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HISTORICAL  
ENCYCLOPEDIA  
OF  
ILLINOIS

EDITED BY

NEWTON BATEMAN, LL. D.

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AND HISTORY OF  
GRUNDY COUNTY

(HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL)

BY

SPECIAL AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

VOLUME II.

ILLUSTRATED

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WATERWAY MAP  
OF  
**GRUNDY COUNTY**  
ILLINOIS.







## FOREWORD

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One of the conspicuous evidences of modern progress is manifested in the increased interest in local and personal history. In a general sense, real history is the record of past events, while biography is the history of individual life. The close relationship of these two branches of history is recognized by the brilliant essayist and historian, Carlyle, in the statement that "History is the essence of innumerable biographies," and that, "in a certain sense, all men are historians," in the fact that they furnish the material facts which constitute true history.

In the formative period of each new community the attention of its members is largely absorbed by the present—the necessity of securing means for personal and family support—the study of natural resources and planning for future development. But as time advances and conditions change, there comes a change in the popular mind and an increased interest in the past. That such has been the condition within the last century in Grundy county, as well as in the Middle West generally, is apparent to the general observer.

These evidences of change and development are taken note of in the portions devoted to the local history of Grundy county. In the preparation of the forty chapters, composing this portion of the work, it has been the object to present, in compact form and under appropriate topical headings, the main facts of county history from the earlier settlements and political organization to the present time. Various topics and localities have been treated with reasonable fullness under their appropriate chapter headings by local contributors especially selected for that purpose. Of the large number of contributors to these and other departments, it is not necessary here to make special mention, as their names are attached to their respective contributions in the body of the work. For the aid thus rendered thanks are hereby cordially expressed.



With the feeling that the work, as a whole, has been prepared with special care and with full appreciation of the interest already manifested and patronage pledged by the citizens of Grundy county in its success, it is submitted to its many patrons and the general public in the hope that it will prove of permanent and personal value to a large class of readers, not only in Grundy county, but throughout the state at large.

THE PUBLISHERS.



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# HISTORY OF GRUNDY COUNTY

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THE COMING OF THE PIONEERS—STORIES TOLD OF  
THEIR STRUGGLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS—LIFE  
MODERN ALONG EVERY LINE.

#### BEFORE HISTORY WAS WRITTEN IN ILLINOIS

More than eighty years ago, when Illinois was not much more than entering her second decade as a State; when the United States was still on the sunny side of her half century of individual history, the sun smiled down and the rains shed their grateful moisture upon that section of land later to be known as Grundy County, just as today. Then, however, there was but little to differentiate it from other hunting lands of the Indians, except, that within the warm bosom of Dame Nature lay potent riches to be acquired in later years by those venturesome enough to first brave the dangers of the wilderness, and in modern times to apply science and machinery to their work. Here, in this section roamed the Indians, one of whom will ever be held in affectionate remembrance in Grundy County because of his humanity and generosity, the deeply wronged, and yet much beloved Shabbona.

#### INDIAN TRAILS

These Indians left their mark on the land once their own, now passed into white hands.

in the trails which for years were the only roads the "pale faces" had after coming to Grundy County. These trails were clearly defined paths about 12 to 18 inches wide, cut into the sod of the prairie. One of these was found on the property that came into the possession of Jacob Claypool. These trails were found following the general course of the county, terminating at what is now Chicago, where the Indians loved to congregate. One was along the north side of the Illinois river, between it and what later became the Illinois & Michigan Canal, as far as the five-mile bridge, where it passed north of the line of the canal, but south of the Catholic cemetery, crossing the branches of Nettle Creek near the stone bridge, thence recrossing the canal line near the Peacock bridge, and, passing on the ridge through to the Protestant cemetery, it crossed the Aux Sable below and thence through Dresden, and took its course over the bluffs towards Channahon. Another of these trails was in the bottoms, south of the river, crossing the Waupewan creek at the quarter corner of the east line of section 18, in Waupensee Township, thence running nearly in a straight line, passing 20 rods north of the center of section 17, continuing to Spring Creek, crossing it at its mouth, and thence across the Mazon, on section 16, and up the river to Kankakee, where it crossed that river one half mile above its mouth. There was a trail that skirted the timber on the south side of the Illinois river, passing north of sections 4, 32 and 6, entering Waupensee Township about the center of the west line of the south-east quarter of section 20, continuing thence in a direct line and intersecting the first trail at the crossing of the Mazon river. A "high prairie trail" passed through Holderman's Grove, north of Grundy County, that developed into a very important line of travel.

As the hour hand advanced, however, the des-



tiny that propelled it, brought into this favored section men and women who were to be the formers of the Grundy County of today. Their work and achievements, their hardships and enjoyments, and the intimate particulars of the lives of many, follow in the pages to come. The descendants of some of those pioneers have endeavored to give here a true, although necessarily somewhat brief, history of Grundy County from the day when the first pioneer felled the trees for his cabin, until today, in the flush of twentieth century advancement, when the residents of the county vie with those of every other neighborhood in rendering the world better for their stay in it; their associates happier and their business connections more valuable.

#### LEAF MODERN ALONG EVERY LINE

The primitive ox-cart of the pioneer has given way to the high-power 1915 automobile. Scientific methods make agriculture profitable, and the farmers the most important class of men in the country. No longer is it necessary to stumble about with a homemade candle, or even its later substitutes, for Grundy County is lighted by electricity. Steam and electric power carry the products of the fertile fields to the markets of the world, and natural resources are being transmuted into the gold of the realm.

It is not necessary to say much in an opening chapter where those following have been handled so thoroughly and accurately. The editors have all labored with patriotic love to produce a book that would reflect credit upon their country, and if some have differed in their ideas relative to earlier events, it is because much of the pioneer records of any locality are written only in the hearts and memories of those taking part in the events from day to day, and handed down by "word of mouth," to their descendants.

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## CHAPTER II

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### INDIAN HISTORY

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THE INDIAN THE ORIGINAL AMERICAN—FIRST WHITE INVASION—INDIAN CHARACTERISTICS—MANY TRIBAL DIVISIONS—THE ILLINOIS CONFED-

ERATION IN GRUNDY COUNTY—THE "ILLINI"—WELCOME EXTENDED JOLIET AND MARQUETTE—INDIAN DISTRESS AROUSED—FIRST CESSION OF TERRITORY BY INDIANS IN ILLINOIS—TREATIES OF 1795, 1806, 1816, 1818—CHIEF WAUPONSIE—CHIEF SHABONA—PORTRAIT OF SHABONA AT MORRIS—INDIAN RELICS IN LOCAL FIELDS—PASSING OF THE INDIAN.

#### ORIGINAL AMERICAN

The American Indian is the original American. His name was bestowed by Columbus upon the copper-colored natives who eagerly greeted him upon his arrival on the shores of the new world. Of what momentous importance was this first invasion. For countless years the Indian had roamed the great country upon which as far as is known no white foot had been set. His kind possessed the land from the Arctic Ocean on the North to Terra del Fuego on the South, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. No other race ever possessed so mighty an empire, undisturbed by conflicting contestants. Many tribes fought among themselves, but until 1492 they were not disturbed by the invasion of the dominant race.

In that fateful year, three small vessels bore to the shores of the new world the white men, and from then on until today, the Indian has been under subjection. From time to time savage tribes and nations have taken cruel and effective revenge for what they have considered their wrongs, but where once there were hundreds of thousands of them in the United States of America now there are probably not more than a quarter of a million. The annual cost of their maintenance in the United States averages about \$9,000,000. There have been some eight or nine regular wars with the Indians in addition to countless local uprisings which have cost heavily in human life and money, but now the Indian seems doomed. A century more of civilization and he will, perhaps, have passed from the face of the globe, living only on the pages of history as a much wronged and misunderstood race.

#### INDIAN CHARACTERISTICS

The physical characteristics of the Indian are the same wherever he is found. All of them have the same long, black hair, black as to color and coarse as to texture. The skin is brown





or copper-colored shading in some cases to almost white. The brows are heavy, while the eyes are dull and sleepy, seldom expressing any emotion. The lips are full, but compressed, with a salient and dilated nose above. The head is square or rounded, flat-boned with high cheek bones. The Indian is laughing, taciturn and stoical, but cunning and brave, as well as ferocious in war and the most dreaded of all enemies. In temperament he is poetic and imaginative, and many of the chiefs have been noted for their eloquence and the beauty of their diction.

#### ILLINOIS CONFEDERATION

Much more could be given about the general history of this interesting and fast dying people, but Grundy County is only immediately concerned with the tribes of the Illinois Confederation. Belonging to it were the Tamarons, Michigamies, Kaskaskias, Cahokias and Peorias. The name, Illinois, with its French termination, was taken from the Indian one meaning superior men, and was written—"Lendi" and "Illini." This tribe met Marquette, the Jesuit explorer, with the cry: "We are Illini, we are men," in contradistinction to their estimate of their enemy, the Iroquois, whom they regarded as savage beasts. Thus came the name of the great Commonwealth in which Grundy County is found.

The Indians forming this strong confederation all belonged to the Algonquins, who, while not so ferocious in warfare, were brave and skillful, and were often victors when the conditions were in any way equal. They made a courageous resistance and showed remarkable savage strategy and diplomacy during the various Indian wars. Those of the Algonquins composing the Illinois Confederation were forced from their earlier location in the neighborhood of Lake Michigan, and settled west of the Mississippi River and from there, about 1670-73, they came to the valley of the Illinois River. Their worst enemies of their own race were the terrible Iroquois from whom they fled in dismay for they had proven by many conflicts that the latter could defeat them.

As long as the whites were friendly, the Illinois Confederation showed a like spirit, and as early as 1670 the Jesuit missionaries were received kindly, and, when Joliet and Marquette returned from exploring the Mississippi in 1673,

they were hailed with joy by the Indians who from that day were firm allies of the French. In 1675 Marquette established the mission of the Immaculate Conception near the present site of Utica, and in December, 1679, La Salle found a town of nearly 500 lodges, and on the present site of Peoria, one of about eighty lodges. In that vicinity, La Salle built Fort Crevecoeur. As time went on, however, the hitherto friendly Indians found that the white men were not to be entirely trusted. While many of the leaders were men of high principles, those under them were willing to resort to any means to defraud the simple red men of their furs, and many uprisings occurred that leave horrible shadows of fire and blood upon the pages of those times. With the driving out of the French, came English rule, and in turn, American, and all the while the Indian was used as a cat's-paw in the strife between the white nations.

#### TREATIES

With the American Revolution came many changes. The Americans began to come into contact with the Indians of what was then termed the "far west," and the Indians, quick to sense infringement upon their territory, viewed with alarm the advent of the whites into what is now Ohio, and the tribes united to endeavor to prevent further encroachments. In the meanwhile Fort St. Louis was abandoned, the Kaskaskias were removed and Fort Chartres was erected, so that the Illinois Confederation was drawn to the southern part of the state, and the Sacs, Foxes and Pottawatomies flocked in to occupy their deserted lands. In 1795, the tribes made their first cession of territory in Illinois, by the Treaty of Greenville, Ohio, of "one piece of land, six miles square, at the mouth of Chicago River, emptying into the southwest end of Lake Michigan, where a fort formerly stood; one piece twelve miles square near the mouth of the Illinois River; and one piece six miles square, at the old Peoria fort and village, near the south end of the Illinois Lake on the said Illinois River." The Government later erected forts at all the points to defend them and preserve the rights secured by this treaty.

In 1803, the Illinois Confederation ceded by the Vincennes treaty, nearly all of southern Illinois to the Government, and a year later the Sacs and Foxes by the St. Louis treaty ceded



a vast tract of land lying on both sides of the Mississippi River, extending on the east side from the mouth of the Illinois River to the head of that river and thence to the Wisconsin River. During the year 1816 a treaty was signed with the "united tribes of Ottawas, Chippewas and Pottawatomies" at St. Louis, in which the following appears:—

"Whereas, a serious dispute has for some time existed between the contracting parties relative to the right to a part of the lands ceded to the United States by the tribes of Saes and Foxes, on the third of November, 1804, and both parties being desirous of preserving a harmonious and friendly intercourse, and of establishing permanent peace and friendship, have for the purpose of removing all difficulties, agreed to the following terms, etc."

The boundaries which were established by these important treaties are the only ones that have found a place upon the published county maps of the State. This territory thus ceded is marked by lines which are drawn from a point on Lake Michigan ten miles both north and south of the mouth of the Chicago River, and follow the general direction of the Desplaines River to a point on Fox River, ten miles from its mouth, and north of the Illinois River, and in a similar manner on the Kankakee River to the south. It will be easily seen from the above that only that part of Grundy County that lies north of the Illinois River is included in this treaty. The remaining portion was obtained from the Pottawatomies by a treaty made in 1818 in which they ceded the greater portion of their remaining possessions in Illinois. Although this territory passed into the hands of the Government the same year that Illinois was made a State, the Indians did not leave at once, but remained for some years, peacefully fishing and hunting, and being on friendly terms with the incoming whites.

#### CHIEF WAUPONSEE

The pioneers who came to Grundy County found members of the Pottawatomie tribe under the supervision of their chiefs, Wauponsee and Shabbona. Quoting from a contemporary historian, a description of these warriors is obtained.

"Wauponsee and his band made their home at one time on the Illinois River near the mouth of Mazon Creek, in Grundy County, but in 1824

they moved to Paw Paw Grove. Wauponsee is represented as a large, muscular man, fully six feet and three inches in height. His head presented an unusual feature for an Indian, being entirely bald save a small scalp lock at the crown. In manner he was markedly reserved and gave frequent evidences of an untamed savage disposition that needed only an opportunity to lapse into the cruel barbarity of earlier years. He was a war-chief and claimed to be one hundred years old, though this statement was but little credited by the whites. With the rest of his nation he was engaged in the battle of Tippecanoe and other Indian demonstrations in the following years. He is credited by some as being the Waubensee who befriended the family of John Kinzie after the massacre at Fort Dearborn, but while such action, inconsistent as it is with the part he would naturally take in the attack upon the retreating garrison, it is not without parallel in Indian history. However, the strong impression is that these are two individuals. He moved with his band to the government reservations in the 'far west' in 1839, signaling his departure with a deed of barbarous cruelty that characterizes his memory here. This occurred in October, 1839, and is described by L. W. Claypool who had ample facilities for learning the truth as follows:

"James McKeen, residing on the north bank of the Kankakee River, a mile above the mouth, with a hired man, John Myers, had been burning logs in the afternoon. Some Indians asked the privilege of camping there for the night, which was readily granted. In the evening they gathered into the camp to the number of some fifty, bringing a supply of whiskey. Soon Wauponsee and his family came, having camped the night before near our place (S. W. ¼ Sec. 20, 33, 7). My father and I visited his camp as he was leaving in the morning, and curiously observed their preparations for moving. His family consisted of one wife, of middle age, very attentive to his wants, adjusting pillows on his pack-saddle and assisting him on a stump to mount his pony; an old squaw, a wife evidently not in favor; a son, sixteen or eighteen years old; a son-in-law with wife and two or three children; and two slave squaws, poor, miserable, forlorn-looking wretches in every respect. After supper McKeen and Myers went out to the fires where the Indians were having a drunken frolic. On approaching the Indians, they found a crowd of savages about a log heap, with one of the



slave squaws lying on the ground near the fire, Wauponsee stooping over her and talking in a low voice. Immediately after, he gave a signal, when the other slave came up, and buried a squaw-ax in the brains of the unfortunate victim. The body was removed to a pile of rails lying near. Being joined by other Indians the orle was continued far into the night. In the morning the Indians broke camp and went on their way, when McKeen and Byers buried the unfortunate squaw on the banks of the Kankakee.

The prevailing opinion here as to the reason for the deed was that Wauponsee realized the truth of the old adage 'dead men tell no tales,' and that as their new reservation in the West joined that of the Winnebagos, to which tribe the squaw originally belonged, feared that her relatives might be moved to avenge her ill treatment received at his hands, so ordered her execution, and thus took a 'bond of fate.' Wauponsee is said to have been killed by a party of the Sacs and Foxes for opposing them in the Black Hawk War. His scalp was taken off, the body mutilated, and left on the prairie to be devoured by wolves."

#### CHIEF SHABHONA

The same historian gives the following description of Shabbona, which is worthy of quoting.

Shabbona, who shares with Shakespeare the distinction of having his named spelled in an endless number of ways, was born of Ottawa parents, on the Kankakee River in Will County, about 1775. In his youth he married the daughter of a Pottawatomie chief, who had his village on the Illinois River, a short distance above the mouth of the Fox River. Here, at the death of Spotka, his father-in-law, he succeeded to the chieftainship of the band, which soon sought a more salubrious spot, and settled in De Kalb County, where he was found by the early settlers. Shabbona seems to have lacked none of those qualities which were required to command the respect and confidence of his band and yet he was possessed of rare discernment and decision of character, which led him early to see that war with the whites was hopeless, and that the only hope of the savage was to make the best terms possible with the inevitable. To this policy, he was one of the first of his people to give earnest support, and once

committed to this line of action, he allowed no influence, however strong, to swerve him from it for a moment.

He was easily influenced by the eloquence of Tecumseh, and became an ardent admirer and devoted personal attendant of that celebrated warrior. He was absent from the battle of Tippecanoe with Tecumseh, and returned only to hear of the massacre at Fort Dearborn, and to assist in the defense of Kinzie the following night. Believing that his nation would join the British in the War of 1812 he joined his hero warrior and acted as aid to Tecumseh until the latter was killed. In the general pacification of the tribes after this war, Shabbona seems to have imbibed his peace policy, to which he ever afterward adhered. While not gifted as an orator, his reputation for honesty, fidelity to his nation and good judgment, gave him a wide influence among the more warlike of his people, and in 1827, he rendered valuable service to the whites in dissuading the Pottawatomie nation from joining the Winnebago war. In 1832, when Black Hawk strove to unite the Indian nations in a combined attack upon the whites, he met a fatal obstacle in the influence of Shabbona for peace. Notwithstanding every influence and inducement brought to bear upon him, the 'white man's friend' stood firm, and was largely influential in bringing the aid of the Pottawatomies to the white forces. Subsequently, when Black Hawk was betrayed into hostilities, and the news of the Indians' first blow and success reached him, he sent his son and nephew in different directions, while he went in still another, to warn the settlers of the impending danger, thus saving the lives of many in the isolated settlements, a service for which he suffered the loss of his son and nephew at the hands of the enraged Sacs and Foxes years afterwards. In the military operations which followed, with Wauponsee, 'Jilly Caldwell' and a considerable number of warriors, he enlisted with the army under General Atkinson, who at once placed him in command of the Indian contingent. After performing valued service, he retired with his band at the close of the war, to his village in De Kalb County, where they remained to the date of their removal to the West in 1836.

"In consideration of his services the National Government, beside many other tokens of esteem, reserved a tract of land for his use at Shabbona Grove, and granted him a pension of \$200 per



annum. In the summer of 1836, however, the Indian agent notified him that his band must go to the lands assigned them in the West, as none but himself and family could remain on the reservation. Much as he regretted to leave the scenes of his manhood, about which gathered his dearest memories, he could not consent to a separation from his band, so in September, the whole band came to Main Bureau Creek, and camping at the crossing of the Peoria and Galena road, they remained here about six weeks hunting and fishing. The Government proposed to bear the expense of their removal as in the case of other tribes, but Shabbona, rejecting the offer, set out one October day with his band of about 112 souls and 160 ponies for their lands in western Kansas. Not long after this the Government moved the Sacs and Foxes from the reservations in Iowa to lands adjoining the Potawatomies. These tribes entertained the bitterest hostility against Shabbona for the part he took in the Black Hawk War, and Neopope, a chief of these tribes, had sworn to accomplish the destruction of the "white man's friend" together with his son and nephew.

"In the fall of 1837, Shabbona, with his son and nephew and a few hunters, went out on the plains to hunt buffalo, when, without the slightest apprehension of danger they found themselves attacked by a band of the Sacs. Shabbona, with his son Smoke and four hunters escaped, but knowing that a relentless Nemesis was on his track, he left his band and returned with his family to his reservation in De Kalb County; this consisted of 1,280 acres, most of which was fine timberland. A clause of the treaty conveyed this, and other reservations granted them in fee simple, but the U. S. Senate struck out this clause making the property only a reservation. This fact escaped the notice of Shabbona, and in 1845 he sold the larger part of his land and returned to Kansas to visit his band. It was soon discovered by designing persons that this transfer was illegal, and on the strength of representations made at Washington, the authorities declared the reservation vacant and the transfer void. On his return in 1851, he found his whole property sequestered and himself homeless. This grove had been his home for nearly fifty years; here he had made the grave of his first squaw and two papooses, and here he had expected to lay his own bones. It was natural that he should feel a deep sense of injury at this ungrateful requital of devotion to the white race;

but this was a new generation, the reservation had been technically abandoned, and none were greatly wronged save the Indian, who had not yet excited the romantic or humanitarian interest of a later day, and broken-hearted he went out to a retired place to implore the Great Spirit, after the fashion of his tribe.

"The case excited the interest of his early friends, who purchased a small tract of improved land, with house, outbuildings and fencing, situated on the bank of the Illinois near Seneca in Grundy County. Here he lived in a wigwam, his family occupying the house until his death at the age of eighty-four, on July 17, 1859. His remains were laid to rest in lot 29, block 7, in the Morris Cemetery with elaborate ceremony and grateful regard of the whole county. Here rest also eight of his family, five of whom were his children or grand-children. Shortly after his death his family removed to their nation in the West, and while his land is held by the County Court in trust for the benefit of his heirs there is no monument to mark the memory of one whom General Cass once introduced to a distinguished audience at Washington as, 'Shabbona, the greatest red man of the West.' His grandson Smoke is supposed to be acting chief of his nation."

#### PORTRAIT OF SHABBONA

Although no monument had yet been raised to the memory of this Indian chief, there is a fine, life size portrait of him in the Court House at Morris, Ill., representing him standing, arrayed in a dress coat which was presented him at Washington. With it he wears characteristic Indian finery, which adds to his imposing appearance.

#### INDIAN RELICS

In relation to Indian relics, this same historian has to say:

"An Indian relic which has given rise to many conjectures, is a cedar pole about six inches in diameter at the base, and from twenty to twenty-five feet in height standing in the center of the largest of the ancient mounds found in Morris. The pole stands at the lower end of Wauponsee Street, its base protected by a close fitting piece of flagging, and surrounded by an iron fence. The universal respect on the part of the citizens for this monument of the past is,







CHIEF SHABBONA AND WIFE



however, its surest protection. None of the Indians with whom the early settlers came in contact could give satisfactory accounts of its erection (indeed they did not claim to know), until the engineers who surveyed the line of the canal made some investigations in this mound. Some members of the party made some unauthorized explorations, and were rewarded by the discovery of some interesting Indian remains. The engineering party was subsequently joined by an Indian named Clark, who evidently belonged to the extinct Illinois nation, and of him Mr. A. J. Matthewson, the engineer in charge, obtained much valuable information, which he embodied in a letter to L. W. Claypool, of Morris. By permission, the portion bearing upon matters of interest to this county is given as follows:

"Yes, the bones dug up at the cedar pole belonged to Nuequette, a celebrated chief who was killed upon the ground and buried in a dug out—a kind of rude trough which our boys found in 1837, and from which they took the bones, a bit of red rust which had once been a knife blade, and circular ornaments in silver. His squaw, who died years afterward, lay beside him, her blanket intact, with a profusion of silver brooches and silver rings with green glass sets, upon the bones of two or three fingers of each hand. The threads of the blanket would crumble upon touch, and yet the teeth and hair seemed nearly perfect. The pole, a red cedar, was very old, full of curious cuts and marks, giving in a rude way, as Clark said, the exploits of Nuequette. This brute had a story of his cruelties noted upon that pole, but the poor slave of a squaw lay there without a word being said of her. She was laid in her blanket—nothing more.

"I had found a curious mound at the west side of a small grove, north of the old river stage road and a little west of south from Seneca, and upon asking Clark about the stones carelessly thrown about it he said: "Oh yes, that was a very bad Indian! Steal horses. They killed him; put him in this old mound by himself," and then when any Indian passed the mound he felt bound to show his contempt for the outcast who would not, or did not take scalps but horses (he was a horse fancier), and before reaching the place they would pick up finger stones and cast them upon the mound and spit upon it, showing their utter contempt for his want of good taste while living."

"Clark said Nuequette was killed in battle—

that the fight began at Blue Island. The Illinois tribe retreated, and again had a fight three miles east of Joliet, at a village on the north bank of Hickory Creek, where Oakwood Cemetery now is, a retreat and a hard fight at Nettle Creek (Morris), the Indian name for which has escaped me; then a retreat and pursuit as far as Starved Rock, where Clark gave a description of the siege and the daring conduct of the devoted band, rushing up to the very edge of the cliff to challenge the foe to combat. Of course, these were the acts of a few men in a desperate situation, but when relating these things, the eyes of Clark, usually mild enough, would assume a ferocious appearance quite shocking. He was evidently a friend of the weaker party. He gave also the exploits of a very few who escaped down the Illinois River in a skiff and were pursued for days, though finally escaping. Those left upon Starved Rock generally perished. In regard to the cedar pole, Clark told me the tribe or some of them came at times, as late as 1837-8, to replace the white flag upon the pole, when the winds had blown it away. Our men went on the sly to dig about the cedar pole in the mound, and upon their return to camp were told decidedly to go back and fix the mound and the pole, and to leave everything as they found it, or there would be trouble; that the savages were then about, and that they would miss their tom-knoes by delay. I went back with them to see the order executed, and it was. We had no trouble with the Indians on account of the act."

The exact time of the death of Nuequette is not known, but it is generally conceded to have taken place between 1670 and 1700, so that the pole is over 200 years old. It is possible that the Indian Clark confused the history of Nuequette with the campaign of the Pottawatomies against the Illinois to avenge the death of Pontiac. At any rate the cedar pole is so old that there is no authentic record of it, and it is consequently one of the most interesting of the relics the Indians have left of the days when they were all powerful.

Nineteen Indian mounds have been found at Morris, circular in form, and varying in height from 2 and 4 feet to 17 and 30 in diameter at the base. Those of the mounds explored yielded traces of Indian burial, but many of them have been leveled to make way for encroaching civilization. Other mounds were found along the southern bank of the river, and some of them



yielded implements of stone, metal and pottery, and evidently were raised by that mysterious people known as the Mound Builders. As to who these people were, and from whence they came, or where they have gone, no really satisfactory answers have been given, although antiquarians have advanced many plausible theories.

#### PASSING OF THE INDIAN

By the time the pioneers were fairly located in Grundy County, however, the Indians had ceased to be a serious menace. Many lingered for some years and became annoying because of their insistence upon being fed. Some amusing stories are told of demands made by the Red Men upon food stores, especially those cooked by the "white squaws," and more than one settler was amazed and indignant at receiving an offer of a string of ponies for his "squaw" who could prepare particularly toothsome dainties. The Indian has passed from Grundy County. Ends has been written at the close of his history, as soon it will appear to the page given over to his race. His influence remains in the many musical and expressive names to be found all over the county, as elsewhere in the country, and the treaties he and his people made with the whites appear on all land transfers.

The passing of the Indian in the United States is nearly accomplished. But a little more than three centuries have passed since the Red Men bowed before his white invader, and yet in that interval, a mighty people have been practically wiped out, and their lands turned over to the conqueror. It is one of the most remarkable instances of the survival of the fittest, the world has ever known. Brave to a fault, proud and autocratic, men impatient of restraint, the Indians have not been able to live when deprived of their natural surroundings. Their best characteristics have been lost in their years of dependency, and they are no longer capable of directing their own affairs.

The Indians belong to a different class from some other wards of the Government. Many of the proudest families of the country boast of Indian blood in their veins. Inter-marriages between the whites and Indians have not been infrequent, and the results are often satisfactory. Thus it is that while as a race the Indians have almost entirely disappeared, the spirit of the old

warriors still lives in descendants whose skins are as white as those who drove out the Red Men from their ancestral hunting grounds, and who are accepted as members of the dominant race. Time works wonders, and softens all prejudices. Looking back upon the records of those bloody times indicated by Indian warfare, the liberal-minded reader can comprehend that there was blame on each side, although not always in individual cases, and that even if the Indian was bloodthirsty, he was acting according to a deep-rooted belief in his right to resist "paleface" invasion, and support his rights as he understood them. Peace to the ashes of these Indian warriors, whether they rest in pleasant cemeteries like those of Shabbona, or have been given back to the earth from which they sprung by the wild winds of heaven; forgiveness of the wrongs of both sides, and a better understanding of the principles that actuated these old time enemies; and above all, knowledge and power to resist the temptation to repeat history by oppressing the down trodden, in the twentieth century, or to treat unworthily those who resist wrongs which grind into the soul.

### CHAPTER III

#### LANDS, EARLY TITLES, DEVELOPMENT, ETC.

OLD INDIAN TERRITORY—CEDED TO THE GOVERNMENT BY TREATY—GRUNDY COUNTY INDIANS WERE POTTAWATOMIES—FIRST LOTS OF LAND OFFERED IN 1830—PUBLIC AUCTION OF IMPROVED LAND—SPECULATORS A MENACE TO PERMANENT SETTLERS—FIRST LAND ENTRIES IN THE COUNTY—REMARKABLE INCREASE IN VALUES—LIST OF SURVEYORS FROM 1811 TO 1914.

(By Fred S. Johnson)

#### OLD INDIAN TERRITORY

Grundy County lands were a portion of the tract bought by the Government from the Indians. The first cession of lands from the Red Man included a section, six miles square, at the



mouth of the Chicago River; one, twelve miles square, near the mouth of the Illinois River; and one, six miles square, at the old Peoria fort and village. This abandonment was ratified by the treaty of Greenville, Ohio, in 1795. In 1803, the Vincennes treaty secured the Government nearly all of southern Illinois, and the next year the Foxes and Sacs ceded the territory on both sides of the Mississippi River, on the east from the mouth of the Illinois River to the head of that stream, and thence to the Wisconsin River.

#### TREATIES

In 1816, owing to some dispute, a new treaty was signed with the united tribes of Ottawas, Chippewas and Pottawatomes at St. Louis, which ceded territory marked by lines drawn from a point on Lake Michigan ten miles north and south of the mouth of the Chicago River, and following the Desplaines to a point ten miles north of the Illinois on the Fox River, and the same distance on the south to the Kankakee River. By this treaty only the northern half of Grundy County was ceded to the Government, the remaining portion remaining the property of the Pottawatomes, who, however, ceded that also in 1818. Although the Indians had thus parted with their land, they continued to live in Grundy County, hunting and fishing, for years afterward. Those found in Grundy County belonged to the Pottawatomie tribe, and their authoritative representatives were Shabbona and Waboose. With the coming of the white men, however, the old Indian mode of life was broken up, as civilization followed close on the footsteps of the dominant race.

The early settlers of Grundy County labored under many disadvantages one of these being the unsatisfactory condition of the lands for a long time and the difficulty attending securing their titles. In 1827 Congress had granted to Illinois aid for the proposed Illinois Canal, the alternate sections lying within the space of five miles on each side of the intended route. In 1829, Illinois selected the odd sections, and in 1830 some lots were brought into the market, but William Hodge was the only one to purchase in Grundy County. His property lay in what is now Nettle Creek Township. Until 1831 the congressional lands were open to pre-emption, and the pioneers who located in Grundy County prior to that date secured all the land

to which they were entitled under the laws governing this form of land occupation. These early settlers worked hard to improve their property, and when, in 1835, they found that the land they had been laboring to reclaim from the wilderness was to be sold at public auction without regard to their rights, they were aroused to action. Grundy County, however, was not the only sufferer. Other sections, then included in what was known as La Salle County were in the same predicament. A way out was finally discovered, the plan being that each section appoint a man to bid in the property for the actual settlers, with the agreement that after the sale was made, proper division would be made.

#### PUBLIC AUCTION OF IMPROVED LAND

The sale of land took place at Chicago, and for the first couple of days the sales were conducted from the steps leading into a store on Lake Street. As the mud was deep around this point, the auction was later moved to Garrett's new auction rooms, near South Water Street. So many attended that the above structure broke down, and the sale was completed on South Water Street. The reason for trouble arose from the fact that outside speculators had flocked to Chicago, intending to bid in the partially improved lands and hold them for high prices. The acumen and activity of the actual owners largely frustrated this nefarious scheme, but it is stated that as much as \$500,000 was taken out of the city, an immense amount in those days. In August, 1835, the books were opened for entry, and the land speculators found their opportunity, and bought up every available piece of timberland in the northeastern part of Illinois.

#### FIRST LAND ENTRIES

Among the first to enter land in Grundy County may be mentioned the following: James McWilliams, Stephen H. Randall, Benjamin Waite, Simon Waite, John Weldon, P. Lamb, John Weir, Michael Lamb, James M. Adsit, Richard Lamb, William Scully, Lewis T. Jamison, M. G. and J. W. Haymond, John McNellis, Justin Renne, John Walsh, James Glenn, Jacob Griggs, Abraham Holderman, C. H. and H. C. Gould, Jeremiah Crotty, Samuel C. Collins, Thomas R. Renne, Isaac Peebe, Horace and John Moore, Perry A. Armstrong, Edmund D. Taylor,





John Lewis, George Schrotberger, Gardner T. Gorham, Rees Ridgeway, Samuel Pickering, Philo Carpenter, John P. Chapin, Horatio G. Loomis, John Peacock, Thomas Peacock, J. L. and W. White, L. W. Claypool, Jacob Claypool, Perry A. Claypool, Wm. Gay, Augustus Garrett, Horatio G. Loomis, Phillip Collins, William Hoge, Mahlon P. Wilson, James Leech, John B. F. Russell, Joshua Hoge, Solomon Hoge, Samuel Hoge, Fred Burkhardt, M. Thomas Huff, John C. Baker, Albert L. Vined, John and S. Holderman, Eliza R. Chamberlain, R. Gardner, Samuel S. Randall, Bartholmew McGrath, William H. Perkins, Joshua Collins, Jerry Collins, Nial N. Osborn.

#### REMARKABLE INCREASE IN VALUES

The first lands were sold for \$1.25 per acre. This was the usual price for government lands in early days, and while it now seems to have been low, it must be remembered that the property was entirely unimproved, was generally remote from highways and was thus difficult to reach from the outside world. The majority of the settlers commenced at once to develop the property thus secured and their sons continued the work when the fathers retired, and at present much of the Grundy County farm land is held at \$200 per acre, while that situated in the towns and cities has reached an almost prohibitive price.

#### COUNTY SURVEYORS

The Surveyors of Grundy County have been: Leander Newport, 1841-1844; Thomas A. Henry, 1845-1848; Charles Huston, 1849-1851; Thomas A. Henry, 1852-1855; Samuel Ewer, 1856-1858; Nathaniel McBride, 1859-1860; Thomas A. Henry, 1861-1862; Nathaniel McBride, 1863-1870; George H. Kiersted, 1871-1874; Nathaniel McBride, 1875; Edward Sufferin, 1876; Charles Huston, 1877-1883; Nathaniel McBride, 1884-1899; Arthur Parker, 1900-1905; Eugene G. Cryder, 1906-1907; William Harkes, 1908-1911; John Rosendahl, 1912-1914.

#### CHAPTER IV

#### PIONEER LIFE

EARLY DAYS IN GRUNDY COUNTY—PIONEER CABINS—  
—HOMELIKE FURNITURE—FIREPLACE COOKING—  
—MANY EXPEDIENTS SHOWING RESOURCEFUL-  
NESS—LACK OF PHYSICIANS—DIFFICULT LAND  
CLEARING—PRACTICALLY NO ROADS—LOW PRICES  
FOR PRODUCTS—SCARCITY OF MONEY—BARTER AND  
EXCHANGE—PIONEER HONESTY—EARLY SCHOOLS  
AND CHURCHES.

#### EARLY DAYS IN GRUNDY COUNTY

So much has been written of pioneer life, of its healthful effects, its simple demands, its sincere hospitality and its commendable lack of society conventions until there are doubtless those of a later generation beginning to wonder if they have not been defrauded of much that ought to be their birthright. If those who thus lament, however, should be brought into direct contact with pioneer life as their forefathers and mothers experienced it, it is doubtful if they would find much enjoyment, or be able to long endure the frightful dangers and constant privations which daily met the frontiersman and his family.

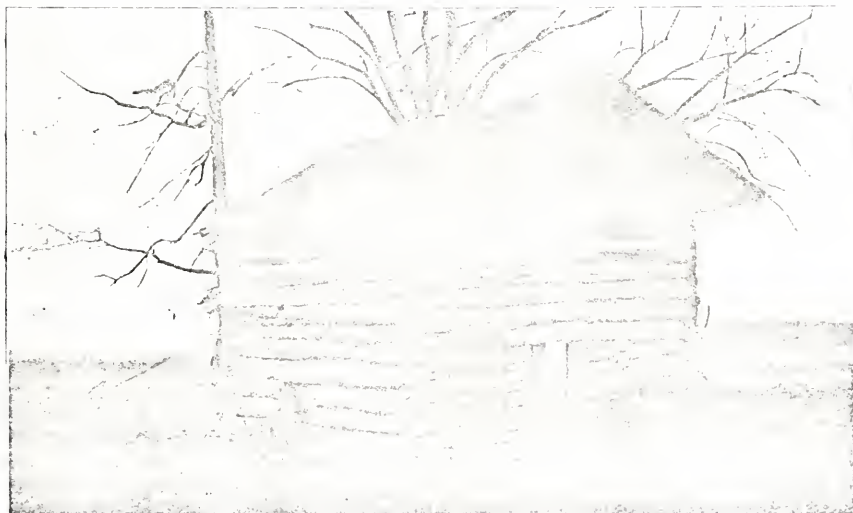
Even those who now go forward to the outposts of civilization confront no such conditions as prevailed when Grundy County was being settled. Modern inventions and manufactures make it possible for the pioneer to enjoy a fair amount of comfort. Even the explorers of the Arctic and Antarctic regions, or of other remote parts of the earth, can now have in their stores canned goods which will provide a pleasant variant in food, while they include as necessary equipments, scientific instruments and modern tools. The pioneer of Grundy County had nothing of this kind upon which he could depend. If his little store of home-cured meats, meal and dried fruit and vegetables gave out before he had his fields planted, he had to depend upon his skill as a hunter or fisherman to keep the wolf of hunger from his door. Unfortunately in the early days there was a real wolf which was not backward about making his presence known, the gray timber wolf, which, during the long winters





Photo by Carlson.

THE OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MORRIS, ILL.



OLDEST HOUSE IN GRUNDY COUNTY, LOCATED IN MAIN TOWNSHIP, BUILT BY JOHN CRAGG IN 1833. IT WAS ONE OF THE STATIONS OF THE "UNDERGROUND RAILWAY" IN SLAVERY DAYS, AND WAS, FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THE POLLING PLACE OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY.



became fierce with hunger and did not hesitate to slay even the settler, while his stock was never safe from attack.

#### PIONEER CABINS

Nevertheless pioneering had many interesting features together with its hardships, and fine characters were developed. The pioneer and his family lived during their first years in the new country, in a log cabin, crudely put together from logs felled in the nearby forest. Oftentimes these logs came from trees which were hewn down to make a place for the cabin. There, in the deep woods, with the lonesome sighing of the wind through the wide spaces to remind them of their isolated situation, the wife and her children anxiously waited the coming back of the husband and father when he ventured further into the forest in search of game with which to make more nourishing their scanty store of meal. More often than not, especially just at first, the floors of these cabins were made of dirt, and practically all of the furniture was of home manufacture. Railroads were not then built, and transportation across the country in wagons, or by means of the natural waterways, was tiresome and expensive. Therefore as little as possible was brought from the old home to the new, and consequently all that was needed, came from what had formed the household goods brought by such labor and expense, had to be made on the premises. Few of the pioneers had any aptitude for cabinetmaking, so that their attempts at furniture were of necessity rude indeed; but they were thankfully accepted, and the good housewives did the best they could with the chairs, made from tree trunks, tables, of hewn logs, and beds constructed in the following primitive fashion. Two logs were driven in the ground six feet apart and six feet from the wall. From them to the opposite wall a web was woven of grasses, or in rare instances, rope, upon which the straw "ticks" were spread, and on top of them the feather bed. Oftentimes a second bed was made above the first, both being curtained off, or a trundle bed for the children was made to shove in beneath the larger one during the day time. Some families not so thrifty or resourceful, contented themselves with lying wrapped in a blanket before the fire, but they were not considered by the better class as taking proper care of their households, when,

with a little exertion a satisfactory, even luxurious bed could be provided.

#### FIREPLACE COOKING

Dishes and crockery were often lacking, and the housewife of those days was pretty sure to utilize everything she could put her hands on in order to have sufficient articles with which to set her table. She it was who originated the first planked dishes, the same that are now considered a luxury in the most fashionable restaurants in the land. Needing her few kettles for baking bread, as she oftentimes was without an oven, she learned to put her meat and fish as well as her Johnny-cake upon slabs of wood and bake in the ashes or before the flames in her fireplace. When she started to bake bread, and what quantities those hardy pioneers could consume, she could not run to the grocer, and there buying a cake of yeast, begin her operations. Her bread making had commenced way back in the old home when she had carefully dried for future consumption some of the airy, beautiful green hop blooms. After her arrival in the new place, her first thought was to commence making her yeast, a little of which when properly fermented sufficed to make a light sponge with either rye, barley or cornmeal, rarely at first of wheat flour. When her loaves were ready for baking she had to place them in open kettles and set them by the fire, piling on the lids glowing coals of wood which had to be replaced every few moments. Some very fortunate women had what was called a Dutch oven, a sheet-iron affair, which could be set in the fireplace and thus heated. Still others acquired in time brick ovens, which were heated thoroughly and the loaves of bread baked on this hot surface cannot be excelled by the latest baking devices of today. The modern housewife with all her many culinary improvements should pause a moment and think of all the back-breaking stooping that was involved in every household operation. No wonder that women of thirty looked old, or that those of forty were ready to retire to the chimney corner.

#### LACK OF PHYSICIANS.

When sickness fell upon the pioneer family, which it did with terrifying frequency, it was almost impossible to secure a physician, unless one possibly had become a pioneer neighbor him-



self, and even then his remedial agents and appliances were wholly inadequate to grapple with disease. We are told that the pioneer was healthy and lived through somehow, but did he? Go into any country churchyard where lie those who were the pioneers and read their simple headstones. How many of the little band of brave men and women lived to good old age? How many of their children passed through infancy to childhood and then on into middle age? True more children were born in those days, but there was terrible mortality among infants. Epidemics swept through all these pioneer communities, often wiping out whole families. Cholera, smallpox and the various diseases to which children are particularly prone, were all too frequent visitors. And the Great White Plague! What family was without one or other of its victims? With no real understanding of sanitary requirements, not knowing even of the dangers that lurked in their streams or their surface wells, although in that they were no more ignorant than the rest of the world, the pioneer was not able to protect himself or his loved ones from the ravages of disease, while the exposed conditions of their lives led to the contraction of colds which oftentimes resulted fatally. There were other misfortunes they had to endure, largely from lack of knowledge. When Grundy County was a pioneer region, people in general had not learned how to care for and preserve their teeth, and spectacles for failing sight were but poor affairs, and costly at that. It can be recalled that comparatively few people retained either their teeth or good eyesight after forty, and many failed to retain them after they had passed the quarter of a century milestone.

Thus these pioneers of ours had much to contend with in addition to clearing off the land and making it valuable. Too much honor cannot be paid them and their heroic struggles, all the more because the majority of them went about their tasks cheerfully and happily, and were glad to sacrifice as they did that their children might profit.

#### DIFFICULT LAND CLEARING

However, it was no light task they assumed, this clearing of the land. The present generation knows nothing of this back-breaking, heart-wearing work. In the first place none of the pioneers had proper tools or sufficient stock, and

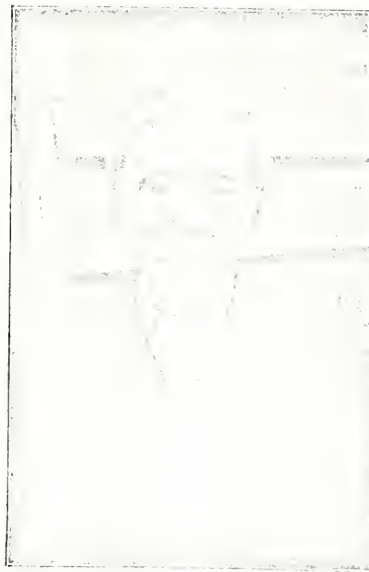
from the beginning were thus hampered. They were anxious to get enough seed in as soon as possible so as to provide food, and in order to do this, oftentimes plowed about the stumps of the trees they had felled, not waiting to grub out the stumps. Sometimes these stumps remained in until they rotted away, owing to the farmer's lack of time and strength to get them out. While the decaying wood eventually enriched the land, no satisfactory cultivating could be done as long as the plow was continually blocked by the stumps, yet crops were put in and harvested, because these pioneers had to get along somehow so as to live and provide for their children.

All of the land was not timberland, however; much, especially in Grundy County was prairie, and one who knows nothing of conditions in those days wonders why the prairie land was not always chosen. There were a number of reasons. In the first place the pioneer had to secure a place that would give him timber not only for his house, barn and fences, but for fuel as well, and then, too, the timber usually bordered the streams and water was another necessity. However there was another cogent reason. Difficult as it was to put timberland under cultivation, it was even more so to plow up the prairie sod. It has been proven by scientists who have studied these matters carefully that the prairies are great forest spaces whose upper growth has been destroyed by fire or other causes so that only the roots remain, but these are very old, antedating sometimes the mighty forest trees in point of age. Beneath the tough prairie grass of these level spaces is a growth that makes it necessary to use plows specially designed for that purpose. Few of the pioneers had such plows, and for this and other reasons the prairies were developed at a later date than the timberland. When, after countless setbacks, and constant work, the pioneer managed to get enough of his land under cultivation to be able to sell some of his produce, he was confronted by two difficulties: he had no local market, and practically no transportation to that of the larger communities. Of course he could haul his grain or drive his stock, but when the state of the roads in those early days is remembered some comprehension may be had of what it meant to sell at Peoria or Chicago.

Prices even in one of the larger places were extremely low. During the latter part of the forties and early fifties, pork was sold so







JAMES MORAN  
 "KING OF THE WAUPECAN"  
 BORN JULY 23, 1803, DIED NOVEMBER 7, 1911



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL C. RIDGWAY



PATRICK HYNDS  
 SECOND COUNTY JUDGE, ELECTED IN  
 1851—RE-ELECTED IN 1853  
 DIED IN 1860



low as to scarcely pay for the hauling, let alone the raising. Grains were all low and vegetables brought no prices, for everyone had a garden and there could be no export on perishable goods because this was long before the refrigerator car. Chickens and eggs were sold for any price offered, no matter how low. Butter was traded for groceries at the corner store, as were eggs, no money changing hands. Fortunately the pioneer could raise much that he required, and went without about all else. The housewife made candles from tallow, cured her own meats, rendered her lard and made her butter. The men folks in spare times hunted for game and honey, the latter furnishing sweetening at a time when sugar was almost priceless. Soap was made at home, as were all the clothing, stockings and caps. Traveling shoemakers went through the country, remaining at a cabin a week to outfit the family with shoes, but oftentimes the pioneer, in the earliest days, managed with moccasins made by deft hands. Money was something so scarce that it was not in general circulation during pioneer days. Barter and exchange prevailed. One pioneer traded his surplus of honey for his neighbor's abundance of "garden sass." A housewife who had turned out more soap than she required, exchanged with her neighbor for candles, of which she had a scanty store. Cheating was unknown, although some were "better hands at a trade" than others. Even in those days when each man ought to have had an equal chance, there were those who knew how to get along, while others who appeared to work as hard fell behind, and oftentimes lost all they had. It has always been this way, and probably will continue to be as long as human nature remains as it is.

#### EARLY SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

As soon as possible the typical pioneer sought to provide better conditions for his children. He was willing to work, do without and make his own way without educational advantages, but he would not permit his children to do the same. In every community throughout Grundy County long before the county was organized, when everything was still in an unsettled state, there were to be found certain persons a little better educated than their neighbors, gathering the children about them and imparting what knowledge they possessed. These were usually

the people who managed to have a religious service held in their cabins at odd intervals and from them sprung up the two mighty factors in the development of Grundy County—school and church. In time the fireside schools gave way to one held in a tiny cabin, presided over probably by a young man struggling to secure better educational advantages himself, and in this way eking out existence until he had completed his studies, or by a girl, who, coming from a more settled community to join a relative, taught until some enterprising unmarried pioneer bore her off as his bride. These primitive schools have all passed away. So have the people who once were nobly responsible for them. Many who attended them have also left this world, but out from their simple teachings many a great man developed whose country had to lean upon his wisdom in time of dire peril.

The pioneers of Grundy County suffered much, endured long and prospered in no proportion to their merits, but they laid the foundation of a mighty superstructure that will endure through the ages. From them have sprung those now living who, in turn, will transmit the virtues inculcated by their forebears, and with this all in view, who dare say that the pioneers lived in vain, or that pioneer life was not productive of much that was good and noble although it tried men's souls as by fire.

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## CHAPTER V

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### PIONEER WOMEN

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SCANT MENTION IN HISTORY—BUSY AND USEFUL LIVES—THEIR MANY ACTIVITIES—THEIR NOBLE VIRTUES—THEIR WORK FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL—THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE CAUSE OF TEMPERANCE—WORTHY DESCENDANTS IN GRUNDY COUNTY.

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#### SCANT MENTION IN HISTORY

History teems with the names and exploits of the men who braved the dangers of the wilderness and battled with the hostile and wily



Indian to make secure the right to the land they had chosen as a home, but much less is said of the struggles of their women, and yet it was the women who suffered most. Many of those who became pioneers in Grundy County were of gentle blood and had left homes where they had been tenderly cherished and surrounded by comforts and luxuries and thus were but illly prepared for the stern realities which confronted them on the frontier. Although rugged toil and wearying daily routine, aside from positive danger, was their portion, after accompanying their men to the "far west" they were singularly uncomplaining. Their housekeeping was done well although with the most primitive of appliances; they were often hard put to find a variety for their table; they bore their many children without proper medical attention and brought them up wisely and well even when neither school nor church were near enough to lend influence. Where stands a monument of stone to call attention to Pioneer Women?

Although very many of these women paid heavily for their sacrifices, in broken health and in shortened lives, how cheerfully and bravely were these sacrifices made. Not lacking in any of the qualities or talents that make the noble women of Grundy County noticeable today, they gave so lavishly and unselfishly of themselves that their descendants can never rise to greater heights of womanhood, for they were actuated by the spirit of helpfulness that made ministering to others a chosen duty in which there was no thought of any earthly reward. In many almost forgotten burial places stand simple stones on which the inscriptions tell the story of the brief span of life of young wife and mother and the stranger reads of these long ago domestic tragedies with a haunting feeling of injustice done and of pity that pioneering had to claim so many innocent victims. Fortunately there were those of stronger mold who were able to live through the struggles of those early days even into old age. All soldiers of a war do not perish on the battlefield, but enough are stricken to make the sacrifice pitiable.

#### BUSY AND USEFUL LIVES

We know that these pioneer women were not idle a moment of their lives. Here indeed were they true helpmeets, and no one was more to be pitied in those early days than the man who

did not have either mother, wife or sister to assist him in his work and with helpfulness un-failing give him strength. Industries for the comfort and health of the family were entirely in her hands. She not only attended to her household duties, but she spun and wove both flax and wool, made the cloth thus manufactured into clothes. Stockings, "comforters" and mittens were knit by the busy fingers of the women during the long evenings, their only light oftentimes the flickering fire, or at best that given forth by a home-made tallow "dip." When sickness came into the home circle, it was the housewife who ministered her home-brewed medicines and sat up until either death or returning health made such service unnecessary. The pioneer woman not only ministered to her own, but to neighbors, and her hands prepared the body of the dead for burial, or that of the new-born for living. Had it not been for the energy and devotional zeal of the pioneer women churches would not have been established as early by a number of years. In the beginning, services were held in the cabins of the pioneers and the women made welcome, not only the neighbors who, for miles around, came to attend the religious exercises, but the preachers as well, taking pride in entertaining them with toothsome meals, the preparation of which, with their few utensils, was a task that would be almost beyond the ordinary present day housewives. When the pioneer women of Grundy County likewise felt that it was necessary for their children to have schools they saw that they were established, working through their less observant men folks for this purpose. With the beginning of agitation against the liquor traffic, these women came solidly to the front, and have ever since been mighty forces against this evil.

#### WORTHY DESCENDANTS

In the successors and descendants of these heroic women of Grundy County are found those self reliant, purposeful and effective women of the present day, who are so ably working along progressive lines for the betterment of humanity. Changing conditions have made it unnecessary for them to labor just as their forebears did, but the same uplifting spirit actuates them, and they are fighting the good fight, and will triumph eventually, for they have right on their side, and morality as their watch-word.



## HISTORY OF GRUNDY COUNTY.

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## CHAPTER VI

## RECOLLECTIONS OF FIFTY YEARS

SCOPE OF HALF A CENTURY'S MEMOIRS—SHAB-  
BONA—MONUMENT AT MORRIS—CANAL TRAFFIC  
—PACKET BOATS—FERRIES—THE DRAINAGE  
CANAL—THE OLD COURTHOUSE—THE OLD LOG  
BASTILE—NEWSPAPER AMUNITIES—A FIST FIGHT  
—THE ROUGH WIT OF THE TIMES—PRACTICAL  
JOKES—FIRST RAILROAD TRAIN—THE PROES-  
SIONS—JUSTICE COURTS—A FLAY FELLOWS' CRIMES  
—RELIGIOUS INTEREST—EARNEST MINISTERS—A  
SIMPLE MARRIAGE CLEMENCY—A NOLED  
PREACHER OF MORRIS—HONOR TO LINCOLN—  
FIRST NEWSPAPER—POLITICAL STRIFE—CAM-  
PAIGN BARNSTORMERS—CIVIL WAR VETERANS—  
SWEET MERCHANTS—RECREATIONS—SOCIAL  
AMUSEMENTS—OLD PRAIRIE TIMES PLEASURABLY  
RECALLED—MANY AUTOMOBILES OWNED—MANY  
OUTWARD CHANGES BUT THE CORE OF THE APPLE  
IS THE SAME.

(The following article is largely a compila-  
tion secured through interviews with many of  
the older residents of Grundy County, and aims,  
through comment, jest and story, to tell of for-  
mer days and to tincture the present with a  
little of the life of the past.)

To recall events covering a period of fifty  
years—a half century in the life of Grundy  
County, and to make the narrative true as well  
as interesting; is no easy nor inconsequent task.  
It must touch the days of our pioneer grand-  
fathers, as sound and staunch a body of men as  
ever crossed the border line of Illinois; it must  
recall the days of the fading Indian race here;  
it will bring sad recollections of the war cloud  
of 1861, and then will lead into the present  
paths of peace and plenteousness. There has  
been much in the unwritten history of old  
Grundy that, if told, would stir the heart and  
arouse the enthusiasm of the people in admira-  
tion for her quiet heroes, but many of these  
lives have been so entwined with others that  
full justice may never be done and it were best  
to leave undrawn the curtain of the past rather

than to cloud the sunlight of the present. There  
is a touch of sadness in such a retrospect, in  
the remembrance that so few of the early set-  
tlers remain and that even once prominent old  
family names have no present representatives;  
but they are not forgotten, and it is a part of  
a history like the present to perpetuate them.

## SHABBONA

The writer finds names and events swarming  
to memory as personal recollections during a  
somewhat busy and varied life, and perhaps his  
earliest memories concern themselves with sto-  
ries of the famous Indian chief, Shabbona, who  
was justly known as "the white man's friend." This  
old chieftain was one of the aids of Chief  
Tecumseh during the battle of the Thames, and  
certain incidents of that engagement made him  
a lifelong friend of his white brothers, whom  
he frequently saved from death in after years.  
Probably every resident of the county is fa-  
miliar with his famous ride, and the Shabbona  
Memorial Association erected a handsome and  
massive monument at Morris that the memory  
of the famous Indian might not die.

## CANAL TRAFFIC

During the days of passenger traffic on the  
Illinois & Michigan Canal, by packet boats, the  
coming and going of these vessels always excited  
much interest, and were attended by the blow-  
ing of an old tin horn, whose raucous voice  
offended the ears of every one within a mile,  
or the shooting off of the historic cannon. There  
was also the old ferry, although, as has been  
said before, "it didn't always ferry," depending  
upon the state of the river and of the ferry-  
man. At that time the people had no idea that  
the Illinois River would become the outlet for  
the drainage canal, and it is possible, and highly  
probable, that if they had been asked their  
opinion they would have objected strenuously  
to it. That the people of this vicinity now take  
the great enterprise good-naturedly is shown  
in the following story, as related by O. J. Nel-  
son. According to Mr. Nelson, during the meet-  
ing held by the State Board of Supervisors at  
Morris, in 1913, Charles F. Hanson, who for  
twelve years was states attorney for Grundy  
County, in speaking of Morris, and its surround-  
ings, said: "And to the west of you is the  
historic Illinois and Michigan Canal, and west





of that is the Illinois River, both of which carry between their banks the crystal waters of Lake Michigan, together with the compliments of the people of our good sister city, Chicago!"

A sight of our present magnificent courthouse brings vividly back to mind the old, wooden, one-room structure where justice was dispensed in the early days, and the old log jail where the sheriff was compelled to barricade the entrance by piling rails and other obstacles against the door to keep westward movers from breaking in and using the jail for a camping place during cool nights! Although the jail was not often used, newspaper controversy and bad whisky often combined to arouse the fighting blood of some of the more turbulent spirits. Illustrative of this I may relate the following: The late T. W. Hopkins is said to have composed many of the caustic articles printed in the old *Yeoman*, while Doctor LeRoy was supposed to be the chief editorial writer of the *Gazette*. Mr. Hopkins conducted a department store at Morris, on the lot just west of the Commercial Hotel, and, like other merchants of the time, sold whisky by the gallon. It may be said, in passing, that they were credited with selling the twenty-five cent, fifty cent, and one dollar liquor out of the same barrel. Mr. Hopkins had some local reputation as a sportsman, and had the finest shotgun in town, said to have cost \$100, which, in those days, was considered a vast sum. Serious trouble started when some verses were printed in the *Gazette*. They ran in some such style as this:

"There's old Hop, with his whisky shop,  
And hundred dollar gun, sir;  
He's going to shoot LeRoy, he says.  
Wouldn't you like to see the fun, sir?"

Feeling ran high, and the trouble culminated in a fist fight between Hopkins and LeRoy, in front of what is now the "White Corner," and A. F. Mallory, who was Hopkins' nephew and printer's devil at the *Yeoman*, sat crying in the office, believing that his uncle was going to die and thus be unable to take him on a cherished trip to Maine.

The publisher of the *Gazette*, Mr. Ashton, sprang into prominence at the time of the Brady row, and showed himself an excellent sprinter when he captured the man Finlin, who was running for his life. At that time the telegraph and postoffice at Morris, as well as a book-

store, were all kept in the little old building now occupied by Mrs. Ritter, on the west side of the approach of the canal bridge, and all of these offices were conducted by the brother of J. H. Pattison, then (in 1852) a red-headed stripling of eighteen years.

#### PRACTICAL JOKES

Numerous incidents might be related to show how high local feeling ran. The uncertainty of the times made men frequently behave like the veriest boys, and practical joking was often indulged in. In the spring of 1853, one Samuel P. Burgess, who was then head clerk in the Bishop store, was elected town clerk on the democratic ticket after a very close contest. The *Yeoman* at that time was published by one Watters, locally known as "The Singed Cat." Burgess and his friends celebrated in a manner fitting the occasion, and ended up by carrying a disgraceful old outbuilding from the rear of the old courthouse and placing it snug up against the only outside door of the *Yeoman* office, which was also Watters' home. The "Singed Cat" happened to be awake, as he generally was, and peeping out through the little dingy window saw the whole performance and those connected with it. When the midnight marauders had gone, he crawled out of the window, summoned his friends, and carried the building into the middle of the street. Then he got busy at his little old press, and got out some bills about a foot square, which he posted on all sides of the little building in the middle of the street, as well as in other conspicuous places about town. The bills read as follows: "Removal. Samuel P. Burgess, the newly-elected town clerk, has moved his office from the rear of the courthouse to Washington street, in front of the *Yeoman* office."

Great excitement was caused by the arrival of the first railroad train, a construction train over the Rock Island, at Morris. It pulled in at the little plank station, where a platform had been erected to receive it, and this station stood for many years, until replaced by the present one. Until 1857 the people continued to cross the river by ferry, but then a large substantial toll bridge was completed, this being created a free bridge April 4, 1889, and was replaced by the present modern steel structure.

The professions, during the early days, were well represented, but the justice courts were





Rev. T. Karrestad.



rated more for the assumed dignity that hedged about them, than the legal acquirements of the presiding officers. Grundy, throughout the term of its life, has been a law-abiding community, yet it has had several notorious crimes.

#### A FEW SERIOUS CRIMES

On July 27, 1867, Alonzo Tibbetts was lynched. On January 1, 1866, Thomas Le Paige was murdered by Joe Tibbetts, brother of Alonzo, and Joe was arrested for the crime and proved an alibi and was set free and he was never captured, and the people ostracized the family for the crime, and at a dance at Highland two of Tibbetts' sisters were ignored. This so incensed Alonzo that that night he cut the harness from the farmers' horses and sawed the timbers of a road bridge, so that any one passing over it would be precipitated into the waters below. While no one was hurt, the people determined upon summary justice, and a short time later a band of citizens was organized. The sheriff was sent to the south part of the county, on a false clue as to Joe Tibbetts, and the jail was broken open, Alonzo being taken across the river bridge and hanged to a tree. This tree has since thereafter, and for many years stood a silent spectre, but is now obliterated. Enoch Hughes, city marshal of Morris, was shot to death in 1876 by Charles Miller, who escaped and was never captured. James Maxwell and Fitzhugh, the latter a negro, foully murdered James Decker, on the west side, and killed his aged mother. The deed was committed in June, 1890, the motive being robbery. For this crime Maxwell was hanged October 17, 1890, while Fitzhugh was sent to the penitentiary for life, and is still there. On Saturday morning, March 13, 1886, a Rock Island passenger train stopped at the Morris depot and when the express car was opened it was found that Kellogg Nichols, the express messenger, had been beaten and shot to death and the safe robbed of thousands of dollars. The robbers made good their escape and \$10,000 reward was offered for their capture. A year had almost gone by when the police arrested one Henry Schwartz, a brakeman on that train, and he was brought to Morris January 26, 1887. The next month Watts, the baggageman, was also arrested. These two men were charged with the crime and after a trial of nearly two months they were convicted and sent to the peniten-

tiary for life. After a year's confinement Watts died, and Schwartz was pardoned by Governor Altgeld.

But to offset any tendency toward crime, Grundy County has ever had a force for education, religion, morality and good citizenship of which it may well be proud. The history of the churches and schools here has been one of steady and consistent advancement. During the early years the gathering together of families to form a religious association was a difficult matter, as the settlements were so widely scattered, but with the growth of population religious denominations began to be well represented. The pioneer ministers, bravely treading the unknown trails, were for the greater part men of homely education and address, but their lack in this way was more than offset by their self-denying labor and intense earnestness. Familiar names among these worthy ministers of God are Adam and Aaron Payne, William Royal, Stephen Berge and Isaac Scarrett, of whom the last named, a Methodist divine like the others, was the one to solemnize the first marriage ceremony ever conducted in Grundy County—that of James Galloway with Martha Matilda Stype, at the house of Mr. Isaac Hoge. We have here an incident to relate which the reader may find illustrative of the simple and confident faith in which these strong men labored. It was upon the occasion of the first marriage in Greenfield Township, this in June or July, 1851. The worker in the vineyard asked: "Henry, do you love Amanda?" The answer was readily and surely given: "Yes, sir!" Came the next question: "Amanda, do you love Henry?" And the answer came no less steadily and securely: "Yes!" "Then," said this sincere apostle of his Master, "I pronounce you man and wife by God." Which, we feel confident in stating, made that contract binding.

#### A NOTED PREACHER OF MORRIS

Brought face to face with difficulties, obstacles and perils, these men proved time and again their judgment, capability and courage. Witness the success gained (as well as converts to the faith) by the Rev. W. S. Strong, who came to the then scoffing and practically lawless village of Morris and through the sheer force of his own personality and logic brought his audience to a state of piety and reverence. As related by the Hon. P. A. Armstrong: "A



man of giant size, middle aged, and with a fine full voice, read his hymn, and asked his congregation to help him sing. All might was hushed, and a profound stillness, if not awe, settled over the audience. Indeed, if any there were "who came to scoff" (and doubtless there were many such) they remained to pray! From this time on there were no efforts made to interrupt religious services in Morris."

It is not within the province of the writer to sketch Grundy County's political history. That is treated in another chapter; yet it may be within his jurisdiction to refer to incidents that should be of interest to every Grundy citizen. The Hon. Lyman B. Ray, ex-Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, who had the interests of the county deeply imbedded in his heart, wrote the following, in speaking of the birth of the Republican party "back in '56": " . . . Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest and grandest characters in all of our history, the man whom Providence placed at the head of our nation in the supreme hour of its destiny. He was the Moses of a new dispensation—called of God to lead, and well did he lead, supported and encouraged by the pioneer Morris paper, and other early papers of the day in Illinois. Like Moses of old, Abraham Lincoln led captives out of the bondage house of their oppression, and, like his great prototype, he was not permitted to see the land of promise. He led the people safely through, but he was not allowed to guide them across the Jordan, and while a solitary stripe remains in our banner—while a single star is blazoned on the field of blue—so long will the deeds, the heroism, and the loyalty of Abraham Lincoln be told to generations yet to come!"

#### FIRST NEWSPAPER

The first newspaper published in Grundy County, *The Grundy Yeoman*, dated Morris, Ill., Saturday, August 14, 1852, contains among its first page articles a facetious reference to the nomination of Gen. Franklin Pierce, and also mentions the names of such prominent political notables as John Van Buren, James K. Polk, Gen. Winfield Scott and others. Brilliant writers were not wanting in that day, but their work would probably be severely criticised by those of the present craft, who, whatever their politics, would undoubtedly take exception to such an article as appeared under the title of "Loco-Foco Candy-date," in the same number, which

has reference to the nomination of General Pierce for the presidency by the New Hampshire national convention. The writer has referred previously to the constant strife waged between rival papers during the early days, but Grundy County had no more bitter struggles than were being waged all over the country. It was, however, one of the most loyal counties in the state, and as early as 1852 the prediction, in a general way, the struggle was bound to occur if the southern state resisted in their attitude.

While noting the political happenings of the early days and the days which have since followed, it may be of interest to quote from an article written by E. B. Fletcher of Morris, widely known throughout Grundy and surrounding counties as a newspaper man: " . . . then, too, those 'barnstorming' parties, during the campaigns, with Ole Nelson, Will Vihar, Leode Thorsen and O. J. Lund as a quartette; the meeting in the 'Dog Run' district, when someone forgot himself and talked for an hour and a half to Uncle John Coyne, while Carter (Judge Orrin J. Carter) was waiting, to that point where patience ceased to be a virtue, to make his maiden speech as a candidate for office. And then, again, where, at the Turner school-house, somebody confiscated all of Carter's stories."

#### CIVIL WAR VETERANS

While the Civil War dragged its slow length along and left woe and despair in every section, Grundy County suffered with the rest, and no memory comes to the writer fraught with more genuine emotion than that evoked when he watched the return of the torn and tattered, weakened and maimed veterans to their homes. The military history tells of their valor, but one less sympathetic than the writer must be called upon to tell of their subsequent lives, stories possessing interest, humor and pathos. Each community has yet its little band of veterans; may they ever be honored as is their due.

While Grundy County's commercial, manufacturing and industrial interests, like those of other flourishing sections, have grown to meet the needs of their community, they have also, in large extent, been the means of creating these needs. Here from the earliest days we find men who, coming here with little more than native talent, have built about them, above them







CHARLES BARSCHDORF AND FAMILY



and, so to speak, under them—for a foundation, perhaps—structures which have withstood the force of competition and have made stable the reputation of the county in business circles of the state. However, while talent was never lacking, resources were frequently—in fact, more than frequently, and the wit and capability of the early business ventures here were largely the mediums through which they worked out their success. During the fall of 1845—the same year that Col. William L. Perce and Adam Lamb had each located a small stock of merchandise for the needs of their canal hands—a general store was located in what had been the bar-room of the old Grundy Hotel, which then stood on the site later occupied by the Hopkins House, at Morris. The proprietor was P. A. Armstrong, who purchased his goods from Colonel Perce and Mr. Lamb, and, finding himself cramped for room, built a small store, in which he also conducted the postoffice. Succeeding Mr. Armstrong have come men who have, perhaps, bettered him in achievements, but it is doubtful if any of them have shown more ingenuity. The stories told of this pioneer merchant are many, but we may content ourselves with relating one. Like these hardy commercial ventures in other sections, Mr. Armstrong took the greater part of his pay in produce, and, therefore, was compelled to possess more than ordinary ability as a “trader.” It is related that one of his customers was possessed of a team, which Mr. Armstrong coveted greatly. On one of this customer's trips to the merchant's store, Mr. Armstrong succeeded in making him so interested in some goods that he had lately received that the purchaser finally agreed to trade his livestock and wagon for a large amount of merchandise, and after the deal had been consummated, found out that he had nothing with which to haul them back to his homestead, and, therefore, was compelled to rent the team which he had but several minutes before owned, from Mr. Armstrong. We are informed, however, that Mr. Armstrong was lenient in this matter, thus displaying himself possessed of the traits of sterling fellowship which were part and parcel of the pioneers.

#### OLD PRAIRIE TIMES

The hospitality, generosity and general good-fellowship exhibited by Grundy people have

been frequently commented upon—they are proverbial. The reason for their existence is not far to seek. The early days found settlers widely scattered. Naturally, visitors were infrequent and were a welcome addition to such social affairs as the pioneers were able to create. This tended to establish a custom among the people which has been ingrained in their descendants. Hunting and fishing, of course, were among the chief recreations of the early days, and those fortunate in securing the prize trophies were liberally rewarded. Log cabin raisings always attracted a goodly concourse, the Saturday afternoon “scrub” horse race and wrestling match brought its devotees, and the pioneer women indulged in carpet rag, quilting and spinning bees, which generally ended in a dance, and there were some famous “fiddlers.” With the growth and development of the county these homely amusements were superseded by more modern social activities, but among the older residents of the county there are few who do not look back to the “prairie times” with pleasure and fond regret.

Chicago furnished a market for the early settlers, but transportation facilities were decidedly limited, and the men of early Grundy were not inclined (nor are those of today) to devote a great deal of their time to idle pleasure-seeking. With the acquisition of wealth and more leisure, however, Chicago very frequently sees and welcomes Grundy people and probably sells more automobiles to them than to any other section in the state.

The passing years! They have wrought great changes and have brought great accomplishments. They have obliterated old landmarks and in their stead have furnished the creations of modern ingenuity. They have taken away the pioneers, but to succeed them have brought men of strength, force and capability to meet the conditions which confront the world's workers of today. One thing, however, they have not changed, nor is it reasonable to suppose that they ever will: the stanch and loyal citizenship which has made the men and women of the county proud of the region in which their forebears lived their lives, and to the best interests of which they continue to devote themselves.



## CHAPTER VII

## COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

EARLY CONDITIONS—CHICAGO SETTLEMENT—THE FIRST SETTLER—GRUNDY AND KENDALL POOL—LOCATION OF COUNTY SEAT—BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—FIRST ELECTION—GRUNDY COUNTY ORGANIZED—BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—SELECTION OF COUNTY SEAT—FIRST COURTHOUSE—SECOND COURTHOUSE—PRESENT COURTHOUSE—FIRST JAIL—SECOND JAIL—THIRD JAIL—FIRST POOR FARM—SECOND POOR FARM—THIRD POOR FARM—MEMBERS OF LOWER AND UPPER HOUSES—CIRCUIT JUDGES—COUNTY JUDGES—CIRCUIT CLERKS—COUNTY CLERKS—COUNTY RECORDERS—SHERIFFS—CORONERS—STATE'S ATTORNEYS—SURVEYORS—COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS—SUPERVISORS OF MORRIS, AUX SABLE, MAZON, WATONSEE, GREENHILL, BRACEVILLE, FELIX, SARATOGA, NITTLE CREEK, ERIENNA, NORMAN, VIENNA, HIGHLAND, GOOD FARM, GOOSE LAKE AND GARFIELD.

(By A. J. Smith)

## EARLY CONDITIONS

When the State of Illinois was added to the Union, this mighty commonwealth included but fifteen counties, and the portion containing settlers was all south of Alton, from Carlisle to Palestine. Within this area, however, there was a large amount of land not yet occupied. In the fifteen counties there were only 40,000 people, a portion of whom had descended from the early French colonists, while at present Grundy claims nearly 25,000. By 1820, two years after Illinois had become a state, the number of counties had increased to fifty-six and the population to 157,447, but as yet but little settlement had been effected in the northern part.

That part of Illinois lying between Galena and Chicago, southward to the Kaskaskia, the headwaters of the Vermillion, along the Rock River, and down into the "Military Tract," was

then a waste, peopled only by Indians. It then seemed almost impossible that this land should ever become the productive section of the present day.

## CHICAGO SETTLEMENT

Chicago was then but a cluster of huts about Fort Dearborn, and the hostility of the Indians made it seem as though no permanent settlers could be induced to risk the dangers of that then frontier station. Many failed to recognize the advantages offered at this point, and pioneers coming west at that time, as well as later on, passed through and went beyond, locating in other districts which were destined to remain only villages, while the rejected settlement by Lake Michigan grew to a vast city of wealth, power and opportunity.

## THE FIRST SETTLER

The first settler of what is now Grundy County was William Marquis, and with his coming began the history of this section treated of at length individually in this work. He was followed by others until, by 1839, there were a sufficient number of settlers to make it seem desirable that a new county be formed.

## GRUNDY AND KENDALL COUNTIES POOL

At the same time Kendall County was fighting for recognition, and the leaders in both Grundy and Kendall pooled their interests, finally effecting the passage of bills creating the two counties in the general assembly of the state during the winter of 1840-41. The bill creating Grundy County was approved by the Governor on February 17, 1841, and that for creating Kendall County two days later.

## LOCATION OF COUNTY SEAT

Immediately following the creation of the county came those discussions which always arise over the location of the county seat. Owing to the fact that the general interest was centered upon the building of what was believed would be one of the big highways of commerce, the Illinois and Michigan Canal, it was embodied in the act erecting Grundy County, that some point along the proposed line of the canal must be chosen for the county seat.





Photo by Carlson.

THE OLD SKAKEY BRIDGE, MORRIS, ILL.





AN ACT TO CREATE GRUNDY FROM THE COUNTY OF LA SALLE.

SEC. 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, REPRESENTED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, That all that tract of country, lying and being in the county of La Salle, in Township 31, 32, 33 and 34, north of Ranges 6, 7 and 8, east of the third principal meridian, shall constitute and form a new county, to be called Grundy.

SEC. 2. An election shall be held at the home of Columbus Pinney on the fourth Monday of May, 1841, for the purpose of electing one sheriff, one recorder, one county surveyor, one probate justice, one county treasurer, and three county commissioners, and one county commissioners' clerk, who shall hold their offices until the next general election or until their successors in office shall be elected and qualified; said election shall be conducted according to the laws regulating elections in this state. Perry A. Claypool, Robert Walker, and John Beard, Sr., shall be the judges of said election, and shall make the returns within five days after such election to the county commissioners' clerk of La Salle County, and the said clerk of said county shall give certificates of election, as in other cases for county officers, and the said county of Grundy shall be organized so soon as the said officers shall be elected and qualified.

SEC. 3. Ward B. Burnett, Rufiel S. Duryea and William E. Armstrong be appointed in conjunction with the Commissioners of the Illinois and Michigan Canal to locate the seat of justice of the said County of Grundy.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the said commissioners to locate the said seat of justice on the line of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, on canal lands, and they shall set apart for this purpose any quantity of the canal lands not exceeding ten acres, and after doing so shall proceed to lay off the said land as a town site, embracing lots, streets, alleys and a public square, in such manner as they shall deem proper.

SEC. 5. They shall divide the said lots in equal numbers between the state and the said county, and shall allot to the state and the county alternate lots of equal value, or as nearly so as may be practicable.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Canal Commissioners to require that the said county, and the inhabitants thereof, in their corporate capacity, shall be liable to them for the payment of a sum equal to ten dollars per acre for

one half of the whole quantity of land to be located as aforesaid, upon the payment of which sum the Canal Commissioners shall certify the fact to the Governor, who shall thereupon issue a patent to the county commissioners of said county and their successors in office, for the use of the said county, for that portion of the lots, by number, which shall be allotted to the county: PROVIDED ALWAYS, That the monies to be received by the Canal Commissioners by virtue of this section of this act, shall be applied in aid of the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

SEC. 7. The county commissioners shall meet on the second Monday of June next, and appoint one assessor and one collector, and such assessor and collector shall proceed to levy and collect said tax from the taxable inhabitants of said county according to the laws of this state, and said assessment shall be as legal as if the County of Grundy had been organized previous to the first Monday of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one.

SEC. 8. The county commissioners shall prepare a place for holding courts in said county until there shall be public buildings erected. The County of Grundy shall be attached to the Ninth Judicial Circuit, and the different times of holding courts shall be appointed by the judge on the above named circuit, so as to hold two terms in each year; all suits commenced in La Salle Circuit Court shall be determined there, although the parties may reside in Grundy County until after the passage of this act, and the election of officers takes place as provided for in this act.

SEC. 9. It shall be the duty of the school commissioners of La Salle County to pay over and cause to be paid over to the school commissioners of Grundy County, as soon as there may be one appointed, all monies, papers, vouchers, etc., that he or they may have belonging to the said County of Grundy.

Approved February 17, 1841.

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A Board of Commissioners was appointed, comprising Hon. Newton Cloud and Generals Thorton and Fry, and William E. Armstrong, R. S. Duryea and Gen. W. B. Burnett. As the central point was objectionable to the canal commissioners, and as the only other site at all



practicable was in the bottom land, a deadlock was reached.

#### FIRST ELECTION

In accordance to the act creating Grundy County, an election was held in the cabin owned by Columbus Pinney on May 24, 1841, and the returns of the election judges to the clerk of La Salle County show that Henry Cryder, Jacob Claypool and James McKeen were elected county commissioners; James Neagle, clerk of the county commissioners court; L. W. Claypool, recorder; Joshua Collins, probate justice of the peace.

On June 14, 1841, the county commissioners-elect met, and to quote from the record of that meeting:

"This day Jacob Claypool, Henry Cryder and James McKeen, who were elected to the office of county commissioners in and for said county, on the 24th day of May, A. D. 1841, and appeared and produced their certificates of election, whereupon the said Jacob Claypool and James McKeen took each an oath, and the said Henry Cryder made an affirmation to support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Illinois according to law and took their seats."

Whereupon the clerk prepared three tickets and presented the same to the county commissioners, according to the provisions of the act of legislature entitled "An Act to Amend an Act Entitled an Act Establishing Courts of County Commissioners," approved March 22, 1819, and Henry Cryder drew the ticket on which was written the words, three years, and was to continue in office three years; and James McKeen drew the ticket on which was written the words two years, and was to continue in office two years, and Jacob Claypool drew the ticket on which was written the words one year, and was to continue in office one year. The other county officials then each took the oath of office and Grundy County was duly organized.

The County Commissioners' Court then proceeded to divide the county into precincts. What is now Aux Sable Township was made Dresden Precinct; all the rest of the territory north of the Illinois River which now constitutes the townships of Saratoga, Nettle Creek, Erienna and Morris was called Jefferson Precinct; and that now included in the townships of Norman,

Vienna, Highland and the west half of Good Farm, Mazon and Waupoosee was called Waupoosee Precinct, and that now in the townships of Goose Lake, Felix, Braceville, Maine, Greenfield, Garfield and the east half of Good Farm, Mazon and Waupoosee was called Kankakee Precinct. The polling places in the various precincts were fixed at the homes of men living near the center of population of each precinct. The entire cost of this meeting of the Commissioners' Court, including clerk, was \$24, \$5 each for the commissioners, and \$9 for the clerk.

On Wednesday, July 21, following, the County Commissioners' Court held a special term and divided the county into five road districts and appointed a man in each district as a road supervisor. The grand jury was named at this term and trustees for the school lands were appointed in the several townships.

The judges and clerks of election who had served at the first county election were ordered paid, and the allowance was as follows:

Perry A. Claypool, as judge of election.....	\$1
John Beard, as judge of election.....	1
Solomon Rutherford, as judge of election...	1
James Neagle, as clerk of said election.....	1
Leander Newport, as clerk of said election...	1
Carrying poll books to Ottawa.....	3
Total .....	\$8

Thus the first election held in Grundy County was at the cost of \$8 for judges, clerks and return of poll books to the county clerk at Ottawa.

The meetings of the County Commissioners' Court from the time of its organization up to and including that of June, 1842, were held at the house of William E. Armstrong, where the circuit court had also been held, and in the record of a meeting of the County Commissioners' Court held June 11, 1842, the following order is entered:

"And it is ordered that the next term of the circuit court be held in the court house in said county."

The next meeting of the County Commissioners' Court, opening on September 5, 1842, was held in the courthouse.

On Wednesday, October 17, 1849, the last meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Grundy County was held and the form of government was changed to that under township organization. The records are silent in regard to the



election by which the township organization was adopted, or as to the supervisors who were elected from the several townships, but this form of government has continued, the county board now being comprised of nineteen members, one from each of the seventeen townships, and an assistant supervisor from each of the townships of Morris and Braceville. On June 12, 1850, the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held and it was found from the state auditor that the names of Addison, Fairview and Dover Townships must be changed, and by action of the board Addison became Braceville, Dover became Good Farm, and Fairview, Arianna, now called Erienna. Since then, by division, there have been added the townships of Felix, Goose Lake, Maine and Garfield, making seventeen in all.

#### SELECTION OF COUNTY SEAT

Grundy County, named for Felix Grundy, the greatest criminal lawyer Tennessee had then known, whose ardent admirer, William E. Armstrong, was father of the bill creating Grundy County, was without a capital until April 12, 1842, when Morris was acknowledged by Isaac N. Morris, Newton Cloud, R. S. Duryea and William E. Armstrong, although at that time it was known as Grundytown, and Grundyville. The name of Morris was bestowed upon it in honor of Isaac N. Morris, who cast the deciding vote in favor of Grundyville as against Clarkson, situated on section 9, which had never met with great approval on account of its position with relation to the canal. It was at first proposed to call the place Morristown, but as there was already a postoffice by that name, the present name was chosen.

#### THE FIRST COURTHOUSE

As is so often the case, there was found no suitable building at Morris for the transaction of county business, and so the private house of William E. Armstrong was ordered used as a public building until May, 1842, when Mr. Armstrong erected a two-story frame building 20x40 feet on the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square. The commissioners later purchased this building, improved it, expending in all \$485.36, and it was used for a public meeting place as well as for a courthouse.

#### THE SECOND COURTHOUSE

On April 26, 1858, the second courthouse of Grundy County was accepted at a cost of \$22,700. While it was considered a fine building at that time, increasing business made necessary a new structure. It was at first proposed to erect it of brick, but owing to the fact that no good brick was manufactured at Morris, action was taken to substitute stone, and while the cost was increased, the results were satisfactory. With the growth of the county business, however, even this new structure was found too small for proper and dignified work and although considerable remodeling was done in the hope of acquiring sufficient space, it was decided as early as 1910, that a larger courthouse would have to be erected. At the meeting of the board, June 25, 1912, a resolution was presented by S. D. Holderman that the courthouse be remodeled and the contract was given to the Falls River Construction Company, for \$67,485, but when the plumbing contract was included, the bid was \$72,385. On August 19, 1912, the old courthouse began to fall beneath the hands of the wreckers, and as nothing was retained but the two outer walls of the old building which were made the inner walls of the present structure, it must be termed a new courthouse. On Thanksgiving Day, 1912, the cornerstone was laid, and on December 9, 1913, the new courthouse was dedicated with imposing ceremonies. It is recognized as the most artistically beautiful and imposing building of its kind in the Illinois valley, and reflects lasting credit upon the architect, J. W. Rohrer of Urbana, Ill. The new edifice is absolutely fireproof, and the rooms have been constructed with definite reference to the uses to which they were to be put. It is built of Bedford stone, concrete, marble and steel, with tiled floors, and thus there is no danger of fire or other loss.

Entering the stately portals, the visitor finds himself in a large circular corridor, beautifully tiled, with immense marble pillars and lighted with superb bowl electric lights. On the left are the public and private offices of the circuit clerk and the vaults. Adjoining are the toilet rooms, and the quarters of the board of supervisors, and the private room of the county judge. On the right are offices of the county clerk, both public and private, and the vaults pertaining to his work, and next to them are the offices of the sheriff and the treasurer. The second floor is



taken up with the private office of the superintendent of schools, the examination room for teachers, the offices of the state's attorney, a consultation room, the private office of the circuit judge, the law library, the ladies' rest room, the grand jury room, chambers for the master-in-chancery, two rooms for the petit jury, and in the center is the beautiful circuit court room. The adornments and equipments of these apartments are the best obtainable, and the furniture is of heavy mission style, while the floors are all tiled. It would be difficult to suggest anything additional in this model courthouse or its furnishings, and the board that carried through its erection has every cause to be proud of the work which may well be the monument to the life endeavor of its members.

The following committees were appointed at a meeting held November 28, 1913, and presided over by Eugene Cryder, to celebrate the opening of the new building:

Arrangements—Fred Blasingham, H. B. Smith, G. W. Anderson, Milton Meyer, William Sparr, C. F. Hanson, and C. Reardon.

Finance—C. Reardon, Fred Blasingham, Milton Meyer, F. L. Stephens, O. J. Nelson, H. B. Smith, and J. A. Wilson.

Speakers—C. Reardon, C. F. Hanson, and Israel Dodgeon.

Lunch—Milton Meyers, William Robinson, and William Allen, Jr.

Music—Fred Blasingham, G. W. Anderson, and Milton Meyer.

Decorations—J. H. Francis, James Murphy, D. A. Mathews, Fred Hoge, Harry Brown.

Program—Mayor W. E. Walsh, William Scherber, W. E. Viner, F. H. Hayes, and Fred Johnson.

Escort to Speakers—Israel Dodgeon, C. F. Hanson, C. Reardon, J. W. Rausch, W. L. Sackett, A. J. Smith, S. C. Stough, Dan O'Connell, and W. E. Walsh.

The Reception Committee was composed of the following gentlemen from the townships as noted:

Waupoosee—Charles Elyea, C. H. Moon, Fred Stine and Andrew Johnson.

Mazon—J. N. Misener, George Wheeler, W. E. Davies and F. H. Clapp.

Goodfarm—John Schrothberger, Andrew Burkhardt, Charles Rogers and Thomas Neville.

Higbland—D. O'Connell, Thomas Ryan, M. A. Stitt, Dennis Ryan.

Vienna—E. O. Pellingham, D. S. Beal, Fred Harford, and Dennis Welch.

Greenfield—A. J. Cully, Robert McNulty, Joseph Torandon.

Maine—L. J. Dujarie, George Bridel, Frank Adams and James Willis.

Norman—T. F. Downey, James Winsor, Fremont James, and William Dempsey.

Erienna—S. D. Holderman, Andrew Johnson, M. T. Anderson and Martin Clauson.

Garfield—C. Anderson, Wade Allison, D. R. Keepers, Frank Mulvey.

Braceville—John Red, Adam Brook, C. G. Johnson, John Willis, James McGahey, Hugh Bennett, George Barton and Frank Cerny.

Felix—William Lewins, William Harkes, Anton Veronda, John Sambrook and Joseph Clark.

Goose Lake—F. Collins, Russell Winterbottom, Charles Anderson, and Walter Phillips.

Aux Sable—H. P. Dwyer, D. A. Henneberry, Dan Hall, and Frank Clerk.

Saratoga—E. G. Cryder, Joseph Osmonsen, Arthur Gore, and Thomas Peterson, A. N. Anderson, C. Collins and John Craig.

Morris—J. B. Dawson, Edgar Woolfel, C. G. Donahue, Thomas Owens, P. K. Cross, James Mack, J. A. Wilson, William Gebbard, George Bedford, Fred Johnson, George W. Anderson, Joseph H. Francis, S. C. Stough, Ole Erickson, H. H. Baum, Charles Hynds, J. R. Collins, C. H. Root, Frank Hayes, J. C. Carr, A. H. Gleghorn, Thomas Hynds, William Sparr, M. N. Hull, H. B. Smith, O. T. Wilson, Fred Stephens and H. B. Wagner.

The Morris and Coal City bands and the Joliet orchestra furnished music, and the committee on lunch provided bountifully a generous collation of roast beef sandwiches, coffee and pickles, while several barrels of candy were distributed to the children.

The reception committee met the Hon. Joseph G. Cannon at the 10:42 train from Chicago, and escorted the distinguished speaker of the day to the High school assembly room, where Mr. O. J. Nelson, chairman of the committee, introduced Mr. Cannon with a few appropriate words. The latter gave the students a characteristic talk which none will soon forget, when the committee escorted him to the Commercial Hotel, where he mingled with the leading people of Grundy and surrounding counties, until the dedicatory exercises opened in the Circuit Court room of the new courthouse, at two o'clock. Chairman O. J. Nelson called the meeting to order, and





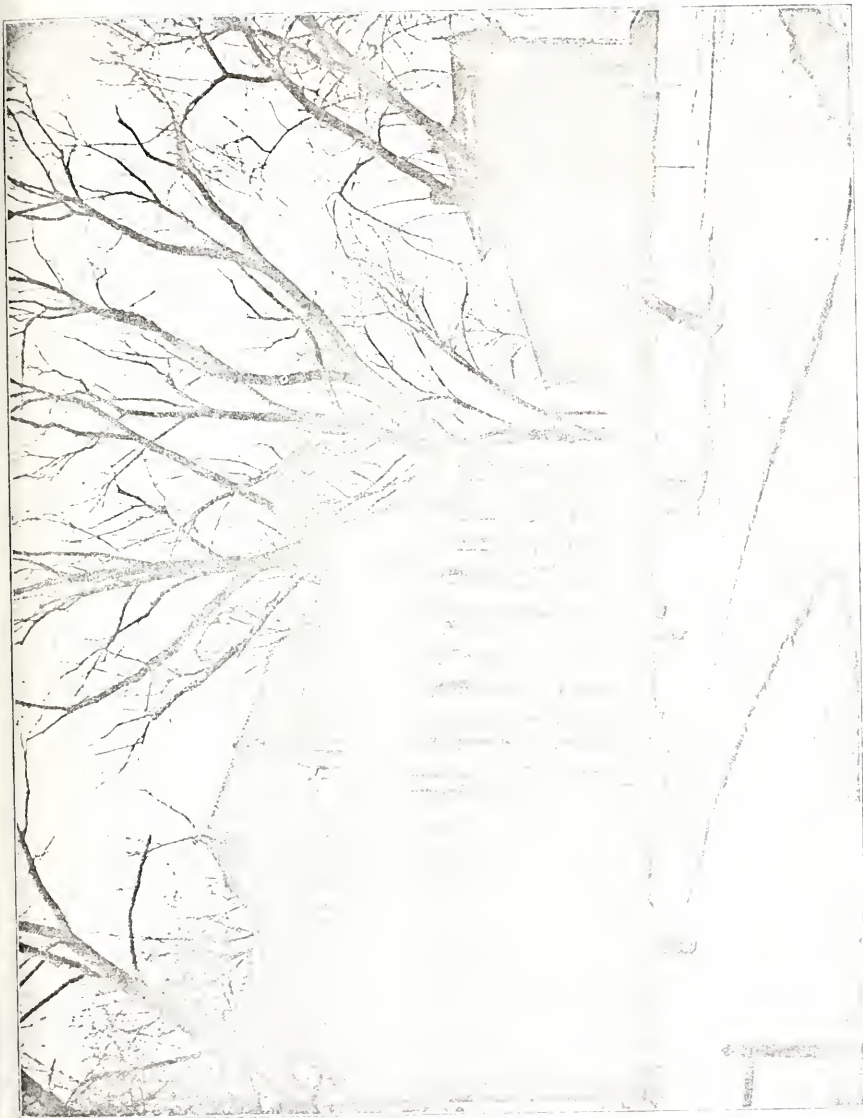


Photo by Carlson.

# GRUNDY COUNTY COURT HOUSE.



the Rev. T. Aarrestad delivered the invocation. Mr. Nelson then spoke briefly as follows:

"Fellow citizens and friends of Grundy County.

"We meet today to celebrate the dedication of this temple of justice and as I rise to enter upon the duties of your chairman, my whole being is filled with genuine pride because of being a citizen of little Grundy. And, as I look about me at this splendid audience, and noting in your faces the reflection of the same feeling, the pride does not diminish. This day will be called the day of days, for many years to come, and though time in rose this morning the same as on other days past, and goes when it sets in the western horizon tonight, it will close a day in which history was written in Grundy County, and a message will be whispered to every patriotic home, which I verily believe will read nearly like the message many hundred years ago:

"Peace within the confines of Grundy County, and good will to all the inhabitants thereof."

"Having been your representative on the county board in the past, I naturally watched every move that was made from the beginning in the efforts which have culminated in the reconstruction of this beautiful building on the spot where the old one stood for nearly sixty years. Metaphorically speaking, it was not a case of love at first sight, but by persistent courtship we won our bride, and, the contest over, our people were wedded in brotherly love. From that moment, the word jealousy, which is defined by the latest authority as being a suspicion of one's own inferiority, has become a hated word in this community, and has been discarded from our vocabulary. During the reconstruction of this building, I presume I made as many trips over here as anyone, watching the familiar landmarks disappear. I was here so often that if I did not show up for a day or two, the superintendent would ask my friends whether Nelson was sick or really attending to his own business. While watching, one day, I was approached by a friend who asked me what I was looking at so intently and I answered by saying that I was watching to see the last landmark disappear—that crack in the wall yonder. That instant it disappeared; and I have wondered many times since where it went to.

"Do you not sigh for the good old times you had in the old building now in ruins?" he asked. My answer was to him the same as it would be to you if you asked me the same question

now; that I shall always look back with intense pleasure upon the time spent there during my official life, but, we are living in the present, and the verdict is 'away with the old and on with the new.'

"I do not believe in the old saying: 'There is no time like the old time.' Therefore:

"We'll laugh and sing, as the moments bring  
Their measure of joy and praise,  
And the sunlight shewn and the fields of green  
Stretch back to the good old days.  
There is many a song if the heart be strong  
And the love be warm and true,  
There is many a rift in the clouds that drift,  
Where the sun comes smiling through.

"Then a truce to care and blank despair,  
And regret for the days long dead.  
Give me the chimes of the present time  
And a bright blue sky o'erhead.  
Give me the clasp of a friendly grasp  
And a welcome at the door,  
And I will not sigh as the hours go by  
For the days that are no more.

"After looking the field over I have come to the conclusion that the supervisors who had this work in charge used nearly the same business sagacity as a certain widow did in remodeling her house. She had her old house made into a modern dwelling as good as new for a pittance, by becoming engaged to the carpenter, but as soon as the woodwork was done, she broke the engagement and married the plumber. While you were not in a position to employ the same tactics as the widow, you have done the next best thing. By being alert from the beginning and using good practical business sense, you have given Grundy County the best and most substantial public building that ever was erected in the state of Illinois for the money expended. I speak advisedly when I make this assertion, for I can produce several insurance men, who will back me up in it from the viewpoint of scientific insurance underwriting.

"My friends,—the work is finished, and here I am reminded of the historic words uttered by General Washington at the close of the battle of Yorktown when the work of the Revolution was finished. I see him standing near the trenches, his face illumined with a smile and the cannon's last glare as he is watching the preacher—colonel of Virginia planting the banner of the



stars on the last of the defenses of the British. The music of the implements of war had ceased, and in its stead we hear the music of the huzzas of victory: The work is finished and then we hear him utter these words: 'The work is done and it is well done.' And so say we to you today: 'The work is done and it is well done.'

"May the gentlemen of the bar who shall practice before this court ever remember the definition of a gentleman. May the jurors called for duty in this building always possess sufficient courage to uphold a righteous verdict; and may the sword of justice ever be swayed and tempered by mercy, is the prayer of your humble servant."

Mr. Nelson then introduced the Hon. Joseph G. Cannon, who gave an appropriate and impassioned address of about an hour's duration, touching upon many subjects of moment but avoiding partisanship and devoting himself to those themes which would interest all and arouse no political strife. Finley Bell, of Chicago, delivered the dedicatory address, and the 1913 courthouse of Grundy County passed into the hands of its people to be used by and for them.

#### THE FIRST JAIL OF GRUNDY COUNTY

A hewed-log structure that stood south of the courthouse served as the first jail of Grundy County, but very little is remembered of it. Doubtless it was a two-story building with a square excavation in the ground into which the prisoners were dropped and confined by an iron grating. It was so poor a place that the earlier sheriffs preferred to guard their prisoners than to consign them to this inhuman hole. Eventually the jail was sold for fourteen dollars.

#### THE SECOND JAIL

Whether criminals increased, or the humanity of the people of Grundy County suggested the erection of a suitable place to house the unfortunates, may be left to the imagination of the reader. At any rate a brick structure was put up at a cost of \$3,237.13, and accepted April 17, 1855. This, too, was found lacking in many respects, and another jail was found to be necessary.

#### THE PRESENT JAIL

This building was accepted on September 14, 1876. It is built of stone and cost \$16,190.60,

but it has become inadequate, and in the near future there is no doubt but that Grundy County will build a jail that will equal its magnificent courthouse. The jail is located in the rear of the residence of the sheriff on Court House Square.

#### THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT

Grundy County was not slow to respond to the popular feeling regarding the brave boys who laid down their lives in defense of the Union, and the Court House Square contains a monument which compares favorably with any of its kind in any community of this size in the country. It is a massive shaft surmounted with the figure of a private soldier, bearing the inscription:

"Erected and dedicated to the memory of the soldiers and sailors of Grundy County, 1861-65." On one side is the name of Missionary Ridge, on another, that of Chickamauga, on a third that of Vicksburg, and on the fourth Shiloh, and yet another great battle claimed a number of the Grundy County boys, that of Gettysburg, while more fell in lesser engagements. This monument was erected in 1890 at a cost of \$5,000, this amount having been appropriated at the December meeting of the Board of Supervisors in 1889, and is a source of pride not only to those who were instrumental in placing it where it stands, and those who lived at the time the amount was set aside, but all who walk past it and recall what it commemorates, and also the fact that were a like necessity to arise today, Grundy County would be able and willing to contribute its share of defenders of the flag, just as it was in those terrible years between 1861 and 1865.

#### THE FIRST POOR FARM

The records of Grundy County show that the first pauper bill allowed was ordered paid March 7, 1842. It was for the sum of \$10 for medicine and attendance to one "Joseph Brown, pauper." Unfortunately with the development of any community comes poverty, and the tax payers are always forced to make provision for those whom the chances of life leave destitute. Grundy County has not been exempt, and its people have nobly risen to the occasion, and now have one of the best equipped poor farms in the State. The first farm of 160 acres was in Nor-





Charles D. Allison U.S.





man Township. The county paid \$2,400 for it but found it was too large and portions of it were sold to outsiders.

#### SECOND POOR FARM

On October 27, 1879, eighty acres of land was bought for \$45 per acre, in Waupoose Township. An old brick building standing upon the property was torn down and a large frame building was built. This was used for about twenty years, and when it was decided to build new quarters, it was partially wrecked, and the rubbish was sold to a party who removed it.

In the December meeting of the county board, in 1902, the committee to which was referred the county almshouse on the county farm, filed the following report:

State of Illinois  
Grundy County

Board of Supervisors, December term  
December 10, 1903

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Board of Supervisors.

A majority of your committee to whom was referred the matter of rebuilding the almshouse according to plans drawn by E. E. Roberts of Oak Park, Ill., would beg leave to submit the following report on the matter before them: that on the 12th day of March, 1902, we let the contract to E. E. Roberts of Oak Park, Ill., for the sum of \$14,202 for labor and materials known as carpenter work, plastering, lath, heating, plumbing, painting and glazing, and your committee was to furnish all the material used in the construction of said building, known as brick, stone and necessary hardware. And your committee has herewith attached our itemized account not only of all labor, material, etc., for the rebuilding of almshouse, but also all other improvements made at the Poor Farm since March 12, 1902.

And your committee believes that Grundy County has a substantial, modern and up-to-date building that they can well be proud of.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ISRAEL DUDGEON,  
*Chairman.*  
D. W. CORNEYS.

Here followed a long list of items entering into the construction, aggregating a total of \$21,242, of which \$2,036.82 was used for other im-

provements, making the net cost of the house proper \$19,205.17.

After the reading of the report, Supervisor Ryan (the oldest member of the board) introduced the following resolution which was unanimously adopted by an aye and nay vote of the board, the members of the committee being excused from voting. The resolution reads as follows:

"Whereas, by the report of the committee on Poor Farm, the new almshouse and other improvements there ordered by this board, have been completed at a cost of \$19,205.17, and whereas this board did on the 9th day of December, 1902, go out to the almshouse and in a body inspect the work done by said committee and found it most satisfactorily done and at a cost of several thousand dollars less than the most sanguine members hoped for,

"Therefore, be it resolved: that the thanks of this board be tendered to the building committee for the efficient and economical manner in which said committee has performed its duties in the premises."

This is the official record, but to appreciate the quarters which Grundy County now furnishes its unfortunates, one should see the fine brick building with its broad porches, set on a beautiful lawn dotted with fine forest trees, flanked by gardens, and beyond them the broad acres of the farm which are in a fine state of cultivation.

#### GRUNDY COUNTY OFFICIALS

Grundy County has been particularly fortunate in the choice of its officials. Without exception they have been men of probity, and in some instances have also risen to positions of trust and responsibility in the outside world.

#### CIRCUIT JUDGE

The only Circuit Judge that Grundy County has produced is Judge Samuel P. Slough, who was elected in 1898, and has served continuously until the present, a period of sixteen years.

#### COUNTY JUDGES

The county judges of Grundy County have been as follows: Joshua Collins, 1841; Jacob Claypool, 1842; Luther S. Robins, 1843-1844; Henry Norman, 1845-1846; M. D. Prendagrast,



1847-1848; Henry Starr, 1849-1851; Patrick H. Hynds, 1852-1856; Colquhoun Grant, 1857-1860; Wm. T. Hopkins, 1861-1864; Jas. N. Reading, 1865-1876; Samuel R. Thomas, 1877-1881; A. R. Jordan, 1882-1885; R. M. Wing, 1886-1889; A. R. Jordan, 1890-1901; Geo. W. Huston, 1902-1909; George Bedford, 1910-1914.

#### CIRCUIT CLERKS

The circuit clerks of Grundy County have been as follows: L. W. Claypool, 1841-1846; Patrick Kelley, 1847-1848; Geo. H. Kiersted, 1849-1855; John Galloway, 1856; Wm. A. Kiersted, 1857-1859; John B. Davidson, 1860-1867; Jas. R. Coombs, 1868-1877; J. H. Pettit, 1878; G. R. Taxis, 1879-1887; J. H. Pettit, 1888-1895; F. S. Johnson, 1896-1914.

#### COUNTY CLERKS

The county clerks of Grundy County have been as follows: Jas. Nagel, 1841-1842; P. P. Chapin, 1843; Geo. H. Kiersted, 1844-1849; E. W. Hulburt, 1850-1852; P. A. Armstrong, 1853-1860; S. B. Thomas, 1861-1876; H. D. Hitchcock, 1877-1881; C. H. Overocker, 1882-1885; Newman Perkins, 1886-1889; Jas. McNamara, 1890-1893; W. Scott Pierce, 1894-1901; A. J. Smith, 1902-1909; Geo. W. Anderson, 1910-1914.

#### COUNTY TREASURERS

The county treasurers of Grundy County have been as follows: Sidney Duntun, 1841-1842; Henry Norman, 1843; Perry A. Claypool, 1844-1847; Thos. Reynolds, 1848-1849; Frederick S. Watkins, 1850-1855; Robert Longworth, 1856-1860; John Barr, 1861-1862; Edward R. Booth, 1863-1868; Daniel Ferguson, 1869-1870; John Anderton, 1871-1874; John Barr, 1875-1876; J. H. Pattison, 1877-1885; Samuel Holderman, 1886; Thos. Phillips, 1887-1889; Daniel O'Connell, 1890-1893; Olen O. Johnson, 1894-1897; Samuel Hoenshell, 1898-1901; Harlan Preston, 1902-1905; J. H. Francis, 1906-1909; A. H. Cleghorn, 1910-1914.

#### SHERIFFS

The sheriffs of Grundy County have been as follows: Isaac Hoge, 1841; W. E. Armstrong, 1842-1848; Orville Cone, 1849-1850; Elijah Walker, 1851; Jas. B. Jones, 1852-1853; John

Galloway, 1854-1855; A. C. D. Wallace, 1856-1857; Jonathan R. Webber, 1858-1859; Seneca Tupper, 1860-1861; Chas. R. Gardner, 1862-1863; Timothy Slattery, 1864-1865; John Schroeder, 1866-1867; Wm. Galloway, 1868-1869; John Schroeder, 1870-1879; C. D. Ferguson, 1880-1885; John Schroeder, 1886-1889; L. E. Daniels, 1890-1893; John Schroeder, 1894-1897; C. W. Johnson, 1898-1901; J. H. Francis, 1902-1905; Thos. Steele, 1906-1909; J. H. Francis, 1910-1914.

#### CORONERS

The coroners of Grundy County have been as follows: Leander Leclere, 1841-1843; Samuel Ayers, 1844-1848; Henry Beebe, 1849; Jas. H. O'Brian, 1850-1853; Jas. B. Jones, 1854-1858; E. Ridgway, 1859-1860; Norman R. Griswold, 1861-1862; J. B. Jones, 1863-1864; Levi Hills, Sr., 1865-1866; John N. Freeman, 1867; George E. Parmlee, 1868; E. Ridgway, 1869-1884; Truman A. Hand, 1885-1888; E. T. Abell, 1889-1892; H. M. Ferguson, 1893-1896; J. E. Brock, 1897-1903; H. M. Ferguson, 1904-1911; W. G. Sachse, 1912-1914.

#### STATE'S ATTORNEYS

The state's attorneys of Grundy County have been as follows: Jas. Curtis, 1844; W. A. Boardman, 1845-1846; Burton P. Cook, 1847-1849; S. W. Bowen, 1850-1853; F. A. Bartleson, 1854-1859; Henry Logan, 1860-1863; S. W. Munn, 1864-1868; Chas. A. Hill, 1869-1871; A. R. Jordan, 1872-1879; A. Lee Doud, 1880-1883; O. N. Carter, 1884-1887; Samuel P. Stough, 1888-1895; Geo. W. Huston, 1896-1899; Chas. F. Hanson, 1900-1911; F. H. Hayes, 1912-1914.

#### SURVEYORS

The county surveyors of Grundy County have been as follows: Leander Newport, 1841-1844; Thos. A. Henry, 1845-1848; Chas. Huston, 1849-1851; Thos. A. Henry, 1852-1855; Samuel Ewer, 1856-1858; Nathaniel McBride, 1859-1860; Thos. A. Henry, 1861-1862; Nathaniel McBride, 1863-1870; Geo. H. Kiersted, 1871-1874; Nathaniel McBride, 1875; Edward Sufferin, 1876; Chas. Huston, 1877-1883; Nathaniel McBride, 1884-1890; Arthur Parker, 1900-1905; Eugene G. Cryder, 1906-1907; Wm. Harkes, 1908-1911; John Rosendahl, 1912-1914.



## COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The county superintendents of schools of Grundy County have been as follows: Jacob Claypool, 1841-1842; Jas. Hart, 1843; L. S. Robbins, 1844; Thos. O. Sullivan, 1845-1846; Chas. Huston, 1847-1848; Wm. H. Perkins, 1849-1850; Colquhoun Grant, 1851-1852; Geo. Fisher, 1853-1854; W. T. Hopkins, 1855-1856; Geo. Fisher, 1857-1858; Rufus K. Slosson, 1859-1860; Edward Sanford, 1861-1862; Hiram P. Gould, 1863-1874; John Highy, 1875-1880; O. N. Carter, 1881-1883; S. E. Massey, 1884-1888; D. R. Anderson, 1889-1897; Mary B. Holderman, 1898-1901; Chas. H. Root, 1902-1914.

## COUNTY SUPERVISORS

The county supervisors of Morris Township have been as follows: P. A. Armstrong, 1850; C. L. R. Hogan, 1851; Eugene Stansbury, 1852; P. A. Armstrong, 1853; Elijah Walker, 1854-1855; L. P. Lott, 1856-1858; John Barr, 1859-1861; Abel P. Bulkley, 1862-1864; John Barr, 1865-1866; John Antis, 1867-1868; Geo. F. Brown, 1869-1870; John Barr, 1871-1875; J. W. Lawrence, 1876; Chas. Sparr, 1877-1879; John Barr, 1880; J. W. Lawrence, 1881; L. W. Claypool, 1882; O. J. Nelson, 1883-1892; O. J. Nelson, J. H. Pattison asst., 1893-1899; O. J. Nelson, M. B. Wilson asst., 1897-1908; W. R. Allan, M. B. Wilson asst., 1908-1909; J. A. Wilson, M. B. Wilson asst., 1910-1912; J. A. Wilson, John Mack asst., 1912-1913; D. A. Mathews, John Mack asst., 1914.

The county supervisors of Aux Sable Township have been as follows: Jas. Kinsley, 1850-1857; Wm. Walters, 1858; Samuel Randall, 1859; Jas. Kinsley, 1860; John Brow, 1861; Michael Kinsley, 1862-1866; Leander Smith, 1867-1868; Geo. Collins, 1869; A. R. Knapp, 1870-1871; Michael H. Cryder, 1872; Wm. Walters, 1873; Fletcher Dirst, 1874-1881; Peter H. Briscoe, 1882-1895; Fletcher Dirst, 1896-1901; Daniel R. Hall, 1902-1907; D. A. Henneberry, 1908-1909; H. P. Dwyer, 1910-1914.

The county supervisors of Mazon Township have been as follows: Chas. Huston, 1850; Henry Cassingham, 1851-1853; Edwin Lesslie, 1854-1855; Abraham Carter, 1856; A. P. Fellingham, 1857; Amos Clover, 1858-1859; Wm. B. Marsh, 1860; A. P. Fellingham, 1861; Geo. Carpenter, 1862; J. F. Burleigh, 1863-1866; S. H. Dewey, 1867-1869; Volney Parker, 1870-1874;

Geo. Riddle, 1875; Volney Parker, 1876-1877; S. H. Dewey, 1878-1880; Oren Gibson, 1881-1884; Geo. E. Wheeler, 1885-1886; John K. Ely, 1887-1888; Geo. E. Wheeler, 1889-1898; Simon Davies, 1899-1900; W. H. Carter, 1901-1905; I. N. Misner, 1906-1914.

The county supervisors of Waupese Township have been as follows: Jacob Claypool, 1850-1851; L. W. Claypool, 1852-1859; John Hanah, 1860; Wm. F. Hopkins, 1861; Joseph Hicks, 1862; L. W. Claypool, 1863-1864; Joseph R. Oplyke, 1865-1867; L. H. Raymond, 1868; Benjamin Sample, 1869-1870; J. H. Pattison, 1871-1873; L. W. Claypool, 1874; Jas. Stine, 1875-1877; John Claypool, 1878-1879; H. C. Claypool, 1880-1881; John Claypool, 1882-1885; J. H. Pattison, 1886-1890; Amos Dingman, 1891-1892; Jas. Stine, 1893-1898; E. G. Cusley, 1899-1902; H. H. Stevens, 1903-1905; Chas. H. Moon, 1906-1912; Chas. Elyea, 1913-1914.

The county supervisors of Greenfield Township have been as follows: Franklin N. Morzan, 1850-1851; Jas. Miller, 1852; Jas. Craig, 1853; Robt. Wood, 1854; Joseph C. Robinson, 1855; C. A. Whitaker, 1856; Wm. B. Royal, 1857-1858; C. E. Gardner, 1859-1861; Rulen H. Rose, 1862-1863; Wm. Hart, 1864; S. D. Underwood, 1865; Theodore Hyatt, 1866-1867; Kennedy Brown, 1868-1869; Amos Clover, 1870-1875; Isaac McClun, 1877-1878; W. H. McClun, 1879; Lewis Germain, 1880-1888; Henry Leach, 1889; Lewis Germain, 1890; H. E. Snyder, 1891-1892; J. A. Govey, 1893-1894; H. E. Snyder, 1895-1898; Geo. W. Booth, 1899-1901; John Spiller, 1902; J. C. Wilson, 1903-1904; A. K. Walker, 1905-1912; A. J. Culley, 1913-1914.

The county supervisors of Braceville Township have been as follows: D. R. Doud, 1850; John Craig, 1851-1853; John Augustine, 1854-1857; Henry Cassingham, 1858-1859; John Augustine, 1860-1861; Henry Cassingham, 1862; E. R. Booth, 1863; Henry Cassingham, 1864; Theodore Hyatt, 1865; R. J. Cunningham, 1866; Henry Cassingham, 1867-1868; I. F. Augustine, 1869; Geo. W. Booth, 1870-1877; G. R. Evans, 1878; S. F. Dunleavy, 1879; David Dunleavy, 1880; John T. Dunleavy, 1881; Elijah Cotton, 1882; John Mathias, 1883-1884; Wm. J. Malcomb, 1885-1888; Eli Stocker, Wm. Malcomb asst., and John McKinley asst., 1889; Eli Stocker, Wm. Malcomb asst., and A. Constantine asst., 1890; Eli Stocker, Wm. Malcomb asst., 1891; Eli Stocker, Ben Peterson asst., 1892-1893; Eli Stocker, John



Mathias, asst., 1894-1895; Eli Stocker, Geo. Rodgers, asst., 1896-1897; Eli Stocker, Wm. J. Malcomb, asst., 1898-1899; F. W. Francis, Arthur Green, asst., 1900-1901; Geo. A. Trotter, Arthur Green, asst., 1902-1903; Montgomery Sharp, Arthur Green, asst., 1904-1905; Percival Clark, Gustav Swan, asst., 1906-1907; Bert Waters, J. H. Green, asst., 1908-1909; C. G. Anderson, J. Willis, asst., 1910-1911; John A. Red, Adam Brook, asst., 1912-1913; John A. Red, Thos. Reed, asst., 1914.

The county supervisors of Felix Township have been as follows: F. S. Watkins, 1855-1858; Wm. F. Robinson, 1859-1860; Samuel Robinson, 1861-1867; Samuel Sufferin, 1868-1869; Samuel Holderman, 1870-1871; Samuel Short, 1872-1873; Samuel Sufferin, 1874; Samuel Holderman, 1875; Jacob Williams, 1876-1877; Samuel Holderman, 1878; Jacob Williams, 1879; John Holderman, 1880-1885; Thos. Pattison, 1886; J. R. Collins, 1887-1888; Wm. Phalen, 1889; John Anderson, 1890-1896; Israel Dudgeon, 1897; Frank Enrietto, 1898-1904; Anton Verondo, 1905-1910; W. Lewins, 1911-1914.

The county supervisors of Saratoga Township have been as follows: Phillip Collins, 1850; Colquhoun Grant, 1851-1856; C. G. Conklin, 1857; Phillip Collins, 1858-1870; Michael H. Cryder, 1871-1872; Phillip Collins, 1873; Hiram Thayer, 1874; Gersham Hunt, 1875-1876; Townsend Gore, 1877-1878; L. L. Gardner, 1879; Townsend Gore, 1880; Fred Ayers, 1881; Jerry Collins, 1882-1891; Chas. M. Stephen, 1892-1903; E. G. Cryder, 1904-1914.

The county supervisors of Nettle Creek Township have been as follows: Wm. Hoge, 1850; A. J. Foord, 1851; I. N. Brown, 1852-1853; Wm. Hoge, 1854-1855; Wm. McFarlane, 1856; Wm. Hoge, 1857-1867; Andrew F. Ford, 1868; Wm. Hoge, 1869; John K. Ely, 1870; Wm. Hoge, 1871; Samuel Hoge, 1872-1877; Hendly Hoge, 1878-1880; H. A. Gregory, 1881; Wm. Hoge, Jr., 1882; Isaac Hoge, Jr., 1883-1892; O. O. Johnson, 1893; S. S. Marvick, 1894-1902; J. H. Osmon, 1903-1904; Ami Markeson, 1905-1910; E. S. Hoge, 1911-1914.

The county supervisors of Erienna Township have been as follows: John O'Brian, 1850-1852; Abe Holderman, 1853-1854; A. McMillan, 1855; Daniel O'Connell, 1856; Wm. West, 1857; A. McMillan, 1858-1860; Daniel O'Connell, 1861-1865; Wm. Birney, 1866; Daniel O'Connell, 1867; Isaac Hoge, 1868-1870; Daniel O'Connell, 1871; Isaac Hoge, 1872-1873; Daniel O'Connell, 1874-

1899; Edwin Bartley, 1891-1892; M. T. Anderson, 1893-1894; Joseph Dawson, 1895-1896; S. D. Holderman, 1897-1914.

The county supervisors of Vienna Township have been as follows: Justin Renne, 1859; A. McMillan, 1851-1852; Justin Renne, 1853-1855; Rufus K. Slosson, 1856-1857; John Weldon, 1858; Rufus K. Slosson, 1859-1860; John Weldon, 1861; Rufus K. Slosson, 1862-1865; E. Wormley, 1866-1868; John Weldon, 1869; A. E. Porter, 1870; Michael B. Maley, 1871-1876; Rufus K. Slosson, 1877-1878; Joseph Wilson, 1879; Henry Dylsop, 1880; Thos. S. Colman, 1881; Henry Dylsop, 1882; T. B. Granby, 1883; D. R. Renne, 1884-1887; A. Hollenbeck, 1888-1889; D. S. Renne, 1890-1893; Jas. Mulvanie, 1894-1895; F. E. Curtis, 1896-1897; M. G. Haymond, 1898-1899; T. B. Granby, 1900-1905; E. O. Fellingham, 1906-1913; Dennis Welsh, 1914.

