and educated, making it his home until coming to Iowa in 1850. He took up his residence in English River township, Keokuk

county, where he first purchased a tract of eighty acres and later bought one hundred and twenty acres which he still owns. To the improvement and cultivation of this land he devotes his energies, being successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He married Miss Charlotte Bell, a native of Greene county, Pennsylvania, where her early life was passed and where her education was obtained. She is the daughter of Canada Bell, a farmer of that county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Heaton were born four children, three sons and one daughter, as follows: John, William, Samuel E. and Laura.

Samuel E. Heaton lived at home with his parents in English River township until twenty years of age and is indebted to the schools of the neighborhood for the educational advantages he enjoyed. Later he engaged in carpentering for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, remaining in the employ of that corporation for five years, and then bought a hardware stock in Webster, Iowa, where he has since carried on business along that line with marked success, having by fair and honorable dealing built up a good trade. Since casting his first presidential vote he has supported the men and measures of the Republican party and takes an active interest in political affairs, as every true American citizen should. He is one of the wide-awake business men of the town of Webster and is highly esteemed. On the 29th day of April, 1894, Mr. Heaton married Lizzie Hurst, daughter of A. S. Hurst, of whom mention appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Heaton was born and reared in Keokuk county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Heaton were born two children: Fern and Roy.

## WILLIAM H. YOUNG.

The above named gentleman has been prominently identified with the growth of the enterprising town of Hedrick since its inception. He is responsible for much of its material growth and prosperity. He is at the present time president of the First National Bank and is also president of the Hedrick State Savings Bank, both of Hedrick. His nativity dates in the Hoosier state, where he was born in Clark county, April 11, 1842. He is the son of James B. Young, also a native of Clark county, Indiana, who brought his family to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1854, locating at Twin Groves, in Steady Run township, where he continued to reside until his death at the age of seventy-one years. He, in his earlier years, was a staunch Whig and later became a prominent supporter of the Republican party. He always took an active interest in matters pertaining to the advancement of his immediate community and served on the school board of his district for many years. He was a blacksmith and wagonmaker in his early manhood, but after coming to Iowa followed agricultural pursuits in connection therewith. The grandfather of our subject was John A. Young, a native of the Keystone state. He became an early settler of Clark county, Indiana, where he lived until his death. On the maternal side of the family our subject's mother was Evaline Nugent, she being a native of Clark county, Indiana, where she was reared and married. She lived to the extreme old age of eighty-five years. Her father before her had been born in the Blue-grass state and was of Scotch-Irish descent. He also was one of the very earliest settlers of Clark county, Indiana, and was a weaver by trade and also farmed.

Mr. Young is a member of a family of ten children, three daugh-

ters and seven sons, all of whom grew to maturity and married. He is the second child. He came to Keokuk county in 1854 with the family, he at that time being twelve years of age. His early education was acquired in the elementary schools of the district. He remained at home engaged in the labors of the farm until the rumblings which had been heard all during the fifties burst in the storm of the Civil war in the sixties. He watched the progress of events with a great deal of interest, and when the call was made for troops his inherent patriotism was signally exemplified in his enlistment in September, 1861, in Company D, of the Thirteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, as a private soldier. He went immediately to the front and arrived in time to take part in that sanguinary conflict which the northern army denominated Shiloh. This was followed by Corinth and by the operations about Vicksburg. Upon the fall of Vicksburg his company became part of the troops which were sent to take part in the Atlanta campaign. During this campaign, on the 22d of July, 1864, he, together with a number of his comrades, was taken prisoner, and they were sent to the famous prison of Andersonville. He remained in this prison until October of the same year, when he was taken to Florence, South Carolina, where he remained until February 24, 1865, when he was removed to Richmond, Virginia, and there paroled. After a short furlough at home he returned to his regiment and was present at the grand review of the troops in Washington, D. C. He received his discharge in August of 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky, where his regiment was mustered out, having been in the service four years lacking one month.

Upon his return home he took up the life of an agriculturist, in which pursuit he engaged for several years. He later engaged in business in Martinsburg, and in 1877 sold out and bought the farm

which he now owns, and on which he lived until 1880. In that year he was elected county treasurer and moved to the county seat, Sigourney. After serving one term, he, in company with Hon. J. T. Brooks, bought in 1882 what was known as the Waugh farm, on which they laid out the present town of Hedrick. In 1883 he and Mr. Brooks established the Bank of Hedrick, a private institution, which was merged in 1899 into the Hedrick State Savings Bank. In 1900 Mr. Young became interested with others in the organization of the First National Bank of Hedrick, with Mr. Young as president. He is also interested in company with Hon. John Morrison and Mr. Brooks in a large flouring mill at Hedrick. He has served one term as member of the county board of supervisors of the county, and has always taken a very prominent interest in the political life of the county as a Republican.

Mr. Young was married in October of 1869 to Elizabeth M. Hursey, a daughter of William and Margaret (Donald) Hursey, a family who are pioneers in Keokuk county. Mrs. Young was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and is the mother of a family of three children. One of them died in infancy. Hattie, the eldest daughter, is the wife of Rev. L. C. Clark, Methodist minister. Waldo W., the son, is a student at Cornell College, of Mount Vernon. Mr. Young is a genial and social gentleman, and is a prominent and worthy member of Garfield Lodge No. 485, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is also a member of the J. M. Hedrick Post, No. 424, of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a public spirited and progressive citizen, a man of sterling worth and high moral character, and he and his good wife are esteemed by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances.

SAMUEL GILLFOY.

Samuel Gillfoy, a retired mine operator, living in What Cheer, Iowa, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on the 4th of January, 1828, and bears in his veins some of the best blood of our early colonists. His paternal grandfather, Samuel Gillfoy, served with distinction as an officer in the Revolutionary war under General Washington. He was a native of Virginia and was of Scotch-Irish descent. Our subject's father, who also bore the name of Samuel Gillfoy, was born and reared in Maryland, removed to Illinois in 1840, locating near the city of Peoria in Peoria county, but later settled in Havana, Mason county, that state, where his death occurred in 1857. By occupation he was an engineer. He held membership in the Methodist Protestant church and took quite an active part in its work. Politically he was a Douglas Democrat and was honored with various city offices, being quite active and prominent in municipal affairs. He was twice married, his first wife being Mary Clements, who was also a native of Maryland and died when about twenty-seven years of age. She was of Irish lineage. The only child born of this union was our subject. For his second wife the father married Mary A. Carver, by whom he had two daughters.

When the subject of this sketch was but three years old his father removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, and ten years later the family took up their residence in Illinois, where our subject grew to manhood, remaining with his father until he had attained the age of twenty. He then started out in life for himself, being first engaged in the sawmill business near Peoria for about three years. On the expiration of that period he was appointed general manager of the Kingston coal mine, which at that time was the largest in Illinois, and he filled the position

of superintendent for ten years. He next engaged in the coal mining business on his own account at Mapleton, continuing there until his removal to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1879, at the solicitation of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad Company. Locating at What Cheer he opened a mine called Shaft A, and later became general manager of all the principal mines of the place, operating them until the supply of coal was exhausted, which took about nine years. In the meantime Mr. Gillfooy had been appointed general agent for the lot association, which owned a large part of the present site of What Cheer, and he held that position until most of the lots were disposed of. He then opened another coal mine as general manager for C. D. Ives, but resigned at the end of nine months and retired from active business to enjoy a well earned rest.

On the 3d of October, 1850, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Gillfooy and Miss Margaret J. Tharty, who was born in Pekin, Illinois, where her childhood was passed; they have become the parents of twelve children, namely: Edward C., Hiram, Mary A., Rosa M., George, Laura, Emma, and Margaret, who are still living, while Samuel, James, Frank and Samuel, second, are now deceased. The Democratic party has always found in Mr. Gillfooy a stalwart supporter of its principles, and while residing in Illinois he held a number of local offices. He has also served as a member of the school board in What Cheer for twelve years, and has ever given his support to those enterprises calculated to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of his community. For half a century he has been connected with the Masonic fraternity, having attained to the twentieth degree, and he has filled all the chairs in the Blue lodge, of which he is a prominent and active member. He eminently deserves classification among the purely self-made men of the



county, who have distinguished themselves for their ability to master the opposing forces of life and to wrest from fate a fair measure of success and an honorable name.

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HENRY CRANDALL ROSECRANS.

Among the prominent and representative citizens of Keokuk county is numbered Henry C. Rosecrans, who is now engaged in merchandising at What Cheer. He was born in Delaware county, Ohio, on Christmas day, 1824, and is descended from an old and honored Pennsylvania family of Holland origin, his ancestors having come to this country from Amsterdam in colonial days. His paternal grandfather was Daniel Rosecrans, a native of the Keystone state. His father, Crandall Rosecrans, was born in Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, August 16, 1794, and when a boy of nine years removed from that state to Delaware county, Ohio, with his parents. It was there that he was reared and educated and after reaching manhood he engaged in farming and in contracting on the Ohio canal. He was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of his community and was appointed captain of the Ohio militia by the governor of the state. He also served as justice of the peace and associate judge of the district court of Licking county, Ohio; he proved a most popular official, his decisions being fair and impartial. He died at Homer, that state, at the age of fifty-two years, honored and respected by all who knew him. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Jamima Hopkins, was also born in Pennsylvania, in 1797, and died in 1868. She was a second cousin of the Hopkins who signed the Declaration of Independence, and her ancestors were probably of English descent. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rosecrans were born five sons,

one of whom died in infancy. The others were General William S. Rosecrans, whose fame as an officer in the Civil war is excelled by but few of those who were in command of our Northern army during the dark days of the Rebellion; Charles Wesley; Henry Crandall; and Sylvester H.

Of this family the subject of this review is now the only one living. He grew to manhood in Licking county, Ohio, whither his parents removed when he was about four years old, his early life being mainly passed in the town of Homer. His education was somewhat limited, as he was only able to attend school for about three months during the year for five years, and as Homer, at that time, had only a population of one hundred the schools were not of the best. He remained with his father, assisting him in his business until after the Mexican war broke out. In 1846, on the second call of the government for volunteers, Mr. Rosecrans enlisted as a private in Captain John R. Duncan's company. The governor had offered to give the company that presented itself first for duty the privilege of being mounted on their own horses, and Mr. Rosecrans' company was the one to receive this honor. He remained in the service for fifteen months or until the close of the war, and after receiving an honorable discharge he returned to Licking county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming and school teaching for a year.

In 1849 Mr. Rosecrans married Miss Elizabeth Dickey, who was born in Licking county, October 24, 1823, the only child of Joseph and Catherine (Sillins) Dickey, who were from Virginia and were pioneers of Licking county. By occupation her father was also a farmer and teacher. After receiving a good common school education she, too, taught school for about six years in her native county. She is still

living and has been to her husband a faithful companion and helpmate for over fifty-three years. They are the parents of four children who are still living, namely: Menga Oveda, wife of Richard Burke of Oskaloosa, Iowa; Adrain D., a telegraph operator for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad at What Cheer; William J., at home; and Henry S., a resident of Oskaloosa.

Ten days after his marriage Mr. Rosecrans came to Iowa on horseback, leaving his bride in Ohio, and he located a land warrant in Sigourney township, Keokuk county, where he remained during the winter. The following spring he crossed the plains with ox teams and after a long and tedious journey arrived on the Pacific slope in September. He spent about a year in California, and in September, 1851, returned east by way of Panama and New York, and spent the following winter at his old home in Ohio. In the spring of 1852, in company with his wife, he again came to Iowa, traveling this time by team and wagon, and they took up their residence in Washington county, where Mr. Rosecrans engaged in farming until 1882. The following year he was engaged in the lumber business and then resumed farming, which he continued to carry on until 1889, when he sold his place in Washington county and bought a mill in Sigourney, which he conducted for about eight years. After disposing of his mill property Mr. Rosecrans embarked in merchandising at What Cheer, where he still carries on business with good success, having by fair and honorable dealing built up a good trade.

Politically Mr. Rosecrans has been a life-long Democrat, never wavering in his allegiance to that party, and he has been honored with a number of local offices. He is a member of the Catholic church, having been converted to that belief, and is a brother of Rev. S. H. Rosecrans,

a prominent clergyman of that denomination, who was bishop of the diocese of Columbus, Ohio. His life has been manly, his actions sincere and his example is well worthy of emulation.



#### O. D. LAWRENCE, M. D.

Dr. O. D. Lawrence is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at What Cheer, Iowa, and has that love for and devotion to his profession which have brought to him success and won for him a place among the ablest representatives of the medical fraternity in Keokuk county. The Doctor was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, July 5, 1844, and on the paternal side is probably of English descent, though the family have resided in this country for several generations. His grandfather, James Lawrence, was a native of Vermont and died in Wisconsin at the advanced age of ninety years.

James R. Lawrence, the Doctor's father, was born in Addison county, Vermont, December 13, 1807, and throughout life followed the occupation of a farmer. On leaving his native state he removed to New York and in 1845 took up his residence in Morrow county, Ohio, where he made his home until coming to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1854. Settling upon a tract of land in Washington township, which he entered from the government, he there improved a farm, continuing its cultivation until his death, which occurred on the 20th of December, 1879. Politically he was at first a supporter of the Whig party and later the Republican and he always took a commendable interest in public affairs. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Claramon Spaulding, was also a native of the Green Mountain state, born in Rutland

county, Vermont, June 22, 1813, and died June 22, 1884, at Uinta, Utah. Her father, was Stephen Greeley Spaulding, his mother having belonged to the noted Greeley family. On the paternal side his family was of German origin, and his ancestors settled in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1626. He was born in that city on the 28th of October, 1766, and died in Essex county, New York, October 19, 1853. During the Revolutionary war he entered the Colonial army at the age of twelve years as a cook and at fifteen shouldered a musket, serving as a private soldier during the last three years of the struggle for independence and participating in the battle of Yorktown. Dr. Lawrence is the youngest son and third child in a family of five children, the others being as follows: Coral S., who died in Kansas in 1901; Miles, now a resident of Glenns Ferry, Idaho; Malinda, wife of John J. Smith of Bonner Springs, Kansas; and Joanna, who died October 21, 1868.

The Doctor was only a year old on the removal of the family to Morrow county, Ohio, and the fall after he had attained the age of ten years they came to Keokuk county, Iowa. He began his education in the former county and later attended the district schools of this county, though his literary education was principally acquired by reading and study at home. Until twenty years of age he gave his father the benefit of his labors in the operation of the home farm and the following two years worked on the farm of W. W. Thomas. On leaving the employ of that gentleman he made a trip to Indiana by team.

Returning to this county Dr. Lawrence was married on Christmas day, 1867, to Miss Elizabeth Thomas, a daughter of W. W. Thomas, with whom he continued to engage in farming until 1873, when he took up the study of medicine. On the 3d of September, that year, he went to Chicago and entered the Bennett Eclectic Medical College,

where he was graduated in 1874 with the degree of M. D., and has since successfully engaged in the practice of his chosen profession at What Cheer.

By his first marriage Dr. Lawrence had six children, namely: Minnie M. is now the wife of William Palmer, a farmer of Tyler, Minnesota, and has three children, Mildred, Ethel and the baby. Hode B., who is now clerking in What Cheer, married Amy Irwin of Keswick and has one son, Alton. Bert is at home with his parents. Charlie, a railroad man living in Madison, South Dakota, married Isabel Woolstoncroff and they have two daughters, Eunice and a baby. Daisy is the wife of Henry Thompson and has one son, Rufus. Frank married Maud Brainard and is now engaged in farming in Warren township, this county. The mother of these children died in 1892 and the Doctor was again married on the 8th of October, 1895, his second union being with Margaret Simpson. Fraternally he is a prominent Mason, belonging to Universe Lodge, No. 242, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and Excelsior Chapter, No. 106, Royal Arch Mason, and politically he is identified with the Democratic party. A pleasant, genial gentleman, the Doctor wins friends wherever he goes, and is very popular with all classes of people.

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#### IRVIN OGDEN.

What Cheer is the somewhat odd name of a pretty little town situated in Keokuk county, Iowa. It is on the branch of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad, twenty miles northeast of Oskaloosa, and is the center of an important mining industry, which adds considerable to the business prosperity of the town and surrounding country. Though not a place of great size What Cheer will compare

favorably with places of larger population, as in addition to coal mining it has the benefit of vicinity to one of the finest agricultural sections of the state, noted for its fertile land and abundant produce. Not the least interesting feature of this prairie town and certainly an important aid to its enterprises is a newspaper called the **Patriot**, and the fact that it is published twice a week shows not only that it is appreciated but that it has an up-to-date editor and proprietor in charge. It is for the purpose of telling the readers of this volume something about this gentleman that this brief biography has been prepared, and its persual will disclose the leading events in his social and business life.

It was in the summer of 1867 that F. J. and M. C. Ogden, husband and wife, decided to leave their old home at Blooming Grove in Franklin county, Indiana, and seek better opportunities in the rapidly growing commonwealth of Iowa. They made the intervening distance by team, as the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific was then the only railroad crossing Iowa, and it is needless to say that the journey was long and tedious. When they reached Keokuk county this little family of Hoosiers settled in Prairie township, which was at that time a sparsely settled community thirty miles from any railroad and giving little promise of the bloming prosperity that has since come upon it as part of the greatest agricultural state in the Union. The parents arrived in July, 1867, and it was in September of the following fall that Irvin Ogden, their youngest son, was born. Though an occurrence of this kind is not usually regarded as sensational, it seems that Master Ogden's advent into the world created somewhat of a stir in Prairie township, owing to the fact that the population was scattered and babies were somewhat of a rarity at that time. However this may be, it is duly recorded that the future editor made his entry without misadventure and announced his

appearance with the lusty-lunged vociferation characteristic of infancy. It was noticed also a little afterward not only by the fond parents but by the admiring neighbors that the latest heir to the name of Ogden was an unusually bright boy and gave promise of an unusually successful career in whatever he undertook. Schools were rather scarce in the neighborhood in those days, and such as they were hardly ranked above the average, so Master Ogden was not given the early educational advantages which later in life he would liked to have been his youthful portion. But he learned farm work and became acquainted with practical affairs, to say nothing of the health of mind and body which comes only from contact with mother earth. This routine continued until he was seventeen years of age, from which time on for four years he divided his labors between the bituminous coal mines, then recently discovered, and his duties on the home farm. In the fall of 1888, about the time he reached that proud period called the majority and longingly looked forward to by all boys, he celebrated the event by taking a trip to Nebraska, but his stay there was cut short in the following summer by a summons to return on account of the death of his father. Shortly after coming back he purchased an interest in the North Star mine on the old homestead, but next year sold this and bought his older brother's share of the farm. For six years thereafter, while living with his brother on the farm, he was busily employed in the coal mines, and in this capacity proved himself to be a very valuable man to his employers. The truth is, and it was then fully manifested, that Irvin Ogden is a very ingenious-minded man with a natural talent for mechanics and machinery and a thorough understanding of the principles underlying most labor-saving devices. His mind is not only original but inventive, and he knows how to make machinery as well as



run it. So, while working "down in the coal mines underneath the ground" or managing operations on the surface, there was seldom a difficulty which he could not meet or a problem which he could not solve. He acted as engineer, weighman, or in any other capacity called for around coal mines, and was always ready with some device to make things go along more smoothly and profitably.

But Mr. Ogden had an ambition entirely aside from coal mines or farm work, and this was to own, edit and publish a newspaper, through which he could talk directly to the people and advocate any theory or cause in which he was interested. This aspiration was at length put in the way of realization by the sale of his royalties to the North Star Mining Company when that corporation with added capital opened up on a large scale. With the money thus received he purchased a half interest in the What Cheer Patriot, and with A. H. Holland as a partner commenced the publication of that bright periodical in 1895. The time which has elapsed since the maturing of his newspaper schemes has amply demonstrated that Mr. Ogden has a fitness for the business, as he showed aptitude in all its various branches from the start. His mechanical ingenuity enabled him to greatly improve the plant by putting in power, getting a new dress and rearranging and refurnishing everything about the office. In March, 1901, he bought the interest of his partner, and since then has been sole editor and proprietor. About the same time he received the appointment as postmaster, and with the assistance of his wife and deputy, George M. Paull, conducts both his office and newspaper with the efficiency and vigor that characterize all his operations. The Patriot was established in 1880, and enjoys the confidence of a large circle of readers, which extends beyond the confines of the county of publication. It is especially popular with

farmers, among whom the editor grew up and with whose needs and aspirations he is thoroughly familiar.

August 11, 1895, the same year that witnessed the culmination of his newspaper venture, Mr. Ogden was married to Miss Eva O. Humes, descendant of an old Ohio family, and in the following November went to housekeeping in the handsome residence constructed especially for their home. As he is still a young man Mr. Ogden's admirers confidently predict for him a prosperous future. He is popular with the younger element now at the front in Iowa Republican politics, and as he has adaptability and address as well as talent there seems no reason why he should not aspire to a conspicuous place in public life. His social standing is manifested by his popularity in that peculiarly young men's fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, and he is a regular attendant at the grand lodge of this numerous and widely diversified order. Altogether Mr. Ogden is a pleasant young man to know, and he is also one from whom it is possible to learn much that is useful and much that is interesting.



#### W. W. NEWSOME, M. D.

Dr. W. W. Newsome is a skilled physician and surgeon of South English, Iowa, whose knowledge of the science of medicine is broad and comprehensive, and whose ability in applying its principles to the needs of suffering humanity has gained him an enviable prestige in professional circles. The Doctor was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, England, May 12, 1843, his parents being William and Sarah (DeGarrs) Newsome, the former a native of Leeds, England, the latter of Bradford. The father was a contractor by occupation, brought his family to

America about 1848 and located at Athens, Ohio, but in 1852 he came to Iowa, and after spending some time in Burlington took up his residence in Crawfordsville, Washington county, where he continued to make his home throughout the remainder of his life, dying there at the age of fifty-one years. His wife, who long survived him, was nearly ninety-four years of age at the time of her death. She was a sister of Henry DeGarrs, a noted man of England, and she became a very eminent woman. She was highly educated and well versed in the Bible, being an earnest, consistent Christian, who was loved and respected by all who knew her. She was the mother of seven children, namely; Mary Ann, who died in infancy; Alfred, who was also a physician and is now deceased; W. W., of this review; Walter, who is engaged in the practice of medicine; Sally, the wife of J. H. Taylor of Chicago; Mary N., the wife of J. D. Stull of Iowa City; and William Henry, who died at the age of seventeen years.

Dr. W. W. Newsome was only five years old when he came with the family to the new world in 1848. His literary education was completed in the academy or high school at Crawfordsville, Iowa, and he began the preparation for his chosen profession in the medical department of the State University of Iowa, then located at Keokuk, where he was graduated in June, 1863. He began practice as assistant surgeon in the Estis hospital under Dr. Corns of Tama City, and by the practical knowledge which he gained there he was well fitted for private practice on locating in South English in the fall of 1863. His skill and ability in his profession were soon widely recognized, winning for him a large and lucrative practice which he still enjoys. To-day he is the second oldest physician in the county and ranks among the first in professional ability.

On the 3rd of May, 1902, Dr. Newsome was united in marriage to Mrs. Helen Ludington, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Rev. Charles Bachelor. She first married Harry Ludington, a son of Governor Ludington of Wisconsin, who was a very wealthy man. She is a noted singer, possessing a highly cultivated contralto voice of remarkable sweetness, having pursued her musical education abroad at a cost of twenty thousand dollars. She has sung in London, England, Paris, Mexico and South America, as well as all over this country, and has won the highest praise from the best of critics wherever she has appeared.

Fraternally the Doctor is a prominent member of Naphtali Lodge, No. 188, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of South English, of which he was worshipful master for seven years, and he is also an Odd Fellow. Since attaining his majority he has been unwavering in his support of the Republican party and its principles, and has taken a commendable interest in public affairs. In connection with his profession he holds membership in the County Medical Society, and is regarded as one of the leading physicians of this section of the state. A pleasant, genial gentleman, he is quite popular both in social and professional circles.



#### WILLIAM HENRY SMITH.

W. H. Smith, of South English, Iowa, is now living a retired life in the enjoyment of a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves by reason of his industrious efforts of former years. Accomplishment and progress ever imply labor, energy and diligence, and it was those labors that enabled our subject to rise from the ranks of the

many and stand among the successful few. He is now one of the highly respected citizens of South English, and his long residence in Keokuk county and the active part he has taken in its development well entitle him to representation in its history.

Mr. Smith was born on the 10th of March, 1840, in Preston county, West Virginia, of which state his parents, Christian and Charlotte (Cress) Smith, were also natives. There the family continued to make their home until 1856, when they came to Iowa and took up their residence in Washington county. At the end of three years, however, they removed to Keokuk county and settled in Liberty township, where the father died at the age of seventy-nine years. The mother is still living and is now eighty-one years of age. In their family were ten children, five sons and five daughters, of whom our subject was the second son and second child.

The first sixteen years of his life W. H. Smith spent in the county of his nativity and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Washington county, Iowa, and later to Keokuk county. When the country became involved in civil war he joined the boys in blue, enlisting August 9, 1862., in Company H, Thirty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry, as a private, for three years' service. With his command he participated in the engagements at Helena and Little Rock, Arkansas, and others, and being slightly wounded by a spent ball at Helena, he was confined to the hospital for four days. He was in active service during his entire term with exception of two months and was a good soldier, always found at his post of duty, gallantly defending the old flag and the cause it represented. At the close of the war he received an honorable discharge at Davenport, Iowa, on the 8th of August, 1865, and he returned to his home in Keokuk county to resume

the more quiet pursuits of farm life, carrying on operations in Liberty township.

On the 1st of June, 1867, Mr. Smith married Miss Jemette Lutton, a native of Pennsylvania, who was quite young when she came to Iowa. She was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1842, and is a daughter of John and Mary (Springer) Lutton, both natives of Lawrence county, Pennsylvania. Her paternal grandparents were born in Ireland, but maternally Mrs. Smith is of German descent. Her parents were married in Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Iowa in 1854 and settled in Keokuk county, where they both died. They had ten children, all of whom lived to be grown, but only three are now living. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith has been born one son, Earl, now an attorney of Mason City, Iowa. After following farming in Liberty township for many years, Mr. Smith removed to South English in 1889 and was engaged in the lumber business at that place until 1902, when he sold out and has since lived retired, enjoying the fruits of former toil. He is still the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and ninety-six and a half acres of land in Liberty township, which he rents, and is to-day one of the well-to-do, as well as one of the most highly esteemed citizens of his community. He is an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and also belongs to Naphtali Lodge, No. 188, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. In his political views he is a staunch Republican, and religiously is an earnest and consistent member of the Christian church, of which Mrs. Smith also is a member.



LEVI S. HINSHAW.

This volume will be found to make mention of a large number of the pioneers of the county who came here in an early day and braved the

hardships and endured the trials that were necessary in order to pave the way for the future marvelous development of the county. They are a race of people which are rapidly passing away, but their places are being taken by their sons, who in many cases have endured many of these same hardships, and have been reared to lives of hardest toil, and have learned the lessons of thrift and economy in the school of experience. The gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph is a son of one of the earliest settlers of the county, and has himself been connected with the life of the county for a period of fifty-six years. Mr. Hinshaw was born in Hendricks county, Indiana, on the 28th of April, 1842, being the son of Ira and Julia A. (Faulkner) Hinshaw.

The Hinshaws removed from North Carolina to Jefferson county, Tennessee, the first member of the family of whom we have information as to the name being the grandfather of our subject, Ezra Hinshaw. The family was originally from England, and were of that noble band of Quakers who settled in large numbers in this country, owing to their repugnance to monarchical institutions. Ira Hinshaw, the father of our honored subject, was reared to hard labor on a Tennessee farm and at the age of sixteen years removed with the family to Indiana. Here he attained his majority and married and engaged in farming for a period, when in 1846 he joined the tide of immigration that had set in from the east and came to Iowa. He located in Richland township about one mile southeast of where the village was laid out, and bought eighty acres of virgin prairie land from Mr. W. A. Woodward. Here he remained a period of two years, and then purchased another eighty acres known as the Funston farm and owned now by Alson Jones. Mr. Hinshaw was an excellent farmer, but finally sold out his farming interests and engaged in the merchantile business in

the village of Richland in company with a gentleman named Samuel Brown. Mr. Hinshaw is remembered as being a man of shrewd business tact and was a great trader in real estate and other property during his day. He lived to the advanced age of eighty years and was a man during his lifetime whose strong personality made him many friends. He was prominently identified with the public life in the different communities in which he lived. He was an earnest sympathizer with the Whig party, and served a period as postmaster under President Taylor's administration. He was a devout member of the Friends church, and is remembered as a gentleman who was worthy in every respect of the esteem of his associates. The mother of our subject was a native of Greene county, Ohio, and was not quite grown to womanhood when she removed from that state with her parents to Indiana, where she married Mr. Hinshaw. She is still living and is a comparatively hale and hearty woman at seventy-eight years of age. She was the daughter of Jesse Faulkner, who in his turn was a native of Virginia. They were early settlers in Indiana, where the father was a prominent farmer and where he continued to live until his death. The family are of mixed Scotch and English origin.

Our worthy subject was the only child of this marriage, and was but four years old when his parents removed to Keokuk county. He passed his boyhood in hard labor on the farm, receiving rather a limited education in the Richland village schools. The first event of importance in his life time was the great Civil war, which found him a young man of nineteen years of age, in good health and intensely interested in the conflict between the north and the south. He was one of the first to enlist in the service, becoming a musician in Company K of the Seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry in the spring of 1861. He was



the drummer for this company and went to the front, where he was actively engaged in the service until the late fall, when his health failing him, he was given an honorable discharge on account of disability. Returning from the service he became associated with his father in a mill business, which they conducted until 1865. This marks the beginning of his activity in the agricultural line, he at that time purchasing what is known as the Frank Vastine farm, one and a half miles northwest of the village of Richland. He continued engaged in active labor on the farm for a period of five years, when he sold out and rented a place for the following two years. Becoming dissatisfied with Keokuk county, Mr. Hinshaw then went west to Cass county, Iowa, and engaged in farming for the following twelve years. He however returned to his first love, and has since been connected with the advancement and progress of Keokuk county. For two years after his return, he continued his farming operations and then removed into the town of Richland, where he has since resided.

Mr. Hinshaw celebrated his marriage with Miss Frances J. Hollingsworth upon the 30th of August, 1865. This lady was a native of Richland township, and was the daughter of John and Jane (Holiday) Hollingsworth, one of the worthy pioneer families of Keokuk county. This lady became the mother of two children, Charles E., and Jennie; the daughter is the wife of J. F. Witcher, a prominent stockman of the Black Hills country. The mother of these children died November 23, 1897, having been a woman of most estimable character. As stated, she was the daughter of one of the old pioneers, her father having come to the county in a very early day and entered what has been known since that time as the Wesley Hollingsworth farm. He was

a man of considerable prominence in his day, but his career was cut short at middle age by his untimely decease.

Mr. Hinshaw and his family are held in the highest esteem in Richland, where he is prominently identified with the social and business life of the community. He is an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is a worthy member of the Christian church. In political matters Mr. Hinshaw follows the teachings of his lamented father and is a worker in the ranks of the Republican party, his first vote having been cast for the immortal Lincoln in 1864. During his lifetime he has been honored at times with public office. While in Cass county he was for a period of eight years the president of the school board of his community and acted for a period as justice of the peace. Since coming to Richland he has acted for a term of three years as justice of the peace and has been secretary of the board of education. Mr. Hinshaw is found at all times ready to engage in any enterprise that looks to the advancement of his community, and is a gentleman whose standing and family history are such as to merit this brief and imperfect notice in this volume dedicated to the representative citizens of Keokuk county.



#### WILLIAM LAWSON.

William Lawson, a highly respected agriculturist of Steady Run, now residing on the fine old homestead in section 30, has attained prosperity and influence largely through the conscientious performance of filial duties and by following closely in the footsteps of his father. During his youth he was a co-worker with his father, and upon the death of the latter fell heir to a part of the family estate. And here,

since a lad, he has spent his life in the development of its large resources. Born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, March 7, 1825, he is the son of Hugh and Nancy (Murphy) Lawson, well-to-do farming people.

Hugh Lawson was one of those sturdy, hard-working Irishmen who have done so much for the development of the agricultural resources of this country. Born in Ireland in 1786, when but six weeks old he was taken by his parents to this country, and soon afterward to a Pennsylvania farm, where they made their home for the rest of their lives. Here the son received the education and rearing of an ordinary American farm lad. Upon reaching manhood he did not shun the labor to which he had been trained, and with a steadfast purpose settled upon a farm of his own. During this period, while still residing in Pennsylvania, he married Nancy Murphy, who was of Scotch descent, but who was born and reared in Pennsylvania. Of this union there were ten children, six sons and four daughters: James; William, who is mentioned below; David and Elizabeth, both now deceased; Thomas; Sarah; Joseph, now deceased; Agnes; Matilda, now deceased; and John. The first eight were born in Pennsylvania, the two youngest in Indiana. Possessed of that courage and determination which scorns fear of privation and hardship, Mr. Lawson, in 1834, boldly left his comfortable Pennsylvania home and moved to a pioneer farm in the newly settled region of Indiana. Here he spent twelve years in clearing up the place, making it during that time one of the most valuable pieces of property in the vicinity. His success encouraged him in the course of time to take a hand in the opening up of the farther west, and in 1846 he moved to Iowa. He spent the winter in Westpoint, looking for a suitable location, and in the spring of 1847 took a one hundred and

sixty acre farm in Keokuk county, which is now in the possession of his sons. He spent many years of hard work in clearing and improving the place, and as a result had in time one of the choicest farms in the vicinity. Being among the first settlers, he had the pick of the land in the county, a fact of which the place still bears evidence. A man of vigorous constitution, he lived to the advanced age of eighty-seven. He died on the farm in Keokuk county, where he had spent the best days of his life. Mr. Lawson was a zealous patriot all his life. When the war of 1812 broke out he enlisted and did some valiant service for his country. As a Democrat he took a lively interest in politics and was very influential. A large capacity for work and an unwavering purpose in life obtained for him in time a very solid prosperity.

William Lawson as a child saw a great deal of pioneer life. Very young when his parents left the Pennsylvania farm, he spent twelve years of his early life on the Indiana farm. Later he moved with his parents to Steady Run, Iowa, where he received a little schooling and a great deal of discipline in rough farm labor. The work was not, however, without its compensation, and he acquired in time a practical knowledge of agriculture, which has been invaluable to him in later years. For a long time he assisted his father in the management of the large farm and after his father's death fell heir to the old homestead and ninety acres of land. The rest of the property was divided among the other children. On this place Mr. Lawson has continued the work that his father began and has proved himself by no means inferior to the latter as an agriculturist. His crops have been large and of the best quality, and have commanded for him a good price in the market. Wise in financial management he has been enabled to lay aside some-





Warren Higgins

thing for a rainy day and has added to his estate by the purchase of eighty-seven and one-half acres near the flourishing city of Hedrick.

In 1866 Mr. Lawson married Ellen McMillen, who was born in Ohio, but in 1848, when four years old, moved with her parents, John and Frances (Middleton) McMillen, to Steady Run, Iowa. Both parents were natives of America, and among the old settlers of Keokuk county. Mr. McMillen secured a one hundred and sixty acre farm in the early days and afterward added to his property until at the time of his death he owned five hundred acres in the vicinity, most of which he had cleared and greatly improved. He died July 9, 1855, and his wife in 1899. To Mr. and Mrs. Lawson have been born four children: Jennie, who is now deceased; Hugh; Fannie; and John, all of whom were born and reared in the old homestead. As one of the old settlers and one of the most progressive agriculturists in his section Mr. Lawson is thoroughly well known in his vicinity. He is a Democrat in politics and exerts an influence in public affairs.



#### WARREN HIGGINS.

Success is determined by one's ability to recognize opportunity and to pursue this with a resolute, unflagging energy. It results from continued labor, and the man who thus accomplishes his purpose usually becomes an important factor in the business circles in the community with which he is connected. Through such means Mr. Higgins of Keswick has attained a leading place among the representative men of Keokuk county, and his well spent and honorable life commands the respect of all who know him.

Mr. Higgins was born in Knox county, Ohio, on the 17th of Feb-

ruary, 1825, a son of Myrick and Hannah (Davis) Higgins, natives of Vermont and Virginia, respectively. His paternal grandfather was Josiah Higgins, who was born in America of Irish ancestry on the paternal side and of Welsh and German on the maternal side. During his boyhood Myrick Higgins accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, where he was reared, and he continued to make his home in Washington and Knox counties, that state, for many years, his attention being devoted to farming. In 1853 he came to Iowa and spent his last days in Keokuk county, where he died at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. During his residence in Ohio he held membership in the Baptist church, and in politics he supported first the Whig and later the Republican parties, taking quite an active part in local affairs and holding several township offices. His wife died in the seventy-eighth year of her age. Her people were also early settlers of Knox and Washington counties, Ohio, her father being Jacob Davis. The subject of this review is the second son and fourth child in a family of seven children, consisting of three sons and four daughters, all of whom reached man and womanhood. He has one sister still living—Mrs. Elizabeth Otis, a resident of Olympia, Washington.

Warren Higgins spent the first nine years of his life in the county of his nativity, and then removed with his parents to Marion county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood, his education being obtained in a little log schoolhouse in that county, with its slab seats and a writing desk, made by a board laid upon pins driven into the wall. On attaining his majority he began life for himself, working as a farm hand for three years. In 1850 Mr. Higgins was united in marriage to Miss Marcia Rubins, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, but was reared in Marion county, whither she removed with her parents when



only four years old. By this union were born four children, three sons and one daughter, namely: Hale; Joseph R.; Effie, the widow of Hallick Messenger; and Delano, who now has charge of the old home farm.

After his marriage Mr. Higgins continued to reside in Marion county, Ohio, until 1852, when he sold his property there, and in the fall of that year came to Keokuk county, Iowa, locating on a farm in Adams township, where he purchased seven hundred and twenty acres of land for three dollars per acre. This he divided with his brother-in-law, Henry C. Otis. To the cultivation and improvement of this farm he devoted his energies until his youngest son, Delano, took charge of the same and he removed to Keswick, where he has made his home since 1894, having erected there a beautiful residence. On the organization of the Keswick Savings Bank he became one of its stockholders and directors and the following year was made president, in which capacity he served for five years, and has since filled the position of vice president. He is also a stockholder in the Sigourney State Bank and is still the owner of the old homestead farm, consisting of about seven hundred acres, which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved.