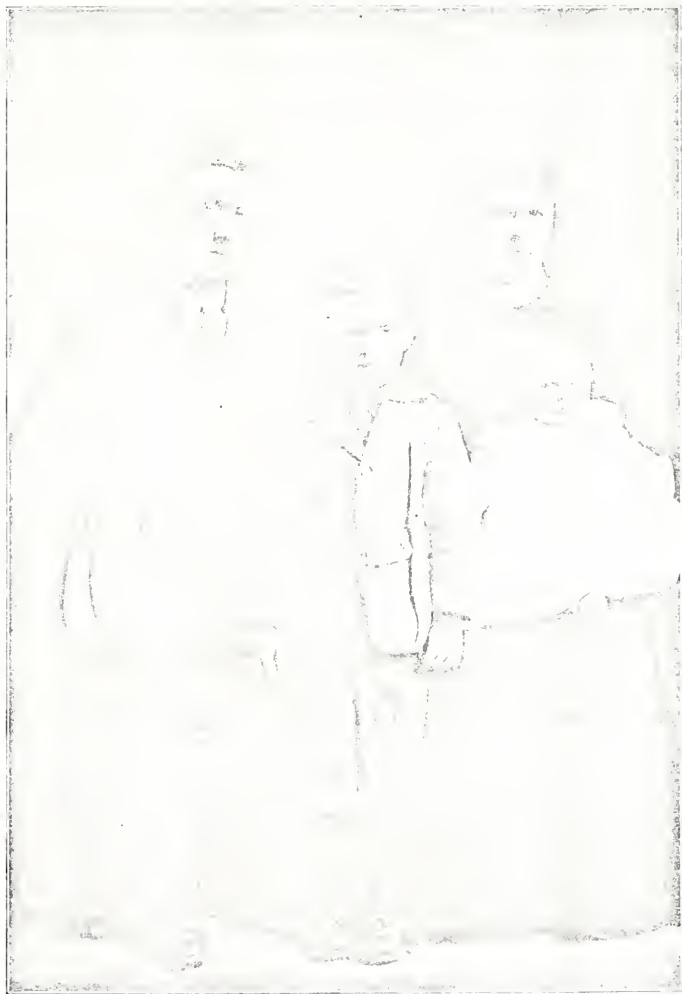
The county supervisors of Norman Township have been as follows: Thos. J. Norman, 1850; Elijah Misner, 1851-1853; Marion Lloyd, 1854-1855; Amos Dewey, 1856-1857; Elijah Misner, 1858; Chas. M. Pierce, 1859-1862; Wm. Bullis, 1863; Seneca Tupper, 1864-1866; Chas. Burrows, 1867; S. H. Raymond, 1868-1870; Geo. W. Raymond, 1871; John Reilley, 1872; L. H. Raymond, 1873; John Reilley, 1874-1875; A. G. Woodbury, 1876; E. B. James, 1877; Chas. M. Pierce, 1878; E. B. James, 1879-1881; Chas. M. Pierce, 1882; E. R. Dewey, 1883-1884; John Reilley, 1885-1888; T. Kelley, 1889-1893; C. W. Burroughs, 1894-1895; Dan Comegys, 1896-1905; M. E. James, 1906-1909; Thos. Downey, 1910-1911.

The county supervisors of Highland Township have been as follows: L. Putnam, 1850-1851; Wm. Pierce, 1852-1859; Phillip Waite, 1860-1864; Wm. Pierce, 1865; John S. Maxwell, 1866-1867; Henry Adams, 1868-1869; Wm. Pierce, 1870-1872; Benj. Waite, 1873; Geo. L. Gilbert, 1874-1875; Thos. Ryan, 1876-1880; M. H. Lamb, 1881-1884; W. E. Conness, 1885; W. T. Danilher, 1886-1890; J. H. Kane, 1891-1892; W. T. Danilher, 1893; Thos. Ryan, 1894; J. H. Kane, 1895-1896; Geo. Gilbert, 1897-1898; W. E. Conness, 1899-1900; Thos. Ryan, 1901-1904; D. F. Meagher, 1905-1906; Rich Carey, 1907-1908; Daniel O'Connell, 1909-1914.

The county supervisors of Good Farm Township have been as follows: J. M. Clover, 1850-1851; E. Lewis, 1852-1853; David Gleason, 1854; Samuel Cutter, 1855-1856; Wm. Mason, 1857; E. B. Stevens, 1858-1860; J. S. Austin, 1861; Jas. M. Austin, 1862; L. H. Goodrich, 1863-1868;







*James E. Ashton Jr. & Family*



Mathew Johnson, 1869; David Barton, 1870; E. R. Barr, 1871-1880; J. M. Perkins, 1881; Mathew Johnson, 1882-1884; Wm. Constantine, 1885-1895; Alex. Preston, 1896-1909; John Shotlesberger, 1910-1914.

Garfield Township was created in 1902 and Chris Anderson was elected the first supervisor and has served ever since.

The county supervisors of Goose Lake Township, created in 1897, have been as follows: Israel Dudgeon, 1897-1907; P. J. Holderman, 1908-1909; Walter Phillips, 1910-1911; Frank Collins, 1912-1913; C. E. Anderson, 1914.

The supervisors of Maine Township, created in 1898, have been as follows: E. H. Robinson, 1898-1899; Milton Button, 1900-1905; Leon J. Duryar, 1906-1914.

## CHAPTER VIII

### POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND HISTORY.

INTELLIGENT POLITICAL INTEREST—WHOLE COUNTY PATRIOTIC AND LOYAL—INTERESTED IN PUBLIC REFORMS — MANY TEMPERANCE WORKERS — FINEST TYPE OF CITIZEN OF COUNTRY BRED—MEMBER OF CONGRESS—STATE SENATOR—STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

#### INTELLIGENT POLITICAL INTEREST

Grundy County has always taken an active part in politics, for its people are men of determination and intelligence who appreciate the privileges of suffrage, and have always endeavored to vote according to the dictates of conscience. From the time of the first election here, on May 24, 1841, held in the cabin owned by Columbus Piney, with Perry A. Claypool, Robert Walker and John Beard, Sr., as judges of election, to the present, the interest displayed by Grundy County people has been intense, and the votes have been polled honestly and in strict conformance with existing statutes. As the county grew in population and importance, adherents of the national political

parties were found within its boundaries, and candidates of both here received support. When the great issues that finally led to the Civil War came before the country, Grundy County, truly patriotic, was found to be on the side of the Union, and loyal to the core, and the prevailing sentiment was voiced in the quota sent into the field when there was need of soldiers.

During the years that have succeeded that great struggle, the people of Grundy County have kept fully abreast of the times both at home and abroad, and while they have been concerned in many local issues, they have never allowed this home interest to interfere with their consideration of national problems. Each great moral reform that has been made a national issue has received generous support in Grundy, particularly that dealing with the temperance question. This county has some very effective workers and enthusiasts in the cause. During the exciting campaign of 1912 which was probably one of the hardest fought of any presidential combats in the history of the United States, Grundy County made an excellent showing and some of her political orators gained a national reputation.

While Grundy County is not the home of any large cities, its people being chiefly interested in agricultural matters and those pertaining to farming and its requirements, it has citizens who possess every requisite for both national and local public service. Some of the questions which affect congested districts have never come before the people here, but when they do, these thoughtful, foresighted men will be able to meet them promptly and effectively. The history of this country proves that the best and noblest characters have been developed from the rural regions. The healthy surroundings of farm life seem to promote those characteristics so necessary to ennobling public life, and Grundy County has furnished these in abundance. However there have been comparatively few citizens of Grundy who have been willing to accept the responsibilities attached to high public office, the records showing but one member of Congress from the district of which Grundy is a part; but one State Senator, and but ten Representatives to the General Assembly.

#### CONGRESS

Hon. P. C. Hayes.



## STATE SENATE

L. B. Ray, 1880-1886.

## REPRESENTATIVES

Phillip Collins, 1870-1872; L. B. Ray, P. A. Armstrong, 1872-1874; Phillip Collins, 1874-1876; Amos Clover, 1876-1878; Wm. G. Dawkins, Wm. Seafie, 1890-1892; John K. Ely, 1894-1898; O. P. Bennett, 1900-1902; Israel Dudgeon, 1904-1914; Daniel O'Connell, 1912-1914.

## CHAPTER IX

## THE BENCH AND BAR OF GRUNDY COUNTY

EARLY IMPRESSIONS—OLD RECORDS CONSULTED—  
TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOHN D. CATON—INDELIBLE  
NAMES—JUDGE JOSIAH McROBERTS—JUDGE WIL-  
LIAM T. HOPKINS—JUDGE S. W. HARRIS—JUDGE  
A. R. JORDAN—GRUNDY'S LOSS OTHER SECTIONS'  
GAIN—JUDGE R. M. WING—JUDGE ORRIN N.  
CARTER—JUDGE SAMUEL C. STOUGH—JUDGE  
CHARLES BLANCHARD—JUDGE GEORGE W. STIPP—  
JUDGE BORRANCE DIBELL—GRUNDY COUNTY BAR.

(By Cornelius Reardon)

## EARLY IMPRESSIONS

The events chronicled herein subsequent to the year 1868 are gathered from the memory and observation of the writer who was then ten years of age. The members of the bench and bar of Morris then and later so attracted the attention of the writer that he looked upon the profession of the law as the most exalted calling to which anyone might aspire.

The murder of Thomas Le Paige in the winter of 1866, followed as it was with the indictment and trial of Joseph Tibbetts for that murder, and his acquittal in March, 1867, followed by the lynching of Alonzo Tibbetts, brought prominently before the public the names and the personages who participated in the conduct of that trial and the other litigation that involved the two Tibbetts brothers, and from that time forward the writer had observed the members of

the bench and bar more acutely than any other set of men he has known. Possibly the desire formed at that early period in life to become a member of the bar added to the interest of the writer in the local members.

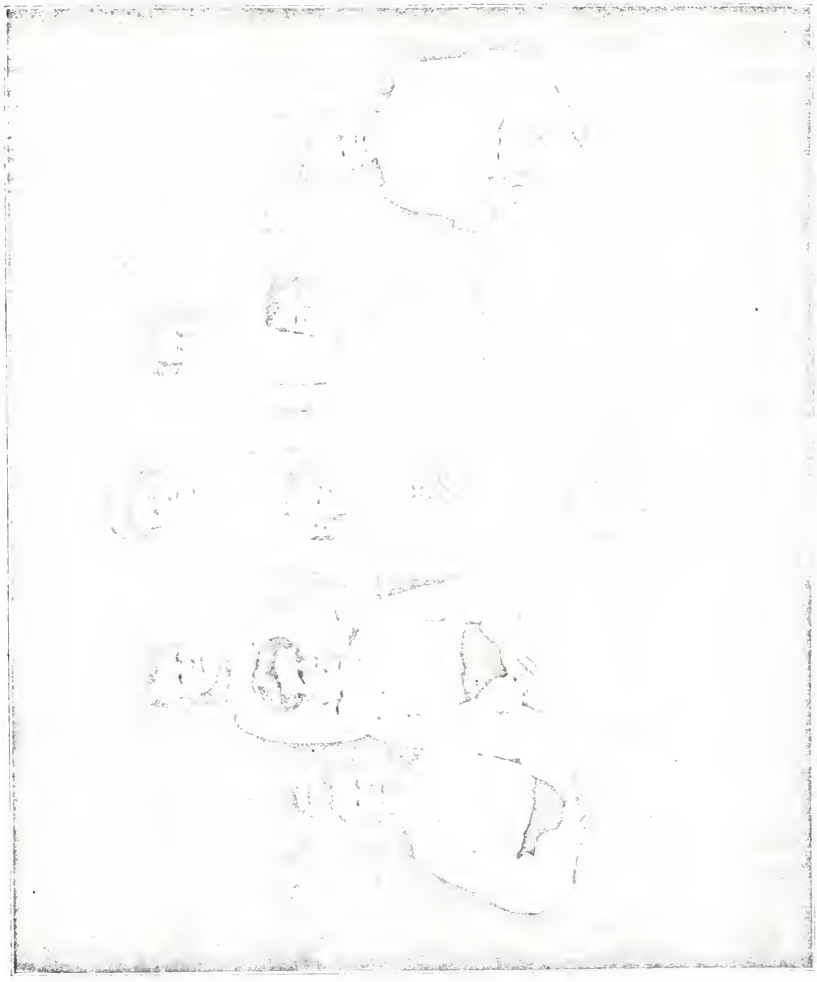
Before chronicling any of the events coming under the observation of the writer I have seen fit to consult the records relative to the earliest members of the bench and bar in the county.

HON. JOHN D. CATON

If the members of the bench and bar of this county arose to greater distinction in their profession than falls to the lot of the members of another community, perhaps their ambition and industry were inspired by the rare learning and natural ability of one of the very first judges to hold Circuit Court in this county, the Hon. John D. Caton. The first term of court presided over here by that able jurist was convened on the second Monday, being the eighth day of May, 1843. At that time under the laws, as they then existed, the Supreme Court of the State was made up of nine judges, and, in addition to their duties collectively as the court of last resort, they were, individually, each, the trial judge of one of the nine Circuits into which the State was then divided, so that in any case tried in the Circuit Court here at that time, Judge Caton was the sole presiding judge at the trial court and one of the nine judges of the Supreme Court that reviewed a case that was appealed or taken by writ of error to that court. At that time there was no intervening court between the trial court and the Supreme Court as the Appellate Court was created in the year 1877.

Judge Caton first became a judge of the Supreme Court, and, by virtue of his office, a judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, by appointment of the Governor, August 20, 1842. He was later elected by the Legislature and then, when the change of laws provided that the judges should be elected by the people, Judge Caton was re-elected time and again and remained upon the bench until his resignation on January 9, 1864. The lawyer and student of the present day reads with admiration the opinions of the Supreme Court prepared and written by Judge Caton. One is not long a student of the law until he observes that the law, as laid down in the decisions written by Judge Caton, is there pointed out clearly, briefly and concisely. He





Jacques Oken and Family





never left anything unsaid that was necessary to understand the questions involved in the case and instead of his decisions being lengthy they were the personification of brevity. With such a leader as Judge Caton it is not to be wondered at that this county has produced the more than ordinary judges and lawyers that have graced the bench and bar at home and abroad.

#### INDELIBLE NAMES

The other officers of the court at that time were men whose names are written in our history as indelibly as the poet has said of the Indian names that were "Written on our waters, and we cannot wash them out." There was Armstrong, Sheriff; Chapin, Clerk, and Pad-dock, State's Attorney.

On the Grand Jury were Zachariah Walley, William Hoge, Orville Cone, S. S. Randall, Nathaniel Tabler, Leander Newport, Peter Griggs, John B. Moore, and many others whose descendants are still the pride of the community. On the Petit Jury in the trial of the first case, were Joshua Collins, Samuel Hoge and Philip Collins. There was only the paltry sum of \$75 involved in that suit, yet those who are still living, and knew in their lifetime, the members of this jury or any of them, know well that the greatest care and precision was exercised by the members of that jury, and one would only wish, that had he a case of his own, that he might have as fair and honest men as these jurors were. At that first term of court among those who renounced their allegiance to their native countries and swore loyalty to the Government of the United States were such men as: Robert Peacock, Patrick Kenrick, James Berry and Henry Carlin, and others whose names also will be with us to the end of time.

#### JUDGE JOSIAH McROBERTS

Turning over the pages of history for a quarter of a century from that time and getting down to the time when the Tibbetts litigation was before the courts, we find that Josiah McRoberts was the presiding Judge, S. W. Munn was the State's Attorney, and among the counsel engaged in the different branches of that litigation including a civil action for trespass brought by Alonzo Tibbetts against Thomas Le Paige, and the other active members of the

bar at that time, were: Judge B. F. Olin, P. A. Armstrong, C. E. Fellows, John P. Southworth, Judge J. N. Redding and Judge William T. Hopkins.

Colonel Munn, besides honoring the bench in the practice of his profession had answered his country's call to arms and had risen to the rank of Colonel. Judge Hopkins, likewise was made captain of a company of volunteers and the achievements of all of these legal men were a credit to the profession and the pride of the community. They have all passed on to their reward and each left a noble heritage to those who follow.

In a short interim following those there appeared on the scene such men as Judge S. W. Harris, who had few equals as a pleader and whose hand-written pleadings still on file are frequently turned to at present as examples of great skill. Also there appears the name of E. Sanford, whose thorough knowledge of the law is seldom equaled by a member of this profession. Also appeared the name of Judge A. R. Jordan, whom Nature gifted richly with a keen intellect, and a heart to whose goodness the writer is indebted for the care with which he directed his reading and training in preparation for admission to the bar.

#### GRUNDY'S LOSS OTHER SECTIONS' GAIN

Of those still living who have gone to other fields of usefulness after demonstrating their ability at home, are A. L. Doud, now of Denver, who, after his admission to this bar, was elected and ably filled the office of State's Attorney. At Denver also B. L. Clover, who was engaged in the trial of many of the largest cases tried in Grundy County. Judge R. M. Wing went from this field to Chicago and is there ranked among the city's greatest trial lawyers. If there are any traits that predominate over all others in Judge Wing's practice they are the persistency and unceasing industry with which he always applied himself to the cases entrusted to him. At the Morris bar Judge Orrin N. Carter first began the practice of his profession. The caliber of the man and lawyer was recognized in the great city of Chicago and to that field he was called to engage in the practice of his profession to be there later elected, and twice re-elected, without opposition, to the County bench, and ceased his labors in that court when he was elected to the Supreme Court of the



State over which he has been the presiding Justice and whose work on that bench is not excelled by any of his colleagues. Many others have gone to other fields and there distinguished themselves.

#### JUDGE SAMUEL C. STOUGH

Of those remaining at home, Judge Samuel C. Stough began his career as a practitioner at this bar in 1877. Twenty years later he was elected to the Circuit bench and twice re-elected, where he still presides. Although Judge Stough, prior to his election to the bench, was a strong partisan he was so gifted by Nature that he could, and did, divorce his individuality from all political and religious affiliations, and no practitioner ever entered into a trial in Judge Stough's court without feeling and knowing that in Judge Stough's eyes all are equal before the law, regardless of political affiliation, creed, color or station in life. He is a worthy successor of Judge Caton and like Judge Caton his enunciation of the law is as thorough and clear as was that of his worthy predecessor. His fame as an able jurist is nearly as well known and understood in the great city of Chicago where he has frequently held court, as it is known and understood throughout his own circuit.

This article would fall far short of serving its proper office if it failed to mention without extended comment the names of three judges who presided with credit upon the Circuit bench of this County.

#### JUDGE CHARLES BLANCHARD

Hon. Charles Blanchard of Ottawa, Illinois, presided at a greater number of the sessions of the Circuit Court prior to the election of Judge Stough than did any of his associate judges. Judge Blanchard although physically not a strong man was a well informed and strictly conscientious judge. He spared not the fatigue upon his weak physical condition nor his great ability as a learned disciple of the law to decide all causes coming before him upon the side of justice and equity. He too has gone to his reward.

#### JUDGE GEORGE W. STIPP

Judge George W. Stipp was one of the associate judges with Judge Blanchard in this Cir-

cuit and was upon the bench three terms prior to his demise, which occurred in 1898 at the age of eighty years. In the early days of his practice he was both an associate with and an opponent to the immortal Lincoln, and Judge Stipp had as striking an individuality as the Great Emancipator. While many judges adhered strictly to the precise rules of practice and thereby caused an advantage to be had by the old practitioner over the novice, Judge Stipp always took it upon himself to aid and encourage the young lawyer in bringing out the law and the evidence in a trial and at the conclusion of a hard fought trial where the young attorney, with justice on his side, won the verdict from the jury, Judge Stipp has been known to remark to the young lawyer, "Well, we beat them, didn't we?" He was as fearless while presiding on the bench as he was on the battlefields in the Mexican War, wherein he was a first lieutenant through nearly all of that warfare.

#### JUDGE DORRANCE DIBELL

Before the re-districting of the State, in 1897, Will County was in the same Circuit as Grundy and after the death of Judge McRoberts, Judge Dorrance Dibell was one of the judges of this Circuit who did his full share of the court work. Judge Dibell has been upon the bench longer than any judge since the State of Illinois was organized. He is at present, and has been for a great many years past, one of the Judges of the Appellate Court of the Second District, and, besides presiding occasionally in the trial of cases in the Circuit Court he has done more and better Appellate Court work than it would seem possible for any one judge to be capable of doing.

#### GRUNDY COUNTY BAR

The present members of the county bar are:

George Bedford, Frank L. Flood, Frank H. Hayes, C. F. Hanson, G. W. Huston, Kay H. Murray, E. W. Pike, J. G. Petteys, Cornelius Reardon, J. W. Rausch, A. J. Smith, Sr., Miss Edith M. Smith, H. B. Smith, C. G. Sachse, L. E. Simrall, W. E. Viner and C. D. Young.

While the local bar has contributed so richly to the great men of the past and has at the present time so many shining lights in foreign fields, yet, may it not be said, without immodesty, of the present members of the bar, that "The greatest of all are these."





Photo by Carlson.

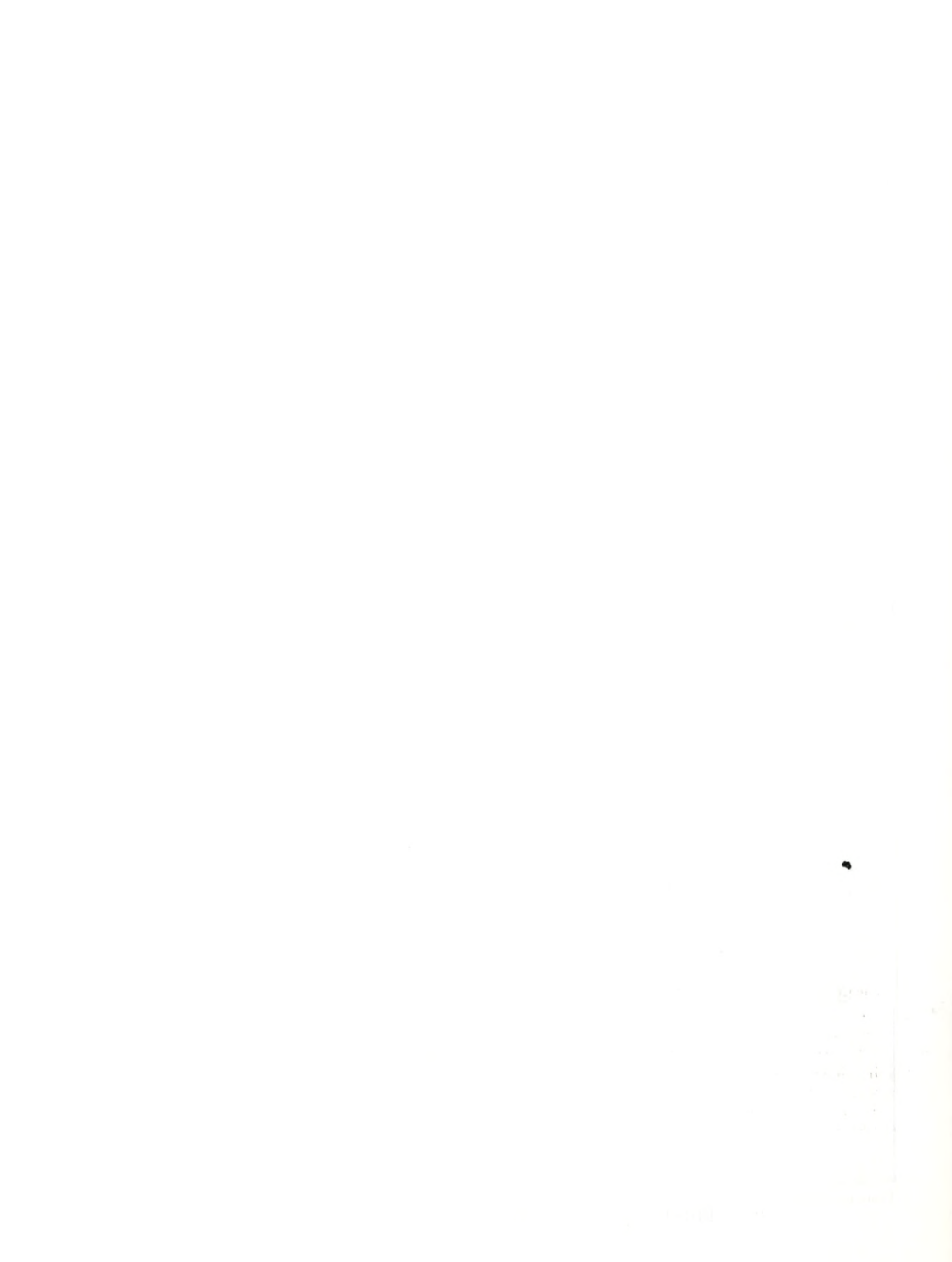
NETTLE CREEK BRIDGE, MORRIS, ILL.



Photo by Bedford.

FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN GRUNDY COUNTY.  
Seven Miles Northwest of Morris.

Courtesy of Carlson.



## CHAPTER X

## SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

FINE SCHOOLS IN GRUNDY COUNTY—HELP TO KEEP YOUTHS ON THE FARM—EARNST AND WELL EQUIPPED TEACHERS—EXCELLENT LIBRARIES PROVIDED—SCHOOLS OF MORRIS—FIRST TEACHER AND FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE—SALE OF CONGRESSIONAL ALLOTMENT IN 1854—BUILDING OF MORE SCHOOLHOUSES—NAMES OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS—TEACHERS IN THE MORRIS SCHOOLS IN 1870—SUPERINTENDENTS FROM 1875 UNTIL 1914—PRESENT FACULTY OF THE MORRIS HIGH SCHOOL—EARLY HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCEMENT DUE TO SUPERINTENDENT CROSS—HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION—MANY ADVANTAGES OFFERED—HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT—MORRIS OLD CLASSIC INSTITUTE—MORRIS' OLD NORMAL AND SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL—UNIFORM EXCELLENCE OF THE COUNTY SCHOOLS—MAZON HIGH SCHOOL—GARDNER HIGH SCHOOL—COAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL—INFLUENCE AND ASSISTANCE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

(By P. A. Cross)

## FINE SCHOOLS IN GRUNDY COUNTY

No community can rise higher than the grade of its public schools for in them are trained the minds and characters of the rising generation, upon whom the older one depends for the carrying out of its ideas and the advancement of the locality. Judging by this standard Grundy County occupies a particularly high position, for its public schools are included in a list of eight in the State that come up to standard according to the Daily News, of April 30, 1913, published at Chicago. The article referred to says in part:

"Since good schools are an incentive for keeping boys and girls on the farms, the improvement that has been wrought in Illinois in this respect is important and encouraging. It is largely due to the efforts of the State Supervisor of Rural Schools who has now been at work for four years under the supervision of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. A standard is set, including surroundings and ap-

pointments, to which almost all school districts aspire."

In Grundy County, every improvement suggested by the state officials has been effected by the public-spirited local educational officials with the gratifying results recorded above. Excellent libraries are to be found in nearly all of the schools and the teachers aim through them to encourage and direct a love of reading among the pupils. Habits thus early formed are likely to continue through life and not only add to the knowledge and pleasure of those who come under this elevating influence, but many times keep them from forming undesirable connections to pass away time which, were it not for reading, would often hang heavily upon idle hands.

The character and scholastic attainments of the educators of Grundy County are beyond question. As a whole they are a body of earnest, skilled, learned men and women laboring to impart knowledge and teach right living and the proper moral outlook upon life.

The history of education in Grundy County is very interesting in that it shows such a steady and definite development from the primitive log cabin schools of pioneer days to the almost perfect system of today. This record will be taken up by the townships, and special mention will be made of the present schools.

## MORRIS

The first teacher of Morris was Mrs. Ann Nagle, widow of James Nagle, the first clerk of Grundy County. She opened her school in 1843, in a double log cabin, southeast of the depot of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad.

The second school was taught by Miss Adelaide Wilkes, who later married E. P. Seeley. Following her was Miss Mary Hyslop, who later became Mrs. J. Blanding. The first male teacher was Charles R. Starr, who became circuit judge of Kankakee County. Following Judge Starr came Mrs. W. S. Woolsey, Oliver E. Parmelee, B. M. Atherlon, the latter being the first public school teacher.

The first school board met on December 21, 1843, being composed of Peter Griggs, Perry A. Claypool and William Brown, and divided the township into school districts. The foundation of the magnificent schools of Morris was when, in 1854, the Congressional allotment of a subdi-





vision of section 16. T. 33, R. 7, divided into fourteen lots containing in the aggregate 642 and 21-100 acres, was sold by George Fisher, then school commissioner, for \$9,479.08. In 1855, a law was passed governing the division of moneys according to school attendance.

In 1853 the school board erected what later became known as the old Center schoolhouse. A schoolhouse was erected in Chapin's addition to Morris and a Mr. Brooks engaged to teach it during 1853-4. One of his assistants was Miss Sarah Parmelee.

The first principal of the Morris schools was Edward Sanford, A. B., a graduate of Yale, but he resigned at the end of two years, and was succeeded by a Mr. Smith.

In 1859 H. K. Trask, A. B., was appointed principal and had as assistants: John Trask, Anna Trask, Eliza Baldwin, Sarah Parmelee and Kate Grant. John Trask succeeded Prof. H. K. Trask in 1861. Some of his assistants were: Kate Frame, Anna Trask, Sarah Parmelee, Kate Grant, Fannie A. Hale, Celia Frary, B. H. Streeter, B. F. Matteson, Robert Longworth, C. G. Conklin, C. Vanvalkenburgh, S. Wright, K. Morley, A. A. Hennessey. In 1863 Andrew Kirkland became principal and was succeeded by a Mr. Fisher in 1865. In the meanwhile the schoolhouse became too small and a Mrs. Bailey, wife of the Rev. G. S. Bailey, was engaged to teach a primary class at her residence in 1866.

Mr. Stillman E. Massey was engaged as principal in 1866, at \$1,000 per annum, and the following year it was voted to erect a brick schoolhouse.

In 1870 Prof. H. H. C. Miller was secured as principal of the Morris schools at a salary of \$1,200, and under him were the following teachers, assigned as follows:

CENTER SCHOOL—Room 2, Miss Emma Green; Room 3, Miss Carrie Barstow; Room 4, Miss Dora Schoonmaker; Room 5, Miss Jennie A. Bross; Room 6, Miss Jennie Wing; Room 7, Miss Myra Massey.

THIRD WARD—Room 1, Miss Mary Hubbard; Room 2, Miss Lizzie Hennessey, principal.

FOURTH WARD—Room 1, Miss Carrie Bullis; Room 2, Miss M. A. Rippan, principal.

FIFTH WARD—Room 1, Miss Alida Bliss; Room 2, Miss Minnie Barstow, principal.

In 1875 Prof. Miller, who had been principal all these years, resigned, and Prof. Mathew Waters was made his successor. In 1878, S. E.

Massey succeeded Mr. Waters, and that same year, Prof. L. T. Regan succeeded him. Other changes were made from time to time, Morris advancing along scholastic lines, but it was not until the incumbency of P. K. Cross that the High school took its present place among the institutions of its kind in the State. Prof. Cross was elected principal in 1898, and continued in that office until 1904. In the latter year A. M. Heater was elected, but did not teach, as he accepted the superintendency of the schools of St. Paul, Minn., later going to Pittsburgh. To fill the vacancy, W. G. Wuthrich was appointed and held the office until 1905, when he was succeeded by T. Rupert Simpkins. This gentleman served until 1907, when T. M. Birney was elected to the office and held it until 1911, when Prof. Edwin D. Martin was elected, and he is still superintendent of the city schools, comprising the Center, Garfield, McKinley and Lincoln grade schools, and the High school.

#### FACULTY OF THE MORRIS HIGH SCHOOL

Edwin D. Martin, Superintendent, Pedagogy; Lewis C. Roby, Principal, Mathematics; George G. Friedrich, Science and Athletics; Alice W. Cornelius, Latin and German; Margaret Rowmothan, English; Helen Hicks, English and Mathematics; Ada L. Codrington, Commercial; Grace Chalkland, History; Cora E. Lindlow, Music and Drawing; Edith Frame, Domestic Science; Harold Olds, Manual Training.

#### HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION

During the administration of P. K. Cross, the present High school building was first occupied, and under his administration steps were taken to establish an accredited High school, which resulted in the Morris High school being accredited first by the University of Illinois in 1901. It now is included in the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, which means that a graduate of this school will be admitted, without examination to all the colleges of the Middle West, and to many of the eastern colleges. It is interesting to note that the instructors and board of education have prepared a course which includes required and elective studies, so that any pupil can have the privilege of selecting his studies and preparing for future work. In the Freshman year, the required studies are: English, algebra and





HIGH SCHOOL, MAZON



HIGH SCHOOL, MORRIS



Greek and Roman history, while the elective ones are: physiography, business correspondence, Latin, botany, and commercial geography. During the Sophmore year the required studies are: English and plane geometry, and the elective ones are: Latin, physiology, zoology, commercial arithmetic, and bookkeeping. In the Junior year, the required studies are: English and physics, while the elective ones are: Latin, German, English history, bookkeeping and stenography. In the Senior year the required studies are English and American history and civics, while the elective ones are: Latin, German, pedagogy, solid geometry, advanced algebra, typewriting and stenography. In addition manual training and domestic science are taught to all High school pupils, while music is required of all first and second year pupils not excused, and is open to all. The commercial course is so thorough that graduates in it are well fitted to take positions in the business world. Additionally a teacher's course has been established, open only to senior girls who expect to adopt teaching as a profession.

The school maintains football, baseball, track and basketball teams, and the enjoyment pupils find in athletics, together with their gain in physical development and the cementing of school loyalty, form incentives for a continuance of these branches. Each pupil of the High school is expected to take an interest in literary work, and belongs to the Philomathian or the Lowell Literary Society, each club giving several entertainments each year. It is anticipated that these two clubs will be consolidated, which will give added strength to the work in this line.

It will be noticed that none but college graduates do departmental work in this High school, and this very commendable rule was passed during the administration of Mr. Cross, and continues in force at the present writing.

The High school enrollment averages 212 pupils annually, while the attendance on the grade schools is 637. There are nine instructors in the High school, and eighteen grade teachers. One of the most beneficent measures ever passed relative to educational matters is one which now prevails in the State of Illinois, and that is that those students who come from districts which do not support a high school are entitled to attend the nearest high school free of charge. The tuition will be collected from the district in which the student lives.

In connection with the educational life of Morris must be mentioned a school, now defunct, which once afforded advantages to the pupils of Morris, known as the Morris Normal and Scientific School. In 1869, N. C. Dougherty, A. M., opened a private school in a single room over the office of Mr. Sanford, and from this grew the Morris Classic Institute, which later was incorporated as a normal school. After many changes in its management, A. W. Bulkley, A. B., took charge, and then Prof. Beatie conducted it. In 1878, Messrs. Cook & Stevens bought the property, adopted the caption of the Morris Normal and Scientific School, and developed it into an admirable preparatory institution. With the establishment and improvement of the High school, however, the need for this school no longer existed, and it was discontinued. St. Angela's Academy, which is regarded as one of the important educational features of Grundy County, is treated at length elsewhere in this work.

There are ninety-eight country schools in Grundy County, so arranged as to afford one for every four Congressional sections, and located at the cross roads, so that the pupils may attend from a territory extending one mile in each direction. Some excellent work has been done in bringing these country schools up to standard; many of them, perhaps one-half, are standard according to the State laws, and the remainder are working towards that end. The present incumbent of the office of County Superintendent, has introduced a novel feature, one which promises to bring excellent results, that of teaching scientific and practical agriculture. This study has awakened interest in agricultural matters in the rural regions, and has induced the pupils to take pride in the appearance of their school grounds, some having been made very beautiful. A graduate from a country school can enter any accredited high school, because of the efficiency of the methods employed. The ages of the graduates vary from fourteen to sixteen years.

It is estimated in round numbers that the attendance on the country schools aggregates 2,156 pupils, while the cost of maintenance is in the neighborhood of \$35,302.50 annually. There are ninety-eight county school teachers. As before remarked, these teachers average as earnest and progressive, eagerly seconding those in authority in endeavoring to secure better equipments and surroundings. It is the am-



bition of each one to bring all the country schools up to standard, and there is no doubt but that the time is not far distant when all the country schools of Grundy County, instead of only a good proportion of them, will belong to this desirable class.

#### MASON

Mason has always been interested in educational matters, and for its size has provided liberally for its pupils. Its High school was established in 1909, but the handsome new building, which was erected at a cost of \$10,000, was not occupied until the fall of 1913. The present principal is Prof. Shields, and his assistants, five in number, are efficient instructors. Mason's High school, although considerably younger than that at Morris, is keeping pace with it, and its pupils are sent forth into the world well equipped for a professional or business career.

#### GARDNER

Gardner has recently resumed the fourth year of its High school course. While the history of its High school is a little different from that of some of the other villages, it is interesting and demonstrates the fact that the influence for higher education is manifested here as elsewhere.

#### COAL CITY

Still another High school is at Coal City, being conducted as a township High school, and is open to students of that village and Suffernville, and Felix Township. It was opened in the fall of 1914, with Sherman Littler as principal.

#### INFLUENCE AND ASSISTANCE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

The remarkable impetus given educational matters within recent years must largely be accredited to the influence of the High school. With its advancement has come the demand on the part of the pupils of the country schools for better instruction and teachers, so that when they are graduated from them, they are prepared to enter upon the work of the High school without any further training. Their minds are broadened, their intellects stimulated, and their ambition fired, and they work with a definite object in view, that of equipping them-

selves so that they can continue their studies in one or other of the High schools in their county. When it is remembered how important it is that those who propose entering the outside world to struggle with its problems should be fitted through careful and practical training, some appreciation will be gained of the necessity of the maintenance of present high educational standards and a further expansion, as the need arises, of the work in hand.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

PIONEER PHYSICIANS—CLOSE TO THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE—NO TRAINED NURSES—NO PROPER APPLIANCES—MANY STILL HELD IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE—FIRST DOCTOR IN GRUNDY—OTHER EARLY PHYSICIANS AT MORRIS—GARDNER—MAZON—FIRST SURGICAL OPERATION—DR. AUSTIN ELISHA PALMER—PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION—LIST OF COUNTY CORONERS.

(By Frank Austin Palmer, M. D.)

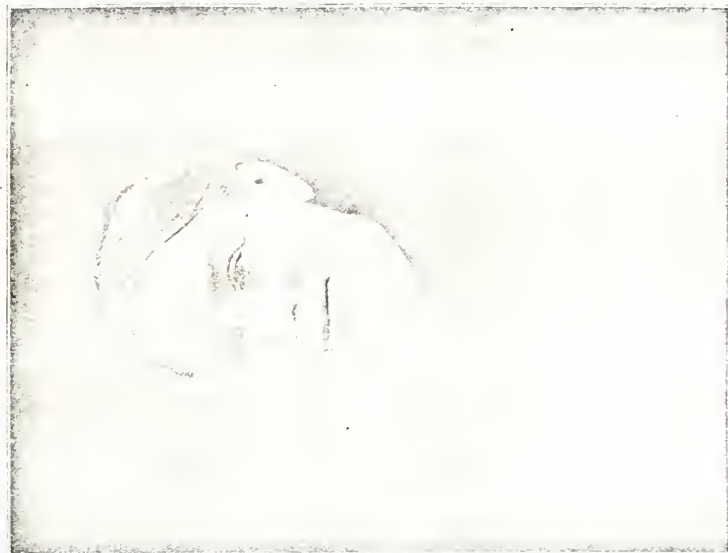
(When the editors of the History of Grundy County first prepared their prospectus of the proposed work, the late Dr. A. E. Palmer was asked to write of his recollections of the medical men of earlier Morris, the county seat, and of the profession in the county. This he most kindly consented to do, and had the article well planned when death claimed him. Unfortunately he had committed but little to paper, and therefore much of interest that would have been forthcoming had he been spared is lost. His son, Dr. F. A. Palmer, however, generously assumed his father's work along this line, and prepared as far as lay in his power the following article relative to the men of his profession in Grundy County, although much of the information is necessarily meager, owing to lack of sufficient documentary records.)

#### PIONEER PHYSICIANS

While modern physicians and surgeons are penetrating into the very center of life itself, daily discovering facts and remedial agents







ELIZABETH BAUM



HENRY BAUM



which revolutionize former accepted theories. It is doubtful if any of them come as close to the hearts of the people as did the men who carried on a general practice in the pioneer days of any community. These good, kindly men of medicine, whose hearts often were bigger than their pocketbooks, ministered to the sick and dying, and brought into the world children destined to lead their people to great things.

These old time physicians minded not weather; heat nor cold had no deterrent effect upon them. A physician thought nothing of rising from his bed in the middle of the night and going out into a terrible blizzard, sometimes on horseback, or driving the horse he had hitched to his buggy or sleigh, through the storm many miles to reach the bedside of the sufferer. In those days there were no trained nurses to follow implicitly the directions of their chief. Then the doctor had to administer his medicines himself and carry out his own prescriptions or probably see them bungled and the patient injured.

True, the pioneers lived an outdoor existence, but it did not protect them from all the ills that flesh is heir to. They were not troubled by overheated apartments, or made sick by a consumption of imported luxuries, but, on the other hand, they were exposed to the rigors of the climate, had but little idea of protecting themselves from the dangers of swamp or forest, and knew practically nothing of guarding against infection. When some dire epidemic swept the country the physicians were almost powerless against it, not always because of lack of knowledge, but because of the want of suitable means with which to fight it. For these and many other reasons the early physicians of any pioneer community worked hard and unceasingly, and as the people were poor, received but scant remuneration for their efforts. Grundy County was no exception to this rule, and its people hold in tender remembrance the names of those medical men who were their pioneer physicians.

#### FIRST DOCTOR IN GRUNDY

The first doctor of Grundy County was Dr. Luther S. Robbins, who came to Morris from Sulphur Spring, eight miles south of Morris, in the fall of 1842, but died several years later, so he was not long in active practice here.

The next physician was Dr. Silas Miller, who

located in Morris in 1843, but as there was little need for his ministrations at that time, he left soon thereafter.

Dr. John Antis came to Morris in May, 1845, and he was followed by Dr. Thomas M. Reed, who, in 1847, was elected Sheriff of Grundy County, but died before entering upon the duties of his office.

Dr. A. F. Hand, Dr. David Edwards and Oliver S. Newell arrived about the same time, although Dr. Edwards was practically retired, as he was then an old man, and when he left Morris in 1856. Dr. Luke Hale bought what practice he had and continued there until his death in 1865. The son of Dr. Luke Hale, Dr. Roscoe L. Hale, came to Morris in 1858, but after the Civil War went to Missouri.

In 1850 Dr. B. E. Dodson came to Morris, but several years later removed to Elgin.

Dr. H. H. De Hart arrived about 1852 but soon left, as he thought the place was too small to support a physician.

Dr. David LeRoy was another early physician, who came to Morris about 1855, but later became a merchant.

Dr. John N. Freeman was a physician here from 1857 to 1867, and Dr. S. D. Ferguson was another early physician of Morris.

Dr. John H. Freeman was at Morris in 1855 and 1856, but later located at Brooklyn, N. Y. He was the son of a Baptist minister and a highly educated man and very successful in his profession.

Dr. Emanuel Ridgway was another of the physicians of Morris who was prominent in its earlier history. He served as Coroner of the county, was Chief of the Fire Department, and a member of the Board of Education, and was always to be relied upon whenever occasion demanded. In 1870 Dr. A. D. Smith came to Morris, and in 1872 Dr. M. C. Sturtevant.

Dr. J. B. Taxis came to Gardner in 1859; Dr. W. W. McMann in 1863, and Drs. J. Underhill and C. M. Easton a little later.

The first physician of Mazon was Dr. L. S. Robbins, who located there in 1833. The next record is of Dr. S. Rodgers, who located at Mazon in 1850, having come from Indiana. He made no pretensions to being a surgeon, but when necessity arose was equal to demands made upon him. One of the earlier physicians of Morris recalls distinctly an operation performed by Dr. Rodgers that is worthy of mention. A man was injured while threshing, and



the physician when summoned saw that in order to save his life, his arm would have to be amputated without delay. The young physician had no instruments suitable, so borrowed a saw from one of the neighbors, either a wood or a cross-cut saw, and took off the arm without any further delay. There is no data at hand to tell whether the man survived or not. Another physician of Mazon during the latter sixties was Dr. Thomas. Dr. Wakefield, another Mazon physician of that date, was assisted by his wife.

One of the best known of the older physicians of Morris, whose activities extended over many years, was the late Dr. Austin Elisha Palmer, senior member of the firm of Palmer & Palmer, who had associated with him his son, Dr. Frank Austin Palmer, and Dr. Roscoe Whitman. The late Dr. Palmer was born at Wyoming, N. Y., November 9, 1846, and was graduated from the Bellevue Hospital Medical College in 1869. During the early part of that same year he entered upon a general practice at Braceville, Grundy County, Illinois, but within a few months moved to Old Mazon, and in 1876 settled at Morris, where he continued until his death. In addition to carrying on an extensive private practice, he served as surgeon of the Rock Island road for over twenty years. He was also one of Grundy County's Coroners, was President of the School Board, an Alderman from his ward, and was twice elected Mayor of Morris, the present system of water supply being installed during his incumbency of the office. His death, on June 19, 1912, left a vacancy difficult to fill.

The above is too limited a list of the medical men who have served Grundy County and of their achievements. Further record should be made of them, but unfortunately those who could have written of them as associates have either moved away or have been called into another life, and definite knowledge seems sadly lacking.

#### PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION

Some of the leading physicians of Grundy County at present may be found in the following list: Drs. A. V. Allen, F. M. Allison, J. W. Allison, F. C. Bowker, J. C. Bucher, J. F. Carey, H. M. Ferguson, H. B. Gilbourne, W. E. Hart, G. A. Leach, F. A. Palmer, William G. Sachse, Sam Smith, F. A. Stockdale, M. C. Sturtevant, G. B. Terrands, W. E. Walsh and Roscoe Whitman.

Dr. Frank Austin Palmer was born at Old Mazon, Illinois, November 10, 1873. After being graduated from the Morris High school in 1890, he attended St. John's Military Academy of Delafield, Wis., during 1891, and in 1897 was graduated from the medical department of the Northwestern University of Chicago, receiving in that year his degree of M. D. The following year was spent as interne at the Passavant Memorial Hospital, Chicago, in association with the late Dr. Christian Fenger, and in 1898 and 1899, he was an assistant to his father. From 1899 to 1902, he was in practice at Gardner, Illinois, and he then became an assistant in surgery to Prof. Emil Ries of Chicago, and in 1904 he was made surgical assistant to Prof. Alexander Hugh Ferguson in charge of his private institution (the Chicago Hospital). In 1906 Dr. Palmer returned to Morris and entered into partnership with his father, the late Dr. A. E. Palmer. He now takes care of a large private practice and is on the staff of the Morris Hospital.

#### CORONERS

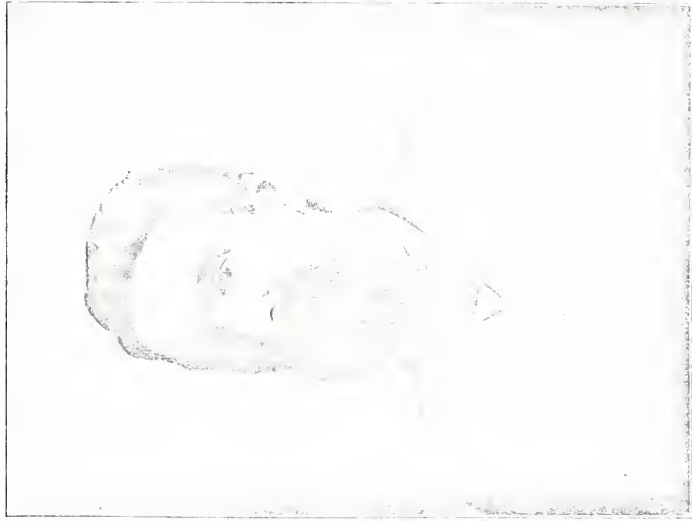
The Coroners of Grundy County have been as follows: Leander Leclere, 1841-1843; Samuel Ayers, 1844-1848; Henry Beebe, 1849; James H. O'Brian, 1850-1853; James B. Jones, 1851-1858; E. Ridgway, 1859-1860; Norman R. Griswold, 1861-1862; J. B. Jones, 1863-1864; Levi Hills, Sr., 1865-1866; John N. Freeman, 1867; George E. Parmlee, 1868; E. Ridgway, 1869-1884; Truman A. Hand, 1885-1888; E. T. Abell, 1889-1892; H. M. Ferguson, 1893-1896; J. E. Brock, 1897-1903; H. M. Ferguson, 1904-1911; W. G. Sachse, 1912-1914.

#### CHAPTER XII

#### MILITARY HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR, SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, ETC.

THE CIVIL WAR—AN EPOCH IN HISTORY—THE SITUATION—UNPREPARED FOR WAR—THE GRUNDY TIGERS—ELEVENTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—TRANSFER OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH TO THE ELEVENTH—TWENTY-THIRD ILLINOIS





W H Benson



Emily & Benson





VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—THIRTY-SIXTH ILLINOIS  
 VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—FIFTY-FIFTH ILLINOIS  
 VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—FIFTY-EIGHTH ILLINOIS  
 VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—SEVENTY-SECOND ILLINOIS  
 VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—SEVENTY-SIXTH ILLINOIS  
 VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—EIGHTY-EIGHTH ILLINOIS  
 VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—NINETY-FIRST ILLINOIS  
 VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-  
 SEVENTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—  
 FOURTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER CAVALRY—LOYALTY  
 AND DEVOTION OF WOMEN—SPANISH-AMERICAN  
 WAR—SHABBONA.

## UNPREPARED FOR WAR

The event and dispatch found Illinois unprepared for war. Although secession ordinances had been passed by southern states; although public property had been seized in violation of law and strange flags were flying over southern forts; and although food and reinforcements for the beleaguered garrison at Sumter had been driven back to sea in January—yet our people could not realize that we were, indeed, in a state of civil war. When the people of Grundy County finally realized the deplorable condition of the State, almost with one accord they rose and asked "what can we do to be saved and to save others yet unborn." Subsequent events demonstrated the patriotism of Grundy County was equal to the emergency.

(By William Reardon)

## THE CIVIL WAR

The years between 1861 and 1865 marked an epoch in the history of the United States and had a mighty influence on the lives and fortunes of every portion of the country, the writer being especially concerned as a citizen of Grundy County, Illinois. To him it appeared that nothing short of utter extermination of the inhabitants would settle the stupendous question confronting us. The belligerents on both sides, North and South, were American and blue blood coursed in the veins of both. Each side was ready to fight to uphold and protect what had been handed down by their forefathers, and each contesting party hoped until the last that the other would sue for peace after reconsidering the steps toward war already taken. However it was not to be and four long years of war followed.

## THE SITUATION

On the evening of April 15, 1861, the following dispatch was received:

Washington, April 15, 1861.

His Excellency Richard Yates—

Call made on you by tonight's mail for six regiments of militia for immediate service.

SIMON CAMERON,  
 Secretary of War.

The great but humiliating event which preceded the sending of this dispatch was the fall of Fort Sumter, at noon, two days previously, on which day, for the first time since the organization of the United States Government, our national emblem was struck down by traitorous hands.

## THE GRUNDY TIGERS

Attention is called to the fact that the call for volunteers for three months was made April 15, 1861, and on April 30, 1861, a company was organized and mustered into the United States service as the Grundy Tigers.

When the term of this company's enlistment had expired, many reenlisted and became members of the Eleventh Illinois, the Twenty-third Illinois and the Seventy-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

## ELEVENTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The Eleventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry was called into service under the Proclamation of President Lincoln, April 16, 1861. It was organized at Springfield and was mustered into service April 30, 1861, by Captain Pope. Upon the muster, on July 13, 1861, the aggregate membership was 288; during August, September, October and November, the regiment was recruited to 501. In the meantime it was doing garrison and field duty and its movements may be catalogued as follows: September 9th to 11th, expedition to New Madrid; October 6th to 10th, to Charleston, Missouri; November 3rd to 12th, to Bloomfield, Missouri, returning to Girardeau; January 7th to 8th, 1862, expedition to Charleston, Missouri; January 13th to 20th, reconnaissance of Columbus, Kentucky, under General Grant; February 11th moved toward Fort Donelson; February 12th, 13th and 14th, occupied investing that place; February 15th, heavily engaged with the enemy about five hours,



losing 329 killed, wounded and missing out of 500 engaged; March 4th to 5th, moved to Fort Henry; 5th to 13th to Savannah in transports; 23rd to 25th to Pittsburg Landing; April 6th to 7th engaged in battle of Shiloh, losing 27 killed and wounded out of 159 engaged; April 24th to June 4th, participated in siege of Corinth. The regiment then marched to Jackson, Tennessee, where it made headquarters until August 2, 1862. It participated in two engagements on July 1st and 2nd, in march toward Trenton, Tennessee; July 23rd to 28th moved to Lexington; August 2nd moved to Cairo, Illinois, for purpose of recruiting and remained at that point until August 23, 1862; moved then to Paducah, Kentucky, remaining there until August 24th, moving then to Clarksville, Tennessee, via Fort Henry and Donelson; October 21st to 24th, to La Grange, Tennessee. From this time until January 12, 1863, it took part in the campaign in northern Mississippi; moved to Ashville below Oxford, then to Holly Springs and Memphis; on 17th embarked on transport to Young's Point.

On April 23, 1863, the One Hundred and Ninth Illinois Infantry was transferred to the Eleventh, 589 being the aggregate gained by the transfer. On April 26, 1863, this regiment was a part of the command moved to the rear of Vicksburg, by way of Raymond, Perkins' Landing, Grand Gulf, Raymond and Black Rivers, arriving before the works May 18; May 19 to 22 engaged in assault of the enemy's works; then in the advance siege work until July 4, time of surrender, losing one field officer, Col. Garrett Nevins, killed. Three line officers were wounded and forty men were killed and wounded. The regiment was with the expedition from Vicksburg to Jackson under General Slocum and engaged with the enemy three times; July 29 moved to Morganza; November 8 moved to Duval's Bluff, Arkansas. This regiment was also engaged in the operations against Mobile, marching from Fort Morgan and participating in the investment, siege and final capture of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakeley and the assault on the latter; April 12 marched in and took possession of the city of Mobile and remained until May 27; embarked on transports and moved to New Orleans and from there to Alexandria, Louisiana, thence to Baton Rouge and was there mustered out of the service, July 14, 1865, and left for Springfield, Illinois, for payment and final discharge. The record of this regiment shows that 149 members died on the field or of wounds; the

total number of men and officers engaged aggregating 2,865.

#### GENERAL OFFICERS

Gen. W. H. L. Wallace, Gen. T. E. B. Ransom, Gen. Smith D. Atkins.

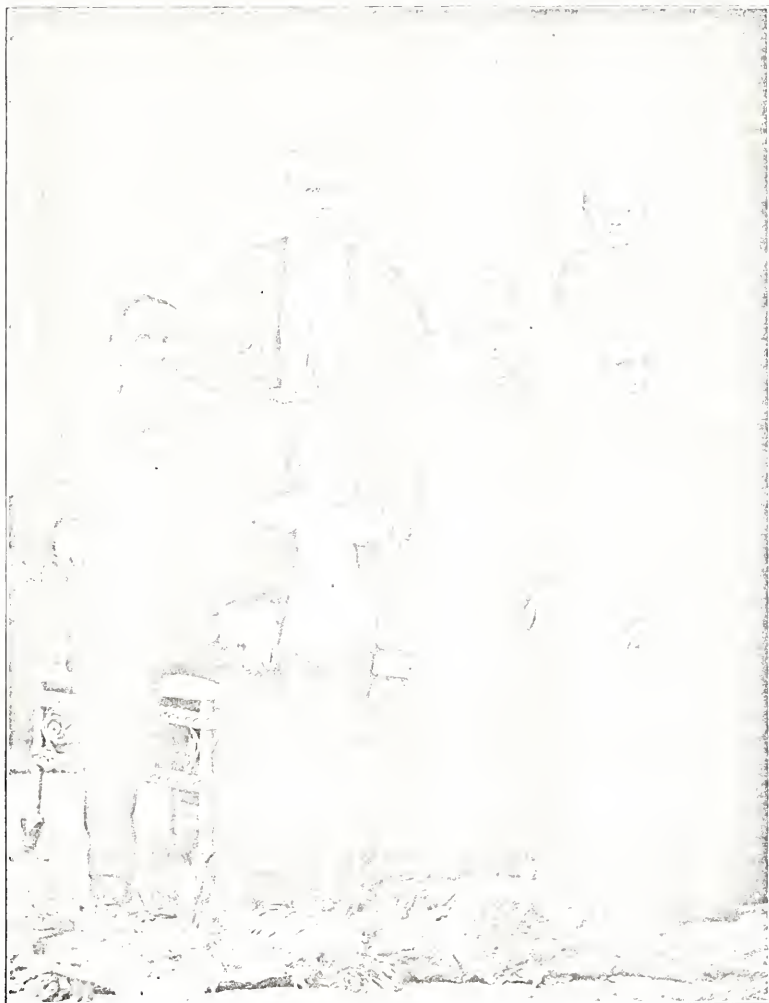
The following field officers of other regiments were members of this regiment: Major Widner, Major Dean, Lieutenant-Colonel McCaleb, Colonel Hotchkiss, Colonel Kaufman, Colonel Dean, Colonel Fort. This regiment supplied thirty-three line officers to other regiments.

#### TWENTY-THIRD ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The organization of the Twenty-third Infantry commenced under the popular name of the "Irish Brigade" at Chicago, immediately upon the opening of hostilities at Sumter, and served until the closing of the war. Among the officers whom it was compelled to mourn as lost in battle was its illustrious commander, Col. James A. Mulligan, of Chicago, who fell while commanding a division of the Army of West Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley, July 24, 1864, and perished while in the hands of the enemy, two days later, of three wounds while at the head of his own regiment. So confident was he of the valor of his men that he galloped to their head in order to lead them out as a steady rear guard of the other regiments who were fleeing from the whole force of Early's army.

The formal muster of the Twenty-third took place June 15, 1861, Chicago, the barracks being near the river on West Polk Street. On July 14, 1861, it moved to Quincy, Illinois, then to St. Louis. Brigadier-General Grant superseded Colonel Davis as commander at Jefferson City, and on September 18 the regiment commenced a march of 120 miles to Lexington, Kentucky, where the first notable siege began. The Confederates advanced with a battery of six guns and on the 12th were repulsed, but the post was then surrounded by an army of 28,000 men with 13 pieces of artillery. For nine days the garrison sustained the unequal conflict, not alone against the greatly superior force but against hunger and thirst. On the 20th the most determined assault was made and surrender became necessary. The killed and wounded of the Twenty-third numbered 167, while General Price reported his losses at 800. The officers, with the exception of Colonel Mulligan, and the men, were paroled. On the 8th the regiment was





Lewis Burton and Family



mustered out by order of General Fremont, but on the personal application of Colonel Mulligan, who had been exchanged for General Frost, it was directed that its organization be retained. Reassembling at Camp Douglas, under command of Colonel Mulligan, it was engaged in guarding prisoners until June 14, 1862, when it was ordered to Harper's Ferry, Virginia. In 1863 this regiment attacked the flank of Lee's army on his retreat from Gettysburg and also had an engagement with Gen. Wade Hampton's command at Hydeville. After reenlisting as veterans in April, 1864, the regiment was reorganized at Chicago and then returned to Virginia and from August, 1864, to December 25, 1864, was actively engaged under General Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley and participated in the battles of Cedar Creek, Winchester, Charlestown, Hallsboro, Berryville and others. In January and February, 1864, was stationed at Greenland Gap, West Virginia, and there Lieut. John S. Healy reenlisted about three hundred of the men as veterans and when they returned to Chicago on a furlough of thirty days the regiment was known as the Twenty-third Regiment Illinois Veterans. This regiment was thanked by Congress for its gallantry at Lexington and was authorized to inscribe Lexington on its colors.

#### THIRTY-SIXTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry was organized at Camp Hammond, near Aurora, Illinois, by Col. Nicholas Greusel and was mustered into the service by Colonel Brackett, United States recruiting officer, September 23, 1861, for a term of three years or during the war. The regiment numbered 965 officers and enlisted men, with cavalry, Companies A and B, with 186 officers and men. On September 24, 1861, the regiment reached St. Louis, Missouri, the cavalry companies being armed with minie and Enfield rifles and the other companies with remodeled Springfield muskets. The regiment left the cavalry at Benton Barracks on the 25th and moved to Rolla, where it remained in camp until January 14, 1862, when it went to Springfield, Missouri. The brigade commanded by Colonel Osterham was made up of the Thirty-fifth, the Thirty-sixth and the Forty-fourth Illinois and the Twentieth Missouri Infantry and participated in the battle of Pea Ridge on March 8, 1862, afterward going into camp. On the evacuation of Corinth, moved to Booneville, then to Rienzi, then to Cincinnati and went into camp

at Covington, Kentucky. On September 19, 1862, the Thirty-sixth was assigned to General Sheridan's division and started on the Kentucky campaign in pursuit of General Bragg, afterward retiring to Nashville and in that vicinity remained until December 26, 1862, when it broke camp and started on the Murfreesboro campaign. On the last day of December it took part in the battle of Stone River, after which it went into camp on the Shelbyville turnpike, on the bank of Stone River. This regiment took an active part in the battle of Missionary Ridge, November 25, 1863, its colors being among the first planted on the ridge. On November 28, 1863, under General Sheridan, the regiment started for Knoxville, Tennessee, to the relief of General Burnside, reaching that point December 6, on the 12th leaving for points outside the city and went into camp at Blaine Cross Roads.

On January 1, 1864, the regiment reenlisted and then started for Chattanooga to arrange details of muster for a new term of service preparatory to a veteran furlough. On May 3 the regiment started on the Atlanta campaign, during which it was almost daily under fire and fought at Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek and marched into Atlanta September 8; on the 25th was ordered back to Chattanooga and left that place on the 2nd of October in pursuit of Hood, being the rear guard and under fire almost continually from Springhill to Franklin, where it participated in that memorable battle and General Thomas personally thanked the regiment for its display of bravery. The First Brigade, to which it belonged, Colonel Opydke commanding, charged the Confederate lines during different periods in the action and captured thirty-three stands of colors and on the night of November 30 was the last to cross the bridge over the Carpeh River on returning from the field to Nashville, which place it reached on the afternoon of December 1st. On December 15-16 it was engaged in the battle of Nashville and captured a battery and over one hundred prisoners. The regiment went into camp at Blue Springs and while there received the news of General Lee's surrender and also the news of the assassination of President Lincoln. It was then ordered back to Nashville and remained there until June when it went by rail to Johnsonville on the Tennessee River, was there placed on transports and reached New Orleans on June 23 following. It was at the special request of General Sheridan that the Thirty-sixth was





detailed for headquarters and other special guard duty and thereby received the name, from other troops, of "Sheridan's Pets." This regiment did special duty quelling disturbances, guarding paymasters and conveying captured archives to Washington, District of Columbia. On October 8, 1865, it was mustered out of the service and proceeded to Springfield, received its pay and discharge. In general engagements alone the Thirty-sixth lost in killed and wounded over seven hundred men; marched and was transported by rail and boat over ten thousand miles, and changed commanding officers ten times.

Hendly G. Hoge volunteered and went to Kan-kakee to be mustered into the service with the writer, in Company C, Seventy-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, on August 23, 1862. He had lost his front teeth, hence was rejected as a volunteer, front teeth being necessary equipments of a soldier then as cartridges when loading muskets, were torn open by the teeth. This explains why he was drafted. He was patriotic and went into the service himself, sending no substitute. The writer wishes to pay tribute to his memory as he was a man of noble character both in war and peace. Two of his children survive, a son, Albert Hoge, and a daughter, Mrs. George Towsley, both being residents of Grundy County.

#### FIFTY-FIFTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The Fifty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry was organized at Camp Douglas, Chicago, and mustered into the service, October 31, 1861. It was one of two regiments raised by David Stuart, its subsequent colonel and was called the "Douglas Brigade." It was principally made up from bodies of recruits from Fulton, McDonough, LaSalle, Grundy, DeKalb, Kane and Winnebago counties and its members were mainly farmer boys. Its condensed record is as follows.

On November 9, 1861, left Camp Douglas for St. Louis and remained at Benton barracks under the command of Gen. W. T. Sherman until July 12, 1862, learning something of the art of war; then departed for Paducah, Kentucky, on a steamer frozen and aground for several days on account of ice in the river; on March 8, 1862, embarked on steamer to take part in the movement up the Tennessee River which resulted in the battle of Shiloh and movement on Corinth; on March 15 landed with other troops several miles above Pittsburg Landing;

from that point dropped down and went into camp at Pittsburg Landing. On the morning of the battle of Shiloh, like all other troops on the field, it had no premonition of the fearful conflict to follow, in which it lost the heaviest of any Union regiment in the battle except the Ninth Illinois Infantry. The loss sustained by the Fifty-fifth was one officer and 51 enlisted men killed, nine officers and 190 men wounded and 26 men captured. In the advance on Corinth which it entered May 30, the regiment lost one killed and eight wounded. On April 30, 1863, the regiment went on the expedition to Haines Bluff; was under fire at Champion's Hill but lost no men; participated in the assault and bore its full share during the siege of Vicksburg, losing four in killed and 32 wounded; September 27, 1863, encamped in vicinity of Big Black River; during night of November 23 manned fleet of pontoon boats in North Chickamauga Creek and in intense darkness descended and crossed the Tennessee and captured the enemy's pickets. This was one of the most daring operations of the war and added laurels to the fame of the regiment. It participated in the battle of Missionary Ridge which followed. Its heaviest loss was at the assault upon Kennesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864, 14 being killed including the gallant Captain Augustine, with 38 wounded. After the surrender of General Johnston the regiment marched to Washington and took part in the grand review. It was then ordered to Louisville, Kentucky, where it remained in camp a few weeks then moved to Little Rock, where it was mustered out August 14, 1865; arrived in Chicago on the 22nd, where it received final payment and discharge. This regiment was engaged in 31 battles and was under fire 128 days, and traveled a total of 11,965 miles. After its reorganization at the close of the three-year term, it was commanded until nearly the close of its career by its senior captain, when Capt. A. A. Andress became lieutenant-colonel. Its dead now rest in burial in nine different states.

#### FIFTY-EIGHTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The Fifty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry was recruited at Camp Douglas, Chicago, and on February 11, 1862, was furnished with arms and started for Cairo, Illinois. The condensed account of its subsequent movements is herewith given. From Cairo it moved up the Cumberland River to the vicinity of Fort Donelson; was at-



tacked by a masked battery but drove the enemy backward, these raw troops, with but poor equipments showing the bravery of trained soldiers; the arms that had been given them being those condemned and thrown aside by other regiments. Heavy firing from the front aroused the regiment early on April 6, 1862, and the regiment was moved forward a mile and a half, when General Grant, in person, ordered this command to take a position across the road. In holding this position the Fifty-eighth was constantly under fire and the loss and suffering caused confusion and later the surrender of the regiment, a few minutes before six o'clock, after a disastrous day. The loss in this engagement was frightful, amounting in killed, wounded and prisoners to 450 brave men. The Fifty-eighth was mustered out at Montgomery, Alabama, April 1, 1863, was ordered to Springfield and there was paid and discharged.

#### SEVENTY-SECOND ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The Seventy-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry was organized at Chicago as the First Regiment of the Board of Trade of Chicago. Its first bills were put out for one company calling itself the Hancock Guards, on July 23, 1863, and in exactly one month, August 23, the entire regiment was complete and was mustered into the service of the United States for three years or during the war. On September 6 following the Seventy-second was ordered to Paducah, Kentucky; on the 17th the troops were sent to Columbus, Kentucky; in October they dispersed a Confederate camp and captured a number of prisoners; on October 21 moved to New Madrid, and on November 21 were ordered to join General Quinby's command. Owing to supplies being cut off Grant's army was forced to return at Holly Springs, and the Seventy-second was sent as wagon guard to the train to Memphis, Tennessee. On April 23 they went to Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, and from there marched up with Grant's army to Vicksburg; on May 16 arrived at Champion's Hill and at that place took part in its first pitched battle. From that time on until July 4, when the enemy capitulated, the Seventy-second did its duty among the foremost in the siege of Vicksburg and when the city capitulated were among the first to march into the proud old city. On October 30, 1861, these troops were ordered to report to General Howard then with General Sherman's army. On November 29 they evacuated Columbia and the Seventy-

second was in the sharp skirmish with the enemy at Spring Hill, on the road to Franklin, arriving there on the next day and throwing up earthworks which General Hood attacked and a terrific battle followed which lasted from 4 o'clock in the afternoon until midnight. In that fight the Seventy-second lost nine officers out of the sixteen engaged and 152 men in killed and wounded. On December 15 the whole army was moved outside to give battle to Hood and on that and the succeeding day the battle of Nashville was fought, resulting in the complete routing of the Confederates. On February 9, 1865, the regiment started for New Orleans, where the troops arrived on the 21st, late in the following month moving with their army corps and took part in the battle of Spanish Fort. They remained at Montgomery until May 23, when they were ordered to Union Springs, Alabama; on July 19 started on their homeward journey; on August 6 were mustered out of the service at Vicksburg and then marched directly to Chicago. Since entering the service this regiment had traveled 9,280 miles and were under fire for 145 days.

#### SEVENTY-SIXTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The Seventy-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry was organized at Kankakee, Illinois, in August, 1862, by Col. A. W. Mark, and was mustered in August 22, 1862, immediately being ordered to Columbus, Kentucky, at which place it arrived August 29 and was soon armed with Enfield rifles. In October it moved to Bolivar, Tennessee, leaving November 3 with other bodies of troops for La Grange, Tennessee, on the 28th accompanying General Grant on his campaign along the Mississippi River. It was at Holly Springs on the 29th and on the 30th at Waterford, doing its part in driving Price's army southwest. The Fourth Division of the Thirteenth Army Corps, to which the Seventy-sixth belonged, remained near Waterford contending with fierce storms and seemingly fathomless mud until December 11, when it continued its march southwest. It crossed the Tallabatchie River, passed through Abbeyville and Oxford and halted near Springdale. On December 22, when information was received that the Confederates had captured Holly Springs, had cut off communication with the North and destroyed quantities of supplies, the entire Union command was faced about and proceeded north, living off the country and at times on extremely short rations.



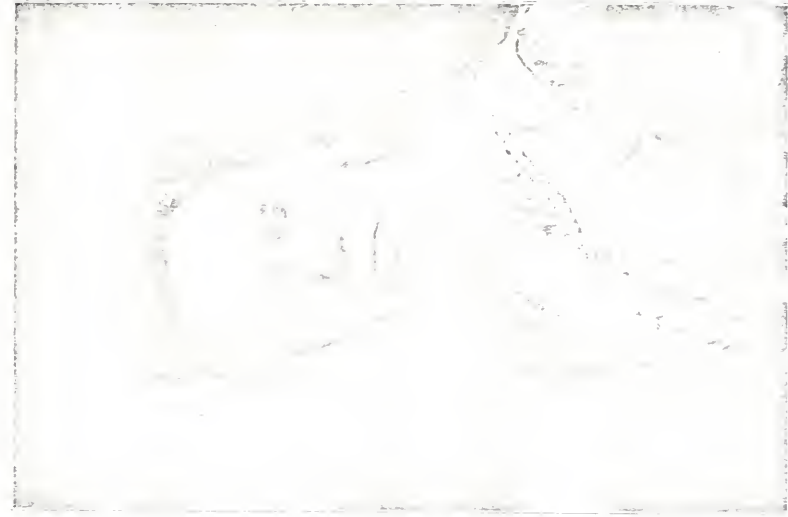
Holly Springs was reached and entered on January 5, 1863, and there the Seventy-sixth remained until January 10, and was the last to march out of the city, arriving at Moscow on the 11th and remaining there until February 5. There the soldiers learned of the absence and resignation of their colonel, after which the lieutenant-colonel was promoted to be colonel.

On February 5, 1863, the camp was moved through mud and snow to Lafayette and remained there until March 10, then marched to Memphis, on May 10 embarking from there with other troops on a fleet of steamers, the Fort Wagener carrying the Seventy-sixth. It was fired on in the night from the Arkansas shore by a band of guerillas and two men were wounded and the boat disabled. The Seventy-sixth landed in the morning and burned the buildings on the plantation, while the boat was towed down stream with the fleet to Young's Point, Louisiana, landing May 17. On the following day the regiment marched across the point to the river below Vicksburg and embarked for Grand Gulf, returned to the point on the 29th and immediately embarked for Chickasaw Bayou, on the Yazoo River, at which place it debarked and was engaged in closing the river in the rear of Vicksburg until after the charge, when it was placed on the left of the besieging line and bravely held its situation under the enemy's fire until the final surrender on July 4, 1863. On the 5th the regiment moved with General Sherman's army against Iuka, Mississippi, skirmishing with the enemy at Big Black River and Champion's Hill. At Iuka, under Johnston, the Confederates made a stand and engaged our forces from the 12th to the 16th, the Seventy-sixth occupying the extreme right. On the morning of the 17th the city was vacated by the Confederates and the Union troops immediately marched in. The regiment left Jackson July 21 and arrived at Vicksburg on the 23rd. On July 1, 1864, the regiment started on an expedition to Jackson, Mississippi, commanded by General Slocum and on its return was met by the enemy between Iuka and Clinton and a sharp battle was fought on the 6th and renewed on the 7th when the Seventy-sixth was cut off from the balance of the brigade and had to cut its way out with a loss of 102 men, sixteen of whom were reported killed and left on the field and eighty-six were wounded or missing. The regiment thus depleted returned to Vicksburg July 9, 1864. On September 3 the regiment embarked on the steamer Nebraska and moved up White River,

landed and camped on the Arkansas shore and remained until October 18, on November 7 reaching Duval's Bluff, where it built cabins with the expectation of spending the winter. In obedience to orders, however, it broke camp on the 28th and on the 30th landed at Memphis, Tennessee, where it remained until December 31, 1864, when ordered to embark on the steamer Niagara, for New Orleans at which place it arrived on January 4, 1865. It remained near there in camp until February 12, when it was reembarked and proceeded across the Gulf of Mexico to Mobile Point. The regiment was divided and carried on three different craft. A terrible storm was encountered and the George Peabody, on which the Seventy-sixth and parts of other regiments were, was nearly wrecked, in which all the wagons, horses and mules were consigned to the deep, the vessel barely reaching land with its human freight. On March 20 accompanied the expedition to Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, near Mobile, and on April 1 the army approached Fort Blakely and on the next day drove the enemy inside its fortifications. With united forces, on April 8, Spanish Fort was captured and on the following day the Seventy-sixth participated in the charge on Fort Blakely, capturing the entire garrison. The colors of this regiment were the first planted on the enemy's works. The Seventy-sixth lost in this last battle of the war, 17 in killed and 81 wounded and among the latter was the colonel of the regiment, who was seriously injured while gallantly leading his men in the assault. In the latter part of June the regiment was ordered to Galveston, Texas, thence to Chicago, where it was paid off and disbanded August 4, 1865, having traveled over ten thousand miles.

Among the many incidents worthy of note concerning this regiment and which lack of space prevents giving, the following may be recorded. In the battle near Jackson, Mississippi, in July, 1864, the color bearer, Silas Parker, a member of Company C, fell upon his staff. Two of his comrades rolled him off and brought the colors from the field, leaving Parker, whom one reported to be dead. On the exchange of prisoners, however, Silas Parker was one of the number restored and told that when he recovered from being stunned he felt something hurting his side and felt a bullet under his skin. He took his own knife, with the intention of cutting it out, when a Confederate surgeon found him and ordered that he be taken to Iuka and be cared for. The bullet passed around under his





Margaret Gray Blair



Robert G Blair





skin to the opposite side, as he had been shot, but did not injure any organ permanently and Mr. Parker is yet alive but has ever since suffered from the catastrophe.

#### EIGHTY-EIGHTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

This regiment was organized at Chicago in September, 1862, by Col. T. T. Sherman, and was known as the Second Board of Trade Regiment. After mustering in it was ordered to Louisville, Kentucky; on September 4 went into camp below Jeffersonville; received arms on the 11th and on the 15th was brigaded with the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin and the Second and Fifteenth Missouri. On the 21st it moved to Louisville and was brigaded with the Twenty-first Michigan, the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin and the Thirty-sixth Illinois. Colonel Grensel commanding under General Philip Sheridan. This regiment saw hard service and acquitted itself honorably whenever called on for duty. It was mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, June 9, 1865, and discharged at Chicago, June 13, 1865. No company in this regiment was organized at Morris, but one officer was a Morris man and four privates were from Grundy County.

#### NINETY-FIRST ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

This regiment was organized at Camp Butler, Illinois, in August, 1862, by Col. Henry M. Day, and was mustered in September 8, 1862; left Camp Butler October 1, 1862, for the front; arrived at Shepherdsville, Kentucky, October 7; from then to December 27, 1862, was engaged in scouting through Kentucky after Morgan and in guarding railroads. On the morning of December 27, General Morgan appeared with his force at Elizabethtown, where the Ninety-first was then stationed, under command of Lieut.-Col. Harry S. Smith, three companies being detached at the time to guard railroads elsewhere. Each commander demanded the surrender of the other and at 1 p. m. the Confederates opened fire. At that time the Union men were still using the old altered flint-lock musket and as ammunition had given out, after a loss of seven men killed and many wounded, the Ninety-first was forced to surrender and was then paroled and on June 5, 1863, was exchanged and newly equipped. The Ninety-first reached Vicksburg at 7 p. m. July 15, 1863, and was assigned to a position formerly occupied by Grant's right wing and lost heavily on account of the poisonous

character of the water, no sanitation as at present being then in use. Early in August the regiment went to New Orleans and remained until sent up the river on September 6, and on the morning of the 7th the Ninety-first and the Ninety-fourth Illinois with the Twentieth Wisconsin and a battalion of cavalry with two 12-pound cannon, started for the Appalachian River; engaged unsuccessfully with the enemy and then fell back for six miles. On the 8th of September the Union force again advanced and drove the enemy across the river with loss to them in killed and 200 prisoners were taken, the same being kindly cared for by the Second Illinois Cavalry. On November 6, 1863, the Ninety-first started for Brownsville, Texas, and remained in winter quarters at Fort Brown until December 31, when it made its famous raid on Salt Lake, capturing a lake of salt two miles square, which was promptly confiscated. Its further movements, necessarily condensed, were: left Brownsville July 28; arrived at Brazos July 30; broke camp December 24, 1864; took steamer for New Orleans; March 17, 1865, marched through swamps and swam creeks; March 27 met the enemy in force. The Ninety-first advanced in double column in doublequick and drove the enemy into its stronghold, Spanish Fort and Blakely, the key to Mobile. Here the enemy was at home and it was only after a siege of fourteen days that the fort surrendered, April 9, 1865. Throughout the whole siege the Ninety-first took very active part and the fall of Spanish Fort resulted in the surrender of Mobile to the Federal troops on April 12, 1865. General Hardee, in command of the rear guard of the enemy's forces, lingered behind attempting to get away with the stores, but the Second Brigade, under command of Col. H. M. Day of the Ninety-first Illinois, prevented this move after a fight which was the last engagement east of the Mississippi. On July 12 the regiment was mustered out at Mobile and on the same day started for home and on July 28, 1865, was discharged and these brave men became private citizens once more and proved as worthy in peace as they had been valorous in war.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

This regiment was raised under the call of President Lincoln for 500,000 volunteers in the summer of 1862, and Company A was recruited



in Kendall County and Company D in Grundy County. The regiment was mustered into the service at Camp Douglas, September 6, 1862; drew a full complement of English Enfield rifles in the beginning of November and on the 9th departed for Cairo, Illinois, where it embarked on the steamer Emerald, which landed it at Memphis on the 13th. On November 26, 1862, it departed on an expedition under General Sherman and marched to the neighborhood of Oxford, Mississippi; under orders from General Grant returned to Memphis; was a part of the expedition which captured Arkansas Post, January 11, 1863, and was one of the first regiments to plant colors on the enemy's works. This regiment assisted in the constructing of the famous canal at Young's Point, in front of Vicksburg and during the three months that followed had much sickness in its ranks and at one time, on account of malaria in all probability, could report only 100 men fit for duty. This made the actual achievements of the regiment eminently notable. On the first day of the assaults on Vicksburg it planted its colors farthest on the enemy's works. During the siege the regiment was placed on detached duty at Chickasaw Bayou until within a few days of the surrender, when it returned to the trenches and took part in the victory on July 4, 1863.

On the night following the surrender of Vicksburg, all the men fit for duty, less than fifty in number, under Major Curtiss, marched under command of General Sherman and became a part of the force that, a few days later, drove Gen. Joe Johnston from Jackson. When the regiment went into camp at Black River Bridge it had less than one hundred men fit for duty, about four hundred being in hospitals on Walnut Hills in the rear of Vicksburg. The corps to which this regiment was attached took part in the battle of Lookout Mountain and its activity at Missionary Ridge assisted in the great loss sustained there by the enemy. The One Hundred and Twenty-seventh took part in the series of battles around Resaca, notably being engaged on May 14, when the brigade to which it was attached carried the line of fortification along the slope of the creek by a desperate assault with the bayonet and captured a number of prisoners. Immediately following this assault followed the charge of General Cleburn's Confederates, which made three furious attacks on the Union lines only to be bloodily repulsed. On the 27th of June occurred the most desperate battle and assault of the Fifteenth Army Corps

upon Kenesaw Mountain, which frowned 1,000 feet above the soldiers' heads and covered with rifle pits, strong parapets and death-dealing batteries. In this momentous action the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh stood up grandly under that actual baptism of fire and on July 2, 1864, the enemy abandoned the defense of Kenesaw and fell back to the Chattahoochee River. On July 20, 1864, Gen. John B. Hood was placed in command of the Confederate army in place of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and desperate efforts followed this change in commanders. In the fierce engagement of July 22, in which the beloved McPherson fell, the regiment was in the thickest of the fight and the brigade to which it belonged was led into the fray by General Logan in person. A few days later the Fifteenth Corps was transferred to the extreme right of the army, where, on July 28 it was furiously assaulted by a corps of Hood's army, which was repulsed with terrible loss, leaving no less than eight hundred and twenty-eight dead in front of our lines. The One Hundred and Twenty-seventh accompanied Sherman's army in its march through Georgia and the Carolinas. After the surrender of General Johnson on April 9, 1865, this regiment started for Petersburg, Virginia, on May 13 passed through Richmond and on May 21 reached the vicinity of Washington, D. C. and went into camp on the hills west of Alexandria. After an arduous service of almost three years the regiment reached Chicago and was there mustered out June 17, 1865. The actual number of men finally discharged was 240, all that remained of the 900 with which the regiment left Camp Douglas in 1862.

#### FOURTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

In August, 1861, Judge T. Lyle Dickey, of Ottawa, LaSalle County, was authorized by the Secretary of War to raise and organize a regiment of cavalry. Some time afterward, but before the regiment was complete, a controversy arose between the Secretary of War and Governor Yates, in the settlement of which it was conceded that the Governor should commission the officers selected by Judge Dickey and the organization went upon the records as the Fourth Illinois Cavalry. On September 26, 1861, the regiment was mustered into the military service of the United States and soon after took up its line of march for Springfield, where it received its arms, which were not removed from their cases, however, until the command arrived at





Mr. and Mrs.  
Charles Boggio Jr.



Cairo. It served as escort to General Grant in which service it continued until August, 1863. With a part of his regiment Colonel Dickey made a reconnaissance of Fort Donelson, in which he captured a picket line of about a dozen men. This regiment marched in advance of General Grant's army upon Fort Donelson and General McClelland's command engaged in that affair through snow, sunshine, rain and sleet. Immediately after the surrender it moved to Randolph Forge and encamped on the property of Hon. John Bell & Co., one of the largest iron companies of Tennessee, the farm being occupied by Major Grey, a veteran who had fought under Jackson at New Orleans. At Pittsburg Landing this regiment was assigned to a brigade commanded partly by Brigadier-General Lomax and partly by General Hurlburt, after which all were assigned to General Sherman's command. After the battle of Pittsburg Landing, or, more properly, Shiloh, the Fourth was kept constantly scouting, a large part of its duty being the destroying of railroads and bridges. In the latter part of October, 1864, orders were received for this regiment to return to Springfield to be mustered out. When leaving Chicago the roster was about one thousand one hundred men and when mustered out there were 340 who received discharge in November, 1864.

#### LOYALTY AND DEVOTION OF WOMEN

An attempt to write fully the military history of Grundy County, leaving out mention of the efforts of the women, would be like playing Hamlet without the melancholy Dane. Noble women all over the land hastened to offer help and succor and every community had its aid societies, some of these independent and others working with organizations in larger places where transportation was easy. The Soldiers' Aid Society of Morris, Grundy County, was auxiliary to the Chicago Aid Society. Wonderful were the expedients tried by these earnest women by which an honest dollar might be earned and no extra task or personal sacrifice was overlooked to add to the fund which at stated intervals was sent to Chicago where as faithful a body of women expended the same for the needs of the soldier that were so pressing. Committees were organized and the public called on to promise a regular weekly or monthly sum for the cause; clothing was solicited; many willingly brought out their hoarded old linen of a former day and tore it up for bandages or scraped it for lint;

parties and entertainments were given, which everybody attended for the cause, and, in fact, such a wave of self-denial and sweet charity spread over the country through its tender women, that it does the later generation good to hear of. One of the interesting celebrations in Grundy was the "Sanitary Fair" which was held on the grounds of the Grundy Agricultural Society. In a spacious dining hall, 100 feet long, people were served every day of the fair with food contributed and cooked and served by the women of the county, and few indeed regretted the expenditure for so excellent a meal, when all the money was for the "soldier boys." Fruit, carefully canned and preserved, vegetables, hay, coal and cattle, all had been contributed, and from Minooka alone came twelve half barrels of pickles. It was a never to be forgotten occasion and large sums of money resulted through this great undertaking. The fathers, brothers, sons and husbands fighting on distant battlefields had this strong supporting army behind them and without this cheering remembrance many would have fallen from other cause than a bullet. The women at home, in every war, how tragically noble they are.

#### THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

We cannot give any definite account of the part Grundy County took in the Spanish-American war. No data that would be of value to the reader seems available and it is probable that less than a dozen men of this section took part and they were not in organizations sent from Grundy County, State of Illinois, but were in the regular army.

#### SHABBONA

In attempting to write the military or any history of Grundy and leaving out the name of Shabbona, would be little short of sacrilege, as he and his name were familiar in every home of the earlier settlers of Grundy County and was as much a citizen as any one who enlisted in the United States service.

This celebrated Indian, Chief Shabbona (variously spelled), deserves more than a passing notice. Although he was not so conspicuous as Tecumseh or Black Hawk, yet, in point of merit, he was superior to either of them. Shabbona was born at an Indian village on the Kankakee River, now in Will County, about the year 1775. While young he was made chief of the band





and went to Shabbona Grove, now DeKalb County. In the War of 1812 with his warriors he joined Tecumseh and was aid to that great chief, and stood by his side when he fell at the battle of the Thames in 1813. In the Winnebago war, in 1829, he visited almost every village among the Pottawatomies and by his persuasive arguments prevented them from taking part in the war. By request of the citizens of Chicago Shabbona, accompanied by Billy Caldwell (Sanayamash), visited Big Foot's village, at Geneva Lake, in order to pacify the warriors, as fears were entertained that they were about to raise the tomahawk against the whites.

Here Shabbona was taken prisoner by Big Foot and his life was threatened, but on the following day he was set at liberty. From that time on the Indians (through reproach) styled him "the white man's friend" and many times his life was endangered.

Before the Black Hawk war Shabbona met in council at two different times and by his influence prevented his people from taking part with the Saes and Foxes.

After the death of Black Partridge and Senachwine no chief among the Pottawatomies exerted so much influence as Shabbona. Black Hawk, aware of this, visited him at two different times in order to enlist him in his cause, but was unsuccessful. While Black Hawk was a prisoner at Jefferson Barracks he said, had it not been for Shabbona, the whole Pottawatamie nation would have joined his standard and he could have continued the war for years. To Shabbona many of the early settlers of Illinois owe the preservation of their lives for it is a well known fact that had he not notified the people of their danger a large portion of them would have fallen victims to the tomahawks of the savages. By saving the lives of the whites he endangered his own, for the Saes and Foxes threatened to kill him and made two attempts to execute their threats. They killed Pypeogee, his son, and Pyps his nephew, and hunted him down as if he was a wild beast.

Shabbona had a reservation of two sections of land at his grove, but, by leaving it and going west for a short time, it was declared forfeited and it was held the same as other vacant land. On Shabbona's return and finding his possession gone he was very sad and broken down in spirits and left the grove forever. The citizens of Ottawa raised money and bought him a tract of land on the Illinois River above Seneca, but in Grundy County on which they

built a home and supplied him with means to live on. He lived here until his death which occurred on July 17, 1859, when he was in the eighty-fourth year of his age. He was buried with great pomp, in the cemetery at Morris, Illinois. His Squaw, Pokanoka, was drowned in Mazon Creek, Grundy County, on the 20th of November, 1861, and was buried by his side.

In 1861, subscriptions were taken up in many of the river towns for funds to erect a monument over the remains of Shabbona, but the Civil War breaking out at that time caused the enterprise to be abandoned. Only a plain slab marks the resting place of this friend of the white man. The above is no fairy tale. The writer has sold Shabbona woolen blankets for himself and family in Grundy county, and his wife's grandfather was notified by Shabbona of Black Hawk's outbreak and was told to flee with his family for their lives, to the old log fort in Ottawa, LaSalle County, which they did. Some who did not heed the warning suffered the consequences and lost their lives.

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## CHAPTER XXII

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### THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

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THE PATRIOTS OF 1861—THEIR COURAGE, LOYALTY AND ENDURANCE—ORGANIZATION OF THE G. A. R.—THE LITTLE BRONZE BUTTON—TWO POSTS IN GRUNDY COUNTY—POST AT MORRIS A MEMORIAL OF A YOUNG HERO—POST AT GARDNER—WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS—TIME THINS RANKS OF THE VETERANS.

#### THE PATRIOTS OF 1861

Half a century ago hundreds of thousands of the very best men this country ever produced sprung to the defense of their flag. They left business interests and families to face possible death, and many never lived to return. Thousands of those who did, came back broken in health, crippled in body, but cheerful of spirit, for theirs had been a just cause and they had fought the good fight and come out conquerors. Their subsequent history forms one of the most important records of the country. Their suf-



feelings will never be appropriately rewarded or appreciated, for none but those who had endured as they, can know that there was more bravery shown after the war by those who had to continue through life bowed down by the burdens their military experiences superimposed.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE G. A. R.

Appreciating the fact that the veterans of the Civil War needed an organization of their kind, The Grand Army of the Republic was organized, and its local and national reunions have, in a slight measure, compensated these brave men for the indifference many have shown them. Foregathered with their comrades they can live over again those stirring days when they were the most important men in the hearts of the public; when upon their endurance and bravery hung the fate of a nation.

Every section of the country has its local post, although the members are gradually dying. Many years have elapsed since these men fought for their cause, and their experiences, the exposures, the rigors of army life and the frightful hardships of southern prisons, to say nothing of actual wounds received in the line of battle, have not made for a long life. Each year the little procession of veterans marching on Memorial Day, shows more vacant places until the time will come when all will have answered to the last roll call and be enrolled in the Army of the Infinite.

#### THE LITTLE BRONZE BUTTON

The "little bronze button" not only signifies that its owner risked his life and limb in defense of the country we all love so dearly if we have a spark of patriotism in our bosoms, but it also opens the hearts of those whose years are too few to have participated in the Civil War, or whose sex decreed that they were to remain behind, helping the cause with loving thought, brave-hearted singleness of sacrifice and endless prayers.

The G. A. R. post at Morris was named for a youth who laid down his life on the bloody field of Gettysburg, perhaps the most important of all the engagements of the entire war as it forever put an end to "northern invasion," and sounded the knell of the Confederacy. This lad from Morris was named Lewis Dineras Darveau, but his comrades knew him as "Dim." He

had already participated in the engagements of Warrington Junction, Fair Oaks from June 1 to 28, 1862, Peach Orchard, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Centerville, Charleston, Smicker's Gap, Fredericksburg, and others leading up to the one upon which he fell mortally wounded after a gallant act in repelling Longstreet's awful charge on July 2. Darveau Post No. 329, G. A. R., was organized in 1883, by Gen. P. C. Hayes. The present commander is John Thorson, and Henry Fey is quartermaster. There is another post at Gardner, known as Sedgwick, and the ladies of both cities give valued aid in their Relief Corps.

These two posts hold the membership of veterans from all over Grundy County, and upon the day set aside for them, they attend to pay respect and show honor to their comrades who lie beneath the grassy mounds as far as their earthly habiliments go, but whose spirits have ascended into a life where their virtues are appreciated and their faults forgotten because of their heroism, for to paraphrase a sacred quotation:

"What greater love or virtue hath any man than that he lay down his life for his country?"

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## CHAPTER XIV

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### BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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EARLY FINANCES—A CHANGE IN AFFAIRS—PRIVATE BANKS—STATE AND NATIONAL BANKS—FIRST BANKS — PRESENT BANKING INSTITUTIONS IN GRUNDY COUNTY—BANKS OF MORRIS—OF GARDNER—OF MINOOKA—OF VERONA—OF MAZON—OF KINSMAN—OF COAL CITY.

(By J. C. Carr)

#### EARLY FINANCE

When the pioneers reached Grundy County, they had but little money left of the usually scanty amount with which they left their civilized homes in the more eastern States, so that they were not troubled by the fact that in the



new territory there were no banking institutions. They had left home rich in hope and faith, willing to labor earnestly and diligently, but with little of this world's goods. The majority of these pioneers traveled across the country in a wagon drawn either by horses or oxen. Money was not needed for the trip. The wagon carried supplies and if they ran out, any settler by the way was ready and willing to share what he had with the wayfarers, for hospitality was a marked pioneers' virtue.

After making the required payment on his land, which in the early days was \$1.25 per acre, it oftentimes was some years before money to any amount came into possession of the pioneer. He struggled to clear his land and put in the seed he had brought with him, and the scanty necessities required were obtained of the nearest trader in exchange for produce.

#### A CHANGE IN AFFAIRS

However, as the county began to be settled, a change came about, many improvements were made, and the roads were better constructed so that the farmers found it expedient and profitable to raise more and haul their products to the nearest market, receiving in payment money instead of bartering to supply their wants.

In each community there always was, and doubtless will be as long as human nature remains unchanged, one man who was a little more prosperous than his fellows. Perhaps he was more thrifty, at any rate he was a better business man, and to him the farmers began coming for accommodations. At first it was but a few dollars lent in a friendly way. Later larger amounts were involved, and thus the private banker was evolved.

#### PRIVATE BANKS

In earlier days, the banks of Grundy County were all private institutions, and some still so remain. The business transacted was too small to justify any large investments and much of it was carried on in a neighborly manner, a simple promise being accepted. As more people came into the neighborhood, however, these friendly methods had to be abandoned and strict business rules enforced and in time the private banks developed into state or national institutions. The present financial institutions of Grundy County have been built upon sound

foundations and are in the hands of men of unusual strength of character and business experience. An immense amount of business is transacted annually and the rating of these banks is second to none of their size in the country.

#### FIRST BANKS

The first bank of which there is any mention in Grundy County was founded in 1853 by O. H. and H. C. Goold, and was located on the corner of Washington and Liberty Streets, Morris, where the Claypool building now stands. The firm continued to operate the bank for some years, when, finding the business unprofitable, closed out, and the partners then devoted their time and energy to the real estate business.

In 1854 George Selleck opened up an exchange bank near the present site of Fraternity Hall, but, meeting with reverses, he failed in 1860.

E. W. & F. K. Hulburt opened a private bank in 1857, in the Lott block, operating under the name of E. W. Hulburt & Co., and for a time did a large business, but failed in 1861.

The next bank was founded in 1858 by F. S. Gardner and C. R. Crumb as a private institution, but as they had neither capital nor experience, their venture proved a failure.

The year 1860 saw the opening of another bank, by T. Hutton and his son, of Joliet, in the office of the late C. H. Goold, but it only continued two years, when its doors were closed. Following this, D. D. Spencer came to Morris from Elkhorn, Wis., and in conjunction with the late W. C. Hammill, established an exchange and deposit bank, which was operated until the summer of 1864, when it was merged with the Grundy County National Bank, then in process of organization.

#### BANKS OF MORRIS

**THE GRUNDY COUNTY NATIONAL BANK.**—The first national bank to be organized in Grundy County was established September 16, 1864, under the title of The Grundy County National Bank of Morris, Ill., with a capital stock of \$50,000, by Abel P. Bulkley, C. H. Goold, D. D. Spencer, John Holderman, Samuel Holderman, John Barr, Aaron Sears, John B. Davidson, William M. Hanna, Dayton Kingman, and John





*Frank C. Bowker*





Hill, all of whom have passed away except Dr. William M. Hanna, now residing at Aurora, Ill. At the first meeting of the stockholders the following persons were elected directors of the bank for the ensuing year: C. H. Gould, D. D. Spencer, A. P. Bulkley, Aaron Sears, and Samuel Holderman. The Board of Directors then held a meeting and elected C. H. Gould, president, and D. D. Spencer, cashier. The above named officials continued to serve until January 14, 1868, when D. D. Spencer was elected president and Charles G. Bulkley, cashier. On October 1, 1868, Mr. Bulkley resigned as cashier, and on January 10, 1871, J. H. Pettit was elected to fill the vacancy. D. D. Spencer sold his interest in the bank October 5, 1871, to C. G. Gould, who then succeeded him as president. On September 30, 1871, J. H. Pettit resigned as cashier, and on October 5, 1871, J. C. Carr was elected to fill the vacancy. With the death of Mr. Gould on June 22, 1892, occurred a vacancy which was filled by the election of Jeremiah Collins, who served as president until June 29, 1899, when he resigned and J. R. Collins was elected to fill his place. On July 29, 1901, J. R. Collins resigned the presidency, and was succeeded by O. E. Collins. The latter held the office until January 15, 1903, when he was succeeded by J. C. Carr, and at the same time J. W. McKindly was elected cashier, and E. G. Carr, assistant cashier. On September 10, 1902, by vote of the stockholders, the capital of the bank was increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The present Board of Directors of the bank are: J. A. Wilson, Cryder Collins, E. H. Wolfe, J. R. Collins and J. C. Carr. The officers are: J. C. Carr, president; Cryder Collins, vice president; J. W. McKindly, cashier, and E. G. Carr, assistant cashier.

From the last published statement the condition of the bank is as follows:

Capital stock, \$100,000; surplus, \$100,000; undivided profits, \$115,800, and individual deposits of \$734,000.

**THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MORRIS.**—The First National Bank of Morris was organized in 1870 as the First National Bank of Seneca. Samuel Holderman was the first president, and the capital stock at incorporation was \$50,000. In 1872 the bank was removed to Morris, and in 1874 the present name of The First National Bank of Morris was adopted. The capital stock was raised to \$100,000. Later this amount

was increased to \$200,000, while the surplus is now \$100,000. James Cunnea, Sr., succeeded Samuel Holderman as president, in 1872, retaining the presidency until his death in 1881, when John Cunnea, his son, was elected to fill his place. He is the present incumbent, having served the bank as president for over twenty-eight years. The present officers of the bank are: John Cunnea, president; George A. Cunnea, vice president; R. S. Cunnea, cashier, and Thomas J. Nolan, assistant cashier. The board of directors is composed of the following: John Cunnea, J. A. Cunnea, George A. Cunnea, M. A. Cunnea, and Ralph S. Cunnea.

The present condition of the bank is as follows: Capital stock, \$200,000; surplus, \$100,000; undivided profits, \$11,800, and deposits, \$282,373.

**FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK.**—The Farmers & Merchants National Bank was organized February 23, 1906, with a capital stock of \$100,000 and a surplus of \$10,000. The first officials were: J. R. Collins, president; E. J. Matteson, vice president; Henry Stocker, cashier, and R. J. McGrath, assistant cashier. The first board of directors was composed of the following: J. R. Collins, E. J. Matteson, M. B. Wilson, S. H. Matteson, and William Gebhard. The present officers are: J. R. Collins, president; E. J. Matteson, vice president; Henry Stocker, cashier, and R. J. McGrath, assistant cashier. The present board of directors is composed of the following: J. R. Collins, E. J. Matteson, William Gebhard, S. H. Matteson, and M. H. Wilcox.

According to the last statement of the bank, its condition is as follows:

#### RESOURCES

Loans and discount.....	\$276,192.87
Overdrafts secured and unsecured..	1,305.61
U. S. bonds to secure circulation...	100,000.00
Premiums on U. S. bonds.....	1,500.00
Bonds, securities, etc.....	9,700.00
Banking house furniture and fixtures	2,416.75
Due from approved reserve agents...	120,835.41
Checks and other cash items.....	4,354.01
Notes of other national banks.....	9,390.00
Fractional paper currency, etc.....	519.64
Lawful money reserve in bank—	
Specie .....	\$ 8,827.50
Legal tender notes....	10,860.00
	19,687.50



Redemption fund with U. S. treasurer (five per cent of circulation).....	4,995.00
Total .....	\$550,896.82

## LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in.....	\$100,000.00
Surplus fund .....	60,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes .....	10,822.97
National bank notes outstanding....	99,965.00
Individual deposits subject to check.	241,571.92
Demand certificates of deposit.....	38,252.93
Certified checks.....	254.00
Total .....	\$550,896.82

## GARDNER

EXCHANGE BANK.—The Exchange Bank of Gardner was established in 1871 by Isaac McClun and John Allison who continued in business as partners until 1876, when Mr. McClun sold his interest to Mr. Allison. The latter continued the business alone until his death in 1889. At that time his son, Winfield S. Allison, succeeded him. The bank is operated as the Exchange Bank by W. S. Allison & Sons, the partners being Winfield S. Allison, Wade S. Allison, and John B. Allison.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF GARDNER.—About 1889, J. C. Lutz opened a private bank under the name of the Peoples Bank of Gardner, which he continued to operate until his death which occurred March 3, 1900. The bank was then closed and the account settled, the Lutz estate paying the depositors in full. On May 10, 1900, The First National Bank was organized with a capital stock of \$25,000, with A. G. Perry, president; J. C. Lutz, vice president, and F. L. Root, cashier, who continue in office. The Board of Directors is composed of the following: A. G. Perry, J. C. Lutz, Jesse Ball, J. F. Scroggin, Frank Speller, C. C. Underwood, W. D. Howland.

The present condition of the bank is as follows:

## RESOURCES

Loans and discounts.....	\$ 99,368.44
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured..	720.54
U. S. bonds to secure circulation...	25,000.00

Other bonds to secure postal savings	3,000.00
Premium on U. S. bonds.....	250.00
Bonds, securities, etc.....	70,674.38
Banking house furniture and fixtures	5,200.00
Due from approved reserve agents...	32,202.01
Checks and other cash items.....	2,399.07
Notes of other national banks.....	10.00
Fractional paper currency, etc.....	42.96
Specie .....	\$11,800.85
Legal tender notes....	210.00
Redemption fund with U. S. treasurer (five per cent of circulation).....	1,250.00
Total .....	\$252,128.25

## LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus fund .....	5,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid.....	3,534.46
National bank notes outstanding....	25,000.00
Due to state and private banks and bankers .....	7,384.27
Individual deposits subject to check.	43,245.91
Demand deposit certificates.....	8,059.48
Time certificates of deposit.....	133,671.20
U. S. deposits postal savings.....	1,732.93
Total .....	\$252,128.25

## MINOOKA

EXCHANGE BANK OF MINOOKA.—This financial institution grew out of the need, on the part of the late A. K. Knapp, a capitalist of Minooka, for a banking institution through which he could transact his various business deals, for he was extensively engaged along many lines. Not only was he a dry goods merchant, but he bought and sold grain, lumber, coal and building supplies at Minooka and the canal near Channahon. The beginnings of this bank date back as far as 1865, and while Mr. Knapp had partners in his various other enterprises, he conducted his bank alone. After the death of Mr. Knapp in 1904, his widow continued the business alone, and remains its executive head. The cashier, George Collops, manages the affairs of the bank, with the assistance of M. G. Fluett, assistant cashier.

THE FARMERS FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MINOOKA.—This institution was organized in





Peter H. Briscoe



Margaret A. Briscoe



1908, with the following officers: J. P. Clennon, president; J. W. Dwyer, vice president, and D. A. Henneberry, cashier. The original Board of Directors was as follows: J. P. Clennon, I. V. Cryder, M. K. Wix, George S. Baker, J. W. Dwyer, E. W. Matteson, and D. A. Henneberry. According to a recent statement the condition of the bank is as follows: Capital stock, \$25,000; surplus, \$10,000; undivided profits, \$2,500, and deposits of \$180,000.

## MAZON

PEOPLES BANK OF MAZON.—This bank was organized in 1889 by Clapp & Rankin, who continued together until 1895, when Mr. Clapp assumed sole charge. In May, 1911, the bank was re-organized as the First National Bank with the following officers: F. H. Clapp, president; G. E. Clapp, cashier; A. J. Campbell, vice president, and the Board of Directors as follows: A. J. Campbell, I. N. Misener, W. E. Davies, Fred Keith, F. A. Murray, H. Preston, F. H. Clapp. The capital stock at the outset was \$25,000.00, and the surplus was \$3,500.00. From a late statement the condition of the bank is as follows:

## RESOURCES

Loans and discounts.....	\$130,375.37	
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured..	528.40	
U. S. bonds to secure circulation....	25,000.00	
Premiums on U. S. bonds.....	231.66	
Bonds, securities, etc.....	8,765.00	
Banking house furniture and fixtures	2,160.00	
Due from approved reserve agents....	72,777.34	
Notes of other national banks.....	1,030.00	
Fractional paper currency, etc.....	185.61	
Lawful money reserved in bank		
Specie .....	\$13,205.90	
Legal tender notes....	1,200.00	14,405.90
Redemption fund .....		1,250.00
Total .....		\$256,709.28

## LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus fund .....	3,500.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid .....	741.65

National bank notes outstanding....	25,000.00
Individual deposits subject to check..	124,709.32
Demand certificates of deposit.....	67,758.31
Total .....	\$256,709.28

## VERONA

VERONA EXCHANGE BANK.—The Exchange Bank of Verona grew out of a hardware business owned by Beal & Reine, who in 1898 branched out into an exclusive banking business. They commenced with a capital stock of \$25,000, and a surplus of \$2,000, which latter they have increased to \$10,000. From initial deposits of \$30,000, the business has grown until the average deposits aggregate over \$100,000, with loans and discounts of \$52,000.

## KINSMAN

BANK OF KINSMAN.—This bank was established in 1907 by J. E. McGuire, the present proprietors, Cosgrove, O'Connell & Cosgrove, taking charge May 1, 1911. A late statement shows the following condition:

## RESOURCES

Loans and discounts.....	\$ 53,263.11
Overdrafts .....	181.85
Banking premises, furniture and fixtures .....	2,910.59
Cash due from banks.....	38,548.01
Total .....	\$ 94,903.66

## LIABILITIES

Capital stock .....	\$ 15,000.00
Deposits .....	78,216.60
Profits .....	1,686.96
Totals .....	\$ 94,903.56

## COAL CITY

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF COAL CITY.—This bank was organized February 1, 1912, with William Campbell, president; Warham B. Short, vice president, and L. K. Young, cashier. The directors were: William Campbell, Warham B. Short, Henman B. Smith, John Trotter and William G. Suffern. During June





of the same year, Mr. Short died, and John Trotter was appointed vice president, and Dr. F. A. Stockdale was elected to fill his place on the Board of Directors. Prior to the organization of this bank, E. D. Scott carried on the Bank of Coal City, which he had opened in 1895. He died November 4, 1911.

According to a recent report the condition of the First National Bank of Coal City is as follows:

#### RESOURCES

Loans and discounts.....	\$ 50,000.30
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured..	2.98
U. S. bonds to secure circulation....	6,250.00
Premiums on U. S. bonds.....	19.08
Bonds, securities, etc.....	70,745.00
Banking house furniture and fixtures	1,832.40
Due from approved reserve agents...	13,340.00
Notes of other national banks.....	465.00
Fractional paper currency, etc.....	97.71
Lawful money reserve.....	18,213.27
Redemption fund.....	312.50
Total .....	\$156,368.21

#### LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus fund .....	12,500.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid .....	1,232.00
National bank notes outstanding....	6,250.00
Individual deposits subject to check.	92,859.10
Demand certificates of deposit.....	208.00
Time certificates of deposit.....	18,318.50
Total .....	\$156,368.21

### CHAPTER XV

#### MANUFACTURING

**PROSPERITY BUILT ON MANUFACTURING—NUMEROUS PLANTS IN GRUNDY COUNTY—EARLY CONCERNS—MORRIS PLOW COMPANY—ANDERSON CAR WHEEL COMPANY—MORRIS CUTLERY COMPANY—**

**HALL FURNITURE COMPANY—MORRIS IRON WORKS—SHILWOOD SCHOOL FURNITURE COMPANY—OHIO PUTT COMPANY—COLEMAN HARDWARE COMPANY—WOLFELE LEATHER COMPANY—MORRIS LUMBER COMPANY—THE I. N. R. BEATTY LUMBER COMPANY—MORRIS GRAIN COMPANY—SQUARE DEAL GRAIN COMPANY—GEBHARD'S BREWERY—MORRIS OATMEAL COMPANY—THE MORRIS INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION—SINCLAIR LAUNDRY AND MACHINERY COMPANY—JOHNSON & CARLSON CUT GLASS COMPANY—NORTHWESTERN NOVELTY COMPANY—RAILROAD PROMOTION—MORRIS TIER BOARD COMPANY—OTHER INTERESTS.**

(By Morris K. Magner)

#### PROSPERITY BUILT ON MANUFACTURING

Fortunate, indeed, may that community consider itself which embraces within its borders manufacturing interests of diversified scope and substantial character. The well-managed factory is a business stimulus; it is the prompting influence for commercial and industrial activity, inclining by its own prosperity achievements in other spheres of human endeavor. It may be said that the development of a locality's manufacturing is a summary of the growth of the locality itself, for around these great industries are gathered an army of men and their families, all connected in some way with the community's development. Grundy County by no means occupies an inconspicuous place among her sister counties in the field of manufacture. Here, and particularly at Morris, owing to its desirable location and excellent railroad facilities, are gathered a number of manufacturing concerns, which supply not only the needs of the circumjacent territory, but send their products to the people of far-distant states. These include a wide range of commodities, worthy of comparison with those of any section of the country and produced by the highest skilled mechanical power, under the direction of trained and fertile business brains.

#### EARLY CONCERNS

In most communities, and particularly in the agricultural regions, factories are among the last of the business industries to put in an appearance, their promoters delaying their establishment until the population has assumed proportions that warrant the expenditure of the



money necessary for their undertaking. Hence, the early history of the greater number of localities, as connected with manufacture, lies in the memories of those who lived at a time when the skilled housewife and the sturdy husbandman created their own necessities, the limit of their comforts being set by their fertility of resource and the materials at hand. It would seem, however, that the people of Grundy County were somewhat more progressive than those of neighboring localities, although this may be explained by the inducements offered by a section fortunate in its location.

As early as 1857 Grundy County became the home of a large manufacturing enterprise, and from that time to the present has rapidly grown and developed. In the year mentioned there was located here the plant of the Morris Plow Company, at Morris, but, although its product was good, the demand for it was small, and the company went out of existence after a brief life. In 1873, the enterprising business men of Morris, realizing the benefit that would accrue from the influx of outside capital, offered a substantial bonus to manufacturers who would locate their plants here, and during the several years that followed \$19,000 were spent by the city, with the result that the Sherwood School Furniture Company established its works near the canal on the west side of the city, this concern later becoming the Ohio Butt Company, and later the Coleman Hardware Company.

In the line of grain, the late Thomas Phillips was one of the earliest of Morris' business men, and for nearly forty years carried on large operations on the Illinois & Michigan Canal, at all times commanding the respect and confidence of the many Grundy County farmers with whom he had transactions. A pioneer concern in this line and locality was the Anderson Car Wheel Company, which for many years furnished a profitable market for all the oats and rye straw in the county and had its plant and offices at Morris. Another company, which for a long period enjoyed a prosperous business life, was the Morris Cutlery Company, which manufactured eighty-four varieties of pocket knives. It was incorporated with a capital of \$15,000, by M. W. Steiner, George Riddle, L. P. Beach, Drs. Palmer and Ferguson, M. K. Keller, J. H. Pettit, A. W. Crawford, and Albert and William Smith, the last two named being cutters who came from Sheffield, England.

#### COLEMAN HARDWARE COMPANY

To the Coleman Hardware Company must be given the credit of being one of the oldest manufacturing industries of Morris. Backed by men of substantial worth, brains and business experience, it has steadily grown and developed until it now plays a most important part in the city's industrial life. Few concerns enjoy a higher reputation in business circles and much of the prestige which Morris has gained as a center of manufacture must be accredited to this company's activities. That the people of Morris appreciate this fact is evidenced by the precedence the company is given when the city's interests are named. The plant of this concern was first established in 1867, under the name of the Hall Furniture Company, this being succeeded by the Morris Iron Works, and the latter by the Sherwood School Furniture Company. A conflagration destroyed the plant, following which the Ohio Butt Company secured the business, and under this style the enterprise was conducted for several years. At the end of this time, J. G. Coleman, progressive and experienced business man who had been connected with a number of Chicago ventures, purchased the stock of the Ohio Butt Company, and from that time to the present its growth has been constant and healthy, and it is now numbered among the largest institutions of its kind in the country. The Coleman Hardware Company manufactures all kinds of hardware specialties, but its chief products are furniture casters and sash pulleys, and more of these articles are manufactured here than in any other plant in the United States, while the excellence of its work has given the concern a national reputation. The entire output of several firms is manufactured here, and the products of the company are known to practically every civilized country in the world. The handsome and substantial plant, occupying more than an entire block and including the most highly improved machinery and equipment, at once attracts the attention of the visitor. It is under the capable management of Edward Wainwright, who has been connected with the company for many years in various capacities and for three years has been superintendent, while Mr. Coleman maintains his office in Chicago, from whence he directs the company's activities. At different times of the year the plant employs from 150 to 250 men, including a num-



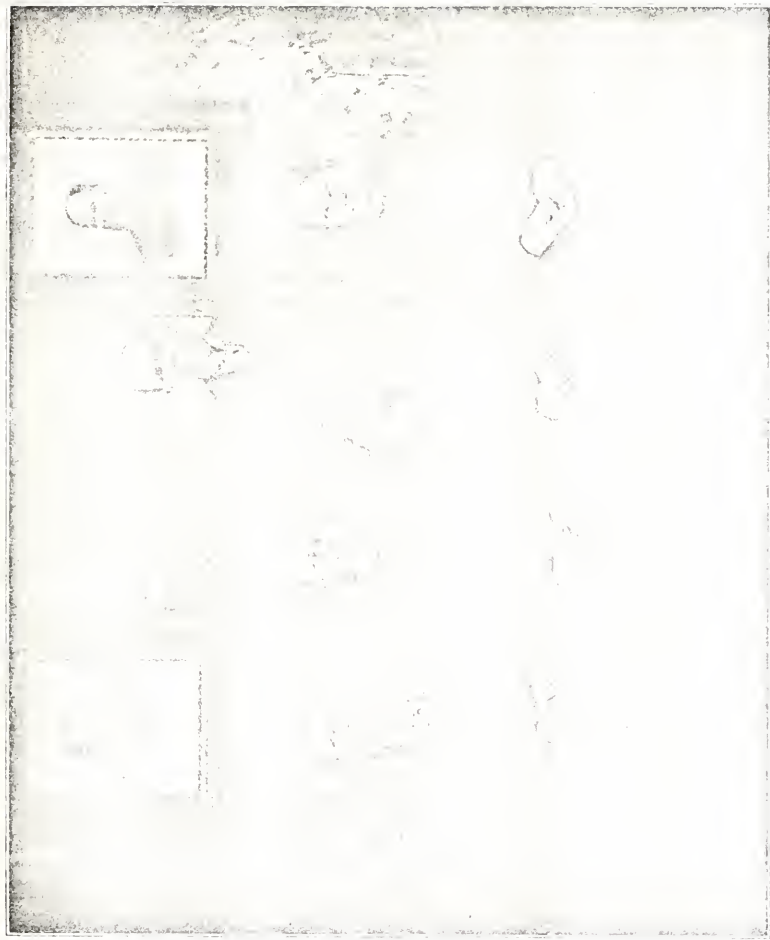
ler of skilled molders and machinists, and so capably is the business managed that a cessation of its activities is practically unknown.

#### THE WOEFEL LEATHER COMPANY

While the foregoing company divides the honor of being the oldest manufacturing concern of Morris, with the Woefel Leather Company, the palm must be given to the latter for the number of men employed and volume of business transacted. Here is a concern which exemplifies in the highest degree the resource and enterprise of the pioneers and the perseverance, industry and ability of their descendants. From a small and inconspicuous four-man plant, with primitive machinery and uncertain trade, it has grown and developed, nourished and nurtured by the forceful abilities of the men connected with it, until it now rears its head proudly as one of the thriving enterprises of the Prairie State and a potent force in the life of the community in which it has lived and prospered for so many years. In 1861 there was established a small plant for the manufacture of leather goods, on the site of the present handsome and modern factory. The owners and proprietors were George Woefel, Sr., and another early pioneer, one Caspari, and aside from their labors the work required the employment of only two or three hands. From the farmers of the surrounding countryside hides were obtained for all the leather supplies for which there was a demand, and soon Mr. Caspari disposed of his interests and sought another field of activity. Mr. Woefel, however, had faith in his enterprise, in himself and in the community in which he was located, and soon formed a partnership with Charles Sparr, father of William Sparr, the well-known Morris dealer in shoes and harness. At that time Charles Sparr was the proprietor of the harness and shoe shop, and the partnership with Mr. Woefel was formed with the belief that the product of the tannery could be profitably utilized in the home consumption of the leather necessary for the retail trade in shoes and harness at Mr. Sparr's store. This arrangement was shown to be a wise one for the time, as evidenced by a successful business, and during the years that followed the plant grew and prospered and from ten to fifteen hands were needed to produce the goods to meet the steadily-growing demand. In 1880 Mr. Woefel and Mr.

Sparr dissolved their partnership, and in 1881, Mr. Woefel, having put his two sons into the plant to acquire a practical knowledge of the business, decided to branch out on a much larger scale, his foresight enabling him to read the signs of the times and to realize their trend. Accordingly, he made quite an extensive addition to the plant and the working force was increased to twenty-five or thirty men, this number being constantly augmented by the addition of other employees. That Mr. Woefel's move was a wise one is shown by the fact that in 1895 the business had assumed such proportions that it was deemed advisable to form an incorporated company, of which George Woefel, Sr., became president, and George L. Woefel, the second son, secretary and treasurer. In 1898 occurred the death of the founder of this business, who must be given a high place on the roll of the builders of Morris. His had been the keen and active brain, which had developed an obscure and unpretentious venture into a mighty industry; his fertile mind and active hands had placed the business on a firm and substantial footing. When he passed away, however, he left behind him to carry on the enterprise which he had founded and to which he had given the best years of his life, able successors in his sons, who had been practically trained in every department of the business and had inherited much of their father's ability. Edgar Woefel, the elder son, was advanced from the position of vice president to the presidency, and assumed its responsibilities, and success continued to crown the efforts of the sons until October, 1897, when fire broke out in the plant and although the utmost efforts were employed the entire plant was consumed by the flames, the conflagration being one of the worst in the history of Morris and the largest in financial loss. Great inducements were offered the officers of the company to build their plant elsewhere, but they remained loyal to the city in which the father had founded the business, and the plant was rebuilt with all possible haste and business was resumed. While the same general plan was followed in the erection of the buildings, they were made more substantial, modern and larger, with greater floor space, and from that time the business continued to increase until in 1904 it was found necessary to erect a large new building, located just south of the main structure. This has five stories and basement, and contains the offices, shipping room, storeroom,





Edward Buck And Family





finishing room and a coat and robe department. The firm manufactures what is known as the Galloway robe, a very superior article, for which there is a great demand, and a specialty is made of russet and colored leathers for the trunk, bag and leather specialty trade, and special leathers for the harness and saddlery trade. The company manufactures Goodyear welting, Kangaroo side leathers and viscolized leathers in all colors and blacks, and goods are sold in Japan, Cuba, England, Germany and other European countries, while special representatives are located in London, England, and Frankfurt, Germany, and distributing and sales stores are maintained at Chicago, Boston and New York. The plant has a capacity of 1,000 sides of leathers a day. The buildings are of brick, mill construction, equipped with automatic sprinklers, and the plant is protected with two elevated tanks containing 40,000 gallons of water and an automatic fire pump with a capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute. The latest and most approved machinery has been procured, a 225 horsepower Bullock electric engine having been recently installed, this doing away with shafting, belts and pulleys. In every respect the business of the Woelfel Leather Company is one of which the citizens of Morris may well be proud, and the large interests which it represents are constantly contributing to the city's prosperity.