Politically Mr. Higgins was a Whig in early life, but on the organization of the Republican party he joined its ranks and has since been a staunch supporter of that great political party. He has held local offices, such as that of township trustee, and as a public spirited and progressive citizen has borne a very important part in the development and up-building of his adopted county. He spent more than one thousand dollars to assist in bringing the railroad through this county and has ever contributed to those enterprises which he believed would prove of

public benefit or would in any way advance the general welfare. As a business man he has met with marked success in most of his undertakings, and although he started in life for himself with no capital, he is to-day one of the most prosperous and successful citizens of his part of the county. Wherever known he is held in high regard and as an honored pioneer and highly respected citizen he is certainly deserving of honorable mention in the history of Keokuk county.



#### FRANK D. HINTON.

Frank D. Hinton, an energetic young farmer of Steady Run, has won success for himself through steady and persistent efforts in one line of work. Bred to farm work and coming of a family of agriculturists, he has imbibed a vast deal of practical common sense, which has a market value in dollars and cents in his special field of labor. John Hinton, his grandfather, was of Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he resided for many years. Later he moved to Champaign county, Ohio, where he settled upon a farm. He followed agriculture for the most part throughout his life, meeting with excellent results. He married a woman of Irish descent, who was of great assistance to him in his undertakings. Among their children was a son named Davis.

Davis Hinton, father of Frank D., has given his best energies to the development of the soil, and is now living in retirement in the city of Hedrick. Born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, in September, 1839, he there grew to manhood, receiving the ordinary rearing of a farm boy of his day. Upon attaining his majority he moved with his parents to Champaign county, Ohio, where he soon afterward settled upon a

farm. Previous to this, while living in Pennsylvania, he married Sarah J. Jameson, who was born in Pennsylvania, September 11, 1840, and there grew to womanhood; her parents later moved to Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Hinton were born ten children, four daughters and six sons, of which Frank was both the second child and second son. In 1869 Mr. Hinton moved his family to Davis county, Iowa, where he settled upon a farm and remained four years. In 1873, however, finding a farm in Wapello county offering greater inducements to an agriculturist, he moved there, and making a success of his work continued there ten years. Then another change seemed advisable, and he moved to a farm in the township of Benton, Keokuk county. This place embraced one hundred acres of rich improved land, and by hard work and strict attention to business he carried on a profitable industry. After ten years of faithful labor there he moved to Hedrick, where he has since lived in retirement. Mr. Hinton is a thoroughly upright, and well-informed gentleman, and commands the respect of all who know him. As a Republican he has always evinced a keen interest in politics.

Frank D. Hinton has certainly made the best of the opportunities that life has offered him. Born in Ohio, he moved with his parents first to Davis county, Iowa, and later to Wapello county in that state. In the common schools of the last named county he received for the most part his education, further developing those habits of industry and attention with which nature has endowed him. For some time after leaving school he assisted his father on the home farm. In 1893 he married in Keokuk county, Iowa, Eliza H. Hursey, who was born in that county, daughter of William and Margarette (Honnoll) Hursey, natives of Ohio, and among the old settlers of Keokuk county. To Mr. and Mrs.

Hinton have been born five children, two sons and three daughters: Clara, Eugene M., Ruth, Forrest L., and Florence, all born in Keokuk county, Iowa.

About two years previous to his marriage Mr. Hinton settled upon a farm in Steady Run, Keokuk county, where he has since resided. The property embraces eighty acres of improved land, largely under cultivation, and is one of the most productive farms in the vicinity. By strict attention to business and by keeping himself well informed on the most scientific and practical methods of agriculture Mr. Hinton has always made his place yield its maximum crops, and he is considered one of the progressive agriculturists of his section.

Mr. Hinton has always occupied a high place in the estimation of the people of his section, where he is widely known. As a Republican he takes an interest in public affairs, and has served as assessor two years. A leading member of the Baptist church at Hedrick, he has held several offices and is now serving as deacon, performing his duties with marked ability. Fraternally he stands high and belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons, at Martinsburg, and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Steadfastness in business, marked integrity in his dealings with people, and freedom and ease in his intercourse with men are some of his dominant traits.



#### H. E. DUKE.

Much of the phenomenal growth which has attended the city of Hedrick since 1888 is due to the active interest taken in its welfare by the above named gentleman, a well-to-do real estate man and representative of the agricultural interests, who has had his residence in the city since that date. During this time he has been exceedingly active in

everything that promised for the welfare of the city, and can be depended upon at any time to further its interests. He is a comparatively young man and is a native of Keokuk county, where he was born in Richland township, August 12, 1865. His father was David Duke, in his turn a native of the Old Dominion state, who after attaining his majority settled in Logan county, Ohio. He later removed with his family to Richland township, where he has since been engaged actively in agricultural pursuits. The mother of Mr. Duke was Phoebe Hone, a native of Logan county, Ohio, and is still living, the mother of seven children, five sons and two daughters. These children are all married and are worthy citizens in their respective communities. The eldest, William, resides in Clark county; Walter, residing on the old homestead; Artie, wife of Eli Emery, Richland township; H. E., the subject of this sketch; Minnie, the wife of James Douglas, residing in Indiana; Frank and Fred were twins; Frank is a farmer living in Missouri, and Fred is a traveling man with the Deering Harvesting Company.

Of this family Mr. Duke is the fourth child. He was brought up to habits of economy and industry on the old farm, acquiring his rudimentary education in the district school, which was supplemented by a course at the academy in Pleasant Plain and by a business course at a college in Burlington, Iowa. After completing this course he went to Chicago and engaged with Swift and Company as bookkeeper for a period of one year. He then settled in the town of Hedrick, where he has since resided. For a period he was engaged in the hardware business, having been in partnership with J. M. Brady, which firm continued to do business until 1896. He then traded his interest in the business for a farm, and was then the representative of the Rhodes Carmean Buggy Company of Marshalltown, Iowa, for a period of one year. He then

came back to Hedrick and continued the same business in conjunction with Mr. John Ebelsheiser, in which he continued for a period of two years. A brother of the subject was then taken into the firm, and the business was conducted under the firm name of Duke Brothers and Company. In 1900 Mr. H. E. Duke retired from the firm and has since been engaged in the real estate business with Mr. C. L. Dean, the firm name being Dean & Duke. Our subject has been most of the time actively engaged in agriculture, also, on a farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres near Hedrick. He also owns one hundred and forty acres of land in the northern part of Steady Run township. Mr. Duke is a man who is popular among his associates in business and takes an active interest in the public life of the community in which he resides. He is a past master Mason, being a member of Garfield Lodge, No. 485; he is also a member of the Chapter and a Knight Templar, having his membership in Ottumwa. In political faith he supports the principles of the Democratic party. Mr. Duke is a gentleman who has had the felicity of seeing a large number of his ventures succeed in a financial way, and although a young man, he is looked upon as one of the most substantial residents of his enterprising little city. He married December 5, 1896, the lady being Miss Minnie Hagan, daughter of J. M. and Ellen (Barnes) Hagan. This family was one of the early settlers of Keokuk county. This marriage has been blessed with two bright children, Walter E. and Marcella. Mr. and Mrs. Duke are worthy members of the society of their community, where they are held in high respect by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

CHESTER ALLISON.

Chester Allison, a retired farmer who is now engaged in the buying and shipping of stock at Thornburg, Iowa, was born on the 10th of April, 1836, in Washington county, Ohio. The birth of his father, Stephen Allison, occurred in the old garrison at Marietta, Ohio, where but few white settlers had located, they being far outnumbered by the red men in that locality. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Abigail Kinne, was a native of Washington county, her people being among the pioneers there, and to this day there stands a monument to the family on the site of the garrison opposite Lowell. Both Mr. and Mrs. Allison lived to an advanced age, the former dying at the age of eighty-two and the latter when ninety-four. The father had one sister who lived to be one hundred and seven. This was Mrs. Nancy Frost, who was only five years old when the family removed to Ohio and for the long period of ninety-one years she made her home in one place after her marriage.

Chester Allison was the seventh in order of birth and the third son in a family of eight children, there being four sons and four daughters. In his native place he grew to manhood and was there married in March, 1858, to Miss Rebecca Perry, who was also born in Washington county, Ohio, being a daughter of Elijah Perry, an old settler of that county. By this union were born the following children: Stephen N., now a druggist of Nassau, Iowa; Alva; Lucien, a farmer who now has charge of the old homestead; George, a farmer of Colorado; Areadne, wife of Joseph Wingfield of Colorado; Emma, wife of Rudolph Draegert, a farmer of Prairie township, Keokuk county; and Clara, at home.

During early life Mr. Allison engaged in farming in his native county until 1865, when he located in Winnebago, Illinois, and remained there until the fall of 1869, when he left Illinois and came to Iowa, settling on a farm in Prairie township, Keokuk county. He continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until his removal to Thornburg in December, 1890, since which time he has devoted his attention to buying and shipping stock. In his present business he is meeting with good success. He is still the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and six acres of well improved land in Prairie township, which he has left to the management of his son. The place is well stocked and supplied with all the conveniences and accessories found upon a model farm of the twentieth century.

The Republican party has always found in Mr. Allison a staunch supporter of its principles, and he has taken quite an active interest in local politics, having filled the office of township trustee in a most commendable manner. For forty years he has been an earnest and consistent member of the Christian church, and his life has ever been in harmony with his professions. For a third of a century he has been numbered among the residents of this county and he has ever borne his part in promoting those enterprises calculated to advance the moral, social or material welfare of his community, and is justly regarded as one of its most valued citizens.

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EVAN SMITH.

Evan Smith, whose home is in Coalcreek in Prairie township, needs no special introduction to the readers of this volume, but the work would be incomplete without the record of his life. A native of Ohio, he was



born in Belmont county, May 31, 1819, and on the paternal side is of English origin, although the family was established in the new world several generations ago. His father, Thomas Smith, was a native of Virginia, born in either Harrison or Loudoun county in 1787, and there he spent the first years of his life. In the year 1800 he accompanied his father, Samuel Smith, on his removal to Ohio, the family becoming pioneers of Columbiana county. They settled on the Ohio river and during the winter of 1802 Samuel Smith entered a section of land, which is now a part of the town-site of Salem, and there in the midst of the dense forest he hewed out a farm. When he took up his residence upon this property his home was fifteen miles from any white habitation, and the family endured all the hardships and privations known to pioneer life. His last days were spent in Washington county, Ohio, where he died when in his ninetieth year.

Thomas Smith, the father of our subject, was reared amid frontier scenes, and early became familiar with the arduous task of clearing and improving a new farm. Soon after going to Ohio he was cured of white swelling in the leg by an Indian doctor, the red men being still very numerous in the locality. On starting out in life for himself he engaged in the manufacture of brick for some time, but when our subject was two years old he removed to a farm and devoted the remainder of his life to agricultural pursuits. He died at Salem, Ohio, in 1850, at the age of sixty-four years, and his wife passed away in the spring of 1860. She bore the maiden name of Nancy James and was also a native of the Old Dominion, her birth having occurred in either Loudoun or Harrison county, Virginia, in 1792. Her father was Samuel James, who was born in Wales, while her mother was of English descent, Thomas Smith and wife were married in Belmont county, Ohio, and

became the parents of eleven children, eight of whom reached man and womanhood, four sons and four daughters.

Of this family Evan Smith is the fifth in order of birth and the second son, though he is the oldest son that reached years of maturity. He made his home in the county of his nativity until fifteen years of age and then removed with his parents to Columbiana county, Ohio, and later to Morgan county, that state. It was in the latter county that he was married on the 24th of November, 1841, to Miss Mary Burgess, who was born near Smithfield, Jefferson county, Ohio, November 21, 1819, but from the age of eighteen years had made her home in Morgan county. Her parents were John and Margaret (Wood) Burgess. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born eleven children, six sons and five daughters, namely: Margaret A. and Maria, both deceased; Louisa, who was superintendent of schools for a period of four years and a most successful teacher for a good many years, is now the wife of Thomas Blackburn; Caroline, wife of Milton Haldeman, of Washington county, Kansas; Joshua P., a resident of Emporia, Kansas; Thomas E., who resides on the old home place in Prairie township, Keokuk county; Burgess, who died young; William D., also a resident of Kansas; Sarah, wife of Clinton Hampton, of Kansas; Marion, who is living in the same state; and Mva J., a surveyor of Lyon county, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith began their married life in Athens county, Ohio, on a densely timbered tract of land, their nearest neighbor being nearly one mile distant. After residing there for about three years they returned to Morgan county, and later took up their residence in Washington county, Ohio, whence they came to Iowa in 1860. At that time they settled on the farm in Prairie township, Keokuk county, which was their home for twenty-seven years; to the cultivation and improve-

ment of his farm Mr. Smith devoted his energies, but is now practically living a retired life. He still owns some property, but has sold much of his farming land.

For the long period of sixty-one years Mr. and Mrs. Smith have traveled life's journey together and are to-day the oldest couple in the county. By birthright both are members of the Society of Friends and have ever taken a very prominent and active part in church work. In the fall of 1861 they assisted in organizing a meeting of that denomination in their home, which was a branch of the Pennsville monthly meeting of Ohio until the spring of 1864, when they were granted a monthly meeting which was attended by a committee from the Pennsville monthly and quarterly meetings. In 1885 the membership numbered about two hundred, although they began here with only twenty-three members. Mr. Smith was one of four men who borrowed the money to erect the first meeting house, which still stands in Coalcreek. At that time many of the little congregation were just getting a start in life in their new homes and were unable to subscribe the required amount and were therefore forced to borrow the sum needed. To get the money four of the number had to sign a note, and Mr. Smith is the only one of the four living, the others having passed to their reward in the other world. Jeremiah Stanley, one of the leaders in this work, only lived to attend one meeting in their new meeting house. Most of the lumber for this structure was hauled from Washington, Iowa, a distance of forty-three miles. When erected the meeting house was thought to be sufficiently large to accommodate the congregation for many years, but in the course of three years it was found to be too small, and so in that the present building is now fifty-eight by thirty feet in dimensions. 1868 an addition twenty-eight feet in length was built to the east end, so

Mr. Smith is still one of the leading members of this congregation and is a man highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Smith has kindly furnished some of his recollections of the thirty-eight years which he has spent in the county and township, and these will certainly be of interest to the many old residents. He is able to pick out pieces of land in various parts of the county which he, with the help of his sons, first turned with the plow and made fruitful; these tracts contain mostly from five to ten acres each. As supervisor of the public roads he placed the first bridge across South English creek north of Thornburg, which served its purpose well and although under water several times always reappeared unharmed. He was one of those who selected the site and procured the title to the land on which school-house No. 16 stands, and he also made the first wagon track on a part of the public road running east and west through Prairie township. At one time it seemed desirable that the boundaries of section 16 should be better known, and Mr. Smith devised the means of finding these. He knew of one corner that had been marked by the government surveyor in the customary way, a pit with the earth thrown up in a mound shape. After measuring the exact circumference of the wheel of his wagon and calculating the revolutions it would make in going a half-mile, he started from this mark and drove in as direct a line as possible for a half a mile; here another boundary mound was easily found, and this process was repeated until the whole section was practically re-surveyed.

JOSEPH EDGERTON.

Prominent among the citizens of Keokuk county who have witnessed the marvelous development of this section of the state in the past thirty-eight years, and who have, by honest toil and industry, succeeded in acquiring a handsome competence and are now able to spend the sunset of life in quiet and retirement, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, and who resides on section 20, Prairie township.

Mr. Edgerton was born in Belmont county, Ohio, November 18, 1830, his parents being Joseph and Charity (Doudna) Edgerton. His paternal grandfather was James Edgerton, who was born in North Carolina of English ancestry and became one of the pioneer settlers of Belmont county, Ohio. Religiously he was connected with the Society of Friends. The father of our subject was also a native of North Carolina and with his parents removed to Ohio at an early day, his boyhood and youth being mainly passed in Belmont county, where on reaching man's estate he followed farming for many years. He subsequently came to Iowa, where he died in 1865 at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife was about fifty years old at the time of her death. In the family of this worthy couple were nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom reached man and womanhood.

Joseph Edgerton was the second son in this family. He was reared in the county of his nativity, and his primary education, which was obtained in a Friends school there, was supplemented by a course at a Friends boarding school in Mount Pleasant, Ohio. He remained at home with his parents until his marriage, which was celebrated April 4, 1853, Miss Lydia S. Mitchell becoming his wife. She was born on the Island of Nantucket, October 4, 1831, a daughter of Isaac

and Lydia (Gifford) Mitchell, the former also a native of Nantucket and the latter of Westport, Massachusetts. The father was three times married and Mrs. Edgerton was his only child by his first wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Edgerton have been born seven children, five sons and two daughters, namely: William; Mary, the wife of Jacob Whisler; Edward; Sarah, deceased; Nathan; Joseph J.; and Frederick M.

For some years Mr. Edgerton was engaged in farming in Belmont county, Ohio, but in 1857 came to Iowa and first located near Springville in Linn county, where he spent two years, and then removed to Taylor county. There he was also engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1864, when he came to Keokuk county and took up his residence in Prairie township, purchasing a farm north of Nassau, to the improvement and cultivation of which place he devoted his time and attention until 1875. During that year he removed to a quarter-section of land south of Nassau, where he still makes his home, and now has four hundred and forty acres under a high state of cultivation and supplied with the latest conveniences and accessories known to the progressive farmer. Besides this place he now owns property in Louisiana; is one of the directors and stockholders of the First National Bank at What Cheer; and a stockholder in the co-operative store at Nassau.

On coming west Mr. Edgerton was in rather limited circumstances, but being a man of untiring industry, perseverance and integrity he has met with success in his undertakings and is to-day the owner of much valuable property. At different times he has had in his possession considerable Iowa land, including one hundred and twenty acres in Linn county, one hundred and sixty acres in Taylor county, and about one thousand acres in Keokuk county. At present he rents his farm in this county and is practically living retired, enjoying the fruits of former

toil. He is a prominent member of the Friends church, and he champions every movement designed to promote the general welfare of the community in which he lives, supports every enterprise for the public good, and materially aids in the advancement of all social, educational and moral interests.

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HENRY T. DILDINE.

Coming to Keokuk county at the age of twenty-three years, as a young man without capital, wishing to take advantage of business opportunities in the west, Mr. Dildine to-day occupies a creditable position as a banker in Kinross and is also the mayor of the town. Prominent in business and political affairs, he justly deserves mention among the representative citizens of Keokuk county. He was born in Louisa county, Iowa, November 16, 1857, and comes of a family of French origin. His father, Abraham T. Dildine, was a native of New Jersey and was there reared. By occupation he was a farmer and in 1856 he emigrated westward to Iowa, locating upon a farm in Louisa county. There he lived for a time, after which he removed to Muscatine county, Iowa, and in 1881 came to Keokuk county, where he died at the age of seventy years. He was a life-long Democrat and was ever found faithful to the principles in which he believed. His wife, Mrs. Sarah E. Dildine, was also a native of New Jersey and died when more than seventy-eight years of age. They were the parents of two children, the daughter being Anna M., the wife of E. B. Brown, of Keota.

Henry T. Dildine, the only son of the family, obtained his education in the graded schools near his home and arrived in Keokuk county at the age of twenty-three years. He then became connected with farm-

ing interests in Liberty township and successfully carried on agricultural pursuits until the spring of 1901, placing his land under a high state of cultivation, so that he annually garnered rich harvests and upon the market he found ready sales for his products. On leaving the farm he took up his abode in Kinross and erected the only brick business block in the town, being associated in this enterprise with M. A. Fisher. In 1900 the Kinross Savings Bank was established and Mr. Dildine became its vice-president, in which capacity he has since been acting with the institution. The bank has behind it other business men of reliability, who give it an excellent standing in financial circles, and already a large patronage has been acquired. Mr. Dildine is one of the extensive land-owners in this locality, having a very valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres in Keokuk county and one hundred and sixty acres in Johnson county, in addition to his property interests in Kinross and his stock in the bank. The bank building comprises the hotel, the bank and three other business rooms, which are now occupied by two general stores and one drugstore.

A popular and valued member of the Masonic lodge at Kinross, Mr. Dildine exemplifies in his life the teachings of the craft. In politics he was a Democrat until 1896, when, being unable to endorse the free-silver plank of the Democratic and Populistic platform, he joined the ranks of the Republican party, of which he is now a staunch adherent. At the present time he is serving as mayor of the town, and his administration is practical and business-like, so that it promotes the best interests of Kinross along substantial lines of improvement. Mr. Dildine is widely known as a man of genuine worth in business, political and social circles, and well deserves mention in the history of his adopted county.



JOHN H. BRISTOW.

This worthy and honored retired representative of the agricultural interests of Keokuk county is distinguished by being the oldest living native of the county. He was born in Richland township on the 14th of November, 1842. He was for long years connected with the development of the county and is well known by a large number of its citizens, having succeeded in making a sufficient competency to pass the remainder of his life in less rigorous labor. He is now living in the town of Richland, where he purchased a home and is enjoying a less strenuous life.

He is a son of William Bristow, who was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, on the 8th of September, 1806. He died in Richland township, September 13, 1898, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. This gentleman removed with his parents in 1807 to Ohio, where he continued to reside until the year 1837, when a change was made to Franklin county, Indiana, and later removal was made to Warren county of the same state. It was in this county that he married his first wife, Mrs. Celia Frame, the date of the marriage being September 29, 1829. This lady died after three years, and in 1836, on the 10th of January, Mr. Bristow was married to Miss Phoebe Marchel, who became the mother of three sons and one daughter, the daughter dying in infancy and the sons being deceased except our subject, Mr. John H. Bristow. Samuel died February 1, 1857, aged eighteen years. Martin L. died at the age of fifty-four, February 19, 1898. This family settled in Richland township in the year 1839, and the father was for fifty-nine years a prominent figure in the development of this section of the county. His wife passed away on the 15th of November, 1886;

she was born in Indiana June 24, 1806. They were worthy members of the Christian church, and were held in high esteem by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Our honored subject was reared in Keokuk county, and drew inspiration in the matter of education from the rude log schoolhouse of those pioneer days. His education was quite limited on account of the fact that his help was needed on the farm. He was to be found in the furrow at an age when he could scarcely reach the plow handles. He worked dutifully on the farm until his marriage, when he built himself a residence on part of the old homestead and continued to live there till he moved to Richland in 1897. His marriage occurred on the 10th of May, 1866, his wife's maiden name having been Catherine J. Ward, she also being a native of Ohio, born Dec. 13, 1845, and a member of one of the old pioneer families of Keokuk county. From the date of his marriage until 1897 Mr. Bristow was very actively engaged in farming and stock raising, during which time he did a very large and successful business. His farm consisted of a beautiful tract of land containing three hundred and twenty acres, furnished with all improvements necessary for the conduct of a large stock ranch. In the year stated he concluded to retire from the active conduct of the ranch and build himself a residence in Richland, where he has since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Bristow are the parents of two living children, Norrine, now the wife of Fred Bray, a farmer of Richland township, and Pearl, a single lady at home. Two children are deceased, Fred, who died aged twenty-two years, and Clara, who died aged six years. In a fraternal way Mr. Bristow is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his family are worthy members of the Methodist church, of which organization he is a trustee. He has always supported

the policies of the Republican party, but his life has been of too busy a nature to admit of his accepting any of the local offices. Mr. Bristow has been a forceful character in the business life of Keokuk county, and his sterling worth and high moral character being universally recognized and honored, the authors of this volume gladly give him representation in company with the worthy families of the county.

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WILLIAM WAGAMON.

From an early epoch in the development of Keokuk county William Wagamon has been numbered among its residents and he is now living on section 21, Liberty township. He was born in Darke county, Ohio, March 14, 1836. His father, Christopher Wagamon, was a native of Pennsylvania and became a pioneer of Darke county, Ohio, settling there in the midst of the green woods when his nearest neighbor lived three miles away and when the work of progress and improvement seemed scarcely begun. He wedded Catherine Miller, a native of the Buckeye state, while her mother was a native of Germany. Mr. Wagamon was three times married, however, the mother of our subject being his third wife. His death occurred in 1852 and his widow survived him until she was about seventy years of age.

William Wagamon was their eldest son and second child, and was sixteen years of age at the time of his father's death. He remained with his mother until about twenty-two years of age, assisting largely in carrying on the home farm. He was then married to Catherine Marker, a native of Darke county, Ohio, and they began their domestic life upon a small farm of twenty acres. Coming to Iowa, they located first in Cedar county, where they remained for four years, and then re-

moved to Keokuk county, settling upon the farm which has since been the home of our subject. The year 1864 witnessed his arrival in this state and since 1868 he has resided continuously in Keokuk county. He first purchased eighty acres of land, to which he afterward added another tract of eighty acres. He likewise owns another farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres, on which his son is now living. He also possesses twenty-eight and a half acres of timber land, and this with another eighty acre tract makes his property possessions aggregate three hundred and ninety-three and one half acres, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved, the owner being recognized as a progressive, industrious and intelligent farmer.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wagamon have been born seven children: Mary, the wife of George Herr; William H., who wedded Minnie Bergiline; Martin V., who married Elizabeth Griffith; Thomas W., who wedded Lena McDowell; Charles, Eliza Ellen, and Perry Edward, all at home. Mr. Wagamon is a Democrat in his political views. He was at one time a director in the Savings Bank at Kinross and is now one of its stockholders. His residence in the county covers more than a third of a century and he has become widely known here.



#### DAVID G. CLYDE.

David G. Clyde is a prominent farmer and stockman whose home is on section 4, Lafayette township, where he owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land. He is also engaged in the raising of thorough-bred horses. His business interests are returning to him a good income, making him one of the substantial residents of the community.

Mr. Clyde was born in Washington, Tazewell county, Illinois, August 19, 1846. His father, D. F. Clyde, was a native of Scotland and in 1846 came to America, locating in Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1858. He was one of the early settlers of this locality and became identified with farming interests, which he carried on until old age incapacitated him for further labor in this direction. He died in his eighty-second year. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Hannah Greigg, was also born in the land of hills and heather and died in 1861, when forty-five years of age.

David G. Clyde was the third child and the eldest son in a family of six children born to his parents and was but twelve years of age when brought to Keokuk county. No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him in his early youth. He pursued his education in the district schools and in the months of summer worked in the fields, following the plow and harrow and later aiding in the work of harvesting the crops. The occupation to which he was reared he has always made his life work. Remaining upon the old homestead he began farming and stock raising on his own account and he now has here a quarter section of land which is highly improved. In his pastures are also seen fine horses and his stock dealings have been quite extensive and have returned to him a fair profit.

In 1870 Mr. Clyde was united in marriage to Miss Zelda Glenn, a native of Pennsylvania, who was reared in Washington county, Iowa, where her parents located when she was but one year of age, her father, Moses Glenn, becoming one of the honored pioneer settlers of Washington county. Five children graced the union of our subject and his wife, but Mary is now deceased; William and David, twins, Zelda and Zebuda, are

all at home. Mr. Clyde exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy, and he is a member of the Presbyterian church. He is well known in Lafayette township and in Keokuk county, where he has always resided with the exception of his first twelve years. Therefore, in enumerating the men who best represent the farming interests of the county the list would not be complete without mention of David G. Clyde, who is accorded recognition as a leading agriculturist and a man of genuine worth.



#### JOHN SCHROEDER.

From Germany, the land of his nativity, in 1835, Dedrich Schroeder, the father of the subject of this sketch, emigrated and came to Keokuk county, Iowa; in 1845 with his step-father and mother he settled on a farm of one hundred and thirty-seven acres in German township, land which they improved and increased by addition of one hundred and forty-seven acres. Dedrich Schroeder, who was born in 1819, still lives on this farm and takes an active interest in all the affairs of life; is a Republican, and a member of the Methodist church in German township, which he helped to build and has always supported. Our subject's mother was Caroline Neibomer; at an early day she came from Germany to Keokuk county, and there was married to Mr. Schroeder. They had two children, of whom John was the youngest; the other was named Henry.

John Schroeder was born in German township, Keokuk county, on the 28th day of February, 1860, and there his school days were passed. He remained on the home farm with his father until he was thirty years of age and in 1890 he occupied his present place of one hundred and





John Holzworth



forty acres of well improved land, to which he has since added forty acres.

In the same year he was married in Lafayette township to Anna Hoelscher, who was born in German township, Keokuk county, November 16, 1867; her father, Henry Hoelscher, was born in Burlington, Iowa; her mother, Barbara, was a native of Switzerland; they came to Keokuk county about 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Schrøder had three bright children: Edith, born February 28, 1892; Glenwyn, born July 10, 1894; and Mildred, born June 8, 1899. Mrs. Schrøder died March 21, 1902. Mr. Schrøder has always been identified with the Republican party, and as a member of the school board, seeks to promote the cause of education. His church membership is in the Methodist church of German township, and the family, being among the oldest of the county, has always enjoyed an excellent reputation.

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### JOHN HOLZWARTH.

John Holzwarth, a capitalist who is now living retired in Harper, is a worthy representative of the German element of our American citizenship—an element which has done much to promote substantial up-building and material progress in this land. He was born in Baden, Germany, November 10, 1831, and was reared in his native country, there remaining until twenty-one years of age. According to the laws of his native land, he attended school until fourteen years of age and at that time began learning the miller's trade, which he followed until he had attained the age of twenty-six years. In 1852, severing the ties which bound him to the fatherland, he sailed for America, landing at New York. He then made his way to Rochester, that state, where

he remained for about one year, after which he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, locating in Lafayette township, a mile and a half north of the present site of Harper, although the town had not been founded at that time. Here he improved a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits. For forty years he was extensively engaged in stock raising and was compelled to give it up on account of ill health. He shipped from many different points in this and adjoining counties and is as well known all over Keokuk county as any other resident. He placed his land under a very high state of cultivation, so that it yielded to him an excellent financial return, adding to his farm all the improvements and accessories of a model place and securing the latest machinery to facilitate the work of field and meadow. As his financial resources increased he added to his property until his realty possessions at one time reached eight hundred acres of good land, which he has since divided among his children.

In 1857 Mr. Holzwarth was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Killmer, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 10, 1838. Her father, John Killmer, was a native of Germany and came to America about 1836, locating in Philadelphia, where he followed his trade of blacksmithing. Mr. and Mrs. Holzwarth have become the parents of eleven children: George; Caroline, who is the wife of Nick Hors; Christine, the wife of Levi Smith; Elizabeth, the wife of John Kaufman; Henry, who married Ella Clarahan and is living on the old homestead; William, deceased; Lucy, who died at the age of twenty-five years; Johnie; Rosa, wife of Thomas Flabarty, deceased; Emma, and another child who was named Emma and died at the age of two years. All were born in Keokuk county.

Mr. Holzwarth is a Democrat in his political views. He was

reared in the faith of the German Reformed church and has contributed to the support of many measures for the public welfare. He is now living a retired life and his present financial condition is in marked contrast to his circumstances at the time of his arrival in America. He had no capital when he reached New York, but he possessed strong purpose, sterling integrity and untiring industry, and these have enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path and steadily work his way upward to prosperity. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to make his home in the new world, and there is no more loyal citizen of Keokuk county than this adopted son furnished by the fatherland.



#### MICHAEL ADAM.

Among the many farmers of the grand Teutonic stock who live in Keokuk county and have helped to make it one of the foremost agricultural counties of this commonwealth, is Michael Adam, a representative farmer of Lafayette township. Peter Adam, father of Michael, began his life in Germany in the year 1837; he was educated there and spent his life in the cultivation of his land in that country. He became the husband of Magdalena Ludwig, who was born in 1839 and was reared amid the industrious life of her home. Peter Adam died November 8, 1873, and ten years later Mrs. Adam emigrated with her family to America and bought a farm of sixty-six acres in German township, this county. In 1883, when Mrs. Adam came to Keokuk county, she married Matthew Fell, who after spending his early life in Germany, came to this county at an early date. He was a farmer of considerable property, owning several large farms in the neighborhood. His

politics had always been Republican until shortly before his death, when he adopted the tenets of the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Adam are the parents of four children, all born and reared in Germany and came with their mother to this country: Michael, Peter, Nicholas and Rev. John Nicholas Adam, who is the priest in the Lee county Catholic church.

Michael Adam, the oldest son, was born March 1, 1863, and was about twenty years old when he came to this country. For two years he worked on the farms in the neighborhood and for one year helped on the home farm. In 1886 he married, and leaving German township settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of improved land in Lafayette township, where he remained for two years. In 1888 he took up his residence on his present place, and to the original farm of one hundred and forty acres he has since added until he now has a splendid farm of two hundred and forty-six acres.

We have already mentioned his marriage in 1886. His wife was Mary Huberger, who was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, in 1866, and is the daughter of Jacob and Anna (Linnakem) Huberger; the latter were natives of Germany and early took up their abode in Keokuk county. Mary Huberger was but two years of age when she came with her parents to this county, and she was here reared and educated. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Adam, two boys and three girls: Magdalena, Peter, Nicholas (deceased), Eleanor, and Anna. Mr. Adam supports the Democratic party, serves on the school board of his district and also takes an active part in the Catholic church, being on the church board. His whole life has been one replete with industry and his success has been well earned.

NICHOLAS BESSER.

One of the prominent old settlers of Keokuk county is Nicholas Besser, who is now living in Harper. He is a native of the fatherland, his birth having occurred in Germany on the 26th of June, 1833. His father, Peter Besser, was also born there and on severing the ties that bound him to his native country made his way to the new world, believing that he would have better business opportunities here. In 1844 he took up his abode in Quincy, Illinois, and thence came to Keokuk county, Iowa, arriving here on the 11th of October, 1844.

Nicholas Besser is the eldest of a family of five children and was but twelve years of age when his father died. He was reared in Lafayette township and as soon as old enough to work began to assist his mother and aided her in caring for the other children and providing for their support. Nobly he took up the burden which devolved upon him, although it was a heavy one for young shoulders. He did not marry until he was twenty-six years of age, at which time he was joined in wedlock to Margaret Horris, also a native of Germany, who was brought to Keokuk county when a little maiden of ten summers and was reared in Clear Creek township. Mr. and Mrs. Besser began their domestic life in Lafayette township, where he developed and improved a farm from the raw land. His first wife left two children, Charles and Mary, and he later married again, at which time Mary Ann Schlitz became his wife. Four children were born: Albert, of Polk county, Iowa; Frank, who is living on the home farm; Edward, a practicing physician at Newton, Iowa; and Amelia, the wife of George Volz, of Polk county. By her first marriage Mrs. Besser had several children, namely: Dr. Nicholas Schlitz, who was educated by our subject and is now a prominent physician of Des Moines; Mary, the wife of Dr. Hentzman, a

skilled physician of Matamora, Illinois; Elizabeth, the wife of William Kern, a merchant; and Margaret, who married Ceno Blaize, of Des Moines. These children were all educated by Mr. Besser, who provided for them as he did his own.

Mr. Besser is one of the pioneer settlers of Keokuk county and has been identified with its growth and development through many years. As he has continued his farm work he has found that prosperity has rewarded his labors and to-day he is the owner of three hundred and seventy acres of well improved land in the old homestead. He also had three hundred and seventy acres in Polk county, Iowa, which he divided among his children. Now he is living a retired life, merely superintending his farming interests. He has made what he possesses through his own industry, for he started out in the world empty handed. In his political affiliations he is a Democrat and has served as a trustee of his township. He is also treasurer of the Mutual Insurance Company of Keokuk, Iowa, of which H. P. Newton is secretary. In every relation of life in which Mr. Besser has been found he has ever been true to the duties and obligations which have devolved upon him and the trust reposed in him. Unremitting industry has been the keynote of his success and his life record should serve to encourage others who are not fortunate enough to have any material assistance when they start out upon a business career.

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#### H. A. MILLHOUSE.

H. A. Millhouse is a pioneer carriage manufacturer of Keota and is also engaged in general blacksmithing. He realizes that industry forms the keynote of success and it has therefore been owing to his close appli-

cation and unremitting diligence that he has gained a substantial competence. Mr. Millhouse is one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to Keokuk county, his birth having occurred in the province of Hesse-Cassel on the 2d of November, 1847. He came to America when twelve years of age, making his way direct to Muscatine, Iowa, and he learned his trade at Wilton Junction, in Muscatine county, serving an apprenticeship of three years. He afterward went to Moscow, Iowa, where he worked for twelve months and afterward was employed for nine months by his old employer at Wilton Junction. Later he located in the city of Muscatine, where for twelve months he was engaged in shoeing horses, and then came west to Washington county, Iowa, where he assisted his father in building a house. For two years he worked at his trade in Washington and in Marshall. The latter town is now called Whalen, and is situated on the Illinois Central Railroad in Henry county. During the fall and winter Mr. Millhouse built a shop in Washington county, chopping down the timber with which to build the structure. He occupied that smithy for two years and when the town of Keota was established in 1872 he opened the first blacksmith shop in this town. He erected a little building eighteen by twenty-four feet and has added to this until he had a fine shop covering forty-seven by fifty-eight feet, which is equipped with all necessary machinery and implements for carrying on his work, and he has done a good business in both branches of his trade. He built the first buggy ever made in Keota and has manufactured as many as eighty-five vehicles in a single year. He is the pioneer buggy manufacturer of the town and has made and sold more buggies than any other man in Keokuk county. His patronage has been quite extensive and his trade profitable. As his financial resources have increased he has invested in land and he now

owns four hundred acres in this state together with a good residence property in Keota. He has recently sold his business to Albert Hillhouse and will retire from active affairs.

Mr. Millhouse was united in marriage to Miss Sadie Rand and they have a pleasant home, which is noted for its genial hospitality. Mr. Millhouse is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was formerly a Democrat in his political affiliations, but he voted for McKinley and now endorses many of the principles of the Republican party, believing in sound money and expansion. As one of the pioneer business men of Keota he is well known and the part which he has taken in the upbuilding and improvement of this place entitles him to honorable mention in the history of Keokuk county. He was the first man to circulate a petition for a water system here. In this work he was defeated the first time, but he continued to agitate the question until his efforts were crowned with success. Keota now has a good water system, which receives the endorsement of all public spirited men. He was also instrumental in having the cattle shut up and not allowed to run in the streets. When the town was established the owners of property paid all expenses for the improvement of streets, and Mr. Millhouse, being a very liberal man, did everything in his power to promote the growth and substantial development of Keota. He has spent much time and money for the up-building of the town and his efforts have been attended with excellent success. In connection with Mr. Wilson he took up a subscription to buy the first cannon of the town and he assisted in raising the first flag in behalf of the Democratic party in Keota. He was also the first boarder in the town, there being but one house when he located here, and Culps' drug store was the first business enterprise of the village. Mr. Millhouse's



shop was the second business structure built in Keota and the lumber used in its construction was brought here by train and was the first unloaded at this place. Putting forth every effort in his power to contribute to the general welfare Mr. Millhouse certainly deserves the commendation and the gratitude of the public for what he has accomplished in behalf of this enterprising city.



### ROSS S. WHEELER.

The late county auditor, Ross S. Wheeler, was a native of Preston county, West Virginia. He was born April 3, 1859, and came to Iowa in 1872, when his parents moved to West Liberty, Iowa. There the father long followed farming and helped to improve land in Muscatine county. His parents were Alphias and Phoebe (Hanna) Wheeler. The father was a native of West Virginia; the mother was born in Pennsylvania. The Wheeler and Hanna families have been in this country for years.

Ross S. Wheeler received a common school education, first in the country school and then in West Liberty. He lived on the farm until he was about sixteen years old and at the age of eighteen began to learn photography, working in West Liberty and other places. His first gallery was opened in West Liberty; he ran this for two years and then for two years more managed a gallery at Muscatine. In October, 1881, he transferred his business interests and activities to Whatcheer and for seventeen years worked at his trade with good success, gaining the esteem and confidence of the city, which he served as clerk for five years. In 1898 he was elected county auditor and two years later his party, the Republican, returned him for a second term. In 1883 he mar-

ried Miss Lida Davis, daughter of Dr. A. A. Davis, now of Whatcheer, and once auditor for the county. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler had two children: June and Salome. Fraternally Mr. Wheeler was a member of the Knights of Pythias. His death occurred in the fall of 1902, while still an incumbent of the auditor's office.



#### DR. DANIEL C. McFARLANE.

Perhaps no one in Keokuk county exerted a wider influence in the affairs of Keota and the surrounding country and was more highly respected for his noble strength of character and his kindly, helpful disposition, than was the late Dr. McFarlane. A native of the hardy land of the Scots, reared under the moral and strengthening influences of a Scotch home and trained to his chosen profession in a university noted for its thorough, scientific teachings, it is no wonder that our subject developed his natural talents to such an extent that he passed into the front rank of his profession.

The birth of Daniel C. McFarlane occurred on the 31st day of July, 1841, in Loch Gailhead, Argyleshire, Scotland; his father, Hugh McFarlane, was a large sheep farmer and grazier. Up to his fourteenth year young Daniel attended the school in the Highlands and in 1855 was sent to the high school at Glasgow, from which he passed into the university in 1856; there he studied his art curriculum and also had one term of anatomy and chemistry. He showed such natural fitness in these studies that he at once decided upon the profession of medicine as his life work, and in accordance with this desire his father sent him to the Edinburgh University; the university had at that time among its corps of instructors Hughes Bennett, Sir Robert Christison, Sir J. Y. Simpson,

and Sir James Lyne, and at the College of Surgeons Mathews Duncon was at the zenith of his career; under such gifted men his young genius was expanded and he completed his studies in 1864. For two years he attended to the business connected with the settlement of his father's estate and at the same time did what practice he could find at home.

In 1866 he was advised, on account of his weak lungs, to go to Canada, and accordingly he made his home there for five years, coming to Iowa in 1871; he made his advent in Keota in the following year on a construction train, which did not come quite so far as the present town site. Dr. McFarlane made Keota the choice of his residence after consulting Dr. William S. Robertson of Muscatine, who showed him great consideration and kindness and remained a life long friend. In Keota Dr. McFarlane enjoyed an excellent practice and held the confidence of the people and the friendship of his fellow physicians; he had the faculty of cheering his patients when in their presence and his kind face will be missed by many whom he had helped. He was a member of the Washington county medical society, the Iowa Southeastern District Medical Society, the State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association. While engaged in the performance of the duties of his profession he passed away on the 10th of December, 1901.

While in Scotland the Doctor was made a Mason and in Keota was a member of the Adelphi lodge, No. 353, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in Sigourney belonged to the Joppa Chapter, No. 40, and the Bethlehem commandery, No. 45, Washington, Iowa. He was also an Odd Fellow, being elevated to the Grand lodge for 1899 and 1900, a Patriarch and a member of the Cretona lodge, No. 365, Knights of Pythias at Keota; also a member of the Legion of Honor and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he was a staunch Republican.

On July 22, 1874, Dr. McFarlane married Miss Mary Ellen Disor of Keota, and their married life was blessed with three children, all daughters, one of whom, little Maude, died at the age of twenty-two months; the eldest, Sarah L., was married on November 14, 1894, to Charles A. Singmaster and is the mother of three children, Samuel C., Mary A., and Margaret S.; the youngest daughter, Margaret C., is the wife of Elmer S., Erdice, a prominent business man of Keota.

George Disor, Mrs. McFarlane's father, was born, reared and married in Virginia and came to Iowa as one of the early pioneers, locating in Keokuk county. He engaged in the tilling of the soil and had a farm in Lafayette township; during the war he was postmaster of Chandler. Mr. Disor held firmly to the principles of the Republican party and filled various local offices in the township; he was a member of the Christian church and took an active part in its work. He lived to an advanced age and died in this county. His wife was Rebecca McDonald, also a native of Virginia, where she passed her youth; she lived to be about seventy-two years old. Mr. and Mrs. Disor were the parents of seven children; all of whom grew to maturity: Mary is deceased, Lizzie is the wife of William Cranston and resides near Frankfort, Kansas; William was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion and is now deceased; James was also in the war and has passed away; Henrietta is the wife of Thomas Hudson, living in Iowa county; Anna is deceased; Ellen, who became Mrs. McFarlane, was the youngest of the family and was born on the homestead in Lafayette township, April 15, 1856.

EDWARD EVANS.

Edward Evans, the genial proprietor of the Swayze House at Richland, Keokuk county, Iowa, was born in Lancaster, Iowa, February 8, 1862, and was five years old when he came to Richland, where he was reared and obtained his education. While still a boy he proved his ability to take care of himself, his industry and honesty obtaining him employment among the neighboring farmers and with others who needed his efficient services. In 1893 he engaged in the livery business and conducted this for eight years and then became interested in the buying, shipping and exchange of horses. In 1902 he embarked in the hotel business, for which his pleasant personality makes him well fitted.

In 1884 Mr. Evans was married to Minnie Leming, who was born in Jackson township, and is a daughter of Ellison and Rebecca Leming, old settlers of Keokuk county, coming hither from Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have two children,—Gilbert and Jessie. Mr. Evans is identified with the Masonic order, Blue Lodge, No. 38, of Richland, and the Modern Woodmen of America of Richland. His whole life has been passed in this locality and he is well known and few citizens have a wider circle of friends. In political sentiment he is a staunch Republican.



HON. JOHN C. CLARKE.

Hon. John C. Clarke is one of the old settlers of Keokuk county and through many years has been a prominent factor in business and public life, and that he has the confidence and good will of his fellow-citizens is shown by the fact that twice has he been chosen to act as their

representative in the legislative councils of the state from Iowa county. He has been an active factor in industrial circles of Keota, where as a member of the firm of Clarke & Leacox he was engaged until recently in the manufacture of tile.

Mr. Clarke was born in Landaff, Grafton county, New Hampshire, July 25, 1831, and his father, Elijah S. Clarke, was a native of the same county. The grandfather, John Clarke, was likewise a native of the old Granite state and was a Revolutionary soldier under General Washington. He came of English descent and was a prominent and influential member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he long served as a class leader. Elijah S. Clarke became a farmer and followed that occupation throughout his entire life in order to provide for his family. His political support was given to the Free-soil party in his early years and later he became a staunch Democrat. He married Huldah Thurston, a native of Corinth, Vermont, and a daughter of David Thurston. His death occurred when he was fifty-one years of age, but his wife reached the advanced age of seventy-one years. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom reached years of maturity.

John C. Clarke of this review was the first son in his father's family. At the age of seven years he accompanied his parents on their removal to Groton, Vermont, and was there reared upon a farm. His early education was acquired in the common schools and he later pursued an academic course. Like most young men starting out for themselves, he desired a companion and helpmate for life's journey and in 1853 he was united in marriage to Mary E. Carson, a native of Bath, New Hampshire, and a daughter of Alexander and Mary (Cogswell) Carson. She was reared and educated in Bath and has proved to her husband a worthy helpmate. The day succeeding their marriage the young couple started

westward and located in Wisconsin, near Milwaukee, where they remained for three months. They then removed to Peoria, Illinois, where Mr. Clarke engaged in teaching school for three years. On the expiration of that period he came to Iowa county, Iowa, and turned his attention to farming, purchasing a tract of land on which he lived for twenty years, his attention being devoted to the raising of grain and of stock. When two decades had passed he took up his abode in Sigourney, Iowa, and there established a store, which he conducted for a year, after which he returned to his farm in Iowa county, making his home thereon until 1876, when he came to Keota. As a factor in the mercantile circles of this place he was soon active, dealing in agricultural implements, and through eleven years he carried on business along that line. He also dealt in stoves, and in both departments of his trade met with excellent success. At length, selling out, he turned his attention to the manufacture of brick and tile, which he continued in connection with S. K. Leacox under the firm name of Clarke & Leacox. The output of their factory was quite extensive and of excellent quality, so that it found a ready sale upon the market. In the fall of 1902 he disposed of his interest in this concern to his partner. Mr. Clarke owns a farm of two hundred acres in Lafayette township and another of eighty acres in Adams county. He has thus made judicious investments in land and from his farms he receives good rental.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarke has been blessed with three children who are yet living: James F., who is a dealer in horses in Keota; Genevieve, the wife of Rev. I. B. Schreckengast, a Methodist Episcopal minister of Washington; and Harry H., who is engaged in the tile business in Keota. The family is one well known in this portion of the county and their circle of friends is a very extensive one. Mr. Clarke

has long been a recognized leader of public thought and action in his locality. In 1872 he was elected on the Republican ticket to represent the people of Iowa in the state legislature from Iowa county and filled the position so acceptably that he was re-elected in 1874. He has taken an active part in politics and has held other local offices. For twenty-three years he was a member of the city council of Keota, and exercised his official prerogatives for the good of the community in a way that was above reproach. His promptness and fidelity in office could not be better proved than by the fact that he was so long continued in the position by popular suffrage. He belongs to Adelpbi Lodge, No. 353, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he has served as master, and he is also identified with the Eastern Star of Keota. Such, in brief, is the life history of the Hon. John C. Clarke. In whatever relation of life we find him—in the government service, in political circles, in business or in social relations, he is always the same honorable and honored gentleman and well merits the high regard which is uniformly given to him.

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DANIEL DILL.

Among the active, energetic and enterprising business men of Kinross is Daniel Dill, the president of the Savings Bank here. He is numbered among the old settlers of the county and was long classed among the prominent farmers, his home being yet on section 36, Liberty township. He was born in Ohio, April 7, 1839. His father, John Dill, was also a native of that state and a farmer by occupation. The paternal grandfather, Peter Dill, was born in Pennsylvania, but at an early day in the development of the Buckeye state took up his abode there. John Dill remained in Ohio until 1846, when he, too, emigrated westward



to become a factor in pioneer settlement, establishing his home in Keokuk county east of the Black Hawk mill in Clear Creek township. There he transformed a tract of wild land into a richly improved farm. He lived in northern Iowa for about twelve years and died in Greenfield, Adair county, Iowa, at the age of seventy-four. In her maidenhood the mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Margaret Shires, and her death occurred during the early boyhood of Daniel Dill.

Daniel was the second son and the sixth child in a family of thirteen children. During his infancy his parents removed from Ohio to Illinois, settling in Sangamon county, and he was a lad of seven summers when the family came to Keokuk county, where his youth was passed amid pioneer scenes. He pursued his studies in a log schoolhouse and lived upon the home farm until nineteen years of age, assisting in the work of clearing and cultivating the fields. He then started out for himself, working by the month as a farm hand. Saving his money he at length acquired a little capital. As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life he chose Susan F. Greenlee, a native of Kentucky. She lived in Ohio during her early girlhood and when about eight years of age was brought to Keokuk county, Iowa, by her parents, John and Nancy (Blue) Greenlee, pioneers of this locality. She was reared in Clear Creek township and in 1863 gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Dill. The young couple located in Richland township, beginning their domestic life upon a farm which Mr. Dill rented for about three years. He then removed to Clear Creek township, where he resided until 1875, when he came to Liberty township and bought the farm which is yet his home. There were no improvements upon the place when it came into his possession, all was raw land, and he turned the first furrows in the fields and harvested the first crops raised on the soil. He divided the

farm into fields of convenient size by building good fences, and he also erected a substantial residence and good barns. He is the owner of six hundred and eighty-eight acres of valuable land here, which he now rents, giving his attention to other business affairs, although he still maintains his residence upon the farm. He is the president of the Kinross Savings Bank, which was organized in 1899, and to his present office he was chosen at that time.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Dill has been blessed with four children who are yet living and they also have lost three, Emma E., Effie May, and George W. The two sons and two daughters who still survive are as follows: Allen, who married Halley Westfall and resides in Lafayette township; Albert, a twin brother of Allen, married Carrie Palmer, and is also living in Lafayette township; Ottie A., who is the wife of Amos Weaver, a pioneer farmer of Liberty township; and Lulu Belle, the wife of Perry Palmer, of Keota. Mr. and Mrs. Dill are now at home alone, their living children all having married and gone to homes of their own. With the Democratic party Mr. Dill voted for many years, but is now a Republican, and he is known as one of the representative men of Keokuk county. He has been a hard worker, not waiting for fortunate circumstances or influential friends to aid him, but advancing steadily through his own energy; guided by resistless will power, sound business judgment and unquestioned integrity, he has gained success and high standing in the business world.

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DAVID ELBRIDGE ALLEN.

D. E. Allen, a prominent citizen of Keswick, now living a retired life, was born on the 10th of December, 1838, in Mount Vernon Knox county, Ohio. His parents were Alva and Martha (Carry) Allen. His

father was born in Lake county, Ohio, February 23, 1816, and the mother was born in New Jersey, May 6, 1816. The parents came to Muscatine county, Iowa, in 1852 and in 1855 came to Keokuk county and settled active business life and in that undertaking has met with good success. When the country became involved in civil war he laid aside all personal interests and enlisted in 1861 in Company F, Eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, entering the service at Sigourney as a private. He remained at the front for three years, taking part in all of the engagements in which his regiment participated, including the battles of Shiloh and Corinth as well as the Red River expedition and many minor engagements. For nine months he was unable to engage in active duty, being confined during that time in the hospitals at Vicksburg, Washington and Memphis. When his term of service expired he was honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa, in 1864, and returned to his home in Adams township, this county.

in Adams township. The father is still living, but the mother died July 4, 1900. They were the parents of five children, of whom our subject is the eldest.

David Allen was fourteen years of age when he came with the family to Iowa, and upon the home farm in Adams township, Keokuk county, he grew to manhood. He has followed farming throughout his

On the 3d of December, 1865, Mr. Allen was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Wyant, a daughter of Abram and Catherine (Barringer) Wyant, and nine children were born to them, who are still living, namely: Nellie, the wife of Fred Buxton; Eva May, the wife of Gilbert Gribbon; Elmer H., a farmer of this county; Lorena Estella the wife of Albert Fry; Alva, a hardware merchant of Keswick, residing at home; Catharine Ethel, David A., Albert T., and Martha Permelia, also at home.

After his marriage Mr. Allen located in English River township, where he spent two years, and then removed to Adams township, where he purchased land and engaged in general farming with marked success until in 1902 he rented his land and retired from active labor. He is still the owner of two hundred acres of well improved property in Adams township and has twenty-two and a quarter acres in Keswick, whither he removed in 1902. Upon this place he has erected an elegant modern residence, thoroughly up-to-date and supplied with all modern conveniences, including bath and furnace. This home was all planned by his son Alva, who likewise put in the furnace and did all the plumbing, being a young man of exceptional ability.

Socially Mr. Allen is a member of the Grand Army post and the Odd Fellows Lodge at Sigourney, and at one time was also connected with the Masonic fraternity. He has taken quite an active and prominent part in the work of the Odd Fellows lodge, having filled all the offices in the order. At one time he was a member of the lodge at South English, but later became a charter member of the Keswick lodge, and took an active part in organizing the lodges at Whatcheer, Delta, Keswick, Wellman and North English. In his political views he is a stalwart Republican, unwavering in his support of that party since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He voted for the martyr president again in 1864 and has never failed to support the Republican ticket. For three years he acceptably served as trustee of Adams township and has also filled the office of road supervisor and has served on the grand jury. Being a man of good business and executive ability, sound judgment and strict integrity, he has met with success in life and is to-day the owner of one of the best improved farms in the county. His life has been an exemplary one in many respects, for he

has always been upright and honorable, strictly temperate, and has never used tobacco in any form. He is, in fact, one of the representative and honored citizens, as well as one of the worthy pioneers of Keokuk county, where he has now made his home for over forty-seven years.



### WILLIAM SNAKENBERG.

William Snakenberg, one of the prominent and highly respected farmers of German township, Keokuk county, Iowa, was born in Washington county, Iowa, November 5, 1843, and is the third child and third son of Detrich and Mary A. (Seaba) Snakenberg. He was about one year old when he was brought to Keokuk county, and he was reared and educated in German township. He occupied himself in farm work until the time of his enlistment for Civil war service in 1864, when he became a member of Company E, Thirteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, remaining until the close of the war, although sickness compelled him to remain the greater part of the time in the hospital. After his honorable discharge, he returned to his home and resumed farming. In 1892 he built the comfortable residence in which he resides on the farm of eighty-five acres, and has increased the value of his property by judicious and careful methods of cultivation.

In 1893 Mr. Snakenberg was married to Miss Emma Boss, who was born in Lafayette township, Keokuk county. One son, Iren Vernon Paul, has been born to this union. Both our subject and wife are valued members of the German Methodist church and are highly respected residents of German township.

## WESLEY W. WILSON.

Prominent among the energetic, far-seeing and successful business men of Keokuk county is the subject of this sketch. His life history most happily illustrates what may be attained by faithful and continued effort in carrying out an honest purpose. Integrity, activity and energy have been the crowning points of his success, and his connection with various business enterprises and industries has been of decided advantage to this section of the state, promoting its material welfare in no uncertain manner.

Mr. Wilson was born in Frederick county, Maryland, January 10, 1838. His father, William Wilson, was a native of Pennsylvania, in which state he was reared, but it was in Maryland that he was united in marriage to Miss Aceneith R. Spurrier, a native of New York. They located on a farm in Frederick county, Maryland, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits. He died at the age of seventy-eight years, and his wife at the age of seventy-five. They were the parents of fourteen children, two of whom died in infancy, but the other—five sons and seven daughters—reached years of maturity.

Our subject, who is the youngest of the family, was reared in the county of his nativity and there served an apprenticeship to the blacksmith's trade, which he followed until coming west in 1858. He first located in Dayton township, Iowa county, Iowa, where he worked by the month on a farm during the summer months, while through the winter season he continued to follow his trade for some time.

In 1861 Mr. Wilson married Miss Sarah Smith, a native of Callhoun county, Michigan, and a daughter of John S. and Margery (Van Gorder) Smith, who were from New York, where they were married. Her father was born in the Empire state, November 2, 1802, and had ten child-

ren, of whom Mrs. Wilson was the seventh in order of birth. She died in 1872, and two of her four children are also deceased. Those living are Elsie, the wife of W. B. Robison, a business man of Seattle, Washington; and Charles W., a commission merchant of Chicago. After the death of his first wife Mr. Wilson married her sister, Miss Harriet Smith, who was also born in Michigan. Six children blessed this union, but one is now deceased. Henry M., the oldest of those living, was born October 31, 1878, and was educated at Drake University and a business college of Des Moines, graduating at the latter institution in 1897, after which he returned home and was elected assistant cashier of the Keswick Savings Bank. Later he was made cashier and is now holding that position. This bank was organized in 1892 and has a capital stock of twenty thousand dollars. Its first officers were Wesley W. Wilson, president, and T. E. Johns, cashier, but two years later Mr. Wilson was succeeded by Warren Higgins and in 1900 T. E. Johns was made president and Henry M. Wilson cashier. Fossie L., a daughter of our subject, is now the wife of Guy Hallett, of Lane county, Kansas, while Alma, Orpha and Walter are all at home.

In the spring of 1882 Mr. Wilson removed to Keswick and embarked in general mercantile business as a member of the firm of Cover, Baird & Wilson, but at the end of two years he sold his interest in that concern and formed a partnership with Messrs. Johns and Davis, under the firm name of Johns, Wilson & Davis. This company not only conducted a general store but also operated a creamery and was extensively engaged in buying and shipping stock. On his withdrawal from that firm in 1889 Mr. Wilson assisted in organizing a private bank, which was afterward merged into the Keswick Savings Bank, previously referred to, he becoming its first president. He is still one of the

stockholders, a director and the auditor of that bank, but at present gives the greater part of his attention to his real estate and stock business, being still engaged in buying and shipping stock. He also handles a large amount of real estate and is meeting with good success in all lines of his business.

In politics Mr. Wilson is now a Democrat, though he was formerly identified with the Greenback party. For about fifteen years he efficiently served as a member of the school board and has ever given his support to those enterprises calculated to promote the moral, intellectual, social and material welfare of his town and county. Fraternally he is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Millersburg, Iowa, and is a Royal Arch Mason, belonging to chapter No. 72 at Marengo, Iowa. His son, Henry M. Wilson, is one of the prominent Masons of this state, holding membership in De Paynes Commandery at Oskaloosa, and Kaaba Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Davenport. The record of our subject is that of a man who by his own unaided efforts has worked his way upward to a position of affluence. His life has been one of industry and perseverance, and the systematic and honorable business methods that he has followed have gained for him the confidence and high regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact. Without the aid of influence or wealth he has risen to a prominent position among the leading men of Keokuk county.

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JONATHAN F. WHITE.

For over forty-five years this gentleman has been prominently identified with the business interests of Keokuk county and is to-day at the head of the private banking house of J. F. White & Sons at South



English, being the senior member of the firm, which is now doing a large and profitable banking business. He was born on the 3d of June, 1835, in Boone county, Indiana, and being left an orphan at an early age was thrown upon his own resources for a livelihood and through his own unaided efforts has risen to a position of prominence in the business world.

His father, James White, a son of Smith White, was a native of Maryland, born January 29, 1802, was taken to Kentucky during boyhood and there remained until after his marriage, his time being devoted to agricultural pursuits. In October, 1829, he removed to Indiana and settled in Boone county, where he made his home until his death, which occurred September 10, 1844. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Marsh, was born December 27, 1802, in Kentucky, where she was reared; she died in Indiana, August 8, 1849, having survived her husband only five years. She was a daughter of Jonathan Marsh, a native of Kentucky, of Welsh lineage. The White family, paternally, is of English origin. Unto James and Margaret (Marsh) White were born the following children: Ann Eliza, who married Charles Utterback; Mary, who married W. J. Pock; William W.; Martha, who married John S. Peters; Jonathan F.; Smith M.; and James S.

Jonathan F. White is the fifth child and second son in this family of seven children, all of whom reached years of maturity and three of the number are still living, those besides our subject being James S. White, of Sigourney, Iowa, and Mrs. Martha Peters of Indiana. Mr. White was only nine years old when his father died and five years later he was left an orphan by the death of his mother. Previous to this time he had attended the common schools during the winter months and for a time was a student in the seminary at Lebanon, Indiana. At the age of fifteen he started out in life for himself, working as a farm hand for six dollars

per month. The fall after he was fifteen years of age Mr. White began teaching in the district schools of Boone county, and continued to follow that profession for three years. At the age of seventeen he went to north-western Missouri and taught school in Nodaway county and later in Holt county, that state. Subsequently he began farming in the latter county, where he purchased land and improved a farm.

In the meantime Mr. White came to Keokuk county, Iowa, where he was married in 1854 to Miss Maria Thompson, who was also a native of Indiana, in which state she was reared and educated, coming to Iowa with her parents in 1853. By this union were born five children, namely: Virgil E., who is now engaged in the banking business with his father; Theodore E., who is engaged in general merchandising at South English; Amazette, deceased; Willard W., who is also connected with the bank; and Elvina, wife of Dr. C. L. Heald of South English.

After his marriage Mr. White took his bride to the home he had prepared for her in Holt county, Missouri, where he was engaged in general farming until the fall of 1857, when he removed to Keokuk county, Iowa, and spent the first winter in Van Buren township, but the following spring he removed to English River township, and again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. The new part of South English is now located upon that farm. After farming for one year, he found the country so wet that he decided to embark in some other line of business, and in company with O. P. Whitson bought land in South English, known as the Hugh H. Roduan farm, a part of which they traded for a stock of goods belonging to Hogan, Adams & Company. Under the firm name of White & Whitson they conducted the store for six months, and at the end of that time our subject traded his interest in the land for his partner's share in the store, becoming sole

owner of the same, which he continued to carry on for many years. As his sons became of age he gave them an interest in the business, the firm becoming known as White & Sons. In 1890 the second son, Theodore E., took the store, while the father and other two sons, V. E. and W. W., organized a private bank, which they still conduct under firm style of J. F. White & Sons, doing a general banking business. This is to-day one of the most solid financial institutions of the county and its trade is constantly increasing, the members of the firm being known as most reliable and successful business men of good executive ability.

In politics Mr. White is a Democrat, and in his social relations is a member of Naphtali Lodge, No. 188, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of which he is a charter member, and he also belongs to the Royal Arch Chapter at Sigourney and the Odd Fellows lodge at South English. He is the oldest business man in the latter place and among the oldest in the county, having been identified with the commercial interests of the county for forty-four years. At the age of seventeen years he came west, empty-handed, in company with a boy of his own age. They journeyed by steamboat to Keokuk, Iowa, and from there walked to Keokuk county, where they spent one week in the country, after which they proceeded on foot to Missouri over a country which was then all new, few roads having been laid out at that time. With the growth and development of the west he has since been prominently identified. A man of keen perception, of unbounded enterprise, his success in life is due entirely to his own efforts, and he deserves prominent mention among the leading and representative business men of his adopted county.

## GEORGE W. ELLIOTT.

This well known and prominent citizen of Washington township, who is now living a retired life, was born in Indiana on the 20th of March, 1832. His father, George Elliott, was a native of North Carolina and a farmer by occupation. The days of his boyhood and youth were passed in his native state, but when a young man he went to Indiana and settled upon the farm which continued to be his home throughout the remainder of his life. By his ballot he supported the men and measures of the Democratic party and took quite an active interest in public affairs. In the Hoosier state he married Miss Susan Davison, who was born in Kentucky but was reared in Indiana and they became the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters, namely: George W., Samuel, William, Samaria, Rebecca, Samantha and Mary. All were born in Indiana and the last named is now deceased.

In the state of his nativity George W. Elliott was reared and educated in much the usual manner of farmer boys at that time, nothing important occurring to vary the routine of farm work during his youth. He continued to give his father the benefit of his labors until he attained his majority and at the age of twenty-two he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Gregson, who was also a native of Indiana and there grew to womanhood, her parents being Eli and Margaret (Thomson) Gregson. She remained under the parental roof until her marriage, which was celebrated in February, 1854. By this union twelve children were born, five sons and seven daughters, those still living being Nellie, Florence, Susan, Sarah, Ada, Alta, Ina and Willard. The deceased are Jefferson, Walter, Merritt and Eli. They were all born in Iowa.

In September following his marriage Mr. Elliott went to Texas,

where he was engaged in farming for one season, and then came to Iowa. For twelve years he made his home in Poweshiek county, where he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits, owning and operating one hundred and twenty-seven acres of land in that county, which was partially improved by him. On selling out there in 1865 he came to Keokuk county and located on a farm of two hundred acres in Washington township, to the development and cultivation of which he devoted his energies until 1892, when he removed to his present place, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, and has lived a retired life since 1900. He has divided his property among his children so that he might spend the remainder of his life in ease and quiet, free from the cares and responsibilities of business life. For some years he devoted considerable attention to the buying and selling of stock, which he found quite profitable, and in all his undertakings he met with well deserved success. He acquired a handsome competence, so that in his declining years he will be surrounded by all the comforts which make life worth the living.

In religious faith Mr. Elliott is a Baptist, having long held membership with that church, and he is also connected with the Masonic fraternity. Since attaining his majority he has always supported the men and measures of the Democracy and had taken an active part in local politics. He is well known and highly respected by his fellow citizens and justly deserving of prominent mention in the history of his adopted county.



#### J. M. NELSON.

For almost a half century J. M. Nelson has been a resident of Keokuk county and now resides upon the old family homestead which his father entered from the government upon locating here in 1853. It is locat-

ed in Washington township and was one of the first farms settled in the locality. The subject of this review was born in Knox county, Illinois, May 5, 1844. His father, Elias Nelson, was a native of Virginia, born in Greenbrier county, May 27, 1822, and when five years of age left the Old Dominion in company with his parents, who removed to Lawrence county, Ohio, where they remained for about eight years, and then took up their abode in Knox county, Illinois, making their home upon a farm there until called to their final rest. Elias Nelson was married in Knox county in 1843 to Miss Emily Brown, a native of Pennsylvania, who with her parents left that state when she was four years of age, locating in Meigs county, Ohio, where she spent her early childhood. At the age of eighteen she went with her parents to Knox county, Illinois, where she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Nelson. She became the mother of eleven children, six sons and five daughters: Jonathan, of this review; John Columbus, who died in the army; William Oregon, deceased; a son who died in infancy; Mary Jane, who has also passed away; Virginia E., the wife of Henry King; Perry F.; Julia, the wife of John Axtell, of Poweshiek county, Iowa; Florence, the wife of Alexander Zerring; Annie, the wife of John Colbert, of Washington township; and Grant, who completes the family.

It was on the 1st of April, 1853, that the parents located on the farm on which our subject now resides, the place comprising one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land, which the father entered from the government and improved, making it a good farm, whose productive fields returned to him golden harvests. He remained upon the old homestead until his death, which occurred July 24, 1902 when he was eighty years of age. His death was the first in their home in Iowa. From the organization of the Republican party he had been

one of its staunch supporters, always active in its work. He was a member of the Methodist church and his Christian faith molded his life. His widow still survives him and is yet living on the old home place at the age of seventy-eight years. Like her husband, she has lived an earnest Christian life and is highly respected for her many excellent traits of character.

J. M. Nelson came to the old homestead with his parents when about nine years of age and spent his youth there, working in field and meadow during the summer months, while in the winter season he performed the duties of the schoolroom and greatly enjoyed the pleasures of the playground. He was yet but a boy when the Civil war broke out, but at the early age of seventeen years he offered his services to his country, enlisting in September, 1861, as a member of Company F, Eighth Iowa Infantry, joining the regiment at Sigourney, Iowa, and being mastered in at Davenport. He served for about seven months and was then discharged on account of disability. He then returned to the old homestead and remained with his parents until 1864, when he once more enlisted under the call for men to serve for one hundred days, and remained at the front until the close of the war—a loyal defender of the old flag.

Once more Mr. Nelson returned to the old homestead and remained until 1867, when he went upon the road as an agent for about five months. He was then married on the 24th of August, 1868, to Miss Margaret S. King, a native of Indiana, where she spent her early girlhood, and then accompanied her parents to Iowa at the age of nine years, the family settling in Marion county, where she remained until she gave her hand in marriage to our subject. Their union has been blessed with seven children, two sons and five daughters: Chelca Q., Elsie C., Emily A. and Elias B., who are all deceased; Perry F.; Laura, the wife of Fred

Payne of Whatcheer; Maggie, at home. The mother of these children passed away in Whatcheer, October 12, 1882, and Mr. Nelson was again married on August 7, 1885, his second union being with Ella A. Hockenberry, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Iowa in her early girlhood, locating in Keokuk county, where she remained with her parents until her marriage. She became the mother of twins, who died in infancy, and she died May 20, 1886, at her home in Frontier county, Nebraska, and on the 11th of October, 1891, Mr. Nelson married Mrs. Anna Klein, a native of Keokuk county, but reared in Nebraska. A son, Elias, has been born to them.

Mr. Nelson has spent the last few years upon the old homestead in Washington township, and in addition to the attention which he gives to the operation and management of the old farm he is also engaged in carpentering. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and in his political views is a Republican, faithful to the party and its interests, yet never seeking office as a reward for party fealty. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is well known throughout the county as a man worthy the respect of his fellow citizens and deserving of the friendship which is so largely accorded him.

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JOHN A. RIGGEN, M. D.

There are in every community men of great force of character and exceptional ability, who by reason of their capacity for leadership become recognized as foremost citizens and bear a most important part in the development and progress of the locality with which they are connected. Such a man is Dr. Rigger, who is a prominent physician and influential citizen of What Cheer, Iowa.

A native of the neighboring state of Illinois, he was born in Stark





*J. A. Riggen M.D.*



county, October 29, 1841, a son of John and Anna (Bothwell) Rigger. His father was born in Ohio and traced his Scotch-Irish ancestry back to the early settlers of Maryland and Delaware. The doctor's maternal grandfather was also a native of the Buckeye state and was of Scotch descent, while his wife was born in Virginia of Irish parentage. Both the Rigger and Bothwell families settled in Knox and Peoria counties, Illinois, in the early '30s and originated a generation of people noted for their honest and sturdy habits.

The early educational privileges of our subject were limited, as he was able to attend the country schools only for three winter terms, and what additional knowledge he has acquired has been gathered from the school of experience. In 1859 he accompanied the family on their removal to Missouri, settling in what proved to be a strong secession community. When the war broke out, however, both father and son unhesitatingly declared their adherence to the cause of the Union and emphasized their sentiments by enlisting in the Northern army, the former serving for three years in the First Missouri Cavalry, after which he returned home on account of wounds and disability. The Doctor enlisted in June, 1861, joining the Eighteenth Missouri Volunteer Infantry at its organization in the following July. He was in the service for four years, one month and fifteen days, during which time he was never absent from his regiment, except two weeks while in the hospital with measles, and two months while home on a veteran furlough and in recruiting service. With his command he participated in a number of important skirmishes and small engagements in Missouri during the fall and winter of 1861. He also took part in the battle of Shiloh, where he was wounded; and the siege and second battle of Corinth, Mississippi, in 1862. The follow-

ing year he was in the campaigns and skirmishes in western Tennessee, and later was in numerous engagements, being under the command of General Sherman in the Atlanta campaign; the march to the sea; the march through the Carolinas, and the battle of Bentonville, which was the last engagement of the war. His regiment then marched through Virginia to Washington, D. C., and participated in the grand review. The Doctor takes a just pride in the fact that he carried a musket for nearly three years, although he was mustered out with the rank of first lieutenant, having been promoted for conspicuous bravery and highly meritorious service.

After the war Dr. Riggen taught school for a few months and then began the study of medicine, locating for the practice of his profession in Johnstown, Bates county, Missouri, in 1869, where he maintained an extensive practice for ten years, when he was compelled by failing health to change his location. Coming to Iowa in the spring of 1879, he first located in Washington county, and in 1884 removed to his present home in What Cheer. During the years that have since passed his practice has only been limited by his physical endurance, for his skill and ability in his chosen profession were soon widely recognized. For twenty years he has been division surgeon for the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad Company. He is ex-president of the Keokuk County Medical Society and a member of the American Medical Association, the Iowa State Medical Society, the National Association of Railway Surgeons and the American Public Health Association.

At St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1868, Dr. Riggen was united in marriage to Mrs. Hannah E. Mesley, with whose companionship and love he is still blessed. She is a daughter of the late John E. Warner, of

Syracuse New York. Their only child is Fannie E., now the wife of T. C. Legoe, a prominent attorney of What Cheer, though they have an adopted daughter, Cora F., the wife of Joseph C. Reilly, a successful millinery dealer in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Doctor has a splendid plantation of two thousand one hundred and twenty acres in the sunny south, where he spends his winters, while the summers are passed at What Cheer. Socially he is an honored member of all of the Masonic bodies up to and including the thirty-second degree, and he is also connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Sons of Veterans and the military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. For seven years he served as commander of Grand Army Posts Nos. 112 and 114, and in 1888 was elected senior vice-commander of the department of Iowa and had charge of the Iowa camp at the national encampment at Columbus, Ohio, that year.

In 1887 Dr. Riggen was nominated by acclamation by the Republicans of Keokuk county for state representative and came within five votes of being elected, although the county went strongly Democratic that year. He has served as a member of the city school board and was postmaster under President Harrison, but resigned in a short time on account of ill health. He was the choice of his county for district delegate to the national Republican convention in 1892 and was elected as an alternate from the sixth district that year. In 1893 he was elected state senator from the twelfth district, being nominated by acclamation and elected by a majority of eight hundred and eighty-five, succeeding a Democrat. During his term of four years the Doctor rendered in a quiet way honest and faithful service to his constituents

and to the state. He was a member of a number of important committees, including the ways and means, suppression of intemperance, railroad corporation, military, mines and mining, labor, highways, elections, public health and pharmacy. He was also chairman of the legislative committee to visit the Independence insane asylum in 1894 and the Anamosa penitentiary in 1896. From the hour of his election he positively refused to be considered a candidate for re-election, his dislike for the duties of the office and his persistent ill health making his resolve absolutely necessary.

When the war with Spain was declared Dr. Riggen took an active interest in aiding the government, and by his diligent efforts the city in which he resides had the honor of a good representation in the Fiftieth Iowa Volunteers. He organized a squad of fifteen, accompanied them to the recruiting station, and by his efforts raised money to pay the expenses of all who were accepted or rejected. He kept in touch with the boys at the front, forwarding the money to Jacksonville, Florida, and when they returned gave his gratuitous professional services to all who were ill. Upon the receipt of the news of the battle of Santiago he promptly tendered by telegraph through Congressman Lacy his immediate and gratuitous service to our wounded. As a number of similar offers had been made, the surgeon general accepted the services of those who were nearer when they were needed. The Doctor loves Iowa and her people, but his physical condition will not permit him to risk the rigors of a northern winter climate. He is deservedly popular with all classes, having the happy faculty of being able to win friends easily and as easily retain them.

DR. ROBERT H. PAYNE.

No word of encomium is necessary to introduce this gentleman to the citizens of Keokuk county, for the simple reason that he has been known of them for a period of four decades. Dr. Payne is a native of Illinois, where he was born in Vermilion county, February 22, 1836. He came to Keokuk county when a young man and has been here continuously since that date. He has the distinction of having taught the first school that was ever held in Ioka.