#### MORRIS LUMBER COMPANY

One of the most important industries which may be contributing factors in the upbuilding and development of a community is that which deals with its lumber interests. Few business enterprises have such a direct bearing upon its growth. In this line, as in others, Grundy County is well represented and has been since the early '70s when a lumber yard was established on Canal Street, near the present location of the Morris Lumber Company. The founder continued in business for a few years and then disposed of his interests to Hammond & Wertz, who later sold out to Pattison & Gould. With the retirement of Mr. Gould of this firm, the company adopted the style of the Pattison Lumber Company, and as such it continued until 1897, when F. L. Stephen and C. R. Moore secured control of the enterprise and changed the name to the Morris Lumber Company. L. S. Hoge purchased Mr. Moore's interest in 1901,

but since that time has left the concern, and the sole proprietor is F. L. Stephen, a man of excellent business talents, acumen and energy, a strong "booster" in behalf of his city's interests, and a man who stands high in the esteem of his associates. He has continued to maintain a high standard of business integrity in his operations, and the yard has enjoyed a constantly increasing business, adding year by year to the stock, which now includes more than seven hundred thousand feet of lumber, covered by large and substantial shelter sheds, and equipped with the most modern appliances for the convenient handling of large orders. The concern deals also in hard coal, sewer pipe and miscellaneous builders' supplies. Its growth is indicative of the spirit of progress that has characterized Moore's most successful industries.

#### I. N. R. BEATTY LUMBER COMPANY

Holding prestige as one of the oldest concerns of Grundy County, the I. N. R. Beatty Lumber Company has enjoyed a steady growth and development since its inception in 1884, when it was founded by Thomas H. Ross, who located its yards in a convenient situation along the right of way of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. Some years later I. N. R. Beatty was taken into the firm, which was incorporated in 1901, and after Mr. Ross' death Mr. Beatty and George Colthurst conducted the business under its present style, but later Mr. Colthurst retired from the business. A specialty is made of putting up houses on monthly payments, and in addition to a full stock of lumber the firm handles Portland and natural cement, and makes a specialty of high grade shingles. The yards and sheds cover two blocks, and there may be seen one of the largest lumber sheds in the state, measuring 80 by 250 feet, and having a capacity of over a million feet of lumber. The policy of the company has always been the maintaining of a high standard of business ethics, and its substantial reputation in the business world has had a favorable influence upon the industrial prosperity of the city. Mr. Beatty, president of the firm, is an astute business man, thoroughly alive to every opportunity and possessed of a comprehensive knowledge of every detail of the business. He is popular with the members of the trade, and is eminently competent to handle the reins of



management of one of his city's most prominent and constantly growing concerns.

#### MORRIS GRAIN COMPANY

Located in the center of a great grain growing country, and with excellent transportation facilities, it is not unnatural that the City of Morris should maintain a thriving grain market. Yet its prestige in this field of activity rests not alone upon the market itself, but among the strong, capable and forceful men who have contributed to the development of this, one of its greatest industries. One of the foremost of the firms which have maintained this market is the Morris Grain Company, which was originally organized in 1895, and started in what was known as the "old Lane elevator," on West Canal Street. Backed by men of sterling ability, it rapidly extended the scope of its operations throughout Grundy County, and within the passing of a year's time it was found that the original quarters were not adequate to accommodate the machinery necessary to carry on the growing business. Accordingly, the new elevator was erected, on the canal, at Canal and Franklin streets, at that time one of the largest in the state. The business of the concern was transacted from this house for several years, the grain being shipped to market on the Illinois & Michigan Canal, by a fleet of boats owned by the company, but business increased so rapidly that in 1901 a still larger and more modernly equipped elevator was erected on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. This is now one of the best equipped elevators in the United States, including oat clipping and drying machinery, corn dryer, dump scales, and everything for the rapid handling of grain. The business is conducted by men of worth and substantiality and its position in the business world of Morris is firmly established.

#### SQUARE DEAL GRAIN COMPANY

Those who today visit the modern elevator of the Square Deal Grain Company, at Morris, and find it one of the best equipped establishments of its kind in this part of the state, find it hard to believe that comparatively a few years ago this was a modest, unassuming venture, its operations confined to supplying the needs of the immediate community. Business enterprise, progressive methods and capable

management have brought it to a proud position among the city's business firms, and its trade is continuing to grow and develop in scope. The first elevator on this site was built in 1875 by the founder of the business, Mr. McEwen, and in 1880 M. N. Hull purchased an interest. Later Nels Nelson succeeded Mr. McEwen, and the firm operated under the style of Hull & Nelson until Mr. Nelson's death in 1901. Two years later the firm of M. N. Hull & Son was formed, when Mr. Hull's son, M. Bert Hull, became a partner, and this style continued until the business was taken over by the Square Deal Grain Company, the present owner, a concern formed of capable and progressive Grundy County farmers. The original elevator was destroyed by fire, in May, 1901, but before the ashes had cooled work on the new structure had commenced, and within a period of ten weeks the house was ready for receiving grain. Once more fire claimed it, several years ago, and the present cement elevator was built in 1913. This elevator is a thoroughly modern one in every respect, with an immense capacity, and the business is typically representative of Grundy County energy and enterprise.

#### GEBHARD'S BREWERY

In 1866, Gebhard's Brewery was founded by Louis Gebhard, the father of the present owner. In common with other pioneer business men of Morris, he at first conducted his operations in a small way, but the demand for the product of the company soon assumed large proportions, and when he sold out to his son, in 1886, the business was a flourishing one. From that time to the present improvements and enlargements have been constantly made. The main building, or brew house, is a handsome red brick and steel structure, seven stories high, with a thoroughly fire-proof boiler room in the rear. To the north is a large addition used as a stock house, of steel construction throughout, with asphalt doors, three stories in height. Across the driveway to the south are the malt and bottling houses. The business in the bottling department has increased to such an extent that it has been found necessary to make numerous additions. Nothing but the purest material is used in the manufacture of this brewery's product, and as a result it has attained a wide reputation which has redounded to Morris' credit.





SUSAN BUCK



John Buck



## MORRIS OATMEAL COMPANY

It would be difficult to discover in this or any other section of the country an enterprise which has enjoyed more rapid or satisfactory growth than that which has attended the Morris Oatmeal Company. Handled with rare ability by men of recognized business and administrative powers, within the short space of twelve years its trade has assumed astounding proportions and probably none of the city's industries have proved more beneficial to its material welfare. In July, 1912, ground was broken for the erection of the plant of this concern, and so rapidly were the buildings erected that by November of the same year the plant was in operation. This consists of a mill and packing building of brick, four stories high, 70 by 80, brick, engine, boiler and kiln drying rooms, frame crib construction, steel-covered elevator of 100,000 bushels capacity, warehouse, 100 by 100, frame cooper shops and stock sheds, and brick office building. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway runs double tracks into the property, and side-tracks, grounds and buildings are all enclosed with a tight, high board fence. The power plant includes high pressure tubular boilers and a compound condensing Buckeye engine of 250 horsepower, the buildings are equipped with a thorough automatic sprinkler system, and every precaution is taken against fire. At the time of its inception the mill produced 300 barrels of rolled oats, but its production at this time is many times that amount, and includes rolled oats, pearl barley and mill feed. Marketed under the company's own brands, the products of this industry have a large sale in every state of the Union and in most European countries. The plant was founded here by W. G. Norton, who had a wide experience in milling, and who carefully looked over the country before deciding to make Morris the home of his enterprise. In 1901 the Morris Oatmeal Company was formed by Mr. Norton and Conrad Eldering, and in the following year the construction of the plant was under way, as above noted. This company has always paid the highest market price to farmers for oats, barley, corn and wheat, a policy which has greatly enlarged the grain market of Morris, farmers frequently hauling grain a distance of twenty miles in order to secure the favorable returns. It probably has been, however, the extensive free advertising given by this com-

pany to the city that has so greatly benefitted Morris. The packages of rolled oats and barley, bearing the name of the city, are on thousands of grocers' shelves all over the country, and the name, "Morris, Ill.," has become familiar to consumers of cereals all over the United States and foreign countries.

## THE MORRIS INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

In the Morris Industrial Association, the City of Morris has an organization which has been of the utmost value in the development of its manufacturing interests, the encouragement of trade and the advancement of industries. Its members are men of public spirit, who have taken a pride in their city and its achievements and who have labored faithfully and disinterestedly towards the betterment of business conditions. The association was formed and incorporated in the fall of 1909 by one hundred of the leading business and professional men of Morris, with the avowed purpose of promoting manufacturing enterprises and inducing outside capital to come to the city. The first officers were: Henry H. Baum, president; I. N. R. Beatty, secretary; Fred L. Stephen, vice president; and Henry Stocker, treasurer, the above officials forming the board of directors with William Sparr, Edgar Woelfel and Orville T. Wilson. The association purchased thirty acres of land from Joseph Fells, of Philadelphia, for \$12,500, and thirty acres from J. D. Owens, for \$7,500, located in East Morris, and a portion of this they platted into 244 lots and sold to citizens of Morris for \$56,000, in order to raise a fund for operating expenses. Immediately after securing this amount, the association entered into contracts with the Sinclair Laundry and Machinery Company, of Chicago, to move its factory to Morris, the former agreeing to construct for the latter a modern factory building and to deed it to the company at the termination of five years, provided the company paid in wages an amount aggregating \$400,000 for the five years. The building was completed and the company took possession in the summer of 1910, but the venture proved unsuccessful and in the spring of 1911 the company went into bankruptcy. This business was purchased from the trustee in bankruptcy by John T. Berge, vice president of the Adams Laundry and Machinery Company, of Troy, N. Y., and Walter Luke, president of the Luke Laundry





and Machinery Company, of Chicago, who proposed to carry it on. Still later one-half of this building was leased to the Johnson & Carlson Cut Glass Company, which moved its plants from Chicago and a point in Indiana, and is now operating very successfully. The other half of the building was sold to the Northwestern Novelty Company, and this concern is also doing a large business.

#### RAILROAD PROMOTION

The association in 1911 arranged with a Mr. Zimmermann, representing the Hon. H. H. Evans of Aurora and promoter of the proposed line of the Fox, Illinois & Union Electric Railroad, to secure the rights of way between Morris and Yorkville, an undertaking accomplished in the course of three months during the summer of 1911. This is a northern outlet and it is proposed to build a southern one through Mason to Dwight. For this purpose the association raised about \$11,000, through the railroad committee, of which J. W. McKindly of the Grundy County Bank was chairman. The association still owns about seven acres of the original purchase, which it is holding for factory sites. The dominant figure in the association has been its president, Henry H. Baum, who has remained loyal to its interests and steadfast in his endeavors to maintain the high and worthy aims which actuated its organization.

#### MORRIS FIBER BOARD COMPANY

A paper mill had been started some years ago. This concern met with many reverses, until, through the efforts of the association, the Morris Fiber Board Company was brought to this old site. The company, which manufactures box boards, was organized February 15, 1913, and on taking possession remodeled the original paper mill building, making it one of the most desirable of its kind in the state. As the factory has not long been opened, business has not yet been much more than inaugurated, but employment is given to a fair number of employes, and it is the intention of the management to enlarge upon the production capacity of the plant within a short time. H. D. Eddy is the president of this company; Oscar Cumbilmsky, secretary and treasurer, while A. C. Van Kirk is the general superintendent.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the men

who have made Grundy County's manufacturing history. Obstacles have not deterred them, misfortunes have not discouraged them. Steadfastly they have maintained their faith in the community, and loyally have they supported its interests. Their reward comes not only in material accumulations, but in the satisfying knowledge that they belong to a class which has no superior in the upbuilding of a manufacturing center known around the world—that they have builded and builded well, and that their creation, founded upon business stability, will grow and develop and enlarge, a monument to sterling American energy and prowess.

#### OTHER INTERESTS

Considerable tile is manufactured in different parts of Grundy County which are mentioned in the articles pertaining to their special localities. At one time pottery was manufactured and it was thought by the more optimistic that this product would prove very profitable, but the industry is now dead.

Discovery of coal in Grundy County brought many miners from all mining countries and considerable money was invested in developing the mines. About them sprung up villages that gave promise of developing into cities, but these dreams were never to be realized, as the mine owners soon discovered that the veins, while plentiful, and of good quality of coal, were too shallow to make the installation of machinery profitable. Mining by hand was discovered to be too expensive for competition with machine-operated mines. Therefore, although the coal remains, but few mines are now in operation and they only to supply a local demand. A more complete history of the coal industry will be found in another article.

Several factories have been established at different points in Grundy County, notably that of the Sears-Robuck clothing factory, at Coal City, mentioned at some length in the chapter devoted to that place. All along the line of the railroads bisecting Grundy County are to be seen elevators and stock pens, from which are shipped the agricultural products of Grundy County. Small communities have grown up about these shipping points, but changes in management of the business connected with them have been frequent.





Mary E. Buck



Thomas Buck



## CHAPTER XVI

SCANDINAVIAN AMERICAN CITIZENS IN  
GRUNDY COUNTY

PRIDE OF ANCESTRY—RUGGED COUNTRY, RUGGED  
PEOPLE—THE VIKING—A CRUEL WARRIOR BUT  
HONORABLE VICTOR—NORWEGIANS SETTLE IN  
THE UNITED STATES IN 1621—SWEDES CAME IN  
1638—NORWEGIANS SETTLED IN NEW YORK IN  
1825—IN ILLINOIS IN 1827—FIRST SCANDINA-  
VIAN SETTLERS HERE—REMARKABLE LONGEVITY  
—SURPRISING GROWTH IN NUMBERS AND  
WEALTH—CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCANDINA-  
VIAN—TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS  
—A PERFECTED INHERITANCE.

(By O. J. Nelson)

## PRIDE OF ANCESTRY

I am reminded at this moment of the old saying,—If a man boasts of his ancestry, "Steer shy of him." "There is a screw loose in him." While I am vain enough to say, that from the knowledge I have of our Scandinavian ancestors' history, I could say a great deal in their praise, I am too modest to say they average better than most foreigners who have come to this country and by their frugality and industry have their homes.

The reason is, I am one of them.

We are not "shy on ancestors," like "Torchy;" neither have we mislaid our family history; and I am of the opinion, that while good ancestry may not as a rule, be considered real working capital, it can safely be counted among our gilt-edged assets. It has been said by some one, "Rugged country, rugged people," and believing that the author of that sentiment meant physically only, I think I dare say in connection with the matter in hand, that it should read, "Rugged country, rugged people, both morally and physically."

## THE VIKING

Our ancestor, "The Viking" of old, possessed defiant courage, and vital power, and exercised both.

"The howling of the thunder hurt us not,  
The blast and tempest aid our oars,  
The hurricane is our servant,  
It drives us thither we wish to go."

Thus the Saga.

He took particular pains to instill bravery into the youth of his country, and even his enemies have written that they were trustworthy; and that their promises could be relied upon. If they said "Yes," they meant "Yes;" if they said "No," they meant "No." He was a cruel warrior, but an honorable victor.

Thus says the historian, and whether we have inherited those virtues indicated, namely, bravery, honor and honesty, and displayed them in a practical way in the battle of life thus far, the reader is selected to be the judge.

The Scandinavians came in their Viking boats to this country the first time in the year 1000, and made a settlement on the shores of New England. Voyages were made by them irregularly to those settlements up to the time of the "Black Death" in 1350, which put an end to the intercourse between Scandinavia, Iceland and this country, and the people in those settlements who did not die, mixed with the Indians.

As the Puritans came in their Mayflower in 1620; the Swedes in their Hjelmar Nyckel, in 1638, so the Norwegians came in their little sloop called Restorationen (the Restoration), in 1825. The Swedes settled along the Delaware River in Pennsylvania permanently, and do not figure in this short history, neither does a party of Norwegians who came over in 1624 and settled in New Jersey permanently. Those who came over in the Sloop, which sailed from Stavanger, Norway, on the 14th of July, 1825, settled around Rochester, N. Y., but a few of them drifted to Mission Township, La Salle County, Ill., in 1837. I mention this, because La Salle County included the present territory of Grundy and Kendall counties at that time; and Grundy County was not organized till four years later, in 1841.

It appears that Kleng Peerson, from near Stavanger, Norway, was the first Scandinavian to locate a farm west of the great lakes. He located it for his sister, Mrs. Carrie Nelson, one of the Sloop party in 1836, and she came west soon after and took possession. She was the first landholder in the territory above mentioned, and built the first log house in Mission



Township, La Salle County. This farm is still occupied by one of her descendants (she having died in 1848) and is described as follows: South West Quarter Section No. 33, Town 35, Range 5, East 3rd P. M.

#### FIRST SCANDINAVIAN SETTLERS

John Hill, from near Stavanger, Norway, appears to have been the first Scandinavian to settle in the present Grundy County, in 1839, and a few others followed in the early '40s. Thor Thorson and Ole Thorson, his brother, and my grandparents on my father's side, and my uncle, Severt Nelson, were among the first to settle in the county after its organization (in 1841). They came from Skonevik, Bergens Stift, Norway. Immigration from Scandinavia to Grundy County from 1857 to the close of the Civil war was nearly, if not quite, at a standstill, but it soon increased, and reached its high-water mark between 1872 and 1885.

Although I intended to mention only the names of the very first Scandinavian settlers of Grundy County by name, I am persuaded to mention a family of four brothers who came to Grundy County in 1857, and who are still living and comparatively active. They came from near Stavanger, Norway, and their names are: Gunder Hendrickson, now of DeKalb County, Ill., aged eighty-five years; Hendrick Hendrickson, now of Kendall County, Ill., aged eighty-eight years; Goodmon Hendrickson, now of Iowa, aged ninety-three years, and Lars Hendrickson, aged ninety years, who still lives on his first home made in Grundy County. From the fact that their father lived to the ripe old age of one hundred and three years, and taking their present condition of health and activity into consideration, they seem to have several years to stay with us yet.

In 1866, when the writer, in September of that year, settled in the City of Morris, the county-seat of Grundy County, there were only a total of twenty persons of Scandinavian birth in the city. At this writing (1912) they constitute over one-fourth of its population, or in round numbers 1400. The Scandinavian born population of Grundy County at this time constitutes nearly one-fifth of its total population of 21,000 (as per census of 1910), or in round numbers 4,400. They are owners of over 25,000 acres of the best farming lands in the county, which can safely be valued at over \$5,500,000;

real estate in Morris and Gardner, \$710,000; personal property over \$2,500,000; total \$8,710,000. I am inclined to believe that the total value of property held and owned by the American citizens of Grundy County of Scandinavian birth, including the investments made by them in the Northwest the past few years, would amount to over \$11,000,000. This property has been accumulated in the average time of thirty-five years, as near as I can judge the situation, and knowing that our pioneer fathers came over here with no surplus cash, but many in fact, actually owed some friend for their passage over, we are constrained to say,—“Well done.”

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCANDINAVIAN

The hard struggle for existence in the land of their birth had taught them habits of industry and rigid economy, and this has been of immense benefit to them in their new home, and while the Scandinavian American citizens of Grundy County and elsewhere have adapted themselves to their new surroundings, and have become as much Americanized as any of the country's foreign population, they all look with peculiar fondness on the land of their birth.

“The typical Scandinavian” is a born pioneer.

With his inherited passion for ownership of land and a home, and his decided liking for adventure combined with physical stamina, courage and endurance, he is the stuff that pioneers are made of, and of this he has given abundant proof.

They have not been camp-followers in the civilization of this county or in the great Northwest, but have marched in the forefront and borne their full share of toil, hardship and danger. And the women, our mothers and grandmothers, God bless them, were worthy consorts of the men who laid the giants of the forests low, and made the wilderness blossom as the rose. Their loins were girded with strength, and they knew nothing of that tired feeling.

They could not paint on china, or pound rag-time on the piano, but they could spin, weave and knit.

They perhaps, could not drive a nail better than their granddaughters can, but they could drive a yoke of oxen, and handle a pitchfork, and the rake almost as well as they could handle the broom or mop. They did not ruin





our digestion with mince pie and rich salad, but gave us wholesome and toothsome coarse food, the kind of food on which a hundred generations of Scandinavian seamen and mountaineers have been raised. If the story of their pioneer life could be told, it would be of intense interest, but it would require a master to draw the correct picture which would show the different scenes in detail, and I am of the opinion that personal experience only could fully tell the tale.

A great majority of the old settlers have laid down the weapons of their warfare, and the weather-stained marble marks their resting place in the valley or hillside. Their grandsons have gray hair now, and one by one, the grandson's family are leaving him, and he, soon must give away to his children. Our fathers who weathered the storm are gone. The claims they staked are cultivated and beautiful farms. The fields they fenced crudely with rails are now enclosed with the modern wire fence. The cabins they erected have given place to proud modern residences, and the slab schoolhouse and log church have shrunk out of sight, and two-story academy buildings and spired temples have risen in their stead.

#### A PERFECTED INHERITANCE

All this is right. Our inheritance is perfected: but, let us not stop here, and let us not create new necessities out of our pride. It is our favored lot to be pioneers in a wider life; to lay the foundations for a noble future, and happy is the man of the observing mind, who labors for intelligence, as his forefathers labored for lands, and helps to make truth and character as prominent in generations to come, as the claim fence, and the log cabin were, in the generations that are past.

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## CHAPTER XVII

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### AGRICULTURE

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PRODUCTS—INCREASING LAND VALUES—RAISING OF GINSENG A POSSIBILITY—GREAT CORN LAND—COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION—A PROMISING FUTURE.

(The following article has been compiled from statements made by various agriculturalists of Grundy County.)

The soil of Grundy County is peculiarly adapted to agricultural purposes, and some of the finest and most productive farms of the state are to be found within its borders. In addition to grains, hay and fruits, grazing is carried on extensively, many of the farmers specializing in high-grade stock, that frequently receives ribbons at different stock exhibits. The live stock of Grundy County is according to the latest obtainable estimates as follows: horses, 10,690, value \$776,685; cattle, 11,315, value \$345,795; mules, 584, value \$11,640; sheep, 1,454, value \$4,500; and hogs, 7,020, value \$51,075. The transportation facilities are such that the produce is easily marketed, and there is a constant demand for larger shipments.

When the pioneers came to Grundy County, land could be obtained from the government for \$1.25 an acre. Much of it was almost worthless at the time, owing to the swampy condition of the county, but modern methods of drainage and cultivation have resulted in a wonderful increase in values, for the same property that was obtained at so low a price is now held at from \$200 to \$250 per acre.

Perhaps no county in the state has more progressive farmers than those of Grundy, and the machinery and appliances bought and put into constant use are of the most improved character. It is the rule rather than the exception for the farmers to have automobiles, and telephones are a necessity, having long ago ceased to be a luxury in this county.

Some of the agriculturalists are experimenting with crops, and there is no doubt but that the results of this line of endeavor will prove profitable to the county at large. There is a small plot of ginseng at Mazon which is worth more than many an acre of corn or oats, and if it can be demonstrated that this Chinese plant can be successfully raised in Grundy County, a new avenue will be opened for the farmer.

Owing to the moisture of the soil, wheat is not produced in large quantities, but oats are profitable, and "Corn is King." From the fertile land of Grundy County come bumper crops of the staple product of the Middle West. The towering elevators along the railroads are a feature of Grundy County scenery, and their



bins are filled with the golden grain until it is shipped to the Chicago or other markets.

Considerable impetus has been given scientific agriculture by the County Fair Association. Several unsuccessful attempts had been made to establish such an association upon a firm foundation, and to awaken the interest in this most important matter, but it was not until 1903 that any real encouragement was given those who had the affairs of the county truly at heart. In that year some of the public-spirited men of Mazon succeeded in holding a colt show, on the streets of the village, and were successful to such a degree, that the following year they branched out and held a horse show for all breeds. In 1906 the Grundy County Agricultural Association held its first fair, and from then on these fairs have been an annual event. The association which is composed of forty-eight stockholders has its own grounds, which are particularly well adapted for the purpose for which they are used. These comprise ten acres of land, containing exhibition grounds, stationary buildings, including the grand stand, and stock sheds, and a fine diamond upon which the mettle of various baseball teams is tried out. The grandstand which cost \$3,000 holds 2,000 people, is one of the best in several counties. The other buildings are kept in excellent condition, and the exhibitors of stock are afforded generous accommodations.

It would be difficult to over estimate the effect that this movement has upon the advancement of agricultural interests in this section. The farmers are encouraged to produce the finest specimens of stock and grains, while their meeting, as they do each year, gives them all new ideas which when developed individually, result in many remarkable changes in methods and processes, all of which eventually work out to the betterment of the county as a whole. The social features of the fair are strong factors as well, and it would be difficult to imagine a time when the people of Grundy County would permit the venture of the Mazon residents to languish or fail.

Taking them all in all, the agriculturalists of Grundy County must be numbered among the most progressive of the state. They conduct their properties so as to make them yield immense crops, and yet so conserve their soil as to prevent its being impoverished, through rotation of crops and proper fertilization.

The installation of the telephone, the bisecting of the county by interurban railway lines, and the circulation of papers and magazines, together with the rural free delivery and parcel post service, have all contributed to the advancement of the farmer here, as elsewhere in Illinois and other states. With the automobile, has come rapid transit between the farms and nearby towns as well as with Joliet and Chicago, and the agriculturalists and their families have not been unwilling to take full advantage of these opportunities, but have been developed accordingly until they stand in the foremost ranks of the successful and wealthy people of the Prairie State.

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## CHAPTER XVIII

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### THE ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL.

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AN INTERESTING SPECULATION—REALIZED LACK OF TRANSPORTATION—PLANS FOR A GREAT WATERWAY—ESTIMATED COST—ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL ASSOCIATION—CHARTER SECURED—CHARTER SURRENDERED—GRANT OF LAND—WORK DELAYED—FAILURE OF STATE BANK—ACTIVITY OF JACOB CLAYPOOL—MORRIS SITUATED ON THE CANAL.

#### AN INTERESTING SPECULATION

In reviewing the fundamental causes which bring about far-reaching results, it is often interesting to speculate upon what might have happened if those causes had never come into being. Had it not been the aim and ambition of public-spirited men to connect Lake Michigan and the Illinois River by an artificial channel, and if others had not insisted that the county seat of the then proposed Grundy County be located at some point upon the canal, Morris might not have come into being, or if it had been located at another place, its history would probably have been different. Deprived of the transportation facilities afforded by the canal and the Illinois River, it would never have developed into the shipping center it has, nor would as many manufacturing plants have been





William Burkhardt and Family



located here were it not for the fact that water power was plentiful, and the products of the factories could be easily and cheaply marketed.

However as it may be, long before any settlement was made in what later became Grundy County, some years before Illinois was admitted to the Union, and Chicago was but an Indian trading post, far-sighted men realized that in the coming years there would arise a demand for a highway by means of which freight and human beings could be transported from the harbor at Fort Dearborn to the Father of Waters. They did not then know that the future held wonderful inventions which would connect the oceans, and that the land could be utilized for transportation purposes much better than the water, and, not knowing, they built according to their knowledge, and the result was a powerful factor in the development and advancement of the territory through which it passed.

#### PLANS FOR A GREAT WATERWAY

As early as 1812 the project of connecting the waters of Lake Michigan with those of the Illinois River had engrossed the progressive men of not only the military service, but those of private life as well. From time to time the importance of this work was urged, and on July 4, 1836, ground was broken, the original survey connecting with the eastern arm of the south branch of the Chicago River, following the general line of the Desplaines and Illinois rivers to Peru, where it was to pass by locks into the river. The original cost was estimated at a sum varying from six hundred and forty thousand to ten million dollars, the latter figures more nearly approximating the actual cost than the former.

#### ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL ASSOCIATION

The Illinois and Michigan Canal Association was formed in 1825, with a capital of \$1,000,000, and its members secured a charter that allowed extraordinary privileges. Daniel P. Cook, who was the only representative of Illinois in the Lower House, was then endeavoring to secure a grant of the land for canal purposes, and he realized that this charter would defeat his aims, as Congress would naturally be indisposed to aid a scheme which already had se-

cured so much. By 1827, the association had surrendered this charter, and that same year a grant was made of public lands.

#### GRANT OF LAND

While this grant was generous, no money could be obtained from it, and matters dragged, although by January 1, 1839, \$1,400,000 had been spent upon the canal without appreciable results. With the exception of about twenty-three miles which lay between Dresden and Marseilles, the whole canal was let out to contractors, but values had become inflated, and the state was so embarrassed financially that work had to be abandoned for a time. When the state bank failed in 1842, further trouble was experienced in continuing work on the canal. About this time, Jacob Claypool, of Grundy County, took the contract for the inlet portion of the canal, where the aqueduct was later built, actively resuming operations in 1845, and completed the work in 1848.

Morris is the only town in Grundy County that is located upon the canal, and much discussion took place before the matter was finally settled. It lies along the canal, the Illinois River being beyond, and in the early days, a large amount of freight was carried upon it. With the development of the railroad service, some of this commerce was diverted from the canal, but it is still in active use.

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## CHAPTER XIX

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### THE MASONIC FRATERNITY

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WELL REPRESENTED IN GRUNDY COUNTY—MORRIS  
—CEDAR LODGE A. F. & A. M.—ORIENT ROYAL  
ARCH CHAPTER—BLANEY COMMANDERY—LIST OF  
EMINENT COMMANDERS—FINE QUARTERS—GARD-  
NER—MINOOKA—VERONA—MAZON.

(By Joseph H. Pettit)

The Masonic fraternity is well represented in Grundy County, as the following article will demonstrate.





## MORRIS

Cedar Lodge No. 124, A. F. & A. M. was instituted on February 26, 1852, with B. M. Atherton, W. M.; C. L. Starbuck, S. W.; John Gibson, J. W.; George Fisher, T.; James Gibson, secretary; Leonard, S. D.; and Lawrence Wilkes, J. D. Its charter was granted October 3, 1853, and L. P. Lott was one of the first initiates, later serving as Master for a dozen years.

Orient Royal Arch Chapter, No. 31, was constituted October 23, 1856, with Franklin K. Hulburd, L. P. Lott, B. M. Atherton, Nathan B. Dodson, E. W. Lusk, C. R. Parmelee, Leonard Ashton, George Riddle and George Fisher as charter members.

Blaney Commandery No. 5, Knights Templar, was chartered October 26, 1858. Until 1858 Apollo Commandery No. 1, of Chicago, Belvidere Commandery No. 2, at Alton, and Peoria Commandery were the only commanderies in Illinois. E. W. Lusk and F. K. Hulburd were both Knight Templars and desired after locating at Morris to found a commandery there. In order to comply with the requirements they secured the co-operation of Rt. Eminent Sir Hosmer A. Johnson, who later became R. E. Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, and after some difficulty occasioned by the desire of the Masons of Joliet to establish a commandery at that point, Grand Commander Sir Knight Blaney granted a dispensation so that Joliet Commandery No. 4 of Joliet and Blaney Commandery No. 5 of Morris, were born on the same day, the former being constituted by Grand Commander Blaney on March 18, 1858, and the latter on the following day, with these Sir Knights: N. D. Elwood, T. Hatton, Jr., W. W. Mitchell, E. W. Lusk, E. Wilcox, C. E. Munger, F. K. Hulburd, E. Bean, James H. Miles, T. Hatton, Sr., and E. J. Higgins.

On the day of the constitution of Blaney Commandery the following Companions of Orient Royal Arch Chapter No. 31 received the orders of Christian Knighthood conferred in said Commandery: George Fisher, E. W. Hulburd, L. P. Lott, P. A. Armstrong, William B. Grenell, J. W. Massey, Charles H. Gould, Uriah B. Couch, George Dimon, Charles R. Parmelee, John Gibson, Jr., and B. M. Atherton. The first Eminent Commander was Sir Knight Franklin K. Hulburd, who served during 1858,

1859, 1860 and 1861. He was succeeded by Sir Knight Arnold M. Cleveland, who was in office until 1870. The third Eminent Commander was Sir Knight Perry Austin Armstrong, who was succeeded in 1872 by Sir Knight Charles H. Gould. In 1879, Sir Knight Lafayette Beach succeeded Sir Knight Gould, and continued in office until 1884. In 1885, Sir Knight Leander Irons was made Eminent Commander and he served until 1888, and in that year Sir Knight Joseph H. Pettit came into the office. The following year Sir Knight Lorenzo E. Daniels was made Eminent Commander, and he served until 1893, when Sir Knight David Nickel succeeded him. In 1895, Sir Knight Henry Stocker was made Eminent Commander and his term of office embraced the years 1895 and 1896, when Sir Knight William Sparr succeeded him and served during 1897 and 1898. During 1899, Sir Knight Claude S. Magner was Eminent Commander, in 1900 Sir Knight J. Arthur Pool succeeded him and served until June 30, 1901, when Sir Knight Morris Magner became Eminent Commander and held the office until June 30, 1902. On that date, Sir Knight Henry Clay Claypool was elected, and held the office for a year. Sir Knight John Ray was Eminent Commander during 1903, 1904 and 1905, while Sir Knight George L. Woelfel held the office during 1905, 1906 and 1907, and in 1907 Sir Knight Austin J. Smith was made Eminent Commander. Commander Smith was succeeded by Sir Knight Henry C. Claypool, but the latter died while conducting his first services in that office. This sudden ending of the life of one of Morris' admired and leading men, who at that time was also serving as postmaster, plunged all of Grundy County into mourning, and although many years have elapsed since then, it is almost impossible to talk at any length with one of those who had the honor of association with Mr. Claypool, without hearing mention of his death. Sir Knight George Bedford succeeded him, and in 1910, Sir Knight Fred S. Johnson held that office. The Eminent Commander in 1911 was Sir Knight Harry N. Ferguson, while in 1912, Sir Knight George H. Weitz was elected, and he in turn was succeeded by Sir Knight Herman Bressee. In 1914, Sir Knight H. B. Smith became Eminent Commander.

In December, 1885, Blaney Commandery, together with the other Masonic bodies of Morris, removed from their quarters in the Streeter



Ellon Barry Calahan

Robert T Calahan





block to the Gebhard block, a new building completed that season. A third story was added by the builder at the suggestion of members of the Masonic fraternities of Morris, and at the time of completion, a lease was executed to Cedar Lodge No. 124 for the entire third floor and a portion of the second floor for a long term of years, the Commandery being a sub-tenant of the lodge. The division of the space of the third floor was made under the supervision of committees from the lodge, chapter and commandery, providing a large audience room, three commodious parlors each opening into the other and in connection with the armory, making a corridor surrounding the audience hall. There are also reception, preparation, wardrobe and smoking rooms which, together with a large dining room and kitchen on the second floor, provide the fraternities with very comfortable, convenient and pleasant apartments which are suitably furnished. From time to time as needed, the rooms have been renovated, refurnished and modernized, and are in fine condition.

The Masonic representation of Gardner is as follows: Gardner Lodge, No. 573, A. F. & A. M., was organized May 24, 1866, and received its charter October 6, 1868. The charter members were: I. F. Benson, W. H. Shoemaker, Ed. Crane, J. W. Hull, Amos Clover, W. W. McMann, William Hart, A. DeNormandie, Henry Elliott and H. V. Whalen.

Minooka Lodge No. 528, A. F. & A. M., was organized during 1867, and received its charter the following year with these charter members: C. Dahlem, A. K. Knapp, G. C. Griswold, John T. Van Dolfson, G. S. Correll, Samuel Adams, W. H. Smith, E. W. Weese, Jacob Gebelman, John Collops, Phaley Gedleman, J. E. McClure, C. V. Hamilton and W. A. Jordon.

Verona Lodge, A. F. & A. M., at Verona, was organized in 1898. The Masonic Hall of that village is the most substantial building of the place. The present Worshipful Master is Walter Kilmer.

Mazon Lodge No. 826 was organized November 7, 1893, with ninety-five members.

## CHAPTER XX

### THE MORRIS HOSPITAL

PREVALENT IDEA OF A HOSPITAL—A GREAT HUMANITARIAN INSTITUTION—FOUNDING OF THE MORRIS HOSPITAL—AT FIRST A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE—FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS—FIRST LOCATION—PRESENT MODERN STRUCTURE—FINE EQUIPMENTS—HOSPITAL OFFICIALS—CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS—FURTHER USEFULNESS.

(By F. A. Palmer, M. D.)

#### PREVALENT IDEA OF A HOSPITAL

It is an all too prevalent and injurious belief that the modern hospital is an indulgence and luxury of the wealthy; that institutions of this nature are callous and soulless, and that the only interest taken in the patients is a purely professional or case-hardened scientific one. Far from these erroneous and prejudicial theories being the fact, the modern hospital, aside from being the highest possible development of science for the mitigation and cure of the hosts of bodily ills to which mankind is heir, is a great philanthropic, utilitarian and public-spirited organization, into the development of which the best thought, the greatest achievements and the worthiest and most unselfish efforts of experts from every corner of the world have entered.

The problems of health are really the problems of life and must pertain to all questions of human interest; and of recent years this interest has spread far beyond the ranks of the merely professional men, so that today the right-thinking leaders in any of the activities of life recognize that the attainment of the greatest degree of efficiency has its foundation upon the attainment of the greatest degree of bodily soundness, baleness and vigor. It is for this reason that the modern hospital plays such an important part in the scheme of things. Upon it rests the responsibility for the physical and mental welfare of the community, and in as great a degree as this welfare is maintained, in just such degree will the community prosper and flourish in the activities to which the lives of its people are devoted.



Backed by men of substantial business worth and standing, in charge of the best medical and surgical talent to be procured, and equipped with the most modern appliances and conveniences which science has discovered and mechanical ingenuity has devised, the Morris Hospital, at Morris, Illinois, is representative of all that is highest and best in an institution whose object is the alleviation of humanity's swarming bodily ailments. Its growth and development has been rapid and sure and its beneficial influence upon the city and surrounding country cannot be over estimated.

#### FOUNDING OF THE MORRIS HOSPITAL

The Morris Hospital was founded in September, 1906, on the third floor of the Collins Building, above the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, as a private hospital by Mrs. Elizabeth Macketanz, at the request of Dr. F. A. Palmer. When she found that the people of Morris were responding to the call of humanity by making donations to the hospital, she asked Doctor Palmer to appoint a Board of Directors to take charge of them, and the following gentlemen were selected: D. A. Mathews, T. H. Hall, L. S. Hoge, E. G. Cryder and James Hansen, practical business men whose substantiality guaranteed the financial stability of the enterprise. About three months later, the failure of Mrs. Macketanz's health, forced her to abandon her plan, and she turned all her equipment over to the trustees to be used as a public hospital.

As the scope of the hospital's usefulness grew and the people began to realize the signal benefits of its service, the first quarters were found to be inadequate to the demands placed upon them, and in 1908, after approximately fifteen thousand had been raised by popular subscription, the trustees gave their personal notes for the remainder of the amount needed, and since then Mr. Mathews, president of the institution and one of the principal donors has made some very substantial presents. There is still a debt upon the hospital which will be cleared off in due time. Work on the present handsome and well-equipped structure, on High Street, between Lisbon and Liberty streets, was commenced, and was occupied in the fall of 1910. This is the only one-story hospital in the United States, and has twenty-five beds, with private rooms and operating rooms, and every appliance and comfort of which an insti-

tution of this kind can boast. The Morris Hospital is under the capable superintendency of Amy Holtorf, whose wide experience and broad sympathies find an excellent field for expression. Associated with Mr. Mathews in the direction of the institution are T. H. Hall, L. S. Hoge, E. G. Cryder and James Hansen, practical business men whose substantiality guarantees the financial stability of the enterprise. The original medical and surgical staff was composed of Mrs. A. E. Palmer and G. F. Nelson, both now deceased, and Drs. F. A. Palmer, H. M. Ferguson, W. F. Walsh and F. C. Bowker, men of high professional standing and wide, practical experience. The last four named constitute the present staff, the vacancies left by death not having been filled. The Morris Hospital maintains a training school, composed of six nurses, the course being two years.

#### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

A copy of the constitution and by-laws of the Morris Hospital is appended:

"Article I. Name. Section 1. The name of this institution shall be the Morris Hospital. Section 2. The institution shall be owned and supported by the general public of Morris and vicinity. Section 3. The object of this institution shall be the care of the sick, according to the principles of Christian charity, and the training of Christian nurses.

"Property. Section 4. The property of this institution shall be held in trust by a board of trustees in accordance with the articles of incorporation and said board shall manage the institution. This board of trustees shall consist of five members, one of which shall be elected annually at the annual meeting of the society to be held on the first Monday in October, by ballot of the members of the society, and by a majority of those so present in person voting. Every person paying twenty-five dollars or more in advance shall be a life member and be entitled to vote. Any society paying twenty-five dollars or more shall be entitled to one perpetual vote by its official representative. The ministers of all the churches of Morris, Illinois, and all physicians of Morris, Illinois, shall be entitled to membership and a vote without fee. Each trustee shall be elected for a term of five years. A majority of said trustees shall be residents of Morris, Illinois.

"Management. Section 5. The board of trus-





tees shall hold its meeting following the annual meeting of the society, at which time they shall elect from their number a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, each to serve one year or until their successors are elected. Three members of the board shall constitute a quorum for any purpose.

"Duties of Board of Trustees. Section 6. The board of trustees shall at all times be fully authorized to execute all powers of the society over the estate and property of the society. To it shall be committed the authority to make by-laws, rules and regulations, and to alter and amend the same, to fill vacancies, choose the officers of the society, appoint agents and attendants, and generally transact the entire business of the society.

"Annual Statement. Section 7. Within thirty days of the date of their annual meeting the board shall issue to the public of Morris a yearly statement showing the donations received during the year, and so far as practical specifying the uses to which they have been devoted.

"Article II. Duties of Officers.—Of President. Section 1. The president shall preside at all meetings. He shall sign all orders on the treasurer and audit the treasurer's report, and shall call special meetings of the board whenever, in his opinion, the business of the society requires it, or whenever requested to do so on application of three members of the board of trustees.

"Of Vice President. Section 2. In case of absence of the president the vice president shall possess all his powers and perform his duties.

"Of Secretary. Section 3. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the board of trustees and of the society. He shall preserve all papers and records which do not belong to the office of the treasurer. He shall notify the members of stated meetings of the board of trustees by notice directed to them through the postoffice at least two days before the meeting, and shall give a similar notice of the meeting of the society, by a notice addressed to the members at their last known place of residence, or by publication in daily city paper for at least two days preceding such meeting, which publication shall be deemed a proper notice. He shall have charge of all correspondence of the board and make such communications in relation to it as may be necessary.

"Of Treasurer. Section 4. The treasurer shall give such bond as the board of trustees

require, shall have the custody of such deeds, papers and documents relating to the property of the society, and of all moneys belonging thereto. At each stated meeting he shall submit an account, or abstract thereof, showing the financial state of the treasury, and shall pay all orders properly drawn upon him. He shall prepare and lay before the members of the society at their annual meeting a statement of receipts and expenditures of the preceding year, of the funds of the society.

"Article III. Section 1. The medical staff shall consist of not more than six (6) physicians resident of Morris, Illinois, of moral and professional repute, as were originally the six physicians upon whose initiative the hospital was started. Section 2. The staff shall at an annual meeting on the first Monday in September elect a president and a secretary, the president to preside at all meetings and the secretary to keep a record thereof, and perform such other duties as may pertain to that office. Section 3. Whenever any vacancy occurs in the staff on account of death, removal, incapacity to serve or any other cause, the president of the staff shall call a meeting of the staff for the purpose of recommending a candidate or candidates, as the case may be, to the board of trustees. Upon a majority vote in favor of a candidate he shall be recommended to the board. The board of trustees shall then meet and act upon the candidates thus recommended. Section 4. The members of the medical staff, or a representative of the same, shall have the privilege of attending any meeting of the board of trustees, but not of voting. On complaint of a majority of the medical staff the trustees may remove any member of the same, or on their own motion, if, in their judgment, the good of the hospital demands it. The medical staff shall have charge of the sanitary and medical regulations of the hospital, subject to the approval of the board of trustees. Section 5. No doctor shall have a right to take possession of the record sheets or history of any patient, which must remain the property of the hospital.

"Article IV. Section 1. The superintendent of the hospital shall have the privilege of appearing before the staff at any of their annual or special meetings to make reports or suggestions for the welfare of the hospital, but shall have no vote in the matter, and during the vote thereon shall absent herself from the meeting.



"Article V. Hospital Regulations. Section 1. Patients suffering from contagious or infectious diseases, insanity or delirium tremens shall not be admitted to the hospital. Patients shall not use profane or indecent language in the hospital nor procure for themselves or for others any intoxicating liquors. All fees to the Morris Hospital are payable in advance. No patient shall leave the hospital grounds without the permission of the physician in charge or the superintendent. Articles of food or drink must not be carried into the rooms or wards without express permission of the superintendent. Visitors must observe perfect order and propriety and confine their visits to those for whom specific permission has been obtained. The superintendent of this institution shall be the official representative of the board of trustees, shall direct the business management of the hospital, under the guidance of the board, and the medical management of the hospital under the direction of the staff. She shall keep or have kept books of the hospital, showing accurately all receipts and expenditures, and present them to the board upon demand. These regulations are subject to change at the discretion of the board of trustees."

#### FURTHER USEFULNESS

In its field the Morris Hospital is accomplishing a great and good work. The extent of its usefulness has increased steadily and consecutively, and no institution in the state bears a higher reputation for professional achievements. Born of the needs of its locality, promoted by individuals for the good of humanity and the betterment of conditions, it is proving not only a force for the advancement of public health, but of the moral welfare of Morris and the adjacent locality, and, as conducted under its present management, promises to have a long, bright and prosperous future.

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## CHAPTER XXI

### WOMAN'S CLUBS

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OF MORRIS—AFFILIATED WITH THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMAN'S CLUBS—WIDE FIELD OF STUDY COVERED—NEW CENTURY CLUB OF MORRIS—LARGELY DEVOTED TO CIVICS, MANUAL TRAINING AND DOMESTIC SCIENCE—STUDY CLUB OF MAZON—GENERAL SUBJECTS CONTINUED—ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY WOMEN OF GRUNDY COUNTY ARE CLUB MEMBERS.

(By Ella Davis Hull)

#### WOMAN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

One of the most distinctive features of the twentieth century is the prominence given to the opinions and work of woman. Through sheer ability and constant persistence she has forced her way to the front, and it has been due to her direct efforts that many of the most important reforms have not only been inaugurated, but carried to successful completion. This is an age of development and achievement. Progress is too rapid to admit of the old, laborious and hidden means through which woman formerly worked to attain the ends she knew were best. It has been necessary for her to come out into the open, and the results prove beyond any cavil that she has been wise in so doing. As she has entered more and more largely into the work of the world, so has she taken up its reform, and her field is constantly widening.

#### POWER IN UNION

As a natural result of her desire to keep in close touch with the needs of humanity, the accomplishments of the past and the hopes for the future, she has consulted with others of her sex, and they have discovered that if banded together, they could accomplish much more than if working independently. From small beginnings have grown the mighty organizations known the world over as the Woman's Clubs. There is scarcely a hamlet throughout this land that does not boast some affiliation with a central branch, and through one or other of these clubs women are revolutionizing the world.

While they take a hearty and effective interest in all current topics, these women of culture and high intellectual development study conditions in all climes and of all ages and keep on improving themselves and incidentally everyone with whom they come into contact. Need-





Elmer W. Carbone



less to say that in a section as progressive as Grundy County the women have taken a live interest in affairs of the day. Morris has two clubs of this nature, the Monday Club and the New Century Club, while at Mazon the organization is known as the Mazon Study Club.

#### MONDAY CLUB

Both of the clubs at Morris were founded in 1896, the latter growing out of the Methodist Church Reading Circle. The first president of the Monday Club was Mrs. Sarah Jordan, wife of Judge Jordan; the second was the late Mrs. Myra Pettit; the third, Mrs. Ella Davis Hull, who served four years, and the fourth was Mrs. M. K. Magner. From the inception of the Monday Club, it has been the desire of the members to co-operate with other organizations to secure improvements, and during the presidency of Mrs. Hull, special attention was given to the musical features. The club has been very active in securing proper school buildings, and beautifying the grounds. The members worked for and advocated the introduction and maintenance with remarkable success, of manual training and domestic science in the schools, and endeavored to secure medical inspection for the schools, but in this found that popular sentiment had not been sufficiently educated to gain general approval of such a movement, much as the ladies felt it was needed. The Monday Club has provided, during the years of its existence, many intellectual treats for the people of Morris, bringing to this city noted lecturers and musicians. Morris is proud of the fact that the late lamented Jessie Bartlett Davis, and her sister, Josephine Bartlett, were born and reared here, and that some of their relatives are still to be found in the city. It is possible that the celebrity of these two ladies and their position in the musical world stimulated other Morrisites, for this city has produced many whose talents have given them more than local fame. Through all of the work of the Monday Club, the study of art has been carried on, and some exceedingly interesting as well as beautiful art exhibits have been held here, the first one at the home of Mrs. Ella Davis Hull. Various subjects have been taken up by the club from time to time. Among other subjects aside from the usual ones relative to poetry, art, literature and the drama, the Monday Club has studied Illinois history, musical composers, history of

the opera, and during 1914-15 it is proposed to pay special attention to political science and devote some attention to the drama. It is needless to say that the Monday Club declared for suffrage and that its members have given serious attention to studying the vital questions pertaining to their citizenship. The club is affiliated with the District, State and General Federation of Woman Clubs, and at the biennial congress, held at Chicago in 1914, Mrs. Ella Davis Hull and Gladys Moore were the delegates. That the men have long recognized the power and influence of the work of the women, is shown by the fact that they have been earnestly solicited to co-operate with the men in all movements started in either Morris or Grundy County at large by the better element, and success in these uplift workings has very often been secured through the efforts of the members of one or both of the woman's clubs here.

#### THE NEW CENTURY CLUB

In all of the above advanced work, the two clubs labor in conjunction. The New Century Club has perhaps specialized a little more on temperance work, and for a number of years was simply a study club, mainly composed of the ladies of the Methodist Church. With the realization of the necessity for united and strenuous effort on the part of the women, the New Century Club branched out and is now enthusiastic relative to civic matters, manual training and domestic science. The first president was Miss Mary Holderman, and another early worker and earnest member was the late Mrs. Sarah Harrison. There are forty members, including those who are on the honorary list in the New Century Club, while the Monday Club has thirty members, with provision for associate members who can participate in the good work by the payment of double dues. As yet none have availed themselves of this opportunity.

#### THE MAZON STUDY CLUB

The Mazon Study Club was started as a missionary society of the Congregational Church by Mrs. Siebert, wife of the pastor of the church at that time, 1908. The first meeting was held in December of that year at the home of Mrs. D. S. Small, and the following officers were elected: Mrs. Mable Shields, president; Mrs. Vallie Ely,





vice president, and Mrs. Allie Sinclair, secretary. The second meeting was at the home of Mrs. Grace McNamara, and during it the club organized and adopted by-laws. During the first year the club studied "The Men Who Made the Nation." With the second year the same officers were elected, with the exception of the president, who was Mrs. Hallie Jewett. The course of study was "Geographical Influence in American History." The course of study for the third year was "American Literature;" for the fourth, "The Chautauqua Course;" for the fifth year, "Races and Immigrants in America," and during 1914, "Elements of the Theory and Practice of Cookery." In 1913 this club joined the Federation of Woman's Clubs. The present officials are: Mrs. Genevieve Murray, president, succeeding Mrs. Mable Shields, who resigned; Mrs. Marie Islam, vice president; Mrs. William Strong, treasurer, and Mrs. Mable Shields, secretary. At present there is a membership of fifty. Yearly programs are printed. The hostesses with assistants serve refreshments after the study hours, and a social hour is enjoyed. In the second year's work, all women were invited to participate.

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## CHAPTER XXII

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### COAL DEPOSITS

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DISCOVERY OF COAL IN GRUNDY COUNTY—THOUSANDS CAME TO WORK IN HER MINES—VALUABLE DEPOSITS TO THE PRESENT DAY—SOME VEINS VERY NEAR THE SURFACE—BEST STEAM AND HOUSEHOLD COAL IN THE STATE—GARDNER-GARDNER COAL COMPANY—CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL COMPANY—JOINT STOCK COAL MINING COMPANY—BRACEVILLE—THE COTTON SHAFT—BRUCE COMPANY—MINES ONCE OPERATED BY THE MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL RAILROAD—COAL CITY—WILMINGTON STAR MINING COMPANY—DIAMOND—WILMINGTON COAL MINING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY—CARBON HILL—BIG FOUR WILMINGTON COAL COMPANY—SOUTH WILMINGTON—CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL COMPANY.

(By T. S. Cumming)

#### DISCOVERY OF COAL IN GRUNDY COUNTY

A strong factor in the development of Grundy County was the discovery of rich coal beds, the mining of which has given employment to thousands, and developed towns of considerable size. News of this important feature of industrial life in Grundy County reached foreign shores, and some of the most prosperous residents at present, of one or other of the towns in the county, came to Grundy for the purpose of obtaining employment in the newly opened mines.

There is an outcrop on the Waupacan in Section 29, Township 33 north, Range 7 east, known as Wauponsee, for a mile upstream. Another outcrop occurs on Mazon Creek in Braceville Township. Still further up the creek coal has been dug, but the beds are now abandoned. On the north side of the Illinois River, near Morris, the coal outcrop is heavy. There is some coal on Aux Sable Creek and along the Kankakee River, and also in Saratoga Township.

Very nearly the whole of Grundy County is underlaid with the coal measures which occupy a position immediately under the drift or surface clays, and attain a thickness of about two hundred and fifty feet in the southwest part of the county. There are only two workable seams in the county, namely: No. 2 of the Illinois valley section, and one, the number of which is not definitely known. It may be No. "7" as fossils of shells found in the black slate covering of No. 7 at Kankakee, La Salle County, and those found in the black slate covering over the upper seam at where the seam has been mined, are the same. The first of the two seams is by far the more important, both in extent or area, and in quality. No. 2 underlies the whole county to a large extent, and is generally of a workable thickness, a little under three feet, but running to three feet eight inches. The upper or No. 7 as we will call it, is quite limited in its extent, not over two miles wide east and west, and from the Aux Sable on the north, south to and extending over, the county line into Livingston County. It is best developed on Sections 13, 24 and 25 in Greenfield Township, from where it extends into Kankakee County. The quality is much inferior to No. 2 seam, and was mined in the Clark City, Shaft No. 2, and on the Savage farm known as the Clark shaft, and also at the Wilson shaft just north of the Clark shaft.

The No. 2 seam has been worked very ex-





J. P. Clemmon



Mrs. Jennie Clemmon



tensively at Braceville, Coal City, Carbon Hill, Godly, Gardner, South Wilmington and Diamond, and at Morris for the local trade by gin shafts. The first mining of coal in Grundy County was done at Morris in the early '50s, or perhaps still earlier, where No. 2 coal lies very near the surface, so near, in fact, that quite a little was obtained by stripping the surface off the coal. No. 2 coal is the best steam and household coal in the state and possesses from eleven thousand five hundred to twelve thousand B. T. U. per pound.

**GARDNER.**—As early as 1862 the people of Gardner awakened to the fact that there was untold wealth in the coal deposits of their land, and on December 1, 1863, James Congson and William H. Odell leased from H. A. Gardner, J. C. Spencer, J. R. Reese, T. C. Meyer and C. H. Gould, Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 25, and also Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, in Block 26, for mining purposes. These partners, according to the terms of the lease, were to have what coal they could mine during the first seven years free, after which a royalty of 6 cents per ton was to be paid. The sum of \$2,000 was raised by the people of Gardner to induce work on the beds. During the early part of January, 1864, work was begun on sinking a shaft, but after a depth of sixty feet was reached, it was abandoned as the sides caved in, and another shaft was begun. Mr. Congdon became discouraged and sold to his partner prior to reaching coal in the fall of 1864. On July 1, of the following year, Mr. Odell sold to William A. Steel and Thomas Kerr, and in a few months the former disposed of half of his interest to D. G. Wells. The three partners sold to Aaron K. Stiles in January, 1867, and he in turn sold to the Gardner Coal Company, April 17, 1872. Not long thereafter the Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Company obtained possession of the mine and operated it until 1874, when they leased it to a co-operative company. This concern only operated it for a short time, when the mine was closed.

In 1865 the Joint Stock Coal Mining Company was organized at Gardner and in June of that year work was begun on sinking a shaft a little southwest of the town, but when a depth of from forty to fifty feet was reached, water was encountered, and the mine abandoned. Later this mine was used as a well to supply railroad engines with water for a number of years. It is believed that a number of the wells at Gard-

ner obtained water from that shaft, as when the water sank in the shaft, it also sank in the wells. Without doubt the gravel bed of the shaft was at one time the channel of an underground lake.

**BRACEVILLE.**—The first shaft sunk at Braceville was known as the Cotton Shaft, but it was only operated a short time. About 1864, a Mr. Augustine of Braceville Township opened a shaft, but as his means were limited, his operations were not long lived, and he sold to the Bruce Company, and the shaft was then known as Old No. 1. The Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad bought this old Bruce or No. 1 mine and extensive coal lands, and produced a good grade of coal. This old mine is now closed. Barney Higgins opened a shaft at Braceville, but did little work, and it is now closed. Fred Schultz sunk and operated for a short time Shaft No. 2 of Braceville. This mine made a record for producing the greatest amount of coal of any shaft in the county, its output being over two million tons, or over five thousand tons to the acre. The Milwaukee & St. Paul road gained possession of this mine, and owned four others. None of these are now in operation.

**COAL CITY.**—The activities at Coal City were once very important, and at one time nine mines were in operation. The Wilmington Star Mining Company, formerly the Wilmington Coal Company, and the Big Four Wilmington Coal Company are the only ones now doing any work. The Wilmington Star Mining Company at one time owned and operated seven shafts, the last named now being the only one that is not closed. When these shafts were all being worked, employment was given to from six hundred to seven hundred men. This company's Shaft No. 4 had the record of producing more coal per day than any other in the Illinois coal field, or of any other three-foot vein mine that I know anything about. Its daily output for a long time was 2,151 tons of lump coal, slack and screenings.

**DIAMOND.**—At one time the Wilmington Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company owned and operated at Diamond, but the terrible accident there in 1869 or 1870, when the mine was flooded, put an end to their work in that field.

**CARBON HILL.**—The mining at Carbon Hill was done by the Big Four Wilmington Coal Company, but the field is now abandoned.

**SOUTH WILMINGTON.**—The Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Company began work



on their Shaft No. 1 about 1899. Two more shafts were sunk, but their No. 3 is the only one now operated.

The reason for the closing of so many of the mines lies in the fact that it is impossible for the companies to compete with mine owners elsewhere. The seam is not of sufficient thickness to justify the installation of mining machinery, and the production of the coal by hand is too expensive an operation to permit of its being marketed at the figures quoted by coal operators elsewhere. The coal still remains, but with the exception of the few shafts mentioned above, all that remains to remind the traveler in Grundy County of one of this section's most important industries, are the unsightly piles of shale, and the depressions in the surrounding fields which mark the position of the tunnels. These mounds will doubtless soon disappear, for experiments have proven that this shale when mixed with other substances makes excellent fire tile, and thus a new industry may spring up.

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## CHAPTER XXIII

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### AUX SABLE TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGES

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BEAUTY OF SCENERY—SOIL—STOCK RAISING A PROFITABLE INDUSTRY—A FAVORITE HUNTING GROUND OF THE INDIANS—VISITED BY WHITE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS—FIRST PERMANENT SETTLERS—FIRST STAGE LINE—MORE EARLY SETTLERS—FIRST PHYSICIANS—WILD BLES SOUGHT AND DOMESTICATED—DRESDEN PAST AND PRESENT—DAM AT DRESDEN HEIGHTS—MINOOKA—EARLY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES—INCORPORATION—LOSS BY FIRE—PRESENT BUSINESS MEN AND FIRMS—POPULATION—CHURCHES—CEMETERIES—FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE—FRATERNITIES—A VIRTUOUS AND CONTENTED PEOPLE—BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

(By D. A. Henneberry)

#### BEAUTY OF SCENERY

Of all the townships of Grundy County, Aux Sable possesses the most natural beauty, for its scenery is unsurpassed by any in this portion of

the state. The prairie rolls gently and originally was fringed with fine timber along the Aux Sable Creek and the Illinois River, but, unfortunately, the greater portion of these mighty forest trees fell before the energy of the early settlers, who then appreciated but little the value of their timber, and did not understand conservation of natural resources. On the east there is a natural watershed, as the ground rises to a considerable height, and the drainage is consequently in an easterly and westerly direction from this line. This eminence continues to the river, and from its bank a magnificent view is obtained of the surrounding country for many miles.

The soil is mixed with sand, with a clay substratum, while the swamp land had a black soil, which now that it is drained cannot be excelled for fertility. As the land is well adapted for grazing purposes, many of the agriculturalists devote their attention to stock raising, and some of the finest specimens of high grade animals are produced on Aux Sable farms.

Owing to its many advantages, Aux Sable Township was a favorite hunting ground of the Pottawatomies, who annually camped here, while white hunters did not pass this section over carelessly. For many years, before the idea of settlement was seriously considered, both white and red men pursued the wild game with profit, and one who gained considerable renown as a woodsman in this region was a man named Marquis, who lived at times at the mouth of the Mazon, and again camped during the summer at the mouth of the Aux Sable Creek.

#### FIRST PERMANENT SETTLERS

Aux Sable Township found favor with the early settlers who were looking for a locality where good land carried with it the two necessary requisites of that early day, wood and water. Perhaps the first actual settler of this locality was Salmon Rutherford, who came here in May, 1833, taking up a farm on Section 26. Owing to his energy and progressive spirit, he later became a leader in township affairs. He built the first inn, naming his settlement Dresden, and from it a stage line was run, but when the railroads made the use of the stage line unnecessary, the importance of the hotel diminished. Shortly after Mr. Rutherford located here, Henry Cryder, Zach Walley and N. H. Tabler arrived from Delaware County, Ohio.





The three families wintered in a rude shack the men erected from logs they hewed themselves, but later separate cabins were built. John Beard was another settler of 1833, and he took up land in Section 30.

Another early settler was W. H. Perkins, who first came merely to view the land, later returning to Chicago, accompanied by Levi Hills, arriving there September 23, 1833. When they reached Chicago they discovered that 5,000 Indians were camped there. It might be supposed that this fact would have discouraged the would-be settlers, but it does not seem to have had any material effect upon their plans. These men, joined by James H. Collins and a Mr. Snell, later went to Kendall County, but in 1835, having married in the meanwhile, Mr. Perkins returned to Grundy County and secured a quarter section of Section 8, Aux Sable Township, on which he settled.

Rodney House arrived in the spring of 1834, locating on Section 9, and still survives and makes his home at Joliet. The year 1834 also brought three brothers by the name of McElroy, who located on Section 30, and in the same year D. M. Thomas and Leander Goss came. William Lewis and a brother arrived soon after Mr. Thomas, the former being a physician, the first to locate in the township. Another physician, Dr. J. W. Rutherford, came here in 1835, settling on Section 22. Samuel Randall was still another early settler and married after his arrival. Thomas Carroll arrived about 1836, attracted, as were many others, by the prospect of securing the rich lands along the Aux Sable and other streams.

The pioneers of Aux Sable Township found that it was easy to domesticate the wild bees which were found in countless numbers, and one of the sports of those early days was bee hunting, and dogs were trained to aid in the sport. A man who could successfully locate the bee trees was supposed to possess a kind of mystic influence, and one who gained local distinction here was David Bunch. The wild honey furnished the pioneer's table with a sweet, and the bees were afterward confined in homemade hives, and encouraged to produce honey under supervision. Honey was also used to make a fermented drink called metheglin, which was thought by many, better than cider. The pioneers of Aux Sable were, at first, forced to go to Reed's Grove for the grinding of their grain,

but in 1835 or 1836, a log mill was erected on the Desplaines River, near Channahon.

#### DRESDEN

A little village grew up about the inn, before mentioned, established by Salmon Rutherford. The first stage line from there was one that was operated in opposition to the established Frink & Walker's line. Dresden flourished for a time and became important enough to be made a postoffice. However, with the building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal began the depreciation of Dresden, and the construction of the railroads completed its abandonment. A bright future, however, is in store for this one time center of activity. For many years a movement has been on foot to erect a dam at Dresden Heights, the old site of Dresden, which lies at the confluence of the Desplaines and Kankakee rivers, the beginning of the Illinois River. This dam, according to the proposed plans and specifications, is to be four miles wide, twenty-three feet deep, with a system of locks that will be sufficient to supply the channel of the deep waterway if it is erected. To provide sufficient funds to carry out this project, an amendment to the Constitution of Illinois was submitted by the General Assembly by unanimous vote in each house, to the voters of the state, on October 16, 1907, and was accepted by the people at the general election in November of the following year. This project included a waterway from the end of the present drainage canal at Lockport, Illinois, to Utica, Illinois, which is located on the Illinois River. It provided for an issue of \$20,000,000 in bonds. This project was passed by the General Assembly under an Act of June 10, 1911. Immediate work on the dam is rendered impossible owing to complication arising from the fact that a private corporation, known as the Economy Light and Power Company, has already done considerable construction work in throwing a dam across the stream at the point selected by the state, and the claims of this concern will have to be settled by the courts before any progress is made by the state. With the construction of this proposed dam will come added prosperity and importance to Aux Sable Township and Grundy County. During the summer of 1911, the Rivers and Lakes Commission, with Governor Dunne, made a trip over the proposed waterway, by way of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, and



were favorably impressed with the possibilities of such a route.

#### MINOOKA

Another early village in Aux Sable Township, Minooka, was laid out in 1852 by Ransom Gardner, for whom Gardner, in Garfield Township, is named. Mr. Gardner owned 500 acres of land, and platted part of it as the Village of Minooka, but there was but small growth until 1858, although as early as 1855, Christopher Tucker had established a general store. He left, however, in the following year, having failed in his enterprise. As the people at this time in Aux Sable had to go to Channahon for their necessities, they were glad to join in and help Joseph Lewis when he rented the store of Tucker in 1856. In the spring of the following year Leander Smith came to Minooka and started his general store. In 1858 C. V. Hamilton built a number of business houses and a hotel, naming it for himself, but later it was called the Shiek Hotel.

In 1858, also, Gardner & Heiner built a grist-mill. This much needed mill was destroyed by fire in 1866, and was replaced later on by an elevator. The first elevator, however, was built in 1868 by Knapp & Griswold, but it was burned. It was rebuilt upon a much larger scale, only to be again destroyed by fire. In 1908 a new elevator was built. Mrs. Knapp survived her husband, living to an advanced age, dying within recent years. A lumber yard was established about 1868, and in connection with it, a planing mill was built, and a hay press was also put up.

#### INCORPORATION

On December 14, 1869, the village was incorporated, and in the following year it suffered severely from fire, but when rebuilt, presented a much better appearance and has continued to progress in every way. In 1914 the business houses of Minooka were: The Farmers First National Bank, the only institution of its kind in the state, if not in the county, to bear this name; the Minooka Lumber & Shingle Co.; Kaffer Bros. hardware store, established many years ago by the father, Martin Kaffer; Hemmery Bros., general store and stock; J. J. Brickeroff, druggist; W. A. Clerk, general store; Dr. J. J. Cody, physician; J. A. Soergel, hardware merchant; G. A. Jacobs, proprietor of the

moving picture theater, known as the Electric Theater; L. A. Ward, confectioner, and C. E. Davis, dealer in coal and wood. The population is 600. The better class of people in Minooka are very proud of the fact that in the spring election of 1914, the village went dry by a handsome majority, and the former saloons now dispense nothing but "soft" drinks. In 1906, the waterworks were built at a cost of \$11,000, and an equipment for the fire department, costing about five hundred dollars, was provided. This is manned by a volunteer company of twenty men. The postmaster at Minooka is C. A. Trowbridge, and he has four rural routes from his office. While it is essentially an agricultural region, Aux Sable Township furnishes Minooka an excellent trade, and ships from it over the C., R. I. & P. Railroad, E. J. & E. Railroad and the interurban road. The farmers recognize the fact that they can have at Minooka transportation and elevator facilities that make it profitable for them to bring in their produce.

#### CHURCHES

The Catholic Church of St. Mary's, which is very strong in numbers and influence, was organized at Dresden at an early day to accommodate the people of the surrounding district, many of whom were of Irish birth or extraction. In 1862 the church was moved to Minooka. The Comerfords, Kinsellers and George T. Smith were among the early leaders in the parish. This church is written up at length under the chapter on Catholic Churches of Grundy County.

The First Methodist Church came into being in 1856, when nineteen members organized it. Among these early members were: J. G. Smith, Henry Pendleton, S. and A. C. Worthing, Michael Ketcham and their wives. The Rev. T. L. Olmsted preached to them in the store owned by a Mr. Ferguson. Later on meetings were held in the schoolhouse, until the church edifice was erected. A Sunday school was established early in the history of the church. The present pastor is H. A. Snyder, and sixty families attend service. Another Methodist Church, known as the Aux Sable Methodist Church was organized under the Rev. John Devore at the home of Henry Cryder. In 1878 a wooden church edifice was built through the action of the early members, among whom were





*Frank W. Collins*



Henry Cryder, Z. Walley and wives, John Craig and D. M. Thomas. The members of this organization now are under the ministrations of the Reverend Snyder.

There are two cemeteries in Aux Sable, in addition to early private burial grounds, namely: The Catholic Cemetery, which is treated of in another chapter, and the Aux Sable Cemetery.

In 1837 the first schoolhouse was built on Section 8, through the instrumentality of Henry Cryder, with Miss Ashley as the first teacher. About ten years later, a second building was erected, and also served as a church as well. The present school has ten grades, and Miss Leone Brown is in charge.

The Masonic order was established at Minooka in 1867 when Minooka Lodge, No. 528, was organized, it receiving its charter in 1868. The charter members were: G. Dahlem, A. K. Knapp, G. C. Griswold, John T. Van Dolfson, G. S. Correll, Samuel Adams, W. H. Smith, E. W. Weese, Jacob Geddesman, J. E. McClure, C. V. Hamilton, John Collops, Phaley Geddesman and W. A. Jordon. Other fraternal organizations are: The Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of Pythias, and Eastern Star.

No notorious crimes stain the records of Aux Sable Township, for its people are quiet, industrious and temperate, going along their way, content to earn honestly what they possess, and as nearly all are connected with one or other of the churches, their religion has taught them to subdue any evil tendencies they may have ever had with very noticeable results. The Village of Minooka is normally strongly republican in national and state matters, although the election of 1914 put democrats in office.

#### SUPERVISORS

The men who have represented Aux Sable on the Board of Supervisors of Grundy County have been: Jas. Kinsley, 1850-1857; William Walters, 1858; Samuel Randall, 1859; James Kinsley, 1860; John Brow, 1861; Michael Kinsley, 1862-1866; Leander Smith, 1867-1868; George Collins, 1869; A. R. Knapp, 1870-1871; Michael H. Cryder, 1872; William Walters, 1873; Fletcher Dirst, 1874-1881; Peter H. Briscoe, 1882-1895; Fletcher Dirst, 1896-1901; Daniel R. Hall, 1902-1907; D. A. Henneberry, 1908-1909; H. P. Dwyer, 1910-1914.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### BRACEVILLE TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGES

ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES—DISCOVERY OF COAL—FIRST SETTLERS—WEST COLONY—OTHER EARLY ARRIVALS—NAMING THE TOWNSHIP—FIRST FRAME HOUSE—COAL CITY—LAID OUT IN 1875—TWO COAL COMPANIES OPERATING—POPULATION—LEADING CITIZENS—A PROSPERING ENTERPRISE—PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS—HOTELS—RAILROADS—CHURCHES—FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS—BRACEVILLE—OTHER ONCE FLOURISHING VILLAGES—BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

(By Dr. C. E. Cumming)

#### ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES

Braceville Township originally included the land lying east of Mazon Township to the county boundary line, and north to Goose Lake Township, but in a later day, the western portion of it was formed into what is now Maine Township. The discovery of coal and the subsequent opening up of some veins formed an important feature of the early history of this locality.

#### FIRST SETTLER

The first settler of Braceville Township was Rev. L. S. Robbins, a Methodist preacher, who settled at Sulphur Springs in 1831, although he had obtained his land in 1833. He had a large family of sons who also remained in the township for a time, then left, establishing themselves in other sections. In 1836, West Colony was formed and some land developed, but why it was so named, or what was the reason for these settlers thus styling themselves, remained a secret from the beginning.

#### OTHER EARLY ARRIVALS

John Cragg came to Braceville in 1834-5, and continued to make this his home until his death. In the little log cabin he erected, he kept the first tavern of this pioneer district, although those stopping with him were treated as members of the family, and not as paying guests.





John Kerns arrived in 1816, as did E. R. Booth. The year 1848 brought B. R. Dowd, who was the first supervisor from the township, and had the honor of naming it. Having lived at Braceville, Ohio, he called his new home after the old one. This has often occurred in the history of new regions. The homesick pioneer yearns for the old associations and connections, and feels so tenderly towards them that he naturally wants to call the new home after what has become so dear in recollection. Thomas Martin and Robert Huston arrived in 1819. The latter had a soldier's warrant and bought land on the prairie, bringing lumber for the purpose from Chicago. His was the first frame house erected in the township. Several other early settlers were B. A. Crisler and H. Cassingham and their families.

#### COAL CITY

Coal City is the leading village of Braceville Township and at one time had what was thought to be a brilliant future before it, when large coal interests centered here, and thousands of tons of coal were shipped to distant markets. Even now, with but two coal companies working, the village is a flourishing one, with some live, progressive men forwarding its interests, and through their efforts there is every prospect of the place eventually being developed into one of the manufacturing centers of the county. With the magnificent transportation facilities here offered, the place is an ideal one for manufacturing plants, and negotiations are being carried on with several concerns by the Commercial Club of Coal City, with the purpose of coming to a satisfactory arrangement that will bring outside capital and machinery into the village.

Coal City was laid out in 1875 by the Wilmington Coal Company, which, under the present name of the Wilmington Star Mining Company, G. W. Buchanan, president, continues to operate at this point. The other company still operating is the Big Four Wilmington Coal Company, of which H. N. Taylor is president. In 1905 nine mines were being worked, but it was discovered that while the coal here was of excellent quality, the vein was not of sufficient thickness to pay for the installation of machinery, and hand work was too costly for the mine owners to enter into opposition with

those in localities where mechanical means could be used.

Coal City has among its 2,500 population the following business houses and professional men: The Anderson Lumber Company, Peter Baudino, buffet; Charles Boggio, general store; F. L. Boner, livery and undertaking; Martin Borello, buffet; Anton Bruno, groceries; William Campbell, banker; Thomas Campbell, coal dealer; Anton Carosotti, buffet; Joseph Chvatal, meat market; Coal City Clothing Company; Coal City Printing Office; Coalfield Company of Coal City, general store; Dr. C. Earl Cumming, dentist; John Davito, grocery; Charles Gioanetti, Italian bakery; Haeger Brick & Tile Co.; W. E. Hart, physician; Z. Kaplan, dry goods; Ant Kaulzaric, blacksmith; Peter Maddaleno, general merchandise; Dr. J. C. Major, physician; B. O. Mill, hardware and implements; O. A. Miller, druggist; John Smith, confectionery and ice cream; John Palvis, buffet; Anton Pastore, buffet; John Pavlis, buffet; Peter Piagno, general merchandise; Giacomo Savant, buffet; Frank Schmandle, pianos and sewing machines; James Smolik, buffet; Dr. F. A. Stockdale, physician; James Swartz, buffet; Thom Hardware Company; Benjamin Trotter, general merchandise; John Trotter, meat market; John Trotter & Sons, elevator; Robert Trotter, general merchandise; Anton Turchiatio, general merchandise; Joseph Turchiatio, groceries; Charles Valerio, representative Pabst Brewing Company; Louis Veronda, buffet; John Vidano, general merchandise; Wilmington Foundry and Machinery Co., and Wilmington Star Mining Co.

#### A PROSPERING ENTERPRISE

It was through the efforts of the Coal City Commercial Club, which has been in existence about four years, that the Coal City Clothing Factory was established at Coal City by Sears, Roebuck & Co., of Chicago. This factory has given employment to 350 of the Coal City people, and is in a very flourishing condition. The original number employed was 100, so that the increase indicates sound business conditions.

#### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The fire department owns an equipment valued at \$2,500, and the water supply is obtained from a well dug about twenty-two years





J R Collins



ago. There are about five miles of concrete walks in the city, and further improvements are in contemplation. Electric light is obtained from the Public Service Company, according to the same plan followed by Morris, Mazou, Gardner and other villages in the county.

For sixteen years Hugh Bennett served Coal City as postmaster, but with the change in administration, a Democrat was appointed, and William Baskerville is the present incumbent of the office. There is one rural route from the Coal City office. Coal City has two hotels, the Coalfield Hotel, which is operated by the Coal-field Company, and the McKinley House, of which Frederick Hintze is proprietor.

The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, the Chicago & Alton, the Elgin, and Joliet & Eastern Railroad all center here, making it, as before stated, one of the best centers with regard to transportation facilities in the county.

The Roman Catholic, the Presbyterian, the Methodist, and the German Lutheran churches, and the German Brethren congregation, and several other religious denominations, are represented at Coal City. The population is largely Italian and Bohemian, although there are also a number of English and Scotch residents. When the mines promised continuous work, miners were attracted here from all over the world. With the closing of the mines, many left, but those who remained have developed into excellent workmen along other lines, and are reliable citizens.

There are a number of fraternities represented at Coal City, including Odd Fellows, No. 519; Knights of Pythias, Pythian Sisters, Modern Woodmen, Eastern Star, Owls, Knights of Columbus, and several Italian benefit orders. A number of these societies have been depleted in membership with the departure from Coal City of so many of its people, but interest is manifested by those who remain.

#### BRACEVILLE

The Village of Braceville was laid out by N. Cotton in 1861. Those residing in it were at one time largely interested in the coal industry, but in later years they have turned their attention to developing of enterprises in other directions. Some of the business and professional men of Braceville are: Peoples Bank of Braceville; D. J. F. Carey, physician; Mainwaring & Alexander, general merchandise; Fred

Malsky, livery and feed stable; James Mellish, public telephone; John A. Proffit, grocery. The city hall, a substantial brick building, was erected in 1908.

The Chicago & Alton Railroad runs through Braceville, giving it an excellent market for its farm products. Many of the best residences, however, have been moved to South Wilmington and other points since the closing of the mines. With the opening of the coal mines, a number of coal villages sprung up, among them, Diamond, situated in Braceville Township, which is now largely utilized for farming purposes. Central City was another one of these settlements clustered about the mines, which in popular belief were to bring so much prosperity to the community. At present there are but three families residing at Central City.

#### SUPERVISORS

Those who have served Braceville Township on the Board of Supervisors have been as follows: D. R. Daud, 1850; John Craig, 1851-53; John Augustine, 1854-57; Henry Cassingham, 1858-59; John Augustine, 1860-61; Henry Cassingham, 1862; E. R. Booth, 1863; Henry Cassingham, 1864; Theodore Hyatt, 1865; R. J. Cunningham, 1866-67; Henry Cassingham, 1868; J. F. Augustine, 1869; George W. Booth, 1870-77; G. R. Evans, 1878; S. F. Dunleavy, 1879; David Dunleavy, 1880; John T. Dunleavy, 1881; Elijah Cotton, 1882; John Mathias, 1883-84; William J. Malcomb, 1885-88; Eli Stocker, William Malcomb, and John McKinley, assistants, 1889; Eli Stocker, William Malcomb, and A. Constantine, assistants, 1890; Eli Stocker and William Malcomb, assistants, 1891; Eli Stocker and Ben Peterson, assistants, 1892-1893; Eli Stocker and John Mathias, assistants, 1894-1895; Eli Stocker and George Rodgers, assistants, 1896-1897; Eli Stocker and William J. Malcomb, assistants, 1898-1899; F. W. Francis and Arthur Green, assistants, 1900-1901; George A. Trotter and Arthur Green, assistants, 1902-1903; Montgomery Sharp and Arthur Green, 1904-1905; Percival Clark and Gustav Swan, assistants, 1906-1907; Bert Waters and J. H. Green, assistants, 1908-1909; C. G. Anderson and J. Willis, assistants, 1910-1911; John A. Red and Adam Brook, assistants, 1912-1913; John A. Red and Thomas Reed, assistants, 1914.



## CHAPTER XXV

## ERIEXNA TOWNSHIP

WELL WATERED — BOUNDARIES — COAL DEPOSITS —  
CORN HEAVIEST CROP — STOCK — DAIRYING — EARLI-  
EST SETTLERS — CASTLE DANGER — STAGE LINE  
STATION — OTHER EARLY SETTLERS — PERMANENT  
LAND OWNERS — HORROR CITY — CLARKSON —  
STOCKDALE — CEMETERIES — SCHOOLS — SUPER-  
VISORS.

(By S. D. Holderman)

## WELL WATERED

The Illinois River divides Erienna Township into two almost equal portions, entering somewhat north of the middle point of the eastern boundary, and flowing to the southwest. The township is Congressional Township 33 North, Range 6 East of the P. M. It is bounded on the north by Nettle Creek and Saratoga Townships, on the east by Morris Township, and on the south by Waupoosee and Norman Townships. In addition to the Illinois River, Long Creek, Nettle Creek and other smaller streams drain it. The remainder of the township, aside from the high plateau in the northwest which descends abruptly to a rich alluvial bottom, is flat with sandy soil, underlaid with valuable coal deposits. Walnut and other natural growth trees are still to be found, although what was once heavy timber has been practically cleared away. Corn is the heaviest crop raised, although stock is also produced, and some of the farmers are engaged in dairying.

## EARLIEST SETTLERS

One of the earliest settlers in Grundy County was Isaac Hoge, who came to Erienna Township and took up land along Nettle Creek. Probably the only other one was William Marquis, who preceded him by a short time. Finding it possible to make a comfortable home here, Mr. Hoge married, settled on his first selection of land and later bought extensively, becoming one of the very large landowners of this section.

Columbus Pinney located on Section 12, this

township, in the spring of 1836, and founded what was known as Castle Danger, one of the very first hotels of this region. He also kept the stage line station, and the stable in which he housed the horses stood for many years, although the hotel did not outlive the period of its usefulness. Considerable interest has been shown in trying to discover the reason for giving the hotel that name. Some hold to the theory that it was so called because some of the prairie bandits, who infested the region in the early days, found here a safe refuge, but no authentic confirmation of this can be gained.

## OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

O. Cone came here in 1840, making the trip by wagon, and rented land from Isaac Hoge, but later bought property of his own on Section 2. The year 1842 brought Messrs. Kennedy and Kendricks, who came with the idea of working on the canal, but they were so pleased with the locality that they settled on Section 7. Abraham Holderman arrived in 1845 or 1846. Charles Moody came in 1848, becoming one of the early developers of the township.

## PERMANENT LAND OWNERS

Among those who have owned land in Erienna Township at a later date, the families of many of whom still retain their holdings, were: John Rooney, Mrs. Cecelia Boyd, Simon O'Donnell, A. H. Holderman, S. D. Holderman, P. McNellis, Dan O'Connell, Jr., Nellie Brady, M. E. Holderman, Robert Callaghan, M. Barry, Aug. Perrett, Joseph Dawson, M. B. Wilson, William Herlihy, M. B. Wilson, L. M. Mulligan, C. E. Hatcher, John Connea, J. F. Hatcher, Joshua Hoge, Jr., Mrs. Patrick Moran, G. H. Weitz, Jr., James Reardon, L. A. Peacock, William Reardon, George Hoge, Joshua Hoge, Jr., James Reardon, Ben Jacobson, John Underhill, Halver Johnson, Nels Nelson, Hans Sampson, A. D. Walper, C. E. Munson, Ole N. Nelson, Albert Hoge, Akinda Ridgeway, Clara Gore, Knute Rasmunson, Halver Johnson, O. M. Johnson, John More, Morton Osmundson, Ben Benson, I. A. Johnson, Joseph Oswood, Nels Nelson, Halver Salverson, James Ashton, Lars Thorson, F. S. Stephen, P. Oakes, Thomas Buck, Ed F. Peterson, Weir Peterson, John A. Taylor, Sampson Everson, M. J. Grarville, J. P. McEvilly.

HORROR CITY was staked out in 1836 by Doctor





Horron, for whom it was named. It existed chiefly on paper. A stage line which lived but a short time passed near it, but as this did not pay, the place was really nothing but a name, and except in records of this name, it is forgotten.

CLARKSON grew up about Castle Danger, and it was hoped by its projectors that it might become the county seat, but they were disappointed. During the time that work was done on the canal, a few little cabins were built here, but with the completion of that work, the people drifted away, and Clarkson is another village that lives but in memory.

#### STOCKDALE

Stockdale is a station in Erienna Township on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. Although it practically consists of nothing but the railroad station and stock sheds, it is a place of great importance. Here immense consignments of cattle and sheep from western shippers are unloaded and kept until sufficiently recovered from the hardship of the long trip across country, and restored to their original weight by careful feeding and watering. From Stockdale these consignments, when in proper condition, are forwarded to the Chicago stock yards.

Two cemeteries are found in this township, one on Section 5, known as Hatcher's Cemetery, and the other known as Hoge Cemetery which is located on Section 7.

The schools of Erienna are conducted under the magnificent system that prevails throughout Grundy County, and pupils and teachers are united in their efforts to bring the work of the township up to standard and maintain it at that high point.

#### SUPERVISORS

The men who have served as supervisors have been: John O'Brian, 1850-2; Abe Holderman, 1853-4; A. McMillan, 1855; Daniel O'Connell, 1856; William West, 1857; A. McMillan, 1858-60; Daniel O'Connell, 1861-5; William Riney, 1866; Daniel O'Connell, 1867; Isaac Hoge, 1868-70; Daniel O'Connell, 1871; Isaac Hoge, 1872-3; Daniel O'Connell, 1874-90; Edwin Bartley, 1891-2; M. T. Anderson, 1893-4; Joseph Dawson, 1895-6; S. D. Holderman, 1897-1914.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### FELIX TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGES

NAME — SITUATION — SURFACE — DRAINAGE — SOIL—FLOODS—FIRST DISCOVERER OF COAL—EARLIEST SETTLERS—OLDEST RESIDENT—FIRST DEATH—KIND OFFICES OF SHABONA—OLD SETTLEMENTS—JUGTOWN—KANKAKEE CITY—AN AGRICULTURAL SECTION—THE COAL INDUSTRY—THE DIAMOND MINE DISASTER—SEVERE HAILSTORM—DESTRUCTIVE CYCLONE—SUPERVISORS.

(By George P. Miller)

#### NAME

Felix Township was given the Christian name of Felix Grundy, for whom the county was named. This township lies south of the Illinois River, with Will County on the east, Braceville Township on the south, and the Mazon River and Waupoosee Township on the west. The surface of Felix Township is generally low, although in the northeastern part there is some high land along the river. Goose Lake is drained by Claypool Run into the Mazon River, and by other streams into the Kankakee River. The soil is a low, wet clay, a deposit of which near the western end of Goose Lake is suitable for pottery purposes, but the grade is of common quality. Felix Township is particularly adapted for grazing purposes, and some excellent stock is raised within its confines.

Felix Township has always been subject to floods, and some of them have been very destructive, that of 1837 having been the worst. The pioneers were ill prepared to stand the loss entailed, and much suffering ensued.

#### FIRST DISCOVERER OF COAL -

Peter Lamsett was one of the men whose name is associated with the early history of this township. As early as 1820 he went through this locality on foot, and was known among his associates as "Specie" because he refused the paper money of the day. This name clung to him until his real name was forgotten, and Specie Grove, in De Kalb County, was called





JEREMIAH COLLINS



after him. While he lived on the banks of the Mazon River, he did not own land, but was the first to discover coal in Grundy County, and was particularly successful in locating coal beds.

#### EARLIEST SETTLERS

The first settler of the township was W. A. Holloway, who bought land on Section 12, in 1835, but left in 1840, as he was not satisfied with existing conditions. For years much trouble was experienced by would-be farmers, on account of the preponderance of swamp land, but now that tiling is so generally adopted, the land that once was useless, is the most valuable.

Abram Holderman bought much land in 1835, but soon turned his claim over to his son Henry, who, in turn relinquished it to another son, Barton. Finally Samuel Holderman gained possession and cultivated the large property until 1880, when he sold it to Jerry Collins. In 1838, William White, with his two sons J. L. and William, came from Marietta, Ohio, to Felix Township.

Abram White came here in 1839, and about the same time a Mr. Kelso and Martin Luther also settled in Felix. John Beard located first in Aux Sable Township, but in 1839, with his son-in-law, James McKean, settled on the Kankakee, and they put up a large sawmill.

Other early settlers were: Charles Cooke, William F. Robinson, Frederick S. Watkins, George Holt, Hiram Warner, Abe White, Lemuel Short, Orville S. Miller, Charles Noble Cameron Brothers, Jacob Williams, Lorin Clark, Thomas Singleton, Thomas Melbourne, Silas Lattimer, Frederick Wilneuw, Alexander Simpson, James Preston, Samuel Sufferin, Joel Campbell, Henry P. Robinson, Jacob Hoyer, Joseph Thomas, Robert Young, Robert S. Dudgeon, Patrick Howard, Alexander Trotter, Harvey Hunt, Nate Greene, Thomas Pearl.

#### OLDEST RESIDENT

Mrs. Sarah Ann Miller, widow of the late Orville S. Miller, has the distinction of being the oldest resident of what is now Goose Lake Township, but was formerly a portion of Felix Township. She has lived here since she was eleven years old, and was born in 1827. The first death in Felix Township was that of the son of William Marquis. The infant was buried in Holderman's Cemetery.

#### KIND OFFICES OF SHABBONA

The Indians were frequent visitors of the early settlers, and Shabbona, the Indian chief who was the friend of the white man, was welcomed in many homes in the northwest portion of the township. During 1831-3, the settlers were alarmed by reports of threatening hostilities, and Shabbona was frequently consulted with regard to their safety if they remained in the county, and he promised the settlers his protection. It was seldom that his advice was disregarded. His genuine friendship for the whites, as shown by his persistent labors in their interest, and the frequency with which he personally warned them of danger, have endeared his memory to Grundy County people. Shabbona died July 17, 1859, and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery at Morris, where other members of his family rest.

#### OLD SETTLEMENTS

JUGTOWN once existed as a settlement about the potter's clay fields found on Goose Lake. In 1853 William White, of Chicago, established potteries to make use of this natural source of income. Had transportation facilities then been what they are today in Grundy County, the history of this industry might have been different, but as it is, the potteries have long been closed, and where they once stood, are beautiful fields of waving corn.

KANKAKEE CITY was another settlement that no longer exists. It grew out of the speculative mania relative to the building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Overnight, land values advanced to prohibitive prices, and they subsequently fell equally fast. The proposed city was beautifully laid out on paper, with ten public squares, parks and broad streets. Many of the lots were sold at auction in Chicago and New York City at fabulous prices, but after the panic of 1837, the days of its future were numbered, and where it once was planned, is now farm land.

#### AN AGRICULTURAL SECTION

Agricultural pursuits engage the majority of the people. Much corn is grown and stock is bred and raised. The farmers here agree in the contention that high-grade stock pays the largest returns on the investment, and some of





O. E. Collins





the stockraisers have won many medals at the Grundy County Agricultural Fair, and other stock shows. Dairying is also carried on considerably, and those engaged in this line of endeavor, have splendidly equipped barns and milkhouses, and their cattle stand every test now required by law.

A strictly rural community, Felix is, today, one of the most prosperous of Grundy divisions. In its early history, as mentioned before, the people suffered much from the disadvantages arising from the low lands, and during the late summers and early falls nearly all were sick from malarial, although fairly healthy during the winters. Much of the land could not be filled, and that which was fertile, was subject to overflow. This is, of course, now changed, and Felix Township is as desirable a section as can be found in this part of the state.

#### THE COAL INDUSTRY

After 1875, the coal industry was developed very rapidly. Mines were sunk in large numbers in the southeastern portion of the township, and villages sprung up and there are now four located in the vicinity of these mines, namely: Diamond, Eileen, Sufferville and Carbon Hill. Good schools and churches are still to be found at Sufferville and Carbon Hill. The former has united with Coal City and Felix Township in establishing a high school, which was opened in the fall of 1914. It was mainly through the largely increasing population of the southeast portion of the township, that the large landowners of the northwest portion became dissatisfied because they had not the controlling vote. They circulated a petition and in September, 1897, were set off twelve sections of land.

#### DIAMOND MINE DISASTER

With the terrible Diamond disaster, when the water from the top broke through and flooded the mine, causing the loss of 100 men, then at work, came the practical end of Diamond as a village. In memory of this disaster and the miners who lost their lives on this occasion, a very handsome monument has been erected near the shaft.

On July 27, 1904, a very severe hail-storm visited Felix Township, demolishing all of the growing crops, and on April 21, 1912, a cyclone swept through a portion of the township,

destroying buildings all along its path, and uprooting trees and tearing away fences.

#### SUPERVISORS

Felix Township was laid out November 11, 1855, and it was represented on the County Board of Supervisors in 1855, when Frederick S. Watkins was the first supervisor elected. From then on, the supervisors have been as follows: Frederick S. Watkins, 1855-1858; William T. Robinson, 1859-1860; Samuel Robinson, 1861-1867; Samuel Sufferin, 1868-1869; Samuel Holderman, 1870-1871; Samuel Short, 1872-1873; Samuel Sufferin, 1874; Jacob Williams, 1875-1877; Samuel Holderman, 1878; Jacob Williams, 1879; John Holderman, 1880-1885; Thomas Pattison, 1886; J. R. Collins, 1887-1888; William Thalin, 1889; John Anderson, Sr., 1890-1896; Frank Enrietto, appointed to fill vacancy occasioned by death of Mr. Anderson, 1897-1899; Anton Verondo, 1905-1909; William Lewins, 1910-1911.

#### CHAPTER XXVII

#### GARFIELD TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE

YOUNGEST TOWNSHIP—BOUNDARIES—FINE AGRICULTURAL SECTION—GARDNER AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTER—TOWN NAMED FOR ITS SUPERVISOR IN 1854—INCORPORATED UNDER SPECIAL ACT IN 1867—UNDER STATE LAW IN 1913—FIRST HOUSE BUILT—THE "BARRACKS"—HOTELS—FIRST GENERAL STORE—FIRST WAREHOUSE—FIRST SIDEWALK LAID—FIRST FLOWER BED—INCREDIBLE GROWTH IN 1864—FIRE LOSS AND PROTECTION—OTHER ENTERPRISES—RELIABLE BUSINESS HOUSES—CONCRETE SIDEWALKS AND ELECTRICITY—THE PRESS—SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT—FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS—CHURCHES—AN IMPORTANT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY—RAILROADS—SUPERVISORS.

(By W. S. Allison)

#### YOUNGEST TOWNSHIP

While Garfield Township contains within its confines one of the most important villages of



Grundy County, it is itself the youngest township of the seventeen which form the county organization, having been created in 1902. It is bounded on the north by Maine Township, on the east by Greenfield Township, on the south by Livingston County and on the west by Good Farm Township. No important stream waters this township, although a draw, which runs to the Mazon Creek, flows through the southeastern part and small creeks are found in other portions of it. With the exception of the Village of Gardner, Garfield Township is a strictly farming district. The Chicago & Alton Railroad, which passes almost through its center from a northeasterly to a southwesterly direction, and the K. & D., owned by the Big Four System, passing through the northwestern part, carry its products to Chicago. The early history of Garfield Township is so interwoven with that of Greenfield that it is almost impossible to separate one from the other, although many names mentioned in pioneer times of Greenfield Township belong equally to Garfield, for the latter was a part of the older township.

#### GARDNER

The history of Gardner begins with the building of the Chicago & Alton Railroad through the site on which it was later to stand, in 1854. This land was the property of Henry A. Gardner, J. C. Spencer and C. H. Goold, the first-named of whom was the chief engineer of the newly completed road and did the surveying of the primal town, which was named after him. The original town was divided into twenty-seven blocks, but later additions were added, known as Price's First and Second addition, Peck's addition, Hyatt's addition, Finley's addition, Augustine addition, Clover addition, Spiller addition, and Willis addition, Shotwell subdivision and Lovejoy's subdivision.

Gardner was incorporated in February, 1867, under special act of Legislature, when it had a population of about four hundred, the first trustees being: John H. Coles, Amos Clover, W. W. McMann, F. Lathrop and Louis Germain. This form of government continued until 1913 when a general election was called to vote on its incorporation under the general law of the state, and upon the measure being carried, it was immediately incorporated. The present population is about one thousand, while that of the township is about twelve hundred.

#### FIRST HOUSES

The first house of Gardner was that of the section boss, east of the tracks, and the second one was known as "the barracks" having been built by the first postmaster, Absalom Gleason. This building held the first postoffice, the first store, was the dwelling of the family, and also a paint shop, and was one of the most useful buildings ever put up at Gardner.

#### HOTELS

The first hotel bearing the imposing name of "The Eagle," was on a lot 18 by 36 feet, was one story and one-half in height, and was built by G. R. Taxis and Scott Armitage in 1855. It sheltered the traveling public and was first conducted by George Allen, who was succeeded by J. W. Hull, who was bought out by Charles Royal, and later S. N. Underwood assumed charge. With all these changes in ownership the hotel changed, too, being practically rebuilt, enlarged and the name of the "Gardner House" given it. It burned down January 15, 1909.

The Commercial House was built in 1870, and R. R. Stone was its first proprietor, being followed by William Smith, John Southcomb, A. K. Stiles, Roland Price, James Wilson, J. C. Lutz, Ralph Richards, William Gebhard, and Battista Vignochi, and it is now conducted by Mrs. Frances B. Plumley. It is a substantial building, well equipped for hotel purposes, and the hostess not only understands her business, but takes pride in catering liberally and appetizingly to the requirements of her guests. This hotel is the only one at Gardner, but no other is needed, owing to the fact that nearly all of the residents of the village have their own homes. The traveling public is well cared for at the Commercial House.

#### EARLY IMPROVEMENTS

Charles and William Royal opened a store in 1855, and were succeeded by Charles E. Gardner. The first warehouse was built in 1857, but later was converted into a grist mill, and still later changed into an elevator. Later it was sold and converted into a barn.

To Charles Johnson, a tinner, must be given the credit for laying the first sidewalk in Gardner, which was located on the north end of Liberty Street. The first garden fence in the



village was put up by Joseph Hall. Virginia M. Hawley planted the first flowers among the many which now help to beautify the place. She married Dr. J. B. Taxis and still survives, living with her daughter, Mrs. Lindholm, at Joliet.

In spite of the location along the Chicago & Alton Railroad, Gardner did not show much material growth until 1861, when the Gardner coal shaft was sunk, and from that time on its growth was rapid. The first brick building was constructed in 1863, for the purpose of housing Doctor McMann's drug store. A building called the City Hall, which had a store below and a dance hall above, was built in 1868, by A. S. Martin and Louis Germain. Later it was removed, and a one-story brick building was erected in its place. The present village hall is a one-story building.

#### FIRE LOSS AND PROTECTION

A very destructive fire occurred on Christmas night, 1878, and almost wiped out the business portion of Gardner, but the buildings destroyed were subsequently replaced by better and more modern ones. While Gardner has no water works, it has a competent volunteer fire department which works as a bucket brigade, and it has rendered efficient service when occasion demanded.

#### OTHER ENTERPRISES

A fine grain elevator was built in front of the Commercial House in 1869, by E. W. Cole of Chicago, and it is still standing, now being owned by J. W. Thornton & Son. Another grain elevator was built in 1894 by the Fuller Grain Co., and is now owned by Hargreaves & Drew.

In 1865, the Joliet Coal Mining Company of Gardner was organized, and commenced sinking a shaft, but only reached a depth of forty feet, when water was found in such quantity that the hole was abandoned. The coal history of Gardner, at one time very important, is taken up at great length by an expert upon the subject in another chapter.

#### RELIABLE BUSINESS HOUSES

Gardner is the home of some reliable business men and houses, while its professional men rank with the best in the county. A par-

tial list of these is as follows: Dr. F. M. Allison, physician; W. S. Allison, proprietor of the Exchange Bank and dealer in insurance; H. A. Eversole, harnessmaker; A. J. Perry, president First National Bank; Dr. E. G. Fuller, physician; A. Gordon, dealer in dry goods and clothing; T. S. Green, dealer in farm machinery; M. A. Hansen & Sons, dealers in furniture and undertakers; Peter C. Hansen, proprietor of an automobile livery; Hargreaves & Drew, proprietors of an elevator; Dr. A. J. Harper, dentist; John Hayes, confectioner; Jesse Holm, dealer in poultry, butter, eggs and veal; J. M. Holmes & Co., dealer in building materials and coal; C. S. Kaldem, proprietor of a draying and coal business; J. P. Kennedy, proprietor of a garage; Fay LaCore, an automobile repairer; Lars H. Larsen, dealer in furniture and undertaker; E. J. Lockren, grocer; Dr. W. W. McMann, retired physician; J. P. Nelson & Son, grocer and butcher; Mrs. Francis Plumley, manager the Commercial Hotel; W. S. Park, proprietor of the Chronicle; Harry Spiller, dealer in confectionery and ice cream; B. C. Strout, dealer in hardware and paints; J. W. Thornton & Son, proprietor of an elevator; Wagner & Root, dealers in confectionery and groceries; Weber & Bezold, grocers; Daisy E. Wilson, milliner; Wagner & Root, proprietors of a garage; C. C. Underwood, proprietor general store; Max Goodman, dry goods merchant; Louis Martin, proprietor of pool room; Christianson & Jensen, proprietors buffet; Mike Marrietti, proprietor buffet; William Malek, proprietor buffet; E. J. Jeffers, barber; T. E. Horrie, barber; George Hader, baker; C. W. Barr, grocer; L. Madson, tailor; F. H. Spiller, druggist; J. Scroggin, dealer in farm implements; Isaac Bull, dealer in meats and groceries; John Barton, dealer in insurance and justice of the peace; Edward Robertson, blacksmith; Dr. L. E. Booth, veterinary surgeon.

#### CONCRETE SIDEWALKS AND ELECTRICITY

The Village of Gardner has laid about ten miles of concrete sidewalks, and these add much to the good looks of the village. It is lighted by electricity, furnished by the Public Service Company. Other improvements are contemplated, and the people take pride in the place and in maintaining its prestige.



## THE PRESS

The press of Gardner is represented by the Chronicle, a weekly organ, which was purchased about thirty years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Parks, the present owners. This journal was founded September 29, 1881, under the name of the Gardner Weekly News, by C. M. King at a time when the people were excited over the coal prospects which appeared to promise a remarkable "boom" to this part of the county. Mr. King published editions of his paper also for Essex, Reddick and Braceville. With the changing fortunes of the coal interests, the Gardner Weekly News declined somewhat, until new blood was infused by Mr. and Mrs. Parks, and the name was changed to the Chronicle. The latter is issued as an independent paper, and has an excellent circulation.

## SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Like so many of the villages of Grundy County, Gardner has given especial attention to its school system. The first schoolhouse at Gardner was built in 1857, and J. H. Armitage was its first teacher, but prior to that Lizzie Russel taught school in a shanty east of the section house, and another little school was kept by a Mrs. Brown in her residence. Several other early teachers of the public school in addition to Mr. Armitage were: David Bookwalter and Virginia M. Hawley, who later became Mrs. Dr. J. B. Taxis, and has already been mentioned in this article. In 1867, a new schoolhouse was built, and this was enlarged in 1872, but was destroyed in 1875, to be replaced, in 1876, by a more substantial one which still stands. The present high school faculty comprises Prof. E. F. Booth and two assistants. In the grade schools, there are six teachers. For some years, the high school course comprised three years, about 1897 a fourth year was added, but was later dropped, but in 1913, this additional year was again added to the course, so that the high school now has the full four years. The board of directors of the Gardner schools is comprised of the following representative men: Wade O. Allison, president; T. S. Green, James A. Smale, Dr. A. J. Harper, R. H. Woodward, Mrs. Sadie U. Spiller and Mrs. Matilda Cobb.

## FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

With the growth of Gardner came a natural

desire for fraternal organizations, and on May 24, 1866, Gardner Lodge, A. F. & A. M., No. 573, was organized, receiving its charter October 6, 1868, the first members being: I. F. Benson, W. H. Schoonmaker, Ed Crane, J. W. Hart, A. DeNormandia, Henry Elliott, and H. V. Whalen. The present officials of this lodge are: William R. Ferguson, W. M.; Daniel Green, S. W.; J. B. Allison, J. W.; D. R. Keepers, treasurer, and Harry J. Hansen, secretary.

On October 15, 1873, the Odd Fellows organized Gardner Lodge, No. 515, but later it was disbanded, the members associating themselves with lodges more convenient to their place of residence, as the majority of the Gardner lodge moved from the village with the passage of time.

Kellogg Chapter, No. 219, O. E. S., was organized at Gardner, April 30, 1892. Its present officials are: Mrs. C. B. Booth, W. M.; T. S. Green, W. P. and Mrs. Grace Booth, secretary.

The Knights of Pythias organized Colfax Chapter at Gardner, but eventually moved the lodge to South Wilmington, as it was found that the majority of the members had located at the latter village.

The Modern Woodmen of America organized a camp at Gardner, known as Sycamore Camp, No. 1546, and this order, together with the Royal Neighbors, known at Gardner as Holly Camp, No. 232, lease the old Gardner Opera House as a lodge hall.

Some other fraternal organizations at Gardner are: Gardner Council, No. 59, of the Yeomen, which is now inactive, with Mrs. Elma Wheeler as secretary and treasurer; the Gleaners, an agricultural organization, which has representation in almost all of the townships of the county, and exerts considerable influence, considers topics interesting to the farmers and their wives, and the Danish Brotherhood, an order formed by the Danes of the community.

## CHURCHES

The Methodist Church held service in what is now Garfield Township, coming here prior to any other denomination, the first clergyman being Rev. Charles Roe. He conducted meetings at his own house and also at those of his neighbors. Another early Methodist preacher was the Rev. Daniel Abbott. Aside from these early gatherings, there were no religious serv-







W. C. Cunningham



ices of the denomination until 1858, when the Gardner Methodist Episcopal society was organized and attached to the Mazon Circuit, with the Rev. Thomas Watson in charge. The Gardner Circuit was organized in 1867. The first members of the little society of 1858 were: William B. Royal and wife, J. H. Coles and wife, William Hart and wife, Robert Glass and wife, Joseph Hall and wife, and Mrs. Cynthia W. Hastings. The first church building was erected in 1856, at the corner of Jackson Street and Washington Avenue. A new one was built in 1876, which still stands. Some of the pastors of this church have been: Revs. John Grundy, J. B. Dillie, A. E. Days, John Cosler, Samuel Hart, H. Tiffany, William H. Collins, D. H. Cridler, A. C. Price, Matthew Evans, B. F. Wonder, J. W. Denning, A. D. Moore, M. C. Eignus, A. Bower, D. W. Brown, T. R. McNair, S. S. Langdoe, C. W. Green, I. O. Mallory, A. R. Morgan, J. F. James, W. W. Howard. The present incumbent is Rev. John Rogers.

The church next organized in what is now Garfield Township, was the Presbyterian, its birth taking place in 1858, with the Revs. L. H. Loss and S. H. Waldo in charge. The church was started by six women: Mrs. Abbie LaForce, Mrs. Phebe Ann Wheeler, Mrs. Sarah M. Wright, Mrs. Susan Sawyer, Mrs. E. C. Benson, and Miss Virginia M. Hawley. At first services were held in the schoolhouse, but later the society used the Methodist Church, and in 1871 put up an edifice of its own. Some of the pastors of this church have been: Revs. Walso, Alvah Day, E. G. Moore, Sextus E. Smith, F. B. Hargraves, J. G. Lyle, Joel Kennedy, S. H. Stevenson, Robert Watt, H. W. Berger, Rolla G. Shafer, Gamble, Chrisman, William Vance. The present pastor is the Rev. B. P. Holt. The membership is about eighty-nine.

Under Rev. W. H. Card, seven persons, W. H. Card, Philip Spaulding, Albert W. Willard, David M. Griswold, Mrs. L. E. Taxis, Robert Huston and H. J. Edmunds, organized the Baptist Church of what is now Garfield Township, in 1864. The first structure of this denomination was erected in 1871, and in the following year a new brick one was built, but for a number of years it has been closed, although the organization still holds, and the Ladies' Aid Society carries on its charitable work, but no services are held. Some of the pastors in charge of this church in the past

have been: Revs. W. H. Card, Colby, J. Groden, John Higby, E. G. Sage, and F. M. Mitchell.

Between forty and fifty years ago the Norwegian Lutherans started a society at Garden Prairie, in what is now Garfield Township, and services are still held in the little church of that organization, upon alternate Sundays. Within the past thirty years, the Norwegians of the Lutheran faith at Gardner decided to organize a society of their own, and had as their first pastors substitutes from other churches. Some twenty-five years ago, under the Rev. Remertsen, the society built its present church, and it has grown until it now numbers 100 members. The present pastor is the Rev. K. J. Wang, who officiates on alternate Sundays at Gardner, and at Garden Prairie. The Ladies' Aid Society for the older members, and the Sunshine Circle for the young ladies, are doing excellent work along charitable and social lines in connection with the church.

#### AN IMPORTANT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

At one time in its history, as mentioned before, Gardner looked forward to a long and prosperous history as the center of vast coal mining industries. When those hopes died, its men turned their attention in other directions. Some have devoted themselves to banking and insurance; others attend to the large shipping interests here. Still others find excellent business opportunities in meeting the demands of local and contiguous trade. The attending to the requirements of automobilists is an important feature of the business life of Gardner. One business house of the village that is destined to play an important part in its growth and prosperity is that of J. H. Holmes, manufacturer, seller and builder of the Playford Cement Stave Silo. By means of the silo, the agriculturist is able to preserve the green fodder for his stock, and feed it to them during the winter months when otherwise he would have to depend entirely upon dried foods, thus increasing very materially the value of his product, and increasing the price he can demand. The intelligent farmer of today is looking for the best silo made, and according to the claims of the people of Gardner, one of their residents is putting just that kind of a silo on the market. Demonstrations of silos at the



Grundy County Fair have been made in the past, with satisfactory results.

#### RAILROADS

The Chicago & Alton Railroad, which passes through Gardner, was built in 1853-4, the people of Gardner and the vicinity, contributing \$3,000 for right of way. The first ticket agent at Gardner was C. K. Snyder, and it is interesting to know that as he had no station house at the time, he carried all his papers in a tin trunk. The "Big Four" railroad trains also stop at Gardner, although its station is not in the center of the village as is that of the Chicago & Alton. Gardner's business houses are centered in a compact area so that it is not difficult to attend to very important affairs, for a few blocks hold the concerns mentioned above. There are some very comfortable homes at Gardner, and the people themselves are alive, wide awake and progressive, eager to take advantage of improvements, and utilize advantages offered.

#### SUPERVISOR

Ever since its creation, in 1902, Garfield Township has been represented on the County Board of Supervisors by Chris Anderson, the present incumbent.

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### CHAPTER XXVIII

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#### GOOD FARM TOWNSHIP

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SITUATION—RAILROAD LINE—MANY STREAMS—  
ROLLING PRAIRIE—FORMERLY WELL TIMBERED—  
EARLIEST SETTLERS—ADVENT OF THE GERMANS  
IN 1850—STURDY PEOPLE—FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE  
—SCARCITY OF MONEY—FIRST TEACHER—  
SECOND SCHOOLHOUSE—CHURCH ORGANIZA-  
TIONS—OWNERS OF LAND—SUPERVISORS.

(By Chas. E. Rogers)

#### SITUATION

Located on the southern boundary line of Grundy County, Good Farm Township has Ma-

zon on the north, Garfield on the east, Livingston County on the south, and Highland Township on the west. The Chicago & Alton Railroad runs through the southeastern portion, and it is watered by Murray Sluice, Mazon Creek, Brewster Sluice and Wood Sluice, the last two joining to form the west fork of the Mazon River. The township, comprising rolling prairie land, was formerly well supplied with timber, the greater portion of which has been sacrificed in the advance of civilization.

#### EARLIEST SETTLERS

The first settler to locate in Good Farm Township was James McKean, who came here in 1841, and probably enjoyed the distinction of being its only pioneer for several years, for the next recorded settlement was that of J. M. Clover, who came in 1844, from Indiana, buying land on Section 2. Later Elijah Saltmarsh located on Section 5, but afterward went to Oregon. Elmathan Lewis was the next settler, and Elijah Lewis, David Gleason and E. F. Brewster arrived near the same time. In 1849, E. B. Steven bought the claim owned by Henry Brown, who had located here, but was dissatisfied. However, there was no actual growth in the township, aside from these scattering settlements until 1850, when the Germans began to come in, and with the sturdy fortitude of their nationality began to make valuable farms out of the land they secured. Their practical ideas found outward expression in public improvements as the time went on, and the names of Leonard Fisher, John L. Meier, Hoffman Hoag, Pfeiffer and Buchard are remembered as being those of the German pioneers.

#### FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE

The first schoolhouse erected in Good Farm Township was put up in 1850 by the farmers, who all subscribed something, some contributing lumber, others labor, while six of them each gave \$1, which in those days meant much more than that amount would today. Not only was the purchasing power of a dollar more, but actual money was very scarce, the greater portion of business transactions being carried on by trading. The lumber for this primitive schoolhouse had to be hauled from Horse Creek in Will County. It is a remarkable thing that





Ethel C. Cummings.





everything needed for the schoolhouse outside of the lumber and labor was bought for that \$6. Such facts are interesting today, when contrasted with the vast sums of money expended to educate the young of the rising generation. The first teacher of this first school was Elvira Lewis. In 1856 a second schoolhouse was erected and was taught by Philip Ganzert. Today the schools of Good Farm Township are in a condition to challenge competition, and the people take pride in them and the teachers.

#### CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

The Free Will Baptists were the first to organize a church, the society first meeting at the home of David Gleason, February 5, 1850, when the host and his wife, and Elnathan Lewis and his wife, formed the congregation. Later meetings of these earnest people were held in the schoolhouse, but in 1868 the membership died out. The Methodists probably absorbed some of them, and other denominations the rest.

The Lutheran Church was built in 1859 and erected a parsonage in conjunction with it. Salem Evangelical Church was founded about 1857, the members being Messrs. Buckart, Hoag, Pfeiffer and Hoffman. In 1877, another place of worship was built on Section 22.

An organization called The Church of God also had members, the people of this township being generally upright, godly and religious, desirous of spiritual instruction.

Among the people who in more recent years have held property in Good Farm Township, many of whom are still owners of farms here are: John Neville, Amos Parker, Alpha Baker, James Kruse, J. F. Thorpe, John Crocker, E. B. Stevens, John Rein, William Scully, M. Hulsey, A. Burkhardt, Sr., John Both, Cris Klingahardt, Martin Hoffman, John M. Racher, D. M. McWilliams, George Paxton, Charles Fillman, John Hahn, John Fox, Thomas Burkhardt, Walter Roeder, R. L. Frost, Gust Zebel, O. O. Thompson, Jerry Haskins, James Small, John Johnson, George Bush, Leonard Burger, Paul Kime, Leonard Hoffman, George L. Burfer, Nels Knudtson, and Ezra Grosh.

#### SUPERVISORS

The men who have represented Good Farm

Township on the Board of Supervisors from 1859 to the present day, have been: J. M. Clover, 1850-1851; E. Lewis, 1852-1853; David Gleason, 1854; Samuel Cutter, 1855-1856; William Mason, 1857; E. B. Stevens, 1858-1860; J. S. Austin, 1861; Jas. M. Austin, 1862; L. H. Goodrich, 1863-1868; Mathew Johnson, 1869; David Barton, 1870; E. R. Barr, 1871-1880; J. M. Perkins, 1881; Mathew Johnson, 1882-1884; William Constantine, 1885-1895; Alex Preston, 1896-1909; John Shortlesberger, 1910-1914.

#### CHAPTER XXIX

#### GOOSE LAKE TOWNSHIP

GOOSE LAKE—PETITION TO SUPERVISORS—DESCRIPTION OF NEW TOWNSHIP—JUDGES AND CLERKS OF ELECTION—EARLIEST SETTLER—FIRST LAND PURCHASE—OTHER SETTLERS—NO INDIAN TROUBLES—AN AGRICULTURAL SECTION—POTTERY MANUFACTURING A POSSIBILITY—NO LARGE VILLAGES—SUPERVISORS FROM 1897 TO 1912.

(By Walter Phillips)

#### GOOSE LAKE

One of the newer divisions of Grundy County is Goose Lake Township, which was taken from Felix Township, and its history, consequently, is similar to that of the territory from which it was carved, but has interesting features of its own. In pioneer days a large body of water here was the home of countless wild geese, hence Goose Lake was an appropriate name. The lake now is comparatively insignificant, but the wild goose still nests here and the name of the township perpetuates the pioneer name.

In 1897, Goose Lake Township was cut off from Felix, and since then has had its independent history. A petition signed by the legal voters and freeholders of Felix Township, was presented to the honorable Board of Supervisors of Grundy County, Illinois, at their July meeting in 1897, praying for a division of the Township of Felix as follows: All that part of said township outside of a territory measuring four



(4) miles from east to west, and three (3) miles from north to south, in the southeast corner of said township (which was to remain and constitute the Town of Felix), prayed to be separated from the Town of Felix, and erected into a new town to be known as Jugtown. The said petition was favorably received by the Board of Supervisors and the usual posting of notices and other legal requirements ordered and complied with. The said petition then came up for final action at the September meeting of the Board of Supervisors and was granted.

#### NAME

The name of Jugtown not proving satisfactory, the name of Goose Lake was suggested to, and confirmed by, the auditor of the State of Illinois, and ratified by the supervisors, April 11, 1898. Orders were also issued calling the caucus and election provided for by law in such cases, and the election was held in the Jugtown schoolhouse on the 12th day of October, 1897. The judges of said election were: Israel Dudgeon, Walter Phillips and David Henneberry, and clerks of said election were Geo. Brooks and S. C. Miller.

#### FIRST SETTLER

Peter Lamsett was probably the earliest settler of this locality, having hunted game through here as early as 1820, and, being attracted by its many possibilities, made it his permanent home, although not the owner of any property. To him belongs the honor of having discovered the first coal in the neighborhood, but he never profited by his pioneer experiences to any considerable extent, for he was a nomad, and was never so happy as when roaming about, care-free. Thus his name alone preserves his memory.

W. A. Halloway was the first to purchase land here, buying on Section 12, in 1835, at the point where afterwards a wooden bridge was built across the Mazon River, but in 1840 he went to Bloomington, Wis. Many of the earliest pioneers followed this course. While they invested in land they were not all willing to settle down permanently until the conditions came up with their expectations, many looking to others to bring these favorable conditions about.

Abram Holderman also bought land in 1835, and turned the property over to his son, Henry

Holderman. The latter remained on it a year, and then it came into the hands of his brother, Barton, who also left, and in 1847 or 1848, Samuel Holderman became the owner. To the original farm, he added until he was the owner of 5,000 acres and one of the wealthiest men in this part of the county. In 1839, Abram White, Mr. Kelso and Martin Luther took up claims, and became pioneers of the township. John Beard was another man who was an early settler, and was one who left his impress upon his times. William White came in 1838, and lived well into the '90s. During the War of 1812, he served his country as a gallant soldier, and drew a pension to the day of his death.