Dr. Payne is the son of a physician, his father having been Dr. Jesse D. Payne, who was for long years a successful physician in Vermilion county, Illinois, and who became one of the earliest settlers of the state of Iowa, locating in Henry county in 1836. He was a native of Jefferson county, Tennessee, and in medicine was a graduate of a medical school at Nashville, Tennessee. Upon his graduation he located at Georgetown, Vermilion county, Illinois, the date being about 1830, and as stated came to Iowa in 1836. He located at a point now known as Mount Pleasant, a town which he surveyed and in company with others, laid out. He continued the practice of medicine there until his death occurred in middle life, he being only forty-three years of age. Dr. Payne was a man of great energy of purpose, and was largely interested in the public utilities of his section of the country. He was one of a number who were instrumental in bringing Iowa Wesleyan University to Mount Pleasant, and was one of the trustees of that institution. He was very favorably known all over his section of the state. He served in the Iowa legislature one term and as clerk of courts in Henry County. The grandfather of our subject was also named Robert. He was a native of the Old Dominion state of Virginia, and had taken the family name to Tennessee in the early part of the century. The mother of our

honored subject was Artemetia Earnest, and is of a family that was for long years connected with the religious interests of Tennessee. Her people were natives of Blount county, Tennessee, her father being Lawrence Earnest, a prominent minister of the Methodist church. Dr. Payne's father and mother were the parents of a family of seven children, two sons and five daughters. Only two of the family are now living, the other member beside our subject being Ellen E. West, at present a resident of Omaha, Nebraska.

Dr. Payne is next to the youngest child of the family and was only five months old when he landed in Henry county. He remained at his home in Mount Pleasant until he was about eighteen years of age and succeeded in acquiring a very good foundation in the common schools of that day for his later medical education. He entered the Iowa University, and after a course there came to Keokuk county, where he taught the first school at Ioka. He immediately began preparation for his profession by reading medicine with Dr. Myers of Ioka, and for the succeeding several years also followed the profession of teaching. On November 21, 1857, he married Martha J. Faulkner, and removing from Ioka, located at a point now known as Wayland, where he continued the study of medicine with Dr. D. A. Kittle. Here he later began the practice in company with Dr. Kittle, but in 1858 located in Troy, Doniphan county, Kansas. After three years' practice in this place he returned to Wayland, and entering Keokuk Medical College, remained in that institution until his graduation in 1862, this same date marking the year of his location in Richland, where he has been continuously engaged in the practice since that time. This makes him the oldest resident practicing physician in Keokuk county. Dr. Payne is an excellent physician and a man who is widely known for his many fine qualities of



citizenship. He is prominent in his profession and keeps in close touch with his brother physicians, being a member of the American Medical Association, the International Association of Railway Surgeons, and the Keokuk County Medical Society. He is a prominent and worthy member of the Masonic fraternity, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his political affiliations lie with the Republican party. Dr. Payne and his wife are the parents of three sons and three daughters, namely: Dr. Jesse D. Payne, a prominent physician practicing at Los Angeles, California; Anna E., wife of Dr. W. R. Nugent, a leading physician in Chicago; Carrie M., wife of Martin Starr, Richland, Iowa; Dr. John E. Payne, whose sketch appears below; G. Logan Payne, of Chicago, being an advertising representative of leading Iowa daily papers; and two young members of the family that were deceased in infancy. Dr. Payne and his family are worthy members of the Methodist church, and have during their time been leaders in thought and movement in the community of Richland.

Dr. John E. Payne, the fourth child of the above parents, was born in Richland, September 16, 1871. He was well grounded in education in the public schools of Richland, which was later supplemented by a literary course in the Penn College of Oskaloosa. He then entered formally upon the study of his profession with his father and finished at the old College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Iowa, in 1896. He began the practice of his profession at Harper and continued it for a period of three years, but in November, 1899, he became associated in practice with his father in Richland. Dr. Payne is an earnest student of his profession, having since his graduation taken a post-graduate course at the Illinois School of Electro-Therapeutics, from which institution he graduated May 24, 1902.

Dr. Payne was married on the 20th of June, 1890, to Maggie Vittitoe, and has two bright children, Vera H., and Robert H. Like his father, he is keenly alive to the interests of the profession, being a member of the Iowa State Medical Society, and of the Keokuk County Medical Society, while both he and his wife are acceptable members of the Methodist church. The family name of Payne is an honored one in Keokuk county, and the authors of this volume are pleased to give it representation here.

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W. H. HUMES.

W. H. Humes, who carries on general farming in Washington township, Keokuk county, and is one of the old residents of this locality, is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Tippecanoe county, January 10, 1837. His father, James Humes, was born in Pike county, Ohio, in 1812, and there spent his early childhood days. In 1829, however, he removed with his parents to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he assisted in the farm work. In 1852 he and his son came to Keokuk county, Washington township, Iowa, where they entered two hundred acres of raw land from the government, paying the usual price of one dollar and a quarter per acre. This he improved, transforming the wild land into productive fields. The father of our subject remained with his parents until his marriage, which was celebrated in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, the lady of his choice being Sarah Start, a native of Pickaway county, Ohio, born in 1817. They were the parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters, and all are yet living with the exception of two sons who died in the army. These are: John, W. H., Harriet, Samuel, Solomon, Rachel, James, and Thomas. John and Solomon died in the army. The father of these children lived upon his farm

until two years prior to his death, when he removed to Whatcheer, Iowa. His first wife had died in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and he was again married in 1852, his second union being with Mary Ann Hutchinson, a native of Pennsylvania. By this marriage there were two children, George and Frank, the former born in Indiana and the latter in Iowa. Mr. Humes was a stalwart supporter of the Democracy and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Whatcheer. He died at his home in that town at the age of eighty-two years, respected by all who knew him.

W. H. Humes spent his early childhood days in Indiana and when fifteen years of age came with his parents to Iowa, assisting his father on the old farm until about eighteen years of age. The first land which he ever owned was a tract of forty acres and this he improved, placing it under a high state of cultivation. At the time of the Civil war he offered his services to the government, enlisting on the 8th of April, 1861, in Chicago, Illinois, as a member of Company B, McClellan's Dragoons. He served for three years and during the last two years was a member of the Twelfth Illinois Cavalry, belonging to Company I. He took part in the battle of Williamsburg, Virginia, in the seven days fight at Richmond and engagements at South Mountain and Antietam, and others of lesser importance, and was mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the 8th of October, 1864, returning to his home with a creditable military record which had covered almost the entire period of the Civil war, his services being of great value in defending the Union. He stood guard at Lincoln's door and often acted as escort to him in Washington, D. C.

After the war Mr. Humes returned to Iowa and located on his farm in Washington township, Keokuk county, where he still makes his home. He was married on the 8th of April, 1865, to Eliza Harbison,

a native of Ohio and a daughter of Mathew R. Harbison, one of the early settlers of Washington township. They became the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters: Glenn C.; Eva, the wife of Irvin Ogden, of What Cheer; Leonard; Clair, deceased; Mabel, the wife of Clyde Legg, of What Cheer; and Earl, who has also passed away. Socially Mr. Humes is connected with the Masonic lodge of What Cheer, of which he is a past master. He has always been a staunch advocate of the Republican party, unfaltering in his support of its principles, yet he has never sought or desired office. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church of What Cheer and as a citizen has ever been as true and loyal to his country in times of peace as he was when he followed the old flag upon the battle fields of the south.

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DAVID NICHOL HENDERSON.

David Nichol Henderson is one of the oldest settlers of Keokuk county and now makes his home on section 3, Richland township, being widely known as a prominent farmer of his locality. He was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, April 5, 1819. His father, the Hon. Thomas Henderson was a native of Millin county, Pennsylvania, born in 1776 and there he spent the days of his boyhood and youth. When a young man he accompanied his parents to Huron county, Ohio, where he was married. He afterward located in Guernsey county, Ohio, and followed the occupation of farming. He was also very prominent in public affairs and was a recognized leader of the public thought and action of his community. He served as judge of the court and was three times elected to represent his district in the state legislature of Ohio. He held many local offices, including that of justice of the peace. He was

ever faithful, prompt and honorable in the discharge of his official duties. Prominent and influential, he left the impress of his individuality upon the public life of his county. He and two brothers, William and John, all located in Guernsey county. They were the sons of John Henderson, Sr., who was born in Pennsylvania and was of Irish descent. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Jane Jackson. She was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, February 10, 1789, and was the eldest in a family of ten children. The father, Robert Jackson, was the third child of David and Elizabeth Jackson and was born in Ireland, whence he came to America in 1762. By occupation he was a wheelwright and for many years engaged in the manufacture of the old-fashioned spinning wheels. His father and Andrew Jackson's father were half brothers. The latter settled in South Carolina, while Robert's father took up his abode in Pennsylvania. They were also near relatives of General "Stonewall" Jackson. Unto the parents of our subject were born three sons and eight daughters, all of whom reached years of maturity and were married, although only three of the number are now living, namely: David Nichol, of this review; John; and Sarah, who is the widow of P. S. Langford and resides in California.

David Nichol Henderson was the seventh child and second son in his parents' family and was reared in his native state until sixteen years of age, acquiring a common school education in one of the old log schoolhouses of his native county. The light was admitted into the building through greased paper windows and in one end of the room was a huge fireplace from which the smoke made its egress through a mud and stick chimney. The seats were rude slabs and all of the furnishings of the little temple of learning were equally primitive. Mr. Henderson, however, acquired a fair knowledge of the English branches of

learning and has continually broadened his knowledge by reading, experience and observation in later life. In the year 1836 he started westward, accompanying his parents on their removal to Warren county, Illinois, where he was engaged in general farming until 1839. In that year he came to what is now Keokuk county, Iowa. The Indians were still numerous here, far outnumbering the white settlers. Mr. Henderson located in the midst of the green woods and erected a double log house with a puncheon floor and a clapboard roof which was held down by the weight of poles. He remained with his father until his marriage and largely assisted in the arduous task of clearing the wild land and preparing it for the plow and placing it under a high state of cultivation.

In 1845 Mr. Henderson was joined in wedlock to Miss Lavina Jeffrey, who died in 1852, and for his second wife he chose Rose Ann Noggle, who died in September, 1900. They had no children of their own, so they reared an adopted daughter, Mary, who is now the wife of John Wallerich and has two children, Ransom O. and Rosa Belle. They still reside upon the farm with Mr. Henderson. After his first marriage Mr. Henderson located in what is now Clear Creek township, Keokuk county, where he had taken a claim, and there he improved a farm of one hundred acres, adding to it from time to time until he owned there about four hundred acres. He carried on general farming and stock raising, making his home upon his first place until 1892, when he removed to Colfax, Iowa, hoping to benefit his wife's health by the change. For six years he remained in that place and then returned to Richland, where he lived until 1900. His wife died in that year and he then took up his abode with his adopted daughter, Mary, with whom he is now making his home.

Mr. Henderson is one of the honored pioneer settlers of Keokuk county and has been identified with the development and improvement of this section of the state through many years. He prospered in his undertakings, but has now sold much of his land in this county, retaining, however, sixty-five acres. He also owns three hundred and twenty acres in Trego county, Kansas. He has been a life-long Democrat and has served as justice of the peace of Clear Creek township for forty years and has held other local offices. In the discharge of his official duties he has ever been found true and faithful and no higher testimonial of capable service could be given than the fact that for four decades he has been continued in one office. He was made a Mason in 1851 and has acted as worshipful master in three different lodges, served in that office most of the time from the first to 1881. In his religious faith he is a strong Spiritualist, having been identified with the society since 1839. He takes a just pride in what has been accomplished in Keokuk county. When he arrived amid a population largely composed of Indians, he took up his work as one of the frontier settlers. He found conditions which would have discouraged many a man of less resolute spirit. The struggle for existence was a stern and hard one for many years. The pioneer homes were little cabins, situated far apart, and the settlers had to perform the difficult task of reclaiming the wild land for purposes of civilization. The farm implements then were not as efficient as they are at the present time and the work of agriculture was therefore much more slow and difficult. With strong purpose and resolute will, however, Mr. Henderson undertook the task of improving a farm and aiding in the upbuilding and progress of the community, and what he has done in behalf of the county entitles him to the gratitude of the present and later generations.

## ANTHOXY STOUGHT.

From early pioneer times down to the present Anthony Stought has been a resident of Keokuk county. He has seen its wild land transformed into good farms dotted here and there with splendid homes. He has seen towns and villages spring up and all of the industrial and commercial interests known to the east introduced here. With the work of improvement and progress he has been identified as a promoter of agricultural interests and he is still carrying on his farming pursuits, making his home in Warren township.

Mr. Stought was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, on the 8th of July, 1837. His father, Thomas Stought, was a native of Ohio, born in Miami county, November 19, 1812. There he spent his childhood days and acquired his education. In Indiana he was married on the 24th of March, 1833, to Miss Elizabeth Williams, who was born in that state on the 11th day of June, 1816. They became the parents of eleven children, five sons and six daughters: Hannah, born February 23, 1834; William A., born August 1, 1835; Anthony, born July 8, 1837; Ruth, born September 7, 1839; Josiah, born October 23, 1840; Amanda, born August 8, 1843; Thomas, born June 8, 1845; Mary M., born September 27, 1847; David W., born March 8, 1850; Barbara R., born December 19, 1852; and Frances E., born August 15, 1855. The father came to Iowa in 1839, settling in DesMoines county, where he remained for about seven years, after which he returned to Illinois, taking up his abode in Logan county. There he remained until the fall of 1853, when he once more came to Iowa and this time settled in Keokuk county. He entered a farm of forty acres of raw land, which he soon afterward sold, and then removed to Ringgold county, Iowa, where



his wife died on the 28th of June, 1857. At that time he returned to Illinois, where he remained until his death, which occurred on the 6th of December, 1862.

Anthony Stought was only two years of age when he first came to Iowa. He remained with his parents, accompanying them on their various removals until he was about twenty years of age, when he started out in life to make his own living. He was employed in various capacities and at length, when his labors had brought him sufficient capital, he invested in land and began farming on his own account. He was married in Springfield, Keokuk county, on the 27th of October, 1859, to Miss Louisa Hasty, a native of Morgan county, Indiana, and a daughter of John Hasty, who was born in Morgan county, Indiana, and became one of the pioneer settlers of Keokuk county, Iowa. Mrs. Stout spent her girlhood days at her father's home in this county, remaining with her parents until she gave her hand in marriage to our subject. This union was blessed with two children, but one died in infancy. The other son, Alvin E., born August 27, 1862, is living on his father's farm. His birth occurred near Delta, and he was married on the 15th of December, 1886, to Emma Lister, by whom he has three children, one son and two daughters, who add life and light to the old home place.

Mr. Stought and his son are to-day the owners of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, all under a high state of cultivation. He has resided upon this farm since 1872, covering a period of thirty years. His marked energy and enterprise soon wrought great changes here. He erected good buildings, planted his fields and in course of time had rich harvests as a result of the progressive methods employed. Everything about his place is kept in a neat and thrifty condition and a

glance indicates to the passer-by that the owner is a progressive and practical agriculturist. Mr. Stought has always been a staunch advocate of the Republican party and interested in the welfare of his county, state and nation.



#### GODFREY SAYLER.

Godfrey Sayler is a retired farmer and an honored pioneer settler of Keokuk county, where he has made his home for more than a half century. He was born in Blount county, Tennessee, March 20, 1821. His father, William Sayler, was a native of Virginia, and came to Pennsylvania in an early day. In 1849 he removed to Iowa, being accompanied by his son Godfrey. They located in Warren township, Keokuk county, and there purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres of government land. This was raw and unimproved, not a furrow having been turned on the prairie land, but with characteristic energy the father and sons cleared away the timber, broke the prairie land and prepared it for the planting of crops, which in time yielded to them a good return for their labors. The father was married in Tennessee to Catherine Keller, and they became the parents of eight children, three sons and five daughters, but with the exception of the subject of this review all are deceased. The family record is as follows: Sallie, Jacob, Rebecca, Mary, Godfrey, Elizabeth, Selina, and a baby that died in infancy. William Sayler, the father of this family, spent his remaining days upon the old homestead in Warren township. Throughout his life he had carried on agricultural pursuits and he was an honored and respected citizen of the community in which he lived, where he bore his share in the improvement and development which was

taking place in those early days and which laid the foundation to the great future prosperity of the state of Iowa. His death occurred about 1861.

Godfrey Saylor is the second son and fifth child of his father's family. The early days of his childhood were passed in Tennessee. With his parents he came to Indiana when about seven years of age, and remained there with his parents until his marriage. In Montgomery county, that state, he was united in marriage to Miss Prudence Taylor, a native of Indiana, where she remained until her marriage. She was a daughter of Abner Taylor, a pioneer settler of Indiana and later a pioneer settler also of Mahaska county, Iowa, where he removed in 1848 and spent the remainder of his life. As has been stated, the subject of this review removed to Keokuk county in 1849, and here has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, as was his father before him. He has witnessed much of the progress and improvement which has taken place in county and state since he became a resident therein, and has contributed in a large measure toward the up-building of the community and the development of the wonderful natural resources of the state. The rich fields of grain in harvesting time indicate the careful cultivation which has been bestowed upon the land of which he is the owner, and they yield to him a good return for his labor. When Mr. Saylor came to Keokuk county there were few white settlers but many Indians. He now owns about two hundred acres of the original purchase made by his father and himself, and he and his wife reside upon the old homestead.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Saylor were born seven children, two sons and five daughters, as follows: Mary Elizabeth, Nancy, and Thomas, all deceased; Annie, living in Nebraska; Ella and Charlie, also deceased; and

Levada. The children were all born in Keokuk county with the exception of the eldest, who was born in Indiana. Mr. Sayler has now reached the eighty-first milestone on life's journey, while his wife, who has been his faithful companion through many years, has reached the age of seventy-three. They are living in peaceful enjoyment of a well-earned rest from the active labors of life, and Mr. Sayler rents his land. A Democrat in his political views, he is strong in his adherence to the principles of the party, although always content to live the life of a private citizen, never seeking office. No man in Keokuk county is more honored and respected than he, and well may he be classed among the representative citizens of his community.

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DR. ALLEN HEALD.

With a long line of prominent ancestors and with a life record of his own that is most commendable, Dr. Allen Heald is well worthy of a place in this work which purposes to give the history of the foremost men of Keokuk county. On the paternal side the earliest record is of the great-great-grandfather, whose name was William Heald; he was a native of England and came to America with the famous colony of William Penn, thus becoming one of the original founders of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The next one in order is Nathan Heald, who was born in Pennsylvania, but afterward moved to Virginia. Grandfather William Heald was a native of Loudon county, Virginia, and was one of the earliest pioneers of the rich country in Columbiana county, Ohio; he surveyed some of that and other counties; for thirty years he was the government surveyor of that region. He held to the Quaker faith of his forefathers and was one of the prominent men of

the country. He was chosen several times to represent the Whig party in the state legislature; he was also able to say that he had cast a vote for the first President of the United States. He lived to the great age of one hundred and two years, and it is recorded that the whole family are noted for their longevity.

Israel Heald, the father of Doctor Heald, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, and was there reared. His wife was Lydia Allen, a native of the same county and of the Quaker faith; her father, Isaac Allen, was born in Pennsylvania and was an early settler of Columbiana county. In 1868 Mr. Heald came to Iowa and located in Cedar county, where he died in the eighty-second year of his life; throughout his life he was a strict adherent of the religious belief of his fathers.

In Columbiana county, Ohio, on the 1st of July, 1829, was born Allen Heald; he was the oldest of the two sons by his father's first marriage, his brother Isaac being a resident of West Liberty, Muscatine county, Iowa. He was educated in a Quaker school of his native county and later in a boarding school at Mount Pleasant, Ohio. Having made up his mind to the study of medicine he began his preparation under Dr. Kay of East Fairfield and remained with him about three years. He then went to Dupont, Jefferson county, Indiana, and formed a partnership with Dr. B. F. Richards, his brother-in-law. This was continued for about three years; in 1856 he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and located in South English, where he engaged in active practice up to 1898, when he retired from the field where he had won such deserved success. He still holds membership in the County Medical Society.

On October 24, 1849, Dr. Allen Heald took as his wife Rebecca Neill, who was born within a few miles of her future husband's birth-

place, the second of eight children born to Sammel and Mary (Cope) Neill: she passed away in April, 1898, leaving three children: Alice is the wife of Chester Mendenhall; William is single and at home; Dr. Clarence L. is one of the leading physicians at South English. Doctor Heald was a Whig and when the Republican party was organized became one of its loyal members and has ever since cast his vote that way. He has never deserted the Quaker faith of his original American ancestor, and fraternally he was a charter member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of South English.



DR. IRA F. CAMERON.

The subject of this sketch is one of the old and prominent physicians and an old settler of Keokuk county and as such deserves mention in this volume. His father, Allen Cameron, was a native of Montgomery county, New York, and remained there until twenty years of age. He then removed to Hamilton county, Ohio, and there taught school for a number of years. During one of his vacations he was married near Cincinnati and then came west to Iowa, in 1857; he had bought land in Adams township, Keokuk county, in 1852. He engaged in farming for a number of years and in 1880 embarked in the drug and stationery business, which he continued till his retirement in 1884. He passed from the scenes of earth in 1894. He had engaged in several occupations in life, and always with success. As a member of the Democratic party he held the office of justice of the peace, was a member of the school board, and for three times was the candidate of his party for state representative. Always active in public affairs, his life was one of great usefulness to the county and state. He married Mariah Broad-

well, who was born, reared and educated in Hamilton county, Ohio; she died in 1889 and was the mother of four children, one of whom died in infancy.

One of these children was Ira F. Cameron, who records his birth as occurring in Hamilton county, Ohio, June 20, 1847, and he was thus but ten years of age when his parents brought him to Iowa. After receiving his preliminary education in the district school, when about seventeen years of age he entered the Iowa State University and continued in attendance for three years, teaching school a portion of the time. After his marriage he attended the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati and graduated in 1876. Then locating in Keswick, Iowa, he has made that place his home ever since and is now one of the oldest practitioners in the county, having constantly devoted himself to the alleviation of the sufferings of humanity for twenty-six years. He is also engaged in the drug business.

In 1870 Dr. Cameron was united in marriage to Miss Martha Connelly, a native of Delaware county, Ohio, where she was reared and educated. They are the parents of two children: Mable is a graduate in the department of pharmacy at the Iowa State University; and Elmer is attending high school. The Doctor is a member of the Keokuk County Medical Association and is ex-president of the same; he is also a member of the Iowa Association of Railway Surgeons. Until 1896 he was a Democrat, but in that year he decided to take a position of independence in the matter of politics; he has been the candidate of that party for the state legislature, but failed of election because he was on the unpopular side. He has served as member of the school board for several years and always takes a deep interest in affairs of a public

nature. Mr. Cameron has one of the finest residences in the city; it was built in 1892 at a cost of three thousand and five hundred dollars and is equipped with all modern conveniences.



#### THOMAS SINGMASTER.

Thomas Singmaster is one of the prominent and representative men of Keokuk county, Iowa, living on section 36, Clear Creek township, on the old family homestead. He is widely known beyond the confines of this county because of his extensive dealing as an importer of fine horses, and in the locality where he has so long resided he is cherished as a faithful man, a worthy citizen and an upright business man. He was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1840, and is the fourth child of Samuel and Mary Singmaster, who are represented on another page of this work. He was nearly four years of age when brought by his parents to Keokuk county, Iowa, where he has lived continuously since. He was reared upon the old family homestead and during his boyhood he pursued his studies in a log schoolhouse during the winter months, mastering the branches of learning therein taught. During the summer season he assisted in the work of the home farm and as he grew in years he was entrusted with more and more of the responsibility of carrying on the farm and conducting the stock dealing operations. As the sons reached their majority they were taken into partnership by the father and the business was conducted jointly by the family until 1891. Thomas Singmaster, however, always remained with his father and after the latter's death took charge of the large estate. Many years ago he began breeding fine horses and dealing in the same. He has also made large investments in real estate and to-day



he is one of the extensive land holders of Keokuk county, his possessions aggregating over three thousand acres, the most of which is in Keokuk and Washington counties. He also has two hundred and forty acres in Nebraska. He handles about four hundred head of cattle each year, having now about three hundred head, and about two hundred head of horses, also five hundred hogs. His stock dealing operations are extensive and profitable because of his excellent judgment concerning stock. Mr. Singmaster is interested in three banks, First National Bank of Richland, the State Bank of Keota, and State Bank of Harper.

After his father's death Mr. Singmaster was married to Miss Kate Kaufman, a daughter of John and Mary (Ludwig) Kaufman, and they now have an interesting little daughter, Mary Eva. Mr. Singmaster has been a life-long Republican, unswerving in his advocacy of the party, yet he has never sought or desired office, preferring to give his entire attention to his business affairs. He is one of the men who have gained for the state its place among the leading agricultural commonwealths of this great nation. For almost sixty years he has resided in Keokuk county, and from pioneer times down to the present he has been interested in everything pertaining to the general good and has contributed in a large measure to public improvement. The splendid reputation made by the father in business circles has been sustained by the son. Through his large operations in land and stock he has acquired excellent success, which classes him among the wealthy residents of Keokuk county.

## JAMES POLK RANDALL.

A list of the leading citizens of Keokuk county would certainly embrace the name of J. P. Randall for one of the representative and honored residents of Delta. He is one to whom has been entrusted important public service and over whose record there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. His unbending integrity of character, his fearlessness in the discharge of his duties, and his appreciation of the responsibilities that have rested upon him, have been such as to make him a most acceptable incumbent in office and his worth is and has been widely acknowledged. He is now serving as mayor of Delta and is a recognized leader in Democratic circles.

A native of Keokuk county, Mr. Randall was born in Warren township, February 26, 1847, and is a son of Maxon and Drusilla (Greenfield) Randall, natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. His paternal grandfather, William Randall, is supposed to have been born in the east and to have been of English descent. During his boyhood the father removed with his parents to the Keystone state and was reared and educated in Erie county. About 1839 he became a resident of Kendall county, Illinois, and in 1844 came to Keokuk county, Iowa. After taking up a claim in Warren township and building thereon a cabin, he returned to Illinois and the following year brought his family to the home that he had prepared for them here. They were among the first settlers of Warren township and bore an active part in the early development and progress of the township and county. The father improved a farm, which he continued to cultivate until 1878, when he sold the place and removed to Sigourney, where he died at the age of seventy-two years, honored and respected by all who knew

him. In politics he was a Jacksonian Democrat, and as one of the most prominent and influential citizens of his community he was often called upon to fill local offices, being a member of the county board of supervisors for a number of years. His estimable wife, who survived him many years, passed away in 1895 at the age of seventy-six years. They were the parents of eleven children, seven of whom reached man and womanhood.

Our subject is the eighth in order of birth in this family and the fifth son. He was reared amid frontier scenes and during his boyhood pursued his studies in a little log schoolhouse in Warren township. During his minority he gave his father the benefit of his labors in the operation of the home farm, and on leaving the parental roof learned the carpenter's trade. In 1872 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Randall and Miss Mary Hayes, who was born, reared and educated in Washington county, Iowa, and the following children blessed their union: Mary Eliza, who taught for five years in the Delta schools and for one term in Richland, is now the wife of S. H. Neill, a farmer of Washington county. Iva May also taught three terms in the Delta schools and for eight months in the country, and is now the wife of J. R. Sampson, a furniture dealer of Delta. Nellie is the wife of Estie Wilkinson, a merchant of Allerton, Iowa; Drusilla, who resides at home, is now a teacher in the Delta schools.

For three years after his marriage Mr. Randall lived in Washington county, Iowa, and in 1876 settled on a farm in Warren township, Keokuk county, where he was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1887, when he retired from active labor and removed to Delta, though he is still the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and seventy-two acres which he rents. Besides this property he has another

tract of forty acres, which he has laid off into an addition to Delta, and still another addition of thirteen acres where he now lives.

Since his removal to Delta Mr. Randall has taken a very active and prominent part in municipal affairs and has most acceptably served as mayor since 1893. He has filled all of the township offices with exception of justice of the peace, and was trustee of Warren township for the long period of twelve years. The Democratic party has always found in him a staunch supporter of its principles and he has been largely instrumental in promoting its interests throughout the community in which he resides. He is an honored member of Delta Lodge, No. 385, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has filled all of the chairs, and his religious belief is that of the Christian church. He takes a deep interest in all that pertains to the public welfare and the good of the community in which he resides. He is genial, courteous, enterprising and progressive, of commendable public spirit and the highest integrity, and reflects credit on the city which has honored him with the highest office.



#### JACOB JONES.

Jacob Jones, a member of the grocery firm of Jones Brothers of Richland, Keokuk county, Iowa, was born in Blount county, Tennessee, March 14, 1848, and is a son of Hezekiah and Jerusha (Bales) Jones, who were married in Tennessee, and moved to Keokuk county in 1851, locating on a farm two miles north of Richland. Later Mr. Jones was engaged in a grocery business at Pleasantplain, Iowa, for some thirteen years, returning then to his farm, where he now resides at the age of eighty years. The mother of our subject was born and reared in Tennessee

and was married in Greene county, and is now seventy-nine years of age. Both she and her husband were reared in the Society of Friends, her father, David Bales, being a very prominent member. He lived to the age of one hundred years. The Jones family is of Welsh descent. The family born to the parents of our subject numbered ten children, their names being as follows: Abigail, who died when about fifty-six years old; David H., who is a farmer near Pleasantplain, Iowa; Jacob and Isaac, who were twins, the latter of whom died at the age of twenty-eight years; Rebecca A., who is the wife of Ezra Hadley, of Jefferson county, Iowa; William W., who resides in Richland township, on the old homestead; Emma, who was the wife of T. A. Hill, passed away at the age of twenty-five years; H. Morgan, who is a member of the firm of Jones Brothers; Lewis E., who is a resident of Pleasantplain; and Joseph John, who died at the age of two years.

Jacob Jones was reared on the farm in Richland township and obtained his education in the local schools, supplemented with four terms at Penn College, at Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he took a complete commercial course. After finishing school he engaged in teaching for eight terms, all but one in Keokuk county, and then began in the grocery business in the capacity of a clerk. He remained for three years with Swearingen & Stalker in Richland, and later was with other firms, thus thoroughly mastering every detail of the trade. Thus equipped, in 1884 he formed a partnership with T. A. Hill in the grocery business, but six months later Mr. Hill withdrew and Morgan Jones, a younger brother of our subject, took his interest, and since that time the firm style has been Jones Brothers, and has grown into one of the leading houses in Richland.

On September 18, 1888, Mr. Jones was married to M. Sue Paxton,

who was born in Virginia and is the daughter of George W. and Edith (Price) Paxton. Four children have been born to this union, namely: Florence L., Frances E., Harold J., and an infant. Mr. Jones was reared as a Friend and is an earnest worker for the interests of the Society and is active in the Sabbath-school. Since he was three years old he has lived in Richland township, and since attaining years of discretion has cast his influence in the direction of education and morality and has furthered as far as possible all legitimate temperance movements. In politics he is a Republican and at different times has served in the town council. Mr. Jones is a good citizen and as such is universally held in esteem.



#### JAMES SINGLETON.

James Singleton has resided in Richland township for sixty years, a period antedating the residence of any other settler here. His memory forms a connecting link between pioneer times and the present, when all the evidences of an advanced civilization are found in the county. He can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer times, for he has experienced all the hardships and trials as well as the pleasures of life upon the frontier. He is now well known as an extensive buyer and shipper of stock and in his business dealings he has prospered. His home is on section 15, Richland township.

Mr. Singleton was born in Blount county, Tennessee, December 9, 1842. His father, John Singleton, was a native of Virginia and in early life removed to Tennessee, where he was united in marriage to Delilah Bond. There were no children by that marriage, but after the death of his wife he married her sister, Nancy Bond. For his third

wife he chose Mary Jones and they became the parents of seven children who are yet living. By the second marriage there was but one child, the subject of this review. Mr. Singleton came with his father and step-mother to Keokuk county, Iowa, when he was only two years of age. They settled here among the Indians and when a little lad our subject frequently mingled in the sports of the sons of the forest. He pursued his education in a log schoolhouse such as was common at that time. It had a clapboard roof, a puncheon floor and a mud and stick chimney. The desk was formed by laying a slab upon pins which were driven into the wall. It was in that kind of an institution that Mr. Singleton completed his education. As soon as old enough to handle the plow he became an active factor in farm work. The land was wild and unimproved. Not a furrow had been turned when the family took up their abode upon this place. Their meal was ground in a coffee-mill or by a pestle and mortar. The family endured many hardships during those early days. On one occasion the father sold his only vest for twenty-five cents in order to buy salt to go into the bread. As the years advanced, however, changes came for the better and the farm, producing richly, brought to the family the means which supplied them with the various comforts of life.

Mr. Singleton remained with his father until his marriage, which occurred in 1866, Miss Abigail Jones, a representative of an old family of the county, becoming his wife. Mr. Singleton purchased a place in Yankee street, in Richland, located there and after making it his home for some time sold the property and purchased his present farm, which he has improved in many ways. About 1886 he began dealing extensively in stock, buying, shipping and feeding. He followed that pursuit continuously for thirteen years, when he retired from business.

His wife died in 1900, and feeling the need of an occupation after this he once more began dealing in stock, which he now continues with excellent success. He has a valuable farm of one hundred and forty acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and upon this place he has a large number of hogs and cattle. He buys stock all over the county and is one of the leading representatives of this business in his locality. His extensive purchases and sales have brought to him a good financial return for his labor and he is now one of the well-to-do residents of Richland township. He is one of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Richland, having made judicious investments in that bank. He has lived in this township for sixty years and is one of the honored pioneers of the county. Mr. Singleton belongs to the Friend's church and in politics he is a staunch Republican. A self-made man, he deserves great credit for what he has accomplished through industry, perseverance and capable management. He lived in this county when he had to go to Burlington to mill, a distance of sixty miles, making the entire trip by team. In those early days the pioneers also used wooden mold-boards on their plows, and other farm implements were equally primitive. Mr. Singleton has kept abreast with the progress and improvements of the times and as the years have advanced he has prospered until he is now one of the substantial residents of Keokuk county. From his boyhood days down to the present he has taken an active part in the work of improvement and upbuilding and well may he be classed among the honored pioneer settlers.



WILLIAM A. SHAFFER.

One of Richland's successful business men is William A. Shaffer, who has a prosperous harness trade and whose grandfather and father were both in the same occupation. The grandfather was John Shaffer, a native of Pennsylvania. William Shaffer, the father, was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, in 1819, where he learned the trade of harness maker, and later moved to Zanesville, Ohio, about 1835. He continued business there until 1864 and then went further west to Fairfield, Iowa, where he engaged in his trade until his death in 1884 at the age of sixty-five years. For many years he was a member of the Methodist church. While the Whig party was in existence he devoted himself to its principles and later was an adherent of the Republican party. His wife was Ann Ruth, born in Washington, Pennsylvania, of Scotch origin, and lived to the age of eighty-three years. They were the parents of ten children and nine grew to maturity, five daughters and four sons.

William A. Shaffer was the sixth child and third son of the above and was born January 30, 1848, in Zanesville, Ohio. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Seventy-eighth Ohio, serving for three months, and from that time acted as agent for a recruiting office. In April, 1864, he went to the front again with the army of the Potomac and served till August 1, 1864, when he was mustered out at Zanesville. There he remained a short time, then came west and began the harness trade as an apprentice, November 28, 1864, in Fairfield, Iowa. After completing his apprenticeship he worked at his trade at different places in Illinois for twelve years. On February 17, 1879, he began work by the day in Richland, Iowa, for Dan Bryfogle, who after eighteen months sold his

business to A. F. Bridge. For the latter Mr. Shaffer worked for eleven years and four months and then bought out the business and has conducted it since. He recently built a fine shop of brick, twenty-two by seventy-five feet.

Mr. Shaffer was married on July 3, 1881, to Margaret M. E. Lang of Kahoka, Missouri; no children have been born of the union. He is allied with the Democratic party, takes part in various social organizations, the Masons; Grand Army of the Republic, Post No. 143, in which he has filled most of the offices. He is president of the Fraternal Aid Association and has held this office for six years. In all these orders and other affairs he takes active part, and in his business he has the most extensive harness manufactory in the county, employing several men and selling the output not only to local trade, but outside the county.



#### WILLIAM E. SMITH.

William E. Smith, a retired merchant of Richland, Keokuk county, Iowa, is the son of Peter Smith. The latter was born in Yorkshire, England, and there was reared, following the miller's trade. In 1835 he came to America, and locating at Burlington, Iowa, he bought a claim of four hundred acres, paying the government for the same, but subsequently had to purchase it at land sales. His death occurred in his seventy-fifth year near Burlington. He had been a follower of the old Whig party and was an ardent admirer of Henry Clay. His wife was Martha Ellison, who was also a native of England and lived to be eighty-one years of age. The year before his death the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage was celebrated. She was the mother of ten children, three daughters and seven sons, of whom all reached maturity.

William E. Smith was the fifth child and fourth son of the above, and was born in Yorkshire, England, August 14, 1828. He was seven years old when his father emigrated to America, and on his father's farm near Burlington, Iowa, he was reared, attending school in a log cabin and later the schools in Burlington. He remained with his father until he was twenty-four years old, then in 1852, with five yoke of oxen, he started toward the gold fields of California, making his journey by way of the South Platte river. He engaged in mining for four years and had considerable success, then returned to New York city by way of Panama. He remained in Burlington for five years, when he again set out across the plains with a mule team. He was commissioned by the provost marshal of the Southern Iowa district to act as scout. This time he went by way of Salt Lake City to Idaho and served as a scout from Fort Douglas for about two and a half years. He then returned through Salt Lake City and Omaha to Burlington, where for six years he followed farming and stock raising. In 1872 he embarked in the lumber and grain business at Morning Sun, Louisa county, Iowa, in which he continued for nineteen years. In 1892 Mr. Smith opened a lumber and hardware establishment in Richland, which he sold to his son in 1901, and retired from his long and successful business career.

Mr. Smith became the husband of Illie Hunt on October 28, 1866. She was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, near Burlington, October 19, 1837. Her father was Jesse Hunt, a native of Tennessee, who came to Des Moines county in 1833 and brought his family in 1834. He took 40 land from the government, and this farm is now owned by his son, John B. He lived to the age of eighty-six years and died on this farm. His wife was Delinda Kirkpatrick, a native of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the parents of four children: Jessie, the wife of Rev. C. E.

Todd, of Baker City, Oregon, a minister of the Methodist church; Harriet, wife of Samuel Reaney, of Estherville, Iowa, a land agent; Bessie, wife of Dr. C. E. Birney, a physician of Estherville; and Fred W., unmarried, and owning the former business of his father in Richland. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.



#### CHARLES J. STEEL.

Charles J. Steel, who owns a blacksmith shop and a machine shop in Richland, Keokuk county, Iowa, is a native of Sweden, from which country come so many hardworking and useful citizens of this country. He was born June 21, 1842, in Sweden and attended school until he was about fourteen years old. He left his parents when he was only nine and a half years old and was reared by the judge of the district court until eighteen years of age. He began as an apprentice to the blacksmith trade, serving thus for seven years and learning all the branches of the art, and then was blacksmith for five years on one of the large estates of the old country.

In 1869 Mr. Steel came to America and first located at Princeton, Illinois, where he worked at his trade for several months; he then removed to Burlington, Iowa, where he worked for a while. On July 5, 1870, he came to Richland. For six years he worked for another man, Oliver Lundin, but in 1877 he opened a shop of his own, which he has retained ever since, thus having been in Richland for thirty-two years. He has a large and flourishing trade, and he is known as one of the sound business men of the town.

His wife was Anna Turnbull, and they have one son, Herbert, who works for his father. In social life his active support is given to Cos-

suth Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; in politics he is a Republican, and for three years he served on the city council. Highly respected, with a reputation for honesty and industry, his life is one deserving of the success he has won.

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LOUIS D. SNAKENBERG.

The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved, who has acquired a high reputation in his chosen calling, and whose prominence is not less the result of an irreproachable life than of recognized natural gifts. It is a pleasing indulgence to write the biography of a man of this character, such as Louis D. Snakenberg is known to be. He is one of the leading farmers in German township, where his farm in all its appointments indicates the progressive spirit, enterprise and good business ability of the owner, who is justly numbered among the most skillful and thorough agriculturalists of his native township. October 9, 1851, marks the ushering of this gentleman into the world, the place being his native township. His parents were natives of Germany, the father's name being John Snakenberg and his mother Dorethe Scharnhorst. John was born in Germany March 15, 1814, and when a young man came to America, in 1836; he settled in 1844 in Keokuk county, preempting a farm just south of where our subject now resides. This was in its primitive wild state, and the life of our subject's father was filled with the trials that come to all the pioneers of that day. He "stuck to his last," however, and had the satisfaction of having carved out of the wilderness one of the finest farm properties in Keokuk county, on which he died in 1892. He was one of nature's noblemen, a man whose word was as good as his bond, and whose simple and trustful life had a splendid influence for good upon

his community. He gave allegiance to the principles of the Democratic party and was honored during that time by his fellow citizens with some of the offices of the township. He married in the county as above stated, his wife having been the daughter of Christian and Dorette Scharnhorst, who were also among the early settlers of the county. They became the parents of ten children, of which the subject of this review is the eldest; their names are as follows: Louis D.; John W., deceased; Henry; Nicholas; Mary; Katherine; Richard and Minnie, twins; George, and Emma. Mr. Louis D. Snakenberg remained with his parents until he was three years beyond his majority, assisting in the cultivation of the farm. Here he learned the habits of industry which have so distinguished him in later life, and which have seen their fruition in the success which has come to him. He received a fairly good education in the common schools in German township. At the age of twenty-four he settled on the site which he now owns, and which at that time was virgin soil. He looks with satisfaction on the fact that the beautiful farm of which he is now the owner is the work of his own hands, supplemented by the bountiful providence of Dame Nature. He is known the county over as being an excellent farmer, and deals extensively in fine stock. His home life began in 1876, March 2nd, when he was happily married to Dorothy Seebe. This lady is the daughter of Christopher and Sarah Seebe and is a native of the township in which she now lives. Her father was a native born German, while her mother's nativity was in Ohio. They removed to the county in a very early day. Mr. and Mrs. Snakenberg are the parents of two children: Roy; Dora, now deceased. Politically Mr. Snakenberg follows in the footsteps of his lamented father, and has acted with credit to himself as trustee for the township for the past six years, and as road supervisor for a period of

four years. He has also served a number of terms as school director of his district. Fraternally he has allied himself to the organization known as the Woodmen of the World. He commands and receives the respect which is his due in his section of the county.

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WILLIAM H. SMITH.

There are few men in the county more widely known than Mr. Smith, a retired farmer of Richland. As a farmer, a business man, and a Civil war veteran, he has always maintained that integrity of character and unwavering fidelity to purpose in life that command the respect of all who know him. He was born in Hancock county, Illinois, November 2, 1837, and is the son of Hasadiah and Lydia (Ward) Smith.

Hasadiah Smith, a man of sterling worth, was born in New Hampshire and at the early age of eight moved with his parents to Ashtabula county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. With a bent toward mechanics, a trait which he may have inherited from his practical English ancestry, he early obtained a knowledge of carpentry, which became very useful to him in later years. During the latter part of his residence in Ohio he married Lydia Ward, who was born in Connecticut, and when rather young moved with her parents to Ohio. She died in Sigourney, Iowa, in 1851. By this marriage there were nine children, six of whom grew to maturity. William H. was the fourth child and the third son. Soon after his marriage, in the spring of 1837, Mr. Smith moved to a farm in Warren county, Illinois, where he engaged in agriculture, but soon afterward sold out. Later he moved to Washington county, Iowa, and after a short residence went in 1844 to

Sigourney, where he made his home for many years. Finding here a good opening for a carpenter he soon engaged in that work, and giving excellent satisfaction, he established for himself a good business. He also undertook the making and repairing of wagons, and in this line worked up one of the most profitable industries in the city. He achieved fair success in both lines of business. He spent his last days in Indiana, and died there in 1861.

William H. Smith was six years old when his parents left their Illinois home and came to Washington county, Iowa, and seven when they moved to Sigourney. It was in this city, where he remained until he was twenty years of age, that he mainly received his education and the training for his life work. He attended the common schools of the place and there developed habits of industry and exactness that so markedly characterized his later work. When twenty years of age he started out for himself in life, and in Clear Creek township took up farming. Deeply interested with the conviction that his services were required in the war, in August he enlisted in Company I, Fortieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, for three years service, and went to the front as a private. He did some hard fighting in the long siege of Vicksburg, after which he was sent west of the Mississippi. He stood the hardships well and was never sick or wounded. When his term of enlistment expired he received an honorable dismissal at Davenport, Iowa. Shortly before the war, October 11, 1860, he married Eunice A. Anderson, who was born in Miami county, Ohio, December 21, 1838, the third child of J. D. and Hannah (Larue) Anderson, and who at the age of eighteen moved with her parents to Iowa. Her father was a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, and her mother of Virginia. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born four children: Edward, a farmer in the town-



ship of Richland; Jesse W.; Ella, who married John Broliar, and resides in Richland; and Bert, who was the 3rd of the family, is now deceased.

After the war Mr. Smith resumed farming in Clear Creek township, but in 1867 removed to Richland township, and there farmed and resided up to January, 1892, when he removed to Richland and retired from active work. He has done, however, exceptionally well with his farming and now owns a large amount of stock in the Union State Bank, and also a splendid one hundred and sixty acre farm in Jefferson county. Mr. Smith's remarkable executive ability, and wise business management has commended him to the confidence of the people and he has served very efficiently for some time as justice of the peace and as trustee. In fraternal circles he is well known and highly esteemed. As a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Charlton post, No. 143, he has served on important committees for many years, and he belongs to Richland Lodge, No. 38, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is thoroughly well known throughout the county, where he has many warm friends. In politics he is an influential Republican.



ALFRED FARACO BRIDGER.

There are few men one will be privileged to meet in a life time who are favored with the indefatigable purpose and unremitting effort such as has been displayed and is possessed by the subject of this brief sketch, who in the face of seemingly insurmountable barriers has achieved a success that is creditable in every respect. Mr. Bridger is at the present time the popular and obliging cashier of the Union State Bank of Richland, in

which community he has been for years a leader in business affairs. Of just what particular state Mr. Bridger is a native, it would be difficult to decide, as he was born on the Mississippi river in a steamboat, his parents being enroute for Iowa. The date was November 16, 1853. His mother died about three weeks subsequent to his birth, and she was burried at Keokuk, Iowa. The father and child proceeded to Keokuk county, and later the father settled in the town of Richland, where Alfred was reared by Mrs. Jeannette Garretson, who proved an excellent and loving foster-mother to him in his earlier youth. He was adopted into this family up to the age of thirteen, when he was allowed to choose his own guardian. When only twelve years of age he crossed the great plains, driving a team there and back in the same year. As he came to manhood he began business as a clerk in different mercantile establishments and held positions in the towns of Fairfield, Ottumwa, and Mount Pleasant. During this period he accumulated a fund of experience which served him excellently in his later business ventures. The first line of business in which he was interested on his own account was that of harness and saddlery, which he established in 1882 at Richland, and which he continued with success up to the year 1890, at which date he sold out and became connected with the banking business in Richland, having been selected as cashier of what was then known as the John Stroup Bank. For four years he continued in this position, when in company with other gentlemen under the firm name of Bridger, Johnson and Company, our subject organized a private banking business, which was later, (1896), merged into the Union State Bank of Richland. At that time Mr. Bridger was made cashier of the institution, which position he continues to hold. The president of the bank is Mr. C. O. Keiser, of Keota. The bank carries a capital stock of twenty-five thou-

sand dollars, having a working surplus of seven thousand dollars. Mr. Bridger is also prominently identified with other business interests of the city, being president of the Richland Telephone Company, which operates the telephone system of Richland.

In 1880 Mr. Bridger was happily married to Miss Ida Stroup, a lady who was born in the county, the daughter of a prominent financier and capitalist, Mr. John Stroup, who was one of the pioneer settlers of the county. Mrs. Bridger is a lady of fine education and many accomplishments, having finished her literary training at the noted institution of learning at Battle Creek, Michigan. To the marriage were born four interesting children, two sons and two daughters: Harriett, who is now assistant cashier of the Union State Bank; Leo; Farnco and Helen, who are young people at home. In fraternal affiliation Mr. Bridger is a worthy member of the Masonic order, being a member of Richland Lodge, No. 38, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and being a member of Bethlehem Commandery at Washington, Iowa, and a Shriner with membership in Kaaba Temple at Davenport. He has been very active in Masonic work and has filled all the chairs of the blue lodge. He is also an active and efficient member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 32, Cossuth Lodge. He has taken an active and intelligent interest in the political life of his community, being one of the staunch supporters of the Republican principles. He has been honored by the party in different local offices of his community, having served terms in the city council, as justice of the peace and as township clerk.

Mr. Bridger is one of the substantial citizens of the county, who merits the high esteem in which he is held by all of his fellow-citizens.

## J. CAMPBELL STOCKMAN.

J. Campbell Stockman is a well and favorably known citizen of Keokuk county and now in the evening is living a retired life in the town of Richland. Philip Stockman, his father, was born in 1799 in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and learned the trade of miller, coming to Ohio when he was twenty-one years old. There he engaged in his trade and also was a merchant. In 1851, when living in Harrison county, Ohio, he made a prospecting trip to Illinois, and on his return home stopped in Auburn, Indiana, to visit a son living there, and there took sick and died. The family were all Pennsylvania Dutch in origin. The mother of our subject was Sarah Drummond, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1802, of Irish descent, and she was married to Mr. Stockman in Ohio. She lived to be eighty-three years of age. She was the mother of eight children, of whom seven grew to maturity, only three now living, as follows: Elizabeth A. Briwster, of Ohio; Harrison, of Missouri; and the subject of this review.

J. C. Stockman, the third surviving child, was the fourth child and third son of the above family and was born in Belmont county, Ohio, March 1, 1830. In 1857 he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, where he conducted a farm until 1866, when he engaged in the hotel business in Richland for four years. Going back to the country he once more engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1883, when he sold out and was post-master of Richland for four years. In 1859 he was an unsuccessful Republican candidate for county treasurer. He continued to vote the Republican ticket up to 1872, when he voted for Greeley. Thereafter he voted the Democratic ticket up to 1896, when he voted for Palmer and Buckner on the National Democratic ticket. Since then he has taken no

active part in politics, not even voting. In 1876 he was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for county clerk, and two years later made an unsuccessful race for member of county board of supervisors on the Democratic ticket.

Mr. Stockman's marriage occurred in October, 1854, to Mary A. Waggoner, a native of Coshocton county, Ohio. The following children were born to the marriage: John L., who died in boyhood; David T., now a prominent attorney of Sigourney; Jasper, who died when young; Emma, the wife of A. C. Brady; Jessie Frances, who married Marvin Logan and died aged twenty-eight years; Mary, the wife of J. D. Eicher; Ida, the wife of David Jones; Lizzie, died aged two years; James William, a physician; and twins, who died in infancy. Mr. Stockman, although prominent in many affairs of his city and county, belongs to no order or church. He is well known and respected throughout his county and now in his seventy-second year looks back on a life of well directed efforts.



#### J. D. WILLIAMS.

One of the prominent citizens of Richland, Keokuk county, Iowa, who has done much toward advancing the interests of the town, is J. D. Williams, who is now mayor of the town. His father was Edward Williams, who was born in New York of Welsh descent and at a very early age came to Illinois, soon removing to Iowa. By occupation he was a farmer, and now lives in Louisa county, Iowa. His wife was Lydia Dodder, who is a native of New Jersey and is still living. They were the parents of one child.

Our subject was born in Louisa county, Iowa, August 3, 1861, began

his education in the common schools, and later attended the Eastern Iowa Normal. For about three years thereafter, he was clerk in a store, then had a very pleasant clerkship in a store in Jefferson county, Iowa, and in 1884 he came to Richland, where he was manager of a general store for Mr. Swayze. He held this place until 1893, when he bought out the store and entered the clothing business. In 1888 he married Mary Swayze, the daughter of Dr. H. A. Swayze, and they are the parents of three children, Cedric S., Eloisa, and an unnamed infant.

Mr. Williams was prominent in different local offices for nine years, is now serving his fourth year as mayor of Richland, and is a member of the county central Republican committee. He is a prominent member of Richland Lodge No. 38, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and has been secretary of the Richland Land and Improvement Company since it was organized in 1895. In company with nine other men he bought the Wasson farm near the town of Richland and laying it out in lots made it an addition of the town, now an admirable portion of the town. In 1897 Mr. Williams built one of the finest residences of the town. He fills his office very energetically, being always on the lookout for some opportunity to advance the interests of the town of which he has been elected head.



#### JOHN O. KEEP.

Among the farmers of Keokuk county who after years of close connection with the business interests of this portion of the state are now living retired, is numbered John O. Keep, who was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, on the 9th of August, 1840, but sought in the west the business opportunities which have enabled him to attain to a



*John O. Keep*





position of affluence. His father, Marcena Keep, was also born in the Keystone state and there spent his early childhood. He followed the occupation of farming and in 1823 was united in marriage, in Pennsylvania, to Polly Hewitt, a native of one of the New England states. They became the parents of eleven children, nine sons and two daughters, as follows: Abner N.; Oliver D., deceased; Prosper J., who has also passed away; Amos K., deceased; Asa H.; Reuben F., Sally L.; Alsimus, deceased; John Q., of this review; Olive R., and Edmund E. The father of this family passed away in Pennsylvania on the 7th of August, 1876, at the age of seventy-four years. He was a stalwart supporter of the Republican party and at one time held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, while later he became identified with the Wesleyan Methodist church. Subsequently, however, he returned to the denomination with which he was first identified. He ever lived an earnest, Christian life and commanded the respect of his fellow men by his fairness, justice and loyalty to truth.

John O. Keep was reared in Pennsylvania, where he remained until April, 1861, and then sought a home in the Mississippi valley, making his way to LaSalle county, Illinois. On the 23d of the same month he offered his services to the government, responding almost immediately to his country's call for troops after the fall of Fort Sumter. This company, however, was disbanded and he later enlisted on the 1st of June, 1861, as a member of Company H, Twentieth Illinois Infantry, serving with his regiment until the battle of Fort Donaldson, where he was wounded and taken to the hospital. Being disabled for further field service, he was mustered out on the 22d of July, 1862.

After his discharge Mr. Keep returned to Illinois, where he remained for a short time, and then went back to Pennsylvania, where

on the 8th of November, 1862, he was married. He then brought his bride to Iowa, taking up his abode in Keokuk county. He has lived in various localities in this part of the state and in the spring of 1864 he settled upon the farm where he now makes his home, it having been his place of residence for thirty-eight years. The lady who bears his name was in her maidenhood Miss Amelia A. Stoddard, a native of Pennsylvania. Three children, a son and two daughters, were born unto them: Inez M., who died in infancy; Nellie B., the wife of George Skidmore; and Richard O.

Mr. Keep has always been a staunch advocate of the Republican party since its organization, and keeps well informed on the issues and questions of the day. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Springfield, and his life has ever been in consistent harmony with his professions. Both he and his wife enjoy the highest regard of all who know them. Having long resided in Keokuk county, they have a very wide acquaintance here. Mr. Keep has always carried on agricultural pursuits as a source of livelihood, and his farm, neat and attractive in appearance, indicates the careful supervision of the progressive owner. He is now largely leaving its cultivation to others while he is enjoying a well-merited rest.

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#### LAFAYETTE BROLLIAR.

Mr. Brolliar is a well known mill owner and grain shipper, of Richland. He has made his own way in life, and is especially deserving of credit. Coming here in the early days when business was brisk, he did not shun any work which chanced to fall to him. Especially as a mill-wright and a carpenter he found demand for his services and found

profitable employment. He has also engaged in farming with fair results. Mr. Brolliar comes of a highly respected German family, and one distinguished by its industry and enterprise. His grandfather, Christian Brolliar, was of a well known Dunkard family, and was born and reared in Germany. At an early date he came to this country and settled in Pennsylvania, where he resided for many years. A hard working man all his life, he won for himself a comfortable competence.

Christian Brolliar, son of Christian and father of Lafayette, early caught the pioneer spirit and took a leading part in the building up and settling of the middle west. Born in Pennsylvania, he spent his early days in that state. As a wise provision for the future in his youth he learned the trades of a carpenter and a mill-wright, at which he in time became very proficient. Perceiving a good opening for him and his crafts in the newly settled districts of Ohio, in his young manhood he went there and located in Knox county. Here he found plenty of work and commanded good wages. After some time he erected a mill of his own near Ankenytown, and there engaged in the milling business. The industry proved a profitable one and he continued it for some years. In 1844, impressed with the excellent business openings in the new territory of Iowa, which was being so rapidly settled at that time, he disposed of his Ohio property and came to Keokuk county. Settling upon a place about two and one-half miles west of the town of Richland, he proceeded to make the acquaintance of the new section. After two years, however, his career was cut short by an early death, which occurred at the age of sixty. During his early manhood, while still living in Pennsylvania, he married Mary Brant, who was born in Pennsylvania and was of German descent, coming of a highly respectable Dunkard family. She was a great assistance to her husband in his different undertakings;

she died at the advanced age of eighty-two. By this marriage there were thirteen children, of whom Lafayette was the eleventh. One died in infancy; the others grew to maturity. As an able business man and one of marked integrity Mr. Broliar commanded the respect of all who knew him. He was a substantial member of the German Baptist church, and took a leading part in its various activities.

Lafayette Broliar was born in Ankenytown, Knox county, Ohio, May 18, 1834, and received part of his early rearing and education in that state. At the age of eleven years he moved with his parents to Keokuk county, Iowa, where in the little log building of the neighborhood he finished his schooling. Though his educational advantages were limited, in the crude pioneer schools he nevertheless was trained to habits of self-reliance, industry and alertness, which mark so prominently his mature manhood. He remained under the sheltering influence of his parental home until he attained his majority, but previous to this, in fact at the early age of fourteen, took up for himself life's active duties. Having inherited a knack for handicrafts, and from his childhood been familiar with his father's trades, carpentry and the work of a mill-wright, he followed these in his own township, which was being so rapidly built up. Displaying skill, he assisted many a farmer in the erection of his first frame house or cabin. Later he was enabled to secure work in more pretentious towns and villages, and during his young manhood worked steadily for some time at erecting dwellings and mills in Dallas and Guthrie counties. He married Emily J. Wayman, who was born and reared in Seneca county, Ohio, and they have had ten children: Eber; Ella, the wife of Alonzo Wade; Della, who married Jesse Spurgeon; Sherman is now deceased; John has been married to Ella Smith, daughter of W. H. Smith; Anna, now Mrs. Hedge, who resides in Oska-

loosa; Sada is the seventh child; Nina has married Bert Nason, of Ollie; Tima, to Fred Duke, of Richland; Jennie, married Curtis Renil.

As a skilled workman Mr. Broliar spent considerable time during his younger days as a mill-wright, and many mills in southern Iowa still stand as evidences of his proficiency as a builder. Besides working at his trades he has for some years engaged in farming, and about the time of his marriage located on a place west of Richland, where he carried on agriculture with marked success for five years. Later he moved to a farm in Jackson township, which he worked with even better results for about eleven years. Then he moved to Richland, where he has since resided. Throughout his mature life he has been engaged more or less in milling, and after coming to Richland he has turned his main attention to this industry. He purchased in 1900 his present large grist-mill. He is also interested in a grain elevator at Woolson. Mr. Broliar has ever evinced a keen interest in things pertaining to the good of the county and is counted upon as one of the public spirited men. Always true to his convictions he is independent in politics. A man of decided opinions, forceful and energetic, he commands the respect of all who know him.

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DAYTON GREESON.

Dayton Greeson, a wealthy citizen of Richland, now living in retirement at his handsome residence, which he erected in 1902, has made his money in the stock-raising business, and the profitable agricultural industry of his county. Coming here in the early days, when quite young, he grew up with the country, and becoming well acquainted in the vicinity, secured in his young manhood some of the best land in

the market. Here he made his home and his fortune. He was born in Morgan county, Indiana, September 25, 1845, and is the son of Levi and Louisa (May) Greeson.

His grandfather, George Greeson, was of German descent, but was born and reared in North Carolina, and there upon reaching manhood he married. He resided in this state for some time after his marriage, but later moved to Indiana. By occupation he was a farmer, and very successful in his line. Levi Greeson, father of Dayton, possessed the energy and force of character which eminently fitted him for pioneer life, and in Keokuk county, which in the early days he took a hand in opening to settlers, he was favorably known and long remembered. Born in North Carolina, he was but nine years old when his parents moved to Indiana. It was in this new country that he was mainly reared and educated. Here in Morgan county upon reaching manhood he married Louisa May, who was born in North Carolina, daughter of George Daniel May, also born in North Carolina, who in later life became a pioneer settler of Keokuk county, Iowa. Mrs. Greeson was of German descent. She died in Keokuk county. To her and her husband were born six children, four daughters and two sons; four are now living. Soon after his marriage, in 1848, Mr. Greeson came to Iowa and in Keokuk county purchased forty acres of good land and settled down as a farmer. He made many improvements on his property, and in time it became very valuable. He lived to the age of sixty-seven years. As a man of influence in the new settlement, he took an active interest in public affairs, and served very efficiently as trustee of his township for some time. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, where he was a zealous worker.

Dayton Greeson, being but three years old when his parents settled in

the township of Richland, Keokuk county, was mainly reared in that vicinity. Here, in the little log schoolhouse, which stood one and one-half miles east of Richland, and in the schools of Richland he received his education, which has served him well for all practical business purposes. For some time after leaving school he assisted his father on the home place. Then, March 8, 1868, he married Eliza Greenlee, who was born in Clear Creek township, Keokuk county, Iowa, August 27, 1848, youngest of the seven children of John and Nancy (Blue) Greenlee. Like her husband she was reared in the county, and received her education in one of the log schoolhouses. To Mr. and Mrs. Greeson have been born ten children, six living and four dead: Grant, who has never married and lives at home; John L., who married Harriet Sellars, a livery man in Richland; Martin Levi, who married Cora Mitts, and is engaged in farming on the home place; William, also a farmer, married Mollie O. Swalt; Lulu, who has never married and lives at home; Frankie, who also lives at home; and the following are deceased: Harry; Wayte G.; Mary H.; and one child who died in infancy.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Greeson settled upon a farm four miles north of the town of Richland, where he engaged in farming very successfully for seven years. Then finding a more desirable location one and one-half miles north of the village, he purchased it and moved there. Here he spent the best years of his life. Having by this time accumulated some wealth he erected, in 1883, a substantial house and barn at the cost of about five thousand dollars. Here he began stock raising, and in 1889 undertook the breeding of short-horn cattle. Of these he made a specialty for some years, and shipping them to eastern markets, secured good prices. Keeping himself well informed upon everything pertaining to stock raising, he met with few, if any, drawbacks in his

business and realized from it in time immense profits. Having from time to time made new land purchases he now owns four hundred acres of the best land in Richland township.

For over fifty-four years Mr. Greeson has been a resident of the county, and having kept steadily on the rising plane through life, he has won the confidence and respect of his community at large. He has achieved success in life mainly by confining his efforts to one particular field of labor.

Mr. and Mrs. Greeson are members of the Methodist church, and in politics he is a staunch Republican.



#### A. C. BRADY.

It is ever a pleasure to note the vicissitudes of one who has wrought his way under difficulties, and without the usual advantages for success in the branch of human endeavor which may have elicited his interest. Conspicuous among the self-made men of Keokuk county is the man whose name heads this review. He is at the present time the leading dry goods merchant of the town of Richland. The birth of Mr. Brady occurred in the Buckeye state, where he was born in Belmont county, February 8, 1858. T. F. Brady, his father, was a native of the same county; here he grew to manhood and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1869, when he removed to Iowa, and settled with his family in Pleasantplain; his father before him was a native Irishman. On the mother's side our subject is also of Buckeye stock, her maiden name having been Margaret Tracy. She was born and reared in Belmont county and is still living at an advanced age. She is the mother of four sons, all of whom are living. Albert C., lives in Jefferson county, where he



is a prominent farmer; our subject is the second son; William A., of Richland; John M. is in the employ of the government at Washington, D. C.

Of this family Mr. Brady, our subject, is the second child, and was a lad of ten years of age when the family came to Iowa. He received his education in the common schools, it being supplemented by a course at the Pleasantplain Academy. His first business venture was as a dealer in eggs and produce throughout the country. In 1883 he located in Richland, and in connection with his brother, W. A., established the present dry goods business. This firm continued to do business until 1895, when W. A. sold his interest to D. J. Jones, since which time the style of the firm has been Brady and Jones. In connection with this dry goods business, Mr. Brady is also interested in connections with his brother, W. A., in a wool business. They are the largest buyers in the county, and have been instrumental in encouraging the sheep business in this part of Iowa. Another business connection of our subject is as a director in the Union State Bank of Richland. He is also one of the proprietors of the Richland Telephone Company.

He married in 1884, in Keokuk county, Miss Emma Stockman, the daughter of J. C. and Mary A. Stockman, of Richland. To this marriage were born four children: Mildred; Louise and Lucile, twins; Alonzo C., Jr.; all of whom are young people at home. In fraternal affiliations Mr. Brady is a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to the commandery at Washington, Iowa. He is a shirmer of Kaaba Temple, Davenport. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his family are esteemed members of the Methodist church. In matters of politics Mr. Brady supports the policies of the Republican party, and takes an active interest in the civil life of his

community, having held some of the offices of trust connected with the city organization. Mr. and Mrs. Brady and their interesting family are honored and highly respected citizens of their community. Mr. Brady's business transactions have been attended with a high degree of success, which may be ascribed to his close application and to his untiring industry.



#### WESLEY W. ALLEN.

It is altogether fitting that the interests of Uncle Sam should be entrusted to a member of the old soldier fraternity, for none will guard those interests more carefully than he who spent time and energy in the successful effort to maintain unbroken the Constitution of our fathers. The matter of reward for services thus rendered is a perfectly proper consideration for the appointing power, and should have great weight; but the man whose loyalty prompted him to leave home and family and friends in 1861 to save the government from destruction will indubitably prove to be a safe conserver of the interest of that government in any particular department. There is a goodly number of the "boys in blue" in Keokuk county, though their ranks are fast being decimated by the great destroyer. They are a noble band of men, and of their number is the gentleman whose name forms a caption for this paragraph, and who has been for the past five years the efficient postmaster of the town of Richland.

Mr. Allen is one of the old residents of the county, and was born in the state of North Carolina, December 7, 1839. His father, Peter Allen, was a native of the same state and was by occupation a carpenter. He died at the comparatively early age of thirty years, when our hon-

ored subject was six years of age. The family are of Scotch origin and had lived in North Carolina for generations. On the maternal side the mother, Rebecca Hadley, was also a native of North Carolina. In May of 1846 she, with her family of four children, came to Iowa and located in Richland township. She was later joined in marriage to a prominent farmer of the township, Mr. John Mills, and became the mother of three other children. She died at the age of about sixty-six years in the state of Kansas, where she had removed with her husband.

Mr. Allen is the eldest of the first family of children, and was about seven years of age when he came to Keokuk county, where he passed his entire life time. His later youth was passed in the home of his grandfather, he remaining there until he was nineteen years of age. At that date the Civil war was in progress, and his inherent patriotism prompted him to offer his services to the government. He enlisted in Company F, Thirty-third Iowa Infantry and for three long years was found at his post of duty as a private soldier during the first part of his service, and later he received appointment as second corporal, in which position he served until his discharge at the close of the war. His service was mostly in the west, where he participated with his regiment in most of the principal engagements. He received his honorable discharge at Davenport, Iowa, and returned to his home to take up the occupations of peace. He began farming for himself in 1866, when he went to Miami county, Kansas. Here he remained for a period of five years, engaged in agricultural pursuits successfully, but concluding that Keokuk county was a better field for operations, he returned and settled in Richland township. He bought a farm in Richland township and cultivated it for some three years, when he sold out and moved to the town of Richland and engaged in the insurance business. Mr. Allen

has continued to be a citizen of Richland since that time, and has taken a very active part in the public life of the community. For eleven years he held the office of mayor, and in 1902 he celebrated his twenty-eighth year as justice of the peace for the township in which Richland is located, he being the oldest officer in point of continuous service in that position within the bounds of the county. In 1897 his standing in the community was such as to make it an easy matter for him to be appointed postmaster, since which time he has been an incumbent of that office. His genial disposition and obliging manner make him very popular, and the government finds in him a most efficient officer.

Mr. Allen celebrated his marriage in December, 1866, the lady being Miss Mary Schelp, a native of the state of Maryland; she has borne our subject an interesting family of eight children: Emma, wife of John Goodman, a farmer of the county; Lydia, wife of Edward Hiatt, also a farmer; Anna, a single lady, and one of the efficient and popular teachers of the county for the past twelve years; Cora, wife of Vivian Byers, a farmer; Willis O., a farmer of the county; and M. Grace, a single lady, who is her father's assistant in the office; John W., also assistant postmaster, Richland, is the youngest. One of the children died in infancy. The social nature of Mr. Allen has made him a very popular and worthy member of several of the fraternities of his town, the one in which he takes the greatest interest, possibly, being that noble organization, the Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 239, in which he has been honored with election to all of the chairs. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. It is unnecessary to state that he is a stalwart in his support of Republican principles, in which organization he is considered a safe counselor. The authors of this volume take pleasure in presenting so honorable a citizen for the con-

sideration of its readers. Mr. Allen is a gentleman who has by dint of his own exertions raised himself to an honored position in the community. His educational advantages were small, but what was lacking in opportunity he made up in diligence and application, and having a naturally observant mind has become a very well informed man. From the courageous boy without education or capital, he has risen to be a business man of affluence in the community. He receives the good wishes of all, and merits the trust imposed in him, and by his upright life in whatever capacity he is called to move, sets forth a fine example for the rising generation.



DAVID P. LEWIS.

There is no class of citizens who deserve more from society than the farming element. The man who passes an entire life time in the cultivation of the soil ought to have a right to expect that at three-score he can lay down the implements with which he has been employed and take his deserved rest. There has been no time in the history of agriculture in the state of Iowa when honest, persistent labor with a fair amount of executive ability should not have produced a competency in that period. This fact has been demonstrated by the honored gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph, and who is now a retired farmer living in the city of Hedrick.

Mr. Lewis is a native of the Hoosier state, born in Ripley county, March 30, 1830. William Lewis, his father, was a native of the state of North Carolina, and was a farmer by occupation, removing to Indiana some time subsequent to his marriage. He settled on a farm entered from the government, where most of his family were reared to maturity,

and where he died. His wife's name was Mary Mitchler, also a native of North Carolina. They became the parents of thirteen children, of which our subject was the sixth son and the tenth child. The names of the children are as follows, only two of them now living: Abigail, Jacob, Elizabeth, Katherine, Daniel, John, Amelia, Samuel, Mathias, David P., the subject of this sketch; Polly E., William S., and Mary M. The youngest and our subject are the only known living members. The father of the family was a devout member of the Methodist church, and a worthy citizen of the county in which he passed his life. In politics he voted with the Democratic party.

Mr. David P. Lewis, the honored subject of this sketch, passed his early youth and boyhood in the severe labor of farm life in the Hoosier state, receiving a limited education in the few months of winter school. He remained at home until he was nineteen years old, marrying at that early age Mahala Allen. This lady was born in the Hoosier state in 1833 and was the daughter of Meriet and Elizabeth (Robinson) Allen. The Allens were natives of the Blue-grass state, and later were early pioneers in Keokuk county. Mr. Lewis and his wife were the parents of fifteen children, eight boys and seven girls, as follows: Martha Jane, deceased; William M., deceased; John A.; Mary E.; Jacob R.; Johnson; Susana, deceased; David, deceased; Marguerita; Samuel; George, deceased; Katherine; Emma, Charles; Annabell. All of these children except Jacob were born and reared in Keokuk county. The year following his marriage Mr. Lewis joined the tide of emigration that had set in for the west, and came to Keokuk county, where he settled in Jackson township. The year of this settlement was 1850. He rented different farms for a period of years, and passed one year in farming in the state of Missouri. He finally returned to Keokuk county, however, and pur-

chased a farm of forty acres in Jackson township. To this original farm he added different bodies, continuing the cultivation and improvement of it until he became a large land owner. He had also other farms in different sections of the county. He retired from active life on the farm in 1895. He continued to live on his farm until 1897, when he moved to the town of Hedrick, and in the following year built himself a tasty residence, in which he expects to pass the remainder of his days. In political belief Mr. Lewis is a Jacksonian Democrat, though he satisfies himself in political matters by simply depositing his vote, never having held any office. He is very generally and favorably known all over the county by reason of his long residence and the worthy life which he has lived among his fellow citizens. He is a man of staunch principles and of great integrity of character, and merits the good wishes of a large number of friends and acquaintances.



#### CLAIBORNE JACKSON NUGENT.

Among the honored residents of Keokuk county for the past five decades is the honored gentleman whose name precedes this paragraph, and who resides on section 24 in Steady Run township, he having passed his eightieth milestone. Mr. Nugent is one of the most substantial citizens of the county, both in sterling qualities of citizenship and in financial standing. He is in the best sense of the term a "self-made man," having by a life of ceaseless energy and unexampled toil risen from a condition of comparative penury to one of easy affluence. He has retired from the active management of the farm, and is passing his remaining days in the enjoyment of the results of his earlier labor.

As stated, Mr. Nugent is one of the pioneers of Keokuk county, he

having settled here in 1853. He was born in the Hoosier state, where he first saw the light in Clark county on the 24th of September, 1818. He was the son of John R. Nugent, a native of Nelson county, Kentucky. Here his father passed his early youth and married, and from thence settled in Clark county, Indiana, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life time. He was the father of seven sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to maturity, married and reared families. On the maternal side of our honored subject's family, Mary O. Connors, his mother, was also a native of the Bourbon state, and of Nelson county, where her father, Richard Connor, was one of the early settlers and a large land owner. It is related of him that he gave away large tracts of land in order to induce the settlement of neighbors in his vicinity.

Our subject was the fifth child of a family of thirteen. He was reared in his native county in the Hoosier state. He remained in that state until he was thirty-five years of age, when he came to Iowa. His first purchase of real estate in Keokuk county was of Mr. Richard Miller, consisting of a tract of one hundred and eighty acres, the land upon which he now resides, and for which he paid one thousand dollars. There were no improvements on this land, except the single house of two rooms. He continued to cultivate this farm, and as he prospered added other tracts to it until he had the present holding of six hundred and eighty acres, highly improved, and with all the buildings necessary for the conduct of a large ranch. This was not done without the most severe labor and the greatest of economy. Mr. Nugent entered the married state in Clark county, Indiana, in the year which marked his coming to Iowa, when he was joined to Miss Susana Lister, a lady of English extraction, but a native of the same county as our subject. Her



birth occurred in 1826, on the 21st of February. She died May 26, 1902. Mrs. Nugent was a most estimable lady, and had proved to her husband a most faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey, her sound advice and assistance having been important factors in his prosperity. She was buried amid a large concourse of mourning friends and neighbors at Mount Zion church in Steady Run township. She was the mother of three children, one of whom died in infancy: Mary Jane married Mr. A. D. Smith and now resides on the farm, where she takes loving care of her remaining parent; she is the mother of eight children, seven of them now living, as follows: Roscoe, Guy, Pauline, Andrew, Benson, Harold, and Myra. The second daughter, Anna Eliza, is the wife of Mr. Frank Marshall, of Ollie, who is a prominent farmer and stock raiser; they have three children, of whom the eldest died in infancy, and the names of the other two are Raymond N., and Claybourn R.

As stated before, our honored subject started in life a comparatively poor boy, and has accumulated a very nice property. All of this has been done in legitimate farming and stock raising. He has a just pride in stating that he was the first man that paid forty-five dollars an acre for land in Steady Run township. He has been highly respected for his many good qualities during his residence in Keokuk county, and is a Republican of the old school, having got his Republican principles from the old Whig party, having cast his first vote for William Henry Harrison in 1840. He has voted for every Republican President since the organization of that party. He has held many of the local offices of the community in which he resides, the duties of which he administered with credit. He and his wife were life-long members of the Christian church. It is the modest boast of Mr. Nugent that he never defrauded any man of anything, and owes no man a single dollar. The suc-

cess of Mr. Nugent in financial matters is well deserved, having always been faithful and industrious, continuing through hardships and discouragements, and now in his riper years he can enjoy the fruit of his toil, being also favored with the confidence and esteem of his many friends and acquaintances.

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FRANCIS P. RICHARDSON.