The pioneers of this locality experienced but little difficulty with the Indians, finding them when well treated, kindly of nature, and helpful in putting up the log cabins, and hunting game. There was plenty of the latter in the early days, deer, squirrels, otter, raccoons, muskrats, quail and prairie chickens being in abundance, the flesh of some furnishing food, and the furs of others clothing. There were also many wolves.

The low land prevailing, made the early and profitable cultivation of the soil difficult, and it was not until modern drainage methods came into general use that Goose Lake Township land was made to yield as it has proved capable of doing.

As yet, Goose Lake Township is entirely agricultural, but much of the soil is a wet clay, suitable for the manufacture of pottery, and it is believed by those who have the future of the township at heart, that the manufacture of earthenware is destined to become a very important interest of this part of the county.

As in the case in every new community, a few houses, a tavern, a blacksmith shop, and perhaps a church, gradually were erected about the cross-roads store, in different places in the township, but no large villages resulted, owing to the proximity of larger communities that furnish all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life.

#### SUPERVISORS

Israel Dudgeon, 1897-1907; Frank J. Holderman, 1908-1909; Walter Phillips, 1910-1911; Frank Collins, 1912-1913; C. E. Anderson, 1914.



## CHAPTER XXX

## GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGES

NAME — BOUNDARIES AND SOIL — TIMBER AND STREAMS — EARLIEST PIONEERS — FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN—PIONEERS OF 1819—OTHER EARLY SETTLERS—FIRST MOWING MACHINE BOUGHT—FIRST DEATH—FIRST MARRIAGE—PUBLIC MOVEMENTS — FIRST TOWN MEETING — AN AMALGAMATED POPULATION — RECLAIMING OF SWAMP LANDS — SOUTH WILMINGTON — SCHOOLS OF SOUTH WILMINGTON—SOUTH WILMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH — LEADING RESIDENTS — EAST BROOKLYN—SECRET SOCIETIES—SUPERVISORS.

(By R. McNulty)

## NAME

Greenfield Township owes its name to Thomas L. Green of Chicago, who owned and operated in its lands to an extensive degree prior to its formation into a township. Because of the activity and popularity of Mr. Green this section was named after him by the enthusiastic men who had the matter in hand, the committee being composed of Robert Wood, Robert Finley and Milo Wilcox.

## BOUNDARIES AND SOIL

The township had at this time the following boundaries: Braceville Township on the north, Good Farm Township on the west, Round Grove, Livingston County, on the south, and Essex, Kankakee County, on the east, and it had an area of six miles.

The soil is black loam, ranging from one to two feet deep and is capable of high cultivation. It rolls gently downward from the southern portion, but as the streams are all supplied with high banks, considerable drainage is necessary.

## TIMBER AND STREAMS

Unfortunately much of the original timber has been cleared away, although Greenfield Township was never very heavily wooded, the timber being along the Mazon Creek. One of

the best known groves in the township was Currier's Grove. The varieties of timber found embraced oak, hickory, walnut, elm, basswood, and similar species found in Illinois. The largest stream, Mazon Creek, originates at Broughton, Livingston County, running north through Greenfield Township. Cranery Creek, the next important, comes into the township from Essex Township, Kankakee County, and unites with Mazon Creek. Two other creeks, which rise in Round Grove Township, unite with Mazon Creek within the boundaries of Greenfield Township.

## EARLIEST PIONEERS

While Greenfield Township was still unorganized, belonging then to the Mazon precinct, about 1818, Dr. James Miller and Nelson LaForce became the pioneers of the township. They located on the northwest part of Section 3, where they built a house which was the first to be put up within a radius of thirty-six square miles. In it was born the son of Doctor Miller, George Miller, the first white child to be born in the township. For many years Doctor Miller ministered to the sick and suffering of his neighborhood, although crippled to such an extent that he was forced to go on two crutches. Later he went to Gardner where he owned and conducted a drug store and still later removed to Florida where he rounded out his useful life. His associate, Mr. LaForce, also moved to Gardner later in life. The second home in the township was built by Taylor Bredfield in 1819, near the northeast corner of Section 10.

## PIONEERS OF 1819

Robert Glass came here in 1819 and under the farm he secured on Section 10, coal was discovered in the early '30s, which increased the value of his property many times over. This pioneer has long passed to his last reward. Robert Finley was another of the pioneers of 1819, and the Village of Gardner now occupies a portion of his original holdings. He bought a quarter of Section 9 for \$134, and later another quarter section for \$175, and had the satisfaction of selling a large portion of it in town lots, receiving for a quarter of an acre much more than either of the original tracts cost him. Samuel Miller came here in 1819, but sold his land in 1854 to go to Iowa. Mr. Fuller is num-



bered among the early hunters of this region, and stories of his prowess with his gun are still related. Robert Wood's arrival was either in the latter part of 1849, or the early part of 1850. Later he sold and went to Missouri, but being convinced that Grundy County offered more advantages, came back and bought a new farm, spending the remainder of his life on the east bank of Mazon Creek.

Franklin Morgan was another pioneer of 1849, but later he went to Indiana. He is remembered for his genial spirit and love of fun. Joseph Elliott also came here in 1849, having spent a short time in Du Page County. His first winter was spent in a mere shanty, though the terrible snow storms, made it utterly impossible for him and his family to keep warm, despite the fact that they had a roaring fire all the while.

Another of the pioneers of Greenfield Township was John Kelso, who arrived here in 1849, but later went to Kansas. Milo Wilcox put up a little house on the banks of Mazon Creek in 1849, but sold it to Charles Roe, a Methodist preacher, and secured another farm. George F. Spencer developed a magnificent farm from his prairie holdings. He planted a fine orchard and became one of the leading men of Greenfield Township. Nelson Clapp came here in 1849, but soon sold to move to Grand Prairie. Benjamin Banister arrived the same year as Mr. Clapp, but his property has passed into different hands.

#### OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

On May 10, 1850, George Willis came here from Guernsey County, Ohio, building a split log cabin. With him came S. V. Hartley who developed into a wealthy farmer. His original farm was divided into town lots, to his profit.

Thomas McCartney was another of the pioneers and among those who came after 1850 may be mentioned: Alexander and Kennedy Brown, J. W. Hall and Robert Atkinson. After this, settlement was rapid, for it was recognized that the soil was fertile and farming profitable.

The first mowing machine used in Greenfield Township was bought by Alexander and Kennedy Brown in 1852.

#### FIRST DEATH

The first to die in Greenfield Township was

George Beal, who passed away in the spring of 1850. No clergyman could be secured for the last rites, but a pious neighbor offered a heartfelt prayer. Others joined in with a hymn, and all who could followed the rude coffin to what is now Wheeler Burying Grounds.

#### FIRST MARRIAGE

In either June or July of 1851, occurred the first marriage which was celebrated between Henry Brown and a young lady whose first name was Amanda, a sister-in-law of Daniel Fuller. The following is declared to be a true transcript of the marriage service which bound them together:

"Henry, do you love Amanda?"

"Yes."

"Amanda, do you love Henry?"

"Yes."

"Then I pronounce you man and wife, by God."

#### PUBLIC MOVEMENTS

The first bridge was built over the Mazon Creek at Mason's three-mile house, during the winter of 1867-68, by John F. Peck of Gardner. It was of wood, 200 feet in length, but was later replaced by one of stone and iron. Still later, after the second one was destroyed by a cyclone, an iron bridge was constructed. Other bridges were built on Snyder's Lane, prior to that over the Mazon, and were replaced by more substantial ones later on. The commissioners are constantly making improvements on the bridges and take pride in keeping them up to a standard in every respect.

The first town meeting of Greenfield Township was held in April, 1850. Those present at the meeting were seventeen in number, and the following were elected: Franklin Morgan, supervisor; Nelson LaForce, town clerk; Robert Glass, assessor; Taylor Bradfield, overseer of the poor; Nelson LaForce, collector; R. Finley, R. Woods and John Kelso, highway commissioners; Thomas McCartney and Jachin Banister, constables; Daniel Fuller, justice of the peace, and Taylor Bradfield, pathmaster.

#### AN AMALGAMATED POPULATION

Various countries are represented among the people of Greenfield Township. There is a large







Eng. by F. G. W. and S. C. D.

Silas C. Darby

Photo. by F. G. W. and S. C. D.



settlement of Danes, Norwegians, Scandinavians, Scotch, Irish and Germans here, while the New England states sent generously some of their best citizens to help to develop this portion of Grundy County. The descendants of the early settlers have intermarried until they are now fused in the great melting pot of Americanism, and are proud of this country and the one from which they sprung.

Greenfield Township is fortunate in not having a record of cruel Indian history, owing in large part to the friendship of the chief Shabbona. However, wolves remained to scare the pioneer. There were plenty of deer and other wild game, and so with fish from the streams, the early settlers did not have to kill their stock to secure meat.

#### RECLAIMING OF SWAMP LANDS

In the early '80s the people of Greenfield Township began to appreciate the value of tile draining, and after the first experiments in this method of reclaiming the swamp lands proved so satisfactory, the agriculturalists here, always progressive, undertook the drainage of thousands of acres hitherto worthless, and upon them bannier crops are now being raised.

Until Garfield Township was formed from Greenfield, Gardner was within the latter township, and its first village to be incorporated, but it now belongs to the former, and is written up at length in the history of that section.

#### SOUTH WILMINGTON

The second village to be incorporated in Greenfield Township was South Wilmington, which came into existence August 23, 1899. An election was held by the qualified voters residing within the territory, to-wit: The southwest quarter of Section 11 in Township 31, North Range 8, east of the Third P. M., in the County of Grundy. The returns which were canvassed by A. R. Jordan, county judge, resulted for incorporation. The first election for village officers was held September 19, 1899, and the first set of officers elected were: Robert McNulty, Sr., president; Mike Finn, clerk; Walter Ferguson, treasurer; Charles McLean, constable; William Walker, street commissioner; Levi Simms, police magistrate, and William Purdy, Martin Ferrero, Patrick Corrigan, Hugh Young and John Hammer, trustees.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Gibson Simpson was the first to locate at South Wilmington, moving into a house taken there from Braidwood, that had belonged to Ed Blandey. The second family was that of Patrick Corrigan, who came to take charge of the hotel which was built by the C. W. and C. Coal Company, it being the first to be put here. In 1899 the coal company commenced to build new houses and sell them to their employes, and a great many were moved in from the surrounding towns of Braceville, Braidwood, Coal City, and Clarke City. The present population of South Wilmington is about three thousand.

A meeting of the citizens was held in the fall of 1899 and donations were asked for the commencement of a school for the benefit of the few children here. School commenced that same fall, being held in an old store building which had been moved in on Third Avenue. Miss Carrie Peart was employed as the first teacher. The people responded so generously to the request for funds that by the fall of 1900, a four-room schoolhouse was ready in District 74, and in May, 1902, four rooms more were added. It now has 870 pupils enrolled, 479 boys and 441 girls. A two-room schoolhouse was built in District 68 in the spring of 1905. This latter school has 197 pupils enrolled, fifty-one boys and fifty-six girls.

The first religious services held in South Wilmington were by the Baptist Sunday School in the fall of 1900. They were conducted in what was known as the Prophet Building, which was moved here from Gardner. Rev. J. Blodgett and J. C. Wilson organized it, and F. E. Floyd was the first superintendent. The church building where the Baptists now hold services was moved from Braceville in 1901. Rev. J. Blodgett was the first pastor. The church was organized the same year, but only remained by itself a short time, becoming a mission of Gardner, until February 6, 1910, when it became once more a separate church.

A complete history of the coal industry of Grundy County will be found elsewhere in this work. Written by an expert, the conditions are fully given.

Among the leading business houses and professional and business men of South Wilmington are: Dr. C. D. Allison, physician; Arthur G. Peery, president Bank of South Wilmington; Frank Blanchetto, buffet; Felix Gardn, buffet, Joe Giro, buffet; Max Goodman, general mer-



chandise; Hector Jerbl, general merchandise; McAllister & Co., garage; William McGovern, Robert McNulty, public telephone station; Mrs. Veronica Pastore, groceries and ice cream; Peter Piagno, grocer; Albino Residori, buffet; Dominick Rolla, grocer; Ronchetti & Co., meats and general merchandise; Frank Scavardo, agent Morris Brewery; Skinner Bros., general merchandise; Testa Bros., bakery; Domenico Valerugo, buffet; Wilmington Coal Mining & Manufacturing Co.; A. C. Wilson, livery; and others interested in farm lands who have retired to this village to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

#### EAST BROOKLYN

On June 15, 1903, a petition was presented to the County Court of Grundy County asking that the question of incorporation of a village to be called East Brooklyn, be submitted to the people. In accordance with the petition, an election was afterwards held. The result of this election was in favor of incorporation, and thereupon the Village of East Brooklyn came into existence. Its territory is as follows: Commencing at a point 933-8-10 east of the southeast corner of the southwest one-quarter of the southeast one-quarter of Section 11 in Township 31, North Range —, East of the Third P. M., and running north 683 feet, west 1,590 feet, south 683 feet, and east 1,590 feet. On July 21, 1903, an election was held and the first to hold office in East Brooklyn were as follows: Levi Green, president, and George Hackney, Joe Black, Anton Rolando, Fred Bollatto, Joe Ferrero and John Ronchetti, trustees. East Brooklyn has a population of 525, and it is growing.

A number of secret societies are represented in Greenfield Township, among them being: The Knights of Pythias, the Eagles, and the Marco Polo. Solo Resplendente, and the Minatori Di Italia, the last three being Italian societies.

Those who have served Greenfield Township on the Board of Supervisors of Grundy County have been as follows: Franklin N. Morgan, 1850-1851; Jas. Miller, 1852; Jas. Craig, 1853; Robert Wood, 1854; Joseph C. Robinson, 1855; C. A. Whitbeck, 1856; William B. Royal, 1857-1858; Charles E. Gardner, 1859-1861; Reuben H. Rose, 1862-1863; Wm. Hart, 1864; Stephen D. Underwood, 1865; Theodore Hyatt, 1866-1867; Kennedy Brown, 1868-1869; Amos Clover, 1870-1876; Isaac McClun, 1877-1878; Wm. H.

McClun, 1879; Lewis Germain, 1880-1888; Henry Leach, 1889; Lewis Germain, 1890; H. E. Snyder, 1891-1892; Jerry A. Govey, 1893-1896; H. E. Snyder, 1897-1898; Geo. W. Booth, 1899-1901; John Spiller, 1902; J. C. Wilson, 1903-1904; Alexander K. Walker, 1905-1912; A. J. Culley, 1913-1914.

#### CHAPTER XXXI

#### HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

HIGHEST LAND IN COUNTY—WELL WATERED—  
PRAIRIE BANDITS—FIRST SETTLER—FEW PIONEERS  
PRIOR TO 1856—MANY ADDITIONS IN 1857 AND  
1858 — THE OTTAWA SETTLERS — CHANGE IN  
POLITICAL SENTIMENT—FIRST MARRIAGE, BIRTH  
AND DEATH—FEW CHURCHES—MAIL BY FREE  
RURAL DELIVERY FROM KINSMAN—RICH AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT—SUPERVISORS FROM 1850 TO  
1914.

(By Thomas Ryan)

#### HIGHEST LAND

Highland Township contains the highest elevation in Grundy County, hence its name. Johnny Run and Murray Sluice are the principal streams, although the Waupocan and the Mazon Rivers cross the corners.

The very early history of Highland Township is regrettably associated with the criminal history of Grundy County, for the people who took forcible possession of this locality were members of the Prairie Bandit Gang. During 1836 and 1837 these desperadoes ravaged the country, stealing horses so openly that none were safe, and as is the case with men who have no respect for property, these bandits had but little for human life, and whenever it was necessary to protect themselves, killed ruthlessly. Travelers lost not only their horses, but money and other valuables, and were fortunate to escape with their lives. Eventually, however, the permanent settlers in Grundy County and other localities drove these bandits out of the state, but not before they had terrorized hundreds,



and killed many. Highland Township had many other difficulties growing out of the lawlessness of these bandits, for the stories of their crimes kept reliable men from settling here, and encouraged law breaking of all kinds.

The real settlement of the township began in 1845 or 1846, with the location here of James Martin, who came here from Indiana. Soon John and William Scott, his brothers-in-law, followed, but only remained a short period. James Fink and William Pierce both settled here before 1850. Alvin and Cushman Small came here about 1851, as did John Empe and a Mr. Kline. Paddy Lamb arrived before 1855, and was joined by a number of other Irishmen. John Weldon, although a resident of Vienna, influenced many to come to Highland Township.

#### THE OTTAWA SETTLERS

The settlement was small up to 1856, for at the presidential election in that year, but fifteen votes were cast. Paddy Lamb cast the only vote for Buchanan despite the efforts of the fourteen others to make him change his politics. William Slattarey, a resident of Ottawa, Illinois, moved to Highland in 1857 as one of the first that came from there and forty-six families followed, among them being William Meagher, John Ryan, Tom Ryan, Jerry Donovan, Owen Driner, Pat Cary, Will Kick, Tom Donohue, Dennis Ryan, Mike Ahern and Tom Harty. This influx turned a strong republican town to a democratic, and it was called Ireland by some. John Coveny, Isaac Marlet, John Noonan, Vera Hill, Randolph Hill, William Colby, John Danhier, Mike Dunn, and Dave Silk were the old settlers from 1856 to 1866. Land was bought for from \$6 to \$10 per acre that sells for \$245 per acre and some has been pushed to \$300 per acre. A great many of those settlers were renters and after a few years moved to other parts, some to eastern Illinois and more to Iowa. All are well-to-do today who remained and attended to business.

The first marriage in the township was that of the parents of John Flanigan, who was born on Section 15, the first white child born here. He was married to John Sullivan's daughter, who died and then he married James Broderick's daughter, and now resides in Iowa. In later days many a young man came to Highland Township to select a wife. On one occasion, John Shroder, then county sheriff for eighteen

years, announced to the writer that Highland raised the most perfect girls in the county, so it was no wonder the young men crowded to Highland Township to get their wives.

The first death was that of Mr. Benningham. Out of the forty-six families that moved from Ottawa only five now remain, all the others having gone to their eternal reward.

#### FEW CHURCHES

In 1868 a Catholic church was built on Section 4. The old Catholic church was moved to Kinsman in 1885 and in 1887 was replaced by a \$3,000 church. Only one church was outside the Catholic and that was the Swedish Lutheran, in 1903.

No postoffices were ever established in Highland Township outside of Kinsman, the people now getting their mail by rural free delivery from that point.

#### RICH AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

This is entirely an agricultural district. From being the center of lawlessness in the '30s, it has become, in 1914, one of the most law abiding of all the sections of Grundy County. The farmers are well-to-do, and market their produce at Kinsman and Verona. While the farms here are not as large as those in some of the other townships, they are so well cared for, that they yield handsomely, and the valuation per acre is higher in consequence. In addition to general farming, stock raising is carried on, also some dairying, all of which prove profitable to those thus engaged.

#### KINSMAN

The only railroad station in Highland Township is Kinsman, which is located on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. It is a little settlement about the railroad station and the Catholic Church, and the residents are principally retired farmers of the Catholic faith. A small hotel offers accommodation to those desiring it, not only from the village, but transients as well. Stock and grain from the surrounding territory are shipped from Kinsman, and from it mail is delivered over the regular rural route the postoffice there controls. Several stores deal in the commodities required by the people of Kinsman and the outlying farming





community, and it ranks in importance with other villages of its size in Grundy County. There is also a bank at this point.

#### SUPERVISORS

Highland Township has been represented on the Board of Supervisors of Grundy County by the following men: L. Putnam, 1850-51; William Pierce, 1852-1859; Philip Waite, 1860-1864; William Pierce, 1865; John S. Maxwell, 1866-1867; Henry Adams, 1868-1869; William Pierce, 1870-1872; Benjamin Waite, 1873; George L. Gilbert, 1874-1875; Thomas Ryan, 1876-1880; M. H. Lamb, 1881-1884; W. E. Conness, 1885; W. T. Daniher, 1886-1890; J. H. Kane, 1891-1892; W. T. Daniher, 1893; Thomas Ryan, 1894; J. H. Kane, 1895-1896; George Gilbert, 1897-1898; W. E. Conness, 1899-1900; Thomas Ryan, 1901-1904; D. F. Meagher, 1905-1906; Richard Carey, 1907-1908; Daniel O'Connell, 1909-1914.

### CHAPTER XXXII

#### MAINE TOWNSHIP

LOCATION—WELL CULTIVATED FARMS—CORN PRINCIPAL CROP—HAS ONE SHIPPING STATION—RAILROAD FACILITIES—OWNERS OF LAND—WILMINGTON STAR COAL COMPANY—SUPERVISORS.

(By George H. Cragg)

#### LOCATION

Maine Township is one of the comparatively new sections of Grundy County, having been laid off March 7, 1898, and as it lies between Braceville Township and Mazon Township, its early history is the same as that of the two from which it was taken. It is bounded on the north by Goose Lake Township, on the east by Braceville Township, on the south by Garfield Township, and on the west by Mazon Township, and is a part of Congressional Township 32 north, Range 8, east of the Third P. M.

The farms in this district are very well cul-

tivated, although smaller than some in adjoining townships. Like Mazon Township, the soil here is exceedingly fertile, and corn and oats are grown, the former being the principal crop. There is one shipping station for grain and stock in Maine Township, on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, which runs through it a little north of its center.

#### OWNERS OF LAND

Among those who have in recent years been landowners in Maine Township, many of whom still retain their holdings, are: Winfield Rogers, H. M. Hill, D. Gilchrist, Margaret McKinley, Charles Barsdorf, James Wills, George Bridel, Benjamin Crisler, Milton Button, Henry Casingham, Jonas Walters, August Knebel, C. C. Easton, Fred Adams, C. J. Wing, George Barrett, S. C. Stough, L. H. Balmeyer, Frank Pickle, E. L. Allison, W. R. Jenkins, M. J. Adams, E. C. McGill, Alfred Wallen, Henry Bull, Emil Bosman, George Stewart, W. G. Sanford, Chris Thompson, M. Anderson, Thomas Reay, Robert Reay, Fritz Wallin, A. Jackman, Robert Glasgow.

The Wilmington Star Coal Company also owns property in this township. It is one of the few coal companies still operating Grundy coal land, although at one time it was believed that this section would rival some of the most productive regions of the country in the mining of coal.

#### SUPERVISORS

The men who have served Maine Township as supervisors since the organization of the township have been: E. H. Robinson, 1898-1899; Milton Button, 1900-1905; Leon J. Dujarie, 1906-1914.

### CHAPTER XXXIII

#### MAZON TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE

CENTRAL LOCATION—IMPORTANT PLACE IN COUNTY HISTORY—MAZON THE INDIAN NAME FOR NETTLE





Mary Tardou.



Robert M. J. Davidson.



—GENERAL SURFACE LEVEL—SIX WATER-COURSES  
—EARLY PROSPECTORS AND SETTLERS—FIRST  
WEDDING—ADDITIONAL SETTLERS—INADEQUATE  
TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES—THE HALF WAY  
HOUSE—A DILFLOABLE ACCIDENT—MANY TRAGIC  
OCCURRENCES IN PIONEER TIMES—GRADUAL  
SHIFTING OF BUSINESS TO CENTERVILLE, NOW  
MAZON—ORIGINAL SITE STILL OCCUPIED—TILE  
FACTORY—CHELMEY—MAZON VILLAGE—INCOR-  
PORATED UNDER STATE LAW IN 1895—MUCH  
PUBLIC SPIRIT SHOWN—GRUNDY COUNTY AGRI-  
CULTURAL ASSOCIATION—MASONIC HALL—OPERA  
HOUSE—MODERN IMPROVEMENTS—LARGE INDUS-  
TRIES—FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS—POSTMAS-  
TERS SINCE 1871—NEWSPAPER HISTORY—(CME-  
TERIES—RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES—FIRST SCHOOL-  
HOUSE EXCITED PUBLIC ADMIRATION—TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL—SUPERVISORS.

(By Jennie M. Wheeler)

#### CENTRAL LOCATION

Located practically in the center of Grundy County, Mazon Township and the city bearing the same name have also combined to form a center of commercial and agricultural activity. From earliest times this section has had an important part in the history of the county; here have occurred incidents which furnish all the elements of romance; here is to be found material for a work of fiction and adventure. From the days when the sturdy pioneers for weeks at a time subsisted largely upon a diet of fried slippery elm bark, to the present, when Mazonites enjoy every attainable luxury, the progress and development of this locality has been consistent and sure.

#### MAZON THE INDIAN NAME FOR NETTLE

During the early days the plant known as the nettle was to be found in great numbers on the rich timber bottoms of this section, and the early settlers and Indians used its tough fibre for twine and coarse thread. Accordingly the stream, a branch of which crosses a corner of the township, was named the Mazon, this being the Indian name for nettle, and from this the township and city were named. The general surface of Mazon Township is exceedingly level, there being at first hardly enough variation to afford drainage for the surplus water, but the ingenuity of man has overcome

this obstacle, as it has so many others, and the good, strong black muck of the soil has made as good land as there is to be found in the county. Six water-courses, running about a mile apart, in a general parallel course, mark the township. Waupacan Creek, Johnny Run, Murray Sluice and the west fork of the Mazon, Brewster's Sluice ten or twelve miles long, and Wood's Run, all now insignificant streams, although during the early days, when augmented by the spring rains and freshets, they often overflowed their banks and united, forming a broad lake from six inches to two feet deep.

The principal bodies of timber, which were to be found along these streams, were known as Wauponcee Grove, Johnny Grove and Owen's Spring, on Section 24, but these tracts have been largely cleared. The agriculturists devote the major portion of their attention to the raising of corn, although stock-raising is also carried on extensively, and a part of the grain grown is fed to the cattle.

#### EARLY PROSPECTORS AND SETTLERS

A. K. Owen, who began the first settlement of the Township of Mazon in 1833, came into the present locality of Grundy County in company with John Hogoboom, Dr. L. S. Robbins, and others, on a prospecting expedition, and to them the county is indebted largely for its early development. He chose a site on the west fork of the Mazon Creek, a little below old Mazon Village, in the spring and summer of 1833, and in the following year came James McCarty, who took up his residence upon Wauponcee's small corn patch consisting of three or four acres, located on section 5. Jesse Newport came next, from Belmont County, Ohio, and secured a tract on the southwest corner of section 6, and during the same fall James C. Spores built a cabin on the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 5. In the spring of 1835 James P. Ewing came to Mazon and built his cabin on the northeast quarter of section 6, but the land was too swampy, his crops did not flourish, and, becoming discouraged, after two or three years (during which time he also followed at times the trade of shoemaker) he sold his land to Jesse Newport. John L. Pickering, who bought out Spores, was a Quaker from Belmont County, was one of the early office holders of the county, where he lived for many years, and the marriage of his daughter Sarah to Gales Austin,



by Justice Jacob Claypool, is said to have been the first wedding celebrated in Mazon Township.

About the same time that Mr. Ewing arrived came John Ridgway, purchasing land on the northwest quarter of Section 5, where he erected a log cabin. He was followed by David Spencer, and in the fall of 1835 came a lawyer, Augustus H. Owen, from New York, the first of his profession in the county. Finding no demand for his services, the latter removed to Ottawa, and subsequently met an accidental death by drowning in Rock River.

During the summer of 1835, there arrived in Mazon Township, J. C. Murray, of Oswego County, N. Y., who subsequently became the grandfather of L. H. Murray, the substantial merchant and talented editor and poet of Mazon. J. C. Murray was a brother-in-law of A. K. Owen, upon whose representations he came to Mazon, in order to secure opportunities for home-making for his growing children. After forty-nine days on the water he reached Chicago, with his two new wagons filled with household effects, but with no teams, and accordingly left his family at that point and continued on alone to Owen's home. The brothers-in-law, with Mr. Owen's team brought the family in from Chicago, and when Mr. Owen went to Hennepin, Mr. Murray rented the farm for a while, but later went to the old Chicago and Bloomington trail, near the Murray Sluice, on Section 33, his cabin being known as the "Half Way House," as it was situated about an equal distance from either end of the road, sixty-eight miles. One of the early houses to be built out on the prairie in Mazon Township, it had no floor save the bare earth, and a blanket was used for a door until a board could be found which was sawed and spliced.

As affording an illustration of the accidents that were all too frequent during the pioneer days the death of Mr. Murray by drowning in Johnny Run, in June, 1844, is recorded. Having been impanelled for the Grand Jury, in session at Morris, Mr. Murray was the guest of Mr. Armstrong, the well known pioneer boniface, and when the latter found himself without meat for the morning meal, Mr. Murray volunteered to go to his home and get several pieces of smoked meat. He returned to his home in safety, but on his return missed the ford, probably because of a freshet, and was drowned. This was but one of the accidents which so frequently occurred at an early day, but they were not con-

fined to Mazon Township. Each locality experienced such occurrences. Nor in other ways was Mazon greatly different from its sister townships. The nearest postoffice was first at Ottawa, then Dresden, and later at Morris; while the nearest mills were those at Dayton, Wilmington and Milford, or Millington, and these were often inaccessible on account of the frequent overflowing of the streams. Numerous incidents regarding these days have come down to us through the pioneers, and while many of these have to do with experiences that bordered on and often invaded the tragic, still there is to be found a strain of humor in all.

It was thought during the early days that the advent of the canal would have no appreciable effect upon the traffic of the Bloomington and Chicago road, but this traffic gradually died out. Charles Huston, who had come from Syracuse, N. Y., in 1845, in 1848 purchased land of McKeen, and laid out forty acres in streets, squares and lots. A store was started by a Mr. Hall, of Ottawa, was subsequently sold to William B. Royal, and when business became poor a co-operative company was formed, but this also failed, passed into private hands, and went out of existence in a fire in 1854. A building was later erected by a temperance society, which rented the under part for a store, but this met with little success, as the industrial activity was moved to the "center," or Centerville as was the old name. The coming of the Pekin, St. Louis & Chicago Railroad stimulated business, but moved it to the vicinity of the depot, at Mazon, which was for a time prefixed by "New" to distinguish it from the original Mazon. The new village was originally platted as Mazonville, but is now known as Mazon. The old site is still the home of seven residences, the schoolhouse, and what was known as the "common." Near it is Condon's Tile Factory, built since the removal of the business life to the site of the depot.

A venture which is worthy of mention, as it did much to assist in the growth of the village, was the creamery which was established at the Miller cheese factory in 1880 and in the following winter was brought to the village and located in a building of its own. This business was built up to a considerable extent, until it had a capacity of 1,100 pounds of butter per day, and in the neighborhood of thirty thousand dollars was expended annually for milk alone. However changing conditions made it unprofitable, and it has passed out of existence.





## MAZON

## BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN

Today the visitor to Mazon leaving either a Santa Fe or Big Four train sees spread before him a *de luce* edition of an Illinois village. Every one of the 125 houses of the village is neat appearing, while many are artistic and several pretentious. If there is poverty in Mazon it is cleverly hidden, for its people look happy and prosperous, its buildings are substantial, its streets well kept and its affairs in an ideal condition. Surrounding the village are many acres of as rich land as can be found not only in Grundy County, but any other section of the state, and its corn and stock shipments are exceedingly heavy, but are taken up under a separate chapter.

## PUBLIC SPIRIT SHOWN

Mazon was organized as a village in 1876 and now has a population of about five hundred. It was incorporated under the general state law in 1895. The aim of the village is not to unduly inflate its population, or to bring to it residents who might prove undesirable, but to develop inside resources and maintain a high standard in every respect. It possesses a number of men of more than ordinary public spirit, among whom are: William Carter, J. F. Burleigh, now deceased, F. A. Murray, L. R. Murray, Isham Brothers, Walker Brothers, Misner Brothers, F. H. Clapp, A. J. Campbell, Mr. Sproul, and others. These men were instrumental in organizing the Grundy County Agricultural Association and in building and maintaining the present Fair Grounds and buildings which are admittedly the best in this part of the state. These men have given aid and loyal support to the home bank, organizing it into a national institution when occasion demanded. An opera house provides a place of entertainment, a moving picture performance being given there every Saturday night, while theatrical companies are brought to it from time to time. Lecture courses are also held in this house and it has an auditorium of which a much larger place than Mazon might be proud. Masonic Hall was erected in 1893 by A. J. Campbell, and in conjunction with him, O. H. Fuller, Z. Isham, George Preston, now deceased, and Matthew Johnson, called in a friendly way, "The Big Four," built the Mazon Opera House.

The leading business and professional men of Mazon are as follows: A. J. Bundy, grocer; A. J. Campbell, druggist; J. H. Campbell, dentist; F. H. Clapp, secretary Grundy County Fair Association and president First National Bank; Charley Clements, butcher; James Condon, tile and brick manufacturer; William Drake, proprietor Cottage Hotel; John Miller, manager Public Telephone; Dr. H. B. Gilbourne, physician; W. J. Grinnell, liveryman; T. F. Kelly, proprietor of elevator; Joseph H. Massie, restaurant; L. R. Murray, general merchandise; D. S. Small, postmaster; S. E. Strickland, general merchandise; Frank E. Davis, baker; George O. Wheeler, retired farmer; L. F. Worley, physician; George Phillips, cigars and soft drinks; Mazon Hardware Co., Stevens & Jewett, proprietors; James Bray, restaurant; Dr. Dale Costello, dentist; Economy Implement Co., Isham & Strong, proprietors; C. J. Larson, tailor; O. W. Weston, agricultural implements and repairing; Chris Hansen, blacksmith; F. Haag, harness making; Manning Jewell, barber, and T. F. Kelley and Son handle grain, feed and seeds.

The Cottage Hotel, surrounded by beautiful forest trees, is one of the striking features of Mazon, and although it is the only hotel there, its accommodations are such that none other is needed. The history of this hotel is as follows: A hotel conducted by Charles W. Hinton at the original Mazon, was moved to the new village about 1875, but it was destroyed by fire in 1888. It was rebuilt by Mitchell Isham at a cost of \$4,500, and after several changes during which it was leased by Viner Bros., the present proprietor, William Drake, became the proprietor nine years ago. It is a very comfortable hostelry, well equipped, and its genial host and estimable wife are important factors in the life of Mazon. Mrs. Drake is a member of the old Isham family which has been such an important one in this part of the county.

## MODERN IMPROVEMENTS

Mazon is lighted by both gas and electricity supplied by the Public Service Company, the municipality having found it more economical to contract with this concern than to manufacture its own product. This method is followed by all the villages of Grundy County and many



of the surrounding counties. Some of the streets are paved and concrete sidewalks have been laid, both of which add to the beauty of Mazon and the comfort of its people. It is claimed that over one-half of the householders of Mazon own pianos and that there are over fifty automobiles in the township.

#### LARGE INDUSTRIES

Mazon is not a manufacturing center, but owing to its shipping facilities there are two large elevators and a lumber yard located here, all of which do a large business. The Mazon Farmers Elevator Company handles grain, seeds, lumber, coal and building materials. It is an incorporated company, with a capital stock of \$22,000, and operates additional plants at Booth Station in Mazon Township, and at Gorman, just outside the township. The lumber company is now owned by the Mazon Farmers Elevator Company, but for some years was operated under the name of I. N. R. Beatty Lumber Company. The beginning of this business lay in the formation of two separate concerns, one by Murray & Fuller, the Mr. Murray being the father of Mr. L. R. Murray of Morris, and the other by M. S. Dewey. These two concerns were absorbed by the Alexander Lumber Company, and it in turn became the property of the I. N. R. Beatty Lumber Company of Morris.

#### FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Masonic Lodge of Mazon was organized November 7, 1893, with ninety-five members, as the Mazon Lodge No. 826, A. F. & A. M.

The Knights of Pythias of Mazon were organized in 1893 with thirty-eight charter members and continued to hold meetings until the lodge had eighty or more members, but finally it was disbanded.

The Modern Woodmen of America was organized at Mazon, May 2, 1891, as Woodbine Camp No. 789, and now is in a flourishing condition, having 150 members.

The Royal Neighbors of Mazon were organized as St. Valentine Camp No. 526 with twenty-seven charter members, February 22, 1896. The camp now contains seventy members.

The Eastern Star was organized at Mazon as Kittle McKindley Order, on April 16, 1909,

with twenty-five charter members. At present there are 100 members.

The Knights of the Globe was an order organized at Mazon with thirty-five members, but disbanded in 1889, with a membership of thirty.

The Odd Fellows were organized in 1883 with a fair membership, but disbanded in 1890. A social organization known as The Cousins Club, grew out of meetings of members of the old Isham family. Because of intermarriage some of the forty-five present members are not direct descendants of the founder, but all are in some way connected with the family.

The postoffice at Mazon was established at Mazon in 1871, with a Mr. McAfee as postmaster. This was when it was still called Centerville. O. W. Weston held the office for a number of years, and he was followed by M. Isham, Charles Isham, Charles Huston, A. J. Campbell, Frank Randall, H. E. Pomeroy. The present incumbent of the office is D. S. Small, and he has two rural routes from his office.

#### NEWSPAPER HISTORY

The history of the press of Mazon is interesting. The Mazon Register was founded in 1892 by Walter Dunlap, the present proprietor and editor. This journal is an independent weekly with a circulation of about one thousand. Alvah Weston and R. D. Fuller, two bright young journalists assist Editor Dunlap in making the paper a newsy organ that is in great demand in this neighborhood. Mazon also has a weekly trade journal, the Mercantile Co-Operator, established by L. R. Murray in March, 1913. It is designed for the retail merchants operating on the co-operative plan, and is endorsed by twelve wholesale houses, representing 4,000 merchants in a dozen states.

#### CEMETERIES

The dead of Mazon Township have been well cared for from the beginning of the history of this locality. The first cemetery was the old Murray cemetery which was begun in 1836, near the old Moyer homestead. Following this a cemetery was opened at the original Mazon in 1840. The Wheeler cemetery, a little beyond the last mentioned, had its sod turned for the first grave in about 1845. This cemetery is on the present homestead of George Wheeler, and is admittedly one of the best cared for country





CONRAD ELERDING  
MRS. G. W. ELERDING  
ADELAIDE ELERDING

G. W. ELERDING  
FRANK L. ELERDING  
MRS. CONRAD ELERDING  
WILLIAM WAYNE ELERDING



graveyards in the state, and the best in Grundy County. A sum amounting to \$3,000 was raised through the efforts of a number interested in thus honoring the dead, and the revenue from it is used to save from neglect the place where lie some of the pioneers of Mazon Township. As early as 1895, burials took place in what is now the Mazon cemetery, but it was not opened for public use until 1870. About 1885 it was incorporated as the Mazon Cemetery Association, and at this writing there are contracts let for the erection of a substantial mausoleum by the same company which built the one at Morris. About one hundred have been buried in the Mazon cemetery, and the grounds are beautifully kept, showing that the dead are not forgotten.

#### RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The first Methodist religious meeting in Mazon Township was held in 1844, and in 1847, the society was moved to the original Mazon. The little house in which services were held was destroyed by fire somewhat later than 1850. A church edifice was built, and dedicated in the fall of 1855. In 1876, a board of trustees was appointed to build a church at Mazon, but it was not completed until the latter part of 1878. It cost \$3,500. The Rev. R. J. Vandervoort is the present pastor, and the church has 115 members. The church building was moved to its present site in 1895.

The Congregational Grove Society was organized with seventeen members on May 6, 1864. After holding service at different residences, the society bought a lot in 1870, upon which a church was built in 1871. In the meanwhile, during 1888, the Congregationalists at Mazon had organized, and in October, 1891, the two congregations united as the Park Street Congregational Church with forty-two members. The present edifice cost \$4,000, and there are 125 members of this church.

The Primitive Methodists organized a society in 1877, and held services until 1888, when they disbanded. The building was used as a schoolhouse and for other purposes, now being a cabinetmaker's establishment.

There is no doubt but that the first schoolhouse of Mazon Township was built in 1837 on Section 24. At that time it was regarded as the finest schoolhouse in the surrounding country and the best cabin in the settlement. Square in structure, it was built of logs, and

its windows contained six panes of glass, an unusual luxury during those days. In spite of these windows the light was dim, and so close beneath, supported by pegs, were rough puncheons used as desks. The slab benches in front of these crude desks had no backs and so the pupils could sit on them either facing the desk or the teacher as the occasion might demand. The floor of this first schoolhouse was made of riven planks and as it lay reasonably still when the bare feet of the little children trod upon it, it was regarded with great admiration by the community. The teacher of this first school was a Mr. Axtell.

Naturally, this first school was succeeded by others, and today Mazon is proud of the fact of having as fine country and grammar schools as can be found in the county, while the Mazon High School ranks with that at Morris. The schools of Mazon are treated of at length in another chapter. The Mazon Township High School was organized in 1904, and the present substantial building was erected in 1913, at a cost of \$10,000. Prof. C. C. Shields is at its head, and has three teachers under him, while there are four grade teachers in the grammar schools.

#### SUPERVISORS

The supervisors who have served Mazon Township, on the county board, since 1850 have been: Charles Huston, 1850; Henry Cassingham, 1851-1853; Edwin Lesslie, 1854-1855; Abraham Carter, 1856; A. P. Fellingham, 1857; Amos Clover, 1858-1859; William B. Marsh, 1860; A. P. Fellingham, 1861; George Carpenter, 1862; J. F. Burleigh, 1863-1866; S. H. Dewey, 1867-1869; Volney Parker, 1870-1874; George Riddle, 1875; Volney Parker, 1876-1877; S. H. Dewey, 1878-1880; Orin Gibson, 1881-1884; George E. Wheeler, 1885-1886; John K. Ely, 1887-1888; George E. Wheeler, 1889-1898; Simon Davies, 1899-1900; W. H. Carter, 1901-1908; I. N. Misner, 1909-1914.

#### CHAPTER XXXIV

##### MORRIS TOWNSHIP AND CITY

COUNTY SEAT—NAVIGABLE, STREAMS—TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES—ORGANIZATION OF TOWN-





SHIP—SITE OF OLD INDIAN VILLAGE—THE MOUND BUILDERS—MORRIS SELECTED AS SEAT OF JUSTICE—NAME ADOPTED—FIRST BUILDING AND FIRST RESIDENT—OTHER EARLY SETTLERS—FIRST COURTHOUSE—EARLY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES—FIRST PHYSICIAN—BUSINESS AND PHILANTHROPY—ARRIVAL OF MORE BUSINESS MEN—MORRIS INCORPORATED—EARLY MEETINGS OF VILLAGE COUNCIL—FERRY CHARTERS—WORK OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES—MORRIS MADE A CITY—SPECIAL CHARTER ABANDONED—MORRIS TO-DAY—PARKS—RECREATIONS PLENTIFUL—PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS—WATER WORKS—SMALL POLICE FORCE—FINE FIRE DEPARTMENT—HOTELS EXCELLENT—MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY—REPRESENTATIVE MEN—TAXI-CAB SERVICE—NEWSPAPERS—HERALD—GAZETTE—FORMER PUBLICATIONS—CEMETERIES—MORRIS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION—GRAVE OF SILABONA—FRATERNITIES—ODD FELLOWS—KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—EASTERN STAR—MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA—THE LINCOLN CLUB—POSTOFFICE—CHURCHES—BAPTIST—CATHOLIC—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE—CONGREGATIONAL—METHODIST EPISCOPAL—HOUSE'S LUTHERAN—BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN—PRESBYTERIAN—FREE METHODIST—SWEDISH BAPTIST—IN CONCLUSION—SUPERVISORS.

(By O. J. Nelson)

#### COUNTY SEAT

Morris, situated in the township of that name, is the county seat of Grundy County, as well as the metropolis of that section. Aside from the record of the incorporation of the township, the history of this division is that of the city itself. The latter is on the northern bank of the Illinois River, twelve miles from the junction of the Kankakee and Desplaines rivers which form the Illinois. Nettle Creek passes through the city, while the Mazon empties into the Illinois River south of the public square. In addition to all these natural bodies of water, the Illinois & Michigan Canal runs between the city and the river, so that it is easy to see why pioneers early located in this section, so well supplied with navigable streams. While Morris itself is flat, just back of the city is considerable elevation that adds to the beauty of the scenery. At one time on the present site of Morris were mighty forests of oak and hick-

ory and many plum trees, while hazelbushes, with their wealth of brown nuts in season were found in profusion. A number of boulders indicate that the site of Morris dates back to the glacial period.

Located just half way between Joliet and Ottawa, and sixty-one miles southwest of Chicago, Morris commands a wide territory both as a source of supply for its shipping interests, and also as a field of operation for its merchants and manufacturers, and consequently a number of important business concerns are to be found within the city. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, and two interurban roads propelled by electric power, one of which is in process of construction offer unsurpassed transportation facilities, and the shipping is very heavy from the country regions. Not only is the railroad utilized for freighting, but the urban roads and the river and canal are called into service as well.

The township of Morris was organized in 1849, it being one of the original number, in Grundy County and it and Braceville both have a supervisor and assistant supervisor on the County Board, while all the other townships have but a supervisor.

#### THE MOUND BUILDERS

With its location on the site of the old Indian village and cemetery, there have been found many traces of the Mound Builders in Morris and vicinity. There were found nineteen separate mounds, which, without doubt, date back to the time of those prehistoric people. The largest of these mounds is now leveled, but was located near the present Court House Square, and was 10 feet high, and 50 feet in diameter. Thousands of relics have been exhumed from these mounds and the surrounding prairies, including skeletons, and much surmise has been entertained over the origin of these ancient people. Some contend that they were the lost tribes of Israel whose fate has been the subject of conjecture for centuries. From whence they came, however, they have passed away, and only the crumbling relics of this bygone age attest to their former existence. Where once these ancient people laid away their dead, stand business houses and the beautifully artistic courthouse, and the feet of the present alert generation press the soil once held sacred to their religious rites.



## MORRIS SELECTED AS SEAT OF JUSTICE

Co-incident with the movement for the organization of the county, to leave the Mound Builders and come down to more recent times, was that for locating the seat of justice at Morris. George W. and William E. Armstrong were the men who took the most active part in securing this distinction for Morris. The latter, recognizing the advantages the situation of the city on a site commanding such water facilities, secured the passage of an Act of Legislature which appointed Ward B. Burnett, Rufel S. Duryea and William E. Armstrong, a committee to act in conjunction with the canal commissioners to select a seat of justice for Grundy County. Much discussion arose, but finally Section 9 was chosen, and April 12, 1842, the plat of Morris was acknowledged by Isaac N. Morris, Newton Cloud, R. S. Duryea and William E. Armstrong. Having faith in the future of Morris, Mr. Armstrong moved his family from Ottawa to a cabin built by Cryder and McKeen for John P. Chapin in 1834. This was constructed of logs and contained only one room, 16 x 20 feet, and yet in it Circuit Court was held, while it served as the meeting place for the people of the neighborhood. In 1841, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Chapin laid out what was called Chapin's addition to Morris, and it was also known as Grundyville or Grundy. In it Mr. Armstrong built and opened what was known as the Grundy Hotel. This same year, a petition was sent to the postoffice department asking for a postoffice, but the request was refused.

## NAME ADOPTED

In 1842, the matter of having Morris selected for the permanent county seat was again taken up, but dissention was had over the exact location. At last, in this year, as before stated, Section 9, was agreed upon, and after several names were suggested, that of Morris was adopted, in honor of Hon. Isaac N. Morris. Later, the county commissioners tried to change the name to Xenia, but as they could not agree upon how it should be spelled, did not effect their purpose.

The final survey was made March 7, 1842, by Leander Newport, surveyor, with Perry A. Claypool and George W. Armstrong, chairmen.

## FIRST BUILDING AND FIRST RESIDENT

The little cabin occupied by Mr. Armstrong upon his settlement in Morris, was the first building in this city. John Cryder, for whom this cabin was originally built, was the first resident here. He was followed by John and Thomas Peacock, Englishmen, who built on Section 2, which is west of the present city, during the latter part of 1834. They bought the land in 1835, married and reared families. Early in the spring of 1838, Peter Griggs built a log cabin on the present site of the aqueduct.

## OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

In 1841, James Nagle built a large log cabin on Section 3, and in it he kept the archives of the county, until suitable housing was provided, for he was Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. James Hart conducted the first saloon in Morris, having it in his house. Andrew Kinchella was another early settler of Morris, who developed a fine farm.

Anthony Horan, an Irishman, built one of the first log cabins of the place. It was consumed by fire, and Mr. Horan was arrested, being accused of setting fire to it. Deputy Sheriff P. Kelly started with him for Ottawa, as there was then no jail at Morris, but the prisoner escaped, and later fearlessly returned to Morris, but subsequently went to Pennsylvania. Perry A. Claypool built a cabin in 1842, but after a year, Samuel Ayres came into possession of it and kept a boarding house in it. Mr. Ayres was deputy sheriff and coroner at one time, but left Morris for Texas about 1848.

## FIRST COURTHOUSE

To the public spirit of Mr. Armstrong, Morris owed its first courthouse, for he had built at his own expense, a frame building, in the winter of 1841-2. This was put up on the north-west corner of the present Court House Square, and was 20 x 40 feet in dimensions and two stories in height. It was constructed of hardwood lumber, as there was no pine in the neighborhood, with oaken floors and siding. For this Mr. Armstrong received in all \$350.00. Later, the building was lathed and plastered, making a total cost of \$525.36, and this somewhat primitive building served every purpose until a substantial stone one was erected in 1856. The



second courthouse was later replaced by the present one, but a full history of these buildings, and a description of the artistic structure now standing on Court House Square, is given in another chapter.

#### EARLY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

The second hotel of Morris was known as the Plow Inn, and was built during the winter and spring of 1842, by Robert Peacock.

P. P. Chapin established a brick yard, near the present gas plant, about 1842, and conducted it for many years. It was William E. Armstrong and James Hart who built that portion of the Illinois & Michigan Canal that runs through Morris.

James Hart came to Morris in the fall of 1841, and was much occupied with his contract for work on the canal. He, with his partner, Mr. Armstrong, suffered a heavy loss owing to the fact that the state paid them in script which was worth only one-third the par value of a dollar.

Hon. P. A. Armstrong, who became one of the leading attorneys of Morris, as well as a man well known in its political history, came to the city in 1842.

Michael DePrendegast arrived in the winter of 1843-4, building a double log cabin on the present site of the First National Bank, and was an early justice of the peace. Later, he built a fine, brick business block, known as the Bank Block, and proved a man of substance.

#### FIRST PHYSICIAN

Without doubt Dr. Luther S. Robbins was the first physician of Grundy County, coming to Morris in 1842, but he died in 1845, having been probate justice of the peace for several years prior to his demise.

Bartholomew McGrath was also an early settler of Morris, and built a number of the first buildings of the place, although he died in 1846.

#### BUSINESS AND PHILANTHROPY

James McNellis came here in 1841, building one of the first frame houses of Morris, which he used as a boarding house and saloon. When the canal was opened in 1848, he bought a canal boat, and made money transporting grain.

He built the first grain elevator of Morris, and was one of its heaviest grain dealers for many years. In addition, being truly religious, he erected a four-story brick building on ten acres of land, which he donated to be used as a Catholic school, and it was the beginning of St. Angela's Convent. He also donated two acres of land for a church building and parsonage, and \$3,000 in money. Not confining his contributions to the Catholic Church, he gave \$250 to the Congregationalists, \$100 to the Presbyterians, \$100 to the Baptists and \$250 to the Methodists, all of Morris. Another enterprise in which he was interested was a distillery at Aux Sable, near Morris, but he failed in operating it successfully.

Judge Patrick Hynds was another arrival of 1844, a blacksmith by trade, and he built and operated a shop. Later, he was made justice of the peace, and still later county judge, first by appointment in 1851, and later by election, in 1853. Maldon P. Wilson arrived in May, 1844, and from then on was one of the best coopers Morris has ever had.

Adam Lamb came here as a canal contractor in 1844, and built one of the first stores in the place. The honor of being the first storekeeper is divided between Mr. Lamb and Col. William L. Perce. Both stores were opened for business in 1845, so the first had only a month or so advantage over the other.

Col. William L. Perce held the contract for the erection of the aqueduct across Nettle Creek, and came here in 1845. Colonel Perce opened his store in the American House, placing C. H. Gould as manager. Elijah Walker carried on a boot and shoe business from 1841 until 1856, when he left Morris for Iowa. There were other early settlers of Morris who had an important part to play in the development of the place, but having later moved away, their names are not obtainable.

#### MORRIS INCORPORATED

Morris was not incorporated until August 15, 1850, when an election was held to determine whether or not it was to become a village. There were forty-nine votes cast in its favor, and none against it, so August 22, 1850, an election was held for village trustees, and those elected were: Orville Cane, Ezra P. Seeley, William S. Woolsey, Jacob Jacoby and Robert Kelley. At the meeting of the first village





Volney H. Fisher.





council, September 2, 1850, E. P. Seeley was elected president, and Henry Storr, clerk. The entire business of the first meeting was comprised in the following order:

"Ordered that the jurisdiction be extended over and embrace the following territory, viz.: The southwest quarter of Section 3; southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 4; north fr. of northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 9; north fr. northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 10, in Town 33, Range 7 east third P. M., and also that portion of the Illinois River lying opposite to the north fr. northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 9, and the north fr. northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 10 as aforesaid, and extending four rods on the margin of the south bank of said river, to be measured from the top of the bank."

The second meeting of the board of trustees was held in the courthouse, January 13, 1851, when the regular meetings were arranged for, and the following officers received appointment: a constable, poundmaster, street commissioner, fire warden, clerk and treasurer. Those to hold these offices in order of their giving were: George Gillett, Charles L. P. Hogan, A. W. Newell and Robert Peacock, while Henry Storr, clerk, resigned, and Cap. Charles L. Starbuck was appointed in his place at the third meeting.

#### FERRY CHARTERS

The Legislature had granted a charter to William E. Armstrong to establish a ferry across the Illinois River, on February 27, 1841. Mr. Armstrong died, and the board of trustees, being of the opinion that with his death also died the charter, passed a long ordinance relative to the license and running of a ferry. Col. Eugene Stanberry, Bryon Stanberry and George H. Kiersted secured a charter permitting them to run a ferry from Morris across the Illinois River for a period of three years, for which they were to pay \$100 the first year; \$101, the second year, and \$104 the third year. A ferry rope was manufactured, and a flat-boat was bought, but the ferry was in operation but three days, when one lawsuit was started by George W. Armstrong, administrator of the estate of William E. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong received judgment. The receipt of this judgment opened up a new phase of the case. Under the original charter, William E. Armstrong was allowed to charge just one-fifth what the new company was permitted to ask

under their charter. Those who had paid this excessive amount to be ferried over, now threatened suit for extortion. With all this against them, the three partners abandoned the project, and the board of trustees of Morris did not attempt again to interfere.

#### WORK OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

When the board of trustees met in April, 1851, they granted licenses to four saloons, at \$25 each, with a bond of \$500. The board of trustees were paid for their first year of service, \$3 each. Those were the days of civic economy, and sincere public spirit. The first sidewalk ordinance was passed April 17, 1852. The entire municipal expenses for the Town of Morris during its first year of existence were just \$30.

A special charter was adopted May 2, 1853, although no change was made in the name or style, although the number of trustees became six, and the town was divided into three wards. The First Ward comprised all south of Washington Street; the Second, north of Washington Street, and west of Liberty; while the Third Ward was that portion lying north of Washington, and east of Liberty. The treasurer and constable were made elective offices, as was that of president of the board. The early boards which have succeeded the first seem to have been very economical, for the entire cost of operating the municipality for the first three years of its existence seems to be covered by \$100. Morris did not possess a seal until the spring of 1851, and no finance committee was needed or appointed until January, 1854.

The existing charter of Morris was amended March 1, 1854, by the General Assembly, and the first Monday in April was set apart as election day. At the first meeting of the board elected at the election following this provision, the following standing committees were appointed, the first to be given to Morris: Finance and claims, L. P. Lott; fire department, G. W. Lane; streets and alleys, George Rurner; health, David LeRoy; judiciary, C. H. Goold; and license, John Antis. By the time of the April election, 1855, Morris had still another charter, creating a Fourth Ward.

#### MORRIS MADE A CITY

During 1856, Morris secured a charter cre-



ating it a city, with a mayor, council, police magistrate and other city officials, and F. S. Gardner was the first mayor. In the spring of 1861, Morris received another charter, which was really a copy of the one in force at Chicago, but when it was submitted to the people, it was rejected by a large vote. In this election 440 votes were polled, the largest cast that far in the history of the city. In 1867, the number of aldermen was increased to ten to meet the requirements of a newly created Fifth Ward.

#### SPECIAL CHARTER ABANDONED

In 1877, the special charter under which Morris was operating was abandoned, and the city was organized under Chapter 24, of the statute entitled "Cities, Villages and Towns."

In accordance with this charter, Morris was divided into four wards, as follows:

"All that part of the said city which lies south of the south line of Main Street, and east of Nettle Creek, shall constitute the First Ward.

"All that part of the said city which lies west of Liberty Street, south of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, not included in the First Ward, shall constitute the Second Ward.

"All that part of the said city which lies east of Liberty Street, and between the south line of Main Street and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, shall constitute the Third Ward.

"All that part of the said city which lies north of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, shall constitute the Fourth Ward."

The above conditions and divisions still prevail.

#### MORRIS TODAY

The Morris of today is entirely different from the group of houses clustered along the Illinois & Michigan Canal in the days when the forefathers of the present residents were laying the foundations for a solid structure that would endure, and hold the seat of county government as long as Grundy County maintains its present outlines. The center of business activity has receded from the banks of the canal to Liberty Street, and portions of Washington and Main streets that are adjacent, although the manufacturing industries have remained nearer the

original site of the settlement. Stately trees line the residence streets, and give a grateful shade in heated periods, and a picturesque appearance at all times, even when their bare branches are outlined against the winter skies. Well built sidewalks and paved streets have taken the place of dusty roads and make-shift paths, and electricity illuminates the night hours, as well as furnishes power for a number of the manufacturing concerns.

Placed where it commands instant notice and admiration is the stately courthouse, one of the most artistic in the state, if not the country, surrounded by a well kept lawn, and dominated by the towering monument erected in commemoration of the "Boys in Blue" who fought, and many died for the flag that still floats over the city. The entire plan of Morris is artistic, the shaded streets, the green of the lawns, the soft shadings of the house colorings, while the handsome stability of the business blocks and public buildings is noticeable. The slogan of the people here appears to have been, not how cheap, but "how beautifully effective," and in their construction they have proven that ugliness is not necessary for usefulness, nor economy practiced by a choice of inferior materials.

#### PARKS

In addition to the courthouse square, Morris has an exquisite little park given to Morris when Mr. Chapin made his second addition to the city, with the understanding it was always to be used for park purposes. It is 265 feet square, and is kept in the condition so characteristic of the city, which is perfect in every detail.

#### RECREATIONS PLENTIFUL

Amusements are furnished the people of Morris through the church entertainments; a most excellent moving picture management; various companies which play at the Empire Theatre, a well arranged house, capable of seating 800 people, and numerous social affairs given by home people. An enjoyable feature of the summer is the location in the city of some stock company which gives excellent entertainments in tents, presenting many of the new popular plays as well as old favorites. The lodges also are not backward in catering to the entertainment of their members, while lecture bureaus





*Maryetta H. Goss.*



*J. C. A. Goss.*



send representatives during the winter seasons. Religious services are well attended, for the people of Morris are not content with enjoying merely material advantages, but seek to cultivate their spiritual development as well, and charitable movements receive generous support whenever started.

#### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The city hall of Morris is a brick structure adjoining the waterworks, and contains the city offices and the police and fire departments. The older portion, now the home of the fire equipment, was erected in 1868, while the newer addition was built in 1910, to meet the necessity for larger quarters. During the period of reconstruction of the courthouse, some of the records and officials found temporary shelter in this building.

When the people of Morris were ready for cement sidewalks and streets, the administration gave them to them, there now being about six miles of the latter. With regard to the former, an ordinance was passed providing that the city would pay one-half of the cost of laying of the cement walks, the property owners to bear the other half of the expense. Many of the more progressive citizens have taken advantage of this, and in due time the brick tiling sidewalks still found in some places, will all be replaced by the more desirable cement ones, giving a uniform appearance to the city, which will add to its many other advantages.

#### WATER WORKS

In 1893, Morris secured city officials who favored the construction of an adequate waterworks system, and under the able management of Mayor Dr. A. E. Palmer, and Aldermen U. C. Davis, Edgar Weefel, J. N. Bunnell, James Derenzy, J. W. Miller, James Cryder, William Wood and Marion Sharpe, experimental wells were sunk. In vindication of the policy of these gentlemen and their supporters, who were among the leading men of the city, the water was discovered to be of excellent quality. The city was consequently banded to secure the necessary funds and in the fall of 1895, the water works constructed, and the mains laid. The original cost was about thirty-five thousand dollars, but additional machinery has been in-

stalled, and improvements made, so that a conservative valuation of the present plant would be \$50,000.

#### SMALL POLICE FORCE

That the citizens of Morris are law abiding is proven by the fact that only four policemen are required to maintain order. Chief Fred Armstrong is the day man, and in charge of the three men who are on night duty.

#### FIRE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The volunteer fire department is presided over by Fire Chief T. H. Hall, who has twenty-five men, carefully trained, ready to respond to his call. The equipment which is one of the finest in this section of the state, and far surpassing any other in Grundy County, is valued at \$20,000.

#### HOTELS EXCELLENT

It is unusual to find so many excellent hotels and restaurants in a city of the size of Morris where so many of the people own their homes. One explanation lies in the fact that Morris is not only frequently visited by those having business at the courthouse and with commercial concerns located here, but also by those who desire to benefit by the famous Shalbona mud baths, or to enjoy the pleasures of rural life, amid distinctly urban surroundings. However, as it may be, the Commercial Hotel, the Washington Hotel (familiarily known as the Wagner House), the Carson House and the Kay House, all afford board and lodging, while the Saratoga Cafe, the Manhattan Cafe, Zimmerman restaurants, and others, furnish substantial meals.

The Carson House was founded by a connection of the Allen family, named Thomas Carson, and he was succeeded by two generations of his family. Several changes have taken place during later years. This hostelry is located just across from the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Depot, and contains forty rooms, the proprietors thus being able to accommodate a number of guests, especially those who want to keep near the depot. The depot of the Chicago, Ottawa & Peoria Railroad, familiarily termed the Interurban, is within a block of it. Just across the street





from the Carson House, is the Kay House, which is conducted by a Mr. Ferguson, but is owned by William Henry Kay.

The Commercial House, the largest hotel in the city, contains fifty rooms, and has ample lobby and parlor space. It is located on the corner of Washington and Fulton streets, and is conducted by Allen F. Mallory. This hotel was built in 1857 for store purposes, but in it was later held a Normal school. In 1889 Mr. Mallory bought the property, remodeled it, and since then has conducted it with the exception of a few years when it was in charge of his son-in-law, J. B. Hinds.

In 1875 Conrad Wagner founded the Wagner House, which is still in the hands of his descendants, it now being conducted by his granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Harder. When Mr. Wagner died, his widow assumed charge, and carried on the business very efficiently until about 1910, when the Harders and Mrs. Harder's brother became the proprietors. A year later, Mr. and Mrs. Harder purchased Mr. Wagner's interest, and have since been the owners. There is a homelike atmosphere about this hotel which appeals to the traveler, and the cuisine is excellent, Mrs. Harder being famed for her cooking and efficient management. This hotel is now called the Washington Hotel.

#### MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

For many years the people of Morris discussed the desirability of securing a fund with which to found a library. A number of the residents had fine private collections of books and were very generous about lending them, and several attempts were made to start and maintain a circulating library by private individuals. A library was started in connection with the schools, but it did not meet the needs of the community. Finally enterprising citizens appealed to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who, after the usual investigations and negotiations, donated \$1,250, in 1912, and this amount was used to erect a substantial library building, artistically designed and furnished, which was opened December 5, 1913, with a collection of 2,000 books. Under the law governing libraries of this class, the library board will have at its disposal a sum amounting to \$1,800 annually, so that the shelves will soon be filled with much wanted books upon various subjects. A

well selected line of magazines are on the tables, and the librarian, Miss Ethel Thayer, reports encouragingly regarding the growing demand for new books, and the development of literary tastes, especially among the young people.

#### REPRESENTATIVE BUSINESS MEN

Among the representative business houses and professional and business men at Morris may be mentioned as a partial list: Abe Abrahamson, buffet; William R. Allen, grocer; Angus & Son, grocers; T. R. Dahner, meat market; R. E. Bannion, music store; Dr. O. M. Barker, dentist; E. Bartoli, fruit dealer; I. N. R. Beatty, lumber; Henry H. Baum, dry goods; Berg & Dee, meat market; Frank Black, buffet; Blasingham & Caisley, real estate; A. C. Bliss, Secretary Morris Cemetery Association; John L. Bonar, jeweler; F. C. Bowker, physician; R. R. Buck, proprietor of tile yard; W. E. Bullard, dentist; Campbell & Phalen, clothiers; C. C. Carlon, milliner; Elmer W. Carlson, photographer; Coleman Hardware Company; F. D. Condon, cigar factory; Connor Brothers, meat market; Cronin Brothers, hardware; P. K. Cross, real estate broker; U. C. Davis, furniture dealer; J. B. Dawson, druggist; George R. Dix, proprietor feed store; W. L. Dix, livery and feed stables; W. O. Dix, books and stationery; F. W. Pike, of the Elite Millinery Store; O. Erickson & Son, dry goods; Erickson & Strong, grocers; Leonhard Eridacher, tailor; Farmers Square Deal Grain Company; Farmers & Merchants National Bank; H. M. Ferguson, physician; H. W. Fessler, plumber; Fey Shoe Store; Frank L. Flood, attorney; Farmers National Bank; Flynn Brothers, cigar factory; First National Bank; William Gebhard, of Morris Brewery; John T. George, proprietor of Manhattan Cafe; Rev. A. C. Geyer; Walter Goode, garage; Gorham & Newport, general merchants; F. W. Graham, osteopath; Grundy County National Bank; J. C. Carr; Philip Haltz, cigars and tobacco; Charles F. Hanson, attorney; Jacob Harder, proprietor of Washington House; A. G. Harrison, dentist; H. H. Harrod, grocer; A. H. Hilliker, insurance and real estate; Hills & Baker, druggists; B. C. Hitchcock, plumber; P. D. Hobson, laundry; W. B. Holderman, grocer; John C. Horrie, jeweler; W. J. Horrie, grocer; W. B. Hull, clothier; Hynds Brothers, dry goods





ORIGINAL HOME OF MR. AND MRS. PERRY GOSS



*Perry Goss*



*Mrs Mary H Goss*



and shoes; Thomas Hynds and Brother, cigar factory; Illinois Foundry and Specialty Company; D. O. Johnson, feed yard; Herman Johnson, tailor; W. J. Jones, grocer; R. L. R. Kay, buffet; Frank J. Kelbel, horseshoer; Frank Kindlestire, ice cream parlor; Phil H. Kohl, novelty store; H. E. Kutz, buffet; S. C. Lammson, sheet metal work; G. A. Leach, physician; H. W. LeRette, jeweler; J. O. LeRette, buffet; Louis Lowitz, cloaks and suits; Harry S. Mack, news depot; Essie Machey, grocer; C. Wagner, Jr., grocery and market; Morris K. Wagner; Herman Manns, clothier; Fred Martin, baker; S. S. Marvick, real estate; The Matteson Hardware Company; Israel Mayer & Sons, clothing; Alex W. Miller, The Model; Edward Moloney & Company, confectionery; C. S. Moore, furniture and pianos; A. J. Neff, stoves and furniture; Carl J. Nelson, nickel plating; Ole J. Nelson, insurance; A. R. Newport, hardware; Northwestern Novelty Company, factory; M. J. Olson, bakery; Gustaf Osbrink, bakery; William T. Ostrem, jeweler; Page & Young, jewelry; A. E. and P. A. Palmer, physicians; John G. Petseys, law and real estate; Phelan & Hoganson, furniture and undertaking; J. A. Ragan, veterinary surgeon; J. W. Rausch, attorney; J. A. Ray, livery; Cornelius Reardon, attorney; W. H. Reardon, sales barn; Reardon & Cameron, meat market; Bernard Roth, baker; Charles G. Sachse, attorney; W. G. Sachse, physician; L. E. Simrall, attorney; A. J. Smith, attorney; H. B. Smith, attorney; Sam Smith, physician; J. Wallace Steare, conservatory of music; Strawn Drug Company; F. H. Swartz, dentist; Frank Sykes, livery; O. J. Tisdall, buffet; Thomas Telfer, buffet; Bert Thorsen, garage; C. C. Underwood, general merchandise; Wagener & Pool, druggists; P. J. Walsh, grocer; R. E. Watkins, pool room; Weston & Sutcliffe, implements; P. T. Whalen, buffet; Roscoe Whitman, physician; Woelfeld Leather Company; James Wood, livery; William Wood, coal dealer; N. H. Woolsey, milliner; Lizzie Zimmerman, restaurant; Dr. F. A. Palmer, physician; William Reardon; Rev. Aarrestad; Rev. G. W. James; Rev. A. G. Harrison; Rev. A. W. Carlson; Rev. W. C. Wagner; D. A. Matthews, capitalist, and a number of others who have retired from active life.

While Morris has no street car system, the place being too compact for its successful operation, it does have an excellent taxi-cab service, the charges of which are a revelation to

travelers accustomed to the greedy demands of similar companies in less well governed cities.

#### NEWSPAPERS

No history of Morris would be complete without a mention of its newspapers, for through them and the influence they have exerted, its improvements have been inaugurated and carried through to successful completion.

MORRIS HERALD—Although it has been issued under several names and has absorbed more than one competitor, the Morris Herald is justly admitted to be the oldest paper of Grundy County. In 1852, the cornerstone of this reliable organ was laid when J. C. Walters founded the Morris Yeoman and published it on a Franklin press in an old adobe hut on Washington Street, near the present Commercial Hotel. Two years later the paper passed out of his control, and the firm of Buffington and Southard not only took charge, but changed its name, issuing on July 29, 1855, the first copy of the Herald. Within a year, Mr. Southard purchased his partner's interest, and with the exception of a short period when Turner & Perry had charge, issued the Herald until 1874. In that year he disposed of the paper to the Hon. P. C. Hayes, who soon thereafter associated with him E. B. Fletcher, a practical printer. In the meanwhile changes were made in the place of location, the adobe hut giving way to quarters in a drug store conducted by a Doctor Gilson. Other changes were effected, until the present location was taken, but it is singular that in all the years of its history the Herald never moved from Washington Street. Governor Ray feels that the part played by the Herald in the birth of the Republican party, should not be overlooked or forgotten. With other newspapers all over the country, it advocated the principles that formed the first platform of that organization, and gave the candidates of that party its earnest support. In the meanwhile, Mr. Southard could not forget his love for Morris and its people, and returned within a year, prepared to buy back his beloved organ. Negotiations failing through, he founded the Advocate, with an entirely new plant, and conducted it successfully until he finally regained possession of the Herald, when he merged the two. In the meanwhile a daily paper had been started, known as the News, but it was purchased by Hayes & Fletcher, and



issued as the Daily Herald. W. L. Sackett bought the Herald about July 1, 1891, and took possession of it in October of that same year. Since then, he has continued its editor and proprietor. For years the Morris Herald has been the organ of the Republican party, and the leader in politics in this locality.

**MORRIS GAZETTE**—On March 1, 1878, a semi-weekly journal, named *The Independent*, was founded at Morris by Perry, Crawford and Kntz, and continued to be issued for some nineteen years, when it was taken over by Bucklin & Co. of Kankakee, and named the *Sentinel*. The Gazette was founded at Morris six years ago. It was absorbed by the Grundy County Publishing Company in February, 1914, Olaf Huseby being the editor and publisher. This newsy journal espouses the cause of the progressives, and under the capable management of Mr. Huseby is making rapid strides forward.

There were several other early papers of Morris, now long since dead, one being the *Reformer*, founded in 1872, by Joe Simpson, and conducted as a combined democratic and greenback sheet until 1876, when it passed into the hands of A. R. Barlow. Later Mr. Simpson regained the property, and in March, 1880, the *Morris Democrat* was founded by Colonel Blackmore. This latter was a campaign paper, and died during the thickest of the political fight.

#### CEMETERIES

The "Silent Cities of the Dead" are to be found all over the country. In some localities it has been the custom to inter the dead in some central cemetery, while in others, those who passed away, are laid to rest close to the place where living they had placed their interests. Grundy County has some very beautiful little graveyards which show the effect of tender thoughts and efficient work. Beneath the green sod of these little plots rest the dust of the pioneers as well as that of others more lately called to a last reward. Appropriate sentiments are carved on the marble shafts above these departed ones who have become members of the "Unknown Country." These burial places are spoken of at some length in the articles concerning the townships in which they are found. The records regarding some are difficult to reach, as many were dedicated

to private uses, and only opened to the public upon rare occasions.

The first cemetery of Morris was probably a little plot in the vicinity of the residence of R. M. Wing. Later another graveyard was opened on Nettle Creek, near the home of Judge Hopkins. A third one was that on the farm of A. W. Telfer on the west of the canal, east of Morris. Still another cemetery was on the site of the old Catholic cemetery. The history of the Catholic cemeteries will be found in connection with that of the Catholic church, further on in this article.

#### MORRIS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

On February 12, 1853, the Morris Cemetery Association was chartered by the Legislature with George Fisher, George W. Land, Charles H. Gould, L. P. Lott and Eugene Fisher as incorporators. On August 25 of that year, the association bought five acres two miles east of Morris, from Thomas Peacock, and later five acres from John Peacock, the two plots being joined by the St. George Cemetery, a plat given by a Mr. Peacock, an Englishman, for the use of Englishmen only. The two five-acre plats, to which a small addition was made quite recently, is known as Evergreen Cemetery, and it would be difficult to find one that is a more beautiful embodiment of that which is most sacred and touching in the esteem in which the dead are held, than this lovely spot. About three thousand six hundred persons have been interred in Evergreen Cemetery, among them being some of Grundy County's soldiers, whose dust occupies what is known as the Soldiers' Circle, in the older portion of the cemetery, near the last resting place of the old Chief Shabbona. The grave of the latter is marked by a huge arrow head carved from native stone, upon which appears the name "Shabbona." There is a dignity in this simple monument that appears appropriate in relation to the Red Man who sought friendship with the race that despoiled him and his, and lived and died a lonely figure. A handsome mausoleum here, which has 180 crypts and four separate family rooms, adds to the beauty of the cemetery, and lies to the right of the entrance into the new part. It was built by the International Mausoleum Company of Chicago, and is exquisitely designed and decorated. A number of the crypts have already been bought, and some





are filled. In the cemetery aside from this general mausoleum, there are three family vaults, belonging to the Woefel, Goold and Hill families.

Aside from the Masonic order, which is treated of at length elsewhere in this work, Morris is the home of a number of organizations, some of which are mentioned below.

#### ODD FELLOWS

Star Lodge, No. 75, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Morris, by James T. McDougal, who is now deceased. He was of Joliet and received a dispensation from the R. W. grand master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, on October 17, 1851. With him were associated L. P. Loft, E. M. Ross, O. S. Newell, and T. and A. H. Bishop. Some of the early members were: George W. Lane, Henry Benjamin, W. S. Woolsey, Miles Gordon, and P. A. Armstrong. The present membership comprises 235 active workers, and the officials are: W. H. Brown, N. G.; J. C. A. Goss, V. G.; F. A. Fay, secretary, and O. N. Barker treasurer. The order owns its own building and the one adjoining it on Washington Street, in conjunction with the Knights of Pythias.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Du Pontaris Council, No. 845, was organized February 26, 1904, with seventy-nine members, and was named for Father Du Pontaris, who was the first priest to read mass within the present Grundy County. The first chaplain of the order was the Rev. W. G. J. Meham, and this office is always held by a priest of the Catholic Church. The first officers were: J. B. McCann, G. K.; Cornelius Reardon, D. G. K.; J. W. Hines, treasurer; P. T. Murray, recording secretary; J. E. Connor, financial secretary; E. Z. Sattler, chancellor; P. S. Carolan, advocate. This order has a present membership of 140, and its present officers are: P. T. Murray, G. K.; Rev. J. J. Darcy, chaplain; Arthur Griffin, treasurer; Louis Schorsch, recording secretary; Fred Gabel, financial secretary; Cornelius Reardon, chancellor, and Thomas Fitzgerald, advocate. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

#### CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS

This organization has a membership of for-

ty-five members, and is an older order with regard to date of establishment at Morris, than the Knights of Columbus. Both these orders, with others pertaining to the Catholic Church are taken up under another chapter.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

The order of Knights of Pythias founded their Morris lodge, known as Castle Hall, No. 178, in 1887, with marked success. The present officials are: Charles Maunders, S. C.; O. I. Meyer, V. C.; A. D. Martin, Prelate; H. D. Hitchcock, master of work; F. W. Washburn, master of arms; C. G. Bonar, master of finance; Horace D. Herrod, keeper of records and seals; A. A. Braum, master of exchequer; George Corke, inner guard; and W. A. Petteys, outer guard.

#### EASTERN STAR

Laurel Chapter of Morris was organized in 1889, Miss Jennie Bross being the first worthy matron, Mrs. Mary Massey, first secretary, and John N. Burnell, first worthy patron. There were fourteen charter members at that time. The present worthy matron is Mrs. Belle Root; Miss A. C. Bliss has been its secretary since December 11, 1900, and John Ray is the worthy patron.

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

The Modern Woodmen of America at Morris received its charter in 1884, as Canokee Camp, No. 281, and its present membership is 200 members. The officers now in charge are as follows: H. J. Linden, V. C.; James Jeffries, W. A.; H. B. Foster, clerk; and Cornelius Reardon, banker.

#### THE LINCOLN CLUB

On February 12, 1889, the Lincoln Club of Morris was organized, and incorporated March 18, 1904, originally as a political club espousing the principles of the republican party, but on February 5, 1912, the object was changed and the by-laws revised, so as to make it into a purely social organization with the following object: "This club is organized for the purpose of promoting good government, to develop the growth and spirit of patriotism, and to cul-



tivate friendly and social relations among the members, and to aid in any movement that means industrial and commercial progress and advancement of our city and the betterment of its citizens." The present officials are: M. N. Hull, president; Horace Herrod, secretary, and A. W. Buck, treasurer. The headquarters of the club are at No. 120 E. Washington Street. The club is under the direct control of the board of directors, now composed of the following members: E. F. Hume, W. L. Sackett, H. E. Sparr, C. F. Hanson, C. E. Godfrey, G. W. Anderson, L. S. Hoge, P. T. Stephen, and F. G. Blassingham.

#### MORRIS POSTOFFICE

The Morris postoffice is a second class office and does a business aggregating \$14,000 annually. The present postmaster is J. H. McGrath, who was appointed September 24, 1913. One of the men connected with the Morris office, who died while in office, was Henry C. Claypool, who, at the time of his death, had been in office for nine years. The postmaster who preceded Mr. McGrath, was Mr. W. C. Wagner. There are six rural free delivery routes out of Morris, and they and the business of the office are conducted admirably.

#### IN CONCLUSION

Many features of Morris are taken up under special chapters, written by men thoroughly conversant with conditions, and interested in the proper exploitation of facts. In closing it is safe to state that it would be difficult to find a city of its size in the country which offers so much that is agreeable and desirable as Morris. Delightfully located, adjacent to one of the finest agricultural regions in the United States, possessed of natural scenery and resources, it is yet within a few miles' ride of the metropolis of the West. Train schedules have been so arranged that it is possible for any one residing at Morris to go to either Joliet or Chicago for his daily business and return at night, or pleasure seekers can attend the theatre or social events in either city, and return home the same night. The air of Morris is delightful, its people gracious, courteous and hospitable, its manufacturing plants are flourishing, and its financial condition beyond cavil. To its residents and visitors, alike, it seems like the "garden spot" of the world in which

the serpent of evil has no place, and from which its present inhabitants have no idea of going, and to which new comers are arriving, brought here by accounts of others who have fared well at the hands of Morrisites.

#### SUPERVISORS

Those who have served Morris Township as members of the County Board of Supervisors have been: P. A. Armstrong, 1850; C. L. R. Hogan, 1851; Eugene Stansbury, 1852; P. A. Armstrong, 1853; Elijah Walker, 1854-1855; L. P. Lott, 1856-1858; John Barr, 1859-1861; Abel P. Bulkley, 1862-1864; John Barr, 1865-1866; John Antis, 1867-1868; George F. Brown, 1869-1870; John Barr, 1871-1875; J. W. Lawrence, 1876; Charles Sparr, 1877-1879; John Barr, 1880; J. W. Lawrence, 1881; L. W. Claypool, 1882; O. J. Nelson, 1883-1892; O. J. Nelson, 1893-1896; J. H. Pattison, Ass't; O. J. Nelson, 1897-1907; M. B. Wilson, Ass't; W. R. Allan, 1908-1909; M. B. Wilson, Ass't; J. A. Wilson, 1910-1912; M. B. Wilson, Ass't; J. A. Wilson, 1913; John Mack, Ass't; D. A. Mathews, 1914; John Mack, Ass't.

#### CHAPTER XXXV

#### CHURCHES

BAPTIST—CATHOLIC—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE—CONGREGATIONAL — METHODIST EPISCOPAL — HOGE'S LUTHERAN — BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN — PRESBYTERIAN—FREE METHODIST—SWEDISH BAPTIST.

The religious spirit at Morris is manifested in the maintenance of a number of religious bodies, some of these having substantial church and parish edifices. A history of a number of them is given in the attached articles, written by clergymen or prominent laymen connected with these organizations.

#### BAPTIST CHURCHES

(By Mrs. George M. Bucklin)

In the month of July, 1854, Elder F. B. Freeman commenced his labors in Morris as a mis-





JULIA GUNDERSON



OLIE GUNDERSON



## BAPTISTS BUILD A CHURCH

sionary in the employ of the Fox River Association. After two months of Elder Freeman's work, the conference agreed to call a council of brethren from other churches to meet with them on October 4, 1854. Twelve members of the conference appeared at the appointed time and presented their letters, choosing Elder Freeman, moderator and John N. Freeman clerk, and passed a vote to organize themselves into a church, adopting the articles of faith published in the Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, also the covenant in the same. The council met in the Methodist Church to take into consideration the propriety of organizing a Baptist Church. Resolutions were adopted that this council so extend the ordinary tokens of recognition and fellowship to the First Baptist Church of Morris, and the public exercises connected with the occasion were held in the Methodist Church. John N. Freeman was appointed church clerk, and Elder F. R. Freeman, pastor. Meetings were held every Sunday in the ballroom on the third floor of the old Prindle House, which had been fitted up as a private school. However, the little church lost its meeting place, for on Thanksgiving Day, November 30, 1854, the house was burned. This old hotel stood on the present site of the Commercial Hotel. At a covenant meeting held in the Methodist Church on December 2 of that year, a deep concern was manifested for the prosperity of the church, and the salvation of souls. The clerk, John Freeman, resigned and Joshua Lane was appointed to fill his place. From December to February, 1855, things remained at a standstill, there being only occasional preaching by Revs. Freeman and Childs. On February 5, 1855, however, Elder W. G. Johnson of Michigan, received a call as pastor, and the church held meetings in the schoolhouse, afterwards known as the old Normal Building. On June 3 the church sent a letter to the Fox River Association asking for admission into that body. At the annual business meeting January 4, 1859, the clerk reported that fifty members had been added to the church in the year just closed, making the number seventy-three, which was regarded as a cause for encouragement. At that time the pastor received a salary of \$400.

In 1860, the Baptists secured permission to hold meetings in the courthouse. At a special meeting held August 25, 1861, it was decided to build a house of worship, which was completed and dedicated to the Lord on Sunday, February 9, 1862, the cost of the building and furniture being \$2,932.40. The dedication sermon was delivered by the pastor, Rev. G. S. Bailey. On June 28, 1868, a pipe organ was put into the church at a cost of \$723.00.

In June, 1886, the Fox River Association changed its name to the Aurora Baptist Association, and was for the third time entertained by the Morris church.

During the summer of 1899 the church was remodeled at a cost of \$4,500, making a beautiful edifice with all modern improvements, the work being done under the pastorate of Rev. B. L. Prescott, who not only did much to inspire the people, but also a larger portion of the practical work of rebuilding. The old pipe organ was replaced by a new one worth \$1,500, \$500 of which was donated by Mrs. John Hill. The church received a gift in 1906 from the late William Ulrich, who left it \$500 as a bequest in his will. The church has had in the history of its membership many true Christian people who have gone into other portions of the world and accomplished much good for the Master, among whom may be mentioned Prof. and Mrs. L. T. Regan and family, who went to Chicago in 1889; Mrs. Jessie Bartlett Davis, the noted singer, who was once a member of our choir.

In 1906, the parsonage was remodeled so that it is now a fine modern home worth \$4,500, located on the corner of Jackson and Division streets. The Ladies' Aid Society has always been an active and helpful branch of the church, our able president, Mrs. Belle D. Jones, having held the office for seventeen years. We have at present one of the best ministers, both as to mental and spiritual endowments in the history of the church, Rev. J. C. Richardson, who was a missionary and teacher in Burmah for six years, returning on account of the failure in health of both him and Mrs. Richardson, in August, 1910.





## CATHOLIC CHURCHES

(By Cornelius Reardon)

## EARLY PRIESTS IN GRUNDY COUNTY

The members of the Roman Catholic Church, so predominate in number as to constitute nearly one-half of Christendom, so that the establishment of a parish in any community is a notable event. Since its beginning, the Catholic Church has exerted a strong and elevating influence over its children, and their adherence to the teachings and authority of the church is steadfast. The priests in charge of these churches are men of unquestioned scholarly attainments and strong religious personality, and as their aim is to uplift their people, their position in any locality is one of strong influence along moral lines.

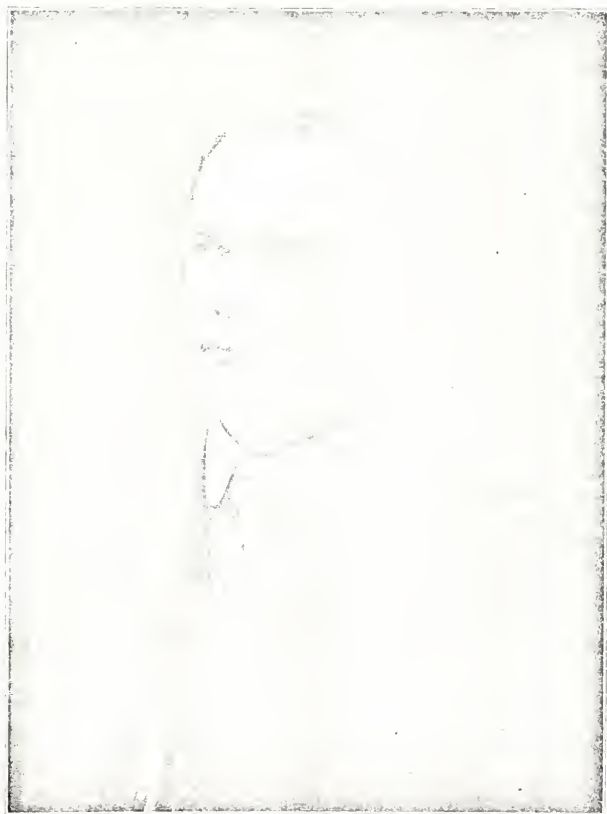
With the construction work of the Illinois and Michigan Canal through the county came many Roman Catholics, and, at the foot of Dresden Hill, near the canal, on Section Twenty-six (26) in Aux Sable Township was erected the first Catholic house of worship in the county. At the site of that church there remains a fairly well cared for Catholic cemetery even at the present day, although the church edifice was never used later than about the year 1864, and the building, being a flimsy structure, soon thereafter went to decay. To this church first came Father Du Pontaris and he ministered to the wants of his people at regular intervals until about the year 1850 when he was succeeded by Father O'Donnell. Each of these two priests in his turn had charge of the Catholic people from Joliet to Ottawa, and, regardless of weather or road conditions, they made their regular trips on horse-back, meeting their congregations at the appointed times. The population increased to the westward of Dresden with the progress of the canal work. Those priests, together with other missionary priests, read mass in the homes of some of the Catholic people and later in the old wooden courthouse until the establishment of the Morris parish, which was established in the year 1852, with Rev. Patrick Terry the first pastor of the parish. On September 23, 1852, Father Terry received deeds from John McNellis and wife to the property at the corners of Jackson, Pine and North streets and erected on that property a frame building, which, with additions thereto, served the people of this parish as a church until the

completion of the present brick edifice on the same property in the year 1867. Father Terry was succeeded in his pastorate by the Rev. M. Lyons, on July 24, 1859, and Father Lyons was the parish priest until September, 1864. On this last named date Father Lyons was followed by the Rev. Thomas Ryan, and it was during Father Ryan's pastorate, which ended in 1869, that the present brick church was erected. The first mass was celebrated in this church (before completion) Christmas morning, 1866. Father Ryan was succeeded by Rev. J. P. Devine, whose pastorate ended May 30, 1870. Then came the Rev. Hugh O'Gara McShane, and no pastor was more universally loved and admired by his parishioners, than was this then young priest. In 1874 the Rev. F. W. Smyth was assigned to the parish and he was followed by the Rev. Dennis Hayes in 1881, and he, by the Rev. John A. Hemlock from 1883 to 1889.

Father L. M. Meehan was appointed pastor of the parish in 1889. The parochial school, which prior to that time had been conducted in the old frame building that once served as a church, was sadly in need of new quarters. In his endeavor to have erected a new parochial school building Father Meehan received a magnificent gift of money from Patrick Kenrick, an aged bachelor and one of the pioneer settlers of this county. With this gift from Patrick Kenrick and the contributions of the parishioners, Father Meehan caused to be erected a magnificent two-story and basement brick building, at a cost of about fifteen thousand dollars. The first floor of the building is devoted to school purposes and is known as the Immaculate Conception Parochial School. The second floor of the building was finished up as a hall, with a stage in the north end of it, and bears the name of Kenrick Hall. The building is of Gothic architecture, patterned after a Roman castle, and is an ornament to the city. While Father L. M. Meehan was pastor of the parish his younger brother, William G. J. Meehan, was pursuing his theological course and was ordained a priest, and after a short pastorate at Sycamore, Ill., was transferred to Morris, Ill., and Father L. M. Meehan went to Sycamore. On January 7, 1907, the pastorate of Father William G. J. Meehan at Morris ended, and Father J. J. Darcy was appointed pastor of this church and continues to the present time.

The parochial school at the close of the last school year had an enrollment of 127 pupils and





Edgar Allan Poe



the teachers were Sisters of the St. Angela's Academy.

During the pastorates of Fathers Terry, Lyons and Ryan, the Morris parish had as out posts the Dresden Church, and after that the Minooka Church and the Highland Church, now Kinsman. To these outposts the pastors and their assistants went on alternate Sundays. The writer of this article was an "altar boy" from 1867 to 1875, and as he was a better driver than other boys he was frequently called upon to accompany the priests on those weekly trips to Minooka and Highland.

#### CATHOLIC SOCIETIES

The Knights of Columbus is, in numbers, the largest society in the Morris church. Their council was named after Father Du Pontaris, the first priest who read mass within the present limits of the county. It has a membership of about one hundred and forty members and takes an active part in all the work of the parish.

The Catholic Order of Foresters, consisting now of forty-five members, was established before the Knights of Columbus. There is a pleasant rivalry between these two societies in the doing of the good work of the parish. There is a court of the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters that can always be relied upon to do its portion of the social work of the parish. Columbia Club, an organization of young ladies, makes a strong showing. The ladies of the Altar and Rosary Society vie with one another in their work of adorning the church and altars, and their efforts result in one of the neatest churches in the diocese.

#### A TRIBUTE AT JOHN MC NELLIS

No history of the Catholic Church in Grundy County, Ill., would be complete without special mention being made of the name and good works of John McNellis. He was a man of coarse exterior, who, in pioneer days accumulated a vast fortune, but in the later years of his life met with severe reverses. In the days of his affluence he gave unsparingly to the church and religion of which he was a devout worshiper. The ground whereon is situated the church, parochial school and the parochial residence was a gift from him to the parish, and his cash contributions to the building and support of the church were in full proportion to his means. His gift of the beautiful square with

the then large building on it to the Sisters of the Holy Cross, was prompted by the motive that all worthy children might receive an education that would fit them for life and eternity. He had no education himself and this fact no doubt had much to do with the generosity of his gift. Though of a rough nature he had a warm heart, and in his daily life and conduct set an example that might well be patterned after. He died October 24, 1889, at the age of seventy-nine years, four months, twenty-three days.

#### ST. ANGELA'S ACADEMY

On the first day of March, 1858, John McNellis and his good wife deeded the block between North and Benton streets and Spruce and East streets to the Order of the Holy Cross, with the condition that there should be forever maintained on the premises a Roman Catholic school. The Sisters of this order thereupon went into possession of the property and have, to the present time, maintained a Catholic school for girls, and from this have graduated some of the noblest women that this part of the world has known. By their industry, the Sisters have added to the brick building that was on the property when they received it, until, today there stands a magnificent four-story structure where twenty-one Sisters are devoting their lives to the cause of religion and education, and there are regularly enrolled from 60 to 100 pupils. In 1908 the Sisters of this order celebrated the golden anniversary of the establishment of their convent. The present Catholic population of the Morris parish number about eleven hundred.

#### MINOOKA

The second parish to be established in the county was that at Minooka, and its first pastor was the Rev. Sheedy. Its present pastor is the Rev. Joseph McMahon, whose pastorate has extended back over twenty years. A few years ago this congregation erected a fine brick edifice that they are now using. The parish includes, besides the village of Minooka, a large Catholic population in the surrounding country.

#### KINSMAN

The third parish established in Grundy County was that of the old Highland Township



Church and Rev. P. J. Gormerly was its first pastor. After the Village of Kinsman was laid out and incorporated the church building was moved about two miles southwest into the new village, but it soon proved too small for the needs of the people and they erected a brick structure which was later destroyed by lightning but was rebuilt and forms the present Catholic Church in that village. Rev. J. P. Greene has been the parish priest for many years past, and besides the Kinsman Church has Verona as an out-mission where the people of that vicinity purchased a frame church building about ten years ago, and to the Verona church Father Greene comes every second Sunday.

#### COAL CITY

The fourth parish established in Grundy County is that of Coal City and one of its first pastors was the Rev. Father De Paradis, a man of great musical talent and fine education. He was greatly beloved by his people and admired by all his acquaintances outside of the church. The present pastor is the Rev. J. A. Reuland.

#### SOUTH WILMINGTON

The last parish organized in Grundy County was that at South Wilmington which was established shortly after the laying out of the village in 1898. The present pastor is the Rev. L. Donna. His congregation is largely made up of poor working men and their families, but their devotion to their church and God is not surpassed anywhere.

#### THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Christian Science Society at Morris originated as a church, being known as First Church of Christ, Morris, on August 24, 1904, with seven members. Later the number increased to nineteen, but in 1908, it was changed to The Christian Science Society, Morris. Having the requisite sixteen members, this society is entitled to a regular practitioner, who is Mrs. Annie M. Claypool, widow of the late lamented Henry C. Claypool, who, in her life, demonstrates beautiful traits of character which aside from her religious belief, exert a strong influence for good upon the community. The present first reader is Miss Emily Bingham, and the second reader is Mrs. Clara L. Gorham.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES

(By Rev. G. W. James)

#### MISSIONARY WORK AT MORRIS IN 1846

The first Protestant Church work done in Morris, began in 1846, under Rev. James Longhead, a Congregational minister, who was sent to the community as a missionary of the American Home Missionary Society. A Sunday school was at once organized, and Mr. Longhead, who was doing missionary work in different parts of the county, preached once every four weeks to a small company in the village of Morris. The school continued as a Union Sunday school for about two years, and while there was no church organization, it was known as the Associated Congregational Church of Morris.

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ORGANIZED

In May, 1848, steps were taken toward organizing a regular Congregational Church, and several meetings were held in order to complete the organization, and on Sunday, July 2, 1848, the church was fully organized with twelve members, representing four denominations: Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist and Episcopalian. Meetings were held in the old courthouse, which stood in what is now the front yard of the present courthouse. Reverend Longhead continued as pastor until April, 1849. In January, 1850, Rev. A. W. Henderson was elected pastor, and served the church three years, bringing the membership from twenty to sixty-two.

During 1851 the first church building was erected, on the corner lot where the present building now stands. It was a small, wooden structure, 45 by 24 feet. During the time the building was in course of construction, services were held in a small hall on the second floor of a two-story building on the southwest corner of Washington and Wauponsee streets. During 1854, while Rev. W. A. Baldwin was supplying the pulpit, the building was enlarged and the church became self supporting. Toward the close of 1854, Rev. E. P. Turner commenced his ministry to the church, which continued ten years. Four seasons of special religious interest were enjoyed during Mr. Turner's labors, occurring severally in 1855, 1856, 1858 and 1861.







Anna Hoge.



The building was again enlarged in 1857. In the early part of 1865, Rev. William Lloyd was chosen pastor and under his ministry the present magnificent structure was built at a cost of \$25,000.00.

#### MANY FAITHFUL PASTORS

In 1869, Rev. W. A. Smith was called to the pastorate, and remained three years, and after his departure, Rev. J. A. Montgomery was called to the field and served the church eleven years, being the longest pastorate in the history of the church. From 1884 to 1886, Rev. C. L. Corwin was pastor, and was followed by Mr. R. W. Farquhar, a student, who was ordained soon after entering upon the work as pastor. Following the three years' service by Mr. Farquhar, Rev. C. H. Bissell was called and remained three years. In April, 1891, Rev. C. C. Warner was called, and preached until 1895. After six months supply by Dr. Anderson, Mr. F. D. Tucker, a young man engaged in mission work in St. Louis, was invited to take charge of the church, which he accepted. Mr. Tucker was ordained during his first year in Morris, and continued with the church three years.

In the fall of 1900, Rev. T. S. Oadams was called, and occupied the pulpit two years and six months. Rev. George A. Swertfager was pastor from October 1, 1903, to May 22, 1905, and Rev. J. A. Smith supplied the pulpit during 1906.

Rev. G. W. James, the present pastor, has been with the church since the first of April, 1907. In 1907, the church came into possession of a fine parsonage, the gift of Mrs. Louise Keller, who left her spacious home to the church of her choice. The church has one of the finest pipe organs in the county, and many improvements on the church property, made in recent years, have increased its value.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(By A. G. Harrison)

The first protestant preacher to lift his voice for the Kingdom of Christ at Morris, was a Methodist. His name was John P. Devore, of the South Ottawa Circuit, and his first appearance here was in the winter of 1842-3. He was a tall, slender, somewhat awkward young man, with a heart burning with love of the work of God. It was his first year in the

ministry and what a charge he had. It extended from the other side of Ottawa to what is now Sam Holderman's farm, west of Morris. Mr. Devore opened his work by holding meetings in the courthouse, preaching every four weeks. He found Morris a hard field and made but little or no headway, and so, becoming discouraged, resigned. He also introduced Methodism into Wauponsee and Aux Sable townships, that same winter of 1842-3.

The next effort to found a church was made at Morris by a Mr. Humphrey, who, like his predecessor, was a preacher in charge of the South Ottawa Circuit. He made his appearance in January, 1846, but there were few to respond, and he also left after finding things in a discouraging condition.

Some time after this followed a man by the name of Alonzo Kenyon, also of the South Ottawa Circuit, and he fared somewhat better, succeeding in organizing the first Methodist Class at Morris, and preached in the courthouse once a month. Then came Rev. J. W. Flowers, in 1849, at a time when Morris was attached to Lisbon, the two places becoming a circuit, and Mr. Flowers was its first regular preacher. He was a successful organizer, and under his able leadership, the society grew so rapidly that in 1850 steps were taken to erect a church building. Within a short period, a structure was erected at the corner of Kiersted and Jefferson streets, and was then considered the finest church in town. In August of 1850, Morris became a station with a settled pastor, and has so continued ever since.

Thus what seemed at first a difficult and unpromising field for the growth of Methodism, turned out to be one of the most fruitful. Indeed, so fast did the society grow, that after eighteen years spent in the original church, it was decided to erect a larger one, and in 1869, plans were made for a new structure on West Jackson Street. This new building was completed in 1871, the members of the official board of the church at that time having been: A. Kirkland, L. Rockwell, J. W. Patham, W. Staze, H. C. Longacre, S. Noble, Joseph Hicks, William Stephen, and the pastor then in charge, R. R. Bibbins. The cost of the new church was \$12,000. On the night of August 13, 1878, this building was struck by lightning and entirely destroyed by fire with the exception of the brick walls. Immediate action was taken to rebuild, the following trustees having the matter



in charge: William Stephen, Phineas Davis, H. C. Gifford, Henry Longacre, Andrew Kirkland, J. W. Tatham, A. L. Dond, C. W. Williams, C. J. Murray and John Cryder. The building then erected is the one now in use, to which an addition was built in 1911. In 1898 the old parsonage which stood on the church lot when purchased, was removed and the present fine and commodious building was erected, this being done during the pastorate of Rev. C. C. Lovejoy.

#### HONGE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

(By T. Aarrestad)

This was organized on the 8th day of July, 1876, in Saratoga, Grundy County. Leaders in this movement were: Halvor Osmousen Rygh, O. H. Osmousen, Knut M. J. Granville, Halvor Grunstad, Ole Thompson Saren, Wier Pedersen, Tolleff Høuge, Ole Charles, Erick Grunstad, John Fatland and John J. Enger. A few months later, Erick Johnsen, Tobias Helgesen, Anders Saren and Anders C. Iversen joined the church. The majority of these men with their families previously belonged to the Lisbon church, Rev. P. A. Rasmussen, pastor, but when East Prairie, as it is called, became more thickly settled the people who lived there wanted a church of their own. This, in connection with some disagreement, caused these people to leave the Lisbon Church and organize a congregation on East Prairie. Rev. Lars Oftedal, of Stavanger, Norway, visited East Prairie in 1875, and it may be that this visit had a little to do with the organization of this congregation later on.

The original membership was sixty-two, and at the end of the year 1876, ninety-seven souls belonged to the church. The present membership is: souls 290, confirmed 205, voters 65. The average attendance of worship is about one hundred and twenty-five. The enrollment of the Sunday school is thirty-five, with a teachers' force of six.

Both Norwegian and English have been used. For many years the Ladies' Aid Society has been a great help to the home church, but especially to the different missions.

When the congregation was organized it was found necessary to get a house of worship as soon as possible. The work of building a church was started in 1876, and a neat and spacious

house was erected at a cost of \$1,000. The church has a very advantageous location, five miles north of Morris, the county seat of Grundy County. Mr. Halvor Osmousen Rygh donated the building ground, and he and the men above named were the most prominent in the construction of the church. The dedication of the church took place on the third Sunday after Easter, 1877. Prof. S. Oftedal, of Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., preached the dedicatory sermon. M. F. Gjertsen, T. J. Solberg and other ministers were also present and assisted.

From its very inception the congregation was connected with the Conference of the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Since 1890, when the Conference was merged in the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, the congregation has been connected with this body.

Several ministers visited the congregation during the first year. Among these were: S. Oftedal, M. F. Gjertsen, R. O. Hill, P. J. Solberg and Elling Eielsen. Rev. N. C. Brun, pastor of the Bethlehem Norwegian Lutheran Church, of Chicago, was the first regularly appointed pastor of the Høuge's Church. He served this congregation in connection with his church in Chicago for two years. On October 13, 1879, Rev. B. P. Strand was installed as pastor. He served the congregation about two years and six months and preached his farewell sermon on the 16th day of April, 1882.

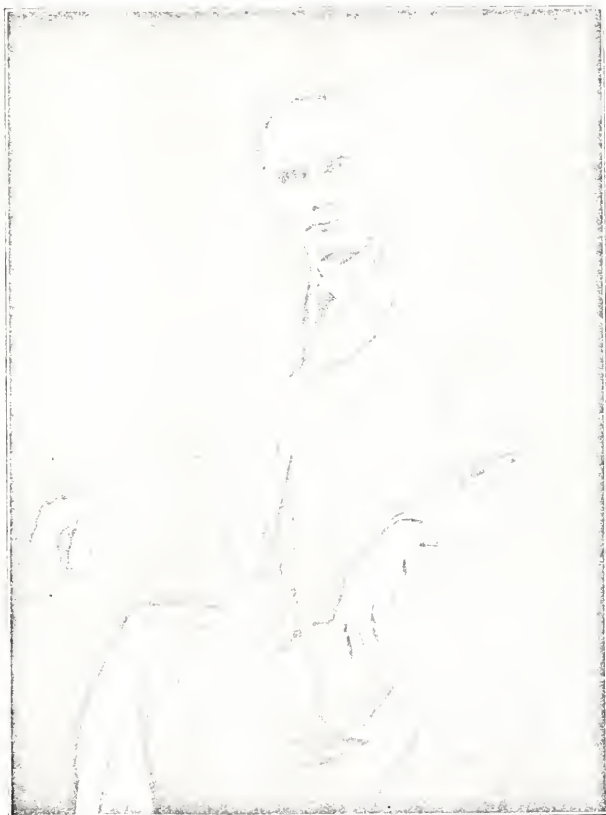
During a year's vacancy different ministers visited the congregation. On the first day of July, 1883, Rev. N. G. Nilsen was installed. He served the congregation for nine years and preached his farewell sermon May 29, 1892, being the sixth Sunday after Easter.

After a vacancy of eighteen months Rev. T. Aarrestad, the present pastor, was called and accepted. He was installed by Rev. N. J. Lockrem on the 26th day of November, 1893.

Rev. Lockrem had charge of the work during the vacancy. Occasionally representatives of other denominations have visited the settlement, but without exerting any marked influence.

Very few of the older original members are still with us. Among these we may mention Wier Pedersen and John J. Enger. The majority of the older settlers were born in Etne and Skoanevek, Norway.





Isaac Hoge





## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

(By T. Aarrestad)

On the 6th day of July, 1880, a very small Norwegian Lutheran congregation was organized in Morris, Ill. The original members were: Mrs. Anna Endresen and her sister, Mrs. Susan Armbruster, both of Tjeldberg, Norway; Miss Anna Samuelsen was also one of the original members; and Mrs. Armbruster had three children. The original membership there were six souls, all told. The name of the congregation was "Skandinavia Evangelical Lutheran Church of Morris, Illinois." "Skandinavia" was changed to "Bethlehem" in 1902. At the time of organization very few Norwegian families had settled in Morris. Some of them had already identified themselves with other churches, others did not care to belong to any church. A number of Swedish families lived in Morris at that time, and Swedish preachers began to visit the town. These were not Lutherans. When the Norwegians who went to hear them found that they were Baptists they severed their connection with them. Being very few, it was a brave deed. They were not afraid to show their colors.

Some time later these women started a small Sunday school. The services were held in private houses. In 1881 F. Melby and family joined the church, and in 1883 Jacob Olsen, S. P. Carlson, K. Karlsen, J. F. Nelson, B. M. Jonasen and Henry Hansen with their families and others became members. As the congregation commenced to grow the question of getting a church home was mooted. An old church was bought in 1884. The price was about twelve hundred dollars. This church had been built by the Methodists and afterward sold to the German Lutherans. On account of a split among the Germans they terminated their services and for a while rented, and later on sold their church property to the Norwegians. This church was used for a number of years, but when the congregation grew stronger and more Norwegian Lutherans moved into Morris, they began to plan for a new church. The old one becoming almost unfit for use, it was deemed wiser to erect a new building than to patch the old one. The congregation, although not strong, thought of the future and decided not only to build a new church edifice, but also to

secure a more advantageous location. This was wisely done. A very desirable location was secured; in fact the very best in the town, and a two story structure was put up. Prominent laymen in the construction of the church were: Austin Osmon, F. Melby, S. P. Carlson, S. Bakke, Henry Hansen, John Thorson, A. C. Johnson, S. Marvick and Thomas Ostrem. The church was dedicated on April 12, 1896. Rev. G. Hoyne, president of The United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, preached the dedicatory sermon. Other ministers present were: P. J. Reinertsen, Gardner; J. H. Stenberg, Leeland; N. J. Lockrem, Norway; L. A. Vigness, Ottawa, Ill.; L. S. Marvick, Holton, N. J., and T. Aarrestad, Morris, Ill. In the evening Revs. L. S. Marvick and A. C. Anderson of Bethel Church, Chicago, preached. The lot and building cost about seven thousand five hundred dollars. There was a heavy debt on the property until January, 1902, when every cent was paid and the church improved. It was rather hard work to keep it going with a heavy debt besides current expenses, but the Ladies' Aid Society was a great help in those days. At that time it was almost impossible to help in general missionary work; but since the debt was paid the congregation and the different societies have given money to missions and charitable institutions amounting to many hundred dollars every year. The church property is now worth about eleven thousand dollars.

The present membership is: Souls 316, confirmed 206, voting members 62, average attendance at worship 160. Both Norwegian and English have been used. A parochial school has been taught for several years. The enrollment of the Sunday School is about eighty with a teacher's force of twelve. Money raised by the Sunday School is sent to the different children's homes.

A young people's society that is literary, devotional and social, has been a good help to church attendance and work. Money raised by this society has been used in various ways, but especially for the benefit of the local church. This society presented the congregation with the pipe organ.

The first pastor of this church was B. P. Strand. Reverend Strand preached his farewell sermon on April 9, 1882. After a vacancy of fifteen months Rev. N. G. Nilsen became the pastor. He served the congregation for nine years. Several ministers served the congrega-



tion during the vacancy and among them was Rev. N. J. Lockrem, who also installed the present pastor, Rev. T. Aarrestad, on the 26th day of November, 1893.

This congregation was connected with the Conference of The Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, until the Conference in 1890, when it was merged into The United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. Since that time Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Morris, Ill., has been connected with this body.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

(By Wm. C. Magner)

As a preface to this sketch of the Presbyterian Church, a few words about the general history of this denomination in the United States is necessary. The Presbyterian Church in America sprung from three sources, viz.: from Holland by the Dutch in New York; from Scotland in Virginia, and from the Huguenots who settled in Carolina, all as immigrants. It owes its origin and character principally to Scotland. The Dutch of New York organized the first church in New Amsterdam, now New York, in 1619, and it is now known all over the United States as the Dutch Reformed Church. Scotch Presbyterians settled on the Elizabeth River in Virginia between the years 1670 and 1680. It is uncertain when the first Presbyterian Church was formed, though it is known that a church was organized at Snow Hill, Md., in 1684, by Rev. Francis Makinzie. The Huguenots were banished from France by the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, and established their churches in this country very soon after this period. From these three colonies of immigrants, as said before, have sprung the Presbyterian churches in the United States which now number according to the latest official reports, 10,030, with 9,274 ministers, and these are to be found in every state and territory of the United States. The total contributions of all the Presbyterian churches in the country for 1912 as published in the minutes of the General Assembly of the church, amount to \$25,798,615.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States is governed almost identically as is the national government. The local church is truly organized when a number of members band

themselves together and vote to become a church by electing any number of male members as Ruling Elders, and other members as trustees of that particular church. The Ruling Elders have to do with the spiritual affairs of the church and serve as representatives to the higher courts of the church. The trustees have to attend to the business part of the church government. Both of these bodies are elected by the congregation, in which male and female members have equal rights. These officers correspond somewhat to the board of supervisors in each county of the state, and are elected for a definite number of years. Several churches grouped together geographically, with the ministers of these several churches, form the next higher court, called a Presbytery, and corresponds to the State Congressional Districts. The Presbytery consists of all the ministers within its bounds and one Ruling Elder as a representative of each individual church. This meets semi-annually and to it the churches make their annual reports. It alone has the power to license candidates for the ministry, and ordain them. It alone elects commissioners to the next higher courts of the church. All the presbyteries of a state constitute the Synod and meet annually with an equal number of ministers and ruling elders. The Presbyteries choose the commissioners to the General Assembly, the highest court of the church which meets and receives annually the reports of all the churches which are published. The General Assembly corresponds to the national congress. The doctrines peculiar to the Presbyterian Church are set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechism which were formulated, adopted and published, from the system of theology promulgated by John Calvin, of Geneva, Switzerland, with those of John Knox, of Scotland, by the Assembly of Divines which convened in Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey, England, in 1643, by order of the British Parliament.

The Presbyterian Church at Morris was undoubtedly the first of that faith organized in Grundy County. The following extract is found in the church records:

"According to the appointment of Presbytery a meeting was held on the seventh day of November, 1856, for the purpose of organizing a church. After service which was conducted by Rev. John Fleming, all who designed to enter into the organization were requested to





Laura C. Hoge and  
Grand Son, Edward Isaac



come forward to be into the proposed church. The following presented themselves, namely: B. W. Brice and his wife, Catherine E. Brice and their daughter, Miss Elizabeth E. Brice; J. P. Atwater and his wife, Mrs. Abigail Atwater; Miss Anna Hull; Mr. John Rainey and his wife, Elizabeth Rainey." Accordingly these eight persons were constituted a church to be known as the First Presbyterian Church of Morris. J. R. Atwater was chosen and installed as a Ruling Elder and John R. Davidson was appointed clerk of the congregation. The Rev. W. Porterfield was the stated supply as minister of the new church. Soon thereafter the following persons were received by letters from other churches, namely: William Mason and his wife, Elizabeth Mason; Miss Jane Mason; John Hannah and his wife; Miss Isabella McGustin; Magnus Hurrie and his wife, Mary B.; John B. Davidson. This is the record of the organization.

Rev. Porterfield supplied the church for three years and it grew, the Rev. Reuben Fraine succeeding Rev. Porterfield, serving the church as pastor for four years. He was born June 18, 1804, of Quaker parentage, was graduated from Jefferson College, Pa., in 1826, and ordained in 1843. After holding different pastorates for thirty years, he retired on account of loss of sight. His oldest son, John, one of two in the ministry, succeeded him in the Morris Church. Father Fraine lived to be an old man, being eighty-seven years old at the time of his death. John Fraine was pastor of the Morris Church for eight years, being very successful in his work here, and then was called to the church at Champaign, Ill., where he died in the prime of life, much beloved by his people. He was followed in the Morris Church by Rev. James B. McCloud, who served for two years, and then Rev. J. M. Laubach was the pastor for two years. Rev. A. Marshall was his successor, and after three years was followed by Rev. J. T. Killen, who was pastor for two years. Rev. T. W. Adams for the following year was pastor, and was succeeded by Rev. R. Dobson, when after a year, Rev. W. C. Magner was called to the church, in February, 1887, and served until May, 1898, over eleven years. He was followed by Rev. O. C. Johnson. After seven years, the Rev. Henry Abraham served four years, and was followed by Rev. C. H. Bruce, D. D.

The first church building was erected on East

Jackson Street, and was of brick, finished and dedicated February, 1858, during the ministry of Rev. Reuben Fraine. The present beautiful church edifice was built during the pastorate of Rev. O. C. Johnson, and dedicated June 5, 1904, and stands on the same lot as the old church. It is built of granite and is modern in every respect, containing about a dozen rooms in addition to the auditorium and chapel, and cost between twenty-five thousand and thirty thousand dollars. Adjoining is a modern manse, which, with the lot, cost about five thousand dollars. The manse was built during the pastorate of Rev. Henry Abraham. The church has a fine pipe organ, operated by electricity.

#### FREE METHODISTS

Morris has a branch of Methodism known as the Free Methodists, housed in a neat church edifice on Liberty Street. For some time it was in charge of Miss Viola Mariott, evangelist, but now has a regular pastor, Rev. F. S. Parks.

#### SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH

(By A. W. Carlson)

With the coming to any community of foreign born people, arises a desire for religious homes conducted by pastors from the land from whence the strangers hail, and Morris is no exception to this rule. The Swedish Baptist Church is the place of worship for the Baptists here of Swedish extraction. It began in revival meetings held under the leadership of Rev. A. P. Hanson, Rev. E. Sandell and Miss Anna B. Nelson, in the summer of 1883. Seven were baptized as a result of these meetings and joined the local American Baptist Church, no Swedish Church then existing at Morris. These seven were: Amanda Peterson, A. W. Carlson, Alfred Carlson, Ida, Mary and Viola Johnson, and John Johnson. The church was organized in the summer of 1887 and meetings were held in the Normal school building at the corner of Franklin and Jackson streets. The Rev. A. P. Hanson was the first pastor and he organized the Sunday school that same year. From 1888 to 1889, S. J. Peterson served the church as pastor, and was succeeded by Gust Johnson in the latter year, and he, in 1890, by Laurity Hanson, who was pastor until 1892, and during his pastorate, the present church was erected.





on the corner of Division and North streets. During 1892 and 1893, Rev. J. M. Sellenvold was pastor, to be succeeded by Anton Nelson, who served until 1897. During this period sixteen members were added, making the congregation forty-eight, and the Young People's Society was organized. During the period between 1897 and 1901, Rev. J. D. Nylin was pastor, and the choir was organized. Mr. Nylin was succeeded by Rev. J. O. Baeklund and under him the church prospered spiritually and materially, the total membership being sixty-six. In 1904, Rev. John Linder became pastor, and during the two years he had charge the pipe organ was installed. Rev. V. E. Peterson followed, and remained until 1908, and the church was remodeled. About this time a number of the members moved to other parts of the state, and the membership decreased until it now numbers thirty-two. The pulpit is supplied with students from the Theological Seminary at Morgan Park, Ill.

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## CHAPTER XXXVI

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### NETTLE CREEK TOWNSHIP

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NAME—LOCATION—FIRST SETTLER—EARLY FAMILIES—EVENTS OF INTEREST—FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN—SCHOOLS—CHURCH HISTORY—SUPERVISORS FROM 1850 TO 1914.

(By Isaac Hoge)

#### NAME

Nettle Creek Township gains its name from its principal tributary, which is also known as Little Mazon, which means nettles, this hardly desirable form of vegetation once being found in immense quantities along the rich bottom lands. No longer do they disfigure the landscape, for the present system of drainage has redeemed the land that once was thought of no more use than to grow unproductive nettles, and the home of what gave the township its

name, is now producing great crops of golden grain, or is the rich pasture fields of sleek cattle.

This township, in the northwest corner of Grundy, is almost level prairie, except along the creek, along which oak and black walnut trees were found. Quite a number of little streams run into Nettle Creek, but many are almost dry in the summer months. Scotland, England, Ireland and Norway all sent of their sons and daughters to represent them in Nettle Creek Township, and sturdy people came from various more eastern states to find new homes on the prairie. Their descendants are thrifty, industrious, honorable and law-abiding people.

#### FIRST SETTLER

Without doubt the first white settler of what afterwards became Nettle Creek Township, was William Hoge, of Loudoun County, Va., of Scotch descent, who arrived here in 1831, putting up a tiny log cabin that for years sheltered the family. In 1845, however, a much more comfortable residence was erected. He was one of the two settlers of Grundy County for years. The nearest trading point was the village of Ottawa. When the Black Hawk war shed its shadow of dread over the rest of the state, Mr. Hoge took his little brood to Pleasant Grove, just across from the present town of Pekin. As soon as he felt it was safe, however, he returned, for he was too anxious about his crops to remain away longer than absolutely necessary. In those days when transportation was so difficult, and food and money scarce, the very lives of the family depended upon the outcome of the crops, scanty as they might be. In 1833, Samuel Hoge joined his brother in Nettle Creek Township, and both became heavy landowners in this and adjoining townships.

John Gray, a Scotchman, and George Brouse, an Englishman, arrived here in 1837, locating on Sections 20 and 17, respectively, their properties joining. That same year, William Stephen, a fellow countryman, joined Mr. Gray, but only remained about a year, when he went to Kendall County, eventually coming back, however, and identifying himself with Grundy County. George Bullis was another of the pioneers of 1837 or 1838, but moved from Grundy County in 1870. A Mr. Coup came here about 1840, but had some serious financial difficulties,



that forced him to sell much of the land he acquired.

Thomas Loughhead came here in 1841 or 1842, with his two sons and four daughters, having lost his wife. He was a veteran of the War of 1812, and died in 1855. James P. Thompson, son-in-law of Mr. Loughhead, followed the latter in a year or two, settling on a part of Section 19. Oliver Dix arrived in 1844, locating on Section 8. In the same year, Minard Waterman settled on Section 29. William and Hugh Mossman came here in 1845, and about the same time Samuel Fry arrived. Thomas and John Agan were arrivals of 1848, and in 1849, Isaac N. Brown became a resident of the township.

The Norwegian pioneers began to arrive about 1845, among the earliest being: John Peterson, Ben Thornton, Ben Hall, Lars and Erasmus Sheldall, John Wing, G. E. Grunstead and others.

In 1849 the following were numbered among the inhabitants of Nettle Creek Township: H. A. Ford, Baker Knox, R. Carpenter, Isaac N. Brown, Lars and Erasmus Sheldall, John Wing, G. E. Grunstead, John Peterson, Ben Thornton, Simon Fry, Lars Likeness, Ben Hall, Edson Gifford, George Bullis, Hugh Mossman, Morgan Lloyd, S. G. Rider, John Gibson, Alexander Bushnell, Ben Sears, Daniel David, Charles McCann, John and Thomas Loughhead, Oliver Dix, William Mossman, David Jamison, James P. Thompson, John Gray, Minard Waterman, Samue Hoge, William Hoge, Thomas Agan and John Agan. The remarkable growth of the township is shown by contrasting these few names with the total number of inhabitants as shown by the last census.

#### EVENTS OF INTEREST

The first mill for sawing lumber was built of logs by William Hoge, but after ten years, the dam was destroyed. A steam mill was later constructed, for the purpose of supplying the contractors building the canal with necessary material, but has been abandoned. In 1876, Zach Severson dealt for a short time in boots, shoes and groceries.

#### FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN

James Hoge, son of William Hoge, was the first white child born in the township, and perhaps the first born in Grundy County.

The child of Warren Chapin was the first person to die in Nettle Creek Township, and the body was buried on his father's farm, as there was no cemetery.

#### SCHOOLS

William Hoge with his brother built the first schoolhouse, on land belonging to the former. Like the majority of the little log schoolhouses of the time, it was meagerly furnished with home-made benches and desks, and was heated by a fireplace. Miss Maria Southworth was the first teacher, and for her services received \$2.50 per week, the money being furnished by William Hoge. The second schoolhouse was built on Section 8, but was very inconveniently located, so that another was put up near the home of Mr. Brown, and finally, there was only one school in Nettle Creek, and it was taught by Oliver Dix. In 1849 Nettle Creek Township was divided into four school districts, and later the number was increased to seven, and since then further progress has been made.

#### CHURCH HISTORY

The Congregationalists were the first to hold religious service with an idea of church organization in Nettle Creek Township. This was in 1849, when the organization was completed through the efforts of the Rev. James Loughhead. The schoolhouse was used for the services, and the society existed until 1868, when it became extinct.

In 1850, the Methodists organized, with three families of the name of Mossman, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Thompson, Mrs. Fry, and Reuben Aylesworth as charter members. The home of Oliver Dix was used for the initial services, later the schoolhouse was utilized. The churches of Morris claim quite a large membership and attendance over the township, while in this section there are numerous Norwegian churches.

#### SUPERVISORS

Nettle Creek Township has been represented on the County Board of Supervisors of Grundy County by the following men: William Hoge, 1850; A. J. Ford, 1851; I. N. Brown, 1852-1853; William Hoge, 1854-1855; Wm. McFarlane, 1856; William Hoge, 1857-1867; Andrew F. Ford, 1868; William Hoge, 1869; John K. Ely,



1870; William Hoge, 1871; Samuel Hoge, 1872-1877; Hendley Hoge, 1878-1880; H. A. Gregory, 1881; William Hoge, 1882; Isaac Hoge, 1883-1892; Olen O. Johnson, 1893; S. S. Marvick, 1894-1902; Joseph H. Osman, 1903-1904; Ami Markeson, 1905-1909; E. S. Hoge, 1910-1914.

## CHAPTER XXXVII

### NORMAN TOWNSHIP

LOCATION—DEVIL'S MOUND—STREAMS—TREES—SOIL—CORN CHIEF PRODUCT—DAIRYING—FIRST SETTLER—CASTLE DANGER—TOWNSHIP NAMED FROM FIRST SUPERVISOR—OTHER EARLY SETTLERS—LUMBER SPECULATORS—RELIGIOUS BODIES—SCHOOLS—EARLY SPORTS—LIST OF SUPERVISORS FROM 1850 TO 1912.

(By M. F. James)

#### LOCATION

Norman Township lies across the Illinois River from Erienna Township. One of the distinguishing formations of Norman Township is what is called Devil's Mound, a peculiar elevation, believed to be a survival of the Mound Builders' period. This is a circular mound, 75 feet in height and 200 feet in diameter. Located as it is at the head of a small bayou, it is a noticeable feature of the landscape, and people come from far distances to visit it. As far as known there have been no excavations made in it, so there is nothing definite known about its origin. No trees grow upon it, and it possibly will always remain as something about which the eternal question can be asked.

Bills' Run, Hog Run, Armstrong Run are all streams of considerable size which empty into the Illinois River and drain Norman Township. Oak, hackberry, walnut and maple trees are all yet found here, although now much fewer in number than when the first settlers came to the region and found miles of unbroken woodland. The soil is principally the black, prairie mold, free from stones, and in the low lands

inclined to be wet. In the high lands, a clay soil is found. Corn is the principal product. Hogs are raised in large numbers, as well as cattle, while dairying is found profitable. Some high-grade breeds of horses are raised here, one of the earlier breeders having been E. B. James.

#### FIRST SETTLER

David Bunch was the first settler, as he came to Section 21 in the winter of 1834-5. The attraction of this locality for him, was the fine timber, for there was a good market for it at Ottawa and other river points. For years, Mr. Bunch cut and rafted timber from Norman, but did not make it his home until much later on, when he developed a fine farm. In 1835 Datus Kent joined Mr. Bunch, and they carried on the lumber business together. Mr. Kent had a cabin on Section 15, and he also built a hotel of logs across the river, known as Castle Danger. In 1837, he left Norman Township and went to Arkansas.

#### TOWNSHIP NAMED

Henry Norman arrived here about 1839, having been in Braceville for several years. He located on Section 25, and this continued to be his home until 1842, when he went to Morris, his son, Thomas J. Norman, remaining on the homestead he had secured. The latter was the first supervisor from Norman Township, and it was after him that the township was named. Dr. Timothy Horrom was also an early settler, who located on Section 20, and he it was who founded Horrom City across the river, which existed only on paper. Later, he moved to Erienna Township. John Sullivan, like many others of his countrymen, came here from Ireland to work on the canal, arriving about 1841. He settled on Section 13, and developed a fine farm. E. B. James came to Norman Township in July, 1847, locating on Section 25, where he lived until 1906.

#### OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

Other early settlers of Norman Township were as follows: Isaac Nelson, Elisha Misner, John Riley, Amos Dewey, Timothy Kelley, Thomas Winsor, Abe Lloyd, C. W. Burrows and D. W. Comage. Chief Shabbona made his home





ELISHA B. JAMES





in Norman Township on Section 20, where the people gave him forty acres of land.

Later the canal commissioners got the land and settlers bought it. Grundy County was not developed as rapidly as some other divisions of Illinois, owing to the fact that lumber speculators early took up the land and held it for the timber, making no permanent settlements on it. Not until they were forced to abandon their claims, did the real settlers have a fair chance to secure it for homes.

#### RELIGIOUS BODIES

The Methodists were the first to gain a hold in both Norman and Erienna townships, sending out their itinerant preachers from the Fox River settlement and the first religious organization in Norman Township was of this faith and was established by the Rev. Fowler. John Piatt and E. B. James were among the first members. Services were held in the different cabins, and then in the schoolhouse, until it was possible to secure the use of the Baptist Church. In 1870 the Methodists built a church of their own on Section 35, which is still the only country church anywhere this side of the river within fourteen miles.

The Baptist Church had its beginning about 1854, and the families of Messrs. Haymond, Winters and Manley were among its first members. At first the schoolhouse was used for a meeting place, but in 1862, a neat edifice was erected on Section 23, and it was used until 1887 as a church, and in 1895 it was burned. Not one of its members is left in this part of the country.

#### SCHOOLS

The first schoolhouse was built of logs, in 1853, at Bills' Point, and was taught by Miss Reniff, and later by Mrs. Stoutemyer. At present Norman Township has the following schools: the Haymond, in District 19; the Woodbury, in District 18; the Hull, in District 20; and the Raymond, in District 17.

All the old pioneer conditions which once prevailed, have passed away, and Norman Township compares favorably with any division of its size in the entire state. Its people are proud of their agricultural supremacy, and keep up with the high standards in every direction they believe necessary. There are those yet living who remember some of the interesting pioneer social enjoyments from which they had much

entertainment. Often the scattered families would gather at different neighbors for the evening where they would spend the time in dancing to Justice Hollenback's music. Horse racing was quite a sport with the young men who would sometimes gather on Sundays at church and then see which horse was the fastest. It happened that they even took the preacher's horse while he was conducting the services in the church, to see how many others he could outrun. It was all innocent sport, no betting or other objectionable features, all being merely a playtime for those whose daily tasks left them little opportunity for enjoyment, and whose surroundings offered no chance for recreation.

#### SUPERVISORS

The men who have served Norman Township as members of the County Board of Supervisors from 1850 to 1912, have been as follows: Thomas J. Norman, 1850; Elisha Mizner, 1851-1854; Marion Lloyd, 1855-1856; Amos Dewey, 1857-1858; Elisha Mizner, 1859; Charles M. Pierce, 1860-1863; Wm. Bullis, 1864; Seneca Tupper, 1865-1867; Charles Burrows, 1868; S. H. Raymond, 1869-1871; Geo. W. Raymond, 1872; John Reilly, 1873; L. H. Raymond, 1874; John Reilly, 1875-1876; A. G. Woodbury, 1877; E. B. James, 1878; Chas. M. Pierce, 1879; E. B. James, 1880-1882; C. M. Pierce, 1883; E. R. Dewey, 1884-1885; John Reilly, 1886-1889; Timothy Kelley, 1890-1894; C. W. Burroughs, 1895-1896; Daniel Comage, 1897-1906; M. F. James, 1907-1910; Thomas Downey, 1911-1912.

#### CHAPTER XXXVIII

#### SARATOGA TOWNSHIP

LOCATION—STREAMS—FIRST SETTLERS—AN ENGLISH CEMETERY—EARLY TEACHERS—NORWEGIAN SETTLERS—NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH—EARLY RESIDENTS—RAILROAD—FERTILE LAND—PROSPEROUS UP-TO-DATE FARMERS—SUPERVISORS.

(By E. G. Cryder)

#### LOCATION

Saratoga cannot boast of as early settlement



as some of the other sections of Grundy County, owing to the fact that but little timber was to be found here. It was the usual rule with the pioneers that those lands which would furnish material for houses, fences, barns and fuel, would be selected first. An idea prevailed among some that the prairie lands were not as fertile as those which nature had covered with dense growth, and it was not until the thick sod of the prairie was turned, that some appreciation of its fertility was gained. Those who came into a section a little later on, oftentimes obtained the most valuable land, as the prairies fell to their share. Saratoga Township is in the northern portion of the county, lying on its northern boundary adjacent to Kendall County. On the east is Aux Sable Township; on the south is Morris Township and Erieana Township; while on the west is Nettle Creek Township. Aux Sable Creek crosses the township in the eastern part, while Nettle Creek is in the southwestern corner. Saratoga Creek flows through the central portion, and the east fork of Nettle Creek drains the southeastern, and joins the main stream at Morris.

#### FIRST SETTLERS

The first settlement made in Saratoga Township was by Joshua Collins, of Oneida County, N. Y., who arrived here in 1814, and spent the remainder of his life in the township. That same year saw the arrival of Phillip Collins and Alexander Peacock. The latter was an Englishman, who perpetuated his name in Grundy County, by his donation in Morris Township, of a plot of ground between the two portions of Evergreen Cemetery, to be known as St. George Cemetery. According to the terms of his donation, none but those of English birth were to be buried in this cemetery. His original holdings also included the old fair grounds in Morris Township, so that his name is not likely to be forgotten. Another Englishman, H. M. Davidson, came in 1834. In 1842, the records show that John B. More obtained considerable land in the northeastern part of Saratoga Township, although he did not live in Grundy County, but across the line in Kendall County.

#### EARLY TEACHERS

Two years later, in 1844, Carpenter Conklin

took up land on Section 9, and Elias Bartlett, a friend, followed him at no great interval. Although he was then a very young man, he began teaching school, and so prospered and gained in favor with his neighbors that he felt justified in returning to New York State for his bride, a daughter of Mr. Conklin, who had not accompanied her father on his western trek. The tastes of this young couple led them to continue teaching, and in time they conducted the well remembered seminary at Ottawa.

Still another early settler was James Cronin, who came to this region in connection with the canal work, and associated himself to a considerable extent with Mr. Peacock, above mentioned. Daniel Johnson and Gersham Hunt also came prior to 1817.

#### NORWEGIAN SETTLERS

The actual growth of the township did not perceptibly commence, however, until 1847, or 1848, when the Norwegians began flocking to Saratoga. Although they soon outnumbered the others who had located here, they retained the name, Saratoga, given to it by the New Yorkers, in remembrance of their old home, and it has since continued to be known as such.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church, known as the Hauge's Menighed, was organized in 1876, and a church edifice was erected on land owned by H. Osmonson.

Some of the earlier residents of Saratoga Township were: William H. Ayres, Jerry Collins, Cryder Collins, Joshua E. Collins, Henry R. Conklin, M. H. Cryder, K. M. J. Granville, Peleg T. Hunt, Gersham Hunt, James A. Hunt, Frank Hunt, John Johnson, Edmond Johnson, Erik Johnson, Gunner Johnson, Story Matteson, Halver Osmonson, Oliver H. Osmonson, Olie Osmonson, Wier Peterson, Andrew Soren, Mons N. Soren, Walter S. Smith, John Steel, Nathaniel H. Tabler, Seneca Tupper, Alexander Telfer, John Brodennick, and A. F. Watson. There were many others, who also did their part in developing the natural resources of this fertile agricultural region.

The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad runs through a portion of this section, passing on to the city of Morris, the county seat.





M. J. James and Wife.



## FERTILE LAND

Today, anyone traveling through Saratoga Township finds it difficult to believe that this fertile farming district was ever other than it is, for the farmers have so developed the locality that in the well-improved farms, with their comfortable houses, commodious barns, well-kept fences, and multiplicity of agricultural implements, are shown signs of a prosperity that is convincing proof of the substantiality of the property owners. As a rule they are men of superior intelligence, whose exhibits at the annual stock shows prove that they believe in high grade produce, and know how to raise it. This is all but the natural result of well-directed effort, intelligently carried out to a definite end.

The American principles of fair play and love of justice have prevailed here, and no matter how poor a man might be upon arrival, and no matter how little he knew of the customs of his new country, if he were willing to work and live honestly, he was given a chance, so that many of the men who have made Saratoga Township what it is today, started out without a cent. While there are no villages here, the region being strictly agricultural, the people are in touch with the larger centers. They patronize the leading stores at nearby towns, and attend places of worship there. The schools of Saratoga are uniformly good, keeping pace with those in other townships, and many of the pupils graduated from them continue their studies at the Morris High School. Many of the farmers not only own costly machinery for farm work, but automobiles as well, and a number of them belong to secret organizations for the promotion of fraternal relations. Taking Saratoga Township all in all, it would be difficult to find a community that was more prosperous, contented or loyal to township, county, state and nation.

## SUPERVISORS

The men who have served Saratoga faithfully as members of the County Board of Supervisors, have been as follows: Philip Collins, 1850; Colquhoun Grant, 1851-1856; C. G. Conklin, 1857; Philip Collins, 1858-1870; Michael H. Cryder, 1871-1872; Philip Collins, 1873; Hiram Thayer, 1874; Gersham Hunt, 1875-1876; Townsend Gore, 1877-1878; L. L. Gardner,

1879; Townsend Gore, 1880; Fred Ayers, 1881; Jerry Collins, 1882-1891; Charles M. Stephen, 1892-1903; E. G. Cryder, 1904-1914.

## CHAPTER XXXIX

## VIENNA TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGES

SURFACE AND DRAINAGE—SOIL—HARD WORK  
FACED EARLY SETTLERS—FIRST PIONEERS—CAME  
BY WAY OF ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL—A  
LIST OF EARLY SETTLERS—EARLIEST SCHOOLS—  
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS—CORN IS KING—FINE  
SHOWING OF STOCK—LITTLE FRUIT GROWN—  
VILLAGES — VERONA — SUPERVISORS — PRESENT  
TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS.

(By E. O. Fellingham)

## SURFACE AND DRAINAGE

Vienna Township is west of Mazon Township, and the history of the two is closely connected, many of the earliest settlers of both taking up claims in one and then the other. The surface of Vienna Township is level and is drained by Hog and Bill's runs, the Waupecan and Thunder creeks, a portion of Johnnie Run and some other streams to which no definite name is given. The soil is rich, black prairie loam, which before tiling was introduced, was very wet, but now is exceedingly fertile, and owing to the close proximity of markets, the land is very valuable for farming purposes, selling from \$200 to \$250 per acre. Very little of the timber that skirted Hog Run and the Waupecan, is left.

There was no royal road to fortune for those who settled here in the early days. What they accomplished came about through hard work, thrift and a never dying faith in the future of this locality. Those who followed the brave pioneers, found plenty left for them to do, and their children are still kept busy in furthering the advancement of the township, and maintaining the high standards raised by those who were not willing to barter any independence





for worldly gain, and looked toward the moral as well as the material good of the people.

#### FIRST PIONEERS

The first settlers of Vienna Township were Edwin Shaw and Shelton Bartholomew, who came here in 1833. Soon afterwards an English family named Green, took up a claim on Section 4, at Hog Point. The claim of the latter was bought in 1836, by Jonah C. Newport. About 1834 George W. Armstrong settled on Section 5, and built a cabin, which he later replaced with a fine modern residence. About the same time Charles Paver came here, but suffered from a loss by fire. The next to locate here was John Dewey, who arrived in 1841, renting from Jonah Newport. John B. Moor came in 1841, and was one of the first grand jurors in the county, being chosen that same year. He moved away in 1865. In 1845 Henry Hysop came to Vienna Township, and his prairie cabin was the first to be built away from the timber region. The Wilks, W. H. and E. K. Curtis, as well as the Parants and Antis families, came soon afterwards.

#### CAME BY WAY OF THE ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL

Other early settlers of this locality were Justin Rennie, with his wife and six children, who migrated from Greene County, N. Y., coming by the way of the Great Lakes to Chicago, thence to Morris, Grundy County, on one of the first packet boats that were run on the Illinois and Michigan Canal, arriving at Morris, June 7, 1848. Mrs. Rennie died in 1871, but her husband lived until 1901, when he died at the age of ninety-one years, lacking about four months. Four of their children are still living, Ferdinand, George, Isabelle and Douglas, the last named having been a resident of Vienna Township since 1848. George and Jerome Rennie rallied to the call of President Lincoln in 1860 and 1861, to protect our national emblem, the Stars and Stripes. Jerome Rennie survived until 1884, but died from the effects of illness contracted through exposure during the Civil War. The family underwent hardships incident to the early settlers, but in spite of these the goal they were working for was reached. Justin Rennie was the first

supervisor of Vienna under township organization.

Jeremiah Aker and family were early settlers of Vienna Township, coming from New York State in 1850. James and Alexander of the Aker family, survive, the latter owning the homestead, and the former lives on another farm in Vienna Township. James Granby and family came from New York State and settled in Vienna about 1852, and the old home is still in the son's possession. Theodore and George Granby rallied to their country's call in 1861, and the latter was killed by a bullet from the enemy while carrying the starry flag in battle. Patrick Hanley and family came about 1846, then moved away, but later, a return was made and Vienna Township chosen as a permanent home. A son of Patrick, Edward Hanley, still lives here. Other names worthy of mention are: Anthony Mallaney, Michael Cashen, Michael Wright, Peter McCollough, James Rennie, Abraham Hollenbeck, Richard Crnk, Patrick, John, Michael, James and Owen Weis, William Hinchman, William, Dave and Robert Lindsay, Aey Porter, M. Cambridge, William Thomson, James and Robert Glenn, W. A. and George Fellingbaum, O. W. Stroug, Patrick Walsh, Amos Barber, Aaron Harford, Chauncey Harford, John Alison, R. K. Slosson, E. Slosson, T. A. Walsh, William Peterson, C. Crozier, A. Kinley, J. Weldon, T. S. Coleman, Joe Hutchins, C. A. Hill, H. Gorham, J. Greer, M. Esgar, Mat Hagmond, J. Reardon, Allen, Isaac and Lucius Tilden, W. Cooper, J. and G. Stoner, J. Sheardain, E. and P. Donahue, C. Whittemore, G. D. Smith, Martin Finch, A. H. Bruce, R. Sidlett, James Lemark, William Ransley, S. Cockram, George Finch, M. M. Dix, and Charles Knibbs. Nearly all of the above mentioned early settlers have descendants in Vienna Township, the majority of whom are farmers and model husbandmen.

Mrs. Dewey taught the first school, which was a boarding school, held in her own cabin. The first log schoolhouse was built near Hog Run, and the school was taught by A. Warneck.

#### RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

The Methodists were the first to hold religious services in Vienna Township. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1876, and in 1877 a church was built at Verona.



Among the early members were: I. C. Tilden, M. M. Dix and J. Kendall. At present this church has a large membership.

The first regular church organization was that effected by the Baptists in 1850. W. J. Fellingham was a minister who served the little society known by the name of Ebenezer, until 1862, the schoolhouse being used as a meeting place. In that year a neat church edifice was erected, and until death claimed the good pastor, in 1867, the society was in a prosperous condition. Members began to leave, some died, and with the influence of the founder removed, there were not enough members left to keep up the organization, and the church was sold.

The Presbyterians organized on February 27, 1858, under Rev. S. H. Loss, with fourteen members. Like the Baptists they used the schoolhouse, but in 1870, built a nice church edifice which they moved to Verona in 1877. For a number of years following, they kept up their organization, but the building was finally sold to the Roman Catholic Church, which has a large and growing membership.

The Universalists once had an organization at Verona, but abandoned their property, and the building is now owned by the Eastern Star order, and used for a banquet hall.

#### CORN IS KING

Corn, oats and hay are raised extensively, the first named predominating. The farms of Vienna Township are excellent, and the agriculturists know how to operate them, and are justly proud of the fact that they belong to the class that is developing this important division of Grundy County. They are becoming affluent and enjoy much in the way of comfort as well as many luxuries. The majority own automobiles, and their premises are fitted with modern appliances. It is from the corn that the farmers of Vienna Township gain most of their wealth, for it grows more luxuriantly, and to the stockman this grain equals in value that of all other farm crops combined. Oats comes next to corn and on good, improved soil, yields from sixty to ninety bushels per acre. Hay comes third, yielding as heavily as from one to two tons per acre when cultivated. The value of live stock on every farm is something every farmer should realize. It has been shown time and again to the agriculturists that

as the raising of live stock diminishes, the fertility of the soil lessens and the crop output decreases. That this is becoming acknowledged, the present output of stock shows. Some of the farmers specialize on high grade horses such as the heavy draught horses and others handle the White Face cattle. Finch Bros., of Verona, and Finch & Dix, are two firms of Vienna Township whose names are associated with high grade stock.

Until 1854 fruit was cultivated largely, but the fine peach orchards were destroyed that winter and after that the farmers preferred not to risk losing valuable trees.

In 1836 there came into existence upon paper, and in the hearts of the visionary projectors, a city, which bore the name of Illinois City. It was founded and laid out by a Mr. Bullock, but had no actual existence.

#### VERONA

VERONA, the one village of Vienna Township, is situated on the A. T. & S. F. Railroad, and was laid out and platted in February, 1877, by Martin Finch and Ambrose Kinley. It was named by G. D. Smith after his birthplace, Verona, N. Y. At present it has about three hundred population. The following business men and houses are located within its confines: Verona Exchange Bank; Beal & Renne; Dr. J. C. Bucher, physician and surgeon; J. E. Cody, proprietor of the Star Hotel and dealer in meats and groceries; John Gard, dealer in ice cream, ice cold drinks, cigars and tobacco; Hough Bros., dealers in hardware and implements; Charles Leach, barber; McCormick Bros., dry goods, groceries, crockery, glassware, notions, etc.; Overley Bros., meat market; J. C. Peferly, The Motto Grocer; Small and Son, blacksmith and repair shop; John F. Stitt, postmaster, dealer in school books, stationery, periodicals, patent medicines, and toilet articles; C. H. Van Deusen, manufacturer of wagon dump bolsters and elevators; W. S. Walsh, dealer in grain, lumber and coal; and Whittemore Bros., undertakers and dealers in furniture and boots and shoes.

The postoffice at Verona belongs to the fourth class and has two rural mail carriers. The concrete sidewalks have been laid since the village was incorporated, and the more progressive spirits are working to have the streets paved in the same manner. At present the



fire department is a bucket brigade, and the willing members of it have proven their bravery and efficiency upon several occasions when departments with a regular equipment might well have faltered. The Masonic fraternity is represented at Verona, the order owning its own hall. There are also lodges of the orders of the Eastern Star, Modern Woodmen and Royal Neighbors.

#### SUPERVISORS

Those who have served Vienna Township as members of the Board of Supervisors of Grundy County have been as follows: Justin Rennie, 1850; A. McMillan, 1851-1852; Justin Rennie, 1853-1855; R. K. Slosson, 1856-1857; John Weldon, 1858; R. K. Slosson, 1859-1860; John Weldon, 1861; R. K. Slosson, 1862-1865; E. Wormley, 1866-1868; John Weldon, 1869; A. F. Porter, 1870; Michael B. Waley, 1871-1876; R. K. Slosson, 1877-1878; Joseph Wilson, 1879; Henry Hyslop, 1880; Thos. S. Colman, 1881; Henry Hyslop, 1882; T. B. Granby, 1883; D. S. Rennie, 1884-1887; A. Hollenbeck, 1888-1889; D. S. Rennie, 1890-1893; James Mulvanie, 1894-1895; F. E. Curtis, 1896-1897; M. G. Haymond, 1898-1899; T. B. Granby, 1900-1905; E. O. Fellingham, 1906-1913; Dennis Welsh, 1914.

#### TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS, 1912-1913

Supervisor, E. O. Fellingham.  
Town Clerk, H. H. McCormick.  
Assessor, F. S. Ransley.  
Collector, G. S. Beal.  
Highway Commissioners, Reuben Hollenbeck, James Mulvanie, C. A. Finch.  
Justice of the Peace, C. H. Van Deusen.  
Constable, S. O. Whittemore.  
School Trustees, J. P. Harford, S. G. Marlett, Fred Troxel.  
School Treasurer, D. S. Beal.

### CHAPTER XL

#### WAUPONSEE TOWNSHIP

LOCATION AND NAME—RICH SOIL—NATURAL TIMBER GROWTH—CORN THE STAPLE CROP—FIRST

SETTLER—OTHER SETTLERS—FIRST MILL AND STORE—PRAIRIE FIRES & MENACE—FIRST DEATH—RELIGIOUS EFFORTS—SCHOOLS—SUPERVISORS FROM 1850 TO 1913.

(By W. A. Ridings)

#### LOCATION AND NAME

Wauponsee Township is located almost in the center of Grundy County along the southern bank of the Illinois River. It embraces much of Township 33, Range 7, as lies south of the Illinois River, with all that part of Township 33, Range 8, lying west of the Mazon River. It was named in honor of a Pottawatomie war chief, "Wauponsie," which means "a little light in the sky." This old chief's home and principal corn land was at a little grove called Wauponsee Grove. He lived there till October, 1835, when he went West with his tribe and was killed by his runaway horse throwing him against a tree in Kansas, in 1838.

Wauponsee Township is broken in the northwestern part, but otherwise is a rolling prairie, sloping gradually towards the northwest. The Mazon River and Wauponsee Creek afford a good natural drainage, although in the bottom lands, where the soil is a rich alluvial, there is often an overflow during the spring floods. Higher, the soil is loamy, owing to the sand deposits, and the highest land is a clay suitable for grass and corn. The natural timber is oak, black and white, walnut, blue ash, hackberry and maple.

The principal wild game in early days were hogs, some deer, squirrels, woodchucks and prairie chickens, and wolves were in the timber tracts.

Small fruits and vegetables are grown in great abundance, as the soil is well adapted for such products. The soil is so fertile that almost any kind of farming can be carried on with profit, but corn is the staple crop. Many of the agriculturists successfully devote themselves to stock raising and dairying.

#### FIRST SETTLER

The first settler in what is now Wauponsee Township was William Marquis, who came here as early as 1828, from the country in the neighborhood of the Wabash River, making the trip





*Portrait of Anton Kauzlaric*

*Anton Kauzlaric,*

*Portrait of Anton Kauzlaric*





by wagon. Settling on a portion of Section 2, he built a cabin, but only cultivated enough land to feed his family, apparently devoting the greater part of his attention to trading. However, owing to a suspected tendency to take advantage of others, he was not popular, and in time dwelt isolated. In 1835 he sold his land to A. Holderman, and went to Aux Sable Township, buying land and living there until 1850, when he went to Texas.

#### OTHER SETTLERS

The next settler was Colonel Sayers, who came here in 1833, settling on a portion of Section 14. He did not live here, however, but sold his claim to W. A. Holloway, and the latter sold, in 1835, to S. Crook, a merchant of New York. Mr. Crook had hoped to establish himself as a merchant, bringing along a small stock of goods, but never opened a store, although he did some trading during the year he lived in the township. In 1836, he left, and became a merchant at Ottawa. Jacob Claypool located on Section 20, and went back to Ohio for his family, bringing them here in the fall of 1835. With the Claypools came James Robb and his family; William Brown and family, and John Snowhill and William Eubanks. In 1835, Richard Griggs built a cabin on his claim on Section 23. Perry A. Claypool married and put up a cabin in 1835, on Section 28.

#### FIRST SAW MILL AND STORE

George W. Armstrong located here in 1836, on Section 18, and soon thereafter built a saw mill on Waupacan Creek. He also opened a general store, the first in the township, and perhaps in the county, but he did not remain long in this locality, moving to another county several years later. The mill passed through several hands, and was finally destroyed, there remaining not the slightest trace to show where it stood. Ezekiel Warren came from La Salle County, in 1839, and bought the Armstrong cabin, but within a couple of years, moved on Section 17.

James Thompson, an Irishman, came here about 1841. In the same year, James Berry, a fellow countryman, also arrived, both being led to this section because of the building of the canal. That enterprise attracted many

young men to this part of Illinois and a large number married and established permanent homes, developing into valuable and substantial citizens. The pioneers of Wauponcee Township had to depend upon Ottawa for their mail, while the only grist-mill for many years was that owned by a Mr. Green, at Dayton.

One of the dangers with which the pioneers of this locality had to cope was prairie fires. Many of the more thrifty protected their cabins and stock by plowing a furrow wide enough to check the flames should the dry grass catch on fire, but many neglected this, and saw their little homes swept away while they stood by helpless.

The first death in the township was that of the twelve-year-old son of William Marquis, in the winter of 1834-5.

Wauponcee Township has always been a much traveled section, although no towns or cities have sprung up in its midst, owing largely to the lack of railroad facilities, and the proximity of the county seat. The old hotel on the Mazon River, was a tavern noted for its entertainment in olden days, although not much frequented now.

#### RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

While traveling preachers held services from 1831 on, as they happened to pass through the township, the first regular church was established in 1837 or 1838, at Wauponcee Grove, by the Reverend Mr. Rogers of the South Ottawa Circuit. Rev. Harvey Hadley officiated in 1839, and Rev. John F. Devore held a great revival in 1842 or 1843. Wauponcee Township was the scene of considerable work on the part of the Mormons, who held regular services until 1844. The Methodists built a little church in 1872-3, but it was later abandoned. There have been other religious movements. The Union Sunday School, at the Thumb Schoolhouse, was organized in 1896 and continues to the present, with preaching every Sunday all the year.

#### SCHOOLS

The first school was opened in 1843 by Amanda Pickering on Section 20, and had the distinction of being one of the first in the county. The Slatterly Schoolhouse on Section 15, was built about 1848, and was also used as a



town hall and church, but was later torn down to give place for a more modern structure.

The present schoolhouses are five in number: The Gay and Conely, in the west part; the Stine School in the north part; the Thumb School in the southeastern part, and the Hume School in the southwestern part of the township, all of them being standard schools.

The men who have represented Waupunsee Township on the County Board of Supervisors from 1850 to 1912 have been as follows: Jacob Claypool, 1850-1851; L. W. Claypool,

1852-1859; John Hannah, 1860; Wm. T. Hopkins, 1861; Joseph Wicks, 1862; L. W. Claypool, 1863-1864; Joseph Opdyke, 1865; J. R. Opdyke, 1866-1867; L. H. Raymond, 1868; Benjamin Sample, 1869-1870; J. H. Pattison, 1871-1873; L. W. Claypool, 1874; James Stine, 1875-1878; John Claypool, 1878-1879; H. C. Claypool, 1880-1881; John Claypool, 1882-1885; J. H. Pattison, 1886-1890; Amos Dingmon, 1891-1892; James Stine, 1893-1898; E. G. Carsley, 1899-1902; H. H. Severns, 1903-1908; Charles Moon, 1909-1912; Chas. Elyea, 1913.



# BIOGRAPHICAL

## CHAPTER XLI

THE PART OF BIOGRAPHY IN GENERAL HISTORY—  
CITIZENS OF GRUNDY COUNTY AND OUTLINES OF  
PERSONAL HISTORY—PERSONAL SKETCHES AR-  
RANGED IN ENCYCLOPÆDIC ORDER.

The verdict of mankind has awarded to the Muse of History the highest place among the Classic Nine. The extent of her office, however, appears to be, by many minds, but imperfectly understood. The task of the historian is comprehensive and exacting. True history reaches beyond the doings of court or camp, beyond the issue of battles or the effects of treaties, and records the trials and the triumphs, the failures and the successes of the men who make history. It is but an imperfect conception of the philosophy of events that fails to accord to portraiture and biography its rightful position as a part—and no unimportant part—of historic narrative. Behind and beneath the activities of outward life the motive power lies out of sight, just as the furnace fires that work the piston and keep the ponderous screw revolving down in the darkness of the hold. So, the impulsive power which shapes the course of communities may be found in the moulding influences which form its citizens.

It is no mere idle curiosity that prompts men to wish to learn the private, as well as the public, lives of their fellows. Rather is it true that such desire tends to prove universal brotherhood; and the interest in personality and biography is not confined to men of any particular caste or vocation.

The list of those, to whose lot it falls to play a conspicuous part in the great drama of life, is comparatively short; yet communities are made up of individuals, and the aggregate of achievements—no less than the sum total of human happiness—is made up of the deeds of those men and women whose primary aim, through life, is faithfully to perform the duty that comes nearest to hand. Individual influences upon human affairs will be considered potent or insignificant, according to the standpoint from which it is viewed. To him who, standing upon the seashore, notes the ebb and flow of the tides and listens to the sullen roar of the waves, as they break upon the beach in seething foam, seemingly chafing at their limitations, the ocean appears so vast as to need no tributaries. Yet, without the smallest rill that helps to swell the

"Father of Waters," the mighty torrent of the Mississippi would be lessened, and the beneficent influence of the Gulf Stream diminished. Countless streams, currents and counter currents—sometimes mingling, sometimes counteracting each other—collectively combine to give motion to the accumulated mass of waters. So is it—and so must it ever be—in the ocean of human action, which is formed by the blending and repulsion of currents of thought, of influence and of life, yet more numerous and more tortuous than those which form the "fountains of the deep." The acts and characters of men, like the several faces that compose a composite picture, are wrought together into a compact or heterogeneous whole. History is condensed biography; "Biography is History teaching by example."

It is both interesting and instructive to rise above the generalization of history and trace, in the personality and careers of the men from whom it sprang, the principles and influences, the impulses and ambitions, the labors, struggles and triumphs that engross their lives.

Here are recorded the careers and achievements of pioneers who, "when the fullness of time had come," came from widely separated sources, some from beyond the sea, impelled by divers motives, little conscious of the import of their acts, and but dimly anticipating the harvest which would spring from the sowing. They built their primitive homes, toiling for a present subsistence while laying the foundations of private fortunes and future advancement.

Most of these have passed away, but not before they beheld a development of business and population surpassing the wildest dreams of fancy or expectation. A few yet remain whose years have passed the allotted three-score and ten, and who love to recount, among the cherished memories of their lives, their reminiscences of early days.

(The following items of personal and family history, having been arranged in encyclopædic (or alphabetical) order as to names of the individual subjects, no special index to this part of the work will be found necessary.)

**AARRESTAD, Rev. Torleif.**—To those who come to this land from Norway, it is a gratifying fact that it is possible for them to listen to religious teachings in their own tongue. However strange the new home may be, if on Sunday they can gather in a church and be ministered to by one of their faith and nationality, they are content with their lot in life. One of



the men whose life has been spent in providing religious instruction for those of his own people is the Rev. Torleif Aarrestad of Morris. He was born at Thime, Jæderen, Norway, April 12, 1860, a son of Torger and Serina (Undem) Aarrestad. From the time he was seven years old, until he was fourteen, Mr. Aarrestad attended the public schools of his country district. In October, 1874, he was confirmed in the Lutheran faith, and in 1877 entered the high school at Sandnes, where he spent the winter of 1877-8. In August of the latter year he was admitted to the teachers' seminary at Christiansund, and was graduated therefrom in July, 1880. From January, 1881, until July, 1884, he taught school at Elde and then came to America, where he entered Augsburg Seminary at Minneapolis, Minn., and was graduated therefrom in May, 1888. Following this, he took a theological course, and passed his final examination, receiving his degree in May, 1891. In June of that year he was ordained a minister during the convention of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America at Kenyon, Minn. In July of that same year he went to Chicago, where he spent two years, and then came to Morris. He serves two congregations, Bethlehem and Hange's. Since coming to Morris, Mr. Aarrestad attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Lake View for two years. For the last two years he has also served the church at Seneca and Marseilles, the former being known as the Emmanuel Church, and the latter, as the Emanuel Church. Mr. Aarrestad is recognized as one of the leading men of his denomination, and has been president of the Chicago Circuit since 1906, and president of the Board of Trustees of the Pleasant View Luther College of Ottawa since 1906. From 1900 to 1906 he served this body as secretary. He has also held the offices of visitor and president of the Chicago Circuit of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church since 1906.

On June 24, 1896, Mr. Aarrestad was married at Morris to Barbara Olsen, born in Norway. Their children are: Thorvald, Olga and Karl Johan, living, and Vilhelm, born in 1903, who died in 1905. A scholarly man, Mr. Aarrestad combines with his learning, executive ability that has enabled him to build up his churches, and put them in a prosperous condition. His people love him, and his influence for good is very powerful in Grundy County.

**AKER, James.**—That prosperity has come to many of the Grundy County agriculturalists is not due to luck but to a fortunate selection of location and persistent and intelligent working of the land. One of the retired farmers of this locality who developed his property into a very valuable place is James Aker of Vienna Township. He was born in Schoharie County, N. Y., February 9, 1841, a son of Jeremiah and Julia Ann (Granby) Aker, natives of Cairo, Greene County, N. Y., where they were married, but later went to Schoharie County that same state. In 1850 these parents came to

Morris, Ill., later settling on a farm of eighty acres in Vienna Township, which the father developed from raw prairie into valuable land. His death occurred January 31, 1860, but the mother survived him until December 25, 1900.

James Aker attended the schools of Vienna Township, and lived with his mother until his marriage, following which he located on his present farm. This was partly improved, but he made many changes, including the erection of a comfortable residence and other modern buildings. On July 6, 1882, Mr. Aker was married by the Rev. W. A. Cumming, of Zion Methodist Church, to Cora A. Passage, born in Columbia County, Wis., April 30, 1865, a daughter of Joseph L. and Sarah L. (Seward) Passage. Mr. and Mrs. Aker have children as follows: Julia Alice, who is Mrs. Clarence E. Dewey, of Fort Morgan, Colo.; George B., who is Mrs. C. R. Winsor, of Norman Township, who has two children, Gordon A. and Alice H.; Mabel H., who is Mrs. O. T. Winsor of Norman Township, has one daughter, Dorothy; Edna May, who is the wife of Will J. Trotter of Coal City; Alta H., who is a trained nurse, of Morris, Ill.; Ruby E., who is at home, and Pearl E., who died in infancy. Mr. Aker belongs to the Zion Methodist Church of Norman Township, of which he has been a trustee since 1901. He has held several public offices, having been road overseer and school director for a quarter of a century, and town clerk for two terms. Logan Camp No. 1212, M. W. A., of Seneca, Ill., holds his fraternal membership, and he is popular with his fellow lodge members as he is with all with whom he is brought in contact. On October 23, 1913, Mr. Aker moved to Mazon, Ill., where he is living retired.

**ALLAN, William Robert, Sr.**, one of the substantial men of Grundy County who is now residing at Morris, but still looking after his agricultural interests in various localities, was born in New Battle Parish, Edinburg, Scotland, June 16, 1848, a son of David and Elizabeth (Telford) Allan. These parents came to Morris, from Scotland, in 1880, and here both died.

William Robert Allan received but a limited educational training for he began working in a brickyard at seven years of age, and in the coal mines of his native land when only eight years old. In 1870 he came to the United States, and to Morris, and worked in the coal mines until 1873, when he, with Noble Robinson, went into a liquor business in this same city, continuing in it until 1886, when he sold to his partner. In the meanwhile the partners built a fine brick block, in 1877, and became prosperous. In 1886 Mr. Allan began farming in Iroquois County, Ill., but sold his farm in 1888, and conducted a restaurant at Ottawa, Ill. for eighteen months. Once more he disposed of his interests at a good figure, and bought the Carson House, at Morris, from his father-in-law, who proposed retiring. Until 1903 Mr. Allan conducted this popular hostelry with credit







Pica M Krug-



Christie S. Krug



to himself and his city, but then sold it to confine his attention to his farming interests in Saratoga Township and in Emmet County, Iowa, having these properties rented to tenants.

On September 2, 1875, Mr. Allan was married to Janet Banks Patrick, born at Frostburg, Maryland, a daughter of Andrew and Jean (Sharp) Patrick, born in Scotland. Mr. Patrick died in 1862, and later his widow married Thomas Carson, a hotel man of Morris, and she died September 4, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Allan had the following children: Thomas Andrew Noble, of Joliet, Ill., married Minnie Emerson, and they have two sons, William E. and Kenneth T.; David Alexander, of Independence, Iowa, married Helen Hupper, and they have two children, Verne C. and Russell H.; William Raymond, a grocer of Morris, married Anna R. Hall, and they have two sons, Francis H. and Thomas C.; Lillian Jane, now Mrs. William DeLaune Sapp of Richmond, Va., has one son, William DeLaune; and Roy Carson, of Morris, Ill., who married Clara M. Kertz.

Mr. Allan attends the Presbyterian Church of Morris. He was elected supervisor from Morris Township in 1908 and has served continuously for four years. He belongs to the Blue Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery in the Masonic fraternity, is also a thirty-second degree Mason, and belongs to the Mystic Shrine. He is also a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 75, of Morris. He has many personal friends in these organizations, all recognizing his sterling qualities. He is stockholder in the Grundy County Bank.

**ALLISON, Charles David, M. D.**—There is no doubt but that the medical profession is keeping pace with the wonderful twentieth century advancement, for there has been more progress in it during the past half a century than in all the ages of the world's history prior to this period. The modern physician and surgeon is a skilled man of science, who not only ministers to the diseased, but labors to prevent sickness and aids in bringing about sanitary conditions. One of the leading members of the medical fraternity of Grundy County is Dr. Charles David Allison of South Wilmington, who has been in this community since 1900. He was born at St. Paul, Ind., August 10, 1871, a son of Frank and Mary (Garrett) Allison, both natives of the same place as their son. The father, who spent his active life as a farmer, is now living retired at St. Paul, Ind., but the mother died in December, 1908.

Dr. Allison grew up in Decatur County, upon his father's farm, and went to the district schools of his neighborhood. For five years following the completion of his courses there, he taught school in Decatur County, thereby earning sufficient money to justify his entering a medical college at Indianapolis, Ind., from whence he was graduated in 1896. Following that event he located at Clark City, Ill., where he remained until 1900, at which time he came to South Wil-

mington, where he has built up a large and flourishing practice, and received municipal recognition in being appointed health official of the place, which office he still holds.

In 1900 Dr. Allison was married to Mina Apple, who was also born in Decatur County, Ind., December 9, 1874. Six children have been born of this union, namely: twins, who died in infancy; Nina; Mary; Charles and Caroline, all of whom are at home. Dr. Allison is a member of the Methodist Church. Fraternally he is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias. In politics he is a Democrat, and takes great interest in the success of his party. A man of learning, public-spirited and enterprising, Dr. Allison is a strong factor in the life of the community where he has spent the past fourteen years.

**ANDERSON, Andrew J.**—It is remarkable how readily Grundy County land responds to care bestowed upon it, and as nearly all of the agriculturalists here are men of progressive ideas who are eager to improve their property according to the latest scientific methods, there are few farms within the confines of the county which do not come up to standard. One of these prosperous, modern farmers is Andrew J. Anderson of Garfield Township. He was born in Denmark in 1853, a son of Jens and Anna (Hanson) Anderson. Jens Anderson was a laborer who died in 1887 in his native land of Denmark.

Andrew J. Anderson attended the public schools of his native place, and until he left it he was a laborer. In 1873 he came to the United States and first located in the vicinity of Dwight, Ill., where he obtained employment on a farm. In 1902 he came to Grundy County, buying 152 acres in Garfield Township, and ever since has been improving the property, until he now has one of the best farms in this locality. On it he carries on general farming, and his crops indicate that he thoroughly understands his business and knows how to make it pay him well for his labor.

In 1884 Andrew J. Anderson married Carrie M. Hansen, also a native of Denmark, who in young womanhood came alone to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of the following children: one who died in infancy; John, who died at the age of fourteen years; one who died at the age of two years; Hans, who is at home; Carl, and Anna. Mr. Anderson is a Lutheran in religious faith, and in his political views is a Republican. Hardworking and thrifty, he has steadily forged ahead and is now deservedly numbered among the leading farmers of his township.

**ANDERSON, Axel,** junior member of the firm of brothers operating under the name of The Anderson Lumber Company, has been an important factor in the business of Coal City for some years. He was born at Braceville, Ill., February 5, 1879, a son of Frederick and Johanna Anderson, who came from their native land of Sweden, to Braceville, Ill., in 1866. The



father was a mine contractor, and met his death March 7, 1887 in an accident which occurred in the mines. His widow survives him and lives at Garden City, Kan. Axel Anderson was the youngest of their three children, the others being: Charles G., his partner, and an elder brother, John.

After attending school in Braceville Township, Axel Anderson was engaged in a house moving business, until he joined his brother, Charles G., in their present undertaking, which is succeeding admirably, both men bringing to it valuable experience and sound knowledge. On June 30, 1904, Mr. Anderson married Jessie Trotter, who was born October 25, 1879, of Coal City, and they have two children: Audrey and Ramona. Mr. Anderson is a Methodist. Like his brother he is faithful in his support of the fraternal organization, the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Anderson is a member of the Eastern Star. A Republican, he is now serving as fire marshal of Coal City. Mr. Anderson owns a ranch of 320 acres in Finney County, Kans.

**ANDERSON, Charles G.**, member of the firm known as the Anderson Lumber Company of Coal City, is rightly numbered among the most aggressive business men of Grundy County. He was born at Braceville, Ill., January 26, 1872, a son of Frederick and Johanna Anderson, natives of Sweden who came to Braceville, Ill. in 1866. There the father became a successful mining contractor, thus continuing until he was accidentally killed in the mines, March 7, 1887. His widow survives, making her home in Kansas. They had three children: John, Charles G. and Axel.

Charles Gordon Anderson attended the schools of Braceville, and worked as a driver in the mines at that point. Later he was placed in control of a butchering business at Central City, Ill. He then became a general contractor being engaged along these lines until he founded his present business in partnership with his brother, Axel, the firm being dealers in lumber and builders' supplies, and doing an extensive business all over the county.

On October 22, 1902, Charles G. Anderson married Sarah Willis, born October 21, 1872, in England, and they have had four children: Fred, born August 31, 1903; Sarah, born August 14, 1901, died May 27, 1907; Gordon, born October 16, 1906; and Charlie, born April 26, 1910. The Methodist Church holds his membership. Fraternally he is a Mason and belongs also to the Modern Woodmen of America, and his wife is a member of the Fraternal Reserves and the Eastern Star. Mr. Anderson is a staunch Democrat. He has been tax collector of Braceville Township for two years, and supervisor of the same township for one term. An energetic man, he gives to the administration of public offices the same conscientious care that he does to his private affairs, and consequently has rendered very valuable service to his township.

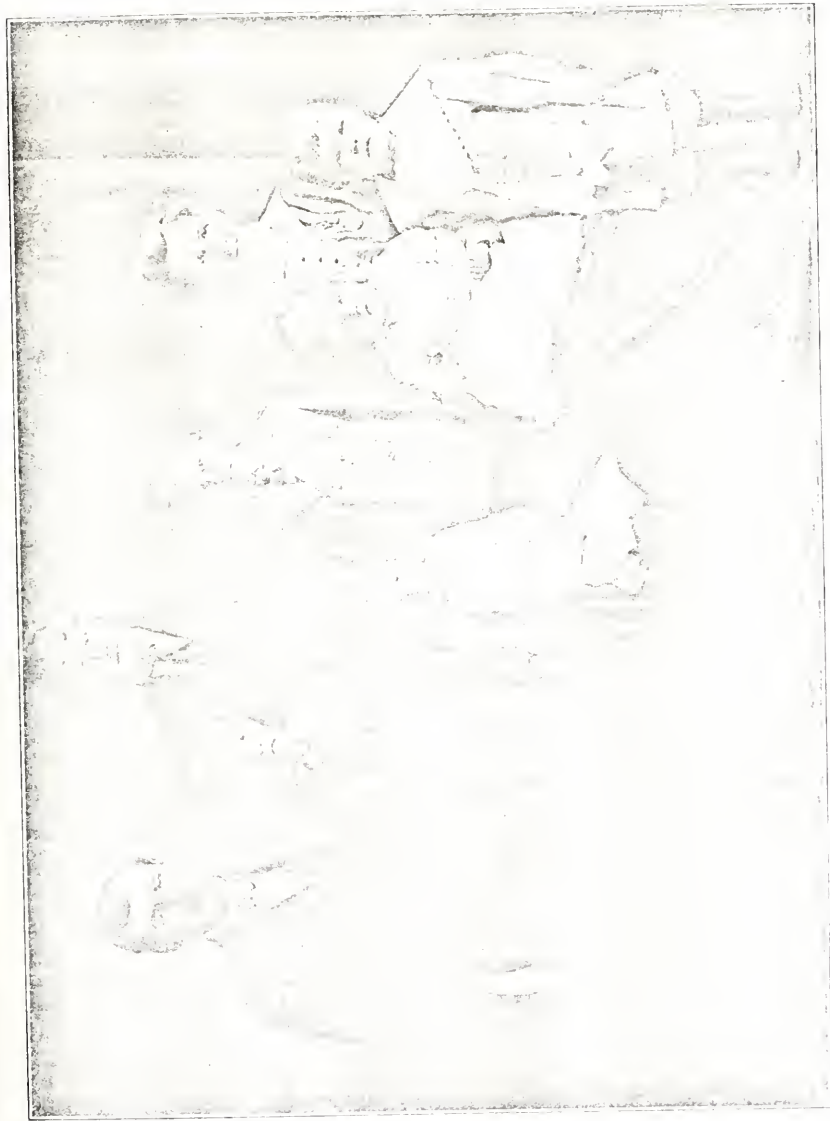
**ANDERSON, Christ**, Supervisor of Garfield Township, has held his present responsible position for the past decade, during which period he has exerted himself to bring about a general betterment of existing conditions without entailing too heavy an advance in taxes. His home is in Gardner, and he is highly respected in that city as he is throughout Grundy County. Mr. Anderson was born in Denmark in 1853, a son of Andrew and Mary (Christianson) Anderson, both of whom died in Denmark. The father was a bricklayer and cooper.

In 1883 Christ Anderson came to the United States, and first located in Wisconsin, where a number of his countrymen were to be found, but later traveled about to find a place better suited to his requirements. In 1885 he located at Gardner, which has continued to be his home. Coming here as he did with little money and with but a slight knowledge of the English language, although he had been well schooled in his native land, Mr. Anderson's progress has been remarkable. He had learned the shoemaker's trade, had served eighteen months in the army, and had been a grocer prior to locating at Gardner, so that he had had considerable experience along several lines, which no doubt, was of assistance to him in his new venture. With only \$100 with which to stock his store, Mr. Anderson began his business career at Gardner as a shoe merchant, and as he could, added other lines and in 1901, when he sold, he had a large and flourishing general store. In 1900 he built the first electric light plant in Gardner, which he sold to the Public Service Company of Chicago, in 1910, and then retired, although he still owns considerable property at Gardner and a valuable 200-acre farm in Monroe County, Mo.

In 1884 Mr. Anderson married Mary Larson, also a native of Denmark, and they had five children: Adolph, who is deceased, and Louis, Mary, Adolph (II) and James. Mrs. Anderson died in 1912, having been a true and faithful wife, and is buried in the cemetery at Braceville, Ill. A Republican, Mr. Anderson has not only been elected on his party's ticket to the office of supervisor for ten years, but for three years has been on the school board, was constable for four years, and on the town board for two years. A Mason, he belongs to Gardner Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and has been one of its officials for three years. A man who has never spared himself in working ahead, keen to embrace every opportunity, and able to plan good business combinations, he stands as one of the foremost men of his locality and enjoys the full confidence of his associates. The Presbyterian Church has in him a consistent and generous member.

**ANDERSON, Jensen.**—The progressive agriculturalist of today is recognizing the profits to be realized from intelligent specialization along some particular line, and as there is such heavy demand for first class poultry, a number of the Grundy County farmers are devoting consider-





Wilhelm C. Krug and Family.





able attention to producing chickens and eggs for the market, and one who has attained more than ordinary success as a poultryman is Jensen Anderson, manager of the Evergreen Farm of Greenfield Township. He is operating eight acres of land, and specializing with Barred Plymouth Rock chickens.

Mr. Anderson was born in Good Farm Township in 1858, a son of Andrew and Anna (Brandt) Anderson, both natives of Denmark. In 1874 the father came to the United States, and worked for a time as a laborer in different sections of Grundy County. In 1889 he bought the farm his son is now operating, and spent the remainder of his life upon it, dying in 1904. His widow survives, making her home upon this same farm. There were five children in the Anderson family: Mira; Martin, who is deceased; Anna Sorsen; Jensen; and Andrew.

Growing up in the rural regions of Grundy County, Jensen Anderson had the advantages offered by the district schools, and those by his home, for he never left it. Having good parents, he was brought up properly, taught to work and respect the laws, and has developed into a very desirable citizen. Believing in modern methods, Mr. Anderson does his marketing by automobile, and has introduced other improvements in his farm work. While he is a Republican, he reserves the right to act liberally when he believes the occasion demands a departure from party lines. Possessed of more than ordinary intelligence, with a broad outlook upon life and a clear comprehension of public issues, Mr. Anderson is very popular among his neighbors, and a leader in his township. The Lutheran Church holds his membership and profits from his generosity.

**ANDERSON, Martin.**—The farmer of today faces many problems. While the price paid for farm products has increased, the cost of labor has risen, and the difficulty of marketing multiplied. The agriculturist is not now content to trust to luck in his operations, for they cost too much, and upon them depend not only his own welfare, but the prosperity of the country, for as are the crops, so is national advancement. One of the men who have spent the better portion of their lives in making Grundy County one of the leading agricultural sections of the State is Martin Anderson, owner of eighty acres of rich farming land in Maine Township. On it he carries on general farming with well merited success. Mr. Anderson is a native of Denmark, born in that country in 1857, a son of Simon and Johanna M. (Grader) Anderson. The father spent his life in Denmark, dying after a useful life as farmer and butcher, in 1907. The mother survives him, making her home in her native place. There were fifteen children born these parents, and eight of them survive.

Mr. Anderson attended school in Denmark when he had an opportunity. In the summer months, as soon as he was old enough, he herded cattle. In 1881 he came to the United

States, locating first at Racine, Wis., where he worked as a laborer. In 1887 he returned to Denmark, married, and coming back went to Gardner, Ill., where he worked as a farm hand until 1899, when he bought his present property.

In 1887 Mr. Anderson married Mary Peterson, and they have become the parents of six children: Emma Hohn, Clara Sorensen, Anna, Julia, Martha and Bertha, the latter being deceased. His religious affiliations are with the Danish Lutheran Church. Politically he is a Republican, having served as School Director three years and Justice of the Peace four years. A hard-working man, he is proud of his county and township, and can be depended upon to do all he can to advance their interests.

**ANTIS, John, M. D. (deceased),** one of the pioneer physicians of Grundy County, was born in Montgomery County, N. Y., March 17, 1817, and came to Morris in 1815, continuing in practice for many years. He also became interested in farm lands in Mazon Township, and after the close of the Civil War moved upon his farm. He was one of the courageous men who traveled across the plains to California in 1849, and for two years mined for gold at Trinity. Politically he was a Democrat. While residing at Morris, he served the city upon two occasions as Mayor, and was a man of great probity and uprightness. Dr. Antis married Nancy A. Sweet, and they had two children: Eudora A. and Mary.

**ARMSTRONG, Perry A. (deceased).**—No history of Grundy County would be complete without a sketch of Perry A. Armstrong, statesman, lawyer, author, historian and dependable citizen, who loved his county and never ceased in his efforts to advance its interests, or those of Morris. He was born on the family homestead, in McCain Township, Licking County, Ohio, April 4, 1823, a son of Joseph and Elsie Armstrong, who came to Illinois in 1831, locating first at Sand Prairie, near Lacon. They were driven out by the troubles of the Black Hawk War to the fort in Putnam County, Ill., but returned to their home when hostilities were over. Perry A. Armstrong began his business career in 1836, but later resumed his studies, and in 1842 arrived at Morris, on foot, his object being to assume the duties of book-keeper for William Armstrong and to study law. Still later he returned to the farm, but in October, 1844, came back to Morris, which place continued to be his home the remainder of his life. Here he opened a store, and in 1846 built a structure designed for mercantile purposes, and in it carried a stock of goods and kept the post office, he being appointed postmaster by President Polk. When the Mexican War was declared, Mr. Armstrong raised a company, of which he was made captain, but its services were not needed, peace having been declared. He held many offices, among them being justice of the peace and supervisor, and as one of the State Auditor's staff in 1852, he selected the



lands of the Illinois Central Railroad; with others drew the charter of that road, and also that of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad; and as assistant engineer ran the transit road from Joliet to Ottawa, and also the level from Tiskilwa to Geneseo. Following this he was engaged in surveying for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Mr. Armstrong then was general manager for Judge Hopkins until he was appointed to survey and select the swamp lands of Grundy County according to Act of Congress of September 28, 1850, but made no money at the work. Having completed the survey, Mr. Armstrong procured the passage through the Legislature of an act he prepared authorizing the sale of the swamp lands, and sold them in 1865 for \$23,724.92. Mr. Armstrong also served as County Clerk of Grundy County, and in 1861 was elected a member of the State Constitutional Convention. The following year he was elected to the Legislature, and in 1872 was re-elected to the same office, during that session serving on the Judiciary, Railroad and Judicial Department committees. In the meanwhile, in 1865, he had been admitted to the bar, and had become the author of some important laws, including the jury law, county court law and escheat law, and had materially revised the criminal code and road and bridge laws. In 1868 he formed a five-year partnership with Judge B. Olin, and in 1876 was appointed Master-in-Chancery. In 1877 he was made a trustee of the Illinois Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, and at the same time was a school director, remaining on the board for seven years. While on the board he served it as clerk, and assisted in negotiating the school bonds. Mr. Armstrong was a man of varied tastes and talents, and did much to develop the geology of Grundy County, and was a recognized authority on the history of his part of the State. Twice married, his first wife was Mary J. Borbridge of Pittsburg, Pa., whom he married December 22, 1846. She died in 1862 leaving three sons: Charles D., Elwood and William D. In 1863 he married Malina J. Eldredge of Plano, Ill., and they had two sons, Frank and Perry.

**ARMSTRONG, William Elder**, third son of Joseph and Elsie (Strawn) Armstrong, was born in Licking County, Ohio, October 25, 1814, and died while visiting his mother at Deer Park, La Salle County, Ill., November 2, 1850. In 1831 he came to Illinois, and to Grundy County in 1837, being attracted here by the letting of contracts for the erection of the canal, securing contracts for two sections near the present site of Morris, as well as others outside Grundy County. Mr., or as he was familiarly known, Captain, Armstrong served Grundy County as its first Sheriff, and also collected the taxes of the county. When the county was created, Captain Armstrong was made one of the commissioners to select the county seat, and while this question was being settled, court was held in his cabin. Captain Armstrong

also owned and operated a ferry across the river. He erected at his own expense a wooden building to serve as a court house, and a hotel which he named the Grundy Hotel. In it he entertained such men as Lincoln, Douglas, Ford, Reynolds, Wentworth and Judges Young, Smith, Henderson, Caton and David Davis. In spite of all he did for Morris and Grundy County, he lost all that he had on account of the depreciation in value of canal script, which he was compelled to take in payment for the work he did on the canal. He had paid his men in real money for their work, and the State not meeting its obligation to him, as it had no funds for that purpose, he died a poor man. On February 6, 1836, he married Miss Sarah Ann Strawn, and they had two daughters, namely: Lemina E., and Emma D.

**ASHTON, Jacob (deceased)**, was for many years a resident of Grundy County, and was born in Delaware County, Pa., in 1829, but he came to Grundy County in 1851, and for three years thereafter carried on farming in Nettle Creek Township. He then went to Waupese Township and there rounded out his life, dying February 27, 1897. He married Rachel Hager, and they had three children, namely: William Ashton, John A. Ashton, and Sarah Levina, the latter being deceased.

**ASHTON, James, Jr.**—Grundy County is largely agricultural, but its prosperous towns, its many manufactories, its schools and its churches prove that a vigorous life underlies every activity, although here, as in every section of the earth, dependence is naturally placed on the products of the land and the labor of those who develop it. It makes no difference in what way men toil, or how much they achieve in any direction, they must all be fed, and it is the farmer, in the background, who furnishes the food products. In Grundy County there are found numerous contented owners of land, who intelligently and willingly carry on the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, and although they may not seek such a term of approbation, are, nevertheless, benefactors of mankind. They are usually men of strong intellect and sturdy body, qualified for public service, for the proper cultivation of the soil and a realization of its utmost yield, require knowledge on many subjects. One of the younger generation of agriculturists in Grundy County, who is meeting with success as a grain grower is James Ashton, Jr., of Saratoga Township. He was born at Morris, Ill., May 10, 1879, and is a son of James and Harriett (McKenzie) Ashton.

Mr. Ashton received ordinary educational advantages in the schools of Grundy County, and was brought up a farmer, residing with his parents until 1899, when he embarked upon a career of his own on his father's farm. He and his wife specialize on raising White Leghorn chickens, having more than 800 all the time. He boarded at the home of his brother until his marriage, March 5, 1907, to Miss



Luella Hoyt, who was born at Morris, Ill., October 12, 1886, a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Sargent) Hoyt. To this union there have been born two sons, namely: Raymond Irving, on March 8, 1908, and Dorothy M., on May 21, 1913. Mr. Ashton is known as a skilled farmer and a steady, reliable citizen. He has at all times shown a commendable willingness to aid in the advancement of his county, and through honorable dealing has gained a reputation for integrity. He votes with the Republican party and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**ASHTON, James.**—Grundy County land has proven an excellent investment of both time and money, and those foresighted enough to secure farms before the price increased to its present quotations, have been able to acquire a desirable competency. One of the successful agriculturists of Grundy County, now living retired at Morris, is James Ashton. He was born in Delaware County, Pa., in September, 1831, a son of John and Elizabeth (Shaw) Ashton. John Ashton was born in England and in 1827 came to Pennsylvania where he worked in a factory until 1851. In the latter year he moved to Lisbon, Kendall County, Ill., and there bought a farm. He died on that place in 1872, being at that time the oldest member of the Odd Fellows' lodge in Morris.

James Ashton was brought up on a farm and received a common school education. Until his marriage, he lived with his parents, but following that event went to Nettle Creek Township and rented a farm for a few years. He then bought two farms comprising 320 acres, in Waupoosee Township, and, moving upon one, operated it, and rented the other. In 1889 he moved to Morris, building his handsome residence which has all modern improvements, and is one of the best in the city. Later, he sold his two farms, and in 1897 bought 344 acres in Saratoga Township, renting a portion of the farm to a son and the balance to an outside party, as he has lived retired since coming to Morris.

On March 25, 1869, Mr. Ashton was married to Harriet McKinzie, born in Shelby County, Ind., daughter of William and Sophia (Speelman) McKinzie of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Ashton have had the following children: William J., residing on N. Liberty street, Morris; Bert, residing on N. Waupoosee street, Morris, has one son, Harold; James, living on a farm, has two children Raymond and Dorothy; and Fred, of Morris. Mr. Ashton is a Methodist in church connection, and politically is a Republican. Ever since moving to Morris, Mr. Ashton has been interested in the development of the city, and is justly regarded as one of its most representative men, while he is a recognized authority upon agricultural matters.

**BAHNER, Theodore R.**—In the career of Theodore R. Bahner, of Morris, here is exemplified

the fact that exceptional educational advantages, financial assistance or influential friends are not necessarily essential to the youth who is seeking fortune and position, but that industry and energy, properly directed and combined with honesty and integrity, will not fail to reward the persevering youth with success. Mr. Bahner is a native of the Hoosier State, having been born in the city of Logansport, December 16, 1861, a son of Christopher and Elizabeth (Helleman) Bahner. His parents, natives of Wurttemberg, Germany, emigrated to the United States as young people, and soon met and married in Pittsburgh, Pa. Later they removed to Hannibal, Mo., where Mr. Bahner was engaged in the banking business for some years, but finally settled in Logansport, Ind., and there his death occurred in September, 1872, the mother passing away the year previously.

Theodore R. Bahner received but slight educational advantages, as he was but eleven years of age when his father died, and he at once went to work in the baking business of his guardian. He continued therein for nine years in Logansport, and then went to Kenton, Ind., for two years, and in 1883 came to Morris, Ill., where he worked for one year for Mr. Southcomb in the livery business. Succeeding this he was employed by H. H. Hamilton in his meat market, and in 1887 went to work for Wagner & Loranman. On July 1, 1890, with Mr. Loranman he bought the business, but in the following March disposed of his interest to his partner and went to Omaha, Neb., where he worked in a meat market until November, 1892, when he returned to Morris and again engaged in business with Mr. Loranman, this partnership continuing until Mr. Loranman's death. Since that time Mr. Bahner has continued the business alone, and in the handling of meats and provisions has met with a decided success. His industry has been constant, his integrity unquestioned and his good management has served to make the business one of the leading enterprises of Morris. He has not failed in his duties as a citizen and since 1889 has been a member of the Morris Fire Department.

In May, 1891, Mr. Bahner was married to Miss Agnes Robinson, daughter of Nolde and Isabelle (Lindsey) Robinson, of Morris, and to this union there have come two children: Arthur Raymond and Isabelle Robinson. Mr. and Mrs. Bahner are consistent members and liberal supporters of the German Lutheran Church. In political matters he is a Republican, and his fraternal affiliation is with the Knights of the Maccabees, Lodge No. 205; Modern Woodmen of America, Lodge No. 281, and Star Lodge No. 75, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**BAKER, Henry J.**, has been identified with the interests of Vienna Township for more than a quarter of a century and has contributed to its material progress and prosperity to an extent surpassed by but few of his contemporaries.



One of the large land owners of the township, he has also advanced the general welfare by his connection with public interests, and his life furnishes a striking example of the wise application of sound principles and safe conservatism. Mr. Baker is a native of La Salle County, Ill., and was born October 14, 1864, a son of Henry T. and Lena (Gebeke) Baker, of Hanover, Germany. In 1839 Henry T. Baker took a sailing vessel to New Orleans, La., and after a few months in that city came up the Mississippi river, and located in Illinois, starting to work by the month. In 1863, having accumulated enough money, he sent for his sweetheart, who was awaiting his summons, in Germany, and upon her arrival they were married at Ottawa, Ill. Succeeding this Mr. Baker rented land for two years and then moved to a farm in Vienna Township, Grundy County, which was then but poorly improved. Here the remainder of his life was passed, and when he died, in 1905, he was the owner of 300 acres of highly-improved land on the home place, in addition to eighty acres in Livingston County, Ill. The mother passed away in the fall of 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Baker were the parents of these children: Henry J.; Sophia, who married Herman Smith, of Livingston County, Ill.; William F., residing in Vienna Township; George, of Whiteside County, Ill.; and Emma, who died at the age of nine years.

Henry J. Baker was given good educational advantages, attending the German school at Ottawa for one year and the Vienna Township public schools. He resided with his parents until his marriage, March 17, 1889, to Adella Bush, who was born in this township, a daughter of George Bush, of Germany. After his marriage, Mr. Baker moved to his father's north farm, on which he resided for two years, at the end of which time his parents removed to Streator and he took up his residence on the home farm. At his father's death he inherited 160 acres of this land, and to it he has since added eighty acres, he and his sons working all of this land, in addition to eighty acres which he rents. He is a skilled, progressive farmer, modern in his ideas and methods, and is an excellent judge of stock. Mr. Baker's high position in the esteem of his fellows evidences the fact that he has led a life of integrity and honorable dealing. He is a faithful member of the Lutheran Church, and has shown independent tendencies in politics. He has not cared for public office, but for twelve years discharged the duties of citizenship by serving as a member of the board of school directors. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Baker: Frederick W., Clara Anna M., Lena C., Jesse G., Louis E., and A. Irene M.

**BAKER, William.**—Many of the most substantial agriculturalists of Grundy County are successfully operating the old homesteads of their parents, of which they have become the owners, and one of those who owns the farm on which he was born, is William Baker of Sara-

toga Township. His birth took place July 11, 1838, a son of Henry and Sarah (Halkyard) Baker, natives of England. The maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Halkyard, settled on land in the vicinity of Morris at an early day, being farming people. Henry Baker came to New York State about 1840, a few years afterward coming to Illinois, was married in Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, to Sarah Halkyard. They located on the farm in Saratoga Township, now owned by William Baker, their son. The father farmed this property until 1887, when he moved to Aurora, Ill., and there died in 1895, his wife having passed away in 1890.

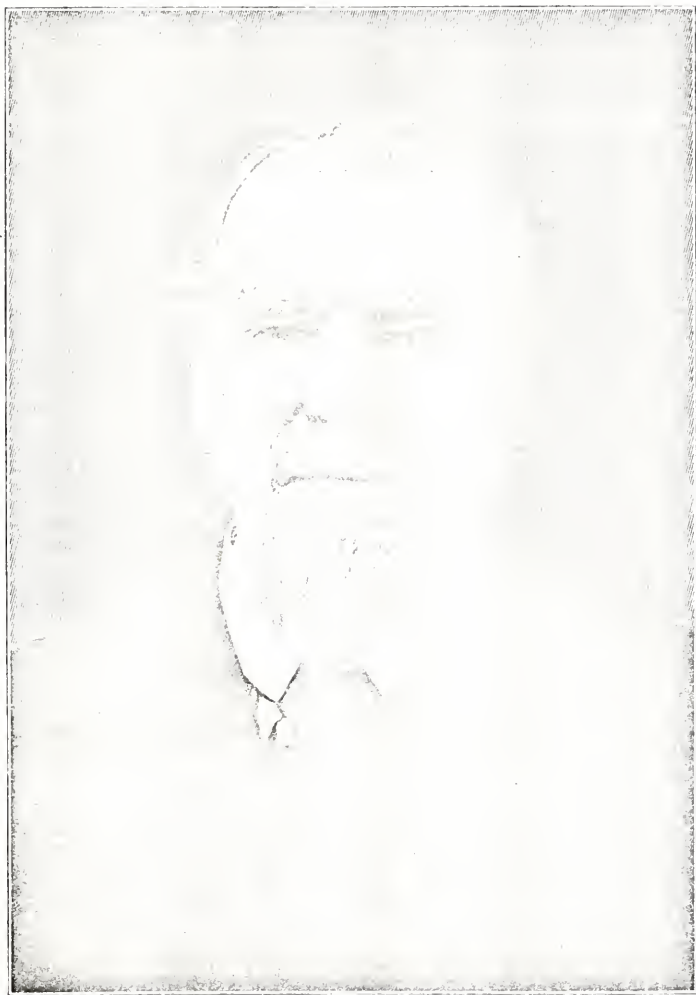
William Baker attended the district schools and grew up on the farm, assisting his father until his marriage. He then rented a farm in Aux Sable Township for two years, when he returned to the homestead, and when his parents moved to Aurora, he purchased the property, on which he has made many improvements, and carries on general farming and raises horses. On March 28, 1883, Mr. Baker was married to Sarah Lord, born in England, June 21, 1852, daughter of Robert and Alice (Cool) Lord. In March, 1883, Mrs. Lord came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Baker, and here died August 10, 1912. She owned eighty acres of land in Kendall County which Mr. Baker operated. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have no children. While living in Aux Sable Township, Mr. Baker joined the Methodist Church, and has been a trustee of it since 1890. Politically he is a Republican and has been pathmaster and held other offices. He is a man widely and favorably known and is universally respected because of his high character and good business ability.

**BALMA, Joseph.**—In seeking the reason for personal success, one invariably finds that the men who rise to positions above their fellows are those who have kept at what they started out to accomplish, and through sheer perseverance have finally reached their goal, and one whose name may be mentioned in this connection is Joseph Balma, miner and pit boss at Elleen, who was born in Northern Italy in 1881, a son of James and Mary (Cerrito) Balma. His father, a farmer by occupation, came to America in 1892, settling in Coal City, Ill., where he entered the mines, there continuing until his retirement. He is the father of eleven children: John, Joseph, Louis, Mike, Peter, Battista, Angelino, Laura, Anna, and two who died in infancy.

Joseph Balma attended school and assisted on a farm in his native country until 1892, when, at the age of eleven, the family embarked for America. Upon his arrival in Coal City he entered the mines with his father and has been engaged in mining ever since. On April 2, 1910, Mr. Balma was united in marriage with Julia Pissardo, a native of Italy, and to this union have been born two children, namely: Mary and James. Mr. Balma is affiliated with







*William L. Lloyd*



the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. His political convictions are Republican, and since his election in 1909 he has been Mayor of Elletts, and is considered one of the leading young men of the village.

**BARGO, Elmer.**—The fundamental industry of farming is becoming generally recognized as being so important as to loom up large among other callings of the world. Not only are all the leading colleges and universities including agricultural departments in their courses of study, but there are a number of educational institutions which are devoted to the science of agriculture. The government of each State, following the example of the national government, is giving attention to the encouragement of farmers, and the men who till the soil are feeling the effect of this universal impetus, and working accordingly. One of the substantial agriculturalists of Grundy County whose fertile farm shows the effect of his adoption of modern methods is Elmer Bargo of Goose Lake Township. Mr. Bargo was born in Waupunsee Township, in January, 1876, a son of Joseph and Sarah (Carpenter) Bargo, natives of Canada and Indiana, respectively. The father came to Morris, Ill., with an aunt after the death of his mother. The maternal grandparents, Reese and Emily (Smith) Carpenter of Ohio, came to Goose Lake Township during the Civil War, and lived on forty acres of land there. Joseph Bargo and Sarah Carpenter met in Goose Lake Township, where they married, and then settled in Waupunsee Township, living there until 1884, when they moved to Goose Lake Township, which continues to be their home.

Elmer Bargo grew up in Waupunsee Township, where he attended the district schools, and learned to farm. On August 29, 1899, he was married to Maggie Perry, born in Goose Lake Township, daughter of George and Mary (Watson) Perry, the former of whom was born in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Bargo are the parents of three children: Rollin, Mildred and Alice. Prior to his marriage, Mr. Bargo had lived with his parents, but immediately thereafter bought a farm of 100 acres in Goose Lake Township, where he has since resided, carrying on general farming in a very successful manner. In politics he is a Republican, and served three years as road commissioner, and has been township collector since 1907. A man of enterprise, he has forged ahead, and now stands high among his fellow agriculturalists of Grundy County.

**BARROWS, Lewis S. (deceased).**—No man can live out his life without having a strong influence over his associates, and fortunate indeed for the community is it when this power over the destinies of others is a good one. The late Lewis S. Barrows was a man who sought to better his associates, although he never tried to force his opinions upon them. He was born at Newark, Kendall County, Ill., April

21, 1848, son of Hiram and Maria (Sears) Barrows. Until he was eighteen years old he remained in his native place, and was educated in the local schools. At that time he came to Morris and followed the trade of a tinner until 1876. A year later, on March 1, 1877, he passed away, firm in the faith of the Presbyterian Church.

On December 25, 1872, Mr. Barrows was married to Anna Hamilton, daughter of Samuel and Ann (McNown) Hamilton. Mrs. Barrows was born in Orustown, Canada, April 23, 1850, and came to Grundy County when fifteen years old. The parents died in Canada, but of their fifteen children, four died in Canada, and eleven came to Grundy County, and eight are still living. One sister, Mrs. Thomas Hirschliffe, lives near the Centre School, on Sabin street, Morris. Mrs. Barrows has one son, Lewis S., born at Morris, July 29, 1876. He is bookkeeper for the Morris Grain Company. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Pattison, died August 18, 1905, aged twenty-nine years. She was a daughter of Joseph Pattison. Her remains are laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery. Mrs. Barrows is survived by her husband and their one child, Josephine, born June 20, 1905, now a student in the public schools. She and her father live with his mother. At the time of his death Mr. Barrows was a member of the Morris Volunteer Fire Company, and at that period they still had the old hand pump engine. He belonged to the Odd Fellows, and had passed all the chairs. An earnest, hard-working man, he made and retained his friends, and his loss was deeply felt in the community that had been his home.

**BARSCHDORF, Charles.**—Maine Township is fortunate in numbering so many native-born Germans among its population, for there are no better citizens to be found anywhere than those who come from the Fatherland. Chas. Barschdorf, native of Schlesien, Germany, born July 11, 1844, is representative of this type, and is a son of Charles and Anistina (Thiel) Barschdorf, natives of Germany, who lived and died there, the former about 1887, and the latter in 1892. The father followed the trade of plasterer contractor. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, namely: August, who is deceased; Bertha, who is a resident of Maine Township; Charles; Ernest, who is deceased; Herman; William; and Henry, Fred, Anna and Agnes, who are deceased.

Charles Barschdorf worked on the farm and attended school in his native country, later being employed in the mines there. In 1868 he married Anistina Braser, native of Schlesien, and to this union were born fifteen children, five of whom survive: Bertha, who married Henry Faenfeld, has ten children; Charles; Anna, who is a resident of Coal City, married William Lohmar, and has four children; Ida, who is living in Iowa, married Henry Maash, and has ten children; and Heinrich, who is a farmer of Maine Township, married Laura



Boles and has two children. Mr. Barschdorf came to this country in 1879, settling in Coal City, where he worked in the mines until 1901, at which time he purchased eighty acres of land in Maine Township, where he resides and carries on general farming. The Lutheran Church holds Mr. Barschdorf's membership. Politically he is a Republican. Live and energetic, understanding thoroughly the work he has so well in hand, Mr. Barschdorf is one of the best examples of a modern Illinois farmer as can be found in the entire State.

**BARTLETT, George W.**—It is an observable fact that many of those who are native sons of "Little Grundy," as Grundy County is affectionately called, retain their old love for it even after leaving for larger communities. George W. Bartlett, who is now a resident of Chicago, belongs to this class, and still continues to work for the welfare of his native county. He has a list of fifteen hundred people now residing at Chicago who once lived in Morris, or other parts of Grundy County, and among them are school teachers, dentists, physicians, lawyers, a judge and members of the police force, and it is his contention that all are still interested in the growth and development of the place from which they came.

George W. Bartlett was born at Morris, Ill., December 26, 1859, a son of Nathaniel and Emily Bartlett, both of whom are deceased. Nathaniel Bartlett was a member of the fire department when hand power was used and was the first man to turn on steam to the engine "Shalboma." One of his sons is an expert watchmaker at Chicago, and another is a farmer of Will County. The Bartlett family was one of the first to locate in Grundy County, its representatives settling first on a farm north of Morris.

George W. Bartlett attended the public schools of Morris, and was a newsboy. During the time of the Chicago fire in 1871 he sold papers when they had to come from St. Louis, for twenty-five cents each. He also worked in the first factory at Morris to manufacture soda water. Later he learned telegraphy, but did not work at his calling. Mr. Bartlett was superintendent of the gas plant, and was the organizer of the telephone system in Grundy County; he not only had the first telephone, but was manager of the exchange at Morris. On November 25, 1889, he left Morris for Joliet, Ill., and from there came to Chicago, November 15, 1892, where he still resides, his home being at No. 221 W. Seventy-second street, and his offices at 1016-17-18 Marquette Building, Chicago, where he is carrying on a real estate and insurance brokerage business. Mr. Bartlett has centered his interests on business affairs, not taking any part in politics, for he would not accept an office of any kind. Formerly a Republican, he is now a Progressive. Fraternally he is a Mason and Knight of Pythias. In boyhood he attended the Methodist Church Sunday school regularly, but in later years

has not connected himself with any organization of a religious nature. In addition to organizing the first telephone exchange of Grundy County, he also organized one of the best bands Morris ever possessed, and kept it together for three years. He also organized the Grundy County Club of Chicago, and from it organized a Home Coming day at Morris, when many residents of Chicago, formerly of Grundy, returned to the County Seat.

In September, 1881, he married Fannie Zimmerman, born in Grundy County, Ill., where her people, both deceased, were residents for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett have a daughter, Carrie May, who is the wife of Alfred M. Bourgo, assistant postmaster of Joliet. She is an active church member and worker and belongs to the Eastern Star. Her husband is a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias lodges.

**BARTLETT, Herman S.**—Grundy County is admirably suited for farming and stock raising, not only on account of climatic conditions and the fertility of the soil, but also because of its location with regard to the second largest city in the country. Farmers can find a ready market for their produce, and this is a very important factor in determining the selection of agriculture as a life work. One of the substantial men of Grundy County who has achieved desirable results from his farm is Herman S. Bartlett of Waupoosee Township. He was born at Ox Row, this same township, December 15, 1872, a son of Jonas and Luma (Wilkins) Bartlett.

Growing up on the homestead of his father, Herman S. Bartlett attended the schools of his neighborhood, and learned farming from the bottom up. Having a natural inclination for the work it was natural that he should devote himself to it, and he now owns a fine farm in Waupoosee Township, just west of the old homestead, on which he lives at present, and carries on general farming and stock raising on all the land. His property is a desirable one and he takes a pride in keeping everything up to standard. On December 28, 1895 Mr. Bartlett was married to Flora Ayrsman, born in McLean County, Ill., September 14, 1877, a daughter of Christian and Barbara Ayrsman. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett have three children: Clarence, born June 14, 1897; Myron, born March 19, 1899; and Gladys, born July 15, 1904. He is a Baptist in religious faith, and contributes generously towards the support of his church. A Republican in politics, he has served capably and conscientiously as highway commissioner for two terms, and as township collector for the same period. A man of energy, he is recognized as one of the leading factors in the development of his community.

**BARTLETT, Jonas** (deceased).—With the passing of some of the representative men of Grundy County comes the realization that there are but few of its early settlers left, the ma-





*Julia Lloyd*





jority having been gathered to their fathers in the land which needs no pioneers. The late Jonas Bartlett, who passed away in Waupunsee Township on October 9, 1912, was a man who for years commanded universal respect, and in earlier days was associated with many of the leading men of Grundy County. He was born at Chesterfield, N. H., September 4, 1832, so was eighty years old at the time of his demise. Until the early fifties he was content with life as he found it in his native place, but then sought his fortune in Illinois. In 1857 he came to Morris, Ill., but soon thereafter went to Saratoga Township and ten years later settled on the farm which was to continue to be his home the remainder of his life, located in Waupunsee Township. Not alone, however, was Mr. Bartlett connected with agricultural matters for he was possessed of more than average ability, and was carefully educated, so that it was but natural that he should spend the winter months instructing the young people of his neighborhood, and is affectionately remembered by many who went out into the world and achieved distinction, as their beloved teacher. He was an efficient assessor of the township and census enumerator of the government. Before the Civil War, he had charge of the Gen. James A. Wadsworth estate, at Rochester, N. Y., who was an officer in the Civil War.

On April 9, 1854, Mr. Bartlett married Amanda Cryder, who died the following year, leaving a son, Rufus, who developed into a physician of note, but died some five years ago in Chicago. On March 6, 1857, Mr. Bartlett was married to Miss Luna Wilkins at Bloomington, Ill. She survived him three months. Their four sons were: William, who lives in Waupunsee Township; Walter P., who is the editor of a paper in Fond du Lac, Wis.; Burton J., who resides at Rockford; and Herman, who is also of Waupunsee Township. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1907, which enjoyable event is remembered with pleasure by those who attended. Mr. Bartlett was the uncle of the late Jessie Bartlett Davis, the world-famous singer, to whom he was tenderly attached. Living during the epoch-making times of the Civil War and the days preceding it, he was personally acquainted with Mr. Lincoln and never tired of relating events relative to him. The funeral services of Mr. Bartlett were conducted on October 10, 1912, and interment was made in the Sample cemetery.

**BARTLETT, William F.**—A number of Grundy county men, after engaging in various lines of endeavor, come to the conclusion that there is more profit in tilling the soil in this vicinity, and so devote their attention to several kinds of agricultural activity. One of the men now engaged in farming and also in growing fruit and raising chickens is William F. Bartlett, of Waupunsee Township. Mr. Bartlett was born in Saratoga Township, July 16, 1858, a son of Jonas and Luna (Wilkins) Bartlett, early settlers of Grundy County, who resided in Wau-

ponsee Township for many years. There the father died October 9, 1912.

After completing his course in the public schools of his district, Mr. Bartlett attended the Morris Normal school, and then studied dentistry, and afterward practiced his profession at Sheridan, Ill., for a year, and for two years at South Bend, Ind. He then went to Coal City, Grundy County and while practicing there, embarked in a job printing business. This grew so rapidly that he felt encouraged to found the *Coal City News*, the first newspaper in that locality. In 1898 he sold his paper and printing office, and went to Chicago, where he was a conductor on one of the electric street railroads for seven and one-half years. While living in Chicago, he was appointed deputy assessor of Cook County, and faithfully discharged the duties of that important office. In the meantime, however, he felt a desire to get back to the soil, and moved to a farm of twenty acres in Waupunsee Township, where he is now raising fruit and Plymouth Rock chickens, and is meeting with a well-merited success.

Mr. Bartlett was married March 4, 1886, to Sarah Marshall, born in Goose Lake Township, daughter of William Marshall. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett became the parents of the following children: Eva, who is Mrs. Melvin T. Cunfield of Antigo, Wis.; Alice, who is Mrs. E. E. Fraley of Carbon Hill, Ill.; William, who died in 1905, aged fifteen years; and Ethel, at home. Mr. Bartlett belongs to the Knights of Pythias of Coal City. A man broadened by experiences along different business lines, Mr. Bartlett is well fitted to bring out of any work in which he is engaged, all that there is in it, and he is forging ahead very rapidly.

**BARTON, Hon. George.**—An alert, progressive and enterprising citizen, alive to the wants and needs of his community. Mayor George Barton, of Braceville, is but vindicating the confidence placed in him when he was elected to the highest municipal office by his fellow townsmen. For the past decade he has been a resident of this city, and has become widely and favorably known in financial circles of Grundy County as cashier of the People's Bank. Like many of the successful men of the county, Mr. Barton is a product of the farm, having been born on his father's homestead in the vicinity of Kelchsburg, Mercer County, Ill., in 1873.

George Barton commenced his educational training in the country schools of Grundy County, and was nine years of age when taken to Gardner, Grundy County, and after this he attended the Gardner schools and was graduated in 1891 from the Gardner High school. Succeeding this he adopted the vocation of educator, but after five months of teaching in the country schools gave up that calling, and in 1892 became bookkeeper for the Gardner Wilmington Coal Company, at Clark City, Ill., a firm with which he was connected for the succeeding twelve years. Mr.



Barton came to Braceville in 1901, and at once became cashier for the People's Bank, an office which he held to the present time. This is one of the old and substantial institutions of Grundy County, its proprietors being J. C. Lutz and F. L. Root, well-known business men of Gardner, Ill. Mr. Barton has done much to popularize the coffers of this institution and to inspire confidence in its depositors, thus adding to its prestige in the financial world. Always a stalwart Republican, he served some time as village clerk, and in May, 1911, was selected by his fellow citizens to represent them in the mayoralty chair. He is giving them a clean, sane and business-like administration, in which there have occurred a number of greatly needed municipal improvements. During his residence in the city he has made numerous friends in business, financial, public and social circles, and it is doubtful if Braceville has had a more popular official. He has been a staunch friend of the schools, and for some time has been a member of the Board of Education. Just before coming to Braceville, in 1904, Mr. Barton was married in Gardner, Ill., to Miss Elizabeth Blake, who was born in Wales and reared and educated in Gardner. Mr. and Mrs. Barton are consistent members of the Methodist Church.

**BARTON, John**, now a justice of the peace at Gardner, Ill., and one of the most able men holding this office in Grundy County, has discharged its duties continuously for the past nineteen years, but otherwise is living retired after years of earnest and steadfast endeavor. Mr. Barton was born November 26, 1844, in England, as were his parents Samuel and Ann (Bagley) Barton, both of whom passed away in their native land, the father dying in the early seventies, at Newcastle, where he was buried. The mother removed to Lincolnshire where she died and is buried. These parents had the following children: Sarah; Francis, who married Elizabeth Briggs, resides at Wheaton, Ill.; John; Elizabeth, who died at the age of seventeen years in England; Mary Ann, who died in England; Henry, who died when sixty years old, in England; Susan, who is married and resides in England; Lizzie, who is Mrs. T. Buchanan, lives in England, and Thomas, who died in military service in England.

In 1871 John Barton came to the United States, first living at Keithsburg, Mercer County, Ill., where for five years he rented a farm, but in 1878 he moved to Grundy County and continued to rent land in the vicinity of Gardner. Later he disposed of his agricultural interests and moving to Gardner was employed to operate the machinery in the elevator at that place. At the expiration of some six years Mr. Barton found himself impoverished in health and pocket, so decided to rest until he recovered his strength. In 1891 he was elected assessor of Greenfield Township, and in 1893 he was elected a justice of the peace which office he has since held.

Mr. Barton was married in Mercer County,

June 18, 1872, to Emma Ball, a native of England, born in 1842, and was brought to America by her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Barton have had five children: George, who is living at Braceville, is cashier of the People's Bank there; Mary Ann is the wife of Adam Nutt, and they are living on a farm near Braceville; Lizzie and Lottie, both of whom are living at home; and Lulu, who married Don H. Rogers and live in Webster County, Iowa. These children were all graduated from the Gardner High school, and all, except Mrs. Rogers have taught in the county schools. Mr. Barton owns his comfortable home at Gardner. Politically he is a Republican, but has always given a strong support to the temperance cause, being a total abstainer himself. For many years he was clerk of the old township, being its last in fact, and the first the new township was given. His religious affiliations are with the Methodist church. He and his wife are highly regarded throughout the neighborhood.

**BAUM, George (deceased).**—A pioneer of Morris whose business career was a long and honored one, George Baum was a son of George Baum, and was born in Germany, January 20, 1828. He came to Morris in 1856, and worked for others until he established himself in business in 1863 or 1864. In 1877 he founded the clothing house which bore his name and developed it into one of the leading establishments of the village. For a number of years he served as an Alderman, being elected on the Democratic ticket, and for some years was a director of the Cemetery Association. In June, 1853, he married Elizabeth Kelsor, and their children to grow to maturity were: Henry, Mrs. John Schobert, and Annie. He belonged to the Lutheran Church, and in fraternal matters was a member of the Odd Fellows.

**BAUM, Henry (deceased).**—Grundy County never had a more public-spirited man than the late Henry Baum of Morris. He was born in Saxony, Germany, October 26, 1834, a son of John Baum, who married a Miss Kirchner. After serving in the German army, Henry Baum came to America, being at that time twenty-five years old. He made the trip in a sailing vessel to New Orleans, from whence he came direct to Grundy County. A musician, he enlisted as such in a Grundy County company, when the Civil War broke out, having just returned from a short trip to the South and realizing therefrom how great was the need of the North triumphing in the struggle. After serving and being mustered out, he returned to Grundy County and for years conducted a first class buffet in Morris, but retired later. During his long and busy life he accumulated considerable realty and other property, and when he died, January 12, 1896, he was a well to do man. He was a member of the G. A. R. post, and was also prominent as an Oddfellow. Mr. Baum was also a director of the Cemetery association of Morris.



On January 14, 1864, Mr. Baum was married at Morris to Elizabeth Zornmann, daughter of Jacob and Saloma (Eatel) Zornmann, who was born in Bavaria, on the Rhine River, May 16, 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Baum became the parents of four children: Henry and Louise, both deceased; William L., who is a leading physician of Chicago; and Bertha, who is Mrs. A. H. Hilliker of Morris. In 1874 Mr. Baum built his beautiful residence at No. 311 E. Washington street, Morris, where Mrs. Baum now resides. A man of sympathetic impulses, Mr. Baum was exceedingly generous, and many benefited from his charity, who joined with his family and other friends in mourning his loss.

**BAUM, Henry**, one of the leading merchants of Morris, and a man whose public spirit has made him an important factor in bringing to the city some of its leading industries, was born in New Jersey, April 4, 1855, a son of George Baum. His educational advantages were supplied by the schools of Morris, and Bryant & Stratton's Business College of Chicago. His business career had its beginning when he became a clerk for L. F. Beach & Co. of Morris, but within two years, in 1874, he, in partnership with Mr. Schobert, established a similar store under the name of Baum & Schobert. In 1881 the partners separated, each continuing to do business alone. Mr. Baum belongs to the Masonic order, and is an important factor in Blaney Commandery.

**BEALLIS, Charles.**—Within recent years a new feature in the business world has been the providing of wholesome amusement at reasonable prices, and some of the most progressive men in the country have engaged in it, developing it to mammoth proportions. One of these is Charles Beallis, owner of the picture show of South Wilmington, this county, the only one in the place. It has been in operation for five years and the steady patronage given it demonstrates that the people appreciate the opportunities offered them. Mr. Beallis was born at Mokena, Ill., in 1869, a son of Charles and Helen (Easel) Beallis, natives of Germany. The father was a sailor who came to the United States in 1866, where he joined his brother and afterward followed carpenter work. He died at Joliet, Ill., in 1906, the mother surviving him until 1911, and both are buried at Joliet. They had six children: Bertha, who is deceased; Mrs. Anna Huffman; Mrs. Gertrude Reearly; Joe, who is of Joliet; August and Charles.

Charles Beallis was only three years old when the family moved to Joliet from his birthplace and he was brought up in the former city, and there attended the public schools. When he was sixteen years old he began working as a fireman on the Chicago & Alton Railroad and at twenty was an engineer on the same road. He served as such for eleven years, and then, coming to South Wilmington, was a stationary engineer and electrician. In 1907 he opened

the picture show here, and has made it a good investment, and now is the owner of the building in which it is located.

In 1897 Mr. Beallis married Helen Gultz, born in Germany, August 24, 1877, but was brought to this country when seven years old. Mr. Beallis belongs to the German Lutheran Church. Politically he is a Republican, but has not sought office, his time being taken up fully with business affairs.

**BEATTY, I. N. R.**, one of the leading business men and lumber leaders of Morris owns a concern that was established in 1885 by Thomas Ross, who conducted it until 1898, when Mr. Beatty became his partner, the association continuing until 1902, when Mr. Ross died. For a short period, George Colthurst was a partner with Mr. Beatty, but in 1907, Mr. Beatty became the sole owner. The following year, Mr. Beatty took Harvey R. Beatty, a cousin, into partnership, which connection still exists. That same year, the partners bought the lumber yard owned by the Alexander Lumber Company, at Mazon, Ill., and added that business to what they already possessed. Their premises are on Liberty Street, the business being conducted under the name of I. N. R. Beatty Lumber Co. The yards adjoin the railroad and are most conveniently located for transportation. Employment is given to from three to five men, and three teams are kept busy making deliveries.

I. N. R. Beatty was born at Waynesburg, Ohio, April 10, 1872, where he was reared and educated, attending the public schools until he entered the Iron City Commercial college of Pittsburgh. After completing his business course in the latter institution, he came to Morris and secured employment as bookkeeper with the man whose business he later purchased. All of his business experience has therefore been secured in connection with the lumber trade, and he has thoroughly mastered it. The parents of Mr. Beatty, George and Margaret (Ross) Beatty are still residents of Ohio, where the father is engaged in agricultural occupations. Mr. Beatty was the only child of his parents, and attributes much of his success in life to the careful, healthy training they gave him on their farm. The father was a soldier during the Civil War, and Mr. Beatty is proud of the fact that he is a son of a veteran.

On June 25, 1902, Mr. Beatty married at Morris, Cordelia Widney, daughter of George Widney. They have one child, Ross Widney, born October 8, 1904, now attending the public schools. Mr. Beatty is secretary of the Morris Industrial Association. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and has passed through all the subordinate lodges, now being a thirty-second degree Mason and a Mystic Shriner, his membership in the latter having been given to Medinah Temple, Chicago. He attends the Congregational Church and has served the congregation as trustee. Having been kept very busy with his private affairs, he has never dabbled





in politics. He is justly recognized as one of the solid young business men of Morris, and enjoys universal esteem.

**BENNETT, Hugh.**—Fifteen years of consecutive service in the capacity of postmaster is the record of Hugh Bennett, of Coal City, Ill., a citizen who has gained the confidence and esteem of his fellow-townsmen no less through his conscientious devotion to the duties of his official position than through his recognized high ideals of the responsibilities of good citizenship. Mr. Bennett, as his name would indicate, is a native of Scotland, and has exemplified his possession of the sterling traits of his race—industry, honesty and thrift. He was born in 1851, and is a son of James and Janet (Allen) Bennett, his father being a miner both in Scotland and America. Both parents died in Pennsylvania.

Hugh Bennett was brought to the United States as an infant, and was reared in Pennsylvania, where he was given the advantages of a common school education. He came to Illinois when eighteen years of age and entered the mines at Braidwood, subsequently opening a shoe and dry goods store. His industry was rewarded by a full measure of success, and in 1883, seeking a wider field, he came to Coal City, here becoming the proprietor of a hardware store. He was successful also in this venture, in which he continued until appointed postmaster, a position he has continued to fill to the satisfaction of his fellow-citizens and with a record for faithfulness to duty that is worthy of emulation by any entering the postal service.

In 1873 Mr. Bennett was married to Miss Margaret Paden, who was born at Morris, Ill., and to this union there have been born six children: Janet, Clarence A., George J., Blanche E., William P., and Lorena R. In his political faith, Mr. Bennett is a Republican, and has served as a member of the board of trustees of Coal City for three terms. He is a popular member of the Masons, the Scottish Clans, the Knights of Pythias, in which he has passed through the chairs, and the Modern Woodmen of America, in which he is serving as treasurer. With his family, he attends the Presbyterian Church.

**BENSON, John Milks,** one of Grundy County's substantial and representative men, is owner and proprietor of a somewhat famous tract of land in Waupoosee Township, known as the Fossil Bed farm, this name being applied on account of a fossil bed found here that has interested scientists for years. He was born here July 13, 1849, and is a son of Seneca and Sarah (Milks) Benson.

The ancestors of this branch of the Benson family came to America from Southampton, England, in the good ship Confidence, in the year 1638, and their descendants have been people of worth. Seneca Benson, father of John Milks Benson, was born in Onondago County,

N. Y., and was a son of Billdad Benson, who was a son of Joseph Benson, who served in the Revolutionary War in 1775, being a private in Captain Renswell's company, under the command of Gen. Nathaniel Green. Seneca Benson was reared in his native State and there married Sarah Milks, who was a native of Cattaraugus County. In 1830 they came to Illinois and settled in Grundy County, Seneca Benson buying a farm in the Oxbow bottoms, in Waupoosee Township on which he lived until the close of his life, his death taking place in 1866. His widow subsequently married Richard Harrington, who was a veteran of the war of 1812, and after his death she received a pension from the Government during the rest of her life. She died March 17, 1884. The children born to Seneca and Sarah (Milks) Benson were: Mary Jane, who died December 17, 1856, was the wife of Oren Satterly, also deceased; Lydia, who is the wife of William White, of Goose Lake Township, is aged seventy-eight years; Ruth, who died June 21, 1888, was the wife of Lawrence James White; Rial, who died August 19, 1856; Caroline, who died January 9, 1903, was the wife of William Marshall; Charles, who died January 14, 1905, aged sixty years; Arvilla, who died in 1913, was the wife of William Cobbler, of Waupoosee, Ill.; and John Milks, all of whom, except the youngest, were born in Cattaraugus County, N. Y.

John Milks Benson was the youngest of his parents' children and lived with his mother until his own marriage, which took place at Oakdale, Nebr., on November 17, 1881, to Miss Olivia Shaffer, who was born in Waupoosee Township, Grundy County, Ill., August 7, 1863, and is a daughter of Samuel Elijah and Margaret (Wise) Shaffer, who came to Waupoosee Township in early days. He was a native of Maryland and she of Licking County, Ohio. Later in life they moved to Morris, Ill., where he served many years as constable and also was street sprinkler. To Mr. and Mrs. Benson the following children were born: John R., born January 4, 1883; Grace May, born December 30, 1885, married Charles E. Hildy, of Chicago, Ill.; Roy E., born March 22, 1891; Myrtle Olivia, born February 27, 1894; Evelyn Elsie, born October 2, 1896; Clarence Eugene, born January 8, 1900; Effie Adella, born November 21, 1904; Fred Ernest, born February 14, 1907; and Adelbert T., born March 27, 1910.

Following his marriage Mr. Benson settled on the old home farm that he had inherited, in Waupoosee Township, and operated it for two years and then moved to Antelope County, Nebr., where he bought a farm of 320 acres and lived on it for two years and then returned to the old Grundy County farm on which he has resided ever since. He obtained his education in the public schools and has always been interested in the cause of education and has served continuously since 1887 as a school director. In politics he has always been identified with the Republican party.







ELIZABETH MAHON



*William Mahon*



**BENSON, William H.** (deceased).—Life at most is but a brief span between birth and death. Some men are able to fill their years with deeds that redound to their credit and live after them. Their efforts along any direction seem to bring about results that cannot fail to be gratifying to their family and useful to their community. Such a man was the late William H. Benson, formerly of Norman Township. Mr. Benson, during life, was one of the successful agriculturalists of Grundy County who specialized in the raising of grain. He was born at Athens, Maine, February 25, 1841, a son of Samuel and Almira (Smith) Benson, of Maine, both of whom died in that State.

In 1867, William H. Benson came with a sister to Grundy County, and worked for various farmers in this section until his marriage in 1869. In that year he rented land in Norman Township, but after two years bought eighty acres in that same township to which he added until he owned, at the time of his death, 225 acres, all in Norman and Waupoose Townships. All of his agricultural efforts were directed towards the raising of grain. Mr. Benson had an excellent war record, having enlisted in the Seventh Maine Volunteer Infantry and served in the Civil War for one year, when he was discharged on account of disability. For years Mr. Benson belonged to the local G. A. R. post. The death of this good man occurred July 29, 1901, and all who knew him sorrowed to learn of his demise.

In January, 1869, Mr. Benson was married to Emma E. James, born in Norman Township, June 6, 1850, daughter of Elisha B. and Margaret (Pyatt) James, natives of Indiana and Ohio, respectively. Mr. James came with his mother and two brothers to Kendall County, Ill., later moving to Norman Township, Grundy County. The maternal grandparents moved to Kendall County in its pioneer days. The parents of Mrs. Benson married and settled on a farm Mr. James owned in Norman Township, where both died, Mrs. James about 1862, and Mr. James on January 12, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Benson became the parents of the following children: Anna E., who was born October 19, 1869, now Mrs. Frank De Lamartre of Joliet, Ill.; George W., who was born November 4, 1871, of Richmond, Ind., has one son, Chester, who married Pearl McMahon of Indiana; Charles R., who was born January 25, 1874, died March, 1903, having two sons, Donald and Russell; E. B., who was born December 31, 1879, of Vienna Township, has one daughter, Margery, who married Jesse Mulvanie; Nellie M., who was born May 14, 1882, now Mrs. John Davis of Norman Township, has two sons, Robert J. and Parker B.; Lottie E., who was born November 12, 1884, lives with her mother; and Frank H., who was born February 16, 1892, resides at home. Since the death of Mr. Benson, Mrs. Benson has continued the farm industries ably assisted by her children. Mr. Benson served as school director of his district, and was interested in educational matters although

his own educational training was limited to attendance upon the local public schools of his native place. He attended the Methodist Church. A man of high principles, conscientious in his dealings with his fellowmen, and possessed of thrifty habits, Mr. Benson not only accumulated a good competency, but earned and retained the confidence of all who knew him.

**BENTSON, Lewis.**—It can never be justly said that the sons of Norway who have come to the United States have not made excellent use of the opportunities here afforded them, for they have to a remarkable degree, and this is especially true in Grundy County, where there are a number of Norsemen, attracted here by the farm lands and mines. One of those proud to acknowledge Norway as his place of birth is Lewis Bentson of Saratoga Township, born at Bergen, Norway, May 30, 1848, a son of Bernie and Tena (Larson) Bentson. The father died in Norway in 1866, but his widow with four children came to the United States locating in La Salle County, Ill., where she later married Seward Anderson of that place.

Lewis Bentson began working on a farm soon after his arrival in this country, and eventually was able to buy a farm in Kendall County, but after operating it for a period, came to Grundy County, settling in Saratoga Township. In 1896 he bought 160 acres of land, eighty acres of which although just across the road from the remainder, are in Kendall County. A few years later he added eighty acres more to the Kendall County portion. On February 22, 1877, Mr. Bentson married Helen Grunstad, born in Saratoga Township, March 8, 1854, a daughter of Oliver and Chelly (Enger) Grunstad, natives of Norway, who came to Saratoga Township in 1846. Mr. and Mrs. Bentson became the parents of the following children: Tena, who was born December 5, 1878, is the widow of Olie Hagen, and has two children, Tilyar, born November 26, 1898, and Olie, born February 10, 1900; Dennis, who was born April 30, 1888, is at home; Henry, who was born August 11, 1885, died in 1891; Henry (H.), who was born May 18, 1892, is also at home. Mrs. Bentson died February 7, 1912, having been a most excellent wife and mother and good Christian woman. Mr. Bentson belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Lisbon. In politics he is a Republican, and has held the office of school director. A steady, hard-working, earnest man, he has faithfully carried out his ideas relative to good citizenship, and his friends, who are many, hold him in high esteem.

**BERGESON, Arthur L.**, a furniture dealer and undertaker of Morris, is one of the men who has won confidence and respect by his reliable and conscientious methods and sympathetic personality. Mr. Bergeson was born in Brookfield Township, La Salle County, Ill., May 22, 1885, a son of Berge and Ellen (Govig) Bergeson, natives of Norway. These excellent people came to La Salle County when young, later



marrying and settling on a farm. In 1899 they moved to Ransom, Ill., where he died about 1907, she surviving him until February 11, 1910. There were twelve children in the family, eight of whom are living: Benjamin Oscar, who is of South Dakota; Ida, who is Mrs. Anson Minnison of Armstrong, Ia.; George W., who is of Armstrong, Ia.; Samuel T., who is of Fletcher, S. D.; Maggie, who is Mrs. O. O. Johnson of Seneca, Ill.; Edward S., who is of Ringstadt, Ia.; Arthur L.; and Eliza, who is of Seneca, Ill.

Arthur L. Bergeson resided with his parents, giving them a loving service until he was twenty-three years old, when he married and for the next year conducted a cattle ranch in North Dakota. In the spring of 1910 he returned to Morris and established himself in a furniture and undertaking business in partnership with Thomas J. Slattery, this association continuing until the spring of 1912, when Mr. Bergeson bought out his partner. In July, 1912, he took Hugh R. Thelan into partnership with him, and the two are still together.

On May 5, 1909, Mr. Bergeson married Minnie Eva Anderson, born at Devil's Lake, N. D., a daughter of Andrew Anderson, born in Grundy County, Ill. Mr. Bergeson not only had local educational advantages, but attended the Ottawa Business College and is a young man of more than average ability. Bethlehem Lutheran Norwegian Church of Morris holds his membership, and enjoys his liberal contributions. Politically he is a Republican, while fraternally he is a Mason. Professionally Mr. Bergeson is often called upon in the hour of saddest bereavement, and he thus meets people at a time when it is necessary for him to display kindly sympathy and helpful tact, and his experiences and the frequent calls made upon him prove that he is equal to any emergency, and friendships thus formed are continued, for they are sincere and heartfelt.

**BERTA, Peter.**—The business of supplying South Wilmington with bakery goods is one that engages the attention of several of the most progressive men of this locality. Very few people now feel that they can afford to make bread when it is furnished them at a price within the reach of the majority. The same is true of other bakery products, and one of the men who is meeting the demand for pure goods in this line is Peter Berta. He was born in Northern Italy in 1854, a son of Vincent and Lena (Boffo) Berta, natives of Italy, who died in that country in 1871 and 1869, respectively. They had eight children, six of whom are living, as follows: Peter, Frank, Mike, Joe, Dominic, who are in America, and one who is still in Italy.

Peter Berta assisted his father on the homestead and attended school until he left home to learn the trade of a baker. He also gave his country a three year military service, and in 1879 came to the United States, settling first at Braidwood, Ill., where he was engaged in mining. In 1901 he came to South Wilmington,

where he continued mining until 1903, when he established his present bakery, and now enjoys a fine trade, especially among the Italians. Mr. Berta delivers his goods all over the village, and his products meet with instant approval, because of their excellence.

In 1881 Mr. Berta married Mary Perona of Braidwood, Ill., and they have had seven children, as follows: Vincent, who is deceased; Edmond; Fred; Rudolph; Julia; Pete and Bena, the latter being married to C. Muzzarti. Mr. Berta is a Republican, and for the past six years has been a trustee of the village. He belongs to the Order of Foresters. Few men stand any higher in the community than he, and he deserves his popularity, for he has earned it by the practice of honorable methods.

**BLACK, Charles H.**—The realization of the many uses to which cement can be put, has worked a revolution in building operations, and the contractors who are forging to the foremost places, are those who have engaged in this line of construction work. One of the leading cement contractors of Grundy County is Charles H. Black of Morris. Mr. Black was born at Oskaloosa, Iowa, May 30, 1870, son of Rev. James K. and Kate W. (Wright) Black, natives of Ohio. They were married in Iowa to which state they went in childhood. James K. Black was a Presbyterian clergyman, who was stationed at different points throughout Ohio, Indiana, Iowa and Michigan, and died at Hoopston, Ill., in July, 1902, where his widow still resides.

Charles H. Black attended school at the different towns to which his father's ministerial duties took him, and while at Bloomington, Ind., he had the advantage of an academic course. When he was twenty-one years old, he learned the trade of a printer in Chicago, and remained in that city until 1902, when he went to Aurora. His arrival in the latter city was coincident with his association with the cement firm of R. E. Safford & Son, with whom Mr. Black remained until October, 1907, when he located at Morris, and embarked in a general cement business of his own. Since then, his efforts have been rewarded with a number of important contracts, and his affairs are in a very prosperous condition. In 1913 he completed four bridges in Grundy County, and many other contracts equally as large and important.

On May 23, 1907, Mr. Black was married at St. Joseph, Mich., to Addie O. Hampton, born at Batavia, Ill. They have one daughter, Addie Louise, born July 30, 1912. Mr. Black is an independent voter. He belongs to Lodge No. 498, Odd Fellows of Hoopston, Ill. A man of progress, Mr. Black has never neglected an opportunity or failed to advance his interests whenever he could do so honestly. His standing in the community is a high one, and has been won by good work and honorable methods.

**BLAIR, George R.**—The reputation Scotchmen have gained of being frugal and thrifty is





*Eda M. Major*



*John C. Major m. D.  
and Son,*





maintained by those who come to the United States. It is very seldom indeed that a Scot is found in need or asks help of others. He is much more likely to give it than to require such assistance, for he knows how to earn and then save his money, and does not waste it foolishly. One of the honored residents of Saratoga Township, who was born in Scotland, is George R. Blair, now living retired from active labor. He was born in Fifeshire, February 17, 1836, and losing his parents in 1864, on February 3 of that year came to the United States, landing at Morris. For some years he mined, and then in February, 1875, he bought twenty acres of land in Saratoga Township, to which he later added ten acres more. He sunk a shaft and kept on opening up shafts until he had four of them in operation, and was actively engaged in this manner until 1899, when he retired.

Mr. Blair was married in Scotland in 1858 to Euphemia Spowart of Fifeshire, Scotland, and they had four children born to them there, and six after they arrived in the United States: Robert G., who is of Saratoga Township; Ellen, who is Mrs. George Barton of Chicago; Mary, who died in 1890; Euphemia, who is Mrs. Sezal Gregg of Saratoga Township; William, who is of Morris; Catherine, who is Mrs. M. N. Hull of Morris; Annie, who is Mrs. H. A. Taylor of Morris; Elizabeth, who is Mrs. William Ferguson of Saratoga Township; Margaret, who is Mrs. Ed Hickcock of De Kalb, Ill.; and George G., who is of Saratoga Township. Mr. Blair is a Presbyterian and devoted to his church. A Republican, he has given his township valued service as road commissioner. A man of many excellent characteristics, he has set an example that all may well follow for upright, honorable living, and at the same time accumulated a fair amount of this world's goods.

**BLAIR, Robert George**, who since 1906 has been the mail carrier on Rural Free Delivery Route No. 3, from Morris, is the type of reliable, conscientious and painstaking men that the Government generally endeavors to choose for this responsible position. Of Scotch birth, he inherits the qualities of thrift, steadiness and honesty which have made that race known the world over, and the faithful and efficient manner in which he has performed the duties of his position has gained for him the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens in Grundy County. Mr. Blair was born at Oakley, Fifeshire, Scotland, September 21, 1859, and is the eldest son of George and Euphemia (Spowart) Blair.

Robert G. Blair was seven years of age when he accompanied his parents to the United States, the father securing employment in the coal mines of Grundy County, and here the lad secured his schooling. He remained at home with his parents until his marriage, April 2, 1885, to Miss Margaret T. W. Gray, who was born September 26, 1861, in Edinboro, Scotland,

daughter of William and Agnes (Telfer) Gray. The grandfather of Mrs. Blair, James Telfer, came to the United States in 1883, and was the first man to operate a coal mine in Grundy County, and also conducted boats on the canal for many years. He took an overland trip to California in 1849. Mrs. Blair came to America with her mother, the late Mrs. William Gray, and grandmother, Margaret Telfer, when five years old. Previous to her marriage, Mrs. Blair, who had been graduated from the high school and attended the Normal school at Morris, engaged in teaching school for eight years.

After his marriage, Mr. Blair rented a farm in Saratoga Township, which he conducted until 1891, and at that time purchased a tract of forty-two acres of improved land, on which he has since made many more improvements which have greatly enhanced the property's value. He operated a coal mine of his own for three years, but in April, 1906, received the appointment as Rural Free Delivery carrier, a position which he has continued to efficiently fill to the present time. His fraternal connections include membership in the Masonic Lodge, Chapter and Commandery, while his wife is a valued member of the Eastern Star, filling the office of Worthy Matron in 1910. Mrs. Blair has gone through all of the chairs of the O. E. S. Chapter, and is also a member of the Bethany White Shrine of Jerusalem of Joliet. Mr. and Mrs. Blair, with their children belong to the Presbyterian Church. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Blair are as follows: Agnes T., who resided at home filling the office of chief operator of the Morris Telephone Company for ten years. She took up the work, beginning at the bottom, and was successively promoted until she stood at the head of her department, and her former employers feel that no one has ever excelled her in this capacity. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Fraternally she belongs to the Eastern Star and the White Shrine of Jerusalem of Joliet. On October 7, 1914, she was married to Ronald Newton Martin of Ottawa, Ill., where they now reside. Mr. Martin was reared and educated at Ottawa, and is now in the employ of the Chicago, Ottawa & Peoria Railway Company, being regarded as a young man of sterling qualities. At present he is among the senior employees of this road. He is a member of the Ottawa Lodge, A. F. & A. M. The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Blair is George Wilson, formerly assisting his father, married Maude Inez Dillee on February 25, 1914, and is engaged in farming, he being a prosperous and intelligent young man, while his wife is a graduate of the Morris high school and taught school for four years prior to her marriage, and cultivated her musical talent; and Euphemia MacKinzie Spowart, who is now Mrs. Frank Carr of White Willow, Ill., was graduated from the Morris high school with high honors and taught school for years. Mr. and Mrs. Blair and their family take a deep interest in all educational matters and always are awake to the advancement and progression in matters pertain-



ing to the "Golden Rule" of doing unto others as they would be done by.

**BLAKE, William Lawrence.**—The world has awakened to the necessity of sanitary regulations regarding the handling and sale of food stuffs, and the people are showing a decided preference for those establishments which have a proper regard to these rules. One of the men who has built up a large trade and attained to considerable prosperity along modern lines is William Lawrence Blake, owner of a meat market at Gardner, Ill., and dealer in canned goods. His establishment is one of the best in Grundy County, and he takes a pride in keeping it up to the highest standards. That his customers appreciate his care for them, his sales show conclusively.

William L. Blake was born in Gardner in 1890, a son of John and Elizabeth (Sandwick) Blake. The father was a native of Wales and came to this country from there, locating first at Braceville, Ill., where he became a miner and digger of coal. Later he came to Gardner where he continued this kind of work until his death in 1903. His widow survives him and is making her home at Gardner. These parents had seven children: Tonis John, who is deceased; William Lawrence; twins, who died in infancy; William, who is a schoolteacher; and Eva and Joe.

Growing up at Gardner, Mr. Blake attended its public schools, and worked at different kinds of employment until 1909 when he opened his present business, which he has developed to satisfactory proportions. In 1909 he married Stella Simms of South Wilmington, Ill., and they have two children: Lois Janetta, and William Lawrence. Mr. Blake is very liberal in his political views, not caring to attach himself definitely to any one party. Although one of the youngest business men of Gardner, he is one of the best, and his live, progressive methods have been productive of many improvements in the town, his example leading others to change their mode of operation. It is such men as Mr. Blake who develop a community and lead capitalists to invest their money in it.

**BOGGIO, Charles.**—Owing to the former mining industries centered at Coal City, this community carries on considerable business and its merchants have to be prepared to meet the demands of representatives from numerous nationalities attracted to this point by the mines. One of the leading business men and merchants who has proven himself able to cope with all the conditions here is Charles Boggio, dealer in general merchandise. Mr. Boggio was born in Italy, and is one of the best examples of the live, progressive men of his country. His birth occurred October 21, 1885, and he is a son of Charles and Angeline Boggio. In 1888 the family came to the United States, settling at Braidwood where the father found employment in the coal mines, working there for some years, although he is now living retired at Coal City. He and his excellent wife had eight children,

four of whom died in Italy, the others being: Mary Cinia, Charles, John and Joseph. The members of the family are all Catholics. Mr. Boggio belongs to the Foresters. Politically he is a Republican but has never sought office, his time being fully occupied with the cares of his business. It was in 1907 that Mr. Boggio, recognizing the opening at Coal City for a good mercantile store, resolved to establish himself there. This he did in a small way at first, adding to his stock as trade increased, and now he has one of the leading stores of his kind at Coal City. Mr. Boggio handles a full and varied line of dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes and other commodities to be found in a first class establishment, and his success is fully justified for he is honorable in his methods and accommodating in his service. He owns his store building.