Among those upon whom has fallen the mantle of the worthy pioneers who have begun to pass to their reward in another scene, and who are in every way carrying on acceptably the work of the old veterans in developing and building up Keokuk county, stands high the gentleman whose name heads this paragraph, as a leader among the ranks of our signally enterprising and capable farmers. For fifty-seven years Mr. Richardson has gone in and out among the citizens of Keokuk county, and during that time has built for himself a reputation for uprightness and probity. He is at the present time living on section 13, Steady Run township. The nativity of Mr. Richardson dates in McDonough county, Illinois, the date being April 25, 1840. He is the son of Mr. Thomas Richardson and a brother of J. M. Richardson, of this county; and under a sketch of the latter in this volume will be given the ancestral history of our subject.

Francis Richardson is the fourth child and the third son of the family. He removed to Keokuk county with his parents in 1845, being at that time but five years of age. Settlement was made on the tract of land which he now cultivates, and where the primitive log house of that day was built, that interesting old relic of pioneer days still being intact. Mr. Richardson's early life consisted in the hard work and

few pleasures which came to the boys of his time, but this experience grounded him well in the knowledge and principles which have made him a man of standing in his community. What book education he received was obtained in the little log schoolhouse with its wide chimney and rough benches, three months in the winter season. He, however, improved his opportunities and was able to secure such proficiency as has enabled him to carry on business acceptably during his life-time. He remained at home until he was nineteen years of age, when he began a farming venture for himself. The only capital which he received, as Mr. Richardson puts it, "was the year and a half which my father gave me of my time before I was twenty-one." He continued cultivating this land until 1864, when, concluding that a little travel would broaden his views of life, he in company with Mr. Josiah Utterbach took a trip to the west, passing through Salt Lake City and on to Virginia City. They were engaged during the period of two years absence for the most part in the chopping of wood. They returned by way of Greytown and New York City, having seen considerable of the world during their absence. Upon his return to his native county, our subject took up the trade of carpenter and cooper, at which he continued to work for several years, but finally returned to agricultural pursuits. He rented a farm in Steady Run township for some three years, and then purchased a tract of forty acres in the same township. This body of land he cultivated for the space of one year, when he sold out and engaged with his brother, J. M., in the mercantile business at Ioka. This business he pursued successfully for five years, when he sold out his interest to his brother and purchased the interest of the heirs in the old homestead. Here he removed with his family, and has since been engaged in farming and stock raising in that locality. He has a farm

here of one hundred and eighty acres, which is highly improved, and furnished with all the buildings necessary for the successful conduct of a large stock ranch. In connection with his brother, B. F. Richardson, he has since 1887 been interested in the operation of a mill in the town of Martinsburg.

In November, 1868, Mr. Richardson married Miss Louisa C. Davis, a daughter of David and Lilly (Smith) Davis. Mrs. Richardson was born in the Hoosier state and came to Keokuk county with her parents when a child. She is the mother of four children, Nora, wife of J. C. Martin of Keithsburg, Illinois; Arthur; George, at Grinnell College Iowa; and Forest, at home. In political belief Mr. Richardson favors the principles of government advocated by Thomas Jefferson, and gives his vote to the support of candidates of the Democratic party. He has no desire to be bothered with the cares of office, the only one which he ever consented to accept being that of justice of the peace, which office he resigned after being elected. Mr. Richardson is an honest, upright citizen, a man who is highly respected in the community in which he has passed his entire life-time, and we take pleasure in giving him representation among the worthy families of Keokuk county.



#### MRS. MARY J. BOND.

Among the early settlers of Keokuk county is numbered this lady, whose many friends will be glad to see the record of her life in this volume. She now resides on section 11, Richland township, where for many years she has made her home and since her husband's death she has superintended her farming interests. She was born in Jefferson

county, in eastern Tennessee, January 3, 1838. Her father, James French, was a native of South Carolina, but was reared in eastern Tennessee and after arriving at years of maturity he married Miss Lucinda Sasseen, a native of Tennessee, whose parents were born in North Carolina and on their removal to the former state located in Jefferson county. The father of Mrs. Bond died when about sixty years of age, and his wife was about that age when called to her final rest. They were the parents of ten children, three sons and seven daughters, all of whom reached mature years.

Mrs. Bond, the eldest of the family, spent her girlhood days in her parents' home, assisting in the duties of the household, so that she was well qualified to take charge of a home of her own at the time of her marriage. She remained a resident of her native county until 1856, when she removed to Adams county, Illinois, and in 1860 she came to Keokuk county, Iowa, locating in Richland township, where she has since made her home. She was first married to John C. Alderson, a native of Jefferson county, Tennessee, who died in Illinois. Unto them were born four children: Sarah, now the wife of John Rudolph; James, a resident of Mills City, Montana; Emeline, who became the wife of Elisha Jones; and Lucy, the wife of Joseph Whittaker, a resident of Albion, Iowa. After the death of her first husband, and following her removal to this county, Mrs. Alderson gave her hand in marriage to William Bond in 1869.

Mr. Bond was born in eastern Tennessee in 1823 and in 1841 came to Keokuk county, Iowa, casting in his lot among the first settlers who succeeded the Indians as owners of the land. He was a valiant soldier of the Civil war, enlisting in 1862, as a member of Company K, Eighteenth Iowa Infantry, with which he remained for about a year.

when he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability. He then returned home and resumed farming, which he followed continuously until his death. He was practical in his methods of farm work, was progressive and enterprising, and through the careful conduct of his business affairs he won a comfortable competence and was ranked among the well-to-do and leading agriculturists of the community. He was also a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was a member of the Friends church, his life being in harmony with the teachings of that church. He died February 22, 1892, and throughout the community his death was deeply mourned, because he had endeared himself to many friends by his kindly, genial nature.

Two children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Bond. Asbury married Miriam Sasseen and resides with Mrs. Bond. Viola became the wife of Elsworth Fitch and died at the age of twenty-two years. In early life Mrs. Bond was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but is now a member of the Friends church. She is a most estimable lady, highly esteemed for her many excellent traits of heart and mind. For forty-two years she has been a resident of this county and her mind is stored with many interesting incidents and reminiscences of the early days, which she relates in an entertaining manner. She has become quite widely known in her part of the county and well does she deserve mention in the history of the county which has so long been her home.

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DAVID JONES, M.D.

David Jones, M. D., a prominent old settler of Richland township, Keokuk county, Iowa, was born in Blount county, Tennessee, October 31, 1829, and is a son of James and Rebecca (Morgan) Jones, the former

of whom was born and reared near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Thomas Jones, the grandfather of Dr. Jones, was born in Wales and came in boyhood to America with his parents, who settled in Pennsylvania. This family has been members of the Society of Friends for generations. James Jones was for a great many years an elder and was a man of most estimable life, who died at the age of seventy years. He married Rebecca Morgan, whose great-grandfather accompanied William Penn on his second voyage to America and was one of Penn's admirers and supporters. Thomas Morgan, the maternal grandfather of Dr. Jones, was of English descent, a farmer by occupation, and a man of prominence and respectability. The mother died at the age of seventy-three years. The parents of Dr. Jones had six sons to grow to manhood and two daughters to reach maturity.

Dr. Jones was the youngest son of his parents, and he was reared in the old home in Tennessee, and attended the local schools. Later he was sent to a boarding-school at New Garden, North Carolina, which has now been transformed into Guilford College. At the age of twenty years he began teaching and followed this profession in North Carolina and Tennessee, later becoming one of the instructors at Friendsville Institute, in the latter state, which position he held for two years. In 1861 he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and began teaching at Pleasantplain, in Jefferson county, continuing until 1873 and most acceptably filling positions both in town and country. During this time the young man had been studying medicine and in the fall of 1873 began practice in Richland, remaining active in this profession until 1898, when he retired.

In 1852 Dr. Jones was married to Rebecca P. Jones, who is a daughter of James and Sarah (Smitzer) Jones, of Tennessee, and to this union

was born a family of seven sons and one daughter, as follows: James M.; Elisha R.; Francis A.; Mattie E., who married William A. Goodman; John L.; Walter S.; Benjamin C.; and Joseph C. Dr. Jones is a leading member of the Society of Friends in this locality, and for more than twenty years has been an elder, in simplicity of life exemplifying the admirable principles he professes. In his early days he was a Whig in political sentiment, and is now a deeply interested Republican. Dr. Jones is one of the most highly respected citizens of Richland.



### JAMES WYLLIE

The land of bonnie Scotland has furnished many worthy sons and daughters who have found a place in this country and have been honored for their sterling honesty and faithfulness to duty, and it is now our pleasure to record a brief history of one of these. The father of our subject, James Wyllie, was born in the good old county of Ayrshire, Scotland, and after a successful life now lives retired in the enjoyment of the earnings of his younger days. His wife was Jane Pearcey, who died at the age of seventy years. They had five children; of four daughters, only one survives, residing in Scotland.

James Wyllie was the only son and was born in his father's home in 1854, the eldest of the family. Up to the age of twelve he enjoyed the advantage of the common schools, but then began working in the collieries. He followed this occupation until the year 1881, when he came to America; the first news that he learned on his arrival in New York was of the assassination of President Garfield. He came directly to Illinois, where he engaged in mining and there remained about three years. His services were then sought by the Grainger Mining Company



of What Cheer, Keokuk county, Iowa, to plan and establish the "long wall" system of coal mining and this he accomplished in about six months. The company retained his service for about four years. He then rented a farm near What Cheer in Prairie township and worked it for four years; he then took a farm in Van Buren township for one year. Then he bought a farm of eighty acres in the latter township. In 1896 Mr. Wyllie was appointed superintendent of the county poor farm, which position he still holds, and shows excellent management in conducting that important public institution.

Among other business relations Mr. Wyllie is connected with poultry raising and he is an expert, having learned the business in the old country. He is one of the Iowa state directors in the Poultry Association, and exhibits at all the poultry shows of the state, in 1891 winning the silver cup given by the Des Moines Poultry Company at Williamsburg; he had the ten highest scores in bantams, on which he also won a cup and a special prize on the highest scoring bird in the show. He is recognized as a leader in this most interesting and profitable business.

In 1873, while still living in Scotland, Mr. Wyllie married Jane Jenkinson Simpson, who was born March 24, 1855; the ceremony was performed by James Murray, parish minister of Old Cummock. They have three children: James H., a leading attorney of Sigourney, Iowa; Robert S., assistant steward on the county farm; and Jane, the wife of G. Paton, and they reside on her father's farm in Van Buren township. Mr. Wyllie has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the Republican party, and nothing pertaining to the welfare of his community lacks his support.

## DAVID HARMAN VOLTMER.

One of the prominent farmers of German township, Keokuk county, Iowa, who is filling the position of township trustee and is one of the reliable and much esteemed citizens, is David Harman Voltmer. The birth of Mr. Voltmer occurred on his present farm on September 23, 1804, and he is a son of David and Christina (Mohme) Voltmer, the former of whom was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America in youth. In 1842 the elder David came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and took up land from the government and still resides upon a portion of it in German township. At one time he owned two whole sections, but he has retained a farm of two hundred acres only, selling a part and giving the rest to his children. From his marriage with Christina Mohme, who was also born in Germany and came to America at the age of six years, fourteen children were born, eleven of whom grew to maturity, all being natives of Keokuk county. Mr. Voltmer is now in his eighty-eighth year, having been one of the pioneers here, his log cabin being one of the first built in the township.

David Harman Voltmer, the subject of this sketch, is the ninth child in order of birth and the sixth son of his parents' family, and was reared on the homestead and obtained his education in the public schools. On December 1, 1894, he was united in marriage with Miss Nellie Blaise, who is the daughter of Mathias and Margaret (Gergen) Blaise, who came to German township in its early days of settlement; Mrs. Voltmer is the youngest of their seven children, was born in German township and was educated in the schools of the same. Their four children are: Pearl, Edward, Albert and Nellie. Immediately after marriage our subject and wife located on the part of the old homestead where they have since lived and here have a fine farm of eighty acres a very attractive and

comfortable residence and surroundings which contribute very much to the enjoyment of life. Mr. Voltmer engages in general farming and cattle feeding and is an extensive stock raiser.

Our subject is a Democrat in politics and has held a number of the local offices, being well qualified for such positions. Since 1899 he has been the efficient township trustee, and is regarded as one of the most reliable members of the community. He is a member of the order of Modern Brotherhood of America, of Sigourney, and is a well known, progressive and public spirited citizen.



#### WILLIAM HINNAH.

William Hinna, one of the prominent old settlers of Keokuk county, Iowa, who resides on section 3, in German township, is one of the leading German-American citizens who have contributed so much to the development of this portion of the county. His birth was in Prussia, Germany, on October 6, 1834, where he was educated until the age of fourteen years. From school he entered into an apprenticeship to the mason trade, served his time and worked at this business until he was twenty-three years old, coming at that time to America. Reaching Pittsburg Pennsylvania, Mr. Hinna secured farm work in the vicinity and remained there one year, but in 1858 made his way to Keokuk county, Iowa. For the following three years he worked for his brother-in-law, Christian Seger, and then bought eighty acres in section 3, German township, and lived there for about twenty years, buying then his present fine farm, although at the time of purchase it was not the well improved and cultivated place we now see. In fact there was nothing there but a log house, and Mr. Hinna found plenty to do. Not only

did he erect new buildings, but he also mended the roads, looked well to the fences and gave a tidy, thrifty appearance to his home, which makes it very attractive as well as enhances its value. Mr. Hinnah owns a large tract of land, and has made it all by honest toil and economy since coming to Keokuk county in 1858.

In 1860 our subject was married to Mary Brant, the widow of Frederick Mohla, and they are the parents of five living children, as follows: Emma, who is the wife of Christian Leichti, of Sigourney; Minnie, who is the wife of Gottlieb Klett, of Sigourney; Charles, who is a farmer in German township; and Andrew and Anna, both of whom reside at home. The children who have passed away were named as follows: Henry, William, John, George, Amelia and an infant daughter. Mr. Hinnah has reared his family well and has given them school advantages. For forty-four years he has been a respected citizen of German township, and has always done his part in aiding enterprises which have been for the benefit of his neighborhood. In politics he is a Republican and one of the sensible, thinking men of the party. For a number of years he has been a leading member of the Methodist church and is one of its trustees. In William Hinnah, German township has an excellent, self-respecting and public spirited citizen.

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#### HENRY PFANNEBECKER.

Henry Pfannebecker, a prominent German-American citizen of Keokuk county, Iowa, who owns a fine farm in section 33, German township, was born in Germany, January 26, 1824, and since 1854 has been an esteemed resident of Keokuk county. He was reared until his fourteenth year in his native country and there attended school. In 1845 he

entered the German army and faithfully performed the duties of a defender of his land for the succeeding two years, taking active part in the battle of Baden; the whole of his term of service covered three and one-half years. Our subject belonged to the German cavalrymen, a branch of the army which is justly regarded by all nations as one of the most perfectly drilled and effective in the world. Although he served as a private, official rank was offered him on more than one occasion, but he refused to accept so much responsibility.

In 1848 Mr. Pfannebecker came to America, landing at the port of New York, and soon after came as far west as Burlington, Iowa, where he was employed in a nursery by Mr. E. D. Rent, remaining with the latter for a period of six years. In 1854 he came to Keokuk county and bought a farm of eighty acres, paying three dollars an acre for the same, built a comfortable log house and immediately began the clearing of the land and later the most careful cultivation of it. During the progress of the Civil war, in 1863, he enlisted for service in Company K, Ninth Iowa Cavalry as a private, but soon was promoted to the rank of sergeant, serving faithfully until he was wounded while on guard, falling from his horse and being so seriously injured that he was honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa. Upon his return to his home he began farming again in German township and has been well known as an excellent agriculturist and successful stock raiser for many years. Gradually he accumulated two hundred and fifty-five acres through thrift and industry, and has provided his sons with farms, still retaining, however, eighty acres for himself.

The marriage of our subject was in 1849, in Pennsylvania, to Eva Catherine Hoffman, who was born in Germany and reared there to womanhood. She passed out of life on February 16, 1896, having been

the beloved and devoted mother of seven children, namely: Jacob; Henry, deceased; Christian; Mary; Eva; Frederick; and Dr. William, a leading physician of Sigourney. Mr. Pfannebecker is a staunch Republican and is a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He has taken a prominent part in public matters since locating here, and few substantial improvements in his township have been made without his approval and assistance. No man in German township is held in higher regard as a reliable, honest and upright citizen.



#### HENRY GROTHE.

Father Henry Grothe, who is pastor of St. Elizabeth's church at Harper, Iowa, was born at West Point, in Lee county, this state, on the 26th of December, 1863, and is the oldest of the seven children of Henry and Elizabeth (Grabenschroer) Grothe, both of whom were natives of Germany and came to America in early life. The mother crossed the Atlantic in 1860 and in 1854 the father had made the same voyage. He is a farmer and basket-maker and is now about eighty years of age, while his wife has reached the age of sixty-seven years. They are yet residents of Lee county.

Henry Grothe was reared in his native county until eighteen years of age. He entered the Catholic schools and further continued his education in St. Francis Seminary, near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was there ordained in 1890 and for three months acted as substitute priest at West Point, Iowa. Later he spent seven months as assistant at Fort Madison, Iowa, and three months at Portsmouth, Shelby county, this state. Later he was assigned to the pastorate of the Catholic church in

Richmond, Washington county, Iowa, where he remained until October, 1890, when he came to Harper, where he has since continued. The church here has a membership of one hundred and twenty families and is the largest Catholic church in the county. There is also a school conducted in connection with the church. The present house of worship was erected in 1883 and the school was built in 1900, while the pastoral residence was erected in 1885. Father Grothe is popular with his people and well known and highly respected among other denominations. He labors untiringly for the advancement of the cause he represents and under his guidance the church at Harper has made satisfactory growth.



J. W. LEMLEY.

J. W. Lemley, one of the most progressive and successful agriculturists of Richland township, is the owner of a farm of one hundred and eighty acres on section 18. He was born in Richland county, Ohio, November 28, 1852, and is a son of Jacob Lemley, a native of Germany, who came to this country with his parents when only two years old and settled in Richland county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and was married. On coming to Iowa in 1854 he first located in Washington county, but two years later took up his abode in Keokuk county, settling on section 17, Richland township, where he continued to make his home until called to his final rest at the age of sixty-seven years. He was an earnest and consistent member of the German Baptist Brethren church and took quite an active part in church work. In politics he was first a Democrat, but during President Lincoln's administration became a Republican and continued to vote with that party throughout the remainder of his life. For his first wife he married Miss Caroline Green, who

was born and reared in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and died at the age of thirty-nine years. Of the nine children born of that union six are still living, one of these being the subject of this sketch. In 1872 the father married Emma Whistler, by whom he had three children, all living at the present writing in 1902.

J. W. Lemley of this review was the second in order of birth in the first family and was about two years old on the removal of his parents to Washington county, Iowa, and four when they came to Keokuk county. His boyhood and youth were passed in Richland township and he is indebted to its common schools for his early educational advantages, while later he was a student in the Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa. He engaged in teaching in the public schools from the age of twenty-one to twenty-six.

In 1878 Mr. Lemley was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Wonderlich, a native of Keokuk county and a daughter of Charles and Mary (Long) Wonderlich, who were old settlers of this county. Mrs. Lemley was also reared and educated in Richland township and by her marriage to our subject has become the mother of the following children: Effie, deceased; and Roscoe, Ray, Mary, Jennette and Lawrence, all at home. After his marriage Mr. Lemley took up his residence upon a farm in the northwest corner of section 18, Richland township, which he purchased but afterward sold, and in 1886 he removed to his present place, where he owns one hundred and eighty acres of land under a high state of cultivation. In connection with general farming he carries on stock raising and is meeting with good success in his undertakings.

Politically Mr. Lemley is a supporter of the Republican party and takes an active and commendable interest in public affairs, having for three terms acceptably filled the office of township assessor. He is a



member of the Missionary Baptist church, in which he has filled the office of deacon, and takes quite an active and prominent part in church and Sunday-school work. From the age of four years he has lived in Richland township, and as a public spirited and progressive citizen he has borne an important part in her upbuilding and development. He stands high in public esteem and well merits the regard in which he is held.

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JOHN RANDOLPH.

John Randolph is a well known hardware merchant of Keota and was born in Mercer county, Illinois, on the 5th of May, 1848. He is a son of Edward F. and Mary (Irwin) Randolph, in whose family were twelve children, two of whom died in infancy, while one died at the age of fourteen years. The others, however, all reached years of maturity. The father of our subject was a native of Pennsylvania, reared in Crawford county and when a young man he made his way to the west to enjoy its greater business privileges, taking up his abode in Mercer county, Illinois. There he married Miss Irwin, who was born and reared in Crawford county, Pennsylvania. Soon afterward he located in Rock Island county, Illinois, where he entered eighty acres of government land, in Edgington township. In the fall of 1864 he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, settling in Liberty township, where he purchased a farm and continued its cultivation until his life's labors were ended in death, when he was about sixty-four years of age. He was one of the organizers of the United Presbyterian church, served as a member of its building committee and took a very active part in church work. A Democrat in politics, he served as a trustee of his township and in other local offices, and in the county he was well known. His widow still survives him and is now seventy-six years of age.

John Randolph and his twin brother, J. F., were the eldest in the family of twelve children and were about a year old at the time the parents removed to Rock Island county, Illinois. There the subject of this review was reared until about sixteen years of age, when he came with his parents to Keokuk county, Iowa, spending the remainder of his minority upon the home farm in Liberty township, which continued to be his residence even after he had reached man's estate. He remained with his parents until twenty-four years of age, assisting in the work of the home farm, and through the period of his youth he attended school during the winter months. He completed his preparation for a home of his own by his marriage in 1872 to Miss Mary J. Conger, who was born in Liberty township, Keokuk county, and is a representative of one of the pioneer families here. At the age of twelve years she was left an orphan. At the time of their marriage the young couple located on a farm in Lafayette township, Mr. Randolph giving his attention to the cultivation of the soil until the fall of 1886, when he came to Keota and entered into partnership with his brother, James Randolph, as a dealer in hardware and farm implements. The partnership was continued until June, 1892, when the brother died. Our subject then assumed the business and has since conducted it. He sold the implement department in 1895, but continues in charge of the hardware store and now has a liberal patronage in that line, for he carries a large and well selected stock of goods and his earnest desire to please his patrons combined with honorable business methods has been the means of securing to him a large and growing trade. Mr. Randolph also has landed interests, owning a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in O'Brien county and eighty acres in Hancock county, this state.

The home of our subject and his wife has been blessed with three

children: Nellie, now the wife of A. C. Smock, a resident of O'Brien county; Mabel P. and Bessie M., who are at home. Mr. Randolph gives his political support to the Democracy and has served for two terms as trustee. He has also been a member of the town council for some time and puts forth every effort in his power in the discharge of the duties of office and in advancing the general welfare. He and his wife belong to the United Presbyterian church, in which he has served as treasurer and elder. He represents the class of busy, energetic men who, while controlling extensive business affairs, also find time to promote the welfare of the town or the locality in which they make their home.

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MATT VALERIUS.

A prominent factor in mercantile circles of Harper is Mr. Valerius, who is here engaged in dealing in drugs and medicines, jewelry, wall paper, paints and oils. He was born in Wisconsin, February 4, 1862, and is a son of John and Kate (Webber) Valerius. The parents were born, reared and married in Germany, and after seeking a home in the new world they located in Wisconsin, where the father carried on agricultural pursuits. He improved a farm in that state and in 1866 left Wisconsin for Iowa, locating in Keokuk county on the 4th of March. He purchased a farm of one hundred acres in Lafayette township and to the further development and improvement of that place he devoted his energies throughout the remainder of his active business career. His death occurred when he was seventy-seven years of age, and his wife passed away at the age of sixty-seven. They were the parents of ten children, of whom one died at the age of four years but all the others reached manhood or womanhood.

Mr. Valerius is the eighth in the family of ten children and was four years of age when brought by his parents to this county. His boyhood days were spent on the old homestead in Lafayette township, and in the district schools of the locality he pursued his education. He also attended a graded school in Carroll, where he was graduated, and after putting aside his text books he followed farming for a year. He then went to Carroll, Iowa, and secured a position in the employ of John Nye, a general merchant. He afterward worked for the same man at Marion, Linn county, Iowa, for several months and then returned to Harper. He acted as assistant at the depot under Charles Hurless for about a year and eight months. Subsequently he carried on agricultural pursuits on his own account for two years and in 1892 became a factor in the mercantile circles of Harper by opening a drugstore, which he has since continued. He carries a large line of drugs and medicine, jewelry, wallpaper, paints and oils, and has been accorded a liberal patronage in recognition of his honorable dealings and his straightforward business methods.

In 1894 Mr. Valerius was united in marriage to Rose Hogan, and unto them have been born two children, Leo and Inger. Mr. Valerius votes with the Democracy and is well known as a citizen and prominent business man of Harper, his enterprise contributing not only to his individual success but also promoting the commercial prosperity of his community.



#### JOHN J. SNAKENBERG.

John J. Snakenberg, a prominent agriculturist of Keokuk county, Iowa, residing on section 20, German township, was born in a log cabin

located on section 20, on December 27, 1849, and is a son of Louis and Mary (Scharnhorst) Snakenberg, both of whom were born in Germany. Louis Snakenberg, the father of our subject, was one of the earliest settlers in German township and still resides upon the farm which he entered from the government so many years ago. He came here in May, 1843, and has reached his eightieth birthday, one of the most highly respected residents of this locality, and a leading member of the Methodist church. His wife still survives also, at the age of seventy-two years, and they are one of the most venerable couples in the township. They had a family that consisted of nine sons and one daughter, all of whom were born in the log cabin which still stands on section 20, and which sheltered the family in comfort for so many years.

Our subject is the eldest child of the ten born to his parents and was reared on the old homestead in German township; and his interest in his own locality has been so great that he has never cared to leave his native state. His education was obtained in a little log schoolhouse in the woods, where he learned the elementary principles, and his whole life has been devoted to the operation and improvement of his farm. He remained at home until he was twenty-eight years of age and then, on November 3, 1877, he was married to Josephine Fixmer, who was born in German township on February 13, 1857, and is the daughter of Reinhart and Catherine (Blaise) Fixmer, who were old settlers in Keokuk county.

After marriage Mr. Snakenberg settled in section 1, Van Buren township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, remaining on that farm for five years, and then bought the farm where he now resides. He has made notable improvements on this place, one very substantial one being a deep well, which he had drilled in 1896. Mr. Snakenberg

owns one hundred acres of fine land and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He has been a very industrious man and when but sixteen years old began to run a threshing machine and has followed that line of activity ever since, doing work all through the county and being the oldest man in the business.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Snakenberg consists of four children, namely: Hilda, who married Wesley Hoffman, a prominent farmer of German township; Miss Josie, who is a young lady at home; and Dora and Louis J., who attend school. The Snakenberg family is well known through this county, many of the brothers of our subject being, like himself, prominent and substantial farmers. Of these: Richard was killed March 25, 1875, in a saw-mill explosion; Christian is a prominent farmer of Van Buren township; Louis is also a prominent farmer of the same township; Henry is one of the good farmers of Van Buren township; Charles is a farmer in German township; Frank is located on section 16, in German township; Joseph operates his farm in section 17, German township; William resides on the homestead in section 20, German township; and Annie, the only sister, married Edward Brannan, located on section 17, German township. Until 1896 Mr. Snakenberg was identified with the Democratic party, but the issues raised at that time induced him to affiliate with the Republican party, of which he has since been a valued member and has acceptably filled many of the local offices. He is a member of the Masonic order, Webb Lodge, No. 182, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Signorney, in which he has filled the position of junior warden. He has been actively interested in the development of Keokuk county in his locality and is regarded as one of the representative men of this neighborhood.

WILLIAM HARRISON NEEDHAM.

William Harrison Needham, of the Keokuk County News, Sigourney, Iowa, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, August 22, 1840; his parents were David Needham, a shoemaker, and Margaret Shaffer, having moved west from Pennsylvania. He moved from Ohio to Iowa in 1853 and settled in Oskaloosa, where he received a common school education and subsequently learned the trade of printer. In June, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and participated in every engagement in which his regiment took part during the war, being mustered out of the service and honorably discharged at Savannah, Georgia, on the 1st of August, 1865. He was promoted to first lieutenant of his company for bravery at the assault on Vicksburg, May 22, 1863, by General Grant, who made special mention of him in his report of that battle. He was appointed on the staff of General Banks, while in Texas, but at his own request was permitted to return to his company and regiment. He was in the battle of Port Gibson, Jackson, Raymond, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge, and the charge and siege of Vicksburg, which lasted forty-seven days. He again went to Jackson, Mississippi, and took part in the second engagement there. He was then sent to New Orleans and Texas, and afterwards sent to Petersburg, Virginia, where the regiment was in Ben Butler's army; afterwards he was sent to the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, where he took part in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek, where Sheridan made his famous ride. He was in command of Company A for three months; he served as adjutant and quartermaster both at the same time for six months on account of the loss of so many line officers, and took part in two court martials.

Soon after returning from the army Mr. Needham purchased an interest in the Oskaloosa Herald, which he conducted until 1877. In November, 1878, he removed to Sigourney, purchased the Keokuk County News and still retains the position of editor of that paper, developing it into one of the best and strongest weeklies in Iowa. It now has a circulation of three thousand copies weekly. For the past few years his two sons, Charles K. and John R., have been associated with him. Charles K. is associate editor and John R. is business manager. Both are good young rising newspaper men. With this company of co-workers the News is bound to go forward and win still greater honors. The News is always actively identified with every object and movement which has the welfare of the community at heart. The paper is and always has been Republican in politics.

In politics Mr. Needham is a prominent Republican, having always taken a deep interest in party affairs, and serving it in important capacities with the same ability and faithfulness which have characterized his business life. While a resident of Oskaloosa he was postmaster from January, 1870, to 1877. He served as a member of the school board and city council of Sigourney for some time, and on September 1, 1898, was appointed postmaster by President McKinley, which office he still holds. In 1896 he was a delegate to the Republican national convention at St. Louis, which nominated William McKinley for the presidency. He has been chairman of the Keokuk county Republican committee for six years, and has attended as a delegate nearly all the Iowa state conventions of the party during the last quarter of a century, and was also a member of the Republican state central committee for two terms. Mr. Needham is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic and a Knight Templar in the Masonic fraternity. De-



ember 20, 1866, he married Olive, daughter of Samuel Knowlton, of Oskaloosa, Iowa, and they have had eight children: Charles K., John R., Alice Pearl, (deceased), Edna P., Emma J., Sherman Waldo, Anna Belle, and William Harrison, Jr.



### CHARLES F. SINGMASTER.

Charles F. Singmaster was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, February 29, 1834, and came to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1844, with his father, Samuel Singmaster, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. He was reared on the farm and early in life became associated with his father and brothers in the importation and sale of high-class draft horses. The style of the firm was Singmaster and Sons, and later Singmaster Bros. In 1891, at the death of William Singmaster, our subject dissolved partnership with his father and his brother Thomas, and established the firm of Singmaster & Sons, he being the senior member of the firm and his sons, J. Omer and Charles A., constituting the other members. Locating about two miles north of Keota the firm has since maintained their horse ranch here. The farm is known as "Maple-hurst," and here are ten large barns, and other modern facilities for the care of their horses, and Mr. Singmaster has a large and modern residence; just across the road in a pleasing cottage home resides his son Charles A., while his son J. Omer and only daughter resides in the parental home.

Mr. Singmaster was married in 1867 to Mary Ann McCarty, daughter of Charles and Mary (Collins) McCarty. Six children were born unto the marriage, three of whom, Samuel, Alice and Tressa are deceased, those living being J. Omer, who married Edna

Vercheval; Charles A., who married Sadie McFarlane; and Sophia, unmarried.

The firm of Singmaster & Sons is second to no other firm of horse importers in this country. They import and breed Percheron, Belgian, Clyde and Shire drafts, the preference being the Percheron, which our subject deems to meet the largest demand and in his judgment is the best of all draft horses. The sales and shipping barn is located in the town of Keota, and is a model barn, attractive and convenient. Much credit for the splendid success of the firm is due the excellent business judgment and unflagging energy of our subject. He is a hard worker, and carries his undertakings to a successful issue with noticeable determination.

His son, J. Omer, is the purchaser in Europe and on his judgment much depends; he has gained an enviable reputation among Americans visiting Europe to purchase horses. Charles A. assists his father in the sale of the horses, and, like his father, is a man of energy and splendid business judgment.



#### KEISER BROS.

A firm that has indeed gained an enviable reputation as importers and sellers of high-class draft stallions of the Percheron and Shire breeds for the most part, is that of Keiser Bros., of Keota, Keokuk county, Iowa. The firm was established in 1897. The preference of the firm was for Percherons, for the reason that Percherons seemed to meet the demands of the entire country. They began importing horses in a limited way, and by enterprise, hard work and fair dealing have from year to year gradually broadened their business, increased

their importations, extended their sales and improved the character of the horses which they handle until they have become prominent among the leading and best known horse importers of this country, and the firm name of Keiser Bros. has become a power in the draft horse business.

The personnel of the firm is composed of Samuel I. and Charles O. Keiser. The brothers are natives of Keokuk county, Iowa, and both had had experience in the horse business before the formation of the firm of Keiser Bros. Samuel I., the older brother, makes it his special business to visit France as often as necessary to keep their barns supplied with horses of the best type, while Charles O. has charge of the sale of the horses. Among the American horse buyers that visit France, Samuel I. Keiser has gained the reputation of being among the best, if not the best, horse buyer and importer of this country. His well known ability has been amply recognized by the officials of the International Live Stock Show, where for the past two years he has been called upon to act in the difficult capacity of one of the judges. It has been well said that a horse "well bought is half sold," and perhaps to this may be attributed no little of the success of Keiser Bros. in disposing of their importations, as few buyers who have visited France have had the success as a buyer which has come to Samuel I. Keiser. His long experience in the horse business and his pleasant way of treating those with whom he comes in contact have certainly well qualified him for the position. The best evidence of his success in this is shown by the exceptional demand that Messrs. Keiser Bros. have enjoyed for their importations. No less credit however, should be given to Charles O. Keiser, as he handles the sales of the importations in a way that marks him as a master of this line of the business.

It has been the policy of this firm to handle only high-class horses, and in so doing they have established a trade that is a decided compliment to their efforts along this line, and they have followed the principle of keeping the prices wholly within the reach of buyers of a high class of Percheron, Shire and French Coach stallions. While the Percherons predominate at the Keiser barns, there are also a splendid lot of Shire stallions on hand, as well as a few Belgians and a few French Coachers. The horses generally are of good style, well coupled, having long, well set quarters, good muscle, wide, full chests and well set shoulders. They sell either privately or to companies, and their fair dealing has gained for them the confidence of horse buyers and breeders. The firm has enjoyed a constantly increasing business from the first, and stands to-day among the leading importers of the country. Keota is the residence town of the brothers, and among their fellow-citizens they are held in high repute.

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LOUIS SNAKENBERG.

The population of Keokuk county is composed largely of a sturdy class of pioneers, together with their descendants, whose brain and brawn wrought out of the raw material of nature's laboratory the improvements demanded by civilization, being able to adapt themselves to the exigencies of the situation and skillfully overcome all obstacles by the further resources of their own capabilities and endurance. Among this honored class there is none whose experience has touched the whole range of pioneer endeavor and achievement to a greater extent than the gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph, and whose faithfulness, integrity, and masterful capabilities are well known to all.

The gentleman named above resides on section 20 in German township, and at the age of eighty years is enjoying a well earned rest from the rugged experiences through which he has passed in his pioneer days. He is held in the highest esteem by all, and the members of his family are regarded with the greatest respect throughout the county. Mr. Louis Snakenberg first saw the light across Old Ocean on the 3rd of July, 1822, his native country being Hanover, Germany. His father was named John, who spelled the family name Schuakenberg, and he, together with his family, came to America in 1837, first settling in Wheeling, West Virginia. After two years he moved further west, locating in Washington county, Iowa. The year 1844 marks his coming to Keokuk county, where he was a useful and honored citizen to the date of his death in 1849, having lived to the green old age of 84 years. He married Mary Enkelton in the fatherland, and she died in Keokuk county, in the seventy-fifth year of her age, being the mother of seven children, all of whom grew to maturity and had families of their own. Of this family Mr. Louis Snakenberg was the youngest. He was a lad of fifteen years when he left the fatherland and was possessed of a good ordinary education. He remained with his parents and participated in the different moves, arriving in Keokuk county in 1844. In 1848 he began life in earnest by taking to himself a wife, the exact date being May 24th. The lady's name was Mary Scharnhorst, and she also was a native of Germany, having been born in the kingdom of Hanover on the 3rd of December, 1830. Her parents removed with their family to this country in 1845, coming by the lower route and coming up the Mississippi river to St. Louis; they immediately located in Keokuk county, where they passed their lives. The family of which she was a member consisted of four

children: the father's name was Christian, and the mother's Dorethe Kragel.

Mr. Louis Snakenberg and his wife began life in a log house on the farm where they now live, and that same log house stands as a reminder of the trials and difficulties of that early time. They had a family of ten children, namely: John J.; Detrich, deceased; Christian; Louis C.; Henry L.; Frank; Charles; Joseph; Annie; William. All of these children grew to maturity and all, save Detrich, married, and they are now living within the bounds of the county, where they are held in the greatest respect in their different communities. The whole life of Mr. Snakenberg has been spent in tilling the soil, an occupation which cannot help but bring out the best that there is in man, as it brings him daily in contact with Dame Nature in all her innocence. He began with absolutely nothing but health and a will to do, and now in the evening of his life he can look back with satisfaction over a career of usefulness and one which has been attended with material success, so that he can pass the remainder of his days in peace and contentment. He still retains many of the old articles of furniture and implements which were carved by his own hands in those early pioneer days, and they are living reminders of an age which has passed all too soon, filled as it was with the innocent pleasures of pioneer life. During the period of his existence here, he had always been actively interested in the Democratic party, but in 1896, feeling that the policies of that party were inimical to the best interests of the country, he voted the Republican ticket, since which time he has been an earnest supporter of the same. For fifty-eight long years Mr. Snakenberg has been a member of the Methodist church, all of which time he has been an earnest and active worker. The authors of this volume cannot confer a greater favor

upon its readers than by giving space to the exploitation of the life of this worthy citizen, and commending it to the young people of the community as one worthy of the most careful emulation.

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CHARLES SNAKENBERG.