June 3, 1914, Mr. Boggio was married to Margaret Juliet Borella, at Coal City, Ill.

**BOLLINI, William.**—Without doubt this is the age of the young man. Conditions are such that men are developed rapidly and the demand for the enthusiasm and energy of youth is insistent and steady. No longer is it necessary for a man to wait until time has silvered his hair and lined his face before he can command the confidence of his fellow men. Real worth is recognized without thought of age. Thus it is that many of the most important offices of every community are in the capable hands of the younger generation, and these progressive men are proving the wisdom of electing them while they are in the full vigor of young manhood. One of the striking examples of what can be accomplished by the younger men of today is shown in the career of William Bollini, city clerk of Coal City, to which office he was elected April 1, 1912.

Mr. Bollini was born in this city in 1886, a son of Dominic and Mary (Marron) Bollini. The father was born in Northern Italy, while the mother is a native of Switzerland. She went to Italy where she met Mr. Bollini and they were there married, coming to the United States in 1883. They settled at Coal City, Ill., where he entered the mines, and worked in them until a few years since, when he retired, but both he and his wife are still living at Coal City. They had four children: Minnie, William, Julius and Dominic.

William Bollini attended the schools of Coal City, and after finishing his courses he began working as a clerk in a store, thus continuing until 1904, when he entered the employ of the Public Service Company of Chicago, with which he is still connected. Taking an enthusiastic interest in Coal City he has great faith in its future and is doing all in his power to advance its material prosperity. The Republican party has always had in him one of its most effective supporters.

In 1907 Mr. Bollini married Katherine Borella of Coal City. They have two children: William Antone and Maria Frances. Mr. and Mrs. Bollini are Roman Catholics.



**BOOKWALTER, Abraham Lincoln.**—There are far-seeing agriculturalists who now specialize along certain lines, in this way securing exceptionally fine results and one of the men who has made his products stand for the highest standard of excellence of their kind is Abraham Lincoln Bookwalter, of Garfield Township, who specializes on raising blooded cattle and horses. He was born on his present farm on March 28, 1862, a son of Benjamin and Susan (Barkey) Bookwalter, the former of whom was born July 31, 1831, and the latter October 12, 1837, both in Pennsylvania. These parents came to Grundy County in 1851, and became pioneers in what is now Garfield Township, and bought land for \$10.00 per acre. The father died September 19, 1903, and the mother, September 10, 1909, and their burial was in the Wheeler cemetery. They had four children: Abraham Lincoln; Emma, who married W. S. Allison, a banker of Gardner, Ill.; one who died in infancy, and Elmer, who died aged one and one-half years.

Abraham Lincoln Bookwalter attended the schools of his district and at the same time assisted his father on the farm. When he was sixteen years old, he went to Gardner, Ill., and for the following two years attended the schools of that city, and after that, for a short time, was a student in the Bloomington Normal school. Following this he returned to the farm, learning here the details of his present business from his father, who was a heavy stock raiser and handler of fancy cattle and horses. He has developed into one of the leaders in his line in this part of the State and owns 400 acres of very valuable land, and has the most beautiful home in the township.

On December 11, 1881, Abraham Lincoln Bookwalter was married by Rev. C. W. Greene, of Gardner, Ill., to Hattie J. Huss, born February 10, 1862, a daughter of Richard B. Huss, who came to Gardner, Ill., in 1863, where he embarked in a harness business, and was one of the pioneer merchants of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Bookwalter have had children as follows: Benjamin B., who was born November 2, 1885, lives on one of his father's farms, and married Mamie L. Barrett; Richard A., who was born February 27, 1888; John William, who was born March 15, 1890; Florence, who was born March 23, 1892; Charles Edward, who was born December 22, 1895; and Ira J., who was born May 31, 1898. On January 22, 1906, Mrs. Bookwalter died and was buried in the Wheeler cemetery, her parents being buried in the Braceville and Gardner cemetery. Mr. Bookwalter belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a Republican and has been a school director for the past twenty-five years. A man of prominence in his community, he is a strong factor in its development, and stands high in the esteem of all with whom he comes into contact.

**BOOKWALTER, Benjamin Boyd.**—The slogan, "back to the land" is having its effect, for many

of the most successful of the agriculturalists of today are those who after trying other lines of endeavor, have returned to the farm, and are now contentedly engaged in cultivating their property. A notable example of this in Grundy County is Benjamin Boyd Bookwalter, of Garfield Township, a son of A. L. Bookwalter, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

Benjamin B. Bookwalter was born in Garfield Township and here educated in the district schools. He worked with his father upon the homestead until joining his six brothers and sisters in what was known as the Bookwalter orchestra. For some time these talented young musicians had remarkable success with their organization, and then Mr. Bookwalter returned to an agricultural life, although his associates still devote themselves to musical careers. Mr. Bookwalter owns 160 acres of fine land in Garfield Township, upon which he is carrying on general farming. Having grown up on a farm and having a natural inclination towards work of this kind, Mr. Bookwalter is interested in it and is able to make a success of his undertakings. On February 2, 1910, he married Miss Mayne Barrett of Gardner, Ill., where her parents still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Bookwalter are members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Bookwalter belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is a Republican.

**BOOTH, Louis Edward, D. V. S.,** veterinary physician and surgeon, of Gardner, Grundy County, Ill., demonstrates in his daily work the importance of his profession. The lives of valuable registered stock frequently depend upon the skill of the man who is called to attend them, and such advances have been made in this branch of medical science that the course the veterinary physician and surgeon takes is quite as exacting as that in any other professional field. Although the youngest of his calling, Doctor Booth is the possessor of the largest practice in Grundy County, and his hospital for animals is one of the best-equipped in this part of the State. He was born in Gardner, Grundy County, Ill., in 1888, and is a son of Abraham and Captolia (Allison) Booth.

The early education of Louis E. Booth was secured in the public schools of Gardner, and in 1907 he graduated from the Gardner High school. Following this he clerked in various stores and in the postoffice, and after some preparatory study entered the Chicago Veterinary College, where he was graduated in 1911. On May 15 of that year, Doctor Booth's preceptor, Dr. N. P. Whitmore, of Gardner, one of the best known veterinarians in the State, died, and Doctor Booth succeeded to his practice to which he has since given his entire attention. He is the proprietor of a large veterinary hospital at Gardner, which is equipped for the treatment of all kinds of ailing domestic animals, and his success in a number of complicated cases has gained him a wide reputation in his profession. He prepares his own medicines, and has a large and valuable library, and keeps





fully abreast of the discoveries in veterinary science, subscribing for the leading journals and belonging to various medical organizations.

Doctor Booth was married November 9, 1912, to Grace Holmes, daughter of J. H. Holmes. He is a member of the local lodges of the Masons and Modern Woodmen of America, in both of which he has numerous friends. Politically a Republican, he has staunchly supported his party's policies and candidates, but has never sought office and takes but a good citizen's interest in public affairs.

**BORELLA, Martin.**—In every community there are certain men who, by reason of their aptitude for business detail, thoroughness of purpose and broad-gauged policy, take a foremost part in all progressive movements. Such a man is found in the person of Martin Borella, native of Coal City, Ill., born September 8, 1882, a son of Anthony and Mary Cerutti Borella. They are the parents of seven children: Henry, a traveling man; Martin; Pete, a farmer; Kate Bollini; Maggie and James, deceased; and Marguerite, living in Coal City. Anthony Borella worked on a farm and in a bakery in his native country until he was twelve years of age, when he left for Paris, France, to learn the baker's trade. Eight years later he visited Italy, and from there he embarked for Africa, where he was engaged in the building of tunnels. Subsequently he went back to Italy where he was united in marriage with Mary Cerutti. In 1879 they embarked for America and after reaching Illinois he worked in the mines, and later ran a boarding house and store, his being the first Italian store in Coal City. It was destroyed by fire in 1894; however another took its place in 1908. He is now retired. Mr. and Mrs. Borella made a tour of Europe in 1911, having also made five trips previous to this one.

Martin Borella attended school in Coal City, and at the age of twelve years became a driver of a grocery wagon for his father. Upon the retirement of his father, he took charge of the store which he managed until 1912, when he gave it up in order to visit Italy. After returning to the United States he embarked in another line of business, and also oversees his father's affairs.

On June 21, 1903, Mr. Borella was united in marriage, at Joliet, Ill., with Fronie Moarn, a native of Coal City, and one child, Marie Louise, born January 29, 1906, has blessed this union. He belongs to the Catholic Church and is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and Foresters of America, of which latter he is a social member and acts as secretary. Mr. Borella belongs to the Fire Department of Coal City; and is a member of the Coal City Marine Band and Musicians' Union, which he served as secretary for three years. Politically he is a Republican, but is very liberal in county politics. In 1910 he was on the ballot for supervisor of Felix Township, the result being a tie, from which he withdrew by agreement. He is a man of good principles and is considered a

public-spirited, useful citizen, one who has the best interests of the city and community at heart.

**BOTTINO, Angelo.**—A resident of the town of South Wilmington since its organization, Angelo Bottino is the leader among the Italian-born citizens of his community, and although now living retired from active business pursuits, still takes an alert interest in the affairs of his section, and for the past eight years has served as city clerk. He has also been a notary public for seven years, and devotes some time to acting as a fire insurance agent and as agent for steamship lines. He was born in Northern Italy, July 5, 1867, a son of Carlo and Domenica (Oberto) Bottino. His father, a teamster by vocation, died in his native land in 1905, while the mother still survives and makes her home in Italy. Ten children were born to them: Baptista and Frank, who came to the United States and still live here; Domenica (1), who is deceased; Dominic; Angelina, who is deceased; Victor, who lives in France; Quinto, who came to the United States and now resides in Texas; Angelo; Angelina (11), and Domenica (11).

The education of Angelo Bottino was secured in the public schools of Northern Italy, which he attended until reaching the age of twelve years, and after that time worked in a shop at a salary of ten cents per day for three years. Desiring to better himself, he then went to France and secured employment in the coal mines, but when twenty years of age returned to Italy and for two years served in the Italian army. Subsequently he went to Portugal for a short time and then returned to France, and when twenty-four years of age emigrated to the United States, locating at once at Braddwood, Ill., where he became a worker in the mines. In 1899 Mr. Bottino came to South Wilmington at the time the town started, and this has been his home to the present time. He was for some years engaged in the saloon business, but has disposed of his interests therein, and is living practically retired. He has shown his public spirit on numerous occasions when he was identified with movements making for progress and the betterment of conditions here, and is worthy of being numbered among the town's representative men.

Mr. Bottino was married to Miss Elizabeth Haakey, and three children have been born to them: Angelina, Mabel and Louis, all of whom reside at home. Mr. and Mrs. Bottino are members of the Catholic Church. He is prominent fraternally as a member of the Eagles Lodge, South Wilmington, the Italian society of the White Neck Tie, at Spring Valley; the Odd Fellows, at Braceville; and the Knights of Pythias, at Cedarville. In the capacity of city clerk, he is ably handling the affairs of his adopted place, and his conscientious public service has won him the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens.







*William D. Merriam*



*Mrs. William D. Merriam*



**BOTTINO, Clem**, a member of the firm of C. Bottino & Brother, proprietors of the leading store of South Wilmington, Ill., is one of the prominent and enterprising young business men of Grundy County. His career has been one of constant industry and courageous perseverance, and in spite of discouragements and misfortunes he has kept steadily progressing until now he is recognized as an important factor in the business life of his adopted place. Mr. Bottino was born August 2, 1886, in Compiegne, France, and is a son of Frank and Mary (Campo) Bottino.

The parents of Mr. Bottino were born in Northern Italy, and in 1886 emigrated to the United States, by way of France. Locating in Braidwood, Ill., Frank Bottino secured work in the mines of the C. W. & V. Coal Company, and later accumulated enough capital to engage in the fruit and confectionery business, in which he continued for about six years. In the spring of 1900 the family moved to South Wilmington, where they started the first store, prior to the incorporation of the town. Frank Bottino was identified with numerous business enterprises, made a success of his ventures, and is now known as one of the substantial men of South Wilmington.

Clem Bottino received his education in the public schools of Braidwood and South Wilmington, and upon the completion of his studies began to work in his father's store. He was subsequently engaged in teaming for some time, and then conducted the saloon owned in the village by his father and his uncle, but in 1908, with his brother Charlie, he established the firm of C. Bottino & Brother, which has become the leading store in South Wilmington, handling dry goods, groceries, fruits and vegetables, fresh and salt meats and miners' supplies, and attracting a trade from all over this part of the county. Clem Bottino has charge of the meat department and of the financial end of the business, keeping the books. He has been very industrious and continues to be active and enterprising despite the fact that he has been very unfortunate in having several severe accidents, the worst misfortune occurring when he was thrown from his delivery wagon. He has at all times manifested a commendable interest in the welfare of his community and its people, and by his courteous and pleasing manner has gained a wide circle of friends.

On May 30, 1906, Mr. Bottino was married to Miss Mary Bruno, a native of Northern Italy. Two children have been born to this union: Frank and John, both residing at home. Mr. Bottino is well known in fraternal circles as a member of the Foresters of America, the Sola Resplendente and the Minfore D'Italia. With his family, he attends the Catholic Church. He is a Republican in national matters, but in county politics is liberal, exercising his right to vote for the man he considers best qualified for the office, regardless of party lines.

**BOTTINO, Dominic**.—Examples are numerous of men who have come to this country from foreign lands without financial resources or influential friends and have risen to places of importance in commercial life, and no better instance of this type may be found than Dominic Bottino, prominent business man and highly respected citizen of South Wilmington, Ill. Mr. Bottino was born June 9, 1869, in Forino Rivara, Northern Italy, and is a son of Carlo and Domenica (Oberlo) Bottino. His father, who followed the occupation of teamster, died in his native Italy, in 1905, and the mother still makes her home there. There were ten children of the Bottino family: Baptista and Frank, who both came to America; Domenica (I), who is deceased; Dominic; Angelina, who is deceased; Victor, who makes his home in France; Quinto, living in Texas; Angelo, who came to America; Angelina (II), and Domenica (II).

Dominic Bottino secured all of his schooling in his native land, but has taught himself to converse, read and write English fluently. Upon his arrival in the United States, in 1887, he came direct to Coal City, Grundy County, Ill., where for seven years he worked in the mines, and then secured employment in a grocery store. In 1896 he removed to Braidwood, Ill., where he established himself in a general merchandise business, but in 1899 disposed of his interests there and came to South Wilmington, Ill. Here he was engaged in the grocery business until 1901, when he purchased property and erected a large business block in East Brooklyn, a village adjoining South Wilmington, and there conducted a general merchandise business until 1907. In that year he sold out and returned to Italy on a visit, and four years later returned to South Wilmington, where he lived retired until 1909, then engaging in business again at his present location.

In 1883, while still residing in Italy, Mr. Bottino was married to Katherina Campo, daughter of Joseph and Katherina Campo, and to this union there were born eleven children: Carlo, whose home is in Chicago; Fannie, who is now Mrs. M. Berta, of South Wilmington; John, who died and is buried in Braidwood; Joe and Henry, also deceased and buried in Braidwood; Maggie and Katie, who are living at home; Lucy and Peter, twins, at home; Dominic, Jr., who also lives at home; and Frank, who died at the age of eight years and is buried at Braidwood. Mr. and Mrs. Bottino are members of the Catholic Church. He is widely-known in fraternal circles, belonging to the Catholic Order of Foresters, at Coal City; Minatore D'Italia, and Sola Resplendente, at South Wilmington; Pretro-Micca, at Braceville; Fraternal Order of Eagles, at South Wilmington, and Mutuo Socorso, at Braidwood. In politics a Republican, Mr. Bottino was elected city treasurer of South Wilmington in 1903, and held that office for two years. He has wisely invested his means in real estate, and in addition to owning a number of residences and store



buildings in South Wilmington still retains his large business in East Brooklyn.

**BOWER, Leonard**, owner of 160 acres of fertile land in Good Farm Township, has demonstrated in his actual everyday operations the value of intelligent methods as applied to farming. In addition to his home farm, he owns 160 acres which he rents, so that he is one of the heavy landowners of Grundy County. He was born in Kendall County, Ill., in 1859, a son of George and Kate (Krug) Bower, both of whom were born in Bavaria, Germany. While in his native land the father worked as a farm laborer for a small sum, but after coming to Kendall County he was paid better wages, both at farm work, and in other employment at Aurora. He purchased his first land, amounting to eighty acres, in Kendall County for \$1.25 per acre, and developed it into valuable property so that he was able to retire in his declining years, and lives at Oswego, Ill., where his wife died in 1913. They had nine children: Christina, who died in infancy; John; Henry; Leonard; George; Fred; Charley; Louise, who died at the age of two years; and Minnie Hoffenrichter.

Leonard Bower attended the district schools of Kendall County, and when nineteen years old began operating his father's homestead. After his marriage he and his wife went to Oswego, Ill., but in 1889 came to Grundy County where Mr. Bower has made such a success of his agricultural ventures. In 1885, Mr. Bower was united in marriage with Barbara Burkhardt, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Frewerth) Burkhardt, who located in Good Farm Township in 1852, and are still living on their homestead on Section 15, that same township. A full history of this pioneer family will be found in the sketch of Andrew Burkhardt. Mr. and Mrs. Bower have had three children: Lora Schroeder, and Alice and Francis, both of whom are at home. The Methodist Church holds Mr. Bower's membership, and he gives his support to the Republican party. For the past ten years he has been on the school board of his district, and is a man highly respected by all with whom he is brought into contact.

**BOWKER, Frank C., M. D.**—The younger generation of medical men are fully sustaining the high standard raised by those who have gone before them, and are bringing into their work a fruitful experience. Matured by years of careful study and influenced by continual scientific discoveries, they are safeguarding the health of the people. One of the eminent physicians and surgeons of Morris, Ill., is Dr. Frank C. Bowker. He was born at Indianapolis, Ind., August 3, 1872, son of Clarence B. and Edna (Miller) Bowker, the former born in Thompsons County, N. Y., and the latter at Crawfordsville, Ind. The parental grandparents, Harrison and Helen (Seofield) Bowker, were natives of New York, while the maternal grandparents,

Isaac and Mary (Cannine) Miller, were natives of Indiana and Kentucky respectively.

Clarence B. Bowker went from New York to Crawfordsville, Ind., where he entered Wabash college and was graduated in the classical course in 1871. There he met the lady whom he afterwards married and they went to Indianapolis, where Mr. Bowker studied law for two years. He then went to McPherson, Kas., where he practiced his profession, being the first lawyer of that place. His death occurred in 1891. His widow has since lived with her son, Dr. Bowker.

Frank C. Bowker received his degree of A. B. from the State University of Kansas, from which he was graduated in 1895. During 1896 and 1897, he studied medicine at Kansas State University, entering Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago in the latter year, from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1899. Immediately thereafter, he came to Morris where he began his practice, and has built up a fine clientele. Dr. Bowker has become quite prominent in his profession, being President of the Grundy County Medical Society, and is a member of the Illinois State Medical Society, of the Homeopathic Medical Society and of the American Medical Society. He is medical examiner for the Modern Woodmen of America, the Mystic Workers and for the Royal Arcanum; the Pacific Mutual American Assurance Company; the Bankers' Life Association; Merchants Life Association; Illinois Life Association; Central Life of Illinois Association; Royal Neighbors and the National Life of the U. S. of America; and is on the staff of the Morris Hospital, and on that of the Chicago, Ottawa and Peoria Railroad company.

On June 6, 1900, Dr. Bowker was married to Flora Belle Boynton, born in Janesville, Wis., a daughter of Jerome and Kate (Scott) Boynton, who were natives of New York State. Mrs. Bowker was educated in the High school of Janesville, Wis. Dr. and Mrs. Bowker have had two children: Ruth and Helen. He is a Congregationalist in religious faith. The Republican party holds his allegiance and since 1908 he has been an alderman of his ward. In 1907 he was elected a member of the school board and still holds that office, and is also president of the library association. He is a Mason and has risen through all the degrees to that of a Mystic Shriner, being connected with Medinah Temple of Chicago. Dr. Bowker also belongs to the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America. Not only is he a skilled physician, but he is a public-spirited man who has the best interests of his community at heart, and is doing all he can to bring about a betterment of existing conditions.

**BRANNICK, John.**—There are many very interesting things to see and pleasant people to meet when one travels through Grundy County, Ill., and as fine, well improved farms as any in the State are situated in Aux Sable Township, one of these being owned by John Brannock, a





Henry Muffer. Emma Muffer.





well known and representative citizen of this section. He was born in Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Ill., November 12, 1852, and is a son of Michael and Mary Ann (Sterling) Brannick.

Michael Brannick was born in County Mayo, Ireland, and came to Grundy County, Ill., locating in Aux Sable Township, about 1840. In 1849 he joined the great army of gold seekers, who crossed the plains to California. However successful he may have been he remained but one year in the California mining regions and then started homeward, taking the old Panama route and, by way of New York finally reached Aux Sable Township once more. There he bought land and improved the same and for many years lived on that farm, and then, some twenty years before death retired to Minooka, where he died in 1902, when aged seventy-six years. At Joliet, Ill., he was married to Mary Ann Sterling, who was born at Providence, R. I., and died in June, 1907. She was a daughter of John and Mary Sterling, who came to Illinois and settled on the Illinois and Michigan canal, was toll keeper and also kept a store. The following children were born to Michael Brannick and wife: John; Ambrose, who is a farmer in Aux Sable Township; William, who lives at Troy, Ill.; Mary Ellen, who is the wife of Alexander Coulahan, of Joliet, Ill.; Michael and Thomas, both of whom live at Goldfield, Nev.; Jennie, who is Mrs. Thomas Brady, of Joliet, Ill.; Katharine, who is the wife of Edward Duffy, of Joliet, Ill.; Henry who lives in Minooka, Ill.; and Margaret, who is the wife of D. A. Henneberry, of Minooka, Ill.

John Brannick attended the district schools when a boy and helped his father on the home farm until his marriage, after which he went to Will County and bought a farm in Shanahan Township which he operated for eight years and then sold and returned to Aux Sable Township. In 1910 he bought his father's old farm of 320 acres which he operates with the assistance of his sons. General farming is carried on and he pays considerable attention to raising horses, cattle and hogs. He has improved the property greatly and has erected the modern buildings and a general air of thrift and comfort prevails.

In January, 1874, Mr. Brannick was married to Miss Mary Ann Coulahan, who was born in Aux Sable Township, a daughter of Lawrence and Margaret (Welch) Coulahan, natives of Ireland. To this marriage the following children were born: Michael and Mary, both live in this township; Francis died in infancy and Alexander when aged two years; Margaret and Charles live at home; Francis died when aged two years, and Loretta, the youngest, lived but one year. The mother of the above children died July 1, 1888. On January 25, 1893, Mr. Brannick was married (second) to Miss Catherine Reynolds, a daughter of Patrick and Ann (Smith) Reynolds. They were natives of Ireland, the father born in County Mayo, and the mother in County Wexford. Mr. Brannick and

family are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Minooka. In politics he is a Democrat and since 1897 has served in the office of road commissioner. He belongs to and takes much interest in the fraternal order of M. W. A. Mr. Brannick has some excellent investments, being a stockholder in the Minooka Grain, Lumber and Supply Company, and also in the Farmers Bank of Minooka, Ill.

**BRAUN, August A.**—The pioneers in any line of endeavor, the men who are fearless enough to forge ahead along new avenues, are those who deserve to succeed. They cannot be governed by what others have accomplished, but must take the risk and not only establish a business, but create a demand for their class of work. Such a man is August A. Braun, manufacturer of cement blocks, and contractor for cement work, who was the first to engage in this class of construction at Morris is now a leader in it. He was born at Chicago, September 25, 1856, son of John Adam and Susanna (Braun) Braun, not relatives, natives of Helmsstadt Baden, Germany. They married in their native land, but came to the United States about 1852, stopping first at Buffalo, N. Y., from whence they came to Cleveland, Ohio, the father working their way along the canal. In 1855, they located at Chicago, remaining there for two years, when another change was made to Mokena, Will County, Ill. There the father worked until 1875 for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. In that year he was promoted to be foreman and went to Morris where he discharged the duties of his new position until 1880. Mr. Braun then went to a farm he bought in Saratoga Township, and there he was accidentally killed by a kick of a horse in 1898. The mother moved to Morris where she died in March, 1910.

August A. Braun grew up in Will County where he attended the local schools. His first employment was as sexton of the Evergreen Cemetery at Morris, and he held this position for six years. At the expiration of that period, he moved to Morris and for several years conducted a general teaming business. From 1899 to 1902, he was superintendent of city streets, and during that period became so convinced of the superiority of cement, and the opportunity here offered for a manufacturer of cement blocks, that he founded his present business in the latter year. Since then he has branched out into cement construction work, and takes a great number of contracts for the work. In 1914 Mr. Braun built a new plant, 30x60 feet, two stories in height, and has now one of the best equipped cement plants in Grundy County. In addition to owning his plant and two residences, he also owns one of the largest gravel pits in Grundy County, 100 acres of land in Adair County, Iowa, and 160 acres of land in Canada.

In September, 1882, Mr. Braun was married to Elizabeth Gorich, born at Morris, daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Werner) Gorich, natives



of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Braun became the parents of the following children: Henry Wilhelm, who lives at Denver, Colo.; Bertha B., Mrs. George Corke, whose husband is manager of the Chicago Telephone Company at Morris; and Louis J., who lives at Morris. Mrs. Braun died May 19, 1897. On December 3, 1902, Mr. Braun was married (second) to Mary (Steele) Aird, widow of James Aird, and mother of Russell Aird of Morris. By his second marriage, Mr. Braun has had two children: Donald, who died at the age of one year; and Philip A. Mr. Braun is a Presbyterian. Politically, he is a Republican and has served as Commissioner of Highways of Morris Township since 1892. Fraternally, he belongs to the Morris lodge of the Knights of Pythias No. 178, and is popular in it as he is in business circles, for he is a man who makes and retains friends.

**BRAY, Charles George.**—Some of the most progressive agriculturalists of Grundy County have found it profitable to combine farming with other lines of endeavor, being thus enabled to bring into play all their ability, and one of these is Charles George Bray who is living on the John Hamilton farm in Mazon Township. In addition to conducting its 160 acres, he is an auctioneer of live stock and real estate. He was born in Will County, Ill., in 1875 and is a son of Michael and Ann (Dorin) Bray. Michael Bray was born in Ireland, in the county of Dublin, as was his wife, and in 1839 they came to the United States, landing at New York City where they remained until 1872 when they came to Will County, Ill., settling on a farm. Ten years later they left that county for Grundy County, where the father engaged in farming until his death in 1908, his remains being laid to rest at Morris. The mother survived him until July 18, 1912. These parents had fourteen children, ten of whom are still living, namely: Mary Moyer, Lizzie Jackson, Rose Nicholson, Margaret Carter, John, James, Andrew, Charles, George, Christopher and Daniel. Those deceased were as follows: Patrick, William and Michael, who died in infancy, and Sadie Larkin, who died later on in life.

Charles George Bray attended the district schools of his township, and since finishing his education has been engaged in farming. On August 7, 1905, he married Mary Gauthier, who was born in Belgium, but was brought to Coal City, Ill., by her parents, Benjamin and Jennie (Charles) Gauthier. The father was a coal miner who worked in the mines of Coal City until his death in 1894. The mother survives him. There were ten children in the Gauthier family, namely: Matilda Chillario; Fred; Jennie Binotte; Katie, who is deceased; Mrs. Bray; Sabine Gauthier; Augustine Bray; two who died in infancy; and Joseph, who is also deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Bray have two children, namely: Edward Andrew and Daniel James. Mr. Bray belongs to the Mazon Lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a Democrat in poli-

tics, although very liberal in his ideas. Very successful as an auctioneer, his services are in great demand all over the county. Genial, whole-souled and kind-hearted, he makes friends wherever he goes, and receives a warm welcome, for he knows how to make himself agreeable to all classes of men.

**BRISCOE, Peter H.**, who successfully carries on general farming and stock raising on his valuable farm of 200 acres, which is situated in Section 24, Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Ill., was born in this township May 23, 1853, and is a son of Nicholas and Mary Ann (Byrnes) Briscoe.

Nicholas Briscoe and his wife were both born in King's County, Ireland, where they grew up and married and in 1849 took passage on a sailing vessel for the United States. In the fall of 1849 they were safely landed at the port of New Orleans, La. Their objective point was Illinois; so they came up the Mississippi river and in April, 1850, came to Dresden, Grundy County. Mr. Briscoe had secured a tract of land to rent, in Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, on which the family lived until 1855, and then moved to Minnesota. In that State they lived until August, 1857, and then came back to Aux Sable Township and again settled on rented land. In 1862 Nicholas Briscoe moved to a tract of 350 acres, which he bought in 1866, and this continued to be the family home. He improved this land and continued to reside here until his death which occurred August 1, 1882, his widow surviving him until September 8, 1883. Of their children there are four yet living: Maria, who is the wife of James Mead of Aux Sable township; Eliza, who is the wife of William Harrison, of Washington; and Peter, the youngest of the family; Patrick, of Channahon, Ill., is now deceased.

Peter Briscoe attended the local schools in boyhood and gave his father assistance until his own marriage and then settled on 200 acres of the home farm, which his father had given him, and on which he erected a fine residence. His entire attention is given to his farm industries and he is numbered with the township's substantial and representative men.

On November 3, 1879, Mr. Briscoe was married to Miss Margaret A. Burke, who was born in Aux Sable Township, October 5, 1859, and is a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Welsh) Burke. The father of Mrs. Briscoe was born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1824 and the mother in King's County, Ireland. The father came to New York in 1847 and later became a resident of Grundy County, Ill. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe: John Nicholas, living at home, was born August 6, 1880; Elizabeth Mary, born May 31, 1881, is the wife of Patrick Whalen, of Morris, Ill.; Thomas A., born October 19, 1882, married Margaret Feeney and they live at Channahon, Ill.; Frances E., born March 10, 1884, died October 26, 1884; Esther M., born April 4, 1885, is the wife of Henry Talbot, of Troy Township, Will





MR. AND MRS. FRANK GETTLER



THOMAS MUFFLER



MRS. THOMAS MUFFLER



County, Ill.; William E., born October 13, 1886, lives at home; Francis J., born August 26, 1888, died December 21, 1892; Henry P., born December 1, 1889; Madoline E., born February 18, 1891; Loretta A., born March 1, 1892; Irene C., born May 15, 1893; Andrew L., born July 25, 1891; Katherine E., born February 8, 1896; Richard B., born February 11, 1897; George L., born January 21, 1899, died April 10, 1899; Monica E., born November 26, 1900; and Anna L., born June 1, 1904. There are eleven grandchildren.

In politics Mr. Briscoe is a Democrat and his party has frequently elected him to important township offices. He served as collector from 1878 until 1879, as supervisor from 1881 until 1896, and since 1898 has been serving in the office of assessor. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America order at Minooka, Ill., and he and family are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Minooka.

**BRITT, Cornelius D. (deceased).—**Some men are destined never to leave the ordinary paths of life, but in pursuing homely duties along them perhaps accomplish as much as those whose responsibilities carry them into wider fields. One of the men who for years worked faithfully and well as a farmer and did much to raise the standard of agriculture in Grundy County, was the late Cornelius D. Britt, a man of highest character and sterling integrity. He was born in Nettle Creek Township, November 14, 1857, son of Moses and Jane (Starr) Britt, the former of whom was born in England, June 14, 1812. Leaving his native land in 1840, Moses Britt came to Buffalo, N. Y., April 1, 1840, where he worked as a teamster until 1854, and then came to Nettle Creek Township, where he spent the remainder of his life.

When his father died, Cornelius D. Britt bought out the other heirs to the 160-acre farm, and conducted it until his death, January 8, 1899. He was reared on this property and attended the local schools. A member of the Episcopal Church, he lived according to its creed and was a worthy and good man. A Republican, he was honored by his party by election to different township offices.

On December 27, 1881, Mr. Britt was married to Eliza Mitting, born November 22, 1863, in Sussex, England, daughter of T. R. and Lydia (Piper) Mitting. The mother died in England in November, 1901, but Mr. Mitting survives, making his home in Sussex, England. On May 10, 1876, Mrs. Britt arrived in Nettle Creek Township, where she afterwards met and married Mr. Britt. They had the following children: Lydia J., who is Mrs. Harry Miller, resides with her mother; Hattie M., who is Mrs. John Mitchell of Morris; and Clara B. and Charlie H., both of whom are at home. After the death of Mr. Britt, Mrs. Britt brought her family to Morris, and for the past twelve years she has been a trained nurse. In October, 1911, she founded an invalids' home in a large brick building, at No. 222 E. Main street,

Morris, which has already attained a well deserved popularity. She receives and cares for women who are invalids, and her skill and kindly sympathy receive full appreciation.

**BRODERICK, Lawrence.—**The preservation of law and order, and handling of such criminals who will come into the best of communities, especially those which are the seat of justice, constitute a heavy task which only competent men can work out successfully. Experience, knowledge of men, and strict integrity are characteristics which are necessary to those who are at the head of the police forces of centers of civilization, and among those thus qualified, is Lawrence Broderick of Morris, the efficient Chief of Police. Chief Broderick was born at Morris, Ill., August 12, 1857, a son of Michael and Kate (Sheriden) Broderick, early settlers of Morris. The father, a section boss, and excellent man, died in 1870, but his widow survived him until 1898, when she, too, passed away. During her long widowhood, Mr. Broderick took care of her and gave her every comfort within his power. After twelve years' efficient service as a member of the police force, he was, in 1900, placed at its head, and since then has continued to justify his elevation to that important office. His men work effectively under him, and the citizens are given protection, as never before.

In April, 1890, Mr. Broderick was united in marriage with Ella McElhott, born at Morris, daughter of Daniel McElhott, who was born in Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Broderick became the parents of the following children: Ellen, Margaret, Katie, John, Thomas, and Clement. He is a consistent member of the Catholic Church. In political faith, he is an independent, preferring to vote for the man he deems best fitted for the office in question, rather than to bind himself down to any one party. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Columbus. Efficient, conscientious and hard-working, Mr. Broderick is an ideal official, and has laid the city of Morris under obligation to him for what he has accomplished.

**BROOK, Adam.—**The various services rendered to his township and county by Adam Brook, who is now living somewhat retired at his home in Braceville, Ill., have made him recognized by his fellow-citizens as one of those who have contributed materially to the progress and prosperity of Grundy County. He was born in Yorkshire, England, December 24, 1818, and is a son of Richard and Leah (France) Brook, natives of England, the former of whom was for sixty-six years a coal miner in England and the United States.

Adam Brook received but limited educational advantages, as at the age of eight years he began to work in the mines of England, at a salary of twenty cents per day. In 1877 he joined the police force of his native locality, and was so employed until coming to the





United States. He was married in 1866 to Phoebe Ward, also a native of England, and in 1880 they emigrated to America with their two children, locating first in Braidwood, Ill., where they remained one year, and then coming to Braceville. Here Mr. Brook secured employment in the coal mines, where he rose to the position of night boss, in which capacity he served for four years, and in 1887 was elected President of the Illinois Miners' Federation. Later he entered the saloon business, but in 1910 disposed of his interests therein, and since that time has lived practically retired, the greater part of his attention having been devoted to looking after his property interests. For the past fifteen years he has served as a trustee of the Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, and in April, 1912, was elected assistant supervisor of Braceville Township, in which office he continues to serve his fellow citizens. He has long been a popular member of the local lodge of the Foresters of America, and for fifteen years has been a trustee of that order.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brook, namely: Joseph, who died as a child in England; John Charles, who died in 1898 of injuries received while employed in the Braceville mines; and Gilly Spires.

**BROWN, John (deceased).**—Although others now conduct the drug store he founded, the name of Brown's drug store clings to the store at the corner of Liberty and Main streets, and John Brown is not forgotten in Morris. He was born in England September 1, 1825, a son of William Brown, a soldier in the English army. John Brown came to Morris about 1865, although he had been living in Grundy County for some fifteen years prior to that date. He served Grundy County as Supervisor from Aux Sable Township, and was a member of the Morris School Board. In 1875, he bought what was known as the Hopkins House and conducted it for five years, but after that devoted himself to his drug business which he had established upon locating at Morris. In 1890 Mr. Brown married Ann Brown, born in 1826, and they had nine children. In politics Mr. Brown was a Republican.

**BUCK, Archie Edward.**—Mazon Township is the home of some of the most substantial farmers of Grundy County and their well-cultivated acres reflect credit upon them and their section. One of the men who has found it profitable to engage in agricultural pursuits is Archie Edward Buck, owner of 160 acres of valuable land in Mazon Township. He was born in Saratoga Township, in 1870, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Prédaux) Buck. Thomas Buck was born in Canada, and his wife was born in England, and they were brought to Grundy County in childhood. After their marriage, they located in Saratoga Township, but are now living retired at Morris. Their ten children were as follows: Eliza; Albert; Nellie; Archie Edward; Alex and Andrew, who are twins; John; Josephine, who

is deceased; Jessie; and Robert, who is also deceased.

Archie Edward Buck attended the district schools for one year, and then completed his educational training in the excellent schools of Morris. When he was twenty-one years old, he began working on his own account, and in the years which have followed has given convincing proof of his ability. His activities have been varied as for a period he was with a threshing outfit during the summer months and a corn sheller outfit in the winter, but in 1895 settled on his present property, where he raises corn and oats feeding his grain to hogs and cattle.

The marriage of Mr. Buck occurred in 1895, when he was united with Emma Schofield. He is a member of the Methodist Church, and gives it a generous support. Fraternally he is a Mason and member of the Knights of Pythias of Morris. His vote has been cast for Republican candidates since he attained his majority. In addition to his farming interests, Mr. Buck is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Mazon and the Farmers Elevator Company of the same place. A man of affairs, he has known how to make his work count, and is regarded as a substantial farmer of the county.

**BUCK, Charles E.**—Grundy County farm land repays well those who spent their days cultivating it, for it is fertile, well watered and conveniently located with regard to transportation facilities. Therefore some of the most level-headed men of this locality are agriculturalists, and one of those who has devoted his life to farming is Charles E. Buck of Nettle Creek Township. He was born in this township, June 4, 1867, a son of Edward and Jane (Mason) Buck. When he was twenty-four years old he began working for himself and spent a season in Saratoga Township, but in 1894 began renting the homestead in Nettle Creek Township, and has developed into one of the most practical farmers of his township.

On January 22, 1895, Mr. Buck was united in marriage with Carrie Belle Drake, born in Goodland, Ind., a daughter of Eli Drake. Mr. and Mrs. Buck have had the following children: Edward, Ella, Laura, Hazel, Thelma, Adeline, Winiford and Henry V. Winiford died when eighteen months old. Politically Mr. Buck is a Republican, but has never sought public office, and fraternally he belongs to the Mystic Workers. In his neighborhood he has a wide circle of warm personal friends.

**BUCK, Edward,** was, for many years, one of the leading agriculturalists of Grundy County. He was born in County Cork, Ireland, January 1, 1830, a son of John and Catherine (Roach) Buck. In May, 1830, these parents came to America, and, locating at Brockville, Canada, the father embarked in a butchering business. This he continued until June, 1850, when he came to Morris, Ill., and continued butchering until his death, November 20, 1857. His



widow survived him until 1878, when she passed away, eighty years of age.

Edward Buck was educated in the common schools of his locality, and was taught useful, thrifty habits of living. A week after his arrival in Morris, in 1850, he engaged himself to work for farmers and kept at it until he earned enough money to buy a team of horses. He then took contracts from the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad for timber, for use on their engines, for those were the days when engines were fired with wood. Later, he worked land on shares for George Collins, continuing thus until 1861. In that year, he bought eighty acres of unimproved prairie land in Nettle Creek Township, and began developing it. Later, he added forty acres, but sold this farm in 1875, and bought a quarter section in the same township. Although it was improved, he kept on developing it, and carried on general farming until 1895. In that year he bought a handsome residence at Morris, on North Liberty street, where he now lives retired.

On October 7, 1857, Mr. Buck was married to Jane Mason, born in Ontario, Canada, April 27, 1835, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Fenton) Mason, natives of Ireland. She died October 15, 1900, and is buried in Evergreen cemetery, Morris, Ill. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Buck were: Lydia, deceased, wife of W. V. Jacobs of Monroe County, Mo.; Anna, who died at the age of four years; Hattie and Carrie, both of whom died in infancy; Charles, on his father's farm; Nellie, wife of Halber Walker of Waupunsee Township; Sarah, wife of J. W. Tackabery of Canada; and Edna and John, who remain with their father. There are fourteen grandchildren in the family. Mr. Buck is a Presbyterian in religious faith. In politics he is a Republican. A quiet, unassuming man, he has made many friends and retained them and holds the confidence and respect of his community. He was school director for twenty-five years and road commissioner for many years.

**BUCK, Richard R.**—As new capital is being brought into Morris through the encouragement to industrial concerns given by the Morris Industrial Association, the demand for building brick and tile has grown steadily, but as yet only one man is engaged in meeting it in this locality, he being Richard R. Buck. He was born at Morris, April 29, 1873, a son of John and Susan (Hutchings) Buck, natives of Ireland and Canada, respectively. John Buck came with his father, also John Buck, to Morris in childhood, while the mother came in childhood with her mother to Morris. Mrs. Buck was a daughter of George and Sarah (Peacock) Hutchings, natives of England, but the former was killed in Canada by a falling tree so his widow and daughter were forced to make the trip here by themselves.

Richard R. Buck now resides on the family homestead of thirty acres, that his paternal grandfather secured, in the northwestern part of Morris Township. Both the grandparents

died on this farm, and it descended to their son, John. The latter established a brick yard, later adding the manufacture of drainage tile to the business, and spent the remainder of his life producing these two lines of building material. His death occurred in December, 1906, but his widow survives and makes her home at No. 603 Liberty street, Morris, having her two daughters, Mary (Mrs. B. R. Gould, a widow) and Martha with her. The other children were: George, of Audubon, Ia.; Herbert, of Lake Charles, La.; William, of Morris; and Richard R. Prior to his marriage with the mother of Richard R. Buck, John Buck had been married to a Miss McMahon, and they had one son, Thomas, now of Morris.

When he was twenty-one years old, Richard R. Buck, who had been reared at Morris, where he was given a public school training, went to Lake Charles, La., where he engaged in manufacturing building brick. After three years of successful operation, he sold his business and began rice farming, carrying it on for eight years. In July, 1905, however, he returned to Morris and bought a half interest in the tile and brick business which his father had founded, his partner being his brother William, and they continued together until 1910, when Mr. Buck purchased William's interest, and since then has continued alone.

On January 2, 1898, Mr. Buck was married to Emma Siling, born at Greensburg, Ind., a daughter of Francis and Helen (Wilkinson) Siling, natives of Ohio and Indiana, respectively. The ceremony took place at Lake Charles, La., where Mr. Siling died in September, 1903, and where his widow and two other daughters still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Buck have had two children: John Francis and Dorothy Belle. Since 1905, Mr. Buck has been a steward in the Morris Methodist Church of which he has long been a faithful member. His views with regard to the liquor question make him a Prohibitionist, and he is willing to uphold his principles upon any and all occasions. He is a man of strong convictions as to right and wrong and exerts a powerful influence for good among his associates.

**BUCK, Thomas.**—It is an admitted fact that more men are able to retire, before old age, from farming, than those engaged in any other line of work. Land, if properly cultivated, produces results which justify a period of ease and comfort during declining years. Other occupations do not offer this in nearly so great a degree, but, on the other hand, agricultural occupations take more from a man than do those less strenuous, so that he earns fairly whatever he secures. One of the prosperous retired farmers of Morris is Thomas Buck, for many years a leading farmer of Grundy County, who still retains his land, although now renting it. Mr. Buck was born in Brockville, Canada, November 23, 1838, son of John and Catherine Buck, natives of Ireland. Until his marriage, Mr. Buck remained at home, attending school, and helping on the farm, his father



having come to Grundy County during his boyhood. In addition to his district school training, Mr. Buck had the additional advantage of a short period in the Morris schools.

Following his marriage, in 1861, Mr. Buck rented a farm in Saratoga Township, and three years later bought forty acres of land, which he began operating. He has added to his original farm until he now owns 280 acres of fine land. In 1898 he moved to Morris, and is living retired on East Jackson street, renting out his property. On April 12, 1864, Mr. Buck was married to Elizabeth Mary Prideaux, born in Somersetshire, England, daughter of Josiah and Susanna (Pitche) Prideaux, natives of England. In 1855 Mr. Prideaux and a son came to Morris, where he was later joined by his wife, and his daughter and another son. In 1863, the Prideaux family came to Morris, Ill., where the father was engaged in the practice of medicine. Mrs. Buck was educated in the common schools of her native place. Mr. and Mrs. Buck became the parents of the following children: Eliza J., Mrs. A. V. Sawdiner of Laclede, Kas.; Albert T. of Persia, S. D.; Nellie, Mrs. Levi Rumble of Atmore, Ala.; Orchard E., of Mazon Township; Andrew B. and Alexander V., twins, of Emmet County, Iowa; John W. E., of Morris; Josephine, deceased; Jessie at home, married Emma Chrisman; and Robert, who died in 1901, aged seventeen years. They have nine grandchildren in the family. Mr. Buck is a Methodist. He is a Republican in political faith and served many years as school director. Mr. Buck is numbered among the responsible men of Grundy County, and in him Morris has a most excellent citizen.

**BUCK, William Franklin.**—One of the old families of Grundy County, and one that has played an important part in the development of a flourishing industry, is that bearing the name of Buck. One of the representatives of the name is William Franklin Buck, who was for many years connected with the manufacture of tile and brick, but is now living retired. Mr. Buck was born at Morris, November 10, 1849, a son of John and Susan (Hutchings) Buck, a sketch of whom is given elsewhere in this work. Growing up at home and learning how to manufacture brick, William Franklin Buck attended the public schools and later took a commercial course at Bryant & Stratton's Business College of Chicago. In 1895, he and his brother George succeeded to the business established by their father and continued to operate the large brick and tile yards. In 1905, another brother, Richard, bought out the interest of George and he and William Buck remained in partnership until 1910, when the latter sold to the former, and since then has lived retired.

On October 10, 1891, William Franklin Buck was married to Minnie A. Petty, a daughter of Richard and Martha (Locke) Petty. For a year after his marriage, Mr. Buck lived in the same house with his parents, and then built a modern residence on seven acres of land adjoining that

of his brother Richard, in which he still resides. He and his wife have had two children: Anna Louisa and Eleanor Elizabeth. Mr. Buck is a Baptist and has been superintendent of the Sunday school for some years. Like his brother Richard, he is a strong Prohibitionist, and supports the candidates of his party, looking eagerly forward to the time when it will be the successful one, for he believes that people will become educated up to a moral standard that will demand total abstinence.

**BUCKLIN, George M.**—Many changes have been effected in business methods during the past half century. Formerly merchants of Morris and other similar cities throughout the country, had to send direct to factories for their goods, while it was almost impossible for the customer to get good service. Now the commercial traveler has changed all that. Today he is a very important factor in the business life of the country. Through his energy, foresight and selling sense, the products of great concerns are introduced into every part of the civilized world, and American industrial supremacy is maintained. One of the men who was a member of this important commercial fraternity is George M. Bucklin of Morris, at present editor and manager of the Grundy County *Gazette*. Mr. Bucklin was born October 8, 1859, in Will County, Ill., son of Madison and Sarah A. (Hanson) Bucklin, natives of Ohio. When they were children their parents moved to Schoolcraft, Mich., where they grew up and were married. The father became a farmer of that region, but afterward moved to Will County, Ill., and a few years later moved to Kankakee where he lived until 1870, when he moved with his family back to Michigan, settling near Marcellus, where he died in 1890. His widow survived him until June, 1900.

George M. Bucklin lived with his parents until his marriage, in 1881, having been reared on the home farm and sent to the local schools, and a graded school at Schoolcraft, Mich. Following his marriage, he operated the homestead for eight years, when he went to Marcellus, Mich., and combined farming with carpenter work until the death of his first wife. After that he went to Nebraska, where for four years he was in a real estate and abstract business. In 1896 he returned to Morris to take charge of the Morris *Daily Sentinel*. After a year he bought the paper and conducted it until January 6, 1909, when he sold it. The name was then changed to the Morris *Gazette*. After leaving newspaper work, Mr. Bucklin became associated with the Independent Harvester Company of Plano as traveling salesman representing that corporation upon the road for four years. He then entered the employ of the Grundy Daily and Weekly *Gazette* as editor and manager which position he still holds.

On March 27, 1881, Mr. Bucklin was married to Anna L. Hoover of Marcellus, Mich., and they had three children: Ora E., who died at the age of twenty-two years; Clyde M., who





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died at the age of four years; and Anna Grave, who married Dr. John Carlton Gable of Cohn, Iowa, where they reside. Mrs. Bucklin died January 2, 1892. On June 21, 1891, Mr. Bucklin was married (second) to Alice R. Turner, a native of Morris, daughter of George and Frances E. (Cone) Turner, natives of England and Utica, N. Y., respectively. Mrs. Bucklin is a granddaughter of George Turner and of Orville and Pernelia (Kimball) Cone. Mr. Cone was a native of New York State, who came to Grundy County and later became its first sheriff. He was also the first baker of Morris, conducting a bakery on Washington street for many years. By his second marriage, Mr. Bucklin has two daughters; Mildred A. and Evelyn Frances. Mrs. Bucklin is a very accomplished lady, possessed of musical talent, and she has charge of the primary musical work of the Baptist Church and is considered an authority on all musical matters. She is also secretary of the Ladies' Aid Society and is interested in everything pertaining to the church. Mr. Bucklin is independent in politics, while the K. O. T. M. of Morris, No. 265, holds his membership. Both he and his charming wife are popular in Morris, where they have won the esteem of all who know them.

**BULL, Isaac.**—There is always a demand for first-class food stuffs in every community and the man who knows how to meet that demand with an adequate supply, within reasonable prices, is bound to succeed. One of the men of Grundy County who is intelligently carrying on a prosperous meat market and grocery at Gardner, Ill., has proven his ability to live up to the above mentioned conditions. He takes a pride in keeping up the high standard he has raised, having his own cooling plant, the only one in this region, and carrying on all of his operations under thoroughly sanitary conditions. He was born at Gardner, Ill., in 1866, a son of Isaac and Betsy (Newell) Bull, natives of England where they married. Prior to coming here, the father was a farmer, but when he arrived at Gardner in the early fifties, he entered the mines near Gardner, thus continuing until he died in 1872, leaving a widow and eight children, five of whom still survive.

Isaac Bull, the son, attended the Gardner schools, and worked for farmers until he attained his majority, when he engaged with the coal company at Braidwood, Ill. In 1891 he established himself in business with a brother, but in 1911 invested in his present business, immediately installing improvements, and now has one of the best establishments of his kind in the county. In 1895 Mr. Bull married Annie Gilmore who was born in Scotland, but came to Braidwood, Ill., when twelve years old. Mr. and Mrs. Bull are the parents of three sons: Russell W., Harold A., and Rodger E., all of whom are at home. Mr. Bull is a Methodist, while his fraternal affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is

a Republican, but as yet has had no time for office, his private affairs engrossing him.

**BURKHARDT, Andrew John.**—One of the oldest and most honored families of Good Farm Township, Grundy County, Ill., is that of Burkhardt, a worthy representative of which is found in the person of Andrew John Burkhardt, a successful farmer and public-spirited citizen. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Burkhardt, never left their native Bavaria, Germany, nor did five of their children, but the other eight emigrated to this country, among them being Frederick Burkhardt, the father of Andrew John of this review. The others were: Margaret, Mrs. M. Schoeller, who came to this country in 1818, first located in Oswego, Kendall County, Ill., removed to Good Farm Township in 1850, located on the farm subsequently known as the Balshar Rhoeder farm, and died in 1852; Barbara, Mrs. John Heinn, who came to Kendall County, Ill., in 1815, and is now a resident of Aurora, Ill.; Michael, deceased; and Leonard, deceased, both came to Kendall County, Ill., and are there buried; George Christian, who came as one of the first settlers of Good Farm Township, in 1845, purchased a farm two years later, and died in 1857; Andrew, who came to Kendall County, later to Grundy, then moved to Dwight, Ill., where he died; and Sophia, who came to Kendall County, but later moved to Du Page County, where she now resides.

Frederick Burkhardt, who was born March 5, 1830, and died November 12, 1912, came to Oswego, Ill., in 1850, and three years later located on Section 15, Good Farm Township, Grundy County, where he resided the rest of his life. On first arriving in Oswego, as a young man of twenty years, he secured employment in a tavern, and in three years, out of a salary of \$6 a month, managed to save enough to invest in his first eighty-acre purchase of land. From this modest beginning he worked his way upward until at one time he was the owner of 960 acres of land, all located in Good Farm Township, and gave all of his children a comfortable start in life. In 1853 he was married to Mary Freewert, daughter of Leonard and Barbara Freewert, natives of Bavaria, Germany, and she survives, and as her late husband, has the respect and esteem of a wide circle of acquaintances. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt: Barbara, who is deceased; Andrew John; Frederick John and Thomas John, farmers of Good Farm Township; Barbara, who married Leonard Bower, a farmer here; Amos, deceased; Caroline, who married Fred Haag, of Plainfield, Ill.; William, of Good Farm Township; Sophia, who married William Pfeiffer; and Minnie, who married Frank Gantzer, a farmer of this township.

Andrew John Burkhardt was born August 20, 1855, in Good Farm Township, and here attended the district schools and was reared to agricultural pursuits, remaining on the home farm and assisting his father until his marriage, De-



cember 12, 1876, to Miss Emma Zingrebe, who was born in Will County, Ill., April 30, 1858. She is a daughter of George and Johanna (Ellessor) Zingrebe, the mother of Wurtemberg, and the father of Germerode, Electorate of Hesse, Germany. After his marriage Mr. Burkhardt began farming on a tract of eighty acres, and to this he has added from time to time until he is now the owner of 240 acres. For the past thirty-eight years he has operated a threshing machine and corn sheller in conjunction with working his farm, and in both lines has met with well-deserved success. He has been the architect of his own fortunes and has builded wisely and well. Through the careful direction of his business interests and by indefatigable industry he has acquired a handsome property and at the same time has so conformed to the ethics of business life that he has the unqualified confidence of all with whom he has had trade transactions. His politics are those of the Republican party, and his religious faith that of the Church of God.

Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt have had four children: Clara, who is the wife of Charles Rogers, a farmer of Good Farm Township, and a contributor to this work, and they have two daughters, Ollie and Florence; Edward, who married Grace Jones, and they have two sons, Ellis and Merwyn; Charles married Lillian Nelson; one daughter, Given, at home; and Ollie, the wife of A. Clinefelder, a farmer of Good Farm Township, and they have one daughter, Fern.

**BURKHARDT, Frederick John.**—It is a delightful surprise to those who feel that old-time hospitality is dying out, to chance upon a host like Frederick John Burkhardt of Good Farm Township, who takes a pride in welcoming everyone who enters his gates no matter what his station in life or state of pocketbook. Genial, big-hearted and loyal to the principles he espouses, Mr. Burkhardt owns more friends than half a dozen ordinary men, and richly deserves the high esteem in which he is held. He was born in his present township, April 12, 1857, a son of Frederick and Mary (Freewert) Burkhardt, pioneers of Grundy County.

Mr. Burkhardt attended the district schools of his neighborhood, and worked for his father until he attained his majority, when he began farming for himself, and now owns 280 acres of fine land on Sections 11 and 10, Good Farm Township. On this property he carries on general farming, specializing on breeding Belgian draft horses and German coach driving horses. In all his undertakings he has been eminently successful, but being a public-spirited man, he feels that some of his prosperity must be transferred to his community, and so is ever ready and willing to join any movement looking towards an advancement along progressive lines. Politically he is a Republican, but does not care for public life. Mr. Burkhardt has never married, but resides alone on his farm.

**BUREHARDT, William**, whose ownership of 280 acres of fertile land in Good Farm Township, is a source of pride to him and produces for him a good income each year, is one of the most progressive agriculturalists in his county, carrying on general farming and conducting his operations by means of improved machinery and appliances, including an automobile. Mr. Burkhardt was born September 14, 1866, in Good Farm Township, a son of Frederick and Mary (Freewert) Burkhardt, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. William Burkhardt grew up on his father's homestead, and was sent to the local schools. Until he attained his majority, he worked for his father, and then branched out for himself. In 1901, he married Euphemia Mitchell, born in Saratoga Township, a daughter of John and Anna (Spowart) Mitchell, natives of Scotland who came to Grundy County in 1843, locating in Saratoga Township. Later they went to Morris where Mrs. Mitchell died in 1883 and was interred in Evergreen cemetery. Mr. Mitchell is also deceased. They had children as follows: William, who is living at Morris; Elinor, who is Mrs. J. Hanley of Peoria, Ill.; James, who is deceased; Katherine, who is Mrs. J. Glen of Ottawa, Ill.; Christina, who is Mrs. Tattersol of Seneca, Ill.; Anna, who is Mrs. William Talifer of Joliet, Ill.; Euphemia; John, who is deceased, is buried in Evergreen cemetery of Morris; Jennie, who is Mrs. J. Bell of Saratoga Township; and John and George, who are living at Morris.

Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt have had three children: Orval William, Iacon M. and Frederick Glen. Mr. Burkhardt is a Methodist. A Republican in politics, he is now serving his first term as a school director. Fraternally he belongs to the Gleaners, of which he is Chief Gleaner, and he is as popular in this organization as he is outside, for he is a man who wins and retains friends. A reliable business man and thoroughgoing farmer, he has succeeded in his undertakings and has one of the best farms in his township which is noted for valuable homesteads.

**BURNHAM, Charles H.**—One of the highly esteemed retired farmers and business men of Morris, who is now enjoying well-earned ease in his declining years, was born at Charlotte, Crittenden County, Vt., August 2, 1839, a son of Charles and Amanda (Beldind) Burnham, natives of Connecticut and Charlotte, Vt., respectively. They were married in Vermont, and began their married life as farmers. In October, 1852, following westward the tide of emigration, they came to Morris, Grundy County, and in partnership with their son-in-law, Alanson Keith, bought 160 acres in Mazon Township. On this property the father died in 1871, the mother surviving him until 1875.

Charles H. Burnham attended the common schools of his native place, and grew up to farm work. Until he responded to his country's call, when civil war was devastating the country, he resided with his parents, but on August 13,





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1862, he enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Mazon, and was assigned to the Second Division, Second Brigade, Fifteenth Army Corps. He served until his honorable discharge May 31, 1865, at Washington, D. C. Returning home, he resumed farming, taking care of his mother until the homestead was sold, when he received his share of the proceeds. With this money he was able to arrange to begin farming for himself, and thus continued for a few years, and then went to Braidwood, and after two years to Morris. Here he worked at carpentry, and was engaged in a tannery for nineteen years, but in 1907, he retired, and has a pleasant home on North Liberty street.

On April 29, 1877, Mr. Burnham married Mary Ann Granger, born at Chicago, a daughter of Robert and Eliza (Edmond) Granger, natives of London, England. Mr. and Mrs. Burnham have had two children: Eddie Nelson, who is of Nettle Creek Township; and Charles Clifford, who is of Morris, Ill., the latter being written up at length elsewhere in this work. In politics, Mr. Burnham is a Republican. For years he has been a member of *Darvon Post*, No. 329, G. A. R., and is well liked in it, as he is in the community in which he has resided for so long.

**BURNHAM, Edward Nelson.**—One of the progressive agriculturalists of Grundy County is Edward Nelson Burnham of Nettle Creek Township, who was born in Mazon Township, January 20, 1880, a son of Charles and Mary (Granger) Burnham, natives of Vermont and Chicago. Until he attained to his majority, Mr. Burnham resided with his parents, and then worked in a tannery at Morris until March, 1906, when he began conducting a milk route to Morris. Later he sold this and moving to Nettle Creek Township, began operating the 300-acre farm of his father-in-law, and has been so engaged ever since, taking much interest in work that he learned in his youth.

On September 24, 1901, Mr. Burnham was married to Edna M. Hoge, born April 29, 1882, a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Peacock) Hoge. Mr. and Mrs. Burnham have one child, Edwin, born May 16, 1901. Mr. Burnham is better educated than many as he not only attended the schools of his district, but the High school at Morris. Fraternally he belongs to the Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen of America, both of Morris. The Methodist Church holds his membership and receives his generous support. Politically he is a Republican, but has not sought office, his time being occupied with his agricultural industries. Both he and his wife are very popular and are justly regarded as social leaders in their neighborhood.

**BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. Matilda (Allen).**—This is the age when women are coming to the front and demonstrating that they are fully competent to manage large affairs for themselves. Possessing habits of thrift and industry as many of them do, they make their work count

for something and as the heads of business concerns prosper in a remarkable degree. One of the leading factors in the business life of Morris, Ill., is Mrs. Matilda (Allen) (Humble) Butterfield, a woman of more than ordinary strength of character, who in spite of many adverses has steadily risen and is now owner of valuable property and a large and flourishing grocery store.

Mrs. Butterfield was born in Berkshire, England, September 19, 1833, and in 1855 started for the United States with Grundy County as her objective point. On the trip over she met on board ship and later married William Humble. Her second marriage was to Dr. E. T. Maunders, and a few years after his death she married Joseph D. Butterfield. Mrs. Butterfield has never spared herself but has labored long and earnestly to acquire property. Her savings have been carefully invested and when she had enough, put into real estate. She purchased the business block on Liberty street, Morris, where she conducts a general grocery store. Although a woman of advanced years she is as capable as ever, and looks after her own affairs. Her prosperity is all the more remarkable as when she came to Morris she had nothing and all she has she earned herself. There is no one more highly respected in Grundy County than this capable, reliable and honest woman, who has made her own way in the world.

**BUTTON, George A.**—Some of the most substantial citizens of Grundy County are those who were born and reared on farms, and there taught from earliest childhood lessons inculcating industry and thrift. One of these men is George A. Button of Morris, who has found his early training of great benefit to him during his after life. He was born in Waupunsee Township, December 22, 1858, son of Morgan and Lucinda (Foster) Button, natives of Ohio and New York, respectively. They were early settlers of Grundy County, and the father was a successful agriculturist of Waupunsee Township until his death in 1901. The mother died many years before him, passing away in 1880. Later, he married (second) Saretta Wilson, who is also deceased.

After attending the local schools, during which period he helped his father on the farm, George A. Button began earning his own living working in a coal shaft at Carbondale, Kas. After eighteen months, he returned home and within two months, he formed a partnership with his brother Milton Z., for the purpose of farming. They rented the R. M. Davis agricultural property and operated it for five years. Mr. Button then began farming in Waupunsee Township, where he married, and following this event, took charge of his father's homestead, and conducted it for five years. He then bought twenty-seven acres in Mazon Township, to which he later added several acres more, and operated it for five years, and within six years sold it, and came to Morris. Here for the next four





years, he conducted a first-class buffet, but selling his business became a machinist for the Coleman Hardware Company, thus continuing for seven years. For the next six months, he was with the St. Clair Laundry Machine Company, when in November, 1911, he was appointed inspector for the Public Light and Service Company and the Service Company of the Bell Telephone Company of Chicago.

In 1886, Mr. Button was married to Allie Braugham, born in Grundy County, daughter of Jacob and Lucinda (Cotton) Braugham. Mr. and Mrs. Button became the parents of children as follows: Blanche, Mrs. Otto Stevens, who lives in Waupunsee Township; Violet, Mrs. Truman Davidson, who lives at Morris; Floyd, who lives at Morris; and Claire, George and Earl, who are all at home. Mr. Button is an independent in his political views, preferring to vote for the man, rather than to be tied down by party lines. His fraternal connections are with the Domestic Orders of the World. A man of integrity, Mr. Button has always been willing to work steadily towards some desired object and stands very high in his community.

**CAISLEY, Thomas (deceased).**—The records of Grundy County are full of accounts of the life and work of those men who developed its agricultural lands, and rightly so, for upon the farmers of the country depend the welfare of the nation. Among those who became prosperous during years of strenuous toil on a farm, is Thomas Caisley, for many years a resident of Nettle Creek Township. Mr. Caisley was born in Yorkshire, England, November 2, 1833, a son of English born parents, who passed away in their native land, the father when our subject was an infant. In 1855, Thomas Caisley and his brother, William Caisley, came to Grundy County and rented land in Nettle Creek Township, for several years, then they bought eighty acres in the same township, but sold it in 1879, and bought 160 acres in Waupunsee Township. Mr. Caisley subsequently became sole owner of the farm, to which he added eighty acres more, and carried on general farming upon it until the fall of 1902, when he retired and moved to Morris, where he died August 11, 1907.

Mr. Caisley married December 23, 1864, Miss Ellen Leach, born October 5, 1847, in Lancashire, England, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Livsey) Leach, who came to Nettle Creek Township in 1849. Mr. Leach rented land for some years, but later bought 160 acres in the same township, and died upon his property, May 12, 1862. His widow lived on the farm until 1879, when she moved to Morris, and there she died January 31, 1893. After the death of Mr. Caisley, the widow rented property until November, 1907, when she bought her present residence at No. 613 East Washington street, where she and a granddaughter now live. Mr. and Mrs. Caisley had children as follows: Elmer G., of Waupunsee Township, living on the old farm; Leslie C., of Morris; Mary E., Mrs. Edward

Hume, of Waupunsee Township, died January 19, 1894, leaving a son and daughter, Clinton, of Waupunsee Township, and Florence E., who was adopted by her grandparents. She was born January 2, 1891, and lives with Mrs. Caisley. Mr. Caisley was a Presbyterian in religious faith. Politically, he was a Republican and was school director for many years. He was a good man in every respect, and was held in the highest esteem by his associates and friends.

**CALLEGARO, Lorenzo,** dealer in staple and fancy groceries, dry goods and other commodities at South Wilmington, is one of the leading merchants of Grundy County. He was born in 1862 in northern Italy, as were his parents, Baptista and Osvalda (Demio) Callegaro, who died in their native land. In 1885 Lorenzo Callegaro came to the United States, first locating at Aramont, Mich., where he worked in the coal mines until 1900, but in that year came to South Wilmington where he was employed by the Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Company in their mines for about six months. During this time he looked into existing conditions very carefully, and seeing an opening for a store of the kind he proposed conducting, he opened it, and has since conducted it with marked success. He not only owns his residence in South Wilmington, but also his business property and is now one of the substantial men of the village.

On February 2, 1898, Mr. Callegaro was married to Flora Baldwin, a daughter of Corine and Mary (Veselia) Baldwin, natives of northern Italy. Mr. and Mrs. Callegaro have had six children: Lena; John, who died in infancy, is buried in Braddwood cemetery; and Mary, John, Anna and Louis, all of the living children being at home. Mrs. Callegaro ably assists her husband in the store and both have made many friends by their pleasing, genial manners and accommodating spirit. They are members of the Catholic Church. Mr. Callegaro belongs to the White Tie, the Italian Lodge of Eagles, the Mareo Polo Italian Lodge and the Christopher Columbus Italian Lodge. In politics he is a Republican having taken out his naturalization papers at Aramont, Mich. He is a good citizen, highly respected by all who know him, and beloved by his family to whom he is a kind and loving husband and father.

**CARLIN, John W.**—The native sons of Grundy County retain a love for it although their interests may call them away from its confines. One of the men who has proven this in the way he has ever borne a part of its public-spirited movements, although now living across the line in Kendall County, is John W. Carlin of Newark, who for many years was a successful agriculturalist of Aux Sable Township, Grundy County. Mr. Carlin was born in Aux Sable Township, September 22, 1855, a son of Henry and Catherine (Kinsella) Carlin. Henry Carlin came from Ireland to New York City in 1825, and was



employed in a hotel and also as a teamster until 1837, when he came west to Grundy County, locating in Aux Sable Township. The following year, he went to Joliet, Ill., and there married Catherine Kinsella, born in Wexford, Ireland, in 1821. The Kinsella family had come from Ireland to Montreal, Canada, in 1837, from whence they traveled to Chicago by way of the lakes, but later moved to Joliet, where they resided for two years. Removal was then made to Morris, where Mr. Kinsella lived, the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal giving him employment on two sections of the canal between the Morris and Aux Sable locks. Mr. Carlin and Mr. Kinsella joined forces in a partnership about 1839, and worked together on the canal and operated a boarding house until the canal was completed. Mr. Kinsella then bought 640 acres in Aux Sable Township, and Henry Carlin bought 120 acres, and both developed their land. In addition to working on his own property, Mr. Carlin broke the prairie for the neighbors with several yoke of oxen. He continued to work his farm until his death in November, 1857. His remains were laid to rest in the Dresden cemetery. He and his wife had eight children, but John W. Carlin is the only survivor, the others being: Henry (I), who died in infancy; Henry (II), who died at the age of twenty-six years having been a harnessmaker and street commissioner at the time of his demise; Mary A., who died at the age of thirteen years; James B., who died at the age of eight years; Mrs. James Cantwell, who died September 25, 1908; Andrew (I), who died in infancy; and Andrew (II), who died at the age of four years. In 1859 Mrs. Carlin married (second) Thomas Dempsey, who was meat inspector of the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet for a quarter of a century prior to his death. Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey had two children: Anna L. and Catherine J. Amanda L. Dempsey married Thomas Coughlin, who is a shipping clerk in the Air Motor Company. They reside at No. 1009 Cyprus street, Chicago, and have four sons: Thomas J., John E. W., James F. and Henry A., all of Chicago. Catherine J. Dempsey married Edmund J. Sweeney of Plattville, Kendall County, Ill., a heavy landowner and stock dealer. They have had the following children: an unnamed infant who is deceased; Catherine J., who is attending a convent school at Ottawa, Ill.; Mary A. and William J. Until 1902, John W. Carlin assisted his mother in operating the homestead farm, but in that year the two moved to Minooka, Ill., where they lived with Mrs. James Cantwell until the mother's death, August 7, 1907. Since then Mr. Carlin has resided at Newark, Ill.

**CARLSON, August Wilhelm.**—Wherever in a neighborhood, a native-born son of Sweden is found, there is apt to be prosperity for those which come from this land of the North, know how to work, save and make the most of their money, and consequently, in time, take a responsible place in any community in which they

may locate. For this and other cogent reasons, Swedes are welcomed to any locality, and one who has proven himself worthy of his native and adopted land is August Wilhelm Carlson. He was born in Sweden, December 13, 1855, and his parents passed away in that country. The lad grew up to a useful manhood, attending public school, but not being contented with his future prospects, in 1880 came to the United States. He made Morris his objective point, but left soon after his arrival for Joliet, where he began working in the rolling mills, thus continuing during the summer and into the fall of that year. Returning to Morris, October 7, 1880, he engaged with what is now Coleman's factory. His rise was steady on account of his value as a skilled workman, and in 1904, he was made foreman of the moulding department, and now has from 40 to 60 men under his charge. Having worked from the bottom up, he understands the business in every detail, and knows just how much to justly require of his men, so that he not only gets good results for his employers, but is a favorite with the men, because they know he is their friend.

On October 13, 1883, Mr. Carlson was married to Amanda Matilda Peterson, born in Sweden, who came to Morris in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson have the following children: Elmer of Morris; Luella, a court stenographer, of Morris; Artie and Earle of Chicago, and Sigrid at home. Mr. Carlson belongs to the Swedish Baptist Church, in which he is an elder. The Prohibition party has in him a strong supporter, and he served for two years as city treasurer, giving the city an able and conscientious administration. Sound and reliable, a man who is able to command others because he can control himself, Mr. Carlson is one of the responsible citizens of Morris, and stands high in public estimation.

**CARLSON, Elmer W.**—The art and science of photography are closely allied, and combined they are responsible for some magnificent effects. The modern photographer is an artist as well as a man of science and not only knows how to develop his plates after the picture is taken, but to pose his subjects so as to bring out their best points, while retaining a natural expression. One of the best photographers of Grundy County and the leading one of Morris is Elmer W. Carlson. He was born at Morris February 14, 1885, a son of A. W. and Amanda (Peterson) Carlson, natives of Sweden.

Elmer W. Carlson was brought up at Morris and here educated in the public schools. After completing his course in them, he took up the study of photography in the Ellingham school of photography, from which he was graduated in November, 1909. Following this for one year he worked at Springfield, Ill., there gaining a valuable experience which he found to be of inestimable worth to him when in September, 1910, he embarked in business as a photographer at Morris. From the start his work was found to be entirely satisfactory, and he has devel-



oped into the leading man in his line in the city. Mr. Carlson does all kinds of photographic work, and is noted for his skill and courtesy.

On April 19, 1906, Mr. Carlson was married to Ellen Lundburg, born at Salina, Kas., daughter of Sven Lundburg, who was born in Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson became the parents of the following children: Elma Marie, who was born July 28, 1907; and William Lundburg, who was born November 14, 1908. Although he belongs to the Swedish Baptist Church, Mr. Carlson attends services at the Methodist Church as his wife belongs to that denomination. In politics Mr. Carlson is a Republican, but has had no time to go into public life. No man stands higher in public opinion than he and he has earned his position by honorable dealing and marked ability.

**CARR, Joseph C.**—President of the Grundy county National Bank at Morris, Ill., is an energetic business man, well qualified to conduct the affairs of a banking institution. The banking interests of a community are necessarily among the most important for financial stability is the foundation stone upon which are erected enterprises which prove of worth. The men who control and conserve the money of individuals, corporations or country, must possess many qualities not required in the ordinary citizen, although it will generally be found that in a successful banker is displayed the characteristics which mark an upright man and far-seeing one in any other calling. A banker must have commercial integrity, exceptional financial foresight, unbiased judgment and a wide knowledge of human nature. A banker must be able to command public confidence, and, it may be added, must deserve it. In many instances Grundy County has been very fortunate in its financial leaders and particularly is Morris to be congratulated for the stability and prosperity of the Grundy County National Bank, with Joseph C. Carr at its head.

The subject of this sketch was born in Allegheny County, Pa., January 2, 1836. At an early age he removed with his father's family to Jefferson County, Pa., where they resided until the fall of 1852, when the family left for Jackson County, Iowa, where they arrived in the early spring of 1853. Here he remained for five years, four of which were spent on a farm, and one year in the Postoffice at Bellevue. In the spring of 1858 he came to Morris. In 1862 he returned to Iowa and enlisted in the Thirty-first Regiment, Iowa Infantry, as a private, and during his service he received three promotions, the last one that of lieutenant and adjutant of the regiment. At the close of the war he returned to Morris and entered the real estate office of the late Charles H. Gould, where he remained until October 5, 1871, when he was made cashier of the Grundy County National Bank, which position he held until January 15, 1903, when he was elected president of the bank.

Mr. Carr was married at Bellevue, Iowa, in

April, 1861, to Miss Rebecca J. Wyman, and they have three children: Frank L., a resident of White Willow, Ill.; Hattie (Mrs. Washburn) of Lisbon, Ill.; and Edwin G., who is a citizen of Morris. Mr. Carr's family are members of the Presbyterian Church. Politically he is a Republican, but has never been willing to accept public office, preferring to exert his influence in the direction of law and order in the capacity of private citizen. He is a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post at Morris.

**CARSON, Thomas**, founder of the Carson House, and one of the early residents of Morris, was born in Scotland February 9, 1827, a son of William and Grace (Maxwell) Carson. In 1857 he located permanently at Morris, where he opened and conducted the Carson House which still bears his name. After thirty years, he turned the management over to his wife's son-in-law, William R. Allen. Mrs. Carson was a widow, Mrs. Jane (Sharp) Patrick by name when she and Mr. Carson were married. Her only daughter, Janet B. Patrick married William R. Allen. Mr. Carson was a staunch Republican and could have held important offices had he so desired. His wife was a Presbyterian, and he attended the services of that denomination with her.

**CARTER, Frank Burdette.**—While agriculture has given employment to the energies and brains of men since the beginning of the world, it is only within recent years that the farmer has been accorded his proper place among the workers of importance, and science and governmental power have been employed to give him assistance. The modern farmer conducts his business much more expeditiously and profitably than did his forefathers and in consequence is able to enjoy many comforts that were utterly out of the reach of people in the rural districts a few years ago. One of the representatives of this great and important class of workers in Grundy County is Frank Burdette Carter, who belongs to the well known Carter family written up at length elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Carter is the owner of eighty acres of valuable farming land in Mazon Township, on which he raises corn and oats. He was born in this township where his people have played an important part, in 1867, and here received his educational training in the public schools. Having been reared to farm life, he naturally adopted agriculture as his vocation, and has a very well improved farm in which he takes a justifiable pride.

In 1891 Mr. Carter married Mary A. Shields, born in England, who was brought to Grundy County, Ill., by her parents when she was twelve years old. Mr. and Mrs. Carter are the parents of four children: Dora Frances Reader; Maud; Willie, who died at the age of three years; and Russel. Mr. Carter with his family belongs to the Methodist Church, and is active in its good work. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Court of Honor, both of Mazon. A





Mr. and Mrs. T. Nelson  
and Kice





Democrat in politics, for the past twelve years he has served as a school director and is a man of importance in his community where he is so well and favorably known.

**CARTER, Melvin.**—The agriculturists of Grundy County have not been content to rest satisfied with ordinary progress, but are constantly adding to their improvements, thus increasing the value of their property and the efficiency of their working plant. The farmer of today is a business man and understands thoroughly the value of systematic management and good equipment. One of these belonging to this class is Melvin Carter, owner of 160 acres of fertile land in Mazon Township, which he devotes principally to corn and oats. His property is known as Meadow Brook, and is one of the fine farms of the township. Mr. Carter was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, November 17, 1845, a son of Abraham and Margaret (Preston) Carter. Abraham Carter was born in Harrison County, Ohio, where he learned the trade of a glass-blower and so continued until he moved to Guernsey County, where he followed farming. In 1852 he brought his family to Grundy County, Illinois, settling in Mazon Township, farming here until his death, which occurred in 1876. His wife passed away in 1902, and both are buried in Wheeler cemetery, Mazon Township. They had ten children, eight of whom survive.

Melvin Carter was brought up on a farm and attended the local schools of his neighborhood. His life has been spent in agricultural pursuits and that is one reason why he understands farming so well. On November 11, 1887, he married Frances Ella Wilson, born in New York City, February 14, 1853, a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Gallagher) Wilson, natives of Ireland and London, respectively. Mrs. Carter was the widow of a Mr. Wilson, by whom she had two daughters, Daisy E. Wilson and Rose Addie Wilson, when she married Mr. Carter. Mr. and Mrs. Carter have had the following family: Paul Abraham Melvin, who is in British Columbia; Wayne Francis, who is at home, and one who died in infancy. Mr. Carter is a Democrat and served as school director for twenty years and as road commissioner for many years, proving himself a wise and conscientious official. He has just completed the construction of a barn which is one of the finest of this section.

**CARTER, William Henry.**—If it were not for the capability and energy of the agricultural class, the country would go hungry. It is the farmers who keep the world fed, and all honor should be given to the men who are willing to work as they have to in order to bring forth crops from the soil. One of the men who is conducting his fine 220-acre farm in Mazon Township, successfully and scientifically, is William Henry Carter. He raises horses and cattle, feeding in large lots, and shipping to the nearest market. He was born on this farm February 6, 1863, and received his educational

training in the district schools of his neighborhood.

On February 5, 1901, Mr. Carter married Luella Menaugh, who was born September 1, 1869, and died August 22, 1913, and was buried in the Wheeler cemetery in Mazon Township. Mr. Carter has been very active in politics as a Democrat, and was assessor for three years; was on the school board for some years, and for eight years represented Mazon Township on the County Board of Supervisors. At present he is President of the Farmers Elevator Company and a stockholder of the Mutual Insurance Company of Mazon. He was one of the first supporters of the Grundy County Fair Association, and the success of that organization is largely due to him. His farming has always been carried on with sensible regard to expediting the work, and for this purpose he has added to his equipment until he now has one of the best in the county. An advocate of modern methods, he has set an example many are glad to follow, and he is recognized as an authority upon all matters pertaining to agricultural affairs and the proper conduct of farming operations.

**CASSEM, Christopher E.**—The agriculturists of Grundy County are continuing to exert themselves in maintaining a high standard of excellence not only of their products, but of their farms and premises as well. New buildings are being erected, improvements installed and modern methods adopted so that the farming properties in this region compare favorably with any in the country. One of these progressive farmers of Grundy County is Christopher E. Cassem, of Nettle Creek Township. He was born at Miller, La Salle County, Illinois, March 10, 1864, a son of Peter and Anna (Heggem) Cassem, natives of Norway. They came to Nettle Creek Township in 1854, buying first land, however, in Kendall County in 1865, which they sold nine years later to buy 200 acres in Nettle Creek Township, from John K. Ely, and moved upon this property in 1876. There the father died July 5, 1887, and the mother in February, 1903. Beside Christopher C. there were two other children, a brother and sister; Thomas P., who was born May 14, 1855, resides at Odin, Minn., and Christianna, who was born April 19, 1869, married Thors Lesdal of Nettle Creek Township.

All the children attended the local schools, Christopher remaining at home with his parents. At his father's death he received a third of the estate as his share, and now owns 120 acres of land. On this farm he has erected new buildings and made other desirable improvements which add to its value. He finds it profitable to concentrate his efforts on grain farming. On June 24, 1896, Mr. Cassem married Ingrid Neste, born February 11, 1872, near Decorah, Iowa, and died October 10, 1903, and is buried in Lisbon cemetery. She was a daughter of Knute K. and Groe Neste, natives of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Cassem had two children, Clara, born March 27, 1897, and Myrtle, born February 11, 1902.



both at home. Mr. Cassem belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Church. He served as town clerk and collector for terms of one year each, and is now serving in his second term as township committeeman and is one of the foremost men of his township. He is a strong prohibitionist.

**CHADA, Matcheus.**—Owing to the location here of large mining interests which give employment to hundreds of men, the demand for food stuffs is heavy and the supplying of it forms an important part of the business of the place. One of the men who is a general merchant of the city and controls a heavy trade is Matcheus Chada, dealer in dry goods, groceries, shoes, flour and feed, and proprietor of the leading hotel here. He was born in Bohemia March 25, 1857, a son of Martin and Josefa (Lankota) Chada, who were both born in Bohemia, where the father was engaged in mining until his death in 1885. His widow survived him until 1902, when she passed away, having borne her husband the following children: Hattie, who is deceased; James, Joseph and Frank, who reside in Bohemia; Matcheus, whose name heads this review; Anna, who lives in Coal City; Fred, who is deceased; John, who still resides in Bohemia; and Martin, who is deceased.

Matcheus Chada was employed in a brick yard prior to his coming to the United States, and also learned the tinner's trade. He had some experience working in coal mines, so that when he arrived in Coal City in 1887 it was but natural that he should seek employment in the mines here, and until 1906 he continued to work in the mines, but in that year embarked in his present undertakings and has developed into one of the leading business men of the city. While living in Bohemia he married Katherine Opatring, who died three months after their arrival at Coal City, the mother of three children; Mary Kosnivsky; Josie Houghton, who lives in Montana, and Fanny, who died in infancy. Mr. Chada was married (second) to Mary Kral, also born in Bohemia, and they have had the following children: Charles; James; Abbie, who is deceased; Anna, who lives in Chicago; Abbie (11), who is at home; Fred, who is deceased, and Bessie, Katie, Mildred and Fred, and one who died in infancy. Mr. Chada is a Socialist in his political views. He is a man whose industry is proverbial, and who has attained to his present prosperous condition through his own unaided efforts and thrifty habits.

**CHERRIE, Albert S.**, for years manager of the I. N. R. Beatty Lumber Company of Mazon, is one of the leading young business men of Grundy County whose rise has been rapid, but steady. His success has come through his application and sound principles, and he deserves his prosperity for he has fairly earned it. Mr. Cherrie was born in 1887, on the farm owned by his father in Braceville Township. His parents, William and Isabella (Stevenson) Cherrie, were

born in Scotland, but came to the United States in 1845, and first lived at Braidwood, Ill., where the father worked in the mines. Later they moved to Grundy County, becoming farmers, and he is still living on his property, but the mother died in 1906. These parents had ten children: Mary Brown; Margaret Brown; Thomas, who is deceased; James; Allen; William, Jr.; John, who is deceased; John (11); Isabel Davidson and Albert.

Albert S. Cherrie remained at home assisting his father in conducting his 140-acre farm, and attending the schools of his district, until he was twenty years old. At that time he went to Joliet, Ill., but after working there for a time took a course in Brown's Business College at Ottawa, Ill., following which he entered business life. He is a Mason, belonging to Wilmington Chapter No. 112, R. A. M., and to the Knights of Pythias of Braidwood, Ill. The Presbyterian Church holds his membership and profits from his generosity. In politics he is a Republican, but as yet his inclinations have not led him to adopt a public career.

**CHRISTENSEN, Hans Einer.**—Today the photographer holds a distinct position in the business world for through him the people are being educated. His skill and artistic perceptions are combined to give to the world views of scenes that otherwise would never come to the notice of many, while he preserves the features of those who must in the course of nature pass away. One of the men who is a credit to his community and his art is Hans Einer Christensen of Morris, the oldest photographer of the county. He was born in Grundy County, December 1, 1889, a son of Hans and Christina (Johnson) Christensen, born in Denmark, who came to Grundy County about 1887, here settling on a farm. Later they moved to Morris where the father became a teamster, so continuing until 1906, when he engaged in a general contracting business. The children born to this worthy couple were as follows: Hans Einer, Ingman, Axel, James, Leo, Marie and Genevieve. Of the above, Axel lives at Dwight, Ill.

Hans Einer Christensen resided with his parents, attending the local public schools until he was fourteen years old. At that time he began working as a cigarmaker, thus continuing for four years. He then went to Winfield, Kas., and was employed by P. J. Brask, with whom he learned the photographic business. After two and one-half years there, he went to Wichita and Hutchinson, both in Kansas, where he was engaged in the photographic business. Coming back to Morris, he entered the employ of G. W. Ererding, and six months later bought his business. This studio was established in 1898, and is the oldest in Grundy County. Mr. Christensen takes all kinds of photographs and views, enlarges them and specializes on views of points of interests in this vicinity. His magnificent work and courteous bearing have assured him a large patronage from the start.

On December 25, 1911, Mr. Christensen was,





MRS. PETER ONSON



married to Margaret Broderick, daughter of Larry and Nellie (McGalliget) Broderick. Mr. Christensen is a Presbyterians. He has always been a Republican, but has never entered public life. Fraternally he belongs to the K. O. T. M., and is interested in his associations in this order. A splendid type of the energetic young business man of today, Mr. Christensen is rapidly forging ahead, and to judge by present conditions, has a prosperous future before him.

**CHVATAL, Frank J.**, who is known as one of Coal City's most progressive and enterprising business men, has worked his way into public confidence by the exercise of industry, integrity and well-applied effort. A native of Grundy County, he has spent his entire life here, and at no time has failed in his duties as a good citizen. Mr. Chvatal was born at Braidwood, Illinois, October 3, 1886, and is a son of Joseph and Barbara (Black) Chvatal. His parents were natives of Prague, Bohemia, where his father learned the trade of butcher. At the age of sixteen years, Joseph Chvatal came to the United States and located in Chicago, Illinois, where for something over three years he worked at his trade, then moved to Braidwood, where he entered business on his own account. Mr. Chvatal came to Coal City in 1891, and during the next eighteen years was known as one of his community's foremost and most reliable business men. His death, in 1909, lost to Coal City a man who in many ways had assisted in promoting the city's interests. His widow still survives and makes her home in Coal City. They were the parents of eight children: Frank; Joseph; James; Eddie and Emma, who are deceased; Bessie; Louis, and one who died in infancy.

Frank J. Chvatal received his education in the public schools of Braidwood, Illinois, and early applied himself to securing a knowledge of the butchering business. At the time of his father's death, he and his brother Joseph took over the business, which they have continued to conduct to the present time, with well-merited success. Mr. Chvatal is essentially a business man, and has found little time to engage in public affairs. Nevertheless, he has shown his good citizenship by supporting all movements of a progressive nature, and can be relied upon to give his aid and influence to good men and proper principles. On October 3, 1910, Mr. Chvatal was married to Miss Maud McKinley, born July 19, 1890, an estimable young lady of Coal City. He is a member of the Masons, Knights of Pythias and White Cross orders.

**CINOTTO, Anton**, a photographer of Coal City, is a man whose love for his art is well blended with his technical knowledge of all its details. He was born in Braceville Township in 1886, a son of Anton and Jessie (Pistocco) Cinotto. These parents were both born in northern Italy, from whence the father came to the coal fields of Grundy County thirty years ago, locating at Braceville, where he engaged in mining. Later

he farmed, thus continuing until 1906, when he went back to Braceville and is now engaged in a draying business at that point. He and his wife had eleven children, seven of whom survive, namely: Joseph, who is of Braceville; Louis, who is of Mazon Township; Mary Odile; Anton; John; Kate, who is now Mrs. Perino of Braceville; and Will, who lives at Dwight, Ill.

Growing up on the farm upon which he came into the world, Anton Cinotto attended the schools of his neighborhood, and early began supporting himself, first in the employ of the railroad at Minooka, and then at a coal chute where he remained for three years. However, he was too ambitious, and possessed too keen an artistic sense to be contented at this kind of work, so learned photography in 1906 and established his studio at Coal City where he has since remained. He carries on a general photographic business and finishes all kinds of photographs and kodak films, enlarges portraits in crayon, sepia and pastel and furnishes picture frames and mouldings of every description. The Catholic Church holds his membership and has his valued support. Although in national matters he is a Republican, locally he prefers to vote for the man he deems will best fill the office. A young man of pleasing manner and thoroughly versed in his work, he has a wide circle of friends with whom he is deservedly popular.

**CLAUSON, Martin.**—It has been proved that practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, seldom fails of success. It carries the individual onward and upward, brings out his individual character, and acts as a powerful stimulus to the efforts of others. The most effective results in life are generally obtained through simple means and the exercise of common sense, perseverance and well-directed effort. In the field of daily activity, one who has won an enviable success is Martin Clauson, of Erianna Township, an agriculturist of ability and a citizen whose public spirit has never been questioned. Mr. Clauson was born in Miller Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, September 17, 1856, and is a son of Lars and Martha Clauson, natives of Norway. The parents of Mr. Clauson came to the United States in 1854 and settled in what was then Mission Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, where they owned eighty acres of land. There the father continued to follow tillage the soil until his death in 1889, while the mother still survives and makes her home on the old place.

After completing his schooling in the district institutions of LaSalle County, Martin Clauson, at the age of twenty-two years, embarked upon a career in farming on his own account, for fifteen years being a renter of land in Miller Township. Subsequently he moved to Erianna Township, Grundy County, where he purchased 110 acres of land on Section 6, and here he has erected large, substantial buildings and made numerous other improvements of a modern character. He does general farming and raises Poland-China hogs and Shorthorn Durham cat-





He has had worked as high as 160 acres in corn and eighty acres in oats, with land he rents adjoining his, and in 1912 had 115 acres in corn and sixty acres in oats. The forethought, sound judgment and enterprise which form the elemental strength of Mr. Clauson's character have brought him to a well-earned prosperity. He exercises his right of franchise in the support of men and measures of republicanism, but does not take an active part in political matters, having preferred to give his time and attention to his farming ventures. However, he has served very acceptably for six years as a member of the board of school directors, and also as a trustee. His religious connection is with the Staverger Lutheran Church, of which he has been a trustee for six years.

On March 5, 1884, Mr. Clauson was married to Miss Lillie Brews, who was born December 24, 1863, at Mission, LaSalle County, Illinois, daughter of Severt and Anna (Thorson) Brews, of Norway, who came to this country in 1858, and passed the rest of their lives here, the father dying in 1897, while the mother still makes her home in LaSalle County with a daughter. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Clauson have been as follows: Alice May, who married Thomas Olson of Nettle Creek Township; Lenora, who married Martin Larson, of the same township; Silas Theodore, who died at the age of eleven years; and Amanda, Edward Arthur, Lettie Mildred, Elva Grace, Simon Theodore, and Verma Marie, all residing with their parents. There are six grandchildren in the family.

CLAYPOOL, Henry C. (deceased), whose tragic death plunged Morris into mourning when he passed away in 1905, was one of the leading men of Grundy County. He was born in Grundy County, March 31, 1852, a son of L. W. and Caroline B. (Palmer) Claypool. Reared upon a farm in Grundy County, Mr. Claypool was an agriculturalist until thirty years old, but at that time came to Morris to assume the duties of the office of Deputy County Clerk, and after four years in that office became manager for the Chicago Fire-proofing Company. He was also for eight years cashier for the Coleman Hardware Company, and in March, 1898, was appointed postmaster of Morris, being in office at the time of his demise. In 1873, he was married to Miss Annie M. Brown, and they had one daughter, Carrie M. Mr. Claypool was a strong Republican and a leader in his party. For many years he was extremely prominent in Masonic circles, serving as Commander of Blaney Commandery for one term several years prior to his second election to that same exalted office. It was upon the first initiation after his accession to office that he was stricken down in the lodge rooms, and there died in spite of all that could be done for him by the best medical authorities. Few men stood as high in public esteem as he, and although some years have elapsed since his death, it is impossible to con-

verse for any length of time with one of his old associates, without his name coming into the conversation.

CLAYPOOL, L. W. (deceased).—The name of Claypool is closely associated with the history of Grundy County, and no one man did more for it and Morris than L. W. Claypool, born in Brown County, Ohio, June 4, 1819, a son of Jacob C. and Nancy (Ballard) Claypool. The Claypool family came to Grundy County, Ill., in 1834, and settled in Waupunsee Township. Mr. Claypool immediately became an important factor in the history of his period and in 1841 was elected County Recorder, and was made the first postmaster of Morris. In 1848, he was appointed by the canal trustees, assistant agent of the canal lands located in La Salle and Grundy Counties, and assisted in laying out that part of Chicago in and around Bridgeport. For years he represented Waupunsee Township on the County Board of Supervisors and later was supervisor from Morris. On November 15, 1849, he married Caroline B. Palmer, a daughter of John Palmer of Ottawa, and two sons born to them lived to maturity, namely: H. C., who was born March 31, 1852; and L. W., Jr., who was born October 13, 1866.

CLENNON, James Patrick, one of the heaviest landowners of Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, and a man widely known and universally respected, was born in Fayette County, Ohio, at Washington Courthouse, November 8, 1849, a son of Patrick and Margaret (Whalen) Clemon, natives of Queens County, Ireland. Until his marriage, James Patrick Clemon remained at home, but then took up his residence on his father's land in Aux Sable Township. After the death of his father, he erected a large modern frame residence on the property. As he was the only son, he inherited the 640 acres of his father's estate in Aux Sable Township, to which he has added, until he now owns 1,420 acres, all in this same township, of which he farms 420 acres, renting the balance. In addition to this Grundy County property, he owns 120 acres in Seward Township, Kendall County.

On May 3, 1882, Mr. Clemon was married to Jennie Kinsella, born in Aux Sable Township, a daughter of Andrew and Eliza (Smith) Kinsella, natives of County Wexford, Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Clemon are the parents of these children: Andrew G., who was born June 7, 1883; Cornelius J., who was born May 28, 1885; Mary E., who was born May 14, 1887; John E., who was born March 28, 1889; Catherine H., who was born May 28, 1891; Leo R., who was born July 31, 1893; Margaret M., who was born July 4, 1895; and Gerald, who was born October 4, 1900.

Mr. Clemon is a well educated man, as he attended the Christian Brothers Catholic academy of LaSalle, Illinois, and St. Mary's school of Minooka, and he belongs to St. Mary's Church of the latter city. He has served as highway commissioner, having been elected on the Dem-



ocratic ticket. At present he is president of the Farmers First National Bank of Minooka, having held that office since the organization of the bank. He also holds stock in the Minooka Grain and Lumber & Supply Company of Minooka, and is one of the substantial men of his part of the county.

**COLLEPS, George.**—Financial stability must be the foundation stone upon which all great enterprises are erected, and for this reason the banking interests of a community are necessarily among the most important. The men who control and conserve the money of individual or corporation must possess numerous qualities not required of the ordinary citizen, among which may be mentioned high commercial integrity, judgment and foresight, and exceptional financial ability. A citizen who has been prominently connected with the financial interests of Grundy County, during nearly forty years is George Colleps, proprietor of the Exchange Bank, at Minooka, and a business man of high standing. He was born in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., March 16, 1849, a son of John and Margaret (Schroder) Colleps, natives of Frankfort-on-the-Rhine, Germany. The parents came to the United States in 1849, and after a short stay in New York State moved to Hillsboro County, Mich., the father being there engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1854 the family came to Minooka, Ill., where Mr. Colleps was overseer for the farm of R. Gardner & Company until 1877, and at that time he retired from active pursuits. He died August 18, 1905, at the age of eighty-six years, the mother passing away in April, 1902, when eighty-two years of age.

George Colleps was reared to agricultural pursuits and remained under the parental roof until his enlistment, March 23, 1864, when a lad of only fifteen years, in Company G, Sixty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War. He participated in a number of battles and was almost constantly under fire until his capture in front of Atlanta, July 22, 1864, at which time he also lost his left eye by the bursting of a shell. He was taken to Andersonville Prison, where he suffered untold agonies until March 16, 1865, being then taken to Black River Bridge, Miss., for exchange, when he was sent to the hospital at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and received his honorable discharge in May, 1865. At the close of his career as a soldier, Mr. Colleps returned to his parents' home at Minooka, where he remained three years, and then became a salesman in a general dry goods store, and was thus employed until the spring of 1872. At that time, in partnership with W. A. Worthing, he embarked in the hardware business, under the firm style of Worthing & Colleps, and this association continued for three years. Mr. Colleps then disposed of his interests to his partner, and returned to the grocery and general dry goods business. In the summer of 1877 he entered the grocery business in partnership with Leander Smith, and was so engaged until 1881, when he sold his interest to

his partner, and subsequently accepted a position as bookkeeper for A. K. Knapp, a grain, coal and lumber merchant at Minooka. In February, 1905, Mr. Knapp died and Mr. Colleps took charge of the business which he managed until August 1, 1908, when he sold out to the Minooka Grain, Lumber and Supply Company. In the meantime, in 1875, Mr. Colleps had established a private bank at Minooka, and of this he has continued the head through all these years. The confidence in which he is held has been demonstrated by the large business which he is doing as a banker, and the Exchange Bank is widely known and has a justly merited reputation for stability and firmness.

In September, 1892, Mr. Colleps was married to Miss Jennie V. Van Horn, who was born in New Jersey, daughter of John and Martha (Terhune) Van Horn, natives of Pennsylvania, and to this union there have been born three children: Martha, who married C. W. Brown, Jr., of Joliet, Ill.; George W., a resident of Eagle, Colo.; and Bessie N., who resides at home. A Republican in his political views, Mr. Colleps has served as Village Treasurer and Village Trustee and in these capacities has rendered his community signal service. He is prominent in Masonry, belonging to Lodge No. 528, F. & A. M., Blaney Commandery of Morris, and Medinah Temple, of Chicago. He also holds membership in Lodge No. 296, B. P. O. E., of Joliet. Mr. Colleps has taken an active part in the development and progress of Minooka, and his connection with its rising business and financial interests entitles him to a place among the representative men of Grundy County.

**COLLINS, Cryder.**—The opportunities given Grundy County farmers to acquire more than a competence are many, for not only is the soil fertile, but the transportation facilities are excellent and the agriculturists can market their produce rapidly and profitably. One of those who have taken advantage of these opportunities is Cryder Collins of Saratoga Township, who is operating the homestead of his uncle. He was born in this township, April 13, 1855, a son of Joshua and Harriet (Cryder) Collins, natives of New York State and Ohio, respectively. They were brought to Saratoga Township, Grundy County, in childhood, married here, and afterward settled on the farm now operated by their grandchildren, Clifford, Mabel and Jessie. The father erected a log house on his farm, and they lived there until his death, which was occasioned by a stroke of lightning on June 14, 1879. Following this, his widow moved to Morris, where she lived until her death, January 18, 1903. The children born to them were: Virginia, who is Mrs. Story Mattison, of Morris; Mary M., who died in infancy; Sarah, who is deceased; Cryder; Hattie, who is Mrs. J. A. Wilson, of Morris; and Joshua, who is deceased.

Growing up on the homestead, Cryder Collins learned how to operate it, and at the same time attended the district schools and the Morris



Normal school. After leaving school, Mr. Collins went to live with Story Mattison on a part of the Collins estate, and remained there ever since, carrying on general farming and stock raising, feeding his grain to his stock.

On February 1, 1880, Mr. Collins was married to Lilly Nelson, born in Norway, but was brought by her parents to this locality in childhood. Mr. and Mrs. Collins became the parents of two children: Isaac, who is at home, and Jennie, who is Mrs. Webster Thayer, of Saratoga Township. Mrs. Collins died September 7, 1891. On February 11, 1897, Mr. Collins married (second) Emma Walstrom, born in Kendall County, Illinois, daughter of Eric Walstrom. By his second marriage Mr. Collins has two children: Elva and Philip. A staunch Republican, Mr. Collins served as justice of the peace since 1890. A Mason, he belongs to the local Chapter and Commandry at Morris and Medinah Temple, Mystic Shrine, Chicago. An excellent farmer and good business man, Mr. Collins has made a success of his work and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

**COLLINS, Frank W.**—Conditions in Grundy County have improved very materially during the past few years, owing to the energetic endeavors of the County Board of Supervisors, which is now composed of men of modern spirit who realize the responsibilities resting on their shoulders and are seeking to give their localities a fair and impartial administration that will work out for the general good of all. One of the supervisors who has borne well his part in this advancement is Frank W. Collins, one of the progressive agriculturists of Goose Lake Township. He was born on his present farm February 26, 1882, son of Joshua R. and Anna (Holroyd) Collins, natives of Grundy and Kendall Counties, respectively.

Frank W. Collins attended the local schools and the High school and Brown's Business college of Ottawa, Illinois. In 1901 he took charge of the homestead in Goose Lake Township, and, with his father, raises cattle and hogs, in addition to carrying on general farming. In April, 1912, he was elected supervisor from Goose Lake Township by a good majority and has already proven himself worthy of the honor. Fraternally, he belongs to the Elks of Joliet and the Knights of Pythias of Morris.

On September 21, 1904, Mr. Collins was united in marriage with Margaret Donahue, born at Morris, daughter of Cornelius and Catherine Donahue, the former of whom was a native of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Collins have two children: Alice Mae and Genevieve Ann. He is a man widely and favorably known and his success in life is well merited.

**COLLINS, Jeremiah** (deceased), was born in Coeymans, twelve miles south of Albany, N. Y., September 19, 1820, and died February 12, 1910. His parents were Joshua and Margaret (Rowe) Collins, who were of New England stock and natives of Rhode Island. In 1834 the parents

decided to try their fortunes in the West and came to Illinois, landing in Chicago on September 19, 1834. The trip from Chicago to what is now Aux Sable Township was made by the mother and children in a wagon driven by Charles Smith. After arriving and settling in Aux Sable Township they met with all the hardships of pioneer life, which they endured with fortitude until they had founded a permanent home. Joshua and Margaret Collins were the parents of nine children: Theron, Phillip, Margaret, George, Joshua and Jeremiah, twins; Catherine, Edward and Franklin. With the death of Jeremiah all the children have passed away.

Jeremiah Collins was fourteen years old when he came to Illinois with his parents and lived in Grundy County all the rest of his life, settling in Saratoga Township when he was twenty years old. He hauled the first load of wheat from his township to Chicago in 1841, his father being in poor health at the time the trip was made, in order to procure medicine and supplies, previous preparation being the trampling out of 32 bushels of wheat, spread on the barn floor, by himself and his brother Joshua and the horses. After the purchases had been made in Chicago, he learned, on the return trip, that his father had died during his absence. Mr. Collins cut and hauled the first load of logs used to erect the first house in the village of Morris. This was the home of John Cryder and was built on the hill just south of where the gas house now stands.

Mr. Collins' first enterprise was the purchasing of eighty acres of land in Saratoga Township. By continued industry he prospered and came into possession of several thousand acres of the best farm land in Illinois. He was married in 1843 to Miss Hannah Cryder, daughter of Michael and Eva Cryder, of Pennsylvania. Two years later Mrs. Collins died, also their infant son, Phillip Henry. On November 16, 1853, Mr. Collins was wedded to Margaret W. Widney, daughter of John and Mary Widney, of Kendall County, Illinois. Three children were born to them: Joshua Rowe, Hannah Mary and Oscar Eugene. The daughter died May 13, 1881. The sons reside at Morris, Joshua being the president of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank.

Mrs. Collins, who survives her husband, was the fourth born in her parents' family, the others being: Rachel, Mrs. John Van Dolsen, deceased, October 11, 1858; Thomas Henderson Widney, deceased, March 8, 1904; Joseph Caldwell; George Newcome, now residing in Battles, Ala.; John Johnson Widney, deceased, August 31, 1886; Mary Elizabeth, now Mrs. H. C. Henderson, now residing in Chicago, Ill.; and Lou-anna M., who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Collins' son, Joshua Rowe, married Annie Holroyd, and they have one son, Frank Wilbur Collins of Morris. Their second son, Oscar Eugene, married Alice Holroyd, of Morris. Frank Wilbur Collins, the grandson of the late Jeremiah Collins, married Margaret Donahue





LEANDER A. PEACOCK





and they have two children, Alice Mae and Genevieve Anna.

Jeremiah Collins was elected supervisor of Saratoga Township in 1882, and served in that capacity for ten years. At the time of his death he was the only surviving voter of the county election of 1841. Thus passed away one of the oldest pioneers of Grundy County, who had watched the city of Morris grow from a single house to its present proportions, and had observed the farms in the surrounding country produce wealth and thrive under the industrious hands of the sturdy pioneers. The family tree of the Collins family consists of four generations, and the relatives are numerous throughout this section of Illinois. Mr. Collins was a man of indomitable courage, thrift and industrious, yet open-handed wherever there was need. He was financially interested to a great extent in the Grundy County National Bank of Morris for many years. At time of death he was probably the oldest settler in Grundy County.

**COLLINS, Joshua R.**—Every community has one or more men who take the lead in every enterprise, being fitted by natural ability and experience to make a success of their undertakings. Without the public spirit and enterprise of these men, there would be very little advance made by the people. Morris owes much to several of its citizens who have inaugurated and carried out to successful completion many enterprises, organized companies and instituted reforms which all have tended to increase the prestige of the county seat. One of these representative business men is J. R. Collins, President of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Morris. Mr. Collins was born in Saratoga Township, November 13, 1854, a son of Jeremiah and Margaret (Widney) Collins, natives of Coeymans, N. Y., and Piqua, Ohio. Jeremiah Collins was a son of Joshua and Margaret (Rowe) Collins, natives of New England. The maternal grandparents were Jonathan and Mary (Henderson) Widney, natives of Pennsylvania. Joshua Collins came with his family to Grundy County in 1834, making the trip by way of the Great Lakes to Chicago, and thence by wagon. They entered land in Aux Sable Township, but a few years later moved to Saratoga Township, where they bought more land. These grandparents both died on the latter farm in the early forties. The maternal grandparents came to Kendall County in 1840, and there spent the remainder of their useful lives.

Jeremiah Collins and his wife were married in Kendall County, but moved immediately thereafter to a farm he owned in Saratoga Township. Here they resided, improving their property and raising stock upon an extensive scale. Mr. Collins held all of the county offices, and was a well known man at the time of his death, February 12, 1910. His widow resided in Morris until her death, March 22, 1911. The children born to Jeremiah Collins and wife

were: Joshua R.; Mary, deceased, and Oscar E. of Morris.

Joshua R. Collins was brought up on his father's farm, remaining at home until twenty years of age. At that time he began working in the Union Stock Yards at Chicago and continued there for four years, when he returned to Grundy County, and invested in a farm in Goose Lake Township. This he operated, carrying on general farming and stock raising and feeding for the Chicago market, until 1902, when he moved to Morris, and, with his brother, Oscar E., looked after their combined acreage, which amounts to 10,000 acres, all in the vicinity of Morris. This property is worked by a number of tenants. In 1905 Mr. Collins bought a lot 64x112 feet, on the corner of Liberty and West Jackson streets, Morris, which he later sold to his father. The latter erected on it a fine three-story building covering the entire lot, and in it, on the ground floor, Mr. Collins established the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, with himself as president; E. J. Matteson, Vice-president; Henry Stocker, Cashier, and William Gebhard, Barney Wilcox, Story Matteson and E. J. Matteson as directors. Mr. Collins has an office at 107 West Jackson street, where all business connected with the farms is transacted, including that of a grain elevator on one of the farms, on the E. J. & E. Railroad. Mr. Collins loans out a large amount of money as a private individual and is one of the most substantial men of Grundy County.

On November 30, 1878, Mr. Collins was married to Anna Holroyd, born in Livingston County, Illinois, daughter of Benjamin and Ann Holroyd, natives of England. One son, Frank W., was born of this marriage. He conducts the home farm for his father. Mr. Collins is a Progressive and served as supervisor of Goose Lake Township for one term, as well as in all the township offices, and since coming to Morris was an alderman for one term. A Mason, he belongs to the Blue Lodge, Orient Chapter, Commandery and Medinah Shrine, the latter of Chicago. The educational advantages of Mr. Collins were superior to many farmer boys, for he not only attended a select high school at Morris, but was graduated from Onarga seminary. A man of sterling worth, Mr. Collins has always been ready and able to go ahead with any project and bring it favorably before the public. His standing in financial circles is unimpeachable, and his high position is well sustained.

**COLMAN, John N.**—The Hickory Grove Farm, of Mazon Township, is known far and wide for the excellence of its product, its horses and other stock commanding the highest prices. Its owner, John Colman, understands farming in all of its details and has developed into one of the leading agriculturists of Grundy County. He was born in Vienna Township October 1, 1865, a son of Thomas and Catherine (Nelson) Colman of Vienna Township.

John Colman was reared in his native town-



ship, where he attended the district schools and gave his father a son's service on the farm until he was twenty years old, with the exception of two winters spent at the Dixon school. At that age he commenced working for Dr. Elliott in his drug store at Verona, and for a year received \$10 per month for his labor. Realizing that there was much more to be made at farming, he sensibly left the drug store and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1895, when he was able to buy his present 240-acre farm in Mazon Township, on which he raises horses, hogs and cattle. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Mazon and also the Grundy County Fair Association.

On September 12, 1888, Mr. Colman married Mary C. Stoner of Vienna Township, who was born December 14, 1867, and they have had two children: Howard, born September 18, 1891, and Clarence, born June 19, 1893, both of whom are at home. Mrs. Colman is a daughter of Jacob and Caroline (Nance) Stoner, the former of whom was from Pennsylvania, but became a farmer in Vienna Township, where his death occurred in 1883, and was survived by his widow until 1893. They had seven children: Deaton, who is deceased; Charles, who lives in Iowa; Ervin, who lives in Minnesota; Luella Satterly, who lives in Missouri; Clysses S., who lives in Iowa; Mrs. Colman, and Sadie, who is living at Streator, Ill. Mr. Colman is a Knight Templar, Mason, and a Republican, politically; has served on the school board for fourteen years, and is a representative man in every respect. Mrs. Colman's grandfather, Eaton Nance, was in the War of 1812. He and his wife died in Missouri at the age of eighty-six years.

**COLMAN, Thomas S.**—One of the old and honored residents of Grundy County, who has been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful progress which has made this section one of the most prosperous farming communities in the State, is Thomas S. Colman, whose home is located in Vienna Township. Although now retired somewhat from active pursuits, he still takes an active interest in all that affects his adopted locality, and is known as one of the township's substantial and public-spirited men. Mr. Colman was born in Putnam County, Illinois, August 2, 1838, and is a son of John and Mary A. (Chitenden) Colman.

John Colman was born in 1797 in the State of Vermont and was there married to Mary A. Chitenden, who was born in 1808, in New Hampshire. In 1825 they traveled by wagon to Illinois, stopping in Grundy County one night at the home of Joshua Collins, and then continuing on their way to Florida, Putnam County. Mr. Colman entered government land just over the county line in LaSalle County, and there died May 2, 1819.

Thomas S. Colman was then not eleven years of age, but was the oldest son and the duties of the farm fell upon his shoulders. His educational advantages were of the slightest, being confined to two terms in the district

schools of LaSalle County, but study and observation have since made him a well-informed man. In 1856 he came to Norman Township, Grundy County, where he purchased a farm of 160 acres of wild prairie land, paying \$10 per acre, and in 1861 became the owner of eighty acres of improved land. Mr. Colman was married in 1860 to Miss Emily Sharp, who was born in New York, daughter of Joseph Sharp, an early settler of Grundy County. Mrs. Colman died in 1862, and in 1864 Mr. Colman married Catherine Nelson, who was born in Pennsylvania, daughter of Solomon and Adeline Nelson, also early settlers of Grundy County. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Colman resided on the Norman Township farm until 1873, when they disposed of it and bought another tract of 160 acres, to which Mr. Colman has since added, until he now has 300 acres, all in Vienna Township, in a fine state of cultivation. For years he was engaged in general grain farming, in which he was successful, as he was also in the raising of stock, and he was considered one of the best judges of cattle in the township. Since 1900 he has been practically retired, although he supervises the operations on his property. On it he has made improvements of a modern and valuable nature, and his operations have always been conducted along the most advanced lines. In his religious belief Mr. Colman is a Universalist. He served as road commissioner, supervisor for two years, and school trustee. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, No. 757 A. P. & A. M., of Verona, Ill. Mrs. Colman passed away in January, 1901, having been the mother of five children, two of whom died in infancy. The survivors are: John N., who married Mary Stoner, and they have two sons, Howard and Clarence, of Mazon Township; Guy, who married Nellie Bowman, resides at home with his father, and William, who is also on the home farm, and married Nettie Whifton, and they have two children, Pearl and Verne.

**COMERFORD, George**, who was one of the pioneers of Aux Sable Township, was born in County Wexford, Ireland, August 3, 1826, a son of William and Honora (Nolan) Comerford. The family came to the United States in 1850, and bought 500 acres of land in Aux Sable Township. After coming to Grundy County, George Comerford engaged in railroad surveying and later in the railroad construction of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. He was the first railroad agent and postmaster of Minooka, serving in the latter office for nine years, and he built some of the first business houses of the village, including the Comerford block, and still later became a merchant. In addition he owned 100 acres of land near Minooka which he improved to a considerable extent. Mr. Comerford was elected to all the major offices within the gift of his fellow-townsmen and was a man of importance in his day. With a liberal broad-mindedness he gave generously towards the support of both the Catholic and Methodist churches, the two religious



bodies which have founded churches in Aux Sable Township, and was very charitable. For some years he was president of the Board of Education, and was associated with the educational development of his township. On September 16, 1855, he married Catherine Smith, and their three children to attain to maturity were: Thomas S., Nicholas J., and Mary C.

**CONDON, Frank D.**—Real worth and true merit are often recognized in this great republic of ours, and some of the men who have attained to political distinction are from the ranks of the younger generation of business men. One who has received more than ordinary recognition at the hands of his fellow-citizens is Frank D. Condon of Morris, the present capable city clerk, who is proprietor of a large cigar factory at No. 214½ Liberty street. Mr. Condon was born November 15, 1879, at Morris, Ill., son of Cornelius and Evelyn (Davidson) Condon, natives of Ireland, and of New York State. The father came to this country when a boy, first living in Kentucky, but later located at Morris, Ill., where he was a coal miner. Here he married, brought up his family of eight children, Frank D. Condon being the fifth in order of birth.

Growing up in Morris, Frank D. Condon early learned the value of hard work intelligently directed, and received a good, public school training. In 1900 Mr. Condon learned the trade of a cigarmaker, and in 1901 went into business for himself, buying out T. B. Hinds at No. 214½ Liberty street, where he has since continued. Mr. Condon gives employment to four men, and his brands are: The Red Mare, a ten-cent cigar, and the White Crow, a five-cent variety, both good sellers, in large demand because of their superior flavor and blend. It is as a Republican that Mr. Condon has been called upon to fill more than one office within the gift of the people of Morris, in 1907 being elected city treasurer, and after two years of efficient service was elected city clerk, to which important office he was re-elected in 1911, and is the present incumbent. In every respect he has justified his selection, and given the city an honest, businesslike administration of the affairs of the several offices under his charge.

In 1903 Mr. Condon married Martha Emerson, daughter of Elias Emerson, and they have one child, Frank. Mr. Condon belongs to the Masonic fraternity, is an Odd Fellow, having passed all the chairs in the subordinate lodge, and for two years was secretary of the Encampment, and he also belongs to the Eagles, all of Morris. Straightforward, energetic, a man of action, Mr. Condon has won and retains the confidence and friendship of the leading people of the capital city of Grundy County.

**CONDON, James**, dealer in and manufacturer of drain tile and brick, at Mazon, Ill., has been in this line of business for some time, operating under the name of James Condon, and has proven his ability and business reliability, as

well as his worth as a citizen. His plant comprises three kilns and employment is given to fourteen men. Mr. Condon was born in Ireland in 1873, and is a son of Patrick and Nellie (O'Neil) Condon, who came to the United States in 1881, locating at Morris, Ill., near where the father farmed until he went to Joliet, Ill., in 1901, where he is now living in retirement. He and wife were the parents of nine children, of whom the following are living: Mrs. Johanna Mahoney, Mrs. Lizzie Worrell, James, Patrick, of Morris, and John and Thomas, of Joliet.

Growing up in Grundy County, James Condon was given the advantages of the schools here, and from the time he was ten years old was self-supporting, working by the month. In 1898 he proved his patriotism by enlisting for service in the Spanish-American War, and was honorably discharged in 1899. Coming back to Grundy County, he resumed his agricultural operations which his career as a soldier had interrupted, and in 1900 he began farming for himself, thus continuing until 1905, when he moved to Kansas. Two years later, however, he traded his farm there for the tile factory, and has seen no reason to be sorry for such action. In 1900 Mr. Condon married Bell Jacobson of Lisbon, Ill. Mr. Condon belongs to the Masonic fraternity and is a Knight Templar, being connected with the Commandery at Morris, and is also a member of the Eastern Star. In politics he is a Republican. A young man of exceptional business ability he has steadily advanced and is rightly numbered among the leading manufacturers of Mazon.

**COOP, Fred.**—No one but a farmer appreciates the amount of work required to cultivate 240 acres of land even if it is located in so desirable a section as Grundy County. If the land is properly operated it will yield handsomely, but constant effort and intelligent care are necessary requisites. One of the men who is proving this, and that he is able to meet all the requirements of a good farmer is Fred Coop, owner of 240 acres of as fine land as can be found in Saratoga Township, if not in Grundy County. He was born in Lancashire, England, May 8, 1852, a son of John and Mary (Sandford) Coop, who came to Grundy County when their son Fred was an infant. Settling on a farm in Aux Sable Township they developed into substantial people.

Until he was sixteen years old Fred Coop remained at home, receiving his educational training in the district schools. He then began working for his brother-in-law, Ralph Heap, of Seward Township, Kendall County, Ill., thus continuing for three years and then rented land which he farmed for three years more. At this time he married and spent the following four years on the farm owned by his mother-in-law, in Lisbon Township, but at the expiration of that period went to Mrs. Cryder's farm in Aux Sable Township, this county, and later bought eighty acres of land in Saratoga Township. There was an old house on the place which





Mrs. Emma H. Peacock





served as a home until 1896, when he replaced it with a handsome modern frame dwelling. At the same time he has kept on adding to his holdings until he now owns 240 acres of fine land which is a match for any in the county. On this property Mr. Coop raises fine stock, cattle and hogs, specializing on registered Norman horses, and his stallion is a magnificent animal.