This gentleman is one of the worthy sons of the family noted above. He himself is a prominent and enterprising representative of the agricultural class, residing in section 6 of German township. His birth occurred in German township, September 14, 1860. He early became familiar with the labors of the field and meadow and assisted manfully in the work of the home farm, acquiring such knowledge as was afforded in that early day in the public school of his district. He remained at home for six years after the legal age and then set up an establishment of his own, being joined in marriage, March 18, 1888, to Ella M. Fry. This lady is also a native of the township, the daughter of Ruben Fry, another old settler, and of a family that is held in the very highest repute. After Mr. Snakenberg's marriage he located at once on the farm which he now cultivates, and on this he has placed all of the improvements which go to make up one of the finest farms in the county. He built his present commodious and handsome residence in 1899, a residence which is a credit not only to him, but to the county in which he resides. Mr. Snakenberg has proved by honest toil and close attention to business that farming is not a lost art in these incipient years of the twentieth century. To the marriage of Mr. Snakenberg there were born two sons, Byron and Jesse. As stated before, Mr. Snakenberg has taken great pride in beautifying his farm, having set out a large number of trees with his own hand. He takes a worthy

interest in the public life of the county and has been honored with some of the minor offices of the township, since 1866 having been township trustee. He takes an active part in all that pertains to the up-building of society in educational and religious lines, and as his father before him, is regarded with the highest respect.



### JOHN IRONS.

Ninety-two years of life filled with useful effort and crowded with respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens have left this venerable resident of Keokuk county still hale and hearty and with every prospect of continued health for some years to come. He was one of the pioneers of this locality and is to-day an honored citizen of Adams township. A native of Maryland, he was born in Alleghany county on the 10th of April, 1810, and is of German descent, his father, John Irons, having come to America with his parents when but six months old. The family located in Frederick county, Maryland, about forty-five miles from Baltimore and there the father of our subject was reared to manhood and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Catherine Hann, who was born and reared in New Jersey. The young couple located upon land in Alleghany county, and there in the midst of the forest the father cleared and improved a farm. Throughout life he engaged in agricultural pursuits. During the early days the family endured many hardships and privations, the country being still in its primitive condition. The mother died when about fifty-eight years of age and the father passed away at the age of seventy eight. In the family of this worthy couple were fifteen children, twelve of whom reached man and womanhood. There were six sons and six daughters, but only



four of the number are now living, one being a resident of Nebraska, another of Kansas and the third of Virginia, while our subject makes his home in Iowa.

On the old home farm John Irons passed the days of his boyhood and youth and on reaching man's estate he was married in West Virginia in 1832 to Miss Margaret Powell, who was born in Monongalia county, near the Marion county line. Fourteen children blessed this union, twelve of whom reached years of maturity. In order of birth they are as follows: Catharine, deceased; Joseph, now a resident of Oregon; Nancy Ann, wife of Decater Higgins; Charles, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume; John, who entered the Union army for three years' service and was killed in a railroad wreck while on his way home; William, a resident of Nebraska; Levi, a farmer of Adams township, Keokuk county, Iowa; Margaret, the wife of John W. Lightfoot, a resident of California; James, deceased; Warren, a farmer of Adams township, this county; Alice, wife of Andrew Hummer, who lives on the old homestead; and Allen, deceased.

After this marriage Mr. Irons located in Munn county, West Virginia, where he engaged in farming for fourteen years, and continued to make that place his home for two years longer, when he returned to the old homestead in Alleghany county, Maryland, having purchased the same. He continued the operation of that farm until 1853, when he sold the place and came to Iowa, making the journey by team to Adams township, Keokuk county. He entered three hundred and twenty acres of land and to it he added from time to time until he had six hundred acres, part of which was the present town site of Keswick. He continued his farming and stock raising until well advanced in years, when he retired from active labor, leaving the operation of the

land to younger hands. Since then he has divided most of his property among his children.

Mr. Irons has been called upon to mourn the death of his wife, who died on the 10th of March, 1900. They had traveled life's journey together for sixty-seven years, two months and twenty-seven days. They had shared with each other life's joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity. Although ninety-two years of age he has always been in exceptionally good health, and has never taken a dose of medicine in his life. He is strictly temperate in all his habits, never using liquor, nor has he ever smoked or chewed tobacco, and to his excellent habits may be attributed the fine health which he has enjoyed. On attaining his majority Mr. Irons became identified with the Democratic party and cast his first vote for General Jackson and has since never wavered in his allegiance to that political organization. His fellow-citizens recognize his worth and ability and called upon him to serve in local positions of honor and trust and he was at one time a member of the Grange. He was one of the first settlers of Adams township and for half a century has resided upon his present farm. He is the oldest man living in Keokuk county and no one in the community is held in higher esteem. After a useful and honorable career he can well afford to lay aside all business cares and live in ease and retirement. As a citizen he has ever stood ready to discharge any duty involving upon him and the best years of his life were given to the up-building and advancement of his adopted county.

CHARLES IRONS.

Among the brave men who devoted the opening years of their manhood to the defense of their country during the dark days of the Civil war was Charles Irons, a prominent old settler of this county, who is now engaged in the grocery business at Keswick. He was born in Marion county, West Virginia, on the 26th of December, 1839, and is the fourth child and second son of John and Margaret (Powell) Irons, whose sketch appears above. He was about fourteen years of age when he came with the family to Keokuk county, Iowa, and upon a farm in Adams township he grew to manhood, his life being devoted to agricultural pursuits when not in school until after the outbreak of the Rebellion. In 1862 he enlisted for three years as private in Company H, Thirty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and he participated in the engagements at Jenkins Ferry and many others in Alabama, assisting in the capture of Spanish Fort. For about six months he was confined in the regimental hospital at Helena, Arkansas, and was then sent home on a furlough, at length rejoining his regiment at Little Rock. He remained in active service until the close of the war, and was then honorably discharged at Rock Island, Illinois, after which he returned to his home with an army record of which he may be justly proud.

Mr. Irons was then successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1901, when he removed to Keswick and embarked in the grocery business, in which pursuit he is likewise meeting with success, having already built up a good trade. He is still the owner of a good farm of one hundred and fifty-four acres in Adams township, which he rents, and is a stockholder in the Keswick Savings Bank. He

assisted in organizing that bank, was one of its directors for some time, and also served as vice president. He is a man of good business and executive ability, who generally carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, and he ranks among the leading and representative citizens of the town. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county and is justly entitled to prominent mention in its history.

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JOHN OWEN NEWKIRK.

Among the retired farmers of Keokuk county is numbered this gentleman, who is a highly-esteemed and respected citizen of Warren township. He was born in Johnson county, Indiana, July 20, 1833, and comes of a family of Holland origin. His father, Daniel Newkirk, was a native of Holland and with his parents crossed the Atlantic to America, the family settling in Kentucky when he was about two years of age. He remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority and then removed to Indiana, locating in Morgan county, where he followed the occupation of a gunsmith, making his home, however, upon a farm. He led a busy and useful life and was thus enabled to provide for his family in a comfortable manner. Before leaving Kentucky he was united in marriage to Matilda Elston, a native of that state, where she lived until after her marriage. They became the parents of eleven children, seven sons and four daughters. Of this number three sons and two daughters are yet living. William H. and Mary E. have both passed away. J. O., of this review, is the next in order of birth and the others are as follows: Elias; Elizabeth; Martha; Jacob, who was killed in the army; Daniel, who died in in-



MR. AND MRS. J. O. NEWKIRK.



fancy; Nettie, deceased; Cyrus; and Milton, deceased. These parents came to Iowa in 1852, the family being established upon a farm in Keokuk county, where the father purchased six hundred and forty acres of land, the greater part of which was wild and unimproved. With characteristic energy the elder Newkirk began clearing and developing this tract and also followed his trade until his eyesight failed him. He was considered one of the leading gunsmiths of the country, being an expert workman and understanding his business thoroughly, both in principal and in detail. He remained upon the farm until his death and his supervision of the land and the cultivation he bestowed upon it transformed it into a very valuable tract. Suffering from a stroke of paralysis in June, 1887, Mr. Newkirk never recovered, but passed away on the 1st of September, of that year, at the age of eighty-four. He had been a loyal and exemplary member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but at the time of his death was not associated with the organization. In his political views he was a Whig in early life. Later he became a Democrat, but at the time of his death his support was given to the Republican party, and he consistently upheld its principles. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his life was in consistent harmony with his professions. So honorable and upright was he that his word was considered as good as his bond, and wherever known he commanded the respect and unqualified confidence of those with whom he was associated.

J. O. Newkirk spent his childhood days in Morgan county, Indiana, and with his parents came to Keokuk county, Iowa. He assisted his father at his trade and also upon the farm and was thus early trained to habits of industry, economy and enterprise—habits which have followed him throughout his entire life and have led to his success in later

years. As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Elizabeth McNabb, the marriage being celebrated on the 13th of March, 1856. The lady is a native of Morgan county, Indiana, and is a daughter of Andrew J. McNabb, a pioneer settler of Keokuk county. The McNabbs came from Indiana to Iowa in 1842 and stopped in Washington county one year. In 1843 they settled in Warren township, Keokuk county, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land and improved it, carrying on the work of cultivation until the farm became very productive and valuable; he plowed the first furrow that was turned north of Skunk river, in the western part of Keokuk county, and was an active factor in the early development and improvement of this part of the state; he died September 9, 1896, in Delta, Iowa, at the age of eighty-two years; both he and his wife were natives of Kentucky. The home of our subject and his wife has been blessed with seven children, a son and six daughters, but two of the daughters have now passed away. The family record is as follows: America E.; Matilda, the wife of W. T. Wharton, of Spokane, Washington; Martha S., deceased; Flora D., the wife of C. G. Saunders, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Jennie, deceased; Mary Ann, the wife of Frank Kendall, of Delta, Iowa; and John L.

After his marriage Mr. Newkirk located upon a farm in Warren township, making his home thereon for twelve years, during which time he placed his land under a high state of cultivation and made other substantial improvements upon his place. He then sold the property, but immediately purchased another farm in the same township. This, too, he sold at a later date and in 1892 he came to his present home, where he has since lived. During the past sixteen years he has worked at the carpenter's trade, and he still follows this pursuit, although he is



now in his seventieth year. His life has been one of unremitting toil and should put to shame many a man of younger years who, having felt the burden of business life, would relegate to others the cares which he himself should bear. Mr. Newkirk is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having taken the three degrees of the blue lodge and holding membership in Delta. He has always been identified with the Democratic party, having firm faith in its principles, for he believes that they are best calculated to conserve good government. He has served as a postmaster of Delta for four years, filling the position under President Cleveland's second administration, and then refused to continue in the office during the Republican administration. He was also a notary public for a number of years and has held every township office with the exception of one. For twenty-four years he has been a member of the school board and the cause of education has found in him a warm friend, for he believes in good schools and competent teachers, realizing that education is one of the bulwarks of the nation and a splendid preparation for the duties of life. He and wife and family belong to the Christian church of Delta and his entire life has been one which has awakened uniform respect and confidence. In public office his course has been above reproach, for he has ever been prompt, loyal and faithful.



#### LEVI IRONS.

This gentleman has now been identified with the agricultural interests of Keokuk county for forty-eight years, and is to-day the owner of a well improved and valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 21, Adams township, its neat and thrifty appearance testify-

ing to the careful supervision of the owner. Mr. Irons was born in West Virginia on the 14th of January, 1846, and is the fifth son and seventh child in the family of John Irons, of whom extended mention is made in a preceding sketch. At the age of eight years our subject was brought by his parents to this county and under the parental roof he spent the days of his boyhood and youth, his literary education being obtained in the schools of Adams township. During his minority he gave his father the benefit of his labor in the operation of the home farm, and at the age of twenty-one began farming on his own account on his father's place. A year later he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies until 1896.

On the 14th of April, 1896, Mr. Irons was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary (Williams) Anderson, a native of Illinois, born in 1850, and a daughter of W. S. Williams, who came to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1866, and is now engaged in farming here. Mrs. Irons was reared and educated in her native state and was first married in Illinois to Eliakem Anderson, who was born in New Jersey and was a farmer by occupation. In 1886 they came to Iowa and located on a farm in Adams township, Keokuk county, which Mr. Anderson operated throughout the remainder of his life. Being in ill health he entered a hospital in Chicago, but he never recovered and died there in 1892.

After his marriage Mr. Irons located upon his present farm in Adams township, where he owns one hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land, which is under a high state of cultivation. He is a progressive and enterprising farmer and is meeting with good success in his chosen occupation. He has always devoted considerable attention to stock raising and has found that branch of his business quite

profitable. In politics he is independent, supporting the men whom he believes best qualified for office, regardless of party lines. He merits and receives the respect and esteem of all who know him and is one of the valued members of the community in which he lives.

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WARREN C. IRONS.

Warren C. Irons, who resides on section 29, Adams township, owns and operates a valuable farm of two hundred and eighty acres, whose neat and thrifty appearance well indicates his careful supervision. A native son of Keokuk county, Mr. Irons was born on section 22, of the township where he still resides, his natal day being May 12, 1854, and he is the twelfth child in the family of John and Margaret (Powell) Irons, whose sketch precedes. Upon the home farm our subject was reared to manhood, receiving a good practical education in the district schools of the locality and assisting in the operation of the farm and in herding sheep during his youth. He was married on the 12th of February, 1889, to Miss Lizzie Stoner, a daughter of John and Fannie Stoner. Both of her parents are now deceased. The father died in 1869 and the mother in 1872, while Mrs. Irons was called to her final rest, October 27th, 1889. She left one daughter, Rosa E., who was born October 11, 1889, but died on the 2nd of February, 1890. Mr. Irons was again married, his second union being with Miss C. Anna Fisch, who was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, May 11, 1863, and is a daughter of Michael and Eva (Lang) Fisch, both natives of Germany, the father having come to the new world when about twelve years of age and the mother when about eighteen. They were married in Muscatine, Iowa. Mr. Fisch, who is a farmer by occupation, now

makes his home in Keokuk. In his family were eight children, six daughters and two sons, Mrs. Irons being the sixth in order of birth. Of this family three daughters and one son are now living. By his second marriage Mr. Irons has one daughter, Vera Eva, who was born May 24, 1896, and is now a bright little girl of six summers. His wife spent her girlhood on a farm in Iowa county, Iowa, until twelve years of age and was educated in the common schools.

After his marriage Mr. Irons took up his abode upon the farm where he now resides and has since devoted his energies to its operation. He is a skillful and progressive farmer who has met with success in business and has found stock raising quite a profitable source of income. Besides his property in this county he owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in the Red river valley in Wilkin county, Minnesota. He also has town property in Keswick and is a stockholder in the Keswick Savings Bank. He has made many improvements upon his home place, including the erection of a commodious and pleasant residence in 1900, and everything about the farm plainly indicates the thrift and enterprise of the owner, who is regarded as one of the leading citizens of the community. His entire life has been passed in Adams township and those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends. He is industrious and enterprising and to these qualities may be attributed his success in life, while his ballot supports the men and measures of Democracy, and as every true citizen, takes an active interest in public affairs.

JUNIOUS HAMILTON.

The agricultural interests of Keokuk county are represented by no more worthy citizen than Junious Hamilton, a pioneer settler of the county, born in Putnam county, Missouri, January 14, 1847. He is a second son of W. C. Hamilton, also a pioneer settler of Keokuk county, and a brother of James Hamilton, whose name appears on another page of this work. Junious Hamilton spent his early childhood days in Missouri, where also in youth he acquired his education. He removed with his parents to Iowa at about the age of eighteen, and remained at home until his marriage, which occurred June 16, 1868, the lady of his choice being Elizabeth Lisk, a native of England. Her parents crossed the Atlantic, settling in Mahaska county, Iowa, when she was quite young. In 1898 Mr. Hamilton was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife, and in 1900 he was married to Miss Belle Hamaker, the marriage being celebrated on the 19th of July, of that year. The lady of his second choice was a native of Jefferson county, Ohio. She is a daughter of Elisha Hamaker a native of Ohio, who became later an early settler of Iowa. However, he did not remain in Iowa for a great length of time, but returned to his old home in Ohio. Mr. Hamilton and his wife became the parents of one son, Everett B., born July 13, 1901.

Mr. Hamilton has remained upon his present farm since 1889. It comprises forty acres of the rich land of Iowa, and upon it he conducts agricultural pursuits, being a man of progressive methods, taking advantage of the latest improved machinery for facilitating farm work, and carefully supervising the work of the farm in principle and detail. The neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates the energetic

and enterprising character of the owner, who may well be proud of his well tilled fields and his good grade of stock. Mr. Hamilton is fifty-five years of age and his estimable wife is forty. In the prime of life they are enjoying the results of their well directed labors and are highly respected citizens of Warren township.

In his political views he endorses the men and measures of the Republican party and lends his aid in support of the same. He is a member of the Christian church and his life has been in consistent harmony with his religious belief. A man of upright character and sterling qualities of heart and mind, he is popular in his adopted county, where he enjoys the confidence and respect of many friends.



#### ROBERT A. MARSHALL.

One of the honored pioneer citizens of Keokuk county, where he was long and successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, is Mr. Marshall, who is now living retired in the attractive village of Ollie, where he has a pleasant home and is enjoying the well earned reward of his former years of toil and endeavor. Mr. Marshall is a native of the state of Indiana, having been born in Decatur county, on the 7th of May, 1831, a son of John Marshall, who was born in Maryland, where he was reared and educated and whence, as a young man, he accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, where they were numbered among the early settlers. His father, William Marshall, was born in England, whence his parents came to America when he was a child, this being in the colonial epoch. Here William Marshall grew to manhood, and when the colonies, burdened with unjust oppression, sought to throw off the yoke of the mother country, he was loyal to the

cause of independence and tendered his services as a soldier in the Continental army, serving under Washington and taking part in many of the important engagements of the Revolution. He died in Greene county, Ohio, when well advanced in years. His wife and her mother were residing in Massachusetts at the time of the war of the Revolution and were in so close proximity that when the battle of Bunker Hill was in progress they stood at their door and received the flying reports as to the progress of the conflict.

John Marshall, father of our subject, was married at Madison, Indiana, to Miss Elizabeth Edwards, who was born in Virginia, whence her parents removed to the west when she was an infant, making the long journey on pack horses. They first settled in what was known as the Crabapple Orchard, in Kentucky, being among the very first to locate in that section, and there Mr. Edwards aided in the various conflicts with the Indians, who were finally brought under subjection. When the mother of our subject was a young lady she went with her parents to Indiana, and after her marriage she and her husband took up their abode on a farm in Decatur county, that state. John Marshall there planted the town of Milford, seven miles west of Greenburg, and there he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, honored by all who knew them and known as persons of sterling rectitude of character. There also they reared their children to lives of usefulness, and the name is one honored in that section of the Hoosier state. They became the parents of ten children, of whom only three are living at the present time. The names of the children are here entered in the order of birth: William, James and John are deceased; Robert A. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Alfred and Eliza are deceased;

Mary is the wife of David Barger; Nancy is the wife of Angus Forbes; and Elijah and Deborah are deceased.

Robert A. Marshall continued to remain on the old homestead farm until the death of his father, and his vocation throughout life has been that of an agriculturist. In 1854 he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and located on a tract of eighty acres of prairie land, in Steady Run township, and here he developed a fine rural estate, making the best of permanent improvements and adding to the area of his estate until he is now the owner of six hundred and fifty acres of valuable land, the major portion of which is under effective cultivation. He has devoted his farm to diversified agriculture and also given special attention to the raising of a high grade of cattle and hogs, while he directed his efforts to such discrimination and energy that a full measure of prosperity came to him, enabling him to eventually lay aside the more active labors and cares and to resign the management of his farm to younger hands. He took up his residence in the village of Ollie, which town he was instrumental in having laid out about 1885, and no man in the community enjoys a more unqualified confidence and esteem, and that he is well known in the county needs hardly be said when we revert to the fact that he has here maintained his home for nearly a half century. He has aided materially in the development of the natural resources of this section, has contributed to civic advancement, and all worthy causes concerning the public good have gained his influence and support.

In Milford, Decatur county, Indiana, in the year 1852, Mr. Marshall was united in marriage to Miss Mary Landis, who was born and reared reared in that state. She died on the homestead farm in this county, leaving two children, John and Nettie, both of whom were born in this county. On the 14th of January, 1861, Mr.



Marshall was married to Mrs. Phoebe Braden, the widow of Walter Braden. She was born in Ohio, being a daughter of William and Margaret (Dearmond) Fye. Our subject and his estimable wife are the parents of two children, Frank and Van. In politics Mr. Marshall has given a staunch support to the Republican party from the time of its organization, and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he has been a member for half a century. He assisted materially in the erection of the church edifice in Ollie and has taken an active part in church work, as has also his wife, who is likewise a member of the church.



#### AARON STALKER.

Aaron Stalker, a prominent farmer and old settler of Richland township residing on section 15, was born in Hendricks county, Indiana, on the 19th of November, 1843. His father, George Stalker, was a native of Guilford county, North Carolina, and was there reared and married. About 1837 he sought a home in the west taking up his abode in Indiana, where he remained until 1851, when he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, locating upon the farm upon which our subject now resides. Here he spent his remaining days until within a short period prior to his death, when he took up his abode in Richland and there he passed away at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, respected by all who knew him because his life was upright and honorable, and because he was conscientious always in his relations to his fellow men and straightforward in his business transactions. He held membership in the Friends church and his life was in harmony with its teachings. In his politics he was first a Whig and afterward a Republican. His

father, Jonathan Stalker, was of Scotch lineage. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Hannah Milliken and was born in North Carolina, where her girlhood days were passed. She lived to be seventy-three years of age and became the mother of eight children, all of whom are living with one exception.

Aaron Stalker is the youngest son and the sixth child of the family. He was seven years of age when the family came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and on the home farm his childhood days were passed, the place being now endeared to him through the associations of his youth as well as those of later manhood. In the district school he obtained his education and his training at farm labor was received under the direction of his father.

In 1874 Mr. Stalker was united in marriage to Miss Mary Charles, a native of Jefferson county, Iowa, and a daughter of Thomas and Charlotte (Johnson) Charles, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Ohio. In 1851 they came to Iowa and cast in their lot with the early pioneer settlers of this state. Mrs. Stalker was the fourth of their five children and was reared in Jefferson county. After their marriage our subject and his wife located in Richland township. He purchased the old homestead, upon which he has since engaged in farming and stock raising. He has three hundred and sixty acres of land, the most of which is under cultivation with the exception of a tract of forty acres of timberland. He is extensively engaged in stock-raising and this branch of his business has proven to him a profitable source of income. Everything about his place is neat and attractive in appearance and a glance indicates to the passer by that the owner is a progressive and practical agriculturist.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Stalker has been blessed with one

daughter, Maude, who is the the wife of Dr. L. G. Lemley, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. The parents hold membership in the Friends church, in which they were reared. Mr. Stalker is a strong temperance man and gives his political support to the Prohibition party which represents his views concerning the liquor question. For fifty years he has resided in Richland township and has therefore witnessed much of the growth and improvement of the county which was reclaimed from the red men for the uses of a higher civilization represented by the white man. Mr. Stalker has borne a prominent part in the work of reclaiming the wild land and has contributed in no small degree in his locality toward winning for the state its splendid reputation as one of the leading agricultural sections of the Union.

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HENRY ABEL, JR.

One of the solid and representative citizens of the county, and one who reflects credit upon his German ancestry, is the gentleman whose name precedes this paragraph. Mr. Abel is a native of Benton township, where he was born on the 26th of February, 1848. His father was Henry Abel, Sr., a native of the fatherland, born in Hesse-Darmstadt in 1824. He passed the period of youth in his native province, and was apprenticed to the weaver's trade. Upon arriving at maturity he emigrated to America and came directly to the state of Iowa. He was soon after joined in marriage in Fort Madison to Miss Mary Elizabeth Miller, who was also a native of the same province as her husband, having come to this country with our subject's father in the same boat, they being married almost immediately upon arrival in the state.

Mr. Abel's parents soon after settled in Benton township, Keokuk

county, on a farm of eighty acres. This was about the year 1845. They immediately proceeded to improve the farm, it being in the timbered section, and soon had it under a high state of cultivation. This date makes them one of the earliest pioneer families in the county. They became the parents of twelve children, an equal number of boys and girls, our subject being the eldest son. The names of the family were as follows: Kathrine, deceased; Henry, Jr., the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth; Barbara, deceased; Leonard and Dora, twins, Dora being deceased; William; David; Mary; Caroline, died in infancy; George, also died in infancy; and John W. All of these children were reared to manhood on the old homestead in Benton township.

The parents are both deceased. Mr. Abel was a staunch Whig, and after the passing of that party, voted with the Democratic party. He took some little part in the affairs of the township in his earlier days. In religious belief the family were members of the United Brethren church.

Henry Abel, Jr., our subject, remained dutifully at home engaged in helping his parents educate their large family until he was thirty years of age. In the meantime he had been engaged in some farming ventures for himself, and in the fall and winter gave considerable attention to the threshing business. He married in 1878 Miss Margaret Alice Wallace, a native of this county, born in Warren township, March 9, 1852. Mrs. Abel is the daughter of Reuben Wallace, an old pioneer of this county, who was born in Dover, Delaware, November 23, 1811; he came to Iowa in an early day and settled in Warren township, Keokuk county, and was married to Mary Elizabeth Kieth about the year 1842. Mr. and Mrs. Abel are the parents of an interesting family of two boys and three girls—Laura Elizabeth, Rhoda May, Reuben

Henry, Eliza Dora, and Walter Ray. For the first four years of his married life Mr. Abel rented a farm near Hickory Grove, but in 1882, having accumulated the necessary capital, he was enabled to purchase his present place. This body of land now contains two hundred and eight acres, and evidences the hard labor which he has bestowed upon it. He has brought it to a high state of cultivation, and has placed upon it all the improvements necessary for the conduct of so large a farm. He gives special attention to the feeding of hogs for the market, and raises and sells all kinds of grain. He follows his father in political belief, voting with the Democratic party. He is a representative and highly esteemed citizen of the county, where he has passed his whole life time, and the authors of this volume are pleased to give him representation within its pages.



#### HANNO P. NEWTON.

Hanno P. Newton requires no introduction to the major part of the readers of this volume, because he is so widely known in Keokuk county. He is now living a retired life in Keota, having after many years of close association with business affairs put aside the more arduous duties of industrial life. He is of New England birth, having been born in Cheshire county, New Hampshire, on the 17th of September, 1838. His father, the Hon. Hosea N. Newton, was likewise born in the old Granite state and was reared in Cheshire county, where he learned and followed the occupation of a cooper. In his native place he was also married to Miss Mary A. Fisk, likewise born in Cheshire county, and about 1840 they removed to Connecticut. At length the west attracted them and in 1858 they made their way to Keokuk county,

Iowa, taking up their abode upon a farm in Lafayette township, where both spent their remaining days, the mother passing away in 1880, while the father's death occurred in 1883. They were devout members of the Episcopalian church and were widely recognized as earnest Christian people.

In his political views Mr. Newton was a staunch Republican, active in the work of the party and recognized as one of its leading members in this section of the state. In 1875-6 he represented his district in the state senate and he also held local offices in his township. He had marked influence over public thought and action because of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow men, and he ever labored earnestly and conscientiously for the welfare of his county and state.

Hanno P. Newton is the only member of his parents' family that reached adult age. He was about a year and a half old when his parents removed to Connecticut, and in the public schools of that state he pursued his education to some extent and was also a student in a private boarding school. In 1858, when he was nineteen years of age, he came to Keokuk county, Iowa, and assisted in the development of the home farm until after the death of his parents, his labors relieving his father of all care during his declining years. On the 2d of February, 1862, Mr. Newton was united in marriage to Maria De Berand, a native of Syracuse, New York, and a daughter of Charles and Susan De Berand, the family being of French descent. Mrs. Newton was their eldest child and by her marriage she has become the mother of eight children, as follows: Bertha, who died at the age of five years; Ida, who died at ten years of age; Stella; Susan Mary, the wife of J. N. Ramsey; Minnie, the wife of R. A. Huston; Lulla, who married E. O. Smith; Charles N., who wedded Minnie Shaffer; and Lettie, the wife of A. C. Martin.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Newton took his bride upon the old farm in this county and continued to engage in the tilling of the soil and in the raising of stock until 1896, when he retired from farm life to enjoy further rest from labor save for the attention which he gives to his invested interests. Since 1884 he has been the secretary of the Farmers' Pioneer Mutual Insurance Company, of Keokuk, Iowa, and this claims his attention to some extent. He yet owns a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty-three acres, which is well improved and represents the work of himself and his father. In his political views Mr. Newton is a stanch Republican and in 1897 was appointed post-master at Keota, holding the position until 1902. He has served as township clerk and township trustee and is again filling the former position, having been appointed to fill a vacancy. Almost continuously he has served in one public office or another, and over the record of his official career and his private life there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. Prominent in the Masonic fraternity, he is now serving as worthy master of Adelphi Lodge, No. 333, Free and Accepted Masons. He is also a member of Enterprise Lodge, No. 159, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has filled all of the offices and also has occupied all of the chairs in the encampment. He has represented both lodges in the grand lodge and is true to the beneficent teachings of these fraternities. A consistent and helpful member of the Methodist church, he has served as one of its stewards for many years and has taken an active part in church work. For forty-four years he has been a resident of Lafayette township and has ever been deeply interested in its progress and improvement, taking just pride in what has been accomplished here as the county has emerged from conditions found upon the frontier to take its place among the leading counties of this great commonwealth.

## C. M. GLANDON.

Through a long period C. M. Glandon has been a resident of English River township, Keokuk county, where he has carried on farming with good success. He was born in this township, February 26, 1861, and represents one of the old pioneer families of the locality. His father, Stephen M. Glandon, was a native of Indiana and on emigrating westward located in English River township among the first settlers to establish homes within its borders. He secured eighty acres of school lands on which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but he at once began to plow the tract and plant his crops and eventually reaped rich harvests. He afterward added two hundred and six acres more to his place and improved the entire amount. When a young man he engaged in teaching school to some extent and also followed the occupation of carpentering, but during the greater part of his life he carried on farming. He was married at Deep River to Miss Elizabeth J. Rundle, a daughter of Oliver Rundle of Deep River, Iowa. Eight children, two sons and six daughters, were born of this union, our subject being the elder son and the fifth child. Of these Amanda died in infancy and Alma is also deceased. The others are: Emogene, the wife of Thomas Linbarger, of English River township; Laura, the wife of O. M. Worrell, a lumber dealer of North English, Iowa; C. M., of this review; Mollie, who died in early childhood; Hattie, the wife of I. Fuhrmaster; and David L. From the time when he located in Iowa in 1850 until 1897 the father resided continuously upon the old homestead. He then removed to South English, where he remained for three years, and then passed away on the 18th of October, 1900, at the age of sixty-eight. He was a prominent and



influential citizen of this community and aided in organizing the first church in his township, acting as one of its trustees until his death. This was the Methodist Episcopal church of South English. His political support was always given to the Republican party and he was ever loyal and fearless in defense of what he believed to be right.

C. M. Glandon spent his early childhood days on the old home farm and acquired his early education in the district school, after which he entered Iowa College at Grinnell, Iowa, remaining there as a student for two years. When twenty-three years of age he was married, on the 1st of January, 1884, to Della Noffsinger, a native of English River township, and a daughter of David Noffsinger, a farmer and an early resident of that township. The home of our subject and his wife was blessed with seven children, four sons and three daughters: Nellie, Roy, Clarence, Irene, Donald and Loran twins, and Gladys.

Mr. Glandon remained at home until his marriage, when he purchased the farm upon which he now lives, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land. Everything about the place is neat in appearance and indicates the careful supervision of the thrifty owner. He uses the latest improved machinery and all modern equipments and his farm is now a pleasing picture of the landscape. He belongs to South English Camp, No. 6168, Modern Woodmen of America, and holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of South English. From the time he attained his majority he has been a staunch Republican and is at present serving as assessor of English River township. Having always made his home in this locality he is widely known in this portion of the county and the circle of his friends here is an extensive one.

## HARVEY OLIVER TRESSLAR.

Harvey Oliver Tresslar, a well known and prosperous farmer in section 7, Sigourney township, was born April 22, 1850, in Johnson county, Indiana. His father, Henry C. Tresslar, a Virginian by birth, moved with his parents to Ohio, thence to Johnson county, Indiana, where the subject of this narrative was born, and like his son, possessed marked ability as a farmer. Coming to Keokuk county from Indiana in June, 1852, and locating in section 18, Sigourney township, the father bought a farm of some four hundred acres and by thrift and able management added thereto until he found himself possessed of about eight hundred acres of fine land; enough to provide handsomely for his children as they came of age, each receiving a good farm at his generous hands. The father lived to be sixty-seven years of age and was widely known for his ability and success as a farmer and further as an influential member of the Democratic party, which he rendered invaluable assistance, always without seeking the rewards of office or personal preferment. His wife was Hannah Byrd, also a native of Virginia, who moved, however, when quite young to Ohio and lived to the ripe old age of seventy-eight. Her father, Thomas Byrd, was of German descent and also born in Virginia.

John Tresslar, grandfather of our subject, was also born and reared in the natal state of our first great President, was of good old German stock and lived to the advanced age of ninety-six. He served as a private in the war of 1812 with honor and devotion to his cause. Like his descendants, he, too, was a farmer of marked ability and at one time operated a mill in Ohio with considerable financial success.

Harvey Oliver Tresslar was the youngest of eight children, three

daughters and five sons, all of whom lived to maturity. He was of the tender age of about two years when he came to Keokuk county. Here he was reared and received a good education at the Sigourney township schools. He first located in Warren township, from which he went to his present location, where he passed about five years, thence he went **back** to his father's home for about the same period and finally located permanently where he now lives, building himself a comfortable and inviting home, setting out a fine orchard and establishing himself among most enviable surroundings as a prosperous farmer.

On April 8, 1880, he wedded Barbara Taux of West Point, New York, who was born on November 4, 1857, and was a daughter of Joseph and Madelina Taux, both natives of Germany. She was the fourth child and second daughter of the eight children born to them and was brought to Keokuk county when only two months old and there received an excellent education in the Sigourney schools.

He has been a life long Democrat and has taken an active part in politics; for seven years he was trustee in his township; was member of the school board and has been throughout his career distinguished for his ability and activity in affairs throughout the state and county, as well as for his integrity and business ability. He has given munificent support to the church and has in general exercised a strong influence in the direction of progress and the improvement of all things about him.

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CHARLES BAKEHOUSE.

Among the leading citizens and prominent farmers of Keokuk county, we take pleasure in giving a sketch of this worthy gentleman, who was born in a log house in German township on section 17, and he

has spent his entire life in agricultural pursuits in the county. The date of his birth was March 2, 1853, and he was the son of Charles and Sophia (Votmer) Bakehouse, and is one of a family of five children. He was reared on the farm where he was born and received the rather limited education that was current in that early day, coming his lessons in the rude log schoolhouse of that pioneer time. He very early became familiar with farm work, and in his home was taught lessons of thrift and industry, lessons which were well learned and have had their fruit in the later successful life of our subject.

He remained at home until his marriage, which occurred on the 1st of January, 1881. The lady whom he married was Miss Anna Schulte, a native of Amsterdam, Holland, where she was born on the 5th of November, 1862. The name of her father was Garet Schulte, he having been a native of Hanover, Germany; he had removed to America in 1874, and located in Sigourney. He later removed to German township, where he died in 1899, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. His wife was Mary (Volen) Brook, and she was born in Almelo, Holland. She still survives, living in Dubuque, Iowa. They reared but two children, a son and a daughter, the son's name being Anton G., a prominent practicing attorney, who died at Sigourney in 1900. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Bakehouse was blessed with a family of eight children: Clara, born October 18, 1881; Mary, born December 20, 1883; Francis, October 11, 1885; Jennie, January 28, 1888; Tillie, October 6, 1889; Bertha, January 8, 1893; George, November 22, 1896; Gertie, January 8, 1898.

Mr. Bakehouse upon his marriage immediately settled upon the farm upon which he now resides, and which he has cultivated with a high degree of success since that time. He has two or three bodies

of land, in all one thousand and twenty acres. Six hundred and twenty of this is in the home farm, one hundred and sixty near by, and two hundred and forty acres in Sigourney township, on section 16. He also has property in the city of Sigourney and Harper. He is one of the largest stock raisers in the county, and is looked upon as a gentleman of the very highest repute and character. While he is Republican in politics, he holds his vote for the very best man at all times. He has taken an active interest in everything that pertains to the welfare of his township and county, and by a very large circle of acquaintances is regarded as a man of unimpeachable integrity, whose word is as good as bond. He and his family deserve and receive the kind offices of a large circle of friends, which they delight to return in kind.

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GEORGE R. BELL.

George R. Bell is one of the prominent farmers and well known citizens of Van Buren township, Keokuk county, Iowa, and belongs to the hardy and vigorous race of Scots. His parents were Dr. John and Mary (Graham) Bell; the former came in young manhood from Scotland to Brooklyn, New York, where he practiced his profession for some years, and then returned with his family to his native land. Later in life he with his family again made the long voyage and this time located at Glens Falls, New York, where he and his wife both passed away. He was a man of scholarly attainments, a graduate of the University of Scotland and a physician of unusual skill. In his native land he married Mary Graham, who was also born and reared there, and they had a family of seven children, as follows: Ellen, Agnes,

John, Mary Ann, Jemima, Jesse and George R., all born in Scotland.

George is the youngest child of the above mentioned family and the only survivor. He was born in Scotland, October 31, 1833, and was but eleven years old when first brought to the United States. He accompanied his parents on their return to Scotland and was engaged in farming there until he came the second time to this country. He had been married in 1854 and in 1861 embarked with his family for America, they being on the sea when the news of the Civil war was made known. He located at French Mountain, New York, and was engaged in farming and buying supplies for the vessels. This he continued for three years and then came to Muscatine county, Iowa, where he took up farming. In 1874 he came to Keokuk county and located on his present farm, which then consisted of one hundred and ninety-six acres. Here he has made improvements and erected buildings and brought the land under a fine state of cultivation, adding from time to time to the place until he at one time had four hundred acres, but he now has two hundred and seven acres. He is a very capable man of business and has bought and sold land extensively since coming here. ..

In 1854 Mr. Bell was united in marriage with Miss Jessie Alston, who is a native of Scotland and was also reared and educated there. She is the daughter of William C. and Jane (Goss) Alston, both of whom died in the old country. Mr. and Mrs. Bell became the parents of eight children, as follows: William; Mary; James; Allen; Jessie, deceased; John; George, deceased; and Charles. In politics Mr. Bell is identified with the Democratic party, although he is no office-seeker. His large estate is well managed and he has a reputation for raising the finest stock in this locality. The family is much respected, and as one of the solid, substantial and reliable men of Van Buren township, George R. Bell is held in high esteem.

## JOHN W. SCHRIEVER.

Born December 10, 1842, in Germany, he spent his boyhood years in acquiring a college education and also in fitting himself for a practical life by learning the profession of druggist. In 1860, at the age of eighteen, he emigrated to the United States and located in New York City, where he remained seven years, partly engaged in the New York Stadt Theatre, and partly as private teacher of ancient and modern languages. In 1867 he removed to Highland Falls, New York, near West Point, where for a number of years he was engaged in the manufacture of cigars. In the year 1873 he concluded to go west and decided on Sigourney as a location. There he continued in the manufacture of cigars, and also tried his hand at the newspaper business by becoming the founder of the Sigourney Courier, a German paper, which still flourishes. At the start Mr. Schriever had as partners in the enterprise Messrs. T. Schiffer and Levi Bower, who soon withdrew, leaving Mr. Schriever in sole possession. He then took Mr. Charles Starr as partner, to whom he sold out his interest after the paper was firmly established, but continued in charge of the editorial department a year longer.

In 1882 Mr. Schriever removed to the town of Delta, where he remained about a year in the drug business, and then came to Richland, where he has since resided. He was first in partnership with Henry Burns about five years, then he bought that gentleman's interest and has since conducted the business alone. During the Civil war Mr. Schriever served in the United States navy on board the sloop of war Lackawanna, the flag-ship of the West Gulf blockading squadron, which was mainly engaged in blockading the port of Galveston, Texas. At the close of the war he received an honorable discharge.

The married life of Mr. Schriever began in 1869, when he was united to Margaret Young, a native of Bavaria, Germany, who came to America as a child. She died in 1886, after having become the mother of six children, of whom only two are living, Alice Clara and Elma May, who both reside with their father. Mr. Schriever belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and the Modern Woodmen of America. While not a party man, he has always taken a great interest in politics without striving to attain any political eminence. Still he has been honored by minor offices of trust, such as treasurer of his school district, and for seventeen years as treasurer of the town of Richland. Though leading a busy life, the subject of this biography has found time to give his thoughts to economic subjects, on which he holds original ideas, embodied in his work entitled "Equal Chances," which is, in his opinion, bound in due time to greatly improve mankind mentally, socially and physically.



#### J. F. RANDOLPH.

J. F. Randolph is a leading and representative farmer of Lafayette township living on section 15. He was born in Mercer county, Illinois, May 5, 1848, and is a twin brother of John Randolph, a hardware merchant of Keota, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. The subject of this review was about one year of age when his parents removed from his native county to Rock Island county, Illinois, settling in Edgington township, where the next thirteen years of his life were passed. In 1861 the family came to Iowa, locating in Liberty township, and there our subject assisted his father in the work of the home farm until he began business for himself. In 1870 he turned his atten-



tion to agricultural pursuits upon the farm which is yet his home. He is an enterprising and progressive man, who in his work follows modern methods and has prospered in his undertakings. In connection with the raising of cereals best adapted to the soil and climate he has a good grade of stock, consisting of cattle, horses and hogs, upon his place. He now owns one hundred and twenty acres of valuable land, which is well improved, and the farm is one of the pleasing features of the landscape.

In 1874 Mr. Randolph was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary J. Rowe, the eldest daughter of Jacob and Jonana (Carmichael) Rowe, who were early settlers of Keokuk county. It was here that Mrs. Randolph was born, spending her girlhood days in her parents' home. Five children blessed this union: George J., John Burton, Emma B., and Grace. Three of the children are married. George wedded Maude Rickard, a daughter of Daniel Rickard; John married Ella Gilliland, a daughter of Archibald Gilliland; Emma is the wife of John Wade, a son of James Wade, of Iowa county, Iowa; the youngest child of the family is at home, and one child is dead. The parents hold membership in the Presbyterian church and are people of genuine worth. Mr. Randolph is serving as one of the elders of the church in Keota, and has taken an active and helpful part in promoting its growth and extending its influence. He is also a strong temperance man and votes the Prohibition ticket. From the age of sixteen years Mr. Randolph has continuously made his home in Keokuk county and has gained a wide acquaintance here, while the circle of his friends is co-extensive, owing to the possession of those qualities which always command respect and regard.

## HENRY J. MOHME.

Emigration, as those conversant with the subject well know, is largely influenced by certain primal causes, chief among these being climatic conditions similar to those accustomed to and relationship of language, religion and political beliefs between the incomers and those already settled. The first difficulty is to "break the ice," as the average human being dislikes to leave the old home, but if a start is once made, if a few go and report favorably, it is comparatively easy to induce others to follow. A handful of Irish, Swedes, Italians and other nationalities having settled in a locality are often the means of drawing great colonies, who eventually grow to such dimensions as to dominate the community. The sheep and the wild geese are not the only animals who follow a leader or cross the line promptly in imitation of the "bell wether." These remarks are introductory in a general way to the specific cases of the Mohme family, with a view to accounting for their appearance in Keokuk county. The simple reason is that relatives had come in advance and wrote back such glowing accounts of the opportunities of Iowa that their kinsfolk across the water decided to abandon the fatherland and seek homes in the prosperous commonwealth on the banks of the Upper Mississippi. This party included Henry and Christina (Miller) Mohme and their son Henry J., who was born in Prussia, October 24, 1847. They came over in 1863 and located on a farm one mile northeast of Sigourney, in the county of Keokuk, and the cultivation of this land constituted the father's business until his death, in 1865, at the age of forty-nine years. His widow remained on the farm until the children grew to maturity and passed her declining years in Sigourney, where she died June 6, 1902, a little over seventy-nine years old.

Her son, Henry J. Mohme, continued to work on the farm until his marriage, June 23, 1871, to Emma Lena Fritz, and two years later went to Texas. He remained in that state two years, engaged in farming and railroading, when he returned to Keokuk county and occupied the old homestead until 1880, then taking up his residence at Sigourney. He was employed as associate editor of the Sigourney Courier until 1884, when he purchased the plant from J. C. Starr and has since conducted the paper. It is a German weekly, Democratic in politics and has a large circulation among the Germans in Keokuk and adjoining counties. Though of such great service to his party in assisting to bring an important and influential element to its support, and one of the leaders by virtue of his editorial position, Mr. Mohme has never sought political preferment, his only official position being the non-lucrative one of member of the school board. His membership in Webb Lodge, No. 182, of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Sigourney, constitutes his only fraternal connection. Mr. Mohme's wife died May 19, 1902, leaving five children, whose names are Charles, Mary, Flora, Walter and Louis.



O. N. JOHNSON.

The life history of him whose name heads this sketch is closely identified with the history of Keokuk county, which has been his home since he was four years of age. He began his career in the early pioneer epoch of the county and throughout the years which have since come and gone he has been closely allied with its interests and upbuilding. His life has been one of untiring activity and has been crowned with a degree of success attained by comparatively few men, for he is

well known throughout the county as one of its leading agriculturists and one of the substantial business men of the town of Richland, where he is serving as vice president of the Union State Bank.

Mr. Johnson was born in Hendricks county, Indiana, on the 9th of March, 1842. His father, the Hon. J. C. Johnson, claimed North Carolina as the state of his nativity, and he was a son of Jeremiah Johnson, also a native of that commonwealth. The son, J. C., accompanied his parents on their removal to Hendricks county, Indiana, when he was eighteen years of age, and there he became identified with agricultural pursuits. Remaining in the Hoosier state until 1846, he then came with horse and ox teams to Keokuk county, Iowa, and the part which he took in founding and developing the county well entitled him to be inscribed high on the roll of Keokuk's honored pioneers and eminent men. During his first season here he farmed on rented land in Richland township, after which he purchased a farm east of the village of Richland, but subsequently sold his possessions here and returned to his old home in Indiana. The old Hoosier state, however, did not long claim him among its residents, for he soon came again to Iowa, this time purchasing eighty acres of prairie land near Richland, and sixty acres of white oak timber land. He also entered into business pursuits in the village, but shortly afterward he retired from the active duties of life, and his death occurred in 1892, when he had reached the seventy-seventh milestone on the journey of life. He was an active factor in the public life of the community, was a staunch Republican in his political affiliations, and was the choice of his party for the office of state senator on one occasion, in which important position he served for one term. He was also called upon to fill many local offices, and his fidelity to the public trust in the discharge of his official duties was most marked. In his

fraternal relations he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

The marriage of Mr. Johnson was celebrated in Indiana, where Miss Prudence Saunders became his wife. She was a native daughter of the Buckeye state, but was reared in Indiana, and her death occurred in her sixty-sixth year. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson was blessed with two daughters and a son, the former being Amanda, the wife of H. W. Troay, and Martha, the wife of J. M. Warker, of Richland. The only son in this family, O. N. Johnson, was but four years of age when he was brought by his parents to Keokuk county, Iowa, being reared on a farm in Richland township, while his early mental training was received in the schools of the village of Richland. Remaining under the parental roof until his marriage, he then removed to a tract of forty acres, and in 1865 he became the owner of the place on which he now resides. At the time of the purchase the place was practically unimproved, and the many and valuable accessories which have since been added stand as monuments to his thrift and ability. During the past thirty-five years, in addition to the raising of the cereals best adapted to this soil and climate, he has also been extensively engaged in the stock business, and in both lines of endeavor success has crowned his efforts. He is now the owner of four hundred acres of rich and fertile land, which is divided into three farms, and all are well improved with good residences, barns and outbuildings. In 1895 Mr. Johnson purchased the interest of Mr. Stroup in the John Stroup Bank and was made its president. One year later this institution was organized into the Union State Bank, of which Mr. Johnson was made vice president, its president being Charles Keiser. In the business circles of Keokuk county our subject has long been an important factor, and his popularity

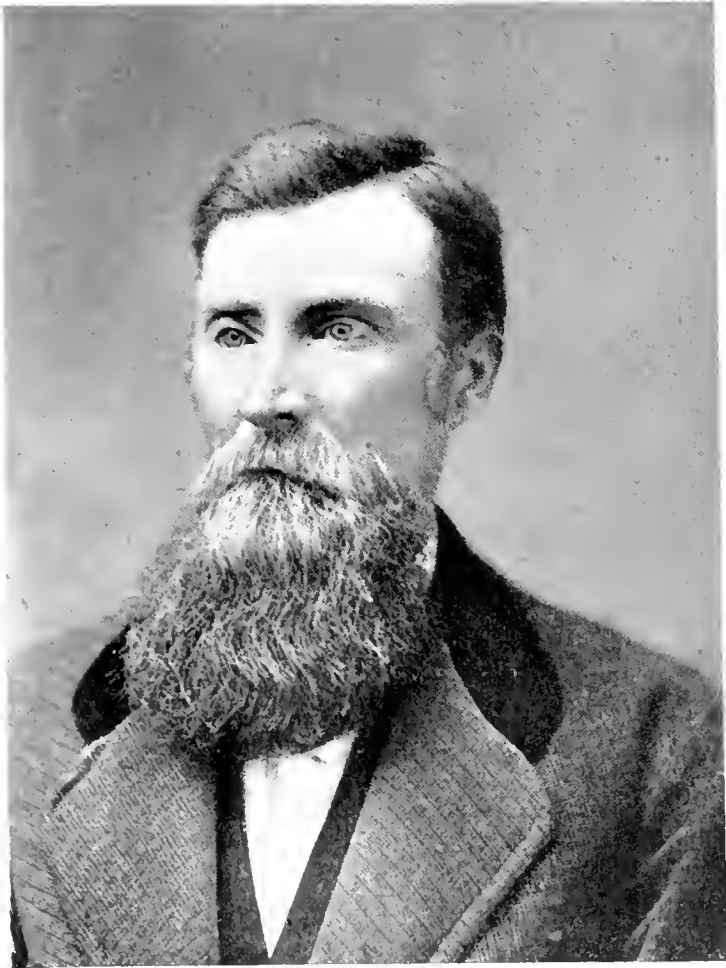
is well deserved, for in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabating energy and industry that has never flagged.

In 1864 occurred the marriage of Mr. Johnson and Miss Julia Duke. The lady was a native of Virginia but came to Keokuk county, Iowa, when sixteen years of age, and was a daughter of Thomas Duke. Two children were born of this union, Floyd M., who married Dora Reed, and is engaged in railroad work; and Raymond, a veterinary surgeon of St. Joe, Missouri, and for the past three years he has served as a government inspector; he married Kate Connors. In 1882 the loving wife and mother was summoned to eternal rest, and for his present wife Mr. Johnson chose Delia Hill, a native of Indiana. He, too, is a staunch supporter of Republican principles, while his fraternal relations for a number of years connected him with Richland Lodge, No. 38, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Nearly all his life having been spent in Keokuk county, he is widely known among its citizens and is held in uniform regard.



#### HENRY SNAKENBERG.

Among the well known and highly respected pioneers of this county was Dietrich Snakenberg, a farmer, and for fifty years local preacher in the Methodist church. He and his wife, Mary Seaba, were both natives of Hanover, Germany. Both emigrated to this country before their marriage, which took place in West Virginia, where Dietrich engaged in coal mining. After continuing in West Virginia a short time they settled in Washington county, Iowa. This was in 1830. The New Purchase was opened for settlement on May 1, 1843, and in the fall of that year he entered this new tract, making his home



*Henry Snakenberg*





in what is now German township, Keokuk county. He lived there until his death in 1898, having attained the age of ninety-three years, lacking eleven days. His wife died in 1880, aged sixty-seven. They had eight children: John, born in West Virginia, died at the age of twenty-five; Henry, the subject of this sketch; William, a farmer in this county occupying the old homestead; Mary, who is a widow; Anna, also a widow living at Keota; Minnie, unmarried, whose home is in this county; John Dietrich, also of this county; and Louisa, who like Minnie is unmarried and resides in Keokuk county. The family are Methodists. Dietrich associated himself with the Democratic party.

Henry, his son, was born in Washington county, this state, July 17, 1840. He attended the common school and lived with his parents on the farm until he was twenty-seven years of age. August 8, 1867, he married and moved to a farm of his own in German township and up to this day he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has always been a Democrat in a Republican county, and his election to several township offices indicates his popularity with the voting element. In 1899 he was elected county treasurer and made such a splendid official that he still holds the office, having been re-elected in 1901. His wife was formerly Miss Margaret Hartman, a native of Switzerland, who came to America with her parents when she was five years old; her family settled near Burlington, Iowa, and in 1856 moved to Keokuk county. Mr. and Mrs. Snakenberg are both members of the Methodist church. They had three children. One died at the age of seven; the daughter, Etta May, is the wife of David Beinhart, of Jefferson, Iowa; and the son, Frank D., is his father's deputy.

## FREDERICK LEVI BOWER.

The life of any individual is an interesting drama, and until the closing act is over holds the attention of humanity. But as some products of the playwright's skill have more of interest than others, so in real life men's careers differ and are filled with a varying amount of the events which rivet the attention. The career of Mr. Bower, which must be all too briefly sketched here to place it in full rounded outline before the reader, has many points which will render it especially fitting to be placed in this history, where it will prove of benefit to the many who will read it.

His parents were natives of Germany, and their names were Samuel and Hannah Frederica Bauer; the name has since been given its American form of Bower. The former was a farmer by occupation and sought in the free land of America the opportunities for that pursuit which are denied in any other country on the globe. One of the curious freaks of nature was exemplified in the body of his wife. Eleven years after her death the family decided to move her remains to another burying ground and on exhuming the body it was found to be in a perfect state of petrification; very few instances of this strange phenomenon have ever been known.

Frederick Levi was born at his father's home in Marion county, Ohio, May 7, 1842. He remained at home until he was thirteen years old, and consequently the education which he obtained up to that time was rather meager, but his desire to learn never left him, and later when he was spending the hours of the day in toil he attended a night school at St. Louis and gave himself an education, more valuable in some respects than one obtained with less difficulty. At the age of thirteen his

parents consented to his leaving home and he became an apprentice to the carpenter's trade, which he learned, and at the age of sixteen was in St. Louis acting as foreman of a shop. He remained there working at his trade until he was twenty years old, and also did some contracting. At the breaking out of the Civil war he went back to Iowa and for awhile taught school, which is a proof of how well he made use of his opportunities to gain an education. In 1862 he was attracted by the reports of the fortunes to be made in the gold fields of California and he made the trip overland, but after he had delved for the hidden treasure for a time, failing health caused him to return to Iowa in January, 1864. Mr. Bower had first come to Iowa in 1853, on June 28, at a time when there were few white folks but many red men there on Wolf creek, near his home. And he recalls the fact and quaintly expresses it by saying that wild deer and turkeys were thicker than rabbits and pigeons are now, and one day he saw a drove of about one hundred and seventy deer in one herd moving from the northwest to the southeast. Since returning to Iowa in 1864 he has made this state his home. He bought a farm two miles west of Harper and has followed farming, but of late years has given some attention to mercantile pursuits.

On November 10, 1864, Mr. Bower was drafted for service in the Union army, but was discharged at the first of the following month. It was during this year that his connection with the public life of Keokuk county began, and he has always shown himself to be a man of much public spirit. In that year he was elected clerk of the township and justice of the peace and continued to hold sometimes one and sometimes two township offices until 1874, when he was chosen one of the board of county supervisors. In this connection he was commissioned to build the present county jail. In 1877 he was elected to the office of county

treasurer and two years later was re-elected. In 1882 he was the cashier of the Union Bank of Sigourney, which is now the First National Bank. This is a brief record of his life in public capacity, and it is to his credit that he left his positions with the high regard of those who had chosen him as their representative. His connection with fraternal organizations has also been extensive. He joined the Masonic lodge in 1870 and has been a member of DuPain's commandery, No. 6, at Oskaloosa, since 1882. He was made a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1877 and is still connected with the lodge at Sigourney. He has been a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen since 1870, and has belonged to the Legion of Honor since 1878. He filled all the chairs of these organizations except in the Odd Fellows. He belongs to the Keokuk county grange and was an officer at the time this far-famed body went out of existence. Mr. Bower was married at the old home which now belongs to him, on March 13, 1864, shortly after he returned from his tour in the gold fields. His wife's maiden name was Isabella M. Grove, and her father, B. T. S. Grove, was a blacksmith at an early day in the town of Lancaster, Iowa, but when the county seat was moved to Sigourney, he took up his residence in Talleyrand. The first child born was named Amelia, and the date of her birth was December 12, 1864; Albert was born November 7, 1866; Edward, who came into the world on September 15, 1868, is at present filling the office of county auditor; and the last child was born October 23, 1869, and is Dora-Bell Ludwig.

S. H. KIRKPATRICK.

S. H. Kirkpatrick, who carries on general farming in Liberty township and is one of the old residents of this section of Keokuk county, claims Virginia as the state of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Rockingham county of the Old Dominion on the 9th of February, 1856. His father, Thomas Kirkpatrick, was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, but was reared in Shenandoah county, where he spent his childhood and acquired his education, receiving good instruction in both English and German. In early manhood he turned his attention to farming but later engaged in the business of auctioneering and cried at many sales in his portion of the state. He was married in Rockingham county to Polly Bowers, also a native of the Old Dominion, and they became the parents of eight children, seven sons and one daughter, as follows: Elizabeth, John J., Thomas J., Benjamin F., George W., Martin V., William Penn, and S. H., of this review. The mother of these children died in Virginia and Mr. Kirkpatrick was again married about 1860, his second union being with Abbie Lamb, also a native of the Old Dominion. They became the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters: Andrew J., Luther A., Perry Hunter, Hugh, Mary, Sally, and Josephus. Of this number all are yet living with the exception of Sallie. The father remained on the old homestead in Virginia until just prior to his death when he removed to another farm in Rockingham county. There he died in 1877 at the age of seventy-six years. He was always an advocate of the Democracy and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Brethren church.

S. H. Kirkpatrick of this review spent the first seventeen years of his life in his native state and then started westward, locating in Champaign county, Illinois, where he remained for four years. On the expiration

of that perior he returned to Virginia, where he spent one year and then again started for the Mississippi valley. This time he settled in Liberty township, Keokuk county, Iowa, where he was employed for three years as a farm laborer, attending school in the winter months during this period. In 1879 he went to Nevada, where he remained for one season, but returned to Keokuk county, Iowa, in the fall of that year. He was married the following winter to Miss Anna B. Flory, a daughter of Samuel Flory, of Liberty township, the marriage being celebrated on the 27th of January, 1880. Their union has been blessed with eight children, five sons and three daughters: Dessa V. S., Everett L., Orson F., S. Merle, Mary Pearl, John J., Venus B., and Homer Faustain Main. They also lost two children in infancy.

Mr. Kirkpatrick has always followed the occupation of farming. After his marriage he purchased sixty-five acres of land in Liberty township and later traded that property for a farm in Minnesota, removing his family to the latter state, where he remained for a year. Realizing that he had more fondness for Iowa as a place of residence he then returned to Keokuk county and settled upon part of the old homestead, which is now his place of residence. In his farm work he has prospered and now is the owner of a good tract of land, which is under a high state of cultivation and returns to him golden harvests for his labors. Socially he is connected with the Mystic Toilers, an organization which was recently formed in this state. At different times he has given his political support to the Democracy and to the Republican party, but at the present time he is a Republican. Although he has traveled quite extensively Mr. Kirkpatrick says that he has found no place he likes as well as Iowa and is content to here make his home. Through his enterprize and industry he has become one of the well-to-do and substantial citizens and agriculturists of Liberty township.

J. N. L. HARRIS.

From pioneer times in the history of Keokuk county down to the present, J. N. L. Harris has been a resident of this portion of the state and makes his home upon a good farm on section 29, Richland township. He was born in Cannon county, Tennessee, on the 18th of July, 1836, and his paternal grandfather, Nicholas Harris, was one of the early residents of that state, to which place he removed from Kentucky. Throughout his entire life he carried on farming. Among his children was John N. Harris, the father of our subject, and he too was born in Cannon county, Tennessee, where he was reared and married. Throughout his entire life he carried on the occupation of farming, making it a source of livelihood for his family. He wedded Mary A. Goodloe, also a native of Cannon county, and they became the parents of three sons: William P., who now makes his home fifty miles from Nashville, Tennessee; J. N. L., of this review; and David Porter, who is also living in Cannon county, Tennessee. The parents held membership in the Methodist church and were people of genuine worth. Mr. Harris took a very active part in church work, was generous in his support of the cause of Christianity according to his means and long served as a class leader. He died when about forty years of age and his wife passed away at the age of forty-five years.

Mr. Harris, whose name introduces this record, was only about four years of age at the time of his father's death and was largely reared by his grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Harris, in his native county. When but a boy hardly old enough to manage the plow he began work in the fields and he remained with his grandmother until about twelve years of age, when he was bound out to Logan Finger, with whom he remained

for some time. He afterward returned to his grandmother, living with her until about the time he attained his majority. At the age of twenty years he was united in marriage in his native county to Jane C. Moore and then located upon a farm, which he continued to cultivate until 1858, when he removed to Southwestern Missouri, settling in Christian county. There he resided until 1863, when he came to Keokuk county, Iowa. While residing in Missouri he served as a member of the state militia for about six months.

On his removal to this section of the state Mr. Harris took up his abode in Richland township, where he has since made his home, devoting his time and energies to general farming. In 1878 he located upon his present farm and has placed his land under a high state of cultivation, while all modern equipments and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century have been added to his place. His life has been characterized by untiring industry and whatever he possesses is the result of his earnest toil.

In 1893 Mr. Harris was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died in that year. She was the mother of five children, namely: W. R.; Mary Ann, the wife of Edward Kline; J. M.; Isabelle Tennessee, the wife of E. M. Euliss; and Louise, the wife of W. J. Ives. Mr. Harris is a member of the Missionary Baptist church and his Christian faith is largely moulded by its teachings, as indicated by his life and his conduct toward his fellow men, who know him as an honorable and trustworthy citizen. In politics he is a staunch Republican, fearless in his defense of his honest convictions. He takes a deep interest in everything pertaining to the general welfare and has contributed in a large measure to movements for the public good. He has always favored good roads and good schools and is the champion of anything that



tends to advance public progress. Keokuk county won a valuable citizen when he decided to locate within its borders, for he has always been true to its best interests.

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FERDINAND CLEMENS.

Ferdinand Clemens has passed the eighty-third milestone on life's journey and is one of the highly respected and venerable residents of Washington township. He became one of the early settlers of Keokuk county and for many years was identified with its agricultural interests and is still the owner of two hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land, upon which he lives, but does not personally conduct the farm. He was born in Licking county, Ohio, June 18, 1819. His father, Eleazer Clemens, was a native of Massachusetts and there spent the first twelve years of his life, when with his mother he came to Licking county, Ohio, driving across the country in a wagon, to which was hitched a yoke of oxen. It can well be imagined that the journey was a very slow one as compared to the modern methods of travel, when the steam cars cross in a single day distances which then required weeks. Eleazer Clemens remained with his mother until his marriage with Hannah Mead, a native of Vermont, but reared in Ohio, where she came with her parents. She was only fifteen years of age when married, and became the mother of thirteen children, seven sons and six daughters, of whom the subject of this review is the fourth in order of birth. In an early day in the history of Keokuk county the father brought his family to Iowa, settling in Washington county upon a farm which his son Ferdinand had previously improved. There he remained until his death, which occurred when he was seventy-eight years of age.

After living in Iowa for two years Ferdinand Clemens returned to Ohio and was married in Licking county to Miss Sarah Layton, a native of Virginia. By the death of her parents she was left an orphan in early girlhood and then made her home with an uncle until her marriage. Not long after the wedding was celebrated Mr. Clemens brought his bride to Iowa and located on the farm in Washington county on which he had previously taken up his abode. There they remained for about eight years and during that time two children were born to them: Ferdinand, who is now engaged in blacksmithing in Delta, Iowa; and Aurora, deceased. The mother died in 1880, and Mr. Clemens was again married, his second union being with Lydia Colbert, a native of Ohio, who died on the old homestead in this county, August 19, 1899.

On selling his farm in Washington county, Mr. Clemens came to Keokuk county and purchased a farm in Washington township, comprising two hundred and twenty acres, most of which was raw land. He took up his abode upon that place and at once began to improve the property, transforming the wild land into richly cultivated fields, from which he annually garnered rich harvests. He kept abreast with modern methods of farming, operated his land with the latest improved machinery and made his place very productive and valuable. He continued the work of the farm until within recent years, since which time he has lived retired, in the enjoyment of a well earned rest, which should come to all in the evening of life. In his political views he has always been a Democrat, but has never been a politician. His life was busy and useful and his rest is well merited. He has formed a wide acquaintance in Iowa and has ever commanded the respect of his fellow men by reason of his genuine worth.

WILLIAM LUTHER ETTER.

The early fathers of this American republic were wise when they set up as their first institutions the church and the public school. And in the school has been the bulwark of our nation for all time; its influence has been the more powerful because it begins with the supple twig of American manhood and gives it the proper bent, after which its growth is sure and steady in the right direction. But the school is an institution for the young, and its direct influence is no longer felt when the child has become a man. This large field of power, which was once usurped by the demagogue in the popular assembly of the ancient republican nations, has been occupied by that most marvellous organ, the newspaper, which is to-day the most powerful factor in influencing public opinion and expends its civilizing and beneficent force upon the mind of every citizen of this country. With this comprehension of the place of the newspaper in every American home we can better estimate the importance of the work of William Luther Etter, who is the publisher and editor of the *Sigourney Review*, one of the leading journals of Keokuk county, Iowa. The *Review* is Democratic in its political sympathies, has a weekly issue and has been under the management of Mr. Etter since 1899.

Mr. Etter's parents were John and Lydia (Koser) Etter, who were natives of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and were descended from German ancestors. Mr. Etter himself was born in the same county as his parents on January 25, 1860, and was the youngest of seven children. He was a farmer boy, attended the country schools, and being ambitious to gain more than a common school education, he entered the Cumberland Valley State Normal School and later was a student in Cornell

College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, from this latter institution being graduated in 1880. He had come west to Iowa in 1883 and was one of the successful teachers of the state. In 1889 he was elected superintendent of the schools of Cedar county, and so popular was his administration of this office of trust that he was re-elected and held the position for six years. For the next three years he was superintendent of the Tipton schools, and it was at the conclusion of this term of service that he determined to enter the journalistic work, and came to Sigourney and purchased the Review, which he has conducted with success that is gratifying to himself and his subscribers. In 1894 Mr. Etter married his estimable wife, Miss Flora Cotton, and they are now among the popular residents of Sigourney.

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A. W. CARMICHAEL.

A. W. Carmichael, who is a representative of the farming interests of English River township and one of the old residents of this locality, was born within the borders of the township December 10, 1857. His father, Emsley Carmichael, was a native of Ohio and when about thirty-five years of age sought a home beyond the Mississippi, taking up his abode near White Pigeon in English River township upon a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, all of which was raw land when it came into his possession. He at once began the task of making it fertile and productive and his efforts resulted in quickly working a transformation. It became one of the fine farms of the locality and continued to be his home until his death. Mr. Carmichael was married in Washington county, Iowa, to Avarilla Moore, a native of Ohio, who removed to Washington county during her early girlhood, remaining there with her

parents until her marriage. They became the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters, of whom our subject is the fourth child and third son. The record of the family is as follows: Martha, a widow residing at White Pigeon, Iowa; Francis M.; Sarah, deceased; A. W., of this review; Rebecca A., deceased; one who died in infancy; and Perry. The father followed the occupation of farming until his death, which occurred in 1864, on the old homestead near White Pigeon, when he was about sixty years of age. He always voted with the Democracy and was unswerving in his advocacy of the party. He held membership in the Christian church near White Pigeon.

A. W. Carmichael early became familiar with farm work upon the old homestead, assisting in the labors of field and meadow during the months of summer, while in the winter season he attended the public schools. After attaining his majority he was married to Myra Morgan, on the 5th of May, 1878, and her father, Thomas Morgan, was one of the early settlers of Keokuk county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael were born four children, but they lost one in infancy. There are three daughters living: Iva Maude, Nellie A., and Verna, all at home. The second daughter, Nellie A., was graduated with high honors in the Sigourney high school at the age of eighteen years.

Mr. Carmichael spent the first year after his marriage upon a farm in Adams township and then purchased ninety acres of land in English River township. Later he was given forty acres more in the same township and he has since purchased fifty acres, so that he now has a valuable farm of about two hundred acres, all under a high state of cultivation. He belongs to the Masonic Lodge at South English, being a third degree Mason, and in his life he exemplifies the beneficent spirit of his craft. In politics he has always been a Republican and keeps well informed

on the issues and questions of the day, but has never sought or desired public office for himself. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Webster and his life is in harmony with his professions.

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THEODORE L. GOELDNER.

Throughout his active business life Theodore L. Goeldner has been actively identified with the agricultural interests of Keokuk county, and is to-day numbered among the prominent farmers and stock raisers of English River township. He was born in Clear Creek township, this county, on the 17th of August, 1855, and is of German descent.

His father, John W. Goeldner, was born December 4, 1820, in the village of Breslau, Silesia, German, and there he grew to manhood, receiving a good practical education in the public schools of his native land. In early life he worked as a farm laborer and later was proprietor of an inn. Before leaving Germany he was married in 1846 to Miss Dora Schnered, who was also born, reared and educated in Breslau. They became the parents of five children, two sons and three daughters, of whom three are still living, our subject being the fourth child and second son in order of birth. After his marriage the father continued to reside in Germany for six years and three of his children were born there. In July, 1852, he crossed the broad Atlantic in company with his family, and on landing in the new world came at once to Keokuk county, Iowa, taking up his residence in Clear Creek township, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of wild land. That place he improved and cultivated, being engaged in its operation throughout the remainder of his days. After a useful and well spent life he died at the home of his son Theodore in English River township at the age of

sixty-six years. On becoming a naturalized citizen he joined the ranks of the Republican party and was ever afterward one of its ardent supporters, taking an active part in political affairs.

On the old homestead farm in Clear Creek township Theodore L. Goeldner gained an excellent knowledge of all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, while his literary education was received in the district schools of the locality. He remained at home assisting his father in the operation of the land until twenty-five years of age.

On his twenty-fifth birthday—August 17, 1880—Mr. Goeldner married Miss Barbara Smith, who was born in German township and was there reared and educated. Unto them was born one child, who died in infancy, and the wife and mother died at her home near Webster in English River township on the 31st of January, 1884. Our subject was again married, June 8, 1886, his second union being with Miss Sarah J. Boehme, a native of Washington county, Iowa, where her childhood was passed and her education received. Her father, William Boehme was born in Germany and on coming to this country became a farmer of Washington county, Iowa. Two children were born of the second marriage of Mr. Goeldner, a son and daughter. The latter is still living but the son died in infancy.

After his first marriage Mr. Goeldner bought a farm in English River township, consisting of one hundred and fifty-one acres of improved land, and he subsequently purchased ninety-eight acres more, all of which he still owns, it being his home at the present time. He has placed this land under a high state of cultivation and has made many improvements thereon which add greatly to its value and attractive appearance.

On attaining his majority Mr. Goeldner became identified with the

Republican party, but is now a pronounced Democrat. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county where his entire life has been passed, and commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact either in business or social life. Since 1891 he has been interested in the raising of fine stock, making a specialty of Aberdeen Angus cattle and at present has a herd of about thirty head of pure blooded stock. He also owns a thoroughbred Shire stallion.

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ERASTUS P. SCOTT.

Iowa is indebted to the eastern states for much of her population. Her broad acres and beneficent institutions attracted a body of immigrants in the early days, who for various reasons were dissatisfied with the crowded east, in whose blood coursed the intrepid spirit of their pioneer ancestors. Among those who came to the state from the land of the Buckeye just after the Civil war, was the gentleman whose name forms the heading for this article. He is a leading representative of the agricultural interests of Benton township, where he cultivates a farm of one hundred forty-eight acres. Mr. Scott is of Irish descent, his father Andrew Z. Scott having been a native of Guernsey county, Ohio, where he was born May 18, 1826. When quite young he removed to Pennsylvania, where he was reared to man's estate. His father was Charles Scott, who came to America from Ireland with his parents when he was six years of age. Upon arriving at manhood our subject's father left the Keystone state, and settled on a farm in Ohio, taking with him his newly married wife, whose maiden name was Susan McCullough. After a residence of some years in Ohio his parents removed to Wapello county, Iowa, where they settled with their family of eight children on a farm. This was in the



year 1869, and they continued to cultivate the farm in that county until 1893, when they moved to Hedrick, Keokuk county, where the parents still reside. Fourteen children were born to our subject's parents, the same number that was born to his paternal grandparents. Mr. Scott is the eldest child, the names of the other living children being—Samuel C., Charles A., Thomas M., Debidée, Alice and Anice, (twins), Susan, Grant, Jennie, Narado, Josiah, Andrew. Mr. E. P. Scott, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, November 24, 1847. He accompanied his family on their various moves and was twenty-two years of age when they arrived in Iowa. He continued to reside at his home, and aided in the education of his parents' large family until 1873, when he began life for himself, choosing as a companion Miss C. W. Buchanan, a native of Illinois, where she was reared and educated. She is the mother of seven children, five of whom are living, viz.: Nellie, Cameron, Lloyd, Charles and Raymond; two dead, Forest and Harrison; and all born in Keokuk county. Mr. Scott has a beautiful farm of one hundred and forty-eight acres which he is cultivating successfully together with forty acres in another tract in Wapello county. He is a good farmer and has his land in a highly cultivated state. He is regarded in his community as being a man whose word is as good as his bond, and he merits and receives the respect of a host of friends and neighbors. In politics he adheres to the principles promulgated by the Republican party and takes an active part in its campaigns.



S. H. BOWMAN.

The above named gentleman is one of the progressive men of Hedrick. He belongs to that class of representative citizens who, while

promoting their individual success, also contribute to the general welfare, and he enjoys an enviable position in the business circles of his section of Keokuk county. Samuel Bowman, his father, was a native of West Virginia, removed after his marriage to Illinois and came from there to Jefferson county, Iowa, about 1836. As this was before the organization of Iowa as a territory and ten years before its admission as a state of the Union, Samuel Bowman is justly entitled to rank as one of the earliest of the pioneers. He located in Jackson township, where he preempted land, but some years later removed to Keokuk county, where he settled on a farm in Jackson township, but spent his last days at Ioka, where he died in the ninetieth year of his age. He was a life-long Democrat, and had voted for Jackson and every Democratic candidate up to the time of his death. He was a son of Adam Bowman, also a native of the Old Dominion, who came to Jefferson county, Iowa, late in life and found his grave there. Samuel and Elizabeth Bowman became the parents of ten children and the mother died after the removal to Keokuk county, when she was sixty-five years old. She was a daughter of Peter Bowman, a native of Germany, who settled in West Virginia early in the nineteenth century. S. H. Bowman, youngest of the ten children of his parents, was born in Jefferson county, Iowa, March 6, 1845, and was about one year old when the removal was made to Keokuk county. He was reared on a farm and was taught lessons of economy and industry as he grew to manhood, laying the foundation of a very practical latter day education in the county schools of Jackson township. He remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-two years of age, and then went into business with his father at Ioka, where they ran a general store for several years. This business was sold out in 1869, and for two years after our subject was

engaged in farming in Jackson township. In 1871 he entered a store at Ioka as a clerk, where he remained until about 1874, and after another period of farming, took up the business of a collector, which he continued for two years. Again returning to the store-room, he engaged with Mr. McCullough at Ioka, and in the meantime became interested in a drug business for himself. In 1881 and 1882 he clerked for F. M. Israel, at Ioka, and afterward until 1888 was engaged at the trade of wagon-making in the same place. He was in business at Pekin in 1891 and 1892 and later was connected with the firm of Bowman, Haynes & Sherdon at Ioka, where they did a general merchandise business. He sold out his interest in this firm in 1895, and during the following year was engaged in settling up his father's business in that locality. He then came to Hedrick, and began the business in which he is now engaged, that of loaning money. In 1900 he was married to Miss Ida Shook, a native of Keokuk county, and a daughter of W. J. and Catherine (Clarkson) Shook, one of the pioneer families of the county, who came here about 1857. Until 1896 Mr. Bowman had been prominently identified with the Democratic party in Keokuk county, and was regarded as one of its valuable workers, but since then he has ceased to interest himself in political matters. He has held a number of local offices in the different localities where he has resided. Fraternally he has been affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1869. He is well known throughout the county, is familiar with its resources and needs, and takes a deep interest in its welfare. His genial nature and pleasant address, united with his business ability and general information, make Mr. Bowman a welcome guest in every social circle and valued as an adviser in all matters of importance.