On March 18, 1875, Mr. Coop married Sarah Ripley, born in Lisbon Township, Kendall County, Ill., November 6, 1852, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Stanford) Ripley, natives of England. Mr. and Mrs. Coop are the parents of the following children: Erwin, who is of Aux Sable Township, was born October 28, 1876, and married Irene Bushnell, and they have one daughter, Ella E.; Wilbur, who is also of Aux Sable Township, born April 18, 1878, married Stella I. George, and they have one daughter, Marjorie A.; Frank, born November 26, 1881, lives at home; and Ray, born August 29, 1886, at home, married Nettie Hoyer. Mr. Coop has served as a school director since 1897, being elected on the Republican ticket. He is an excellent farmer and good business man, and has honestly earned his prosperity.

**CRAGG, George H.**—It is difficult to believe that within active years of residents of Grundy County the wonderful agricultural development, so apparent on every side, has been accomplished, but George H. Cragg, one of the substantial farmers and foremost citizens of Maine Township, can recall when his fertile and highly cultivated acres were nothing but raw, swamp prairie land. He was born in his father's log house on Section 19, Maine Township, Grundy County, Ill., April 5, 1840, in which year his father was largely instrumental in having Grundy County organized. His parents were John and Agnes (Litchult) Cragg.

John Cragg was born in 1803, in Cheshire, England. In 1823 he crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the United States and located at Paterson, N. J. Shortly after his arrival he was united in marriage with Agnes Litchult, who was a native of Paterson, and an admirable woman in every relation of life. To this marriage there were born four sons and one daughter: Edward, Joseph, Martin, George H. and Louisa, the only survivor being George H. Cragg, of Grundy County. Sometime in the "twenties" John Cragg settled at Ottawa, Ill., where he followed his trade of machinist, several years later moving to St. Louis, Mo., but returning to Ottawa in a few years and continuing to live in the village for one year longer before settling permanently in what was then the eastern part of LaSalle County, the same now forming Grundy County. John Cragg was a man of sterling character and became a man of prominence in the new county, serving many years in the office of supervisor and repeatedly as justice of the peace.

George H. Cragg attended the country schools near his father's farm and received additional instruction from teachers who boarded around

as was the custom, native intelligence and a desire to learn assisting more than any educational opportunities ever afforded him. He assisted on the farm as soon as old enough and began the reclamation and development which has completely changed the landscape, in the last fifty years, in Grundy County. On February 17, 1865, he enlisted for service in the Civil War, which was continuing its ravages, entering the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of strife, and was stationed for some months near Nashville and Chattanooga, Tenn. His patriotic duty done, Mr. Cragg returned to Grundy County and resumed farming operations and ever since has devoted himself largely to agricultural pursuits, intelligently adopting scientific methods and proving their efficacy. He owns 180 acres of fine land situated in Maine and Mazon Townships.

On February 17, 1861, Mr. Cragg was married at Chicago, Ill., to Miss Rachel Bridel, who was born in England, April 30, 1840, and was brought to the United States in 1844, her parents being pioneers in Grundy and Kendall Counties, Illinois. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cragg: Alice, who is the wife of Joseph H. Francis, who is the present Sheriff of Grundy County; Robert N., who is a resident of Grand Island, Nebraska; Cora, who is the wife of James Bray, and Emma, who is the wife of George Marsh. Mr. Cragg and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Cragg started his political career as an Abraham Lincoln Republican, voting for him in 1860, and for every succeeding candidate of the Republican party for the Presidency until 1912, when he became a Progressive and worked and voted for Theodore Roosevelt. He has never been an office seeker, but when elected has served faithfully as School Director, School Trustee and Highway Commissioner. He has always taken a deep interest in the public schools, is an advocate of good roads and of all those things which promote good government, good feeling, neighborly interest and social comfort and contentment.

**CRANE, Harry V.**—Classed among the energetic and progressive agriculturists of Grundy County is found Harry V. Crane of Section 4, Good Farm Township, the owner of a property comprising 160 acres, and a citizen who has always been identified with the best interests of his community. He is a native of Grundy County, born June 21, 1873, a son of Thaddeus and Phoebe (Thompson) Crane, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New York. The parents were married at Elmhurst, N. Y., and came to Grundy County, Illinois, in 1862, here passing the remainder of their lives, the father dying March 23, 1908, and the mother August 13, 1911. Both are buried in Braceville cemetery. They were the parents of five children: Charles and Frank, who died on the same day of cholera, and are buried in Essies cemetery, in Kankakee County, Illinois; Fred, a resident of



Joliet, Ill.; Nellie, who also lives in that city; and Harry V.

Harry V. Crane obtained a district school education and was brought up to agricultural pursuits. He remained on the home place until nineteen years of age, at which time he went to Chicago and secured employment in the freight house of the Pennsylvania & Fort Wayne Railroad, but one year later returned to Greenfield Township and rented his father's farm. He is now the owner of 120 acres of his father's estate, to which he has added an additional forty acres, and 120 acres of this property are located in Good Farm Township, his residence being on Section 4. Mr. Crane has been successful as a farmer and stock raiser, and as an honorable and upright citizen has had no difficulty in winning and retaining the respect and esteem of all with whom he has had dealings either in business or social life. He is a Democrat, and at this time is serving his second term as school director, and has been for a like period road commissioner. His fraternal connection is with the Ancient Order of Gleaners. With his family he attends the Church of God.

Mr. Crane was married November 30, 1899, to Miss Myrtle Provance, who was born in LaSalle County, Illinois, daughter of George N. and Susanna (Balsinger) Provance, natives of Pennsylvania. Six children have been born to this union: Hazel Belle, born March 17, 1901; Olive May, born December 2, 1903; Nellie Marie, born August 29, 1905; Pearl Margaret, born March 13, 1907; Marion Frances, born January 22, 1910, and Frank Harry, born July 11, 1912.

**CRONIN, Daniel G.**—A substantial hardware merchant, located at Morris, Ill., has risen to the forefront among business men of this city by reason of his reliability, industry and perseverance. He is a native of Grundy County, Ill., born on a farm in Saratoga Township, March 31, 1875, and is a son of James D. and Mary (Redmond) Cronin. The paternal grandparents of Mr. Cronin, James and Ellen (Brown) Cronin, were born in Dublin, Ireland, and were there married. Some time thereafter they came to the United States and located at Morris, Ill. Mr. Cronin receiving a contract for the building of a certain section of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, for completing which he was deeded 100 acres of land. This he subsequently improved, spent the remaining years of his life in farming, and became one of his community's substantial and highly esteemed citizens. James D. Cronin was born in Morris, Ill., and was there married to Miss Mary Redmond, a native of Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Ill. Not long thereafter they moved to the old homestead farm, which Mr. Cronin continued to operate until selling out to his twin brothers, and then moved to Watertown, S. D., where he is still making his home at the age of seventy-one years. His wife passed away in 1905.

Daniel G. Cronin was given good educational advantages, attending the Morris academy, the parochial schools and Watertown (S. D.) High school, where he was a student for four years. He resided with his parents until ten years after they made removal to South Dakota, where he was engaged in farming, and then returned to Morris and engaged in business for his uncles, Thomas and Daniel Cronin, who had established a hardware store in 1885, and had purchased an implement business in 1900, both at Morris, the two establishments being conducted together. Mr. Cronin remained with his uncles until both died, caring for them tenderly during their declining years. Thomas Cronin passed away July 4, 1907, and Daniel, June 5, 1903. Since his uncles' death, Mr. Cronin has conducted the business and has made a decided success of the enterprise. He now carries an up-to-date and complete line of heavy and shelf hardware, a full line of farm implements, firearms and ammunition, furnaces and stoves, and conducts a tinshop in connection. He has always been noted for his good business judgment and strict integrity and to these may be attributed a large part of his success.

Mr. Cronin was married August 21, 1900, to Miss Mary Byrnes, who was born at Morris, Ill., daughter of Peter Byrnes, a native of Canada. To this union there have been born children as follows: Gladys May, Ellen, Anna, Daniel, Thomas and Frank. Mr. and Mrs. Cronin are members of the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, and Mr. Cronin belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters No. 210, of the Immaculate Conception, and Dupont Terrace No. 815, Knights of Columbus. In political matters he is independent, preferring to vote for the man he deems best fitted for the office rather than support the choice of any particular political organization. His good citizenship has never been questioned.

**CRYDER, Edwin T.**, a son of Michael and Rachael (Thomas) Cryder, of Delaware County, Ohio, was born in Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, June 29, 1855. His grandfather, Henry Cryder, of Pennsylvania, came to Aux Sable Township in 1823 and secured some government land and soon brought it under what then was considered a very high state of cultivation. This farm was his home until his death. The maternal grandfather died in Ohio, and his widow came to Aux Sable Township in 1836 to make her home. Our subject's father and mother, soon after their marriage, commenced life together on a farm in Aux Sable Township, but in 1857, having bought a tract of land in Saratoga Township, they removed to that place and remained for many years. On leaving this home they went to Kansas for a time, but returned to Illinois to make their permanent abode on a farm. Here both parents passed away.

Edwin T. Cryder lived with his parents until his marriage which occurred October 4, 1882,



when he was united with Miss Elizabeth Boyer, born in Bates County, Mo., June 11, 1800, a daughter of Joseph and Almira (Walley) Boyer. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, while her mother had been born in Grundy County, Ill. Their respective parents were: John and Elizabeth (Krouse) Boyer, and George and Elizabeth (Thomas) Walley, George Walley being born in Maryland, and his wife in Ohio. Mrs. Cryder's parents were married in Missouri, where her father died, August 11, 1886. The mother still lives on the old homestead.

Directly after his marriage, Mr. Cryder took possession of a splendid farm of 320 acres, which had been given him by his father, and to this he has added until it now aggregates some 451 acres of productive land, which lies partly in Aux Sable Township and partly in Saratoga Township. On this farm he devotes his chief attention to the raising of blooded horses and cattle, producing the grain used in feeding, almost entirely at home. His property is widely known as the Grand View Farm and the stock that are marketed from this place always command a relatively high price. To Mr. Cryder and his wife the following children have been born: Dena Luetta, Alvin Boyer, Morris Henry, Edwin Collins, Arthur Francis, Ethel Irene, and Charles Blaney. All the family belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Cryder is a Republican. He has served for ten years as township clerk, giving the utmost satisfaction to all concerned, and in 1910 he was elected to fill the office of justice of the peace, and in this office is serving at the present time. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

**CRYDER, Eugene G.**—Among the representative agriculturists and stock raisers of Grundy County, who has long been connected with extensive operations in land and stock, and is well known in public life, is Eugene G. Cryder, owner of a handsome property in Saratoga Township. Mr. Cryder is a native of this township, having been born on the farm he now occupies, February 22, 1800, a son of Michael and Rachel (Thomas) Cryder, natives of Ross County, Ohio.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Cryder, Henry and Mary Ann (Hess) Cryder, of Philadelphia, Pa., came in 1833 to Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, traveling across the country in a prairie schooner and here preempted land. Michel Henry Cryder, the father of Eugene G., was born March 21, 1820, and died January 31, 1894. He was married in Morris, Ill., March 7, 1841, to Rachel Thomas, who was born May 16, 1817, and died January 26, 1908. After their marriage they settled down first in Aux Sable Township where he farmed some years, but subsequently came to Saratoga Township, where he purchased land in the prairie, from his father-in-law, John Thomas, and this he improved and kept adding to until he owned about 900 acres in one body. He was

a general farmer and stock raiser, and his business ventures proved uniformly successful. He and his wife had the following children: Eliza, born January 3, 1848, who died August 27, 1854; Francis M., born November 18, 1849, who died September 3, 1854; Lewis H., born June 25, 1853, who died August 21, 1854; Edwin T., born June 29, 1855, living in Saratoga Township; Eugene C.; and Maryette, born October 25, 1857, who is now Mrs. W. L. Wainwright, of Morris.

Eugene C. Cryder was educated in the district schools and the Normal school at Morris, and until his marriage resided with his parents. On December 23, 1884, he was united with Jennie Elizabeth Smith, who was born November 29, 1863, at Plattville, Kendall County, Ill., daughter of Gideon Smith, born April 2, 1825, in Howard Township, Center County, Pa., and Mary E. (Boyer) Smith, born in Center County, July 18, 1832. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married in Plattville, Ill., in January, 1851, where he engaged in farming all his subsequent life. Mr. Smith died July 9, 1909, and his wife, June 19, 1893. After his marriage, Mr. Cryder took up his residence on a part of his father's land in Saratoga Township, and in 1894 located on the old homestead, which he has since conducted with well deserved success. A man of honorable business principles, his reputation for integrity and probity is far-reaching, and he has many friends throughout this part of the State. Mr. and Mrs. Cryder have had the following children: Sida May, born September 29, 1885, who died August 17, 1887; Ethel Maud, born August 9, 1887, who is now Mrs. Donald Pyatt, of Fortville, Ind., has one daughter, Jean, born September 26, 1913; Mildred Harriet, born October 29, 1892, who died May 3, 1906; and Ray Eugene, born November 18, 1897, at home. Mr. Cryder and his family are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church. A Republican in politics, he has served ten years as town clerk, was supervisor for a long period, county surveyor for two years and chairman of the board of supervisors for a lengthy period. In his official capacities he devoted himself faithfully to the discharge of his duties, and no citizen has rendered his community more signal service.

**CULHAN, Robert.**—Within the limits of Grundy County it would be difficult to discover a citizen who has been of more general worth to his community than is Robert Culhan, whose activities have served to materially aid the development of Erienna Township. Belonging to that self-made class of men of whom the Prairie State has such excellent reason to be proud, he has steadily forged his way to the front, and is today justly considered one of his locality's most substantial men. Mr. Culhan, as his name would indicate, is of Irish descent. He was born April 12, 1850, at Hillsboro, Highland County, O., and is a son of Michael and Jane (Harvey) Culhan, born in Ireland. They were married in their native Erin and soon





WILFRID PETERSON



ANNIE PETERSON





emigrated to the United States, settling in Hillsboro, O., where Mr. Culhan died in about 1860.

Robert Culhan was still an infant when his father died, and the greater part of his education was secured in the schools of hard work and experience. He remained with his mother until reaching the age of six years, when he went to live with a family named Hughes, and when but fourteen years of age began working among the farmers of Highland County. He so continued until reaching his seventeenth year, when he went to Decatur, Ill., in the vicinity of which city he worked for farmers until attaining his majority. At that time he turned his attention to railroading and went to Kankakee, Ill., where he secured employment with the Big Four Railroad, and for the next four years was engaged in construction work. Succeeding this experience, Mr. Culhan came to Seneca, Ill., and soon rented a tract of land in Erienna Township, and at the end of nine years had been so successful in his ventures that he was able to purchase 107 acres of unimproved land. On this he erected a small house and began operations on his own account, improved and tilled the land, erected new buildings, and made a valuable and productive farm. In 1905 he purchased the 210 acres of land adjoining the home place, this tract being partly improved at the time, and he has since improved it all and put it under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Culhan has always been engaged in raising grain, and also breeds Belgian horses, a fine grade of cattle and Poland-China hogs. He built and added to his house, and in 1908 built a hay and horse barn, 40x60 feet, 18 feet to the eaves. His operations have been carried on along strictly legitimate lines, and no citizen is more worthy of the esteem and confidence of his fellows.

On February 5, 1884, Mr. Culhan was married to Miss Ellen Barry, who was born in Grundy County, Ill., February 28, 1860, daughter of Richard and Bridget (Barrett) Barry, natives of Ireland. To this union there have been born the following children: Cora Jane, born November 26, 1884; Edward Francis, born March 18, 1886, who died at the age of seven years; James, born September 26, 1887, who died in 1900; George William, born September 9, 1889; Richard, born July 26, 1892, who died in February, 1902; Robert John, born October 12, 1893; Bernard Leroy, born January 6, 1896; Michael Valerion, born August 28, 1897, who died aged three years and six months; and Leo Vincent, born February 28, 1899, who died when six and one-half years old. Mr. and Mrs. Culhan are consistent members of the Catholic Church at Seneca. He is independent in his political views, has served as a School Director for nine years, and since 1906 has been a School Trustee. His fraternal connections are with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Columbus, both of Seneca.

**CULLEY, Anthony Joseph.**—In these days of specialized endeavor a man has to know thor-

oughly some particular line in order to achieve any measure of success. One of those who has perfected himself as a mason until he has developed into a contractor of masonry, is Anthony Joseph Culley, of South Wilmington, Ill., one of the substantial men of Grundy County. Mr. Culley was born in Belgium, in 1866, a son of Nicholas and Mary (Doyen) Culley. These parents came to the United States in 1869, locating at Braidwood, where the father carried on mining as he had previously done in his native land. There he died in 1893, being buried in the place of his adoption, but his widow survives, still making her home at Braidwood. There were eight children born to Nicholas Culley and wife: Seymour, Catherine, Anthony Joseph, Lydia, Charles, John, Abel and Anna, several being deceased.

Anthony Joseph Culley was two and one-half years old when he was brought to Braidwood where he grew up and attended the public schools until eleven years old when he began working for coal companies. In 1889, having learned to largely depend upon himself, he came to South Wilmington, when the town was in its infancy, and has lived here ever since, growing up with it as it were. He found opportunity for mason work, and has been engaged in all kinds of this class of construction work, and has labored to some purpose as he now owns his residence, and 120 acres in the vicinity of South Wilmington.

In 1893 Mr. Culley was married to Elizabeth M. White of Braidwood, Ill., and they have three children: Charles N., William C. and Agnes. They belong to the Baptist Church. Fraternally he is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias. A Republican in politics, he served three years on the school board from Greenfield Township, five years as assessor and for the past two years he has been supervisor, which office he still holds. In every way he has proven himself a worthy, efficient man, and his standing in his community is undisputed, as is his reputation for honest dealing and faithfulness in carrying out his contracts.

**CUMMING, Clarence Earl, D. D. S.**—The dental profession of Grundy County, Ill., is worthily and ably represented at Coal City by Dr. Clarence Earl Cumming, who, through inclination, training and inherent skill has brought himself to the forefront in his profession. Doctor Cumming is now recognized as the leading representative of his vocation in Coal City, and maintains well appointed offices over the City Drug Store. He is a native of Grundy County, having been born at Gardner, Ill., October 19, 1882, and is a son of Thomas S. and Mary (Blaney) Cumming.

Clarence Earl Cumming received his early education in the public schools of Gardner, and also attended the High school there for one year. When he was twelve years of age, the family removed to Belleville, Ill., and there he also attended the High school. When he was fourteen years of age he started his own battle



with the world as an employe of the bottling factory at Belleville, and when the family removed to Staunton, Ill., in 1898, he became top man for the coal company there, his father being manager of the mine. About one year later the family returned to Gardner, and Doctor Cumming worked with his father in prospecting for coal until the fall of 1905, at which time he took up the study of dentistry at the Lincoln Dental College, connected with the University of Nebraska. He was graduated therefrom May 27, 1908, and was licensed to practice in Nebraska, but shortly thereafter returned to Illinois, where he passed the examination of the State Board of Examiners. He opened offices in Coal City, June 21, 1908, and here has continued in practice to the present time. He is in the enjoyment of a large and representative professional business, and among his brethren in the calling is recognized as a man who has thoroughly mastered his science and who at all times respects its ethics.

On June 7, 1911, at Wheaton, Ill., Doctor Cumming was married by Rev. Thompson of the Methodist Church to Miss Ethel C. Rodgers, born April 5, 1890, near Coal City, daughter of Winfield Scott and Clara (Hill) Rodgers, and granddaughter of Delmar and Maria (Stallman) Hill. Mrs. Cumming's father was a farmer by occupation and belonged to one of the early families of Grundy County.

Politically Doctor Cumming is a single-tax Democrat, having always been a follower of the Henry George doctrine. He was one of the directors of the Illinois Aero Construction Company, located in Coal City, and is progressive in all matters, being ever ready to give his aid to whatever he considers beneficial to the interests of the village or its people. He is a member of Psi chapter of the Xi Psi Phi, a dental fraternity, of which he was the first treasurer. He was a charter member in Lincoln, Neb., having joined while attending the university there, and retained his office as treasurer until he graduated in 1908. He is also affiliated with the Blue Lodge of Masonry at Braidwood, Ill., and Royal Arch Chapter No. 704, at Wilmington, Ill., also Eastern Star and Woodmen.

**CUMMING, Thomas S.**—Thomas Stewart Cumming was born at Whitehall, Edinburgh County, Scotland, a son of Robert and Barbara (Proctor) Cumming, both natives of Edinburgh. His parents were married at Clay Barnes, Edinburgh County, Scotland, in 1828, where they lived for some time, and there their first son, James P., was born. Subsequently these three came to America, taking up their residence in Pottsville, Pa., and here it was that a daughter, Janet, was born to them. After scarcely more than a year in this country, the family returned to Scotland, where Janet died, aged two years, and where the remaining eleven children were born. Of the thirteen children which constituted their family, but nine were spared to reach maturity. Their names are, in

order of their birth: James P., John P., David, George A. P., Patrick M., Elizabeth R., Thomas S., Marion, and Robert. All of these sons and daughters came, in later years, to America, to establish their permanent homes.

Thomas S. Cumming started his schooling at a very early age, attending the infant class at Cowdenfoot, and, finishing this at the age of five, was entered in the schools of Whitehill, studying history, geography, and arithmetic. This last named study was the one toward which he seemed most naturally inclined, and he had just entered the class in plain geometry when he was forced to commence regular work at the mines in which his father worked, although he was not yet ten years old. His first job was that of trapper, or door-tender, in the old Cowden Mine, and later was a helper to the cager; then a driver; and, when about fourteen years old, he went to pushing and loading, which is a direct apprenticeship to coal digging. For five years he continued at mining in Scotland; but, in 1866, he came to America, in company with his parents, two sisters and his brother Robert, after landing coming directly to Gardner, Ill. They reached their ultimate destination September 1, 1866, and have ever since that time considered Gardner their home town in this country. Some time after Gardner had become their home, Thomas left to take up a homestead in Smith County, Kansas, and here his father and mother came, in 1878, to live with him. Two years later the father died quite suddenly, and the mother was left to survive him until she reached the age of eighty-five.

After coming to the United States, Thomas G. Cumming divided the earlier decade of his residence between mining and farming; but his time was never so completely monopolized as to exclude his desire for a more specific and comprehensive education. In accordance with his views on this subject he took up the study of Geology and of mining problems, receiving much benefit from his perusal of *The Colliery Engineer*, published in Scranton, Pa. He also attended night school, with some enforced irregularity, but he worked with a purpose that more than made amends for deficiencies in time. In 1883, he and his brother James, both qualified at the first examination held in the State, for Mining Inspectors, James receiving one of the appointments given by Governor Oglesby. Thomas then took a full course in the Scranton school; and, in 1893, was appointed Inspector for the First District, two years later being transferred to the Sixth District, his appointment coming from Governor Altgeld. Subsequently Mr. Cumming taught mining classes in Braidwood, Braceville, Coal City, Carbon Hill, and Gardner, with splendid results to show for his labor.

It was in 1880 that he returned to Illinois, after farming his homestead in Kansas, where the locust pest and the low prices on the products of his farm, detracted somewhat from the expectations he had had. At that time it was



not the high cost of living that caused discomfort; but rather the excessive labor or products of labor that were necessary in order to get the dollar. He recalls hauling dressed pork a distance of 65 miles, and selling it at two and one-half cents a pound. On his return to Gardner, he and his brother, John Cumming, contracted to sink a shaft, southeast of Gardner, for Taylor Williams, and when this shaft was completed, John became the mine manager, while Thomas continued prospecting for coal. This engaged his time for a year or so, until he became County Mine Inspector, for a term of four years; later being State Inspector in the First and Sixth Districts. In 1895 he moved his headquarters to Bellville, and during the four years of his residence there was manager of the mines, near O'Fallon, Ill., owned by the Consolidated Coal Co., of Alton, Minn. He then undertook the management of Mine No. 6, at Stanton, Ill., for the same company.

The family to which Mr. Cumming belongs relate an interesting bit of tradition pertaining to their early predecessors, the Cummings, of Cammernade, Banffshire, in the north of Scotland. The great-great-grandfather of our subject was the only son and heir to the large family estate. His father was dead and his mother had married again. One day, when he was but a mere boy, he came home from herding his flocks and found his stepfather beating his dearly beloved mother. The lad knocked her assailant down, with the shepherd's staff that he had in his hand, and then alarmed at what he had done, fled from home and wandered to Edinburgh County where he remained and became the progenitor of a great number of descendants.

From his early youth, Mr. Cumming has been fond of literature. He joined the Y. M. C. A., at Dal Keith, and especially enjoyed the essays that were read and the debates and discussions that were held there. He was but fourteen when he became a member of the Christian Brethren Church at Dal Keith. These things, which contributed to his pleasure in his youth, still hold for him their old-time enjoyment, for the hard knocks of the world have not changed him essentially. His interest in youth did not fade, as he himself grew to maturity, and he recounts, to his very young friends, the excitement of the games that were played in his boyhood, among which "Rounders and Prisoners" and "Smuggle the Geg" were the chief.

Politically, Mr. Cumming is what he would call a democratic Democrat. In the matter of taxation, he believes with Prof. T. H. Huxley that "even the best modern civilization appears to exhibit a condition of mankind which neither embodies any worthy ideal nor even possesses the merit of stability." Huxley says: "I do not hesitate to express the opinion that if there is no hope of a larger improvement of the condition of the greater part of the human family; if it is true that the increase of knowledge, the winning of a greater dominion over Nature which is its consequence; and the

wealth which follows on that dominion, are to make no difference in the extent and the intensity of Want with its concomitant moral and physical degradation among the masses of the people, I should hail the advent of some Kindly Comet, which would sweep the whole affair away."

On August 16, 1870, Mr. Cumming was married to Miss Mary E. Blaney, born in Licking County, Ohio, August 10, 1846. To Mr. and Mrs. Cumming were born six children: Charles Stewart, born May 26, 1871; William Henry, born July 16, 1873; Orin Kimpton, born December 18, 1875; Maud Elizabeth, born March 21, 1878; Ernest Proctor, born May 16, 1880; and Clarence Carl, born October 19, 1882. Mrs. Cumming passed away October 3, 1885. On December 29, 1886, Mr. Cumming was united with Miss Mary C. Bartilson.

**CUNNEA, James (deceased)**, who was associated with the earlier banking history of Morris, was born in Ireland, January 6, 1810, a son of Patrick and Isabella (Brown) Cunnea. Although the family came to the United States in 1846, it was not until 1866 that they located at Morris. Here James Cunnea with his father conducted a loan office, and in 1872 bought the First National Bank of Seneca, Ill., and removing it to Morris changed the name to that of the First National Bank of Morris. Mr. Cunnea was a Democrat in political faith. He married in Ireland, March 1, 1834, Ann Glackin, and they had twelve children, eight of whom grew to maturity, namely: Thomas, John, James, George A., Isabella, Maria, Catherine and Anna.

**CURTIN, John Thomas.**—The owner of a farm of 120 acres of land in Greenfield Township, which has been brought to a high state of cultivation through his skill, industry and good management, John Thomas Curtin is recognized as one of the substantial farmer-citizens of Grundy County, and as a man whose interest in the welfare of his community entitles him to the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens. He is a native of the Prairie State, having been born in LaSalle County, in 1856, a son of John and Catherine (Maloney) Curtin, natives of Limerick, Ireland. His father, who was a farmer in his native Erin, emigrated to the United States at the age of twenty-one years, and almost immediately settled in LaSalle County, where he commenced farming. In 1869 the family transferred to Grundy County, and there the father took up land in Highland Township, that locality being the scene of his subsequent activities. Shortly prior to his death, which occurred in 1899, he retired from active pursuits and moved to Kinsman, Ill. Mrs. Curtin died in 1905, and was laid to rest beside her husband in the family cemetery at Ottawa. They were the parents of nine children: John Thomas; Mary, Timothy and Thomas, all three deceased and buried at Ottawa; Mrs. Katherine O. Levi; Margaret; Jeremiah, deceased; Mrs. Mary Leahy; and Thomas





(II), a resident of Reed Township, Will County, Ill.

John Thomas Curtin attended the district school in LaSalle County until eleven years old and later the school in Highland Township, Grundy County, his attendance being confined to the short winter terms as his services were needed on the home farm during the summer months. He was brought up to the honest and healthy work of tilling the soil, and continued with his father until his marriage, at the age of twenty-six years, to Miss Martha Lampin, a native of Wilmington, Ill. Following this he embarked upon his own career as a farmer on rented land, and by 1885 was able to purchase a tract of land in Garfield Township. This he continued to operate for nine years, but in 1894 disposed of it and bought his present property. During the past twenty years he has made this one of the best farms of its size in the township, and its numerous improvements and buildings make it very valuable. He is a believer in the use of modern methods and machinery, keeps fully abreast of the various advancements made in his adopted calling, and has won his way to affluence solely through the force of individual effort and merit. With his family, he attends the Catholic Church at South Wilmington. His political belief is that of the Democratic party, and for nine years he has served efficiently as a member of the school board of Greenfield Township. Mr. and Mrs. Curtin have been the parents of ten children: Julia, Coyney, John, Katherine, Maud, Nellie, Mary, Loretta, William and Terrence, of whom the two last named are now deceased.

**CUSHING, James S.**, one of the substantial agriculturalists of Grundy County, whose efforts intelligently directed have resulted in the accumulation of large realty holdings, from which he reaps gratifying returns, is a man who has long resided in Goose Lake Township, but was born at Lemont, Ill., November 4, 1857, a son of James and Mary (Handerhan) Cushing, natives of Tipperary, Ireland. These parents came to Chicago when single, and were there married. During the early forties, the father worked on the Illinois and Michigan canal, but later bought forty acres in the vicinity of Lemont, paying \$200 for it. Four years later, he sold it for \$800, and came to what is now Goose Lake Township, Grundy County. Here he bought 120 acres, where he died, April 25, 1906. His first wife died when their son James was born, and later he married (second) Bridget McGraw, born at Kingston, Ireland, who died December 22, 1906.

James S. Cushing was the only child of his father. He grew up amid rural surroundings, receiving his educational training in the district schools. He remained at home until his marriage, on May 27, 1879, to Nellie Hogan, born at Chicago, daughter of Thomas and Ann (McGraw) Hogan, of Tipperary, Ireland. Following his marriage, James Cushing bought 100 acres in Felix Township, Grundy County, living

on this farm for fourteen years. At this time his father transferred his real estate and all other property to him, and in 1895, Mr. Cushing moved to his adjoining farm in Goose Lake Township, on which he and his father had erected a handsome residence and large modern barns. At present Mr. Cushing owns 280 acres in his home place, of which he tills 105, the balance being in pasture land. He raises Durham and Galloway cattle and Percheron horses and Duroc-Jersey swine. In addition to his agricultural interests, Mr. Cushing has been an auctioneer since 1881, and his services are in demand by those who desire faithful attention to their interests.

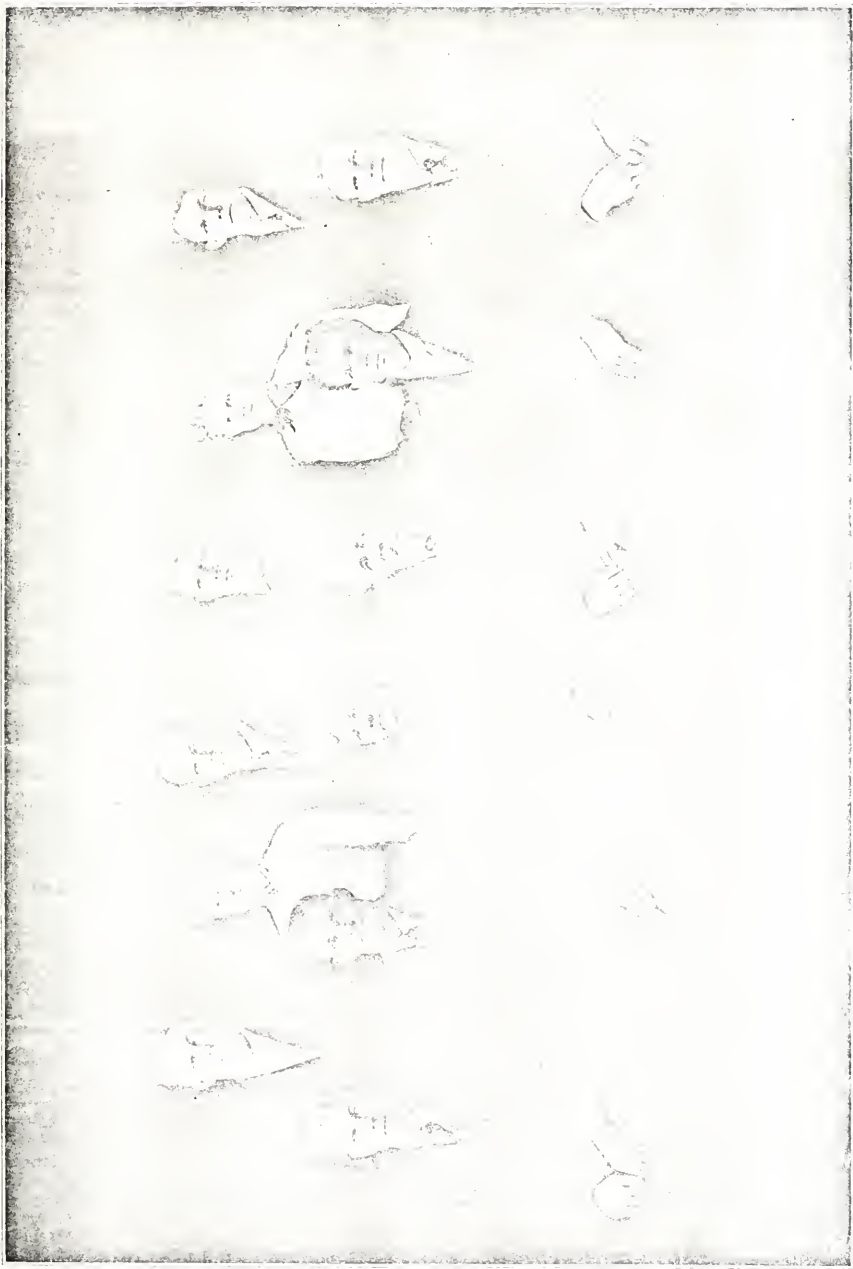
Mr. and Mrs. Cushing became the parents of the following children: Frank, who lives at Mazon, Ill., has three children, Francis, James and Cassie; May, who is the wife of Michael Terrell, of Wilmington, Ill., and they have Michael, James, John, Frank and Agnes; James, who is at home, married Mary Phillips, and they have one daughter, Anna V.; Anna, who is the wife of T. L. Naughton, of Aurora, Ill., and they have Loretta, Edward and Timothy J.; Elvah, who is the wife of John McCabe, of Gardner, and they have one son, John F.; Robert, Mathew, Ella, Thomas, George and William, the last six children being at home. Their are thirteen grandchildren. Mr. Cushing belongs to the Catholic Church of Wilmington, Ill., and to the Modern Woodmen of America of the same place. He has served as school director and trustee, and is a man of public spirit, who is interested in securing good government in every department of the township, county, state and nation.

**DAGGETT, Henry C.**, manager of the large elevators at Mazon, Booth Station and Gorman, Ill., is a man eminently fitted for the heavy responsibilities of such a position, both by natural ability and business training. He was born and reared at Ottawa, Ill., and when five years old accompanied his parents, Charles and Mary (Byrnes) Daggett, to Marseilles, Ill. Both parents had been born at Ottawa, Ill., and lived through some of the thrilling early history of that section, but now are residents of Marseilles. The children born to these parents were: one who died in infancy; Delia Danish; Henry C.; Charles and Fred B., both of whom are railway mail clerks; and Susie, who is bookkeeper in the First National Bank at Marseilles.

Henry C. Daggett grew up at Marseilles, and was graduated from the common and high schools of that city, following which he prepared himself for further work by taking a full business course in an Ottawa commercial college. He then returned to Grundy County, and, locating at Morris, worked as bookkeeper for the Beatty Lumber Company for three years, when he was sent to Mazon to assume charge of the lumber yards of the company at that place. This position he filled very acceptably for three years, and on August 7, 1911, as-







Walter Phillips and Family



sumed his present responsibilities, and is carrying them to the entire satisfaction of all parties concerned. The success which has attended Mr. Daggett's efforts is largely due to his faithfulness and capable and effective work. He is never satisfied until he has carried out his plans to render his company efficient service and his aim has been to place the name of the Mazon Farmers Elevator Company at the head of the list of similar concerns. Such enterprise and progressiveness combine for big business and the patrons of these elevators recognize the fact that with such a competent manager of this company they are sure of receiving fair and honorable treatment and the very best of service.

**DALY, Michael M.** (deceased), was the founder of one of the substantial and representative families of Grundy County, and during a long and useful life continued to enjoy the respect which he had secured when he came first to this section of Illinois. He was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1826, and when he emigrated to the United States, located in the state of New York and went into the nursery business at Fishkill Landing. In 1851 he came to Illinois and for about seven years worked in the nursery business at Joliet, but, after purchasing a farm in 1858, in Waupunsee Township, he devoted himself to general farming there all his active life and died on that place. He was a man of peaceful temperament and not only lived amicably with his neighbors, many of whom were of the adventurous type of pioneer that brings trouble wherever settlement is made, but also with the Indians who still roamed over the country. He became very friendly with Chief Shabbona and on one occasion entertained him as his guest over night, with good feeling offering the best that his cabin afforded, but the Indian asked only for a place on the floor to rest through the night. Michael M. Daly married Mary McArdle, who was born in County Down, Ireland, November 26, 1827. She came to New York in 1831 and was married in 1847.

William Lambert Daly, son of Michael M. and Mary Daly, was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., January 7, 1851. For four years before his marriage he was employed in the city of Chicago, but after marriage he settled on his farm in Waupunsee Township, where he continued in agricultural pursuits until his death, September 8, 1897. He was a Republican in politics and, as a man of excellent judgment, was elected to public office and served very acceptably as township clerk and as school teacher before he was married. On December 28, 1875, he was married to Margaret Marie Shea, who was born in Hamilton County, Ontario, Can., June 5, 1848, and they had seven children: William L., who was born February 13, 1879; Edward F., who was born July 17, 1883; John F., who was born March 12, 1888; Walter, who was born April 3, 1891, being the survivors. Three are deceased: Robert, who

died August 14, 1882, was born in October, 1881; Nellie, who was the wife of H. S. Hume, born October 10, 1887, and died in 1901, aged twenty-six years, leaving two children, Ralph and Ray; and Cora, who was born in 1889, died Sept. 27, 1906. Nellie and Cora are buried in Evergreen Cemetery, and Robert in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

After the death of Mr. Daly, Mrs. Daly and her children, in 1898, moved to Morris and lived there until 1909, when a return was made to the farm, and the sons now successfully operate 300 acres and carry on general farming and stock raising. At Morris they had public school advantages. Like their late father they are interested in the principles of the Republican party. The family belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church. John F. is a member of the Woodmen of the World, and William L., Walter and Edward are members of the K. P. Lodge at Morris.

**DARBY, Silas C.**—Located in Vienna Township, is the valuable farm belonging to Silas C. Darby, a property containing 125 acres, devoted to general operations, productive orchards and the breeding of blooded cattle. One of his locality's most substantial citizens, Mr. Darby has been the architect of his own fortunes, for whatever he has accomplished in life has come as a result of his own untiring efforts. He is a native of Worcestershire, England, and was born March 28, 1857, in the village of Illey, parish of Hales-owen, a son of Thomas and Ann (Hadley) (Coley) Darby. The family came to the United States in 1871, locating first at Marseilles, Ill., where the elder Darby commenced farming, a vocation which he followed until his death in 1895, his widow following him to the grave in 1905. Silas C. Darby received his education in the schools of his native land, and was fourteen years of age when he accompanied his father and mother to this country. An industrious, enterprising and ambitious youth, when still under his majority he began to care for his parents, and continued to reside with them until he bought his present property in 1884. This land at that time could boast of no improvements, but Mr. Darby at once began to remedy this fault, and today the property is one of the finest and best improved in Grundy County. All of the buildings have been erected by him, modern machinery has been installed, and with infinite patience and care he has succeeded in growing an orchard that is the pride of the residents of this section. His life has been indeed an active and useful one, for he has not alone gained personal advancement, but through his work has succeeded in assisting materially in the development of his community. He is engaged in raising Belgian and Percheron horses, and at this time is the owner of a valuable Belgian stallion. He is known as an excellent business man, but has never taken an unfair advantage nor used another's misfortune as the means of making a personal gain. Mr. Darby owned a threshing outfit and operated it for



thirty-six years, but September 15, 1912, the engine exploded, and although fortunately no one was seriously injured, the machinery was destroyed, and considerable inconvenience was experienced for several months by Mr. Darby as he was knocked unconscious by the force of the concussion.

In political matters a Republican, Mr. Darby has been honored by his fellow-citizens with election to public office, having served as a School Director for nine years and as Road Commissioner for three years. His fraternal connections are with the Seneca lodges of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America.

**DAVIDSON, Robert M. J.**—A citizen of Grundy County who has returned to agricultural pursuits after a number of years spent in other lines of endeavor and who has made a success of his ventures is Robert M. J. Davidson, whose well-cultivated property is located in Saratoga Township. Mr. Davidson was born in the township in which he now resides, April 12, 1855, and is a son of Robert J. and Harriet M. (Taylor) Davidson. Robert J. Davidson was born in 1800 in the north of Ireland, and when twenty-two years of age emigrated to the United States, locating at Newburgh, N. Y., where he was married to Harriet M. Taylor, a native of Pennsylvania. He was engaged in the livery business in New York until 1848, when he came to Morris, Ill., by water, and here for some years was employed as a coal miner. Subsequently he moved to a farm of 112 acres, adjoining the city, in Morris Township, and there continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits up to the time of his death, which occurred November 28, 1868. His widow passed away in 1904. They were the parents of these children: Evelyn, who married Cornelius Condon, of Morris; Sarah, who married James Cummings of Seattle, Wash.; Robert M. J., and Belle, who married Thomas Lindsey, of Seattle, Wash.

Robert M. J. Davidson received his education in the public schools of Saratoga Township, and at the age of twenty years began to divide his time between the mines in the winter months and the home farm in the summer. He continued to be so engaged until November, 1897, when he went to Sandcoulee, Mont., with his eldest son, and in May of the following year the rest of the family joined him. After four years spent in mining, he returned to Grundy County, and settled on the home place, where he owned forty-one acres, and subsequently added to this by purchase thirty acres. He also rents considerable property, and now has 300 acres under cultivation. His ventures have proven successful because of his industry and well-directed effort, and he is accounted one of the most substantial men of his township.

Mr. Davidson was married August 20, 1877, to Miss Mary A. King, who was born in England, daughter of William and Elizabeth

(Hardy) King. Mr. King was a miner by occupation and at various times worked in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Montana. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson have had the following children: William, a resident of Stockett, Mont.; Samuel, residing at Joliet, Ill.; Max J., of Morris; Thomas and Truman, both of Morris; Eliza and Louisa, both of whom died in infancy; and Elmer, Leslie, Morris and Mary all at home. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson are consistent members of the Presbyterian Church. In his political views he is a Democrat. A useful and public-spirited citizen, he has ever been ready to give his time or means in promoting movements for the general welfare, and few citizens of Saratoga Township are held in greater esteem.

**DAVIS, Frank Thomas.**—There was a time, and not so far distant when few thought of sanitation, or required of their dealers and producers of commodities the same cleanliness to be found in the household circle. That period has passed and today the baker, confectioner, grocer, meatman, or anyone who successfully handles food-stuffs must take as much care as to the purity of his goods as he does in their other qualities. Frank Thomas Davis, of Mazon, is one of the most progressive men in his line in Grundy County, and his bake shop and ice cream and confectionery parlors are models of cleanliness. He was born in Mazon Township, in 1883, a son of Oscar E. and Addie (Clapp) Davis.

Frank T. Davis grew up on the farm where he came into the world, and attended school at Mazon, supplementing the knowledge gained there with a year at Wheaton college. For a year following, he worked in the Mazon bank and then invested his capital in his shop, coming into possession in 1912. Mr. Davis has the advantage of being the pioneer in his line at Mazon, but as he takes care that the public are well supplied they need no other, and he understands his business thoroughly as well as the requirements of his patrons. On August 15, 1910, Mr. Davis married Pearl Jackson, born at Mineral Point, Wis. Although a Republican, Mr. Davis is very liberal, believing that everyone must decide for himself the best political road to travel. Fraternally he is a Mason. Earnest, steadfast, a hard worker and honorable business man, Mr. Davis has firmly established himself in the confidence of his community.

**DAVITO, John.**—The business instincts of some men are such as to insure their success in whatever line they undertake. They appear to know what is wanted by their customers and how to supply them with the best goods at satisfactory prices. Coal City is the home of a number of such men, among whom none is more worthy of special mention than John Davito, proprietor of a store, carrying dry goods, clothing and groceries. He was born in Italy in 1862, son of Frank and Anna (Bettasa) Davito, natives of Italy. The father was engaged in farming until his death which oc-





MR. AND MRS. ROBERT PICKLES





curred in 1897. The mother died in 1903. They were the parents of two children: John, of Coal City, and Joe, still living in Italy.

John Davito attended school in his native country, and worked on his father's farm until 1892 when he came to the United States, settling in Coal City, Ill. Upon his arrival, he obtained work in the mines, which vocation he followed until 1901, when he launched out into the business world and became a merchant.

In 1891, he married Anna Bettosa, and these children have blessed this union: Frank, who married Ada Adams of Coal City, April 8, 1913; Dominice, Joe, Anna, John and Mary, the last named deceased. The family belongs to the Catholic Church. He is affiliated with the White Rose Lodge and the Catholic Foresters. His political convictions are Republican. He is considered a man of business honor and integrity, and has a large number of friends in this part of the county where he is well known.

**DELBRIDGE, Robert J.**—While many of the agriculturists of Grundy County find it profitable to carry on general farming, there are others who prefer to specialize, particularly on stock raising. One of the men who has attained to more than usual success in raising horses, cattle and hogs upon an extensive scale is Robert J. Delbridge of Saratoga Township, one of the leading men of the county. He was born at Ottawa, Ill., March 18, 1875, a son of John and Nancy (Diehl) Delbridge, natives of England and of Dayton, Ohio, respectively. The father came with his parents to New York where he lived from 1850 to 1856. In the latter year he moved to Ottawa, Ill., where he bought land, owning at one time 800 acres. The maternal grandparents, Jacob and Nancy Diehl, came from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where Mr. Diehl was a brewer, but later moved to Illinois. John and Nancy (Diehl) Delbridge were married at Ottawa, and he engaged in farming for some years. At present they are living with their son, Robert J. The father was born in 1844, and the mother in 1845. Mr. and Mrs. Delbridge have had the following children: George, who is of Traer, Iowa; Jennie, who is Mrs. C. M. Ames of Glenn, Mich.; Nana, who is Mrs. James Rozle of Marseilles, Ill.; Robert J., and May Bell, who is the widow of Joseph Bell of Glenn, Mich.

Robert J. Delbridge attended the schools of his neighborhood, and a commercial college of Valparaiso, Ind., and is a well qualified young business man. He handles from 200 to 250 head of horses annually, the same amount of cattle and raises and feeds 300 head of hogs. Politically he is a Republican, but aside from casting his vote for the candidates of his party, has not taken any part in public life. His mother is a Methodist, but he is not connected with any religious organization. A young man of ability and force of character, he is fast becoming a leader in the stock business of his county and richly deserves all the success which has come to him.

**DEMELECHIORRE, Michele.**—There is no truer saying than that to the effect that those of foreign birth who come to the United States succeed where native Americans fail. The men and women who come here from lands across the seas, bring with them a determination to win at any cost and they go about their work earnestly and thriftily with the result that some of the most prosperous residents of almost any community are numbered among this class. One of the men of Grundy County who belongs among these successful foreign born citizens, is Michele Demelchiorre, manager of a thriving mercantile business at South Wilmington, Ill. Mr. Demelchiorre was born in Northern Italy adjacent to the French frontier, March 3, 1857, a son of Joseph and Margaret Demelchiorre, who died in their native land. They had twelve children, all of whom are deceased with the exception of four.

Michele Demelchiorre worked on the farm with his father until he was twenty years old, and then traveled in Europe, working as a laborer. In 1882 he came to the United States, and lived for a time at Coal City, Grundy County, where he had employment as a coal digger, but in 1884, he began working for different railroads. Following that he was a delivery-man for Mrs. Plagor of Coal City, and in 1901 took charge of her store in South Wilmington, where he has since remained, building it up to its present proportions. This establishment is one of the largest in the city, and he is one of the popular business men of the county. In addition to his other interests, he is a stockholder in the Illinois Aero Construction Company of Coal City. He has never married. He belongs to the Catholic Church and has voted the Republican ticket since taking out his naturalization papers.

**DEMPSEY, Lawrence (deceased).**—Farming and stock raising are two kindred lines of endeavor, and many of the substantial men of Grundy County gained their wealth through following them. One of those who attained to a well merited prominence as an agriculturist, who carried on general farming and stock raising in Norman Township, was the late Lawrence Dempsey. He was born in County Wexford, Ireland, in the spring of 1832. He came with his sister to Wisconsin at an early day, and found employment on a farm near Madison. In 1871 he married Anna Larkin, born in Kings County, Ireland, May 10, 1834, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Looman) Larkin, also of Kings County, Ireland. Mrs. Dempsey came with her brother to the United States, the voyage consuming seven weeks, and stopped first at Chicago, and thence by way of the Illinois and Michigan canal came to Minooka. There she lived until her marriage.

Following marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey went to Aux Sable Township and lived on a rented farm for two years, then to another farm two miles from Mazon, which continued to be their home for seven years and it is in



Mazon Township, Mr. Dempsey died July 17, 1879. In February, 1883, Mrs. Dempsey and sons settled on the property which is now the home of Mrs. Dempsey, in Norman Township, where they bought 382 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres about eighty acres of which was timberland, and the balance was prairie. They have recently bought another 140 acres in Waupee Township. Mrs. Dempsey and her sons carry on general farming, and specialize on raising Belgian horses. Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey had children as follows: William, who lives with his mother; John, who died June 24, 1907, aged forty-four years; Elizabeth, Mary and Lawrence, who are all with their mother; Thomas, who lives at Fort Cobb, Okla.; and Anna, who lives in Chicago. Mrs. Dempsey is a Catholic and belongs to the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Morris. Mr. Dempsey was a Democrat, but he never aspired to public office. He was an excellent man and is tenderly remembered by his wife and children.

**DEWEY, Sylvester Harvey**, who came to Grundy County in 1855, was born at Leyden, N. Y., August 14, 1821. Upon his arrival in this county, he bought eighty acres of land on the present site of Verona for \$450, but sold this property four years later to move to Mazon Township where he bought 220 acres, adding to his holdings until he owned 540 acres. In 1873 he went to Morris, but returned to Mazon several years later to embark in an agricultural implement and grain business. On December 30, 1847, Mr. Dewey married Melissa Porter and they had the following children: Ellen Melissa, who married Horace G. Overrocker; Alice Eliza, who married Daniel Webster Francis; Milton Sylvester, who married Margaret Dewey; Mary Jerusha; Lester Scott, who married Asenath Endora; Flora Angelina and two who died young. Mr. Dewey was an Abolitionist prior to the Civil War, later becoming a Prohibitionist and still later a Silver Democrat. In early life he joined the Baptist Church, and his wife was of the same religious creed, but when the family located at Mazon, they affiliated with the Methodist Church, there being no church of their denomination in the village.

**DIX, Matthew**, one of the representative residents of Verona, is a man who has won and retained the confidence and respect of his associates throughout Grundy County. He was born at Chilton, Berkshire, England, May 4, 1831, a son of Charles Stephen and Martha (Pounds) Dix, both of whom died in England. Matthew Dix, with his brother, William, crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel to the United States, six weeks being consumed in the voyage. They landed in New York City, from whence they came on to Chicago, and from there made their way to Morris. The youths were anxious to work and the first employment secured by Mr. Dix was that of watching cattle which were being driven to La Salle County. Following this he worked for a year on a Kendall County

farm, for \$12.50. With his brother he then bought a horse and a corn sheller, and went about the country shelling corn for the farmers, thus continuing for about seventeen years. Times were so hard that money was scarce and although they received inadequate compensation for their labor, they saved what money they did get, and in 1861 bought eighty acres of land apiece in Vienna Township. Mr. Dix developed his property, later buying out his brother, and has since added eighty acres more, which his son operates. Until 1906, Mr. Dix was actively engaged in farming, but then bought a home at Verona, where he has since lived in retirement.

On September 17, 1863, Mr. Dix married Emeline Gertrude Cody, born in Oneida County, N. Y., July 8, 1843, a daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Harriet (Lenard) Cody, both of New York State. In June, 1844, the Cody family came west to Lisbon, Kendall County, Ill. Mr. Cody was a boot and shoemaker, and after saving enough, bought a farm west of Lisbon, where he lived some years, then moved to Lisbon, where he resumed work at his trade. Mr. and Mrs. Dix became the parents of the following children: George, who died in infancy; Fred Leonard, who is on the home farm; Lewis, who died at the age of ten years; Clara Auelia, who married William Finch of Vienna Township; Mina Gertrude, who died in infancy; Sadie Emeline, who married Robert J. Glenn of Mazon Township; Ellie Josephine, who married A. S. Small of Highland Township; Warren M. of Stanford, Mont., who married Alta May Hough; May Eloise, who is of Stanford, Mont.; and Hattie Mabel, who married L. A. Whitthorne of Verona, Ill. Mr. Dix is a member of the Methodist Church and has served as steward and held other church offices. A Republican, he has held a number of the township offices, and is a man whose integrity has never been questioned and whose standing in his neighborhood has been honorably gained.

**DIX, Oliver**, one of the older residents of Grundy County, was born in Oneida County, N. Y., January 5, 1822, and died on his home farm February 16, 1900. He was a son of Ara and Lydia (Richards) Dix. When he was fifteen years old, the family came to Kendall County, Ill., and a little later he located in Grundy County. As the years went on, he added to his original holdings until he owned 800 acres. In 1899, he retired from active work. In 1848, he married Lydia Wing, a daughter of Thomas Wing of Illinois. They had the following children: Ara W. and Orville E. After the death of the first Mrs. Dix in 1858, Mr. Dix married (second) Louisa S. McKinzie, a daughter of William and Sophia (Spillman) McKinzie, and they had the following family: Lydia B., William O., Elta M., Susan L., and George R. Mr. Dix was a Republican in political views, while religiously he was a Methodist.



**DOHERTY, Robert Russell.**—One of the characteristics of the Scotch people has always been intense religious zeal, and the majority of those who come from Scotland take an active part in carrying on the work of the churches in whatever community they happen to locate. at the same time, these earnest, hardworking people know how to make their efforts count for something in all directions and develop into valuable citizens. One of the representatives of his native land in Grundy County, is Robert Russell Doherty of Morris, born in Scotland, in April, 1864, son of Philip and Christina (Russell) Doherty, both of whom died in Scotland.

Robert Russell Doherty is a fine type of the self-made man, for not only has he developed his own material fortunes, but educated himself, and has every reason to be proud of what he has accomplished. In 1881 he came to Morris, where he worked in a brick and tile yard for two seasons. He then worked for the Coleman Hardware Company as moulder for eleven years. His worth being recognized, for three years he was foreman, and for six, assistant superintendent. Mr. Doherty then became associated with what was then the Nickel Manufacturing Company, which in May, 1910, sold to another company, which manufactures light gray castings and all kinds of light hardware, such as sash pulleys, sash hooks and similar articles, while a specialty is made of all kinds of piano work. Employment is given steadily to about seventy-four men. On December 31, 1884, Mr. Doherty was married to Mary Kerr, daughter of Robert and Janet (Ferguson) Kerr, who now reside at Morris. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Doherty: Philip of Morris; Robert, at home; John, of Chicago, and Russell, at home.

Mr. Doherty has always been very active in the Presbyterian Church of which he is a member, and since 1892, has been a trustee. In 1900, he was made an elder, and still has that distinction. For nine years, he was superintendent of the Sunday school, and is now assistant superintendent, and teaches a class. He has also served as president of the Grundy County Bible Society, and been eager to promote the good work of his church in every way. The Republican party has always had his support, and he served one term as alderman from the Second Ward, and since 1902, has been on the school board, two terms of that period, being its president. An enthusiastic Mason, he is now Past Master of Orient Chapter, R. A. M. The Knights of Pythias also hold his membership, and he is Past Chancellor of that order. A man of strong convictions, able and ready to support them, Mr. Doherty exerts a powerful influence for good in his community, and commands the respect of all who know him.

**DREW, Charles E.**—A citizen whose activities in business life have added materially to the commercial prestige of Grundy County, Ill., is Charles E. Drew, of the firm of Hargreaves & Drew, who are proprietors of elevators at

South Wilmington and Gardner, and deal extensively in grain and livestock. His career has been one of persevering effort, and the success which he has attained has come through the medium of his own industry, integrity and inherent business ability. He was born at Naperville, Du Page County, Ill., May 5, 1859, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Chilners) Drew, natives of England. Thomas Drew was born in 1833, and as a youth of nineteen years emigrated to the United States, settling in Du Page County, Ill., where he was engaged in farming until his retirement, in 1896. At that time he located in Evington, Ill., and has since remained at that place, with the exception of a short period of 1912, when with his son, Charles E., he visited the scenes of his boyhood days in his native land. Mrs. Drew died in 1908, and was laid to rest in the Evington cemetery. She and her husband were the parents of six children: Charles E.; Wesley R.; Harry; Caroline, who is the wife of George E. Hargreaves; Mrs. Alice Robinson, and one child who died in infancy.

Charles E. Drew was reared to agricultural pursuits, spending the summer months in assisting his father on the home farm, while the winter terms were passed in acquiring an education in the district schools. When he reached the age of nineteen years, he began to learn the butcher business, in which he was engaged for many years, gaining therein an enviable reputation as a business man. On October 15, 1906, Mr. Drew came to Gardner, and here, in partnership with George E. Hargreaves, he formed the firm of Hargreaves & Drew. This venture has proven very satisfactory to both partners, and the business has grown to such an extent that it now operates a branch at South Wilmington. Mr. Drew is a man of great quickness of perception, business capacity and judgment, and is thoroughly relied upon by those who have had business transactions with him. He has cared little for the struggles of the political arena aside from taking a good citizen's interest in his community's welfare, but supports Republican candidates and principles. Fraternally, he has numerous friends in the local lodges of the Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America.

While a resident of Livingston County, Ill., Mr. Drew was married to his former school-teacher, Miss Emily Judson Clark, born in January, 1859, of LaSalle County, Ill., December 13, 1882. Six children have been born to this union: Mabel Rosella Hulva, who is now deceased; Cyrus, who is in business with his father; Mildred, at home; Hazel, who is deceased; Ellsworth, and one who died in infancy. With his family, Mr. Drew attends the Presbyterian Church.

**DUNN, Clyde E.**, member of the well known firm of Hunter, Dunn & Co., of South Wilmington, as well as manager of the business, is one of the progressive young business men of Grundy County, and well worthy the appreciation shown





his efforts. He was born at Greensburg, Ind., in 1881, a son of William H. and Olessa J. (Glass) Dunn, both natives of Indiana where the father became a farmer. Later these parents went to Clark City, Ill., where the father became boss foreman of the Gardner-Wilmington Coal Co., but now is in the grain business and also operates a lumber yard at Essex, Ill. He is interested in public affairs and is serving as a member of the lower house of the State General Assembly. The mother died in May, 1912, and is buried in the graveyard at Essex. Their children were: William L.; Vivian, who is the wife of A. C. Shimmann; Clyde and four who are deceased.

Clyde E. Dunn attended school at Clark City until he began working for his father thus continuing for five years. Realizing the need of a commercial training, he took a business course at Dixon, Ill., being graduated from a similar institution at Kankakee, Ill., in 1902. In 1904 he came to South Wilmington, where he became bookkeeper for the Hunter Lumber Company. When this concern was reorganized into the Hunter, Dunn & Co., he became a member of the new company. The firm deals in lumber, lime, cement, sash, doors and all kinds of building material, with yards at the following places: under the management of H. & E. F. Hunter, at Henry, Chillicothe, Sparland and Edelstein, Ill.; under the management of Hunter, Allen & Co., at Winchester, Chapin, Mercedosa, Varna, Griggsville, Lacon, Bluffs, Marseilles, Magnolia and Lostant, Ill.; under the management of Hunter, Dunn & Co., at South Wilmington, Ill.; under the management of Hunter, Stevens & Co., at Oglesby and La Salle, Ill.; under the management of Hunter, Rourke & Co., at Urbana and Ogden, Ill., and under the management of Hunter, Doherty & Co., at Spring Valley, Ill.

On March 24, 1908, Mr. Dunn was married to Ida Marvin of Joliet. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn have one child, Dorothy, born in 1913. They are Methodists, and fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen, at Gardner. In politics, he is a Republican. A young man with more than average ability, he is fast developing into a leader at South Wilmington where he has made many friends in both business and social circles.

**EDMONDSON, Martin James.**—There are many instances in Grundy County where sons are operating the homesteads of their fathers, which state of affairs contributes to the general prosperity of the locality, for these men, having grown up on the property, understand the needs of their land and can intelligently use methods to make it produce profitably. One of these men, who is a modern agriculturist with advanced views with regard to farming, is Martin James Edmondson, of Saratoga Township. He was born in Lisbon Township, Kendall County, Ill., March 18, 1882, a son of Edward and Tressa (Phillips) Edmondson, natives of Norway and Lisbon Townships respectively. In

1871 they came to Saratoga Township, this county, and Edward Edmondson worked for others for some years, but in 1885, bought a farm of eighty acres in Saratoga Township, to which he later added eighty acres and lived on the property until 1908, when he retired to Glen Ellyn, Ill., where he still resides. The maternal grandfather, Peter Phillips, a native of New York, was an early settler of Kendall County, Ill. The children born to Edward and Tressa Edmondson were as follows: Mattie, who is Mrs. Fred Foster of Glen Ellyn; Bertha, who is Mrs. Ed. Schock of Glen Ellyn; Mary, who is Mrs. Clarence Murley of Aux Sable Township; Edwin Ray, who is of Glen Ellyn; and Martin James.

Martin James Edmondson grew up on the homestead of his parents and, while learning how to farm, was sent to the district schools. Until his parents retired he worked for them and then took charge of the farm, which he rents from his father. On it he carries on general farming and stock raising, and has been very successful in all his operations. On December 18, 1907, Mr. Edmondson was married to May Dean, who was born in Lisbon Township, Kendall County, December 14, 1885, daughter of George and Frances (Hammet) Dean. Mr. and Mrs. Edmondson have had the following children: Frances, Tressa, Allen Dean and Helen May. Mrs. Edmondson belongs to the Methodist Church of Aux Sable Township. He has always been a Republican, but has not sought public office. A hard-working, thrifty man, he has succeeded in his chosen work and has gained the respect and confidence of his neighbors.

**EFFTING, Frank J.** (deceased), whose long and useful career was terminated by death April 1, 1896, was for years one of the best known of Morris' citizens. His connection with the tanning industry and with farming brought him into contact with a large number of people, among whom he always bore the highest reputation, maintaining throughout his life a high regard for probity, industry and clean living. Mr. Effting was born at Lockport, Ill., July 28, 1857, and is a son of Frank and Mary (Fleck) Effting, natives of Germany.

Frank J. Effting received his education in the parochial school at Lockport, and at the age of nineteen years came to Morris to accept a position in the tannery, where he became thoroughly conversant with all the details of the business. He learned leather coloring and worked in the tannery until his marriage, January 9, 1883, to Philomena K. Sattler, who was born in Hubbells, Ind., May 27, 1856, daughter of Dennis and Catherine (Haines) Effting, the former of Baden, Germany, and the latter of near Basel, Switzerland. Mr. Sattler came to the United States at the age of nineteen years and worked at different places at the blacksmith trade, eventually buying a home at New Alsace, Ind., where Mr. and Mrs. Effting met and were married. Mr. Sattler subsequently







Lyman B. Ray



moved to Kentucky, where he worked as a mechanic until the outbreak of the Civil War, at which time he entered the Union service as a blacksmith. On the close of his military career he came to Illinois, and here he worked at the blacksmith trade until his death. November 2, 1903, at the age of eighty-two years. His widow, who survives him and lives with her children, is eighty-three years old. After his marriage, Mr. Effting removed to a farm in Coffey County, Kansas, where he had eighty acres of land, but about eight months later returned to Morris and again took up tanning. In 1895 he again went to Kansas, where he went to work for a brother, and while there, moving his household goods, he met with an accident, in which he received injuries that eventually caused his death. His remains were brought back to Morris and were here buried. His widow still survives him and conducts a grocery, confectionery and notion store at No. 526 East Jackson street. Mr. Effting was a Catholic, and his widow also is a member of that church. Politically he was a Democrat, while his fraternal connection was with the Odd Fellows. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Effting, namely: Marie C., at home; Helena A., who died in infancy; and Hildegarde and Gertrude, twins, both schoolteachers in Grundy County.

ELERDING, Conrad, one of the retired business men of Morris, was born at Northville, La Salle County, Ill., December 15, 1814, a son of Henry and Mary Ann (Hollenback) Elerding, natives of Westphalia, Germany, and Muskingum County, Ohio, respectively. The father came to the United States in 1830, bringing with him a vivid recollection of the Napoleonic wars, and for some time worked as a millwright until he built a saw and grist mill at Sheridan, Ill. He also constructed the bridge across the Fox river that was later taken away by the floods. In 1858, he came to Morris, and built the Grundy County grist-mill. He and his wife were married near Newark, Ill., Mrs. Elerding being a daughter of Clark and Anne (Blizzard) Hollenback, who were born on the south fork of the Potomac river in Virginia. They were early settlers of Kendall County, locating on the present site of Newark during 1832. Owing to the disturbances occasioned by the Black Hawk War, these hardy pioneers walked to Fort Ottawa for protection. Becoming anxious with regard to conditions at his little homestead, Mr. Hollenback decided to return. As he neared his farm, two Indians on horseback pursued him, but with a cunning equal to their own, he made them think by calling upon an imaginary party, that he was not alone, and finally they turned off and rode in another direction, much to the excellent man's relief. As soon as it was safe, Mr. Hollenback brought his family back to their home, and there they lived until he died. Mrs. Hollenback was a large woman of powerful build, and her heart was in proportion, many of the early settlers owing much to her for her

kindly offices. She lived to the advanced age of ninety years, and was beloved by a wide circle of friends. Mr. Elerding died at South Haven, Mich., in 1900, as after the death of his wife at Morris, in 1883, he lived about with his children. They were as follows: Melissa, William and Sarah, who are deceased; Conrad; Louise, who is Mrs. Joseph Trout, of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Annie, who was Mrs. Frank Bartlett, died in 1878, leaving two children, Guy and Arbel; George B., who is of Bellingham, Wash.; Charles, of Maxville, Kans.; Edward, who is of Charleston, Ill.; and Westley, who died in infancy.

Conrad Elerding attended the common schools of his district, and remained with his father until his marriage, when he bought the old grist-mill from his father, and in 1888 changed it into an oat mill, and conducted it as such very successfully until 1900, when it was burned. In 1901 he replaced his plant, erecting it at Morris, and conducted it as the Morris Oatmeal factory until 1905, when he rented it to the Quaker Oatmeal Company, since which time he has lived retired.

On December 21, 1876, Mr. Elerding married Mrs. Eliza J. (Ridings) Elerding, widow of his brother William, by whom she had one son, G. William who resides at Bitter Root, Mont. He married Elva A. Lloyd, and they have three children: Frank, born July 28, 1897; Adelaide, born April 23, 1902; and Wayne, born April 10, 1904. Mrs. Conrad Elerding was born at Hillsboro, O., October 15, 1845, a daughter of John P. and Rebecca (Stone) Ridings, born at Winchester, Va., in 1803, and Middletown, Va., in 1810, respectively. The grandparents, Peter and Mary (Brotherington) Ridings, were born at Liverpool, England, while the maternal grandparents, Philip and Christina (Crum) Stone were natives of Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Ridings married in Virginia, and in 1832 emigrated to Ohio, where he first worked for fifty cents per day, but owing to the cheapness of foodstuffs, lived comfortably. In 1858, Mr. and Mrs. Ridings moved to Waukomis Township, Grundy County, where they lived until death claimed them, the father dying March 4, 1885, and the mother on March 12, 1892. Mrs. Elerding attended the public schools and Hillsboro Female College. She has been a life long Methodist. In politics Mr. Elerding is a Republican, but has not sought office.

ELTERVOOG, Helge, of Nettle Creek Township, is another example of the thrifty, hard-working Norseman to be found in Grundy County, whose efforts have contributed so materially towards the development of what was once wild prairie land into one of the most flourishing agricultural centers of the state. Mr. Eltervoog was born near Bergen, Norway, November 25, 1853, a son of Christian Erickson and Elizabeth (Helgeson) Eltervoog, both natives of Norway where they died.

Helge Eltervoog attended the common schools of his native land, and early developed an am-



bition to see something of the world, so in 1902 he came to the United States and began working on a farm in Nettle Creek Township. In 1910, having married, he took charge of the farm of 120 acres belonging to his father-in-law, the latter moving to Seneca, La Salle County, Ill. On this farm Mr. Eltervoog raises registered Duroc-Jersey hogs, and carries on general farming.

On February 12, 1910, Mr. Eltervoog married Deia Lillian Johnson, a daughter of Thomas and Lorenza Johnson, natives of Norway. Mrs. Eltervoog was born in Nettle Creek Township, April 12, 1886. A brother of hers, Thomas T. Johnson was drowned on November 1, 1909, his body not being found until February 12, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Eltervoog have two children: Alene Lorenza, who was born August 2, 1911, and Helen Dorothy, born March 2, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Eltervoog belong to the Stavenenger Lutheran Church of La Salle county, Ill. Politically he is a Republican, but has held no public office. He is a man who stands very high in his township, and is a man who is worthy of all confidence.

**ERICKSON, Ole.**—The citizens of Morris, Ill., need no introduction to Ole Erickson, whose sterling integrity, upright character and high ideals of citizenship have made him one of the most useful members of his community for nearly forty-five years. During this time he has been intimately connected with the business interests of Morris, his versatility permitting him to win success in several lines of endeavor. He is a native of Norway, and was born in 1850, a son of Erik Erickson, also of Norway, who was born in 1803. The latter came to the United States, July 20, 1880, and settled in Minnesota as a farmer and was so engaged up to the time of his death. His wife, Marit (Svarthaugen) Erickson, was born in Norway in 1812, and died there November 29, 1879. Three children were born to them: One son, Ole, and two daughters, Mari and Marit.

Ole Erickson received his education in the common schools of his native land, and as a youth was reared to agricultural pursuits, but subsequently secured employment as a clerk in a store. In 1866 he came to America and first became a clerk in a Chicago grocery store, but on May 17, 1870, came to Morris, which city has been his home to the present time. He established himself in the dry goods business with a partner, but three years later sold his interests, and again became a clerk, being so occupied about eight years. On November 12, 1880, in partnership with W. B. Hull, he opened a full store of dry goods, boots and shoes. This association continued until Mr. Hull sold his interests to B. W. Zens, who was a shoe dealer, and on March 5, 1889, Mr. Erickson bought Mr. Zens' interest, taking into partnership his son, Albert E., an association which still continues in force. In 1894, with Mr. Strong, Mr. Erickson started a grocery business, and the two stores adjoin, both doing a large

business. The dry goods business may be said to be the most up-to-date in this section, including a full line of carpets, rugs and ladies' ready-to-wear goods.

On September 10, 1871, Mr. Erickson was married in Morris to Miss Mary M. Frey, daughter of William Frey, she having been born in Pennsylvania, November 23, 1851. To this union there have been born the following children: Anna M., born November 1, 1872; Albert E., born March 19, 1875, and still in business with his father; Blaney W., born June 20, 1885, and also in business with his father; Edna Louisa, born June 11, 1890, who is now Mrs. George C. Clement, of Chicago, Ill.; and Mildred Ruth, born March 19, 1895. Mr. Erickson is a Presbyterian in his religious belief, and since 1880 has been president of the board of trustees of that church. He is a Republican in politics and has satisfactorily filled a number of town and township offices.

**ESGAR, Mark.**—Among the old and honored residents of Grundy County, Ill., one who holds the esteem and respect of his fellow-citizens by reason of the capable and faithful manner in which he has ever performed the duties assigned to him, whether in war or in peace, is Mark Esgar, a veteran of the Civil War and substantial farmer of Vienna Township. Mr. Esgar is a native of Somersetshire, England, where he was born January 20, 1849, a son of John F. and Louisa (Stevens) Esgar.

The early education of Mr. Esgar was somewhat limited, as when he was a lad of but nine years he entered the coal mines of Wales. He was so employed until he reached the age of fourteen years, at which time he accompanied his parents to the United States, the parents settling first in New Jersey. Later Mr. Esgar went to the coal mines of Pennsylvania, where he was employed for one and one-half years, but then returned to New Jersey. In 1857, Mr. Esgar and a sister joined their parents in Kankakee County, Ill., where he became a farm hand, and was engaged in tilling the soil at the time of his enlistment, in August, 1862, in Company F, Eighty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, his regiment being assigned to the Army of the Ohio. Later it was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland, and with this command Mr. Esgar fought until receiving his honorable discharge at the close of hostilities, June 12, 1865, at Nashville, Tenn. A cheerful, gallant and reliable soldier, he won the admiration of his comrades and the respect of his officers, and left the service of his country with an excellent record. Returning to his parent's home in Kankakee County, he remained but a short time, then moving to Braceville Township, Grundy County. There he was married, January 8, 1868, to Miss Elizabeth Ray, who was born in Germany, daughter of William and Johanna (Stine) Ray, who came to the United States in 1851. After his marriage, Mr. Esgar rented a farm in Braceville Township, but in





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1871 disposed of his interests there and moved to Vienna Township, where he has since made his home. He was industrious, energetic and persevering, and through good management accumulated 200 acres of land, which he developed into as fine a property as was to be found in this part of the State. During recent years, however, he has lived somewhat retired, having given his son, William J., 120 acres of his property, although he still superintends the operations on eighty acres, and is keenly interested in all that affects his community. Mrs. EsGAR passed away October 12, 1906, having been the mother of these children: Anetta Louisa, who married G. W. Johnson of Waupee Township; Fannie Lillian, who married Lyman Hough of Verona, Ill.; and William John, a farmer of Vienna Township. Mr. EsGAR is a Republican. He has shown an interest in Grand Army work, and at the present time is a valued member of Darveau Post No. 329.

**FEELAND, Jacob B.**—A farmer and reliable citizen of Nettle Creek Township, comes of good Norse stock and was born in Greenfield Township, Grundy County, in December, 1873, a son of John and Bertha Feeland who were natives of Norway. They came to the United States from Norway after their marriage, and located in Grundy County in 1871, buying a farm in Greenfield Township, on which the mother died when Jacob B. Feeland was a week old. The father later married (second) Anna Likness, born in Norway, and lived until 1908, when he passed away.

Jacob B. Feeland was taken by an uncle, Arant Thompson, when his mother died. In 1877 Mr. Thompson went to Nebraska, where he spent ten years, and then moved to Center County, that same State, where he died in 1905. Mr. Feeland remained with this uncle until he attained his majority, receiving his educational training in the common schools of Nebraska. When he was twenty-one years old he returned to Grundy County, and worked by the month in Nettle Creek Township for four or five years, and then began farming for himself. He now owns a two-thirds interest in his present farm, upon which he has lived since 1902, and he generally operates a good deal of additional land. In February, 1897, Mr. Feeland married Mary L. Likness, born in Nettle Creek Township, a daughter of Austin and Anna Likness, the former of whom is deceased, but the latter is residing with Mr. Feeland. Mr. and Mrs. Feeland are the parents of the following children: Birdie, Lillie, Lulu, and Willie. Mr. Feeland is a Lutheran, and politically is a Republican, but he has never cared for public office.

**FERGUSON, Charles D.**, formerly sheriff of Grundy County, was born near Rochester, N. Y., May 31, 1839, a son of Daniel Ferguson. The family came to Grundy County in 1854. In 1880, Mr. Ferguson was elected Sheriff of the county, and he also had charge of the steam fire engine

for some years. On April 9, 1861, he married (first) Louisa Hall, who died November 24, 1861. On March 25, 1865, Mr. Ferguson married (second) Elizabeth A. Ent, and they had the following children: Fred C., Harry H., and Eugene Ray.

**FILLMAN, Charles**, owner of 160 acres of fertile land in Good Farm Township, is one of the substantial agriculturists of his section. On this property he carries on general farming and has developed his property into one of the most valuable to be found in Grundy County. He was born at Dwight, Ill., August 28, 1860, a son of Jacob M. and Mary (Burger) Fillman, both born in Germany, the latter in Bavaria.

Jacob M. Fillman was a blacksmith, and was accounted one of the best in the State and widely known as he worked at his trade all along the Mississippi River, eventually making a permanent location in the vicinity of Dwight. He had a helpful wife and in order that he might give all of his attention to the work of the shop, she dug his coal for the forge. He helped to build the first wagon ever made at Marseilles, Ill., and was connected with the best class of work in his line throughout a wide territory. In 1867 he moved to Good Farm Township, and secured land. It was then in a state of wilderness not easy to understand at this day, and that most estimable wife and mother not only did more than her part in the house, but helped her husband develop his land and even assisted in digging the wells. Jacob M. Fillman died in 1910, but his wife, in spite of all her hard work, survives, and is living in Minnesota. She and her husband had seven children: George, William, deceased, Charles, Louis, Kate, Jacob, and Mary.

Charles Fillman went to school at Dwight and until he attained his majority, remained at home with his father and assisted in operating the 700-acre farm of the latter. He has made all the improvements upon his own farm, including the erection of a beautiful brick residence that is modern in every respect. He belongs to the Lutheran Church and shows his interest in its good work. A Democrat, he is serving on the school board, and as an official endeavors to get for the children of his district the best possible educational advantages.

On April 11, 1884, Mr. Fillman married Elizabeth Klughardt, born in this township. Their children have been: Frederika Krug; Lucy, who is deceased; Ella; Anna; Eddie, who is deceased; Lilly; Reuben, who is deceased; Franklin; Leslie; Warner and Erna.

**FINCH, George (deceased)**, who for many years was a substantial agriculturalist of Grundy County, was born in Kent, England, in January, 1823, a son of Gabriel and Susanna (Goldin) Finch, both of whom died in England. In 1852 George Finch came to the United States, and after a few years spent in New York State, went to La Salle County, Ill., where he bought a farm and lived for five years, but then sold it



and purchased 200 acres of land one and one-half miles northeast of Verona. The farm was all prairie land, but he improved it and made it a valuable property. In 1891 he moved to Verona, where he died June 9, 1894, his widow surviving him, makes her home at Verona.

On May 25, 1859, Mr. Finch was married in La Salle County to Martha Rumney, born in Kent, England, a daughter of James and Mary (Winch) Rumney, who in 1850 came to New York State, when Mrs. Finch was about fourteen years old. Later they moved to La Salle County where he died about 1854, the mother surviving him until 1885, when she passed away at the home of Mr. Finch. Mr. and Mrs. Finch had the following children: Mary, who is Mrs. George Ward of Woodson County, Kas.; Louisa, who is Mrs. Samuel Ward of Vienna Township; Ellen, who is Mrs. George Bettie of Sumner, Neb.; George, who died in 1897, leaving a wife and two children,—Pearl and Eva; William, who is at home; Frederick, who is also on the home farm; Martha, who married John Petrie of Verona, died in 1907, leaving two children, Bertha and Martha; Esther, who is the widow of John McCormick of Verona; Clara, who resides with her widowed mother; and John, who is of Vienna Township. Mrs. Finch is a member of the Baptist Church and takes a great pleasure in her religious connections. Mr. Finch was a Republican and served as a school director. He was a man of high principles and lived up to what he believed was right upon all occasions.

**FINCH, William J.**—The substantial results attained by the progressive agriculturists of Grundy County prove that there is money in farming if it is carried on properly. The position of the twentieth century farmer is an important one, and upon his industry and business ability depend the prosperity of the country. One of the farmers who is proving the truth of the above in his everyday life is William J. Finch, who is a native of Grundy County, born in Vienna Township, May 7, 1870. He is a son of George and Martha (Rumney) Finch, natives of England, who came to La Salle County, Ill. in youth, there married and spent a few years before coming to Vienna Township in 1863, buying 120 acres of raw land which they improved, adding to their holdings until there were 200 acres in the homestead at the time of the father's death in 1894. The mother now lives at Verona. They had ten children, of whom William J. was the fifth in order of birth. A full history of this interesting family is found elsewhere in this work.

William J. Finch has spent his life on the homestead, and with his brother, Fred Finch, has carried on farming and stock raising, specializing in White Face cattle and Percheron horses. He was given the advantages of the public schools of his neighborhood and since attaining to man's estate, has been school director for two terms, being elected on the

Republican ticket. Fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias.

In September, 1892, Mr. Finch was united in marriage with Clara Dix, born in Vienna Township, a daughter of Matthew and Gertrude (Cody) Dix, the former a native of England. Mr. and Mrs. Finch have had the following children: Erna, Edmond, George, Ernest, Matthew and Howard. Mr. Finch is an excellent farmer, a good citizen and a man who enjoys the confidence and respect of a wide circle of friends in his neighborhood and elsewhere where he is known.

**FISHER, Volney H.**—It often happens that a man learns a trade, is successful at it, and yet finds that his true life work lies in another direction. The sensible man when he discovers such a condition, enters into his new work, and develops its proportions until he is satisfied with his progress. This has been the case with Volney H. Fisher of Morris, Ill., who has not only achieved profitable results as a carpenter and builder, but made his name known throughout the State as manufacturer of bee keepers' supplies, as well as a grower of bees. Mr. Fisher was born at Morris, March 10, 1875, a son of Lyman A. and Margaret H. (Hazelton) Fisher, natives of New Hampshire, and Brooklyn, N. Y., respectively. They were married at Brooklyn, where he was engaged as a carpenter and ship builder. In 1858, the family came to Chicago, where Mr. Fisher worked as a carpenter, later going to Sterling and other Illinois points, until January 1, 1871, he settled at Morris, where he continued at his trade until his death, in February, 1891. His widow survives, making her home at No. 842 E. Benton street, Morris, where she has six acres of land. Mrs. Fisher is seventy years old at time of writing. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Fisher were: Solon H., born in 1864, died in August, 1902; Horace H., of Los Angeles, Cal., and Volney H., who resides with his mother.

Volney H. Fisher was educated in the common schools and the Morris high school and learned the trade of a carpenter with his father, while still attending school. In the years that followed, he built a number of handsome residences both in Morris and the surrounding country, and still takes contracts for building. In 1896, his attention was attracted to bee culture, and he gradually came to devote more and more of his time to this work, until he now keeps from fifteen to fifty hives of bees. This calling led him into the manufacture of bee keepers' supplies, which he sells all over the State, and he also sells bees. His various lines of endeavor keep him busy so that he has little time for outside matters, but votes the Republican ticket. Mr. Fisher is not married. He is a Presbyterian in religious faith. For some years, he has been a valued member of the Bee Keepers' Association. A man who pays strict attention to his own affairs, and tries to do his full duty in discharging the obligations of a citizen, he has won enviable distinction among



his fellow citizens as an honorable, upright man, whose efforts have been rewarded with a success that is deserved.

**FOLI, Max.**—A resident of South Wilmington, Ill., since 1902, in which year he established himself in the liquor business at this place. Max Foli has played a prominent part in the civic affairs of the community, and since the spring of 1912 has served as a member of the village board of trustees. He is a native of Northern Italy, and was born in 1870. His father, who was a stone mason by trade, passed his entire life in Italy, where he died in 1882, and his mother is still a resident of that country. There were seven children in the family: Evisctice, Max, Carlo, Telespo, Dominic, Mida and Antonio, of whom Carlo, Mida and Antonio are deceased.

Max Foli secured his only educational advantages in the public schools of his native land, but when twelve years of age gave up his studies on account of the death of his father, and commenced working at the trade of stone mason. Seeing no future for himself in his native land, he decided to try his fortune in America, and accordingly, in January, 1890, emigrated to this country and settled at Clark City, Ill. There he soon secured employment in the mines, and after ten years made removal to Gardner, Ill., where he was similarly engaged for two years. In the meantime, being thrifty and industrious, he carefully saved his earnings with the idea of becoming the owner of an establishment of his own, an ambition which was realized in 1902 when he came to South Wilmington and opened his present place of business. Through good management, energetic effort and enterprise, he has built up a paying trade, and is now considered one of the substantial men of the village, being the owner of his own property and wielding a distinct influence among his countrymen. In the spring of 1912 he became a candidate on the Republican ticket for the office of village trustee, and was elected to this office by a handsome majority. He has served his fellow-citizens faithfully and well, and deserves the respect in which he is held. His religious connection is with the Catholic Church, and he belongs fraternally to the Foresters and the Italian order of the White Necktie, South Wilmington.

Mr. Foli was married in 1896 to Miss Rosa Corinne, who died January 26, 1909, and is buried in Italy. Six children were born to this union: Linda, Mida, Clama, deceased, Cardi Melluda, deceased, and Frank.

**FOX, Henry (deceased).**—In the death of Henry Fox, Dwight, Ill., lost a substantial and well-known citizen, one who had spent thirty-two years of his life there. Mr. Fox was born in Rentlingen, Germany, October 4, 1833, and came to America in 1854, landing in New York City October 4, and going direct to Milwaukee, Wis. There he remained for a few years, after which, he went to St. Louis, Mo., where he en-

gaged as a clerk in a dry goods store. He then removed to Mt. Pulaski, Ill., where he clerked for some time, later becoming owner of a dry goods store and continued a mercantile life until the breaking out of the Civil War in April, 1861. He enlisted for three months with the Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Later he re-enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Sixth Volunteer Infantry, and served with that regiment until the fall of 1863, when he became captain of the Fifty-ninth Colored Infantry, remaining until January 31, 1866, when he was honorably discharged, having met with the misfortune of having his horse shot under him, the fall crushing his ankle and making him a cripple for life. During his years of army life he was wounded three times. After his military service he located at Lincoln, Ill., where he was employed in a lumber office until 1874, moving from there to Dwight, Ill., where he took charge of the William Scully land, which embraced about 12,000 acres in Grundy and Livingston Counties, which position he held until his death, September 3, 1906. His burial was in Oak Lawn cemetery, Dwight, Ill.

Mr. Fox's first wife was Magdalene Mayer, a native of Mt. Pulaski, Ill., who died in 1879. To them were born the following children: William, who died in 1898; Henry, of Nelson, Neb.; Anna; Mrs. Benjamin Showalter, of Davenport, Neb.; Lydia, who lives with Mrs. Fox; Lewis, of Kansas City, Mo.; Susan, a teacher of painting in Chicago; Pauline; Mrs. Alonzo Emans, of Florida; and Daniel, of Hall City, Fla. Mr. Fox's second marriage occurred October 28, 1880, with Miss Harriet Chamberlain, who was born in Western New York, a daughter of William and Nancy (Jackson) Chamberlain, the former born in Vermont, and the latter in New York, both dying in New York State.

Mr. Fox was highly educated, having attended educational institutions in Stuttgart, Germany. He was at one time a German Lutheran, but, after coming to Dwight, became associated with the Presbyterian Church. In political views, he was a Republican and served Dwight as mayor several terms and was also a member of the Town Board. He was a member of the A. F. & A. M., of Dwight; Wilmington Chapter No. 513, R. A. M.; Blaney Commandery of Morris; Council of Streator. He belonged to Dwight Encampment No. 126, I. O. O. F., of which organization he was a member for forty-eight years. He belonged also to the Grand Army of the Republic, No. 626, Dwight Post, and was a member of the military order of the Loyal Legion of Illinois. Enterprising and progressive, he was looked upon as one of his city's representative men, and was highly esteemed by all.

**FRANCIS, Joseph H.**—Whatever may be the real cause, about which political economists, philanthropists and social service workers widely differ, it remains true that in every community there exists certain individuals so de-



termined on lawlessness that restraint is necessary in order to protect the innocent. Hence laws have been formulated and officers elected to carry them out and in the choice of these officers lies in great part the efficacy of the laws. This is particularly true in the selection of men to fill the dangerous and responsible office of sheriff of a county, and comparatively few men possess every desirable requirement for such a position. Physical strength and endurance must be combined with calm judgment, a high order of personal courage, a keen intellect, and dexterity and adroitness that will enable him to meet any possible advantage taken by the lawless, with which class much of his duty is concerned. Thus endowed is Joseph H. Francis, who is serving in his second term as Sheriff of Grundy County.

Joseph H. Francis was born at Francis, Erie County, Pa., June 25, 1860, and is a son of Luther and Henrietta (Cole) Francis. Both parents were born in Erie County, Pa., to which section his grandparents had moved in 1830, from Vermont. They were of old Quaker and Puritan stock, very religious people, frugal and thrifty. They left a family of nine children, six sons and three daughters. Luther Francis, father of Joseph H. Francis, was a farmer in Franklin Township, Erie County, and also was engaged in a real estate business. During the Civil War, when Erie County was threatened with invasion by the Confederates, he served as a minute man, under Governor Curtin, Pennsylvania's great War Governor, and was one of the last three men to leave the neighborhood and was badly injured. He never fully recovered and his death occurred July 15, 1881. One son, A. W. Francis, served during three and one-half years in that struggle.

Joseph H. Francis attended the district schools of Franklin Township, Erie County, and passed his boyhood on his father's farm. At the age of eighteen years he came to Braceville, Grundy County, Ill., and for about three years worked on farms in that neighborhood, did some mining also in Braceville, and afterward, for about eight years conducted a dairy farm. Intelligently interested in public matters he soon identified himself with the Republican party and has never changed his political principles. His first preparation for the office he has so ably filled was during the three and one-half years when he acted as deputy sheriff under Sheriff John Schroder. In January, 1898, he moved to Morris and was appointed deputy sheriff under Sheriff C. W. Johnson, and served in that capacity for three and one-half years, during which period he made some very important captures, one of these in 1901, the first Black Hand criminal in Morris. In 1902 he was elected Sheriff of Grundy County by the largest majority ever given a candidate for that office and served four years. Under the Illinois law a man cannot serve two successive terms either as sheriff or county treasurer, hence, Sheriff Francis was then elected treasurer and served four years, when he was again

elected sheriff, in 1910. As an officer he has gained a reputation all through the Middle West. In the Gardner bank robbery case, he broke up probably the worst gang of yegmen that ever operated in Northern Illinois. In his clever work in the silk robbery case, in which he, lone-handed, captured the robbers in O. Erickson & Son's dry goods store, he put an end to a band of criminals that, for a number of years, had covered three States and had cleaned up hundreds of thousands of dollars in silk robberies. His recent capture of two different sets of Chicago auto bandits, but added to laurels well won in an eventful career as Sheriff. At St. Louis, in 1904 he was elected Vice President of the International Sheriffs' Association, and at St. Paul, in 1905, was re-elected to the same office.

Sheriff Francis was married at Braceville, Grundy County, Ill., January 1, 1882, to Miss Alice M. Cragg, a daughter of George H. Cragg. She was born on the home farm in Maine Township, where her parents still reside, April 5, 1810. Her father was born in a log house now standing within 80 rods of where he now lives, which was built in 1822, and was, during the Civil War and in slavery days, one of the stations of the underground railway. Sheriff Francis and wife have five children: Elmer L., who enlisted at the age of sixteen years, in the Spanish-American War, during two years of service in the Philippines saw hard service and was standing within 100 feet of General Lawton when the latter was killed, and was one of the officer's escorts; Maudie Ethel, who is the wife of William Campbell, who is in the clothing business at Morris; Claude Eugene, Oscar George, and E. L. Francis, all of whom are acting as deputy sheriffs in Grundy County; and Robert James. Mr. Francis is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Morris. He is a Chapter Mason and belongs also to the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the White Cross and other organizations and is exceedingly popular in all.

Sheriff Francis is a man of sterling qualities, and his uprightness of character, his splendid fellowship and his devotion to duty, have greatly endeared him to the people of Grundy County. He has two possessions which he treasures highly, one being his handsomely enameled and engraved star, which was presented to him immediately after his election to office, on December 1, 1902, by his many friends, and the other is a gold medal bestowed upon him by O. Erickson & Son, after his capture of the silk thieves, September 23, 1900. It bears an inscription setting forth his bravery and giving the date. This is something Mr. Francis feels is worth while handing down to his descendants.

**FULLER, Owen Hiram.**—Gone are the days when pioneer conditions prevailed, and yet they are not so far distant that they are not remembered by those still living who participated in their incidents. One of those justly num-







*Charlotte Beardon*



*Mary E. Carson*



bered among the pioneers of Grundy County is Owen Hiram Fuller, who delights to dwell upon many features of the early days, while now living in ease and comfort at Mazon, after years spent in useful and successful endeavor as a farmer. He was born in New York State, January 19, 1831, a son of Hiram and May Ann (Owen) Fuller, natives of Connecticut and New York State, respectively. After her death in 1845 in Mazon Township, the father married Eliza Bowers, who died in 1860. He was a farmer in the latter State and during his declining years operated a grocery store. His death occurred at Old Mazon, at the home of his son, in 1872.

In 1839 the Fuller family came to Grundy County, although at that time it was included in the large territory known as La Salle County. It then comprised the parents, Hiram and Mary Ann Fuller, and Owen Hiram, his elder sister, Elizabeth, and younger brother, Velasco L., who died in 1873. The parents purchased land in Mazon Township, and for a long time alternated fighting wolves with combating ague, the scourge of the pioneers in this community.

On July 30, 1853, Owen Hiram Fuller married Wealtha Isham, born October 23, 1836, then only seventeen years old, for the pioneers married early. She was a daughter of Gursham and Eliza A. (Sanford) Isham. Eight children were born of this marriage: Mary, Lorrie E., and Vestie, all of whom are deceased; Olney, who lives at Joliet, married Josie Wright and they have three children, Earl, Ray and Rose; Albie, who married O. S. Viner, and they have two children, Flossie and Wayne, and three deceased, Mary, Clifford and Fred; R. Dale, who lives at Centralia, Ill., married Lulu Keltner, and they have three children, Ethel, Hazel and Eulalia; Olin, who is deceased; and Erlen, who is a physician at Gardner, Ill., married Cora Schreffler, and they have two children, Olin and Hiram.

In 1869, Mr. Fuller opened a wagon shop at Old Mazon, which he conducted until 1875, he then paying \$1.50 per hundred for lumber. Selling his business after fifteen years' operation of it, Mr. Fuller came to Mazon and engaged in a grain and lumber business in partnership with O. A. Murray, until 1895, when he again sold, and has been living retired ever since. Casting his first vote for James Buchanan, he has continued in the ranks of the Democratic party, and has not only been a notary public, but for a quarter of a century has been a justice of the peace at Mazon. For three terms he served as mayor of Mazon, and has been on the school board for many years. The Congregational Church holds his membership, and benefits from his liberality. Mr. Fuller has seen many changes take place, among them the wage increase. For instance, his first work for outsiders was done in 1845, when he drove an ox team to break the tough prairie sod. For this back-breaking work, he received fifty cents a day, and was very glad to get it, for money was scarce. Comparison may be made

for any kind of labor today. While his educational training was confined to the pioneer schools, Mr. Fuller has added to his store of information by observation, and is a very well informed man, one whose opinion is asked and taken upon many occasions.

**GAMORA, Joseph.**—One of the substantial men and worthy citizens of whom Coal City is justly proud, is Joseph Gamora, who has been fortunate enough to so succeed in his life work that he has been able to retire before old age has overtaken him, was born in Northern Italy, September 9, 1849, a son of Ralph and Gudemicka (Amosa) Gamora, natives of Italy. His parents were farming people who lived and died in their native land, the former in 1863 and latter in 1891. To them were born six children: John, deceased; Dominie, Joseph, Katrina, Marguerite and Chesalita.

Joseph Gamora received but meager schooling in Italy, and at the age of fifteen was employed on the railroad and continued until he came to America in 1881, coming direct to Coal City, his wife remaining temporarily in France. He was engaged in the mining industry for fifteen years, and later became one of the foremost business men of the place, although, for the past ten years, he has lived retired. He is the owner of one of the best business buildings in Coal City and also owns a fine residence. In 1882, Mrs. Gamora joined her husband at Coal City. They are the parents of the following children: Ralph, John, Dominie, Felix, Joe, Tony, Anna and Rosa. Tony Gamora attended school in Coal City, and worked in the mines until entering his father's business, of which he is now manager. On June 12, 1908, he married Ellen Stuart, of Coal City, and they have two children, Joseph and Agnes. He is affiliated with the Eagles of Morris and the Foresters of Coal City.

Joseph Gamora is a member of the Catholic Church, and belongs to an Italian lodge. In politics, he is a Republican, and was city treasurer for one year. Mr. Gamora has been a resident of Coal City for thirty-two years, and it is his intention to make it his home for the remainder of his life.

**GANTZERT, Frank.**—The agricultural activities of Grundy County are tempered by an intelligent acceptance of existing conditions and a comprehension of the requirements of farm life, yet, at the same time, due consideration is given to the exceptional advantages here offered, with the result that this section of the State commands a well merited supremacy along many lines. One of the men now successfully engaged in farming is Frank Gantzert of Section 15, Good Farm Township. He was born December 7, 1874, a son of John Henry Gantzert and his wife, Mary (Pfeifer) Gantzert, the former born in New York State, a son of John Phillip Gantzert, a native of Germany.

John Henry Gantzert came to Illinois in 1855 with his parents, settling in Good Farm Town-



ship, this county. On February 24, 1874, he married and settled down to farming, becoming the owner of 590 acres of land, 270 in Grundy County, and the balance in Livingston and Lee Counties, all of which he acquired through his own efforts after coming to this locality. He and his wife had five children: Frank; Clara, who is Mrs. William Huffman of Good Farm Township; Edward, who is living in Good Farm Township, married Anna Bruner; Fred, who is living on his father's homestead, married Julia Schroderberger; and Elmer, who is also living on the old homestead. The father and mother of this family are now living retired at Dwight, Ill., to which place they moved in 1912.

Frank Gantzert remained at home with his parents, attending the district schools, and assisting with the farm work. He completed his educational training at the Dwight high school, and in the Metropolitan Business college of Chicago, attending the latter institution for a year. Following that he returned home and farmed on rented land until 1902, but later bought 160 acres in Mazon Township. His wife owns eighty acres in Good Farm Township. A Republican in politics, he served as supervisor for one year, and is serving in his third year as a justice of the peace, was town clerk for three years, and school trustee for the same length of time.

On March 9, 1898, Mr. Gantzert was married to Miss Minnie Burkhardt, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Freevert) Burkhardt, and they have had four children: Harold, who died when one week old, was buried in Good Farm cemetery; and Everett, Hazel Alice and Gilbert Frank, all three attending school. The family belongs to the Evangelical Church.

**GARDNER, James M.**—Grundy County has attracted men from all over the country, as well as from foreign lands. The soil here is so fertile that those whose work is the cultivation of land, know that they can make good profits and realize heavily upon an investment in farms. One of the men who has developed into a prosperous agriculturist within the confines of the county, is James M. Gardner of Nettle Creek Township. He was born in Marshall County, W. Va., March 10, 1849, a son of Lemuel L. and Emily (Woods) Gardner, natives of Trenton, N. J., and Marshall County, W. Va., respectively. After attaining his majority, the father went to West Virginia, and later moved to Grundy County, Ill. Although a carpenter, he bought a farm in Saratoga Township and worked it until 1896, when he retired, moving then to Morris, where he died in 1898, his widow surviving him until June 29, 1912, when she too passed away. Both are buried in Evergreen cemetery at Morris.

James M. Gardner was brought up in West Virginia and there educated in the common schools. He remained with his parents until his marriage, when he rented land first in Saratoga Township, and later in Nettle Creek Town-

ship for two years, then bought eighty acres in that same township. A year later he sold this land and then rented for one year more, when he purchased his present farm of eighty acres, still continuing in Nettle Creek Township. His property is a valuable one and he conducts it according to modern methods.

On January 8, 1872, Mr. Gardner was married to Mary Jane Riggs, born in Marshall County, W. Va., daughter of Simeon and Hannah (Bowen) Riggs, both of Marshall County, and two children were born of this marriage: Elmer N., who lives in Wisconsin, and William L. Mrs. Gardner died July 18, 1879. On January 2, 1881, Mr. Gardner was married (second) to Lucy R. Penfield, born in Oneida County, N. Y., daughter of Charles and Rowena M. (Brown) Penfield of New York State. Mr. Gardner is a Democrat, and has served as school director and road commissioner, being a faithful and conscientious official. He is a good farmer, fine business man and excellent citizen, and commands the confidence and respect of all who know him.

**GARRITY, Frank I.**—The commercial interests of Morris, Ill., are being ably and worthily represented by Frank I. Garrity, a citizen whose long experience, progressive nature, keen judgment and thorough knowledge of trade conditions make him well known in the marts of commerce, and are responsible for the success which has attended the Morris branch of the great Chicago wholesale grocery house of Henry Horner & Company. Mr. Garrity is a native of Chicago, born March 2, 1871, a son of Patrick L. and Nellie (McNellis) Garrity.

Patrick L. Garrity was born in County Mayo, Ireland, February 22, 1843, and was six years of age when he came to the United States with his mother, Catherine (Lally) Garrity, to join his father, John Garrity, in Chicago, whence he had preceded them two years. An ambitious, determined lad, at the age of eight years Patrick L. Garrity received his introduction to business life in selling fruit at steamboat landings, soon thereafter securing a position with Stevens & French, one of the largest fruit houses of Chicago. In 1853 he became a carrier for the Chicago Journal, and two years later was employed in a like capacity by the Chicago Dispatch. He became a mailing clerk in 1855, but in 1858 resigned to take a course at Notre Dame University, feeling the need of further education. He spent one year in that institution, and then reentered the employ of the newspaper, and subsequently took a commercial course in St. Mary's of the Lake College. In 1859 he became an organizer and stockholder in the company which purchased the first Chicago Hotel Reporter, but left his position with that periodical to become cashier, paymaster and ticket seller for the North Chicago Railroad Company. Again entering the employ of the newspapers, he was mailing clerk for the Chicago Herald. He was but eighteen years of age, May 1, 1861, when he embarked





*Mrs George Rich*



*Gen. H. Rich*





in the confectionery business in partnership with Edward Scaulan, and shortly thereafter became sutler in the Fifty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry under Col. W. Lynch. After two years at Camp Butler he returned to the firm of Scaulan & Garrity, Mr. Scaulan retiring therefrom in September, 1865. Following this Mr. Garrity conducted the business alone until 1871, when he lost \$100,000 worth of goods in the great Chicago fire, in addition to the savings of a lifetime. In the following May, in the burning of a large distillery in which he was interested, he again sustained a heavy loss, and in 1876 he accepted a position in the wholesale house of Towle & Roper. Two and one-half years later he engaged in the cigar and tobacco business, in which he was interested until May 1, 1884, and then joined Hamburger Brothers in forming a corporation with \$250,000 capital, of which he was president until 1887. He was then made general agent of the firm of Heymen Brothers & Lowenstein, manufacturers of cigars of New York City and had charge of all outside business, at the same time being president of the National Cereal Company, of St. Louis, in which he owned the majority of the stock.

Mr. Garrity was married June 21, 1864, to Miss Nellie A. McNellis, daughter of John McNellis, of Morris, and to this union there were born the following children: Mary, who married T. A. Noonan, and is now deceased, having had two daughters, Carmelita and Helen; Blanche, residing in Chicago; Joseph, M. D., of Wisconsin; Frank L.; Maud, deceased, who married Thomas Knickerbocker, and had two children, Thomas and Helen H., both of Chicago; Amelia, who married Frank K. Young, of Chicago; Angela, who married T. P. Tivy, of St. Louis, Mo.; Lawrence McN., of Chicago; and Leo, of New York City. The father of these children died September 23, 1898, while the mother passed away February 22, 1899.

John McNellis, the maternal grandfather of Frank I. Garrity, was born in County Donegal, Ireland, June 1, 1810, and in 1835 boarded a ship for New York City. After arriving in this country he worked around New York and Pennsylvania, accepting whatever honorable employment presented itself, and subsequently came to Ohio, Kentucky and on to Illinois, arriving in this State March 17, 1842, and coming to Morris, Ill., April 15, 1844. Here he purchased two lots on the corner of Washington and Liberty streets, paying therefor \$30. He kept store in the first building in the city, with a stock of tea, sugar, tobacco and liquors, and in 1848 commenced to buy grain, a business in which he was engaged for twenty years, handling more grain than any other man between Chicago and St. Louis, and in four months' time, on one occasion, clearing \$80,000. He was philanthropic and generous, and among his benefactions were ten acres of land and the west wing of St. Angelus Academy, Holy Cross Society, which alone cost \$15,000; \$2,000 cash and two acres to the Catholic Church; \$100 to the

Presbyterian Church; \$200 to the Congregational Church; \$250 to the Episcopal Church, and a sum to the Baptist Church. His death occurred January 3, 1878.

Frank I. Garrity received his education in Chicago at St. Ignatius College, and at Notre Dame, Ind., and remained with his parents until he was twenty years of age, in the meantime receiving a short business training in his father's cigar store. He then became remittance clerk in the Chemical Trust and Savings Bank, and one year later went to St. Louis, where he became manager and treasurer of the National Cereal Company. He spent four years in this capacity and then again engaged in the cigar business with his father in Chicago, but three years later engaged with the Fair store, spending one and one-half years in the receiving department. Mr. Garrity next entered the employ of Swift & Company, at the Union Stock Yards, and as an employee of that firm went to Joliet, in the branch house, where he remained five years. He next became Morris representative of E. C. Harley Company, wholesale grocers of Dayton, Ohio, and two years later accepted a like position with the Chicago firm of Henry Horner & Company. He has been successful in conducting the firm's business here, and is known as one of the progressive and reliable business men of the city.

On December 27, 1893, Mr. Garrity was married in Chicago, Ill., to Agnes Clara Brown, who was born at Ottawa, Ill., daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Doherty) Brown, of Tipperary, Ireland. Mr. Brown, a merchant of Ottawa, and organizer of the Ottawa Volunteer Fire Department, died in that city about 1878, his widow passing away in the spring of 1899. Mrs. Garrity was educated in the Catholic Convent at Ottawa, and she and her husband are members of that faith. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus, at Morris, and is a Democrat in his political views. In 1898 Mr. and Mrs. Garrity moved into their present residence, which was the first brick house in Morris, and was erected by Mr. Garrity's maternal grandfather, John McNellis.

**GAY, William** (deceased), one of the early settlers of Waupunsee Township, was born in Connecticut, April 20, 1820, a son of Robert and Julia Ann (Crowell) Gay. William Gay came to Grundy County in 1851, and bought a fine farm in Waupunsee Township, operating it until 1894, when he retired. He also bought considerable realty at Morris. In 1856, Mr. Gay married Mary Matilda Gulick and they had one child,—Willis Russell.

**GERMAIN, Louis.**—One of the old and honored residents of Grundy County, Ill., who in spite of the lack of early advantages has gained a place for himself among the substantial men of his community, is Louis Germain, a veteran of the Civil War and a citizen who in every way has fulfilled the best duties of citizenship. He was born in 1840, at Plattsburg, Clinton



County, N. Y., at the foot of the Adirondack Mountains, on Lake Champlain, and is a son of Peter and Julia (Christian) Germain, natives, respectively, of France and New York.

Louis Germain's father was employed in the ore mines of New York, and the family was in modest financial circumstances, so that the lad's educational advantages were limited to short attendance in a little log cabin schoolhouse. At the age of fifteen years he left home to make his own way in the world, and went to Sandy Hill, on the Hudson River, where he lived with a cousin and worked on the river. Subsequently, he came west with a railroad contractor and helped in the construction of an extension of the Michigan Southern Railroad to Ligonier, Ind. There he met and married Miss Mary A. Stone, daughter of Richard and Mary Ann (Biggins) Stone, natives of Pennsylvania. They were married March 11, 1859, by Rev. D. P. Hartman of Logan County, Ind., and in that year came west with the Stone family and located in Grundy County, Ill. Mr. Germain's father-in-law was a farmer by occupation, and Mr. Germain remained with Mr. Stone for three years. He then accepted a position as clerk in a grocery in Gardner, and in 1870 became clerk for the late J. C. Lutz, who was engaged in the grocery and dry goods business. His first business venture of his own was in the firm of Germain & Hastings, underfakers and dealers in furniture, the partners having, all told, about \$700 in stock. Mr. Hastings was the carpenter of the firm, made all the coffins, and did the greater part of the undertaking work. This business, however, did not satisfy Mr. Germain, and in 1872 he formed a partnership with R. B. Huns, under the firm style of Germain & Huns, in a general merchandise business and also buying and selling produce. This venture proved successful, but in 1874 the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Germain disposing of his interests to Mr. Huns. He then became a professional salesman, which calling he had followed before, and for many years was widely known for his activities along this line, he being one of the most successful "wielders of the hammer" in this part of the State.

In 1864 Mr. Germain enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the Civil War. He was commissioned second lieutenant and later promoted to first lieutenant, and was one of the officers detailed to guard the body of Abraham Lincoln when the martyred president lay in state at Springfield, and was an escort to the burial grounds. Mr. Germain has been successful in his business ventures, and owns 500 acres of farming land in Grundy County, a beautiful home in Gardner, and several other town properties. Although deprived of advantages in his youth, he has been a close student and observer, and is a self-educated man, alive to all the real topics of the day. While not affiliated with any church, he is a liberal contributor to all religious and charit-

able movements and his benevolences have been many. For the past twenty-five years he has been commander of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is very popular with his old comrades, as he is, in fact, with all who know him, whether in business, official or social life. In politics a Republican, during the early sixties he entered public life as constable, was later deputy sheriff of Grundy County for four years, was twelve years a member of the board of township supervisors, for eleven years township assessor, and for nine years was a member of the township board of trustees, of which he was the first clerk. His entire official life was devoted to the best interests of his community and he won the universal respect of his fellow-townsmen.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Germain: Eva G., now Mrs. Wilkinson, living at Beloit, Wis.; Mabel, who married H. B. Gould, of Morris, Ill.; Grace E., who married H. B. Holmes, of Beloit, Wis.; Guy L., residing at Jackson, Wyo.; and Carrie and Lottie, who both died as children and are buried in Gardner Cemetery. There are eight grandchildren. Mrs. Germain is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps.

**GILCHRIST, William.**—The various business, financial and public interests of Coal City are in the hands of men who can be relied upon to keep them up to standard, and we find an able representative in William Gilchrist, an enterprising and progressive business man who is engaged in the coal, ice and draying business. Mr. Gilchrist was born in Maine Township, June 9, 1878, a son of Dugald and Margaret (Anderson) Gilchrist, natives of Scotland, who came to America in 1872 and settled in Braidwood, Ill., where Dugald Gilchrist was engaged in coal mining until moving to Grundy County in 1878, when he changed his occupation to farming, which he followed until his death in 1906. To him and wife were born seven children, five of whom are living, namely: Jane Robinson, John, William, Anna Rankin and Ronald.

William Gilchrist was born and reared in the country, and attended the country school until he was fourteen years of age, when he started in business for himself as a farm hand, at the same time taking contracts for tilling farms. Later he operated the elevator at Gorman, Ill., which position he held for eight years, locating in Coal City, Illinois, in 1911. On December 28, 1910, he was united in marriage with Alice Crellin, a native of Waupunsee Township, and daughter of Thomas H. and Angela (Weldon) Crellin, residents of Waupunsee Township. They have one daughter, Anita Muriel.

Mr. Gilchrist is a loyal and liberal member of the Methodist Church, and is associated with the Masons at Braidwood, Ill. He is a strong Republican, and for four years served as assessor and collector of Maine Township. In addition to his business interests, Mr. Gilchrist is the owner of an eighty-acre farm in Maine



Township. He is a man of good business ability, and has met with gratifying success. He has a reputation for honest business methods, fair and straightforward dealings, and is highly esteemed by his many friends.

**GIOANETTI, Charles.**—There is no doubt but that Italy has given the United States some very responsible, hard-working citizens who are steadily forging ahead in whatever lines they have entered. There are a number of Italians at Coal City and among them Charles Gioanetti occupies a deservedly prominent place, as his bakery is one of the leading business houses of its kind in the city. He was born in northern Italy, January 21, 1873, a son of Joe and Greta (Domenich) Gioanetti, both of whom died in Italy. The father was a baker. They had thirteen children, of whom four survive, Charles being the youngest.

Charles Gioanetti attended school in his native land, where he was taught the trade of a baker. In 1901 he came to the United States, locating at Chicago, where he lived until 1907, when he came to Coal City and opened his present establishment in partnership with G. Zcano, but is now alone. His is the only Italian bakery in the city, and consequently receives a large patronage from his fellow countrymen, although he does a substantial amount of business with others who appreciate the quality of his product. Mr. Gioanetti owns his own building which is conveniently located on the main street of Coal City.

In 1903 Mr. Gioanetti married Theresa Marango, and they have three children: Joe, Lucy and Mary. The Catholic Church holds the family membership, while Mr. Gioanetti is a Republican, politically. Energy and hard work have placed him where he is now, and undoubtedly will still further advance his fortunes.

**GLENN, Robert James.**—No man who owns Grundy County property need fear the future for he has that which will always give him a fair income, and will increase in value with each succeeding year. One of the farmers of Grundy County who has attained to more than ordinary success along agricultural lines is Robert James Glenn, owner of eighty acres of land in Vienna Township. He was born on his present property in 1875, a son of Robert and Catherine (Thomas) Glenn, the former born in Ireland, and the latter in Wales. When he attained his majority, Robert Glenn came to Grundy County, and farmed until he retired to Verona, where he now resides. He and his wife had three children: Mary Tellingham, Anna Knibbs and Robert James.

Robert James was brought up on his present farm and sent to the district schools. He not only operates his own farm, but 292 acres belonging to his father, and specializes on hog raising upon an extensive scale. In addition to raising hogs, he buys in large quantities and is a heavy shipper to the market. In 1895, Mr. Glenn was married to Sadie Dix of Grundy

County, and they have had six children: Robert, Melvin, Catherine, Lloyd, Erwin and an unnamed infant who with Catherine is deceased. Mr. Glenn is a Mason, belonging to the Verona lodge of that order. He is very liberal in politics, believing that it is preferable to vote for the man rather than to be bound by party ties. Owing to his large agricultural interests, Mr. Glenn has not had the time or desire to go into public life, but if he did there is no doubt but that he would give to official matters the same conscientious attention that he does to his private affairs.

**GOOLD, Hiram C.**, was a member of a prominent Grundy County family. He was born in Orleans County, N. Y., October 23, 1821, and located at Morris, in 1848, and several years after coming to this city, he established himself as a druggist. In 1852, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools and held that office for ten consecutive years. In the fall of 1853, he married Clementine L. Baker, born in Genesee County, N. Y. in 1824, and they had one son,—Hiram B. A Congregationalist, Mr. Goold not only took an active part in church work, but was superintendent of the Sunday school connected with that denomination at Morris, and was also active in temperance movements.

**GORHAM, Henry G.**, general merchant at Waupunsee Station, Ill., belongs to one of the early settled families of Grundy County and one that has always been held in esteem. He was born in November, 1818, at Hennepin, in Putnam County, Ill., and is a son of Gardener T. and Elizabeth A. (Newport) Gorham. Gardener T. Gorham was born in New York and his wife in Ohio and they were married in Illinois. In his early life he was a trader with the Indians and a merchant at Hennepin, and at one time he operated boats on the waterways. In 1849 he moved to Grundy County and bought a farm in Vienna Township and here carried on agricultural pursuits until his death in 1874. His widow survived until 1892, residing with her son until her death. The family consisted of three children: Mary, who is deceased; Henry G.; and Jessie, who is a resident of Chicago.

Henry G. Gorman attended the district schools in his boyhood and later Lombard College, at Galesburg, and also took a commercial course in a business college at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Following the death of his father he conducted the home farm until 1887, and then embarked in the mercantile business at Waupunsee Station, where he built a grain elevator at the same time and has continued in business here ever since. He is known all over Grundy County and his reputation is that of a stable, reliable business man and a useful and worthy citizen.

In November, 1876, Mr. Gorham was married to Miss Clara Lord, who was born in Kendall County, Ill., a daughter of Lucius and Catherine (McFarlin) Lord. They have two children: Mabel, who is the wife of Aaron Harford, of



Chicago, and they have one daughter, Catherine; and Harry, who conducts the old home farm. He married Miss Genevieve Duer, of Kansas City, Mo., and they have two sons, Charles and Lucius. In politics Mr. Gorham has given his political support in the past to the Republican party but has been no seeker for office. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity and belongs to Blaney Commandery, at Morris.

**GOSS, Julius C. A.**, a progressive agriculturalist of Norman Township, has developed his fine farm until it is one of the most valuable in Grundy County. He was born in this township, December 19, 1870, a son of Perry and Mary Frances (Spilman) Goss, natives of Portage County, Ohio, and Allen County, Ky., respectively. They were married at Crawfordville, Ind., in 1850, and lived there until 1851, when they came to Norman Township, Grundy County, and in 1855 bought a farm of 120 acres, to which they later added eighty acres. The father was a schoolteacher and farmer, and taught school for about seven years prior to coming to Illinois. In 1899 he died, but the mother survives and makes her home on the farm. They had the following children: Albert B., who is deceased; William E., who is of Troutdale, Oregon; Charles B. S., who is of New Rockford, N. D.; Mary F., who is a teacher in the Chicago schools; George P., who is deceased; John F., who is of New Rockford, N. D.; Edwin L., who is of Carington, N. D.; Eva J., who lives with her mother; Julius C. A., who is the youngest.

Julius C. A. Goss has always lived on the farm which he now conducts, doing general farming and raising horses and Holstein cattle. He received his educational training in the local schools. In politics he has been a Republican since first voting, and has served as assessor for three years; as school trustee for three years; as a school director since 1906 and as justice of the peace since 1899. Fraternally he belongs to the Odd Fellows, Star Lodge No. 75 of Morris; the Rebeccas and Encampment; the Knights of Pythias, No. 178 of Morris, and the A. O. O. G. of Norman Township. Since 1907 he has been a director of the Grundy County Fair association.

On March 7, 1901, Mr. Goss was married to Maryett Hodge, born in Saratoga Township, daughter of William H. and Clara J. (Ridgeway) Hodge, natives of England and Indiana respectively. The maternal grandfather, Samuel Ridgeway, was a very early settler of Grundy County. Mr. and Mrs. Goss have had the following children: George Perry, Clara Frances, Willard Henry, Ada Lucile, Harold Robert and Helen Madeline (twins), and Anna May. Helen Madeline died when thirteen months old. Mr. and Mrs. Goss stand very high in public opinion, and have many friends throughout the county whom they welcome at their pleasant home with cordial hospitality.

**GRANBY, Theodore Barron**, a veteran of the Civil War, and a valued citizen of Vienna Township, was born September 10, 1840, at Cairo, Greene County, New York, and is a son of James A. and Eliza Ann (Carter) Granby, both natives of that county. He attended the district schools in his native place, and was fourteen years of age when the family came to Grundy County, Ill., locating on canal land in Vienna Township, which then was almost entirely unimproved, only a small house had been built. This land was on Section 5, and here James A. Granby spent the remainder of his life in cultivating the soil, dying December 23, 1863, his wife having passed away November 1, 1867. Their children were as follows: Theodore Barron; George W., who met his death as a soldier in the Union army, at Atlanta, Ga., July 21, 1861; James M., who died at Cheyenne, Wyo., April 23, 1869; William A., a resident of Catskill, N. Y.; Mary A., the widow of James Jones, of Kankakee, Ill.; Henry A., who died May 8, 1909; Frances C., who married Jeremiah Tinsman, of Kankakee, Ill.; and Harriet M., the widow of Michael Burns, of Kankakee.

Theodore B. Granby was reared to agricultural pursuits, and early in the war between the States enlisted first in the Mechanical Engineers, under Captain James Miller, a military organization which was never mustered into the service. On August 10, 1862, he enlisted in the Seventy-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in Chicago, under the auspices of the Board of Trade, this being the first Board of Trade regiment to go to the front. First sent to Cairo, Ill., it went on to Paducah, Ky., where it did guard duty, then going to Columbus, Ky., where General Grant assembled his men for the Vicksburg campaign in the fall of 1862. The Seventy-second was in the Army of the Tennessee, doing duty all about that section in the Seventeenth Army Corps. In the following spring it was in the battles of Raymond, Champion's Hill and Black River Bridge, and from May 19 to May 22 fought at Vicksburg, losing many men. The regiment occupied the city from July 4, until September, when it was sent to Natchez, at which place Mr. Granby was taken seriously ill and was sent to his home on a furlough. After two months, he regained his health and rejoined his regiment at Vicksburg, in the winter of 1863, and soon thereafter was on special detail with General Butterfield on boat to New Orleans. After return to Vicksburg he was detailed to post headquarters, then joined his regiment and in November, 1864, it went to Nashville and from there to Columbia, Tenn., where two days of battle ensued. On November 30, 1861, the regiment went to Franklin, Tenn., and worked all day throwing up rifle pits, the men working for twenty-four hours without stopping. This was one of the bloodiest battles of the entire war, there being an awful slaughter of soldiers. Eighty-four Union men of his regiment were captured by the Confederates, among them Mr.







*E. Ridgway*



Granby. They were transferred around until placed in a stockade at Meriden, Miss., where they remained ten days. They then went to Montgomery and when transportation was secured were sent to Andersonville prison, where they remained from January until March 10. At that time they secured their parole and were sent to Vicksburg by the United States Government, where they remained until May, then going up to St. Louis and Fort Benton, and on to Springfield, Ill., where they secured their honorable discharge, August 7, 1865. Mr. Granby returned to his home at the close of his service, and took up the duties of peace, working by the month until the fall of 1866. At that time he purchased an eighty-acre farm in Section 10, Vienna Township, on which he has since made his home.

On November 10, 1872, Mr. Granby was married to Mary Evelyn Cooper, who was born at Rockyville, Parke County, Ind., July 12, 1846, daughter of William and Frances A. (Garri-son) Cooper. She died October 1, 1892, having been the mother of one son, Edgar A., born August 16, 1873, who has always lived at home. He married Janet Archibald. Mr. Granby is a Republican in his political views, and has served as supervisor, collector and in numerous other public capacities. He is widely known in Vienna Township, and has gained numerous friends through his upright life, his integrity and his geniality.

**GRANVILLE, K. M. J. (deceased).**—Among the old and honored residents of Grundy County who claim Norway as the place of their birth was K. M. J. Granville, of Saratoga Township, whose long and useful career was ended by death, October 1, 1896. For many years he had been connected with the farming industry and for a long period he had also been prominent in political matters, and in every relation of life held the high regard and confidence of his fellow citizens. Mr. Granville was born May 17, 1827, in Norway, and was a son of John and Belle (Mulster) Granville. John Granville was born in Norway in 1808, and for a number of years was county clerk in his native land, and died in 1857, while his wife, born in 1806, passed away in 1881.

K. M. J. Granville received good educational advantages in his native land, and was there married to Carrie Kythe, by whom he had two children: John, who is deceased, and another son, who died in infancy. His wife died in 1856, and in that same year Mr. Granville came to the United States, settling first in Chicago and subsequently removing to Lisbon, Ill. There he was married (second) in September, 1858, to Martha Anderson, who was born December 16, 1840, daughter of Ole and Christina (Balstadt) Anderson. Mrs. Granville's parents came to LaSalle County, Ill., in 1844, and there followed farming six months, but subsequently moved to Newark, Kendall County, where both died. Mr. and Mrs. Granville had the following children: Caroline Josephine,

who died December 25, 1891; Mrs. J. J. Bred-shall, of Chicago; Isabel, of Chicago; Andrew T., of Saratoga Township; Franklin L., of Saratoga Township; and Edward M., Albert O., Anna Malinda and Martha, all at home.

After coming to Illinois, Mr. Granville settled in Kendall County, where he resided until 1873, in that year making removal to Saratoga Township, Grundy county. To his original purchase of eighty acres, Mr. Granville kept adding from time to time until he had 320 acres, on which he continued to farm and raise stock until his death. An able farmer and excellent judge of stock, he was often consulted as to agricultural matters and was ever ready to assist others. For nine and one-half years he served as treasurer of Saratoga Township, holding that office at the time of his demise. He also served six years as assessor and was active in the ranks of the Republican party. For a number of years he taught school in Kendall and Grundy Counties, and furthered the cause of religion by helping to build Lutheran Churches in these two counties.

**GREEN, Daniel Thomas,** who has served as President of the Board of Education of South Wilmington, is a man of more than average ability and standing in his community. He is a son of William and Eliza (Whormsby) Green, natives of England who came to the United States in 1861, locating at Woodville, Mich., but they after seven years, in 1868, moved to Grundy County, and selecting Braidwood, lived there, the father working in the mines until his death in 1884. He was laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery. The mother is still living, making her home at Braidwood. Of their twelve children, five are deceased, the living being: Daniel Thomas, who was born in England, May 10, 1856; Mary H., who is Mrs. Thomas M. Thomas of Joliet, Ill.; Joseph W., who is superintendent of the Bunker Hill Military Academy located in the vicinity of St. Louis; Drucilla, who is living with her mother; Lilly, who is Mrs. Charles Van Born of Joliet, Ill.; Alice, who is superintendent of the Lincoln school of Joliet, Ill.; and Walter, who is of Marseilles, Ill., is an examiner of mines.

Daniel Thomas Green received his educational training in the public schools of England and the United States, as he was only eight years old when the family came here. When he was ten years old, he started work in the coal mines with his father, thus continuing until he was fifteen years old, when he began studying engineering, and his persistent efforts were rewarded by the bestowal of his certificate by the Illinois State Board at Peoria in 1895. For the past twenty-two years he has been an engineer for the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermillion Coal Company, and is now running their engine at No. 3 mine at South Wilmington.

On April 22, 1879, Mr. Green married Zillah Holdworth, a daughter of John and Harriet Holdworth, natives of England. Mrs. Green was born in Ohio May 18, 1858, and died at



Braidwood, Ill. She was laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Green, namely: Ernest Adolphus, born November 25, 1880, died March 1, 1899, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery; Royal Daniel, born June 13, 1882, is an engineer and lives at South Wilmington; Harriet Eliza, born July 1, 1884, is now Mrs. John E. Lewis and lives at Herron, Ill.; Stanley, died in infancy; Robert Allen, born January 12, 1887, is an engineer and lives at Ziegler, Ill.; Howard Percy, born May 2, 1889, is living at South Wilmington; Chester William, born May 12, 1892, is living at South Wilmington; Daniel Herbert, born June 13, 1894, is attending college at Decatur and studying electrical engineering; Lillian Zillah, born February 20, 1896, is attending school; and Clarence John, born July 9, 1898, is attending school at South Wilmington. Mr. Green is a Methodist, while politically he is a Republican and served as an Alderman of Braidwood for two years, and for four years has been President of the Board of Education of South Wilmington, being placed in that office upon his election as a member of the board. Mr. Green owns his residence and is a man of independent means.

**GREER, James.**—Ireland has given America some of its most reliable and substantial men, and a number of them have located in Grundy County where they have prospered, being engaged in various lines of work. Many have become farmers, and developed good agricultural properties, among them being James Greer of Vienna Township. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland, May 24, 1837, a son of Patrick and Nancy (Kelly) Greer.

In 1851 Mr. Greer left his native land for the United States, and settling in La Salle County, Ill., upon his arrival, engaged in farming there until 1867, when he moved to Norman Township, Grundy County. Soon afterward he bought a farm, and kept on adding to his holdings until he now owns 600 acres of land located in Mazon, Vienna and Norman Townships. Until his retirement in 1895, he carried on general farming, but since that date has not taken an active part in the cultivation of his land. On May 24, 1861, he enlisted for service in the Civil War, in Company F, Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until June, 1861, when he was honorably discharged, and returned to Grundy County.

On May 31, 1869, Mr. Greer was married to Mary Duffy, born at Ottawa, La Salle County, Ill., March 27, 1840, a daughter of Patrick and Ellen (Martin) Duffy, natives of County Galway, Ireland. They came to La Salle County, Ill., in 1838, and both died there. Mr. and Mrs. Greer have had the following children: Henry, who is of Vienna Township; Mary, who is Mrs. William Halton of Vienna Township; and Gertrude G. at home. Mr. Greer belongs to the Catholic Church at Verona. The Morris Post, G. A. R. holds his membership, and he finds pleasure in meeting his old comrades. Mr. Greer is one of the best examples of the

retired agriculturalist of Grundy County, and his prosperity has been earned through his own industry, economy and keen business ability, intelligently directed.

**GRIGGS, Siegle A.**—One of the old and honored families of Grundy County, is that bearing the name of Griggs, members of which have occupied important positions in various walks of life in this section for many years. A worthy representative of the name is found in the person of Siegle A. Griggs, whose pleasant country home is situated on Morris Rural Route No. 2, and who is extensively engaged in general farming operations in Saratoga Township. He was born at Morris, January 25, 1863, and is a son of Jacob M. and Emma (Cocheran) Griggs, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York, and both of whom came to Illinois as young people. The paternal grandparents of Mr. Griggs, Peter and Catherine (Page) Griggs, natives of the Keystone State, migrated to Illinois in 1830 and located in Grundy County. Mr. Griggs securing land from the Government in Morris and Nettle Creek townships, there spending the balance of his life in tilling the soil. The maternal grandparents were Samuel and Hannah Cocheran, who came to Morris in 1856, Mr. Cocheran taking up the vocation of shoemaker and being the proprietor of a shoe store in that city for many years. Jacob M. Griggs, the father of Siegle A. Griggs, passed the greater part of his life in agricultural pursuits, being the owner of a valuable farm at the city limits of Morris, although he was also engaged extensively with his son in excavating cellars, and in furnishing brick for various buildings, including the Central High school, and sand from his sand and gravel pit. He was successful in his ventures, and at the time of his death, April 5, 1904, was known as one of his community's substantial men. The mother survives him and lives in Morris, having had eight children,—namely: Siegle A.; Henry, who resides with his mother; Ellen, who is now Mrs. Al Mitting, of Holland, Mich.; Mary, who married John Wendell, of Des Moines, Ia.; Burt, who is also of that city; Ray, of Muscatine, Ia.; Grace, who is now Mrs. Melvin Mattison, of Morris; and Mabel, who is Mrs. Cliff Burnham, of Morris.

The early education of Siegle A. Griggs was secured in the public schools, following which he spent two years in the Morris Normal school. Until his marriage he remained with his father, whose partner he was in a number of ventures, including the furnishing of the brick, sand and stone for the Central High School, which he served in the capacity of janitor for eight years. After his marriage he became proprietor of the tile yard at Morris, which he conducted for ten years, and then sold to Mr. Buck and engaged in a grocery business, which occupied his attention for four years. Following this, he began operating the old homestead, which he and his brother bought in March, 1905, and since this time Mr. Griggs has been engaged in general farming operations, renting 296 acres in Saratoga Township





*W. A. Ridings.*





from J. A. Wilson. He is an excellent man of business, and in his various transactions has met with well-deserved success through the practice of industry, good management, and in taking advantage of legitimate opportunities. He is the owner of a large brick building of two stories, located on Liberty Street, Morris, and has evidenced his faith in the future development of the city by making various other realty investments there.

On February 22, 1886, Mr. Griggs was married to Miss Euphemia Blair, who was born in Scotland, a daughter of George R. Blair. Two children have been born to this union, namely: Mohr, who is of Morris, Ill.; and George, who is residing at home. With his family, Mr. Griggs attends the Methodist Episcopal Church. He has always been a Republican, and has served as a member of the Board of School Directors for six years. His fraternal connection is with the Knights of Pythias, and he numbers many friends among its members.

**GUNDERSON, Olie (deceased).**—Norway is well represented in Grundy County, for those of this far northern country were attracted here both by the mines and the agricultural possibilities. They prospered, too, for being willing to work and save, they forced ahead of those who looked for a royal road to fortune. One of the men who has made the name of his native country stand for honesty and uprightness, was the late Olie Gunderson of Nettle Creek Township. He was born in Norway, March 25, 1845, a son of Gunder and Asjer (Oswood) Gunderson. The father died in Norway, where he had been born and spent his useful life.

In 1867, Mr. Gunderson left Norway, and came to Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, Ill., where in 1874, he married Julia Johnson, also born in Norway, a daughter of John Johnson. After marriage, he rented an eighty-acre farm for two years in Saratoga Township and then rented for a year in Nettle Creek Township. By this time he was able to buy eighty acres in the latter township, to which he later added forty acres. This he improved and made into a fine farm, raising grain upon it until his death which occurred January 22, 1912. His wife died May 18, 1907. They had the following children: Gerhard, who is on the home farm; Ellen J., who died in infancy; Emma J., who was Mrs. Ed. Thorson, of Saratoga Township, is deceased; Effie, who is Mrs. Lewis Thorson, of Saratoga Township; Jane, who is Mrs. Ed. Wicks, of Erieana Township; Mary, who is Mrs. Peter Cassen, of Lisbon Township, Kendall County, Ill.; Joseph and Thor, who are on the home farm; Lucella, who is Mrs. Bert Thorson, of Saratoga Township; Lilly, who is on the home place; Lillian E., who is Mrs. Earl Lynes; Julia, who died in infancy; and Lenora, who is on the home place. Mr. Gunderson was a Lutheran in religious faith, and enjoyed his church connections. Politically he was a Republican but never sought or desired office. A hard-working, thrifty man he provided for his family and left

behind him an estate that proved his astute business judgment.

**HAHN, George Leonard**, owner of 212½ acres of fine land in Good Farm Township, is one of the most successful farmers of Grundy County, and one who has proven his right to the title through years of persistent endeavor. He was born at Galesburg, Ill., a son of Leonard and Barbara (Missinburger) Hahn, both natives of Germany, who located at Galesburg, Ill., later coming to Good Farm Township, where they died and were buried. They had five children.

George Leonard Hahn was educated in Good Farm Township where he grew to manhood amid rural surroundings. When he began farming for himself, he rented land, but eventually was able to purchase his present property which has become very valuable. On it he carries on general farming with profit to himself and benefit to his community. In 1881 Mr. Hahn married Anna Bush, and they became the parents of seven children: Laura, Edna, Lena, Lillie, Sophia, Walter and Arnold. The Lutheran Church holds his membership and has his effective support of both time and money. A Democrat he has served as a school director of Good Farm Township for some time, and is interested in educational matters. An excellent farmer and good citizen, he is highly esteemed by his associates.

**HALE, Luke, M. D. (deceased)**, a pioneer physician of Grundy County and one of its most honored men, was born in Vermont, October 8, 1795, and came to Illinois in 1835, locating first in McHenry County, later going to Kane County, and arriving at Morris in 1858. He continued in active practice until his death. He married Sarah Amelia Clifford, and their children were as follows: Anna L. B., Dr. Roscoe L., Minnie A., William C., Martin B., and Fannie A.

**HALKYARD, Orlando.**—Conscientious endeavor along any one specified line will bring about desirable results provided the work is done intelligently, and thrift is practiced. One of the men who has attained to considerable prominence as a successful agriculturalist of Grundy County is Orlando Halkyard of Aux Sable Township. He was born in Lancashire, England, October 28, 1849, son of James and Lydia (Glover) Halkyard. Although the father was a silk weaver in England, when he came to Morris, Grundy County, Ill., in 1856, he became a farmer. At first he bought ten acres in Aux Sable Township, which was all covered with timber except a small space on which he put up a house. James Halkyard kept on adding to his holdings until he owned eighty acres at the time of his demise, on January 8, 1885, when he was seventy-seven years old. His widow died April 24, 1878, aged seventy-two years. Their children were: John, who was born, October 2, 1852, of Joliet, Ill.; James, who was born in May, 1854, died at Aurora in May, 1914; Sarah, Mrs. Henry Baker,



who is deceased; Ann, Mrs. James Baker, who lives in Kendall County, Ill.; Lucy, Mrs. William Dix, who died about 1890; and Orlando, who is the youngest.

Orlando Halkyard grew up on his father's farm and attended the local schools, learning in the meanwhile how to till the soil. In February, 1888, Orlando Halkyard married Marceline Degord, born at Aurora, Ill., daughter of John and Matilda Degord, natives of Canada. Mrs. Halkyard's father is dead, her mother is living at Aurora. In order to provide for his old age, James Halkyard had made an arrangement with his son Orlando to give him one-half of the homestead for taking care of him the remainder of his life. After the death of the father, Orlando Halkyard bought the other half from the heirs, and since that time purchased another farm, one of 137 acres in Aux Sable Township, which is operated by his son, John. This property, like the homestead is devoted to grain farming and stock raising. Mr. and Mrs. Halkyard have three sons: George, who is with his parents; John, who operates the second farm; and William, who is also at home. All his life, Mr. Halkyard has been a Republican, but he has never sought public office. A good farmer and excellent business man, Mr. Halkyard has succeeded in his work, and is a highly respected citizen.

**HALL, Henry J.**—No better investment can be found than Grundy County farm lands, and many of the leading men of this locality have proven this. One of the heavy landowners who has expressed his faith in the future of this section by buying land in rural localities is Henry J. Hall of Nettle Creek Township. He was born in Stavanger, Norway, December 27, 1857. His mother died in that place in 1869, but the father survives, living on his homestead. In 1873 Henry J. Hall left his native land for the United States, and coming to Ottawa, Ill., joined his uncle Martin Johnson, with whom he lived a year. He then went to a brother in Miller Township, La Salle County, Ill., where he married. Following this event, Mr. Hall farmed on his brother-in-law's property for four years, when he went to Big Grove Township, Kendall County, Ill. After about four years he went to another farm in the same township, and eventually came to Nettle Creek Township which has since continued to be his home. Here he rents 240 acres of land, which belongs to Albert Hoge, as well as eighty-six and one-half acres in Mission Township, La Salle County, which he owns.

Henry J. Hall was married (first) to Anna Fruland, born in Miller Township, La Salle County, Ill., a daughter of Lars and Levina Fruland. By this marriage he had two children: Lial, who is at home; and Anna Henrietta, who lives at Newark, Ill. In 1891 Mr. Hall was married (second) to Christina Sigmond, born in Mission Township, La Salle County, Ill., a daughter of Rasmus and Mary Sigmond, natives of Norway. Mr. and Mrs.

Hall have two children, Joseph and Chester. Mr. Hall belongs to the Lisbon Lutheran Church towards which he gives a generous support. Politically he is a Republican, but not an office seeker. A good farmer, he has utilized his knowledge and ability to excellent purpose and is a man of standing in his community.

**HAMILTON, John Francis**, who for years has been catering to a high-class trade as a grocer and meat man, understands how to meet adequately the demands of his patrons, and is able to give excellent goods at the lowest possible market prices. He is recognized as one of the leading business men of Morris, and his reputation for square dealing and straightforward methods is fully sustained. He was born at Ormstown, Quebec, Canada, June 9, 1851, a son of William and Jane (Sadler) Hamilton, natives of Canada, of Irish ancestry. They married in Canada and became farming people. Their eight children were: John Francis; Robert, who is of Denver, Colo.; Anna, Mrs. Remington of Morris; Eliza, Mrs. James Davidson of Denver, Colo.; Margaret, Mrs. William Richel of Gaylord, N. D.; Frances, Mrs. Allen Richel of Los Angeles, Cal.; and William T. and Bismark are of Kansas City, Mo.

John Francis Hamilton worked on farms for others until he was seventeen years old, after which, until 1876, he engaged in that line of business for himself. In that year he began handling meats, with his cousin, Henry F. Hamilton, at Morris, continuing there until 1884, when he sold his interest to his partner, and went to Breckenridge, Colo., and opened up a meat market. This he sold a year later to his brother, and started a grocery and meat business at Omaha, Neb., which he conducted for some years, in conjunction with partners, but in 1901 sold and returned to Morris, where, in partnership with his brother-in-law, he has conducted his present business.

On January 8, 1876, Mr. Hamilton married Isahell Todd, born at Orangetown, Quebec, Canada, a daughter of James and Mary Todd, also natives of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have had children: William H., who is of Denver, Colo.; Earl R.; and Mabel B., and Melvin J., both of whom are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Todd had these children: Mary J., who married a Mr. Chase, is now deceased; Sarah J., who is Mrs. Charles Hopper of Cortez, Colo.; Annie G., who is Mrs. James Arthur of Canada, and Mrs. Hamilton. The family belongs to the Presbyterian Church.

**HANSEL, Jacob.**—There are no more substantial or reliable men in the United States than those who have come from Germany and have developed into American citizens. Bringing with them the sturdy characteristics of their Fatherland, they have appreciated and benefited by the advantages here offered and become prosperous and representative. One of the men of this type, who, after years of honorable toil, is now enjoying the fruits of his labor, is Jacob





*Mrs. W. A. Ridings*



Hansel of Aux Sable Township. He was born at Baden, Germany, May 17, 1831, and after losing his parents in 1852, with his sister Sarah, came to the United States. Passing through Chicago, he went on into Du Page County, Ill., and began working for farmers and on railroads, never refusing honest work of any kind no matter how hard. Five years later he came to Minooka, Grundy County, and began hauling wood. This work lasted during the first winter, and in the summer he found employment at farm labor. In 1867, having carefully saved his money, he was able to purchase sixty acres in Aux Sable Township. It was wild land, but he immediately began clearing and as able, added to his holdings until he now owns 334 acres all in one body, 200 acres of which are under cultivation, the balance being given over to hay, timber and pasture. Having worked very hard until 1910, in that year he partially retired, leaving the active management of the property to his sons.

In July, 1856, Mr. Hansel married Rosa Holtz, born in Germany, who died in May, 1869. Their daughter, Mary, died at the age of twenty years. In June, 1870, Mr. Hansel married (second) Sarah McGraw, born in Ireland. By his second marriage, he has had three children: Edward, who died at the age of twenty-six years; Jacob, who died at the age of twenty-four years; and Thomas, who died at the age of twenty-eight years. The second Mrs. Hansel died in the fall of 1877. In 1880 Mr. Hansel married (third) Minnie Creiger, born in Prussia, Germany, and they have had eight children: Mary, who is Mrs. Thomas Kinsler of Aux Sable Township; Frank, who is at home; William, who is of Aux Sable Township; Charles, who is at home; Louise, who is Mrs. Brooks of Aux Sable Township; Anna, who is Mrs. John Snieder of South Minnesota; Hattie, who is a school teacher; and Carrie, who is at home. Mr. Hansel is a member of the German Lutheran Church. For many years he has been a school director and has held other local offices, for he is a man whose capability is recognized and appreciated by his neighbors.

**HANSEN, Soren Christian.**—The religious life of Grundy County is deep and full of conscientious efforts which have resulted in the establishment and maintenance of some of the most flourishing churches outside of large cities, in the State. One of the men who has never been too busy to give his denomination the benefit of his time and experience is Soren Christian Hansen, a prosperous farmer of Garfield Township. He was born in Germany in 1866, a son of Soren and Ellen Hansen, natives of Denmark, who located in Germany after marriage. There the father became a cattle buyer and restaurant keeper, so continuing until his death which occurred in 1868, the mother passing away in 1880, neither having come to this country. The father served his allotted time in the Danish army, and was a most excellent man. Six children were born to him: Marie Epperson; Mattie,

who died in Denmark; Hans; Jerry P.; Anna, who is deceased; and Soren C.

Soren Christian Hansen attended school in Germany, and worked as a farmer until he came to the United States in 1885. He traveled direct to Gardner, Ill., where he obtained work as a section hand on the Chicago & Alton Railroad. In addition he worked in the mines, and then rented land which he operated until 1890, when he bought his present farm of eighty acres in Garfield Township, on which he raises corn, oats, horses and cattle. Mr. Hansen has made all the improvements on this property, including the erection of a dwelling and a large barn and oat house. In 1885 he married Christina Storm, and they had a son, Soren. Mrs. Hansen died in 1900. In 1903, Mr. Hansen married (second) Hannah Jensen. Mr. Hansen belongs to the Danish Lutheran Church and has served it as treasurer and clerk since its organization, being recognized as one of its most useful members. A Republican, he has served as a school director in Garfield Township for two terms, and he always does what he considers his duty, regardless of the trouble or work it may entail for him.

**HARFORD, Fred,** who is one of the prosperous farmers and large land owners of Grundy County, owns 480 acres, all in one body, lying in Vienna Township, and here may be found, perhaps, some of the finest Durham cattle in Illinois. He was born in Vienna Township, September 27, 1854, and is a son of Aaron and Frances (Dewey) Harford. Aaron Harford was born in South Salem, Westchester County, New York, July 2, 1822, and from there came to Illinois and settled at White Willow, in Kendall County. He married Frances Dewey, who was born in England and accompanied her mother to Deer Park Township, La Salle County, Ill., and later the family moved to Vienna Township, Grundy County, where they acquired much property and died there. They had the following children: Cornelia D., who is the wife of Edwin C. Slosson, of Alabama; Mary, who died in infancy; Fannie May, who is the wife of James Mulvanie, of Vienna Township; Fred; Addison, who died aged about eighteen years; Olive, who died aged about nine years; and Ellen, who is the wife of Frank Mahmquist, of Vienna Township.

Fred Harford obtained his education in the district schools and lived at home until his marriage when he moved to his present home tract of 160 acres. At that time there were old structures on the land, which he removed and subsequently made many improvements. Mr. Harford devotes his large extent of rich land to the raising of grain and the growing of fine stock, particularly Durham cattle. On April 4, 1876, Mr. Harford married Miss Clara A. Pomeroy, who was born in Ohio and was left an orphan in childhood, being reared by an older sister. Mr. and Mrs. Harford have had three children: Leland F., who died in infancy; Aaron Clyde, who is an attorney living





in Chicago; and Jay Pomeroy, who conducts the home farm. Mr. Harford has never been very active in politics and the only office he ever accepted was that of town clerk, in which he served for three years. He is well known in Masonic circles and belongs to Verona Lodge A. F. & A. M. at Verona, the Chapter and Commandery at Morris, and Medinah Temple, Chicago.

**HARKES, William**, whose abilities and achievements as a mining expert have caused his services to be eagerly sought by companies all over Grundy County, is now acting in the capacity of general superintendent of the Northern Central Coal Company of Missouri, and of the Big Four Wilmington Coal Company, at Coal City, Ill., being president of both companies. He is a native of England, and was born in 1841, a son of William and Barbara (Soffleish) Harkes, the former of whom was a captain in the Indian Army and spent the latter years of his life as a farmer in England. He passed away in his native land in 1911, when eighty-three years of age, his wife having died there in 1884. They were the parents of two children: Jane, who is the wife of John Alderton, living in England; and William.

After attending the public schools of his native county, William Harkes became a student in the English School of Mining Engineers, and upon graduating from that institution served an apprenticeship of seven years in mining engineering. Thus thoroughly prepared to follow his chosen vocation, he worked for various English firms for five years, and in 1887 came to the United States, first locating in Chicago as a mining expert. He came to Coal City in 1891 as general superintendent for the Big Four Wilmington Coal Company and the Northern Central Coal Company, of Missouri, and was made the first president of the adjoining village of Eileen. He is also president of the Harkes Coal Company of Jerome, Iowa, and is part owner of the Wilmington Foundry & Machine Co. He has been county surveyor of Grundy County. Aside from his offices he carries on a business as a general mining engineer. Mr. Harkes has shown an active and public-spirited interest in all that has affected his adopted community, and is known as one of the substantial, reliable men of Coal City. He is a friend of progress and development along all lines and can be depended upon to favor all movements making for the welfare of Coal City or its people. Fraternally, he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, in which he has numerous warm friends. He is a Republican in his political views, and in his religious faith is Anglican Episcopalian.

On July 1, 1892, Mr. Harkes was married in Chicago, to Miss Isabelle Gladders, born February 23, 1867, a native of England, and they have had four children: Marie Ruth, Barbara Tesla, William, and Harry C., of whom William died in infancy.

**HART, Phillip**, formerly a grocer of Morris, was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, December 17, 1827, but located at Morris in 1854, becoming the proprietor of what was then known as the American House. Later he opened a grocery store in Hart's block, on Liberty Street, and developed into one of the sound business men of Morris. He married in May, 1848, Elizabeth Goering, and they had the following children: Catherine, Lena, Mary, Eliza, Frederick II., George and William.

**HASKINS, William G.**, for a number of years one of the agriculturalists of Good Farm Township, was born in Delaware County, Ohio, April 26, 1818, and came to Grundy County in 1865, first living near Gardner. In 1879 he bought eighty acres of land in Good Farm Township, and greatly improved it. On December 3, 1840, he married Martha W. Eaton and they had the following children: Jeremiah and Eliza Jane. Mr. Haskins was a Republican and served as Assessor of Good Farm Township and also as a School Director.

**HENNEBERRY, David A.**, cashier of the Farmers First National Bank of Minooka, is a man whose career presents results of earnest endeavor which resolve themselves into a successful progress and a development towards honorable citizenship which is the goal in life to which all should work. He was born May 12, 1873, at Lorenzo, in Wilmington Township, Will County, Ill., a son of John and Catherine (O'Brien) Henneberry, the former born in County Limerick, Ireland, and the latter at Boston, Mass. After finishing his course in the local schools David A. Henneberry took a course at Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College of Chicago, and when only eighteen years old began teaching school in his native township. Until the spring of 1896, he alternated teaching school during the winter, with working on farms in the summer, but at that time bought 120 acres of land in Goose Lake Township, then known as the old Pheasant farm. Within three years, he rented his property, and went to Chicago to learn the details of the grocery business. In the following spring he went to Minooka, and interested himself in a grain elevator at that point, conducting the business until June, 1903, when he lost his property by fire. He then went to work for A. K. Knapp in the grain business, and August 1, 1908, he with H. P. Dwyer organized the Farmers First National Bank of Minooka, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The officers were: J. P. Clemmon, president; H. P. Dwyer, vice-president; and D. A. Henneberry, cashier. This has developed into one of the leading financial institutions of the county, and its conservative policies have gained it a reasonable amount of business. It is now the only bank in the village, it having absorbed the Exchange Bank of Minooka on November 1, 1912.

On April 4, 1901, Mr. Henneberry married Margaret Brannick, who was born at Minooka in the spring of 1873, a daughter of Michael and Mary



(Sterling) Brannick, natives of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Henneberry have had the following children: Mary Eileen, Catherine Patricia, John Sterling, and Joseph Donald. Mr. Henneberry is a man whose connections make him very prominent in every respect. What he has, he earned himself, and he has worked himself up until he now controls large property interests and handles important financial matters for the people of his community. He is a Catholic in religious faith, while his fraternal connections are with the Modern Woodmen, Elks, Knights of Columbus and Knights of Pythias. Republican in his sentiments, he has served his township as Supervisor acceptably and faithfully.

**HEROLD, George**, formerly of Mazon Township, was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 28, 1823, a son of Leonard and Amelia (Behaker) Herold. In 1858 George Herold came to Grundy County and locating at Morris conducted a butchering business there until 1866, when he went to Braceville Township. This continued his home until about 1895, when he settled permanently in Mazon Township on eighty acres of valuable land. He was married January 27, 1857, to Babeta Reinlaesoeder, and they had the following children: Jacobina and Amelia.

**HILL, Lewis Fransen**, who is carrying on agricultural operations on his well-cultivated farm of 120 acres located in Garfield Township, is one of the substantial farmers of this section of Grundy County, and in addition to his farming work has been engaged for some years as a contractor and builder, in which capacity he has erected a number of substantial residences, churches and schools in the vicinity of Gardner. Mr. Hill is a native of Norway, having been born at Bergen Stift, in 1850, and is a son of Fransen and Gussie (Johansen) Hill, who were also born in that country. Fransen Hill was a wood turner by occupation, and followed that trade in his native land until his death in 1868. In 1872 Mrs. Hill came to America, whence three of her children, Alice, Illena and Volger, had preceded her. With her she brought four children: Lewis Fransen; John, who is now living in Garfield Township; Margaret and Gussie, who are both now deceased. Mrs. Hill died in Garfield Township at the home of her son, Lewis F., in 1908.

As a boy, Lewis F. Hill attended the public school of his native Norway, and, being possessed of energy and ambition, then hired out to a farmer, for whom he worked three years and during this time lost only three days. The next four years were spent in work on the ship wharf, where he learned the trade of a carpenter and builder, and at the age of twenty-two years accompanied his mother, sisters and brother to the United States, the trip being made on a sailing vessel. Locating first at Chicago, he soon thereafter came to Braceville, Ill., where he commenced work as a contractor and builder, and subsequently started farming on the Seully land in Garfield Township. There he continued

until 1883, in which year he purchased the property on which he now resides, and where he has made numerous improvements. Mr. Hill has been successful both as a farmer and as a contractor, and in business circles bears a reputation of the highest character. He has the utmost confidence of his associates, whom years of experience have taught to thoroughly rely on his integrity.

In 1875 Mr. Hill was married to Miss Carrie Larsen Tjilli, who was born in Norway, and they became the parents of eight children: Lewis; Anna, who died at the age of twenty-two years; Mrs. Serena Torsen; Mrs. Lena Ryan, and Carrie, Frank, Bertha and John, all residing at home. The family is connected with the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Garfield Township, of which Mr. Hill has been treasurer for the past twenty years. In political matters a Republican, he has been somewhat prominent in public affairs, serving for twelve years as a member of the school board and as road commissioner for nine years. Whether in public, business or private life, he has shown himself possessed of high ideals of citizenship, and through a career of integrity, industry and public-spirit has won and retained many friends.

**HILLIKER, Albion H.**—The members of the city council of Morris, or of any large community, have a heavy task to perform, for they must not only secure for the people of their special section those improvements and concessions necessary for proper development, but at the same time conserve the interests of the city as a whole. For this reason, a man who is returned to his seat in the council upon several occasions, has reason to congratulate himself upon his popularity, and the appreciation his people show him. Such a man is Alderman Albion H. Hilliker, who is also prominent for his operations in realty and insurance. Mr. Hilliker was born in Kankakee, Ill., January 14, 1870, son of Charles M. and Martha (Shaw) Hilliker.

Having been well educated in the public schools of his native place, Mr. Hilliker grew up well informed and was recognized as a valuable acquisition to Morris when he came to this city, in December, 1895, to engage with the Morris Sentinel, with which publication he remained until March 1, 1901, when he sold his interests, to invest his money in an insurance and real estate business, buying out the firm of Coles Bros. Until 1905, he was in partnership with J. G. Pelleys, but on April 1 of that year, this association was discontinued, and Mr. Hilliker came to his present location on Liberty street, where he has since continued. Since 1901, he has been a justice of the peace, and has been alderman of his ward for three consecutive terms.

On October 25, 1899, Mr. Hilliker was married to Bertha M. Baum, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Zorrmann) Baum. Two children have been born of this marriage: Frederick W. and Henry B. Mr. Hilliker is a Mason, Odd Fel-



low and Knight of Pythias, all of Morris, and is popular in all these fraternities. A man of action, he has forged ahead and made a reputation for himself that extends all over Grundy County, where he is universally liked, for he is one always willing to give to others the square deal he requires for himself.

**HITCHCOCK, W. D.,** formerly County Clerk of Grundy County, and a prominent resident of Morris, was born in Champlain, N. Y., August 16, 1857, a son of H. D. Hitchcock. The family came to Morris in 1857, and here W. D. Hitchcock was educated. His father being elected County Clerk, Mr. Hitchcock became his deputy, and when his father died in 1880, the son was elected to fill the unexpired term on the Republican ticket. He joined the Masons a number of years ago.

**HNETKOVSKY, Frank.**—Coal City has made considerable progress commensurate with the growth of its population and the energetic spirit of its leading business men, and one of the improvements which adds to the attractiveness of the city and provides healthy amusement as well, is the new opera house, of which Frank Hnetkovsky is stage manager. In addition to this, he is the owner of 120 acres of land in Braceville Township. He was born in Bohemia in 1869, a son of Frank and Johanna Hnetkovsky, but in 1884 came to the United States, locating at Coal City, where he entered the mines and is still connected with them. An ambitious man, he supplemented his educational training obtained in his native land, with attendance upon the night schools of Coal City, and is now very well informed. Liberal in politics, he believes in electing the man best fitted for the office. For thirteen years he served as a school director in Braceville Township, and for five years was highway commissioner. Having had to work hard himself and practice strict economy in order to get ahead, he can sympathize with the common people and has always exerted his influence in their favor. On January 17, 1890, Mr. Hnetkovsky married Miss Anne Mekovsky, who was born at Chicago, June 26, 1872. They have thirteen children: Anna Rhoback, Joseph, Frank, Mamie, Rosa, James, Agnes, Anton, Louis, Josie, George who are living, and Frankie and George who died in infancy. Mr. Hnetkovsky belongs to the Forsters, the C. S. P. S., the C. S. P. C., and the Turners, and is one of the leaders among the Bohemians in Grundy County. His success in life has been earned by hard work and good management and he deserves his present prosperity.

**HOFFMAN, Robert F.**—Grundy County, Ill., is admirably located for the successful prosecution of farming, for the soil is exceedingly fertile, the climatic conditions are almost ideal and transportation facilities are almost unsurpassed. However, although the agriculturist here has these advantages, he cannot compete successful-

ly with others unless he carries on his operations according to modern ideas, and uses improved machinery in his work. That the majority of farmers are progressive here is proven by the number of finely developed farms to be found all over the county, a fact that has very materially raised the standard of excellence and placed Grundy County among the leaders in agriculture in Illinois. One of the men who has assisted in bringing about this desirable state of affairs is Robert F. Hoffman, of Saratoga Township, who is meeting with success in both farming and stockraising operations. Mr. Hoffman was born in Kanawha County, W. Va., November 9, 1874, and is a son of Robert H. and Virginia (Younger) Hoffman, natives of Mason County, W. Va., where both reside.

Robert F. Hoffman came to Waupee Township, Grundy County, May 12, 1902, and for three months worked as a farm hand for wages. He then rented the farm of William McKinley, in Saratoga Township, where he spent four years, then going to Kansas for one year, and subsequently returning to Saratoga Township, where he rented the Smith farm for two years. At the end of that period he located on his present 100-acre property, known as the Hoge farm, where he has continued to follow general farming and to raise Norman and Belgian horses for the market. He has met with success because of his energy and enterprise, and his well-directed efforts have placed him in the front rank among his fellow-agriculturists. He has a wide acquaintance here, and has gathered many friends about him as a result of his honorable manner of doing business, and his pleasant personality. His political belief is that of the Republican party, although he has not been an office seeker. Religiously, he is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On December 15, 1897, Mr. Hoffman was married to Miss Mary E. Poston, who was born at Athens, Ohio, of Swiss descent, daughter of W. G. and Louise (Oberholzer) Poston. To this union there have come four children, Cloyd Clifford, born May 21, 1899; Granville Garland, born September 8, 1900; Willard Russell, born November 15, 1905, deceased; and Wilfred Waldo, born September 8, 1910.

**HOGGE, Albert Earl.**—A decade or so ago the young men flocked to the cities feeling that there were not enough opportunities on the farm. Now the tide has turned and people are coming to realize that the agriculturist is the most independent man in the world. With food stuffs soaring in price, and commission merchants seeking supplies, the farmer can well afford to invest time and money in his work. Some of the most intelligent men of Grundy County, as elsewhere, are appreciating this, and turning from other occupations to cultivate the land. One of the progressive farmers of this county who has returned to the farm is Albert Earl Hoge of Nettle Creek Township, who has the good fortune to be living on the farm which gave him birth on December 14, 1880. He is a son of George D. and





William Sample





Ella (Quigley) Hoge, natives of Nettle Creek Township and Ohio, respectively.

Growing up in Nettle Creek Township, Mr. Hoge attended the public schools of his district and developed into an efficient farmer, working first with his father and later on a property in Nettle Creek Township which he rented from his father and operated for five years. Tiring of farm life, he moved to Morris and for three years conducted a garage, but feeling the call of the soil, moved back to the 200 acre farm on which he was born, and is now carrying on grain farming with creditable success.

On February 18, 1903, Mr. Hoge was married to Ada Luella Peacock, who was born in Eriema Township January 7, 1879, a daughter of Alexander and Emma (Towsley) Peacock, natives of Canada and New York State, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Hoge have had children as follows: Gordon Gerald, who was born December 15, 1904; and Chester Delmer, who was born January 22, 1907. Mr. Hoge is a Methodist. He has served as a School Director and is a very responsible, reliable man and first-class citizen.

HOGE, Albert E., was born in Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, February 2, 1840, a son of William and Rachel (Bowls) Hoge. His father was born in Fauquier County, Va., and his mother in Loudoun County, same State. Their marriage took place October 26, 1826, and they immediately removed to Illinois, coming overland in a carriage and a prairie schooner drawn by horses. They made their home in Nettle Creek Township and preempted land there that he had previously located. Here they lived at first in a dug-out, but later a spacious log cabin was erected, being one of the very first houses to be built in Grundy County. William Hoge continued adding to his property until he owned over 3,000 acres of Illinois land, both timber and prairie. In 1843 his wife died and he never married again, his daughter keeping house for him. In 1845 he constructed a fine frame house to be used in place of the log cabin, and this residence is still standing. Many of the local offices of public trust were filled by him, and though he was not a member of any church, he was a sincere, honest, and upright man. In business he was capable and, for those pioneer days when a two days' drive was necessary to reach Chicago, the nearest market, his success was remarkable. He died June 22, 1884, and when he was taken from them the community lost an estimable man. To him and his wife nine children were born: Mary E., born in Virginia, widow of Abraham Holderman of Morris, Ill.; Emily E., Mrs. George Bishop, of Chicago; Anna G., widow of Joshua Greec, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Joshua, deceased; James B., deceased; Hendly, killed in the Union army at the battle of Franklin, Tenn.; William, living at Morris; Albert E.; and Alcinda B., of Morris, widow of Dr. E. Ridgeway.

Albert E. Hoge, after the death of his father, came into possession of the old homestead, to which he has added so materially that he now

owns over 1,000 acres in Nettle Creek Township. In 1831 the first schoolhouse in the county was built on his property. This old building is still standing and, though decaying fast, is an interesting relic of former days. Up to the time when he became twenty years of age, he attended school in this building. From that time on he was engaged in active farming and stock raising, to very good advantage. Since 1902 he has not done much actual farm work himself, has rented practically all of his land but keeps a strict, personal supervision over it.

HOGE, Edgar S.—The fertile farms of Grundy County bear ample testimony to the progressive spirit and industry of the agriculturalists of this region, and their prosperity has come to them as a result of this recognition on their part of the dignity and importance of farming. One of the representative agriculturalists of this section is Edgar S. Hoge, a general farmer of Nettle Creek Township. He was born in the township, now his home, January 19, 1866, a son of Hendley and Virginia (Silcott) Hoge. Mr. Hoge received an ample public school training, finishing it with a course at a business college at Davenport, Ia., remaining on the home farm until 1893, when he married, and moved to a farm he owned in Champaign County, Ill. Seven years later he returned to the homestead. While residing in Champaign County, he was Supervisor of Stanton Township from 1898 to 1900, and after returning to Nettle Creek Township, he was elected, in 1910, to the same office here, giving efficient service in both instances. He belongs to the Blue Lodge, A. F. & A. M., No. 532 Seneca, Ill., and the Chapter and Commandery of Morris, and is prominent in Masonic circles.

On December 14, 1893, Mr. Hoge was united in marriage with Anna Anderson, born in Sweden, December 20, 1870. In 1885, she came to Morris, with a brother, and there met and married Mr. Hoge. They have the following children: Mildred, Irene, Hendley, Sybil, Bess and Leslie. Mr. Hoge is a Republican, and his ability, keen judgment and conservative action were recognized and he was made a Justice of the Peace, which office he held eight years. In every capacity, he has proven himself a worthy citizen, and his farm testifies to the fact that he is an intelligent business man, as well as a good provider for his family of which he is justly proud.

HOGE, Isaac, who is a member of one of the representative families of Grundy County, has spent his life on the farm on which he yet lives and which he devotes to general agriculture. He was born in Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, Ill., July 25, 1850, and is a son of Samuel and Matilda (Holderman) Hoge. From Fauquier County, Va., where he was born October 28, 1805, Samuel Hoge came to Grundy County and settled in Nettle Creek Township in 1834, and in 1835 acquired 640 acres of prairie and timber lands called canal lands. He died March 13, 1881, a man very highly respected all over the



county. He married, May 23, 1839, Matilda Holderman, a daughter of Abraham Holderman, and she survived until February 14, 1898. They had a large family, five of whom died in infancy. Of those who reached maturity: Hendley, lives at Morris, Ill.; Charlotte, now deceased, married William Reardon; Abraham, died during the Civil war; Jane, married John Cunnea, of Chicago; Joshua and Isaac, twins, both live in Grundy County; George, lives at Morris; Charles, lives in Kendall County; Lina is the wife of David Milligan and lives at Los Gatos, Cal.; and Landy S., lives at Morris.

Isaac Hoge attended the district schools and had other educational advantages. His natural inclination was toward farming and his success as an agriculturist has brought him comfort and independence. From choice he has remained on the farm, adjacent to the old homestead, finding here everything that any section could offer in the way of agricultural opportunities, and through industry and good judgment he has developed his land to a high degree of remunerative cultivation.

Mr. Hoge was married (first) December 9, 1874, to Miss Mary R. Peacock, born December 26, 1851, in Brienna Township, Grundy County, Ill., a daughter of James and Mary (Sayers) Peacock, who came from New York to Grundy County. To this marriage the following children were born: Alma, born April 23, 1876, married Charles Hynds of Morris, Ill., and they have one daughter, Helen, born January 28, 1908; Mary, born November 27, 1878, is the wife of John Hynds, of Morris, and they have one son, William L.; Margaret, born August 29, 1880, is the wife of J. C. Williams, of Chicago, and they have one child, Evelyn; Edna M., born April 29, 1882, is the wife of Edwin N. Burnham, of Nettle Creek Township, and they have one son, Edwin; Charles S., born September 23, 1884, died August 22, 1900; Landy S., born August 26, 1888, died August 16, 1896; and Edith, born April 29, 1883, died in April, 1884. Mr. Hoge was married (second) to Miss Laura E. Waters, who was born in Saratoga Township, Grundy County, February 28, 1863, a daughter of Hiram and Harriet (Kelley) Thayer, natives of Hillsboro, O. They came early to Grundy County and here Mrs. Thayer died September 13, 1879, Mr. Thayer dying at Abilene, Kas., March 16, 1904. Three children were born to this marriage: Mildred L., born September 5, 1891; Mina L., born June 7, 1893, married, October 23, 1913, Arthur H. DeRov, and they now reside in Atkinson, Ill.; and Isaac, Jr., born July 10, 1895. In politics Mr. Hoge is a Republican but takes no very deep interest in affairs outside his own neighborhood, in which he is known to be an upright and useful citizen.

**HOGGE, Harry S.**—The business of farming is one that is very successfully carried on in Saratoga Township, Grundy County, where there are people who love their land and treasure it as a heritage. Such is the case in the present instance, Harry S. Hoge owning eighty acres of

the old Hoge homestead, to which he has added 160 acres, all of which is cultivated according to the latest methods of modern farming. Harry S. Hoge was born in Saratoga Township, Grundy County, Ill., October 8, 1870, and is a son of James R. and Eliza (Hatcher) Hoge.

James B. Hoge was the first white child born in Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, a son of William and Rachel (Bowls) Hoge. They were natives of Virginia and came to this section in 1832, buying government land in Nettle Creek Township, where they lived until death. James B. Hoge grew up on his father's farm and married Eliza Hatcher, a daughter of Elijah Hatcher, who had come with his family to Nettle Creek Township from Belmont county, Ohio. After marriage, James B. Hoge and wife settled in Saratoga Township, where he became a grain farmer. His wife died there in 1903 and his death occurred October 8, 1905. They had the following children: William, of Grand Haven, Mich.; Fred, of Morris, Ill.; Florence, Mrs. Charles Lumburg, of Chicago; Minnie, Mrs. Christ Lobe, of Dwight, Ill.; and Harry S.

Harry S. Hoge attended the public schools near his home and is the only one of his class yet living in this neighborhood. Until May 2, 1893, when he married Miss Mary E. Kaye, he assisted his father but then purchased eighty acres of the homestead, as mentioned above, and carries on farming on this land and also on his 160 acres in Nettle Creek Township, additionally raising hogs and feeding cattle for market. His stock operations are important enough to warrant the name he has given his place, the Saratoga Stock Farm. Mr. and Mrs. Hoge have four children: Frank T., Walter T., Jessie B. and E. Kaye, all at home.

**HOGGE, Hendley.**—The most substantial men in any community are those who have retired from the activities of an agricultural life, and are now enjoying the fruits of their strenuous labors. Morris is no exception to this rule, and its different townships have sent some of their richest agriculturists to swell the ranks of well-to-do citizens in the county seat. One of these thus representative of our leisure class, is Hendley Hoge. He was born in Nettle Creek Township, July 14, 1810, son of Samuel and Matilda (Holderman) Hoge, he born in Virginia in 1805, and she in Ross County, Ohio, in 1820. The paternal grandfather was John Hoge, of Virginia, while the maternal grandparents were Abraham and Charlotte Holderman. The Hoge family came to Grundy County in the early thirties, preempted land, securing valuable timber and prairie sites. The Holdermans settled in Kendall County, and were pioneers of that section. Samuel Hoge married Matilda Holderman, at Morris, and they began housekeeping on his farm in Nettle Creek Township. In time, Samuel Hoge became a heavy landowner. He died on his farm March 13, 1881. His widow, in 1886, moved to Morris, where she died February 14, 1898.





*M M Sample*



Hendley Hoge was the eldest of the ten children born to his parents, and remained at home until his marriage, December 16, 1861, to Virginia Silcott, born in Adams County, Ohio, daughter of Craven and Elizabeth (Taverner) Silcott, of Loudoun County, Va. After marriage, Mr. Hoge moved to a farm he owned in Nettle Creek Township, and in time acquired 640 acres of magnificent farm land, on which he carried on general farming and stock raising. In January, 1899, he took possession of a fine residence he had built at Morris, where he has since lived retired, renting his farm. He and his wife have had two children: Edgar S., on the home farm, married Annie Anderson, a native of Sweden, and they have six children, four girls and two boys; and Laura M., wife of Fred Stephens of Morris; and they have two daughters. A Republican, Mr. Hoge has served as assessor, road commissioner, and supervisor, and is a man of prominence in the county. Although his education was acquired only in the schools of the country districts, he is a well read and thoroughly informed man, and much interested in current events. The family is a fine one and comes of old Quaker stock.

**HOGUE, Joshua**, who is one of the substantial men of Grundy County, has large interests of an agricultural nature in this and also in other sections, and was born in Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, Ill., July 25, 1850, and is a son of Samuel and Matilda (Holderman) Hoge.

Samuel Hoge was born October 28, 1805, in Fauquier County, Va., and in the fall of 1834 came to Grundy County and settled in Nettle Creek Township. In 1835 he went to the village of Chicago and there bid in what was called the canal lands, the tract including 640 acres of timber and prairie. In 1840 he settled on the farm on which he died, March 13, 1881. On May 23, 1839, he married Matilda Holderman, a daughter of Abraham Holderman, and they started housekeeping in a log cabin that stood near Morris, in section 6, range 6, township 33, but one year afterward put up a rather pretentious frame house on Nettle Creek, the siding being of black walnut, the same being sawed in William Hoge's saw mill from trees cut on the farm. The following children were born to Samuel and Matilda Hoge: Hendley, who is a resident of Morris, Ill.; Charlotte, who married William Reardon, deceased; Abraham, who died during the Civil War; Jane, who is the wife of John Cunnea, of Chicago; Joshua and Isaac, twins, both of whom live in Grundy County; George, who is a resident of Morris; Charles, who lives in Kendall County; Lina, who married David Milligan, of Los Gatos, Cal.; Landy, who lives at Morris, Ill.; and five who died in infancy. The mother of the above family died February 14, 1898.

Joshua Hoge attended the district schools, Lombard University at Galesburg, Ill., and Bryant and Stratton's Business college, Chicago. At the age of twenty-one years he embarked in

farming, settling in Erienna Township, where he continued until March 1, 1898, when he came to Morris and since then has been mainly engaged in looking after his large property interests. Enterprise and good judgment have always marked his undertakings and success has crowned his efforts. On November 19, 1876, Mr. Hoge was married to Miss Laura R. Quigley, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Henry and Matilda (Close) Quigley. Henry Quigley was born in Crawford County, Pa., and died in May, 1863. Mrs. Quigley was born in Chester County, Pa. In 1864 she came with her children to Morris, Ill., and the family has belonged ever since to this state. Three sons are deceased, Myron, Merritt and Earl, and one daughter, Laura E., died April 15, 1896. Two daughters survive: Ella, who is Mrs. George Hoge, of Morris, Ill., and Carrie, who is Mrs. Charles Hoge, of Big Grove Township, Kendall County. Mrs. Joshua Hoge is survived by one son, Samuel. One daughter, Eva, who was born August 28, 1882, died October 6, 1899. The son, Samuel Hoge, is a resident of Morris, Ill. He married May Bennett, and they have a son, Frank, and daughter, Eva. Although Mr. Hoge has been affiliated with the Republican party for many years he has more or less confined his political activity to the duty of casting his vote.

**HOGUE, Landy S.**—The lumber and coal business of Morris is heavy, as the city supplies Grundy County with the greater quantity of both commodities used in its consumption, and the handling of them has been developed into a very valuable interest. One of the men who, for some years, bore his part in the material development of these kindred lines of commercialism, is Landy S. Hoge, now living retired at Morris. He was born in Nettle Creek Township, February 2, 1864, son of Samuel and Matilda (Holderman) Hoge. The father was born in Virginia, and the mother in Ohio. In 1823 Samuel Hoge came to Grundy County, married here and settled on his farm west of Morris. His wife came here with her parents, Abraham Holderman and wife, in 1831.

Landy S. Hoge grew up on the farm, receiving his educational training in the public schools, the Morris Normal school and Bryant and Stratton's Business college. He lived with his parents on the farm until his marriage, which occurred in September, 1888, when he was united with Margaret McCambridge, born in Grundy County, daughter of John and Maria (Cunnea) McCambridge, natives of Ireland. After marriage Mr. Hoge moved to a farm in Nettle Creek Township, which he owned, and carried on general farming until 1900, when he rented his property, and moved to Morris, which has since continued his home. He had an interest in a grain elevator at Stockdale for two years, and a few months after his arrival at Morris bought a one-half interest in a lumber and hard coal business from a Mr. Moore, and, with F. S. Stephens, conducted it until January 1, 1913, when he sold his interests to Mr. Stephens and is now





retired. In politics he is a Republican, and fraternally belongs to the Knights of Pythias, at Morris. Mr. and Mrs. Hoge are the parents of three children: Hildegarde, wife of Roscoe Buzzard, and they have one child, Margaret, and now live in Bitter Root Valley, Montana; Zita; and Eunice, who married Clifford Collins of Morris. Mr. Hoge, a sound, reliable, sensible man, is justly regarded as one of the city's representative citizens.

**HOHENSHELL, Daniel** (deceased).—Although past seventy-eight years of age, and somewhat retired from agricultural pursuits as an active worker, Daniel Hohenshell still took a keen interest in the affairs of Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, Ill., and with clear mind and unimpaired intellect superintended the operations on his handsome, well-cultivated property, on which he resided from 1875, until his death, June 2, 1913. Mr. Hohenshell's participation in the affairs of his adopted community had been of a nature materially beneficial, and among his fellow-townsmen he had long been accounted one to whom to look for guidance and leadership in matters of general public importance. He was a native of Pennsylvania, and was born June 21, 1823, a son of George and Charlotte (Chelonda) Hohenshell, who were born in Westmoreland County, Pa.

During the early years of his life, George Hohenshell followed the occupation of a carder. The son of a Revolutionary soldier, he was reared to habits of sturdy honesty and self-reliance, and early gave up carding to engage in the more remunerative occupation of farming. In the fall of 1854 he turned his face toward the West, and with his wife, his son, Henry, the latter's wife and two children, his son, Daniel and his wife and one child, and eight other children, started overland by ox teams, and after a journey of one month arrived at Holderman's Grove, Kendall County, Ill. In 1857 George Hohenshell came to Grundy County, where he resided until 1861, and in that year moved to La Salle County, buying a farm near Streator, on which he spent the remainder of his life. After his death the mother removed to Missouri and there she passed away some years later. They were the parents of eleven children, Daniel being the seventh in order of birth.

Daniel Hohenshell obtained his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania, and grew up on his father's farm. In 1853, between Christmas and New Year, he was married to Miss Catherine Waltz, who was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in April, 1836, daughter of John and Margaret (March) Waltz, who came to Pennsylvania in 1841. In the spring of 1855 Mr. Hohenshell started farming on Abe Holderman's farm, in Erienna Township, and eight years later became the owner of another property in the same township, which he cultivated twelve years. In 1875 he came to Nettle Creek Township, and purchased a tract of 100 acres, on which there had already been several build-

ings erected. These structures were afterward rebuilt by Mr. Hohenshell, who also erected other buildings and made numerous improvements of a modern nature. He continued his attention to grain farming and stock raising, and his operations were successful because of his earnest and well-directed effort. Modern methods always appealed to him, and innovations were invariably given a trial. As a citizen he was foremost in matters of public interest, and at various times was honored by elections to township office, at all times giving evidence of a high regard for the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship.

Mr. and Mrs. Hohenshell became the parents of the following children: George, living in Wright County, Iowa; Mary, who married Jerome Miller, of Adair County, Iowa; Franklin and Phylat, of Norman, Ill.; Martha J., who married Otis Chapman, of La Salle County, Ill.; Frederick, of St. Louis, Mo.; Sarah, who is now Mrs. Wilbur Wildey, of Nettle Creek Township; Cora, the widow of Newt Johnson, resided with her father; Charlotte, who is Mrs. Henry Torkelson, of Norman Township; Roxey, Mrs. Herbert Wildey, of Nettle Creek Township; Daniel, of Erienna Township, and Laura and Lizzie, twins, resided with their father. The mother of these children died May 2, 1910. There are thirty-eight grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren. Both parents are buried in Evergreen cemetery, Morris, Ill.

**HOLDERMAN, Abraham**, one of the pioneers of Grundy County, was born in Ross County, Ohio, January 22, 1822, a son of Abraham and Charlotte (O'Neal) Holderman. The family came to what is known as Holderman's Grove, in the fall of 1831, and there Abraham the younger lived until he was twenty-three years old. At that time he came to Felix Township, Grundy County, but in 1849, he moved to Erienna Township, locating upon a quarter section of land and developed it into a very valuable property, devoting it to stock and grain raising, becoming one of the substantial and wealthy men of Grundy County. His death occurred November 27, 1887, as the result of an accident. He was thrown from a buggy, and died from the effects of the injuries thus incurred. On May 4, 1847, he married Mary E. Hoge, a daughter of William and Rachel Hoge, and they became the parents of five children: A. J., Albert H., Martha J., Landy S. and Samuel D. Mr. Holderman was a Republican and served his township as Supervisor.

**HOLDERMAN, Samuel** (deceased), was a pioneer of Grundy County, who was born at Marion, Ohio, October 9, 1828, but was brought to Grundy County, Ill., in 1831, by his parents, Holderman's Grove being named in their honor. For many years he was associated with the agricultural interests of Felix Township, but later retired to Morris, where he resided on Fremont street. He and his sons became largely interested in mining interests in Wyoming and Utah.



In July, 1852, Mr. Holderman married (first) Martha H. Coke, who died in 1866, having been the mother of six children, namely: Charles H., Mary E., Charlotte M., William E., Caroline M. and Orville S. In January, 1872, he married Mrs. Elizabeth King. In politics he was a Republican.

**HOLMES, Edward.**—The leading meat market of Braceville, Ill., is conducted by Edward Holmes, who has not alone occupied a prominent place in the business life of the city, but has also been a leader in public affairs, and is now serving efficiently as a member of the board of commissioners. Mr. Holmes was born in England, in 1861, and is a son of Charles and Susan (Young) Holmes, both natives of that country. There were eight children in the family: Charles, Edward, Alfred, Wallace, Lilly, deceased, and Jessie and two died in infancy. The family came to the United States in 1872, and first settled in Braceville, where the father secured employment in the mines as weighmaster, a position which he continued to hold until his death. After coming to America he and his wife had the four children: Wallace, Mrs. Jessie Gleghorn, and the two who died in infancy.

The early education of Edward Holmes was secured in his native place in England, and in Kankakee County, Ill., for he accompanied his parents to the United States when about eight years of age, and went to live with his grandparents at Essex, Ill., where he attended school during the winter terms and assisted in the work of the farm during the summer months. At the age of eighteen years he returned to Braceville and secured work in the mines, but after three years turned his attention to the butcher trade, in which he has been engaged to the present time. Mr. Holmes has been proprietor of his present establishment since 1896, and through straightforward and honorable methods has built up an excellent trade. He is known as a business man of the strictest integrity, and has the full confidence of his fellow-townsmen.

Mr. Holmes was married in 1891 to Miss Louisa Rothlisberger, and to this union there have been born two children: William Henry and Edna Louise. With his family Mr. Holmes attends the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been liberal in his support of its charities. He is a Democrat, but inclined to be liberal in county politics, believing it his prerogative to vote for the man he deems best fitted for the office, without regard to party ties. As one of the first of Braceville's city commissioners, he is showing himself possessed of much executive ability and high ideals as to the responsibilities of public service. He is fraternally connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, in which he is advisor, and with the Knights of Pythias.

**HOLMES, Joshua C.**—There is no better evidence of the prosperity of a community than the success of its building contractors, for when they

are kept busy, the city is growing to accommodate increase of wealth on the part of the older residents, and the influx of outside capital. One of the men who certainly belongs to the class referred to above in the city of Morris is Joshua C. Holmes, who was born in Saratoga Township, this county, April 30, 1866, a son of John H. and Rebecca (Winnie) Holmes of Albany County, N. Y. The father was a carpenter who left his native place in 1860, for Morris, Ill., where he carried on his line of work, being engaged in the construction work on the first bridge across the Illinois River. Finding things in a prosperous condition, he returned for his family, and coming back with them, located on a farm in Saratoga Township, where he lived until his death on April 23, 1910, aged eighty-two years. His widow, born November 20, 1835, survives, making her home at Morris. They had the following children: William, who is deceased; Frazier, who is of Chicago; Charles, who is of Morris; Joshua C.; Leonard, who is of Chicago; Jennie, who is Mrs. William Ashton of Morris; and Noble, who is of Morris.

Joshua C. Holmes went to the neighboring school, and grew up on the homestead amid healthy, normal surroundings, where he remained until his marriage in 1891. After that event he was employed as a cooper in the oatmeal factory, and also worked as a carpenter during the summers until 1898, when he embarked in a general contracting business, and now gives employment to from four to five men in season. On August 16, 1891, Mr. Holmes was married to Lena Mae Read, born at Genoa, Ill., a daughter of Walter Van Buren and Caroline V. (Thompson) Read, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois, where Mr. Read was a farmer for some years, later going to Missouri, and still later to North Dakota. At present he is living retired at Morris. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes have two children, Pearl and Zelma, both of whom are at home. Politically Mr. Holmes is a Republican. In fraternal matters he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Odd Fellows, both of Morris, and is popular with his fellow-members for he is a man to command respect.

**HOLROYD, Benjamin (deceased).**—The late Benjamin Holroyd was one of the best types of honorable manhood Grundy County has ever known. Not only was he successful in a material sense, but he accomplished that which was far more important, for he established a reputation for fair and honorable dealing, and became known far and wide as a man of high principles. Mr. Holroyd was born at Hallham Yorkshire, England, where in 1845, he married Susie Law. In 1853 he came to Essex, Ill., and worked at any employment that he could secure that was honest. A little later he sent for his wife and family, and upon their arrival, settled on a farm at Essex, but later moved to a farm at Lisbon, Ill. Selling this property some years later, he bought one in Waupunsee Township, where he resided until his retire-



ment, at which time he came to Morris. His first wife died on the farm in Waupoosee Township, in 1890. By her he had eleven children: Libbie, who is of Morris; Sarah, Mrs. Thomas, who lives with her sister, Libbie; Mary, who is Mrs. Thomas Thirby; Annie, who is Mrs. Joshua H. Collins, of Morris; Phoebe, who was Mrs. Philip Collins; William, who is of Marshalltown, Iowa; Martha, who is Mrs. Dawson, of Morris; Alice, who is Mrs. Oscar Collins, of Morris; and Frank B., who is of Waupoosee Township. The second wife of Mr. Holroyd was a Mrs. Schofield, who died in 1898. On May 3, 1899, Mr. Holroyd married Ann, widow of George A. Acton, there being no issue to this marriage. George A. Acton was born in Nottingham, England, as was Mrs. Holroyd, and he came to Morris in 1853. By his first marriage, Mr. Acton had two children: Martha, who is Mrs. John Myers of Red Bluff, Cal.; and George, who is of Tucson, Ariz. Mrs. Holroyd never had any children.

On May 11, 1901, Mr. and Mrs. Holroyd left Morris for a trip to England, landing on May 31 at Liverpool, where they visited with a sister, Mrs. John Lister, and there Mr. Holroyd died June 3, 1901, his remains being interred in the family burial ground there. Mrs. Holroyd returned to Morris where she still resides with her adopted daughter, Mrs. Harry Gipes. Mrs. Holroyd is a lady of considerable means, owning ten good residences in Morris which she rents, in addition to her own home. Mr. Holroyd was a Baptist and a man of high standing in his church as well as in the community.

**HOPKINS, William T.** (deceased).—One of the early attorneys of Grundy County was William T. Hopkins of Morris, born in Maine, October 5, 1819, a son of David Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins was educated in his native State, and there studied law. He was admitted to the bar at Morris, Ill., in 1850, and began practicing immediately thereafter. In the period embraced between 1853 and 1855, he was also interested in a mercantile venture at the County Seat. A man of prominence he was Superintendent of Public Instruction for one term; was Judge of the Grundy County Court for one term; served in the State Legislature for two years; and had the distinction of being one of the Presidential Electors in 1864 who cast the vote of Illinois for Abraham Lincoln. In 1865 and 1866, he was a general agent of the Internal Revenue Department of the United States, and in 1863-64-65 he was president of the Sanitary and Christian Commission for this district. In addition he served a three-months term in the army during the Civil War. In 1846, Mr. Hopkins married Clara H. Prescott. A Mason, he was Master of his lodge in 1882. In politics a Republican, he remained steadfast to his party, and was very proud of the fact that he and Mr. Lincoln were warm, personal friends. Both he and his wife, were Baptists.

**HORRIE, James**, a pioneer of Morris, came to this city in 1848 and became a carriage manufacturer. He was born in the Orkney Islands, Scotland, September 27, 1827, and learned there the trade of a blacksmith. On August 20, 1850, he married Catherine Anderson of Scotland and they had eight children, namely: Jane, James A., Robert C., Joseph W., Catherine A., William J., John C., and Minnie. Mr. Horrie was a Republican, and served as Alderman for one year. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church.

**HOUSKEN, John.**—It is remarkable what success many foreign-born citizens of the United States attain when they find opportunities to follow their natural inclinations. There are no better farmers the world over than the men who have come here from alien shores, possessed with the earnest hope of securing land upon which to make a home for themselves and those who will come after them. Grundy County is fortunate in having so many of these sturdy, reliable men in its midst, and one who has made good use of his opportunities to his own benefit and the general advancement of his community, is John Housken of Nettle Creek Township.

John Housken was born at Stavanger, Norway, August 23, 1885. His mother died in 1910 in the old home, but the father still lives there. In 1903 John Housken, who had grown up in his native place and attended the public schools, left Norway for the United States. Coming to Morris, Ill., he found employment among the farmers in neighboring townships, and in 1908 began farming 160 acres of land in Nettle Creek Township. Of this property 133 acres are under cultivation, and the balance is in pasture land and timber. Mr. Housken is specializing in grain farming and has been very successful in his work, for he is earnest and painstaking and knows how to make his efforts count for something. On February 3, 1909, he was united in marriage with Ella Olson, born in Eriema Township, this county, January 18, 1889, a daughter of Theodore and Bertha (Thorsen) Olson of Stavanger, Norway. Mr. Olson died in April, 1910, but his widow survives him and makes her home at Morris. Mr. and Mrs. Housken have two children: Teressa Bernice, born June 17, 1910, and Erwin J., born November 17, 1912. Mr. Housken is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican.

**HOWARD, Patrick H.**, one of the substantial and aggressive agriculturists of Felix Township, owns and operates 160 acres of fine farming land on Section 28. He was born in Boston, Mass., November 15, 1850, a son of Patrick and Katherine (Daly) Howard. The parents were natives of County Cork, Ireland, who came to Boston in youth. The father was but eighteen years old when he landed in that city where he worked as a laborer. He lived in Lisbon, in Kendall County, at the old Stage Tavern, for





*Robt. Robinson  
& Wife*





some years in boyhood days. In 1836 he came to Morris where he obtained employment on the railroads and the Michigan Canal, thus continuing until 1853, when he bought his first land which was located in Felix Township. He remained on the farm until his death which occurred in 1893, his remains being interred in Mt. Carmel cemetery of Morris, Ill. The mother died in 1898 and rests by the side of her husband. The parents had nine children, four of whom are living: Jeremiah, who is living in Will County, Ill.; Catherine Malady, and John and Patrick H.

Patrick H. Howard was one year old when he was brought to Grundy County and grew to manhood in this vicinity. Owing to the lack of school facilities in his boyhood days, his educational training was limited, but he made the most of his opportunities. Until he was thirty-four years old, he remained with his parents, and then began farming for himself in Goose Lake Township. In 1895, he inherited his present farm, and has made many improvements upon it, having now a valuable property.

On September 28, 1887, Mr. Howard was married to Mary Lyons, who was born in Grundy County, October 21, 1864. Their children have been as follows: Mary Marek, who lives in Coal City; Elizabeth Viola, who married Anton Pandina of Felix Township; and John E., Estella P., Gertrude E., Lydia M., and Charles P. Mr. Howard belongs to the Catholic Church at Coal City. Politically he is an independent although he leans towards Democratic doctrines. At present he is serving as highway commissioner of Felix Township and as a school director. He is a man of ability and high standing, who has earned all he has by his own efforts, aided thereto by his habits of economy and industry.

**HOWE, Milo E.**, is an excellent example of the self-made man, one who has developed his natural talents and increased his earning capacity by night study. Mr. Howe is now one of the leading cement contractors of Morris, specializing in architectural work in this line. He was born in Ashtabula County, Ohio, October 18, 1850, son of Ahniran and Zippah (Peck) Howe, natives of Vermont and Long Island, N. Y., respectively. The father went to New Lyme, Ohio, with his parents at an early day, and there married and settled, being a machinist and blacksmith. In 1856 he came to Kankakee City, Ill., and bought a soldier's claim of 160 acres of land, which he operated until his death, in September, 1858, his widow surviving him until 1899, when she passed away in Kankakee City, in the meanwhile having married a second time.

When the father died, the family went back to Ohio, but after two years there, Milo E. Howe returned to the farm in Illinois, and in 1861 came to Morris, where he was joined by the family. He remained at home two years, and then began working on the canal, becoming eventually a marine engineer. Having se-

cured this position, Mr. Howe worked as a marine engineer on the Great Lakes, the Illinois River and the Mississippi River, thirteen years in all. Not satisfied with his progress, however, he entered into boiler making at Morris, and for a number of years did a very big business in this line as well as in repair work. Seeing a fine opening that he could take advantage of in brick construction work and concrete, he branched out and now takes large contracts for all classes of buildings in his line, specializing on architectural concrete. His office is conveniently located at No. 600 West avenue, Morris, where he also resides. He has the distinction of being the only contractor able to turn out artistic concrete work in this locality. On July 3, 1873, Mr. Howe was married to Anna Cryer, born in England, daughter of Benjamin and Hannah (Brarley) Cryer, who came to the United States at an early day, the father being a coal miner. Mr. and Mrs. Howe have the following family: Milo and Robert, both of whom reside at Morris; Annie, widow of William Youngren, who lives with her father; Emma, Mrs. Frank Sanford, who lives at Morris; Benjamin, who is of Bureau, Ill.; and Lena L., a trained nurse, who is at home. By a former marriage, consummated on July 3, 1869, with Mary McKinney, a native of Virginia, who died in June, 1871, Mr. Howe had one daughter: Laura, now Mrs. Noah Delay.

Although Mr. Howe was given but few educational advantages, he created them for himself, studying at night school, and taking advantages of every opportunity when it was offered. As a result he has steadily risen until today he occupies an enviable position among the leading contractors of Grundy County.

**HUME, Eber F.**—Morris has a number of substantial retired farmers in its midst, all of whom have honorably earned their present prosperity by years of earnest and steady work. One of these representative men of Grundy County, who is serving as a Rural Route mail carrier, is Eber F. Hume, who was born in Waupoosee Township, January 12, 1862, a son of Hampden and Rosetta (Hulse) Hume, natives of Ohio. They came to Waupoosee Township in the early forties from New York State, where Hampden Hume had previously lived for some years, and he still makes his home in that township, living upon his farm of 320 acres. The children of this couple were: Edward, who lives at Plano, Ill.; Eber F.; Nettie, who accidentally died in a fire when three years old; Frederick, who lives at Leon, Iowa; Albert, who lives in Waupoosee Township; Hampden, who lives in the same township; and Altha, who is Mrs. Charles Moon, of Waupoosee Township.

Eber F. Hume was brought up on his father's farm and attended the district schools of his neighborhood. He lived at home until 1887, when he rented his father-in-law's farm in Waupoosee Township, and conducted it for five years, when he moved to a 160-acre farm in the same township upon which he resided until



1904, when he moved to Morris, where he built his modern residence and has since occupied it. He owns two properties in Morris, and owns 100 acres, and his wife 100 acres in Grundy County.

On January 13, 1887, Mr. Hume married Nettie M. Cook, born at Morris, a daughter of David and Jane (Claypool) Cook, natives of Pennsylvania and Waupoosee Township, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Hume are the parents of three children: Jennie Cook, and Etta Mae, both of whom are living, and Millard Eber, who died at the age of three and one-half years. Mr. Hume is a Presbyterian. His fraternal affiliations are with the Masons in which he is a Knight Templar, and with the Modern Woodmen of America, both of Morris. For two years he served as collector of Waupoosee Township, being elected on the Republican ticket, and was as conscientious in the performance of his public duties as he was efficient as a farmer, winning for himself many warm personal friends.

**HUSTON, William.**—Among the successful farmers of Grundy County may be mentioned William Huston, who has spent most of his life within its limits and is now living retired in Joliet, Ill. He was born in New York City, July 4, 1850, son of Robert and Elizabeth (Shaw) Huston, the former a native of Liverpool, England, and the latter of Scottish descent. Robert Huston came to America at the age of seventeen, settling in New York City, where he was engaged as a weaver. After retiring from active business, he removed to Gardner, Ill., where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1891. His nine children were: Elizabeth, deceased; John, who was killed in the Civil War in 1864; Anna La Force Hartley, who was twice married and is now deceased; Robert, who served throughout the Civil War, now deceased; Thomas, who served in Company I of the Fifty-eighth Illinois Infantry during the entire Civil War, and died in 1900; Mary Edmunds; William; Ellen Hamilton and Martha Allison, all having been born in New York City except Ellen and Martha who were born in Braceville Township, Grundy County.

William Huston, who came to this country with his parents in 1851, now resides at 211 Hunter avenue, Joliet. He attended the district schools of Grundy County, and remained with his father for twenty-four years. In 1874 Mr. Huston was married to Elizabeth Miller, a native of Ireland, they having met in Gardner, Ill. Seven children have blessed this union: Mabel Powell; Ann Glasgow; Robert, who married Anne Buzgen; Russell, who married Rose Powell, is now managing his father's farm; Chester, who is a student at Joliet, Ill.; William, who died at the age of fourteen years; and Irene, who died in infancy. Mr. Huston is a member of the Baptist Church, of which his father was an active member and assisted in the building of two churches in Gardner.

Politically he is a Republican. He served on the school board of Braceville for years, and

was also road commissioner several times. He is a large land holder of Braceville Township, being the owner of 160 acres. Progressive and energetic, he always has a deep interest in his community's welfare and advancement, and is highly respected by all who know him.

**HUTCHINGS, Joseph (deceased).**—Among the early agriculturists and well known citizens of Grundy County was the late Joseph Hutchings, who for more than half a century was a potent factor in the development and upbuilding of this part of the State. He dated his residence here from 1855 and continued to make this locality his home until his death, which occurred on his farm in Vienna Township, June 28, 1907. Mr. Hutchings was born at Roxby, England, in October, 1827, and as a young man emigrated to the United States, settling at Buffalo, N. Y. There he was married to Miss Bridget Clarke, November 4, 1855, she being a native of County Sligo, Ireland, where she had been born December 25, 1833, and who had come to the United States as a girl of sixteen years.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings came to Norman Township, Grundy County, Ill., where for a few months he worked as a laborer at a monthly wage. He was not one to be satisfied to work long for others, however, and after a short time gathered together his little capital and began operations on his own account, renting land for about six years, and then buying eighty acres in Vienna Township from Aaron Hartford. To this original purchase he added from time to time as the years passed, made numerous improvements, erected substantial buildings and in various ways added to the value of his land, and at the time of his death was the owner of 400 acres of some of the best soil in the county. He devoted the greater part of his attention to grain farming and stock raising, and his ventures proved successful because of his continued and well-directed effort, his absolute reliability and his strict adherence to rules of integrity and personal honor. His friends were numerous, drawn about him by the many excellencies of his mind and heart, and when he passed away there were many to mourn his loss. He was a faithful member of the Catholic Church, and gave his political allegiance to the Democratic party. Since his death, his widow has resided on the old homestead. Like her husband, she has a wide acquaintance, in which she numbers many admiring and appreciative friends.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings were as follows: Francis M., who died in 1906, married Nellie Higgins, and had seven children; Joseph M., Arthur, Margaret, who married Dan Crowley and they have one daughter, Elinor M., Florence, Marcella, Paul and Fred; Mary, who married Michael Cashen, of Vienna Township, and has four children, Margaret, Francis, John and Emmet; John, of Morris, Ill., who married May Anderson, and has three children, Margaret, Thelma





Robert Robinson



Ellen E. Robinson



and Gertrude; and James, of Joliet, Ill., who married Cora Miller, and who has one child, Irene.

**HUTCHINGS, Thomas.**—Not all of the satisfied residents of Grundy County were born within its confines for many are proud to claim other countries as their native land. One of the men who was born outside the United States, but has lived in Grundy County many years and developed into one of its most prosperous agriculturists, is Thomas Hutchings. He was born at Quebec, Canada, July 22, 1811, a son of George and Susan (Peacock) Hutchings, he born in Summersetshire, England, and she in Scotland, and married at Montreal. Until 1860 the father was engaged in farming in Canada, but in that year came to Morris, Ill., where he bought land and lived upon it until death claimed him. He and his wife had fourteen children, Thomas being the ninth in order of birth.

Thomas Hutchings attended the common schools of Canada, and resided with his parents until his marriage, at which time he bought 153 acres of land on Section 36, Saratoga Township. This was an improved property, but he has made it still more valuable and carries on grain farming and gardening. On October 11, 1866, Mr. Hutchings married Helen Winn, born in Ireland, a daughter of J. Deberry Winn. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings have had the following children: Thomas Henry, who is deceased; William R., who is of Chicago; Edward A., who is of Aux Sable Township; Mary E., who is Mrs. Leslie Caisley, of Morris; and George S., who conducts the home farm. He married Anna Weber and they have five children: Harry, Leroy, William, Amy and Orville. Mr. Hutchings is a Presbyterian. He has served as assessor of the township, as well as road commissioner, being elected on the Republican ticket. A man of careful habits, and conscientious principles, he has firmly established himself in the confidence of his neighborhood.

**HUTCHISON, James C.**—Although the automobile has in part taken the place of the horse, lovers of that animal are anxious to secure fine specimens bred from blooded stock so that the business of raising and handling them is still a very profitable and important one. James C. Hutchison, of Morris, is one of the men who recognizes the above facts, and is profiting from this appreciation. He was born at Quebec, Canada, June 22, 1864, a son of Thomas and Jane (Whital) Hutchison, natives of Ireland and Canada, respectively. Early in the sixties, Thomas Hutchison came to Canada, where he married and settled on a farm, dying in 1904. His widow survives, making her home on this same property.

James C. Hutchison attended the common schools of his native place, and remained at home until attaining his majority, at which time he came to Grundy County, but after a summer here, traveled throughout the north-

west for four years. Having gained a fair comprehension of conditions he returned to Grundy County, and established himself in a milk business at Morris. At first he bought his milk, but in June, 1887, rented the Gould farm of 217 acres, and had his own cows, and delivered the milk from them. In 1910, he sold his milk route, and has since devoted himself to farming and specializing on raising Percheron horses of registered stock. He keeps one stallion, and raises from five to six horses per year. In addition he carries on quite an extensive business in buying and selling horses.

In June, 1885, Mr. Hutchison married Barbara Cavers, born in Quebec, Canada, a daughter of James and Euphemia (Smith) Cavers, born in Scotland. They came to Canada and lived there until their death, he passing away in 1868, and she in January, 1912. The latter attained to the advanced age of ninety-one years. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchison have had the following children: James W., who is of Alberta, Canada; Jennie, who is Mrs. Russel Washburn of Morris; and Lilly May, who is at home. Mrs. Hutchison is a Presbyterian in religious faith. Mr. Hutchison is a Republican, but has never sought office. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows, and is one of the representative men of these orders, as well as in his neighborhood where he is universally esteemed.

**HUTTON, William**, sub-district president of the Wilmington fields of the United Mine Workers of America, has held his present important office for the past five years and is widely known among miners throughout Grundy County. Coming of a family whose members have always followed mining, his entire career has been spent therein and has been marked by constant advancement in his chosen vocation. Mr. Hutton is a native of Scotland, where he was born in 1874, a son of Andrew and Martha (Moore) Hutton. Andrew Hutton was born in Scotland and there grew up to be a miner. He was there married to Martha Moore, who was born in Ireland and was taken by her parents to Scotland as a child, and they became the parents of six children, of whom four died in Scotland. After their death, deciding to try his fortune in America, Mr. Hutton brought his wife and two remaining children, John and William, to this country, and located in the coal fields of Pennsylvania. The family came to Illinois in 1886 and located at Coal City, and here Andrew Hutton spent the remainder of his active career as a worker in the mines, becoming known as a reliable and substantial citizen. Both he and his wife are now deceased, and are buried in the Braceville Cemetery.

William Hutton was given ordinary educational advantages, but was ambitious and industrious and made the most of his opportunities. Fought up as a miner, he early engaged at that vocation, and won promotion through his close application and faithful performance of duty. He was elected to his present office





in 1908, and since that time has been conscientious in his care of his duties. He has been associated with important cases in conferring with miners and operators, and his judgment, foresight and ability as an arbitrator have brought him to the forefront in his calling. Since accepting his present office he has been a resident of Carbon Hill, and has done much to forward the interests of this place.

Mr. Hutton was married in 1900 to Miss Elizabeth Jackson, of Clark City, Ill., and they have had seven children: Andrew, Joseph, Martha, Isabelle, Elizabeth, Alvin and Albert, the last-named being deceased. Mrs. Hutton is a member of the Methodist Church. Mr. Hutton is a Republican in politics, and has served one term as a member of the board of School Trustees. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias. Mr. and Mrs. Hutton reside in their modern home in Carbon Hill, and have numerous warm friends in this community.

**HYDE, Ebenezer** (deceased), formerly a merchant of Morris, was born in Berkshire County, Mass., February 21, 1811, and in 1855, he came to Morris where he embarked in the lumber business. He bought a farm ten miles south of Morris, and was a man of independent fortune. For a number of years he resided on the corner of Main and Calhoun streets, Morris. Mr. Hyde was a Republican in his political views.

**IRONS, Salem**, one of the early settlers of Mazon Township, was born in Massachusetts, October 18, 1823, and came to Mazon Township, Grundy County, in 1854. Here he bought 145 acres of land and became a successful agriculturalist of this locality. He married Harriet Yaw and they had three children, namely: Henry A., Maria, and Clara I.

**ISHAM, Elmer Burnette.**—There is something exceedingly attractive in the voluntary retirement of a man who, for a number of years, has taken an active part in the agricultural advancement of his community. He leaves active life in the fullness of his strength, exchanging the scenes of agricultural toil for the quiet that comes as a reward to those who have spent their early years in industrious labor. In this category stands Elmer Burnette Isham, of Mazon, Ill., but it must not be supposed that he has entirely put behind him the useful activities of life, for his is a nature energetic and progressive to a degree, and in his management of the Isham estate he finds an excellent field for the display of his abilities. Mr. Isham was born in Mazon Township, in 1867, and is a son of Zacharias and Susan (Viner) Isham, natives, respectively, of Vermont and New York.

The parents of Mr. Isham came to Grundy County in 1850, Zacharias Isham being a prominent farmer and the founder of the town of Mazon, which he platted. His death occurred

in 1907, and he is buried in the Mazon cemetery, while his widow still survives and makes her residence on the old homestead. They were the parents of five children, as follows: Charles, Freddie, Vernon, George and Lizzie, all of whom died in infancy; Mrs. Sadie Clark, Elmer Burnette, and Wilbur V. Sadie (Isham) Clark was given a good education, and after her graduation from the Morris Normal school was engaged in teaching music in Mazon, where she was very popular. Her husband, who was engaged in grain dealing in Mazon for five years, is now in the automobile business in Chicago, where for four years he was a member of the Board of Trade. They have two children, namely: Marguerite and Lucille.

Wilbur V. Isham was born in 1871 in Mazon Township, was reared on the home farm, and secured his education in the district schools and the State Normal school. Subsequently he attended the University of Chicago for one year and the Chicago Business college for six months, and after graduating from the latter became a bookkeeper in the Illinois metropolis. In 1912 he returned to Mazon and became a member of the firm of Economy Implement and Hardware Company, in partnership with H. Preston and E. S. Strong. Mr. Isham has various large interests, being engaged in the real estate business and also having the Mazon agency for the Krii automobile, while he is known as one of the best auctioneers in Grundy County, and an excellent business man generally. He owns 125 acres of land included in the Isham estate, has disposed of thousands of acres of Texas land, and has sold more automobiles than any other dealer in this locality. He is a Democrat in his political views and has served as assessor of Mazon Township, as collector thereof and as a member of the town board for four years. In 1895 Mr. Isham was married to Lydia R. Jones, and they have one child, Leita, who is attending school.

Elmer Burnette Isham was reared on the home farm, and attended the district schools and the Morris Normal school. Reared to agricultural pursuits, he followed farming on the home place until 1907, in which year he retired from active life to give his whole attention to the management of the estate. Progressive in all matters, Mr. Isham gave his support to the new Progressive party in 1912, assisting in the birth of that organization. With his family, he attends the Methodist Church. On November 22, 1892, Mr. Isham was married to Miss Mary Allen, who was born in Decatur, Ill., and they have two children: Jeanette and Lucille, both of whom are attending the Mazon High school.

**ISHAM, Gursham** (deceased), who was one of the pioneers of Mazon Township and the father of a large family, was born at Williston, Vt., March 31, 1801, and came to Grundy County in 1846. He located one mile east of the village of Mazon and there bought 160 acres of land. This property, he developed into a valuable



farm, residing upon it until he sold it and bought 120 acres in the center of Mazon Township. Later on, he retired and made his home thereafter in the village of Mazon where he died October 8, 1877. On September 9, 1822, he married Eliza Sanford, and they had the following children: Cornelia, Albert, Edward, Michael, Zachariah, Lydia, Weltha, Jehiel, Clarinda.

**ISHAM, Michael**, formerly a merchant of Mazon, was born at Chittenden, Vt., June 7, 1829, a son of Gersham and Annie Isham. The family came to Mazon Township, Grundy County in 1844, and there Michael Isham became the owner of eighty acres of land. After operating it for some years, he located in the village of Mazon and embarked in a mercantile business. On March 4, 1855, he married Ellen Jenkins, and they had six children, namely: Rosa, who married George W. Clow; Alice J., who married Frank Myers; Nellie V., who married John Wilkinson; Almira; Laura M.; and Katie V.

**ISHAM, Zachariah**, a son of Gersham Isham, and formerly an agriculturist of Mazon Township, was born in Vermont, February 11, 1831. Coming to Grundy County in 1841, when the family migration occurred, Zachariah Isham grew up in this neighborhood, and became the owner of 240 acres of land in Mazon Township. On November 30, 1854, he married Susan S. Viner of Mazon Township and they had eight children.

**JACKSON, John W.**—Among the prosperous agriculturalists of Grundy County, who have achieved more than ordinary success, is John W. Jackson of Waupee Township, who is cultivating his father's old homestead which he now owns. He was born in Mazon Township, Grundy County, September 13, 1869, a son of William and Amelia (Lane) Jackson, natives of England and Canada, respectively. The father came to Grundy County in young manhood, where he married. Since 1897, he has lived in Morris retired from active life. The children born to him and his wife were: George, who died in infancy; John W.; Charles, who died in childhood; Walter, who lives in Waupee Township; Fred, who lives at Holland, Mich.; and a daughter who died in infancy.

John W. Jackson attended the district schools, and lived with his parents until his marriage, when he assumed the responsibilities of the farm. He now cultivates 120 acres, devoting a portion to grain, and the remainder to pasturage and hay, raising Duroc-Jersey hogs, cattle, and Belgian horses. His success has been steady, for he understands his work thoroughly. He owns stock in the Farmers Elevator Company at Mazon, also in the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill.

On December 22, 1897, by Rev. Lovejoy, of Morris, Ill., Mr. Jackson was married to Lillie E. Bridel, who was born August 11, 1876, in Maine Township, daughter of William D. and Caroline R. (Towns) Bridel, natives of Eng-

land and Grundy County, respectively. The maternal grandparents, Aaron and Mary Towns, were born in Canada, but died in Grundy County. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson became the parents of children as follows: Ethel A., born April 9, 1899; Maude A., born April 6, 1901; Reva P., born September 29, 1902; John William, born February 4, 1905; and Freddie, who was born April 20, 1908, died August 29, 1908, and was buried in the Sample cemetery. Mr. Jackson is a member of the White Cross order, and both he and wife belong to the Sulphur Spring Arbor of Gleaners. They belong to the Methodist Church. In politics he has always been a Republican, but has not sought office, preferring to devote his energies to his private affairs. He is a man who stands high in his community, and is worthy of all esteem.

**JACOBSON, Benjamin**, senior member of the reliable firm of Jacobson & Condon, manufacturers of and dealers in drain tile and brick, is one of the enterprising business men of Mazon, whose connection with his concern adds to its standing in the commercial world. The plant comprises three kilns and the output is large enough to justify the employment of fourteen workmen. Mr. Jacobson was born at Lisbon, Ill., a son of Eric Jacobson a native of Norway, who came to the United States in 1871, locating at Lisbon, Ill., where he is a merchant. He and his wife have had the following family: Benjamin, who was born in 1873; Emma Kirkland; Bell Condon; and Frank, who lives in Montana.

In 1910, Benjamin Jacobson married Emma Reinlasoder, born in Good Farm Township. The German Lutheran Church holds his membership and benefits by his generosity, for he believes in encouraging religious work. Politically he is a Republican, but like his partner, he has had no time for public life.

Both partners are energetic, thoroughly abreast of the times in their undertaking, and capable of meeting the demands made upon them. As their plant is now working at its full capacity, it looks as though the firm would have to enlarge in the near future. Their success has come through the excellence of their product and their honorable business methods, and those who know them predict continued prosperity and increasing sales for them in the future.

**JAMES, Moses.**—The self-made man wins approval from his associates, especially when he proves in his everyday life that he has developed his talents and made a success of his endeavors. It is difficult for the present generation to appreciate how difficult it used to be for a boy, especially in the rural districts, to obtain the requisite amount of schooling, for today the magnificent public school system provides ample opportunity for all. Moses James appreciates the advantages given the children of these times, and realizes just how much harder his life work was because he lacked them. Mr. James was born in Hamilton, Ohio, May 2,



1833. When still a lad in 1842, he came with his mother to Kendall County from Indiana, where he remained until 1847. In that year, he left Kendall County for Waupoosee Township, Grundy County, where he spent a year working for a brother. In 1848, he came to Norman Township and for a short time worked for this same brother, and then became his partner, the two buying land and operating it together. In 1862, they divided the property, Moses James receiving 214 acres as his share, which land is now included in his homestead. This property was unimproved and thirty-five acres was under heavy timber. Since 1862, Mr. James has developed this farm in a remarkable degree, and erected all of the buildings which are modern in character. In the spring of 1903, feeling that he deserved a rest, he retired, and now rents his farm to his grandson, Edwin Reeves.

On October 5, 1862, Mr. James was married to Martha Pyatt, born in Kendall County, Ill., daughter of John and Cynthia (Misor) Pyatt, natives of Ohio and Indiana, who were early settlers of Kendall County. Later they moved to Grundy County, and subsequently went to Bates County, Mo., but returned to Grundy County in 1861. There Mr. Pyatt died in August, 1861, his widow surviving him until 1874. Mr. and Mrs. James had one daughter, Eveline, who married D. A. Reeves, and died October 2, 1888. She had three sons: George L., who lives at Salt Lake City, Utah, married L. O. Wells, no issue; Edwin, who conducts his grandfather's farm, married Leda Edna Winsor, daughter of John and Sarah Winsor, and they have four children: Edna Adeline, Glenn, Lois and Ruth R.; and Alfred James, youngest son of Eveline, who lives at Moline, Ill., married Anna Operman. Mrs. James is a consistent member of the Methodist Church, and is an active worker in it. Politically Mr. James is a Republican. His success is all the more remarkable as he never attended school for more than forty days all told, so that what he knows he taught himself.

**JAMES, Moses Freemont.**—The agricultural activities of Grundy County have assumed large proportions owing to the energy and foresight of the farmers of this locality, so that the State looks to the people here for heavy supplies of food. Among those who have aided in bringing about this desirable condition, and are now engaged in maintaining this prestige is Moses Freemont James of Norman Township. Mr. James was born in Norman Township, October 27, 1856, son of Elisha B. and Margaret (Pyatt) James, the former of whom was born in Hamilton County, O. In 1842, he crossed the country to Kendall County, Ill., driving a team of oxen. Until 1847, he remained in that county, but in that year came to Norman Township, Grundy County, and with his brother, Moses James, began farming. In 1861, they divided their land, and Elisha B. James received 320 acres as his share, continuing to

operate his farm until his retirement in 1891, devoting it to general farming and stock raising. The death of this excellent man occurred January 12, 1906, his wife having passed away February 26, 1863, having been born April 10, 1824, while her husband was born November 19, 1824. The children born to Elisha B. James and wife were: John Wesley, who died in the service of the Union army in 1865; Emily E., who is Mrs. W. H. Benson of Norman Township; Sarah F., who is Mrs. Jiles Whitten, widow of Jiles Whitten of Norman Township; Moses Freemont; Frank M., who died in the spring of 1912 at Beattie, Marshall County, Kan.; and Mary Alice, Mrs. Charles Flanders, who died at Harvey, Ill.

Moses Freemont James lived with his parents until he attained his majority, when he commenced operating the farm for his father. Mr. James' educational training was limited to the local schools, although he is a well informed man, having supplemented his schooling with close observation. In 1883, he went to a farm in Livingston County, Ill., owned by his father, and remained there until 1891, when he came back to the homestead. This his father deeded to him, and in addition to it, he bought eighty acres additional, which adjoins his farm on the north. Having devoted his energies and ability to general farming and stock raising, he has become an authority upon agricultural matters, and stands very high in his community both as a farmer and business man.

In March, 1885, Mr. James was married (first) to Jennie Weirick, born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of John and Sarah A. Weirick of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. James became the parents of a daughter, Anna May, who is now Mrs. G. A. McGuinn of Norman Township. Mrs. James died on June 4, 1893. On April 3, 1895, Mr. James was married (second) to Mrs. Ida (Miner) Green, widow of George Green, and daughter of John A. and Caroline (Rice) Miner. Mrs. James was born in Dearborn County, Ind., while her parents were natives of Sullivan County, N. Y. By her first marriage, Mrs. James had a son,—Fred Green, who is now of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. James have had two children: Emily Margaret and Russell Freemont, both of whom are at home. Mrs. James is a Methodist, and active in the work of her church. Mr. James has served as a School Director and Assessor one term, was Road Commissioner for six years, and Supervisor for three years, being elected to all these offices on the Republican ticket. Fraternally, he belongs to the Odd Fellows, Star Lodge No. 75, and the Modern Woodmen of America of Waupoosee Township. Both Mr. and Mrs. James are very popular in their neighborhood, where their many excellent characteristics are known and appreciated.

**JERBI, Hector,** who holds prestige among Grundy County business men as proprietor of the leading general merchandise store of East Brooklyn, Ill., is still a young man, but has





Missacett





already won a measure of success in commercial circles that many have not attained even after a lifetime of business effort. He was born in Northern Italy, December 29, 1881, and is a son of Joseph and Johanna (Rivara) Jerli.

Joseph Jerli was a coal miner by occupation and emigrated to the United States in 1881, locating at Braidwood, Ill., where he secured employment with the Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Company, and continued in the employ of this concern for eight years. In the meantime, through thrift, economy and tireless industry, he succeeded in accumulating a sufficient amount of money to send for his wife and two sons, who joined him in 1889 at Clark City, Ill., to which city he had removed. The family consisted of the father and mother and three sons, the latter being: John and Hector, born in Italy, who accompanied their mother to America in 1889; and James, born in this country. The father was killed March 11, 1914, by being kicked by a horse belonging to his son, and the mother died March 10, 1906.

Hector Jerli was about eight years of age when he came to the United States, and his education was secured in the public schools of Suffernville, Ill. Following the completion of his studies he went to work in the mines for eight years, and then secured a position as clerk in the general store, at that time operated by Bottino Brothers. By close application, after three years he found himself competent to carry on the business on his own account, and in 1908 purchased the stock of goods owned by his employers, and has since become the leading merchant of East Brooklyn, Ill., handling a full and up-to-date line of groceries, dry goods, hardware, crockery and miners' supplies. He is an exceptionally intelligent and well-informed man, thoroughly awake to modern business methods, and his honorable dealings and strict integrity have won the confidence and liberal patronage of the people of his locality. He is a self-made man in the truest sense, for whatever he has accomplished has been as a result of his own efforts. Mr. Jerli was married March 21, 1908, to Miss Mary Bottino, at South Wilmington, Ill., at which place she was born, a daughter of Frank and Mary Bottino. To this union there have come two daughters: Jennie, who was born October 17, 1908; and Mary, born November 17, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Jerli are faithful members of the Catholic Church. He is a Republican, but has found no time to enter actively into the affairs of the political arena. He has many friends in fraternal circles, being a popular member of the Foresters of America, at Coal City; the Fraternal Order of Eagles, at South Wilmington; Victor Emanuel III, at Coal City; and Minatore D'Italia, at East Brooklyn.

**JOHNSON, Barton S.**—To the efforts of such men as Barton S. Johnson, a resident on Morris Rural Mail Route No. 4, are due the progress and development which have given Grundy County agricultural supremacy during recent

years. A native of Illinois, he has spent his entire life within the borders of this State, and is now engaged in cultivating 300 acres of land lying in Nettle Creek Township. He is a man of progressive ideas, and his public spirit has done much to improve conditions in the community in which he makes his home. Mr. Johnson was born November 10, 1865, on his father's farm in the vicinity of Ottawa, Ill., and is a son of Samuel O. and Caroline Johnson, natives of Stavanger, Norway.

In 1856, the family emigrated to the United States, and in July of that year Mr. Johnson's parents located at Ottawa, Ill., the father securing land in the locality. There he continued to be engaged in farming until 1870, when he purchased 160 acres of land in Nettle Creek Township, which he improved from the raw prairie, and subsequently added thereto until he has now 500 acres, all in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Johnson is now retired from active pursuits, having reached the age of eighty-seven years, and rents the greater part of his land to others. His wife passed away in 1895, having been the mother of these children: Ole S., of Nettle Creek Township; Anna, who married Christ Hendrickson of Nettle Creek Township; John P., who died aged twenty years, four months; Barton S.; and Emma, who married Orville Fry, of Livingston County, Ill.

Barton S. Johnson received his education in the district schools, and was reared to agricultural pursuits, in which he has always been engaged. He is now a thorough master of his vocation, and in addition to being an excellent farmer is known as a good judge of cattle and stock, raising Percheron horses, Berkshire hogs and Durham cattle. The present modern buildings on the property have been erected by him, and the house, located on a natural building site, is beautifully situated. Mr. Johnson now has 200 acres in grain, while 100 acres are used for hay and pasture land. He has succeeded in his efforts because of untiring energy, perseverance and well-directed effort and has won the esteem and confidence of his fellows by reason of his fair and honorable dealing. On February 5, 1890, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Martha Elifson, who was born in Miller Township, La Salle County, Ill., daughter of Elob and Ann Elifson, of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Stavanger Lutheran Church. He is a Republican in his political views, and has, on several occasions, served his township efficiently in the capacity of school trustee.

**JOHNSON, Charles E.**—Although now a resident of La Salle County, Charles E. Johnson was so prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Grundy County for a long period of years that no history of the latter would be complete did it not give a review of his career. A native of Sweden, he was born October 17, 1855, a son of Solomon and Bertha (Johnson) Johnson. The family came to the United States in 1849, and first located in La Salle County, but in 1876 came to Grundy County.



where the father purchased 210 acres of land in Nettle Creek Township, and there spent the remainder of his life in tilling the soil, passing away in 1901, while the mother still survives him and makes her home with a daughter in La Salle County.

The educational advantages of Charles E. Johnson were secured in the public schools of his native land and La Salle County, Ill. He had just reached his majority when he came to Grundy County, and continued to reside with his parents until 1881, when he entered upon operations of his own in Erienna Township, which was his home during the next twenty-four years. In the meantime, however, he had purchased 120 acres of land in Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, and to this he subsequently added fifty acres from his father's farm, and on the latter property lived from 1905 until 1910, then moved to Morris. In May, 1911, he retired from activities, rented his property to his son, Albert, and moved to Seneca, Ill., where he now makes his home. Mr. Johnson's ambition has ever been to acquit himself of life's duties honorably before all men, to improve his capabilities and opportunities and to be of use in the world, and with this ambition he has won success. He is a Republican in political faith, and has served efficiently as a member of the board of school directors. With his family, he attends the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

On March 6, 1885, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Edla Rosendahl, of Sweden, daughter of Patrick and Ingrid Lena Rosendahl, who came to Erienna Township in 1884 and made their home with Mr. Johnson during the remainder of their lives. Two children were adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Johnson: Albert, who is conducting operations on his father's farm in Nettle Creek Township; and Dorothea, living with her parents.

**JOHNSON, Frederick S.**, Circuit Clerk and Recorder of Deeds of Grundy County, is one of the influential men of this locality, and an excellent citizen of Morris, where his family is a well known and honored one. Mr. Johnson was born in Waupunsee Township, this county, July 19, 1867, a son of Peter A. and Elizabeth (Claypool) Johnson, he born in Sweden and she in Grundy County. The father started with his parents for the United States, but his father died on the way, and the mother alone brought her little brood to Grundy County, settling in Morris. Here Peter A. Johnson grew up, being a school teacher and farmer, until 1882, when he moved to Morris and engaged in the agricultural implement business. The business started by him was sold out to Cronin Brothers in 1901. He is now living in Orange, Cal. The children born to him and his wife were: Perry A., of Santiago, Cal.; Frederick S., of Morris, Ill.; Francis A., of Audubon, Iowa; and Nellie M., now Mrs. H. L. Haynes of Abington, Ill.

Frederick S. Johnson attended the public schools of Morris, including the High school,

and Bryant & Stratton's Business College of Chicago. Always prominent as a Republican, when he was twenty-two years old, he became deputy county clerk, serving for four years, when he went with the music house of Lyon & Healy, of Chicago, for a year. Returning to Morris, he went into a store owned by his father, and spent two years more, and in 1896 he was elected circuit clerk and recorder of deeds, which office he has held ever since.

In November, 1892, Mr. Johnson was married to Carrie J. Gorich, born at Morris, Ill., daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Werner) Gorich, born at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have a daughter, Freda Louisa. The Presbyterian Church holds his membership. Fraternally, he is a Mason, belonging to the Blue Lodge, Chapter, Commandery, and Mystic Shrine, Medinah Temple of Chicago. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias. The faithful, conscientious work of Mr. Johnson as a county official has met with sincere appreciation from the people he serves, and he has been returned to office many times. He is worthy of their approval, and is a man who stands well all over the county.

**JOHNSON, Halver**, a prosperous and progressive general farmer of Saratoga Township, is a man who is setting a high standard for agriculturalists throughout Grundy County, and takes a deep interest in everything pertaining to his vocation. He was born in Saratoga Township, October 30, 1874, a son of Edwin and Sarah (Helgisson) Johnson, natives of Norway. Edwin Johnson came to Grundy County in the latter part of the fifties, and a few years later married and located on a farm in Saratoga Township, where his death occurred November 15, 1897. His widow survives him, making her home with her son Halver.

Halver Johnson remained with his parents until his marriage, attending the schools of his district during his boyhood. On February 15, 1893, he married Emma Johnson, born July 30, 1874, in Kendall County, Ill., a daughter of John and Anna (Johnson) Johnson, natives of Norway. John Johnson died December 12, 1902, but his widow survives and makes her home at Lisbon, Ill. After marriage Halver Johnson and wife rented land in Kendall County for a year, but then returned to Saratoga Township, where, for a few years, he rented land, also rented land in Nettle Creek Township, for a time, but in 1901 moved to the old home farm of his wife's parents, comprising 200 acres on the northern line of Saratoga Township. Here he carries on general farming. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had the following children: Elvin, born December 5, 1893; Esther, born May 25, 1895; Herman, born July 27, 1896; Hazel, born December 13, 1898; Irene, born December 7, 1901; Grace, born February 2, 1901; William, born May 27, 1906; Glenn, born March 7, 1908; and Arnold, born October 9, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson belong to the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Lisbon, Ill.





John Sample



Mary Sample



They are popular people in their neighborhood and have many warm, personal friends.

**JOHNSON, Henry.**—On Section 32, Garfield Township, is located the 160-acre farm belonging to Henry Johnson, one of the most progressive and enterprising of Grundy County's agriculturists, and a citizen who has ever had the welfare of his community at heart. He is a native of Norway, and was born November 24, 1845, a son of John and Annie (Tjersansen) Johnson, the former of whom was a fisherman, carpenter and laborer in Norway, where he died in December, 1880. His widow passed away there in December, 1907, and all of their nine children, save one, came to the United States.

Henry Johnson received his education in the common schools of his native country, and as a lad and youth began his career by working out for farmers in his home neighborhood. He was nineteen years of age when he decided to try his fortune in America, and immediately upon landing in this country came to Morris, Ill., where he secured employment on a farm. He subsequently continued to be engaged in farm labor until his industry, thrift and perseverance enabled him to make a start on his own account on rented land, and by 1902, he was able to purchase his present land, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. His career has been one of constant endeavor, and the success which he has made of his ventures shows the benefits to be gained through steady and well-directed effort. Among his neighbors and associates, he is known as a man of the highest integrity, whose business transactions have ever been of a legitimate nature and whose word is considered as good as his bond. He is well satisfied with his present location, and intends to pass the rest of his life within the limits of Grundy County. On October 7, 1898, Mr. Johnson was married to Mrs. Augusta (Larsen) Enersen, the widow of John Enersen, who died in 1887. By her first marriage, Mrs. Johnson had four children: Rosa Johnson; Lawrence, who died at the age of ten years; Elmer and John. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had seven children: Herman, Lawrence, Anna, Alice, Lloyd, Cornelius, LeRoy and May Elvira. With his family, Mr. Johnson attends the Norwegian Lutheran Church. In political matters he is a Republican, but is liberal in his views, and frequently exercises his right to vote for the man he deems best fitted for the office, irrespective of party lines.

**JOHNSON, Henry R.**—There are many level-headed farmers of Illinois who are now engaged in profitable agriculture, devoting their land to the growing of grain and stock, finding a ready market for these necessities of life. Among those so engaged in Grundy County is Henry R. Johnson, who owns and operates the old Johnson homestead farm of 160 acres, in Saratoga Township, and also owns eighty acres in Lisbon Township in Kendall County, on

which he has a tenant. He was born in Big Grove Township, Kendall County, Ill., March 26, 1867, a son of Ole H. and Caroline (Harrison) Johnson.

The parents of Mr. Johnson were born in Norway and the father came to Kendall County, Ill., when fifteen years old and went to work on a farm and owned land when he married. The mother was brought to the United States by her parents, who were three months on the ocean when making the voyage, and they settled also in Kendall County, where she married Ole H. Johnson. In 1872 they came to Saratoga Township, Grundy County and bought the farm on which their son Henry R. now lives. Here the mother died in 1881. The father left the farm in 1907, and now lives retired at Newark, Ill. They had three children: Henry R.; Sidney and Lydia, both of Chicago, Ill., the latter being the wife of John Jefferson. By a second marriage, Mr. Johnson had one child, now deceased, and no children have been born to his present marriage with Christina Williamson.

Henry R. Johnson remained at home until he married and then rented land in Saratoga and other townships in Grundy County until 1898, when he moved to Lisbon Township in Kendall County, where he continued until 1909, when he moved on the old homestead, which he now owns. Live stock and grain, as mentioned above, claim his attention and his time is fully occupied. On March 25, 1890, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Olivia Thompson, who was born in Lisbon Township, Kendall County, a daughter of Eric and Engar (Dollar) Thompson, natives of Norway. They have had the following children: Edith, who is the wife of Charles Terry, of Nettle Creek Township; Esther; Orrin, who was accidentally drowned at the age of two and one-half years; and Alta. Mr. Johnson and family attend the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican.

**JOHNSON, Jens.**—Earnest effort along any one line entitles a man to a life of ease once he has accomplished the end for which he has worked. Many of the most reliable and representative citizens of Morris are those who after years spent in agricultural labor, have retired to the county seat, to enjoy the rest they have honestly earned. One of these substantial retired farmers of Morris is Jens Johnson. Mr. Johnson was born in southern Norway, December 13, 1839, where his parents died. In 1860 Mr. Johnson came to America, and after reaching Grundy County, began working on farms, thus continuing for three years. He then went to Kendall County where he bought eighty acres in Big Grove Township, and operated it for five years. Receiving then a good offer for that property, he sold and bought 100 acres in Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, on which he lived from 1873 to 1882. In the latter year he sold that land and moved to Lisbon, Kendall County, where he bought 247 acres, and





this farm was his home until 1896, when he rented it to others and retired to Morris. After three years, however, his active spirit sought further work, and he moved on a 200-acre farm in Seward Township, on which he lived until November, 1940. He then purchased his present handsome residence on Vine street, Morris, where he has since lived retired. Mr. Johnson still owns 550 acres of fine farm land which he rents to tenants.

On March 19, 1867, Mr. Johnson was married to Erika Hanson, born in northern Norway, daughter of Christian and Kirsten Hanson, who came to Kendall County in 1862, settling on a farm. Later they moved to Grundy County, and there Mr. Hanson died in 1881. His widow made her home until her demise in 1891 with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. The latter became the parents of the following children: Henry F., of Kendall County; Louisa, Mrs. John Johnson of Kendall County; Hannah, wife of Thomas Granville of Saratoga Township, and they have three children, Carl J., Ruth L. and Alice M.; Joseph, Alice, at home; Lillian, wife of Edward Overland. Mr. Johnson belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Church. His opinions have made him a Republican, and he has served as road commissioner and school director. The success which has attended Mr. Johnson's efforts has been the result of hard work and thrifty saving, and he has always been able to win and retain the confidence of those with whom he has come in contact.

**JOHNSON, Ole S.**—For nearly sixty years the name of Johnson has been prominently connected with the progress and development of Grundy County, Ill., and the record of the family is one which reflects credit upon the locality. It is a well-attested maxim that the greatness of a State or of a community lies not in the machinery of government, nor even in its institutions, but in the sterling quality of its individual citizens, in their capacity for high and unselfish effort and their devotion to the public good. In these particulars those who have borne the name of Johnson have conferred honor and dignity upon their section, and one who has proven himself a worthy representative of the name is Ole S. Johnson, a well-known and successful farmer of Nettle Creek Township. Mr. Johnson was born in Miller Township, LaSalle County, Ill., December 21, 1856, and is a son of Samuel O. and Ann Caroline Johnson, natives of Norway. The parents came to the United States in 1854 and located at Ottawa, Ill., where the father worked as a farm hand for several years, and then purchased land in Nettle Creek Township, where he still survives, the mother having passed away in 1894.

Ole S. Johnson received an ordinary education, and remained on the home farm until after his first marriage, at which time he moved to William Reardon's farm in Nettle Creek Township. Four years later he bought a farm of 160 acres, which was partly improved, and this he has brought to a high degree of cultivation.

He has been successful in his operations, and in addition to general farming carries on the raising of Durham cattle, Norman horses and Poland-China hogs. He is a man of superior business capacity and resourceful ability, his resolute purpose and keen discrimination enabling him to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. He has long been an active member and liberal supporter of the Stavanger Lutheran Church. In political matters a staunch Republican, he has served two terms each as Assessor and Justice of the Peace and in both offices has given evidence of superior executive ability.

On October 30, 1882, Mr. Johnson was married (first) to Miss Josephine Anderson, of La Salle County, Ill., who died January 12, 1887, having been the mother of three children: Cora, who married Joseph Vogt, of Mission Township, LaSalle County; Agnes, who married Albert Knutson, of Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County; and Stanley, who is residing with his father. Mr. Johnson was married (second) February 11, 1892, to Mrs. Malinda (Rathmuson) Jacobson, widow of Jacob Jacobson, and four children have been born to this union,—namely: Jasper, Milton, Silas and Irvin. By her former marriage, Mrs. Johnson had two children: Oscar, who is residing at Yorkville, Ill.; and Addie, who died at the age of twenty-six years.

**JOHNSON, Stene.**—There are no better farmers in Illinois than those who are cultivating their fertile farms in Grundy County. These men rank among the very best and their banner crops prove that they understand their work and know how to make their fields yield them a good profit on their investment. One of these progressive agriculturalists is Stene Johnson, of Saratoga Township, born on his present farm, September 8, 1874, a son of Ole N. and Carrie (Stevenson) Johnson. These parents were born in Norway, but married in Illinois, and settled on eighty acres in Saratoga Township, Grundy County and kept adding to their holdings until they owned 240 acres all in one body. She died in 1896, while he survived her until 1908. Their children were: John, who died at the age of fifteen years; Stene; Ole, who is of Morris, Ill.; and Henry Ludwig, who lives with Stene.

Stene Johnson attended the public schools and grew to useful manhood on the home farm. After the death of the father, he and his brother Ludwig bought out the other heirs, and they operate the farm together, carrying on grain farming and cattle raising. They are very enterprising young men and their property is exceedingly valuable. On March 28, 1902, Mr. Johnson married Enger Knutson, born in Norway, where her parents died. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have the following children: Caroline, Hilda, Clifford and Edna. Mr. Johnson belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Church, and is active in the work of that organization. Politically he is a Republican, and at present is a



school director. A man of enterprise, willing to exert himself, he has forged ahead and easily is in the lead among the farmers of his locality.

**JOHNSON, William K. (deceased).**—In the death of William K. Johnson, which occurred in February, 1911, Grundy County lost a citizen who had added materially to the growth, development and importance of its best interests. For many years he was engaged in farming here, and while he was never a politician in the general acceptance of the term, took an interest in all that made for his section's welfare, and could always be found allied with other earnest and hard-working citizens in the movements that spelled morality, education, religion and good citizenship. Mr. Johnson was born April 1, 1827, and was a son of John and Charlotta (Hart) Johnson, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of North Carolina.

When still a child, long before the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Johnson was brought to Illinois from his native State of Kentucky by his father, who was an Abolitionist and could not countenance the practice of slavery. The family settled in Iroquois County, where Mr. Johnson secured his education in the public schools and started to work at farm labor. He was married in 1846 to Harriet Dean, who was born in England, September 19, 1830, daughter of John and Maria (Roberts) Dean. The Deans came to America in 1840, settling in Quebec, Canada, where Mr. Dean secured employment as a wood chopper. Subsequently the family moved to Vermont, where he was engaged in farming for some time, and later, during the winter time, moved across Lake Champlain on the ice to New York. There Mr. Dean took up state land, but some time after improving it moved to Kendall County, Ill., and six months later to Grundy County. Here he purchased a farm in Waupoosee Township, on which he spent many years, but finally went to Missouri, where his death occurred. After his marriage, Mr. Johnson bought a farm in Waupoosee Township, on which he lived for twenty years, and then purchased 160 acres in Norman and Waupoosee Townships, where he passed a like period of time. He then went to Morris, and bought a residence and two lots on Illinois avenue, and there he died, having been an invalid for two years. His widow still makes her home in Morris. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had the following children: John W., of Waupoosee; Maria, who married the late Melvin Bennett, and now resides in Morris; Scott and Elerick D., living in Norman Township; and William, who died at the age of nineteen years.

Mr. Johnson was a Republican in his political views, and served as county commissioner for twenty years. At the time of the nomination of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency, Mr. Johnson belonged to the famous Lincoln Rangers. He took a keen interest in all that was calculated to benefit his community, and at all times was noted for his sturdy integrity, honesty and fair dealing. Mr. Johnson, with

Mrs. Johnson's father, John Dean, broke the first ground for the turnpike road south from Morris, some sixty years ago.

**JOHNSTON, Eli Frank (deceased).**—A life of honest endeavor, one in which every deed was actuated by the best of motives and was productive of far-reaching and beneficial results, must have left a strong influence behind when it came to a close. The late Eli Frank Johnston was a man who was not only beloved in his family and among his intimate friends, but honored and respected in the community in which he resided for many years. Never afraid of hard work, he gave the best of himself to any line he followed, and when he died, left a record for integrity behind him of which his family may well feel proud. Mr. Johnston was born in Newcastle County, Pa., August 28, 1830, son of James and Elizabeth (Rigby) Johnston of Pennsylvania.

In 1855 Mr. Johnston came to Morris, Ill., and for eighteen months worked as a plasterer. He then bought a restaurant on Liberty street, and for seventeen years, operated it very successfully, when he sold, and started a news stand. After three years at this, he sold, and lived retired from active business until his death, November 15, 1899. In December, 1858, Mr. Johnston married Jennie Wallace, born near Newcastle, Pa., February 27, 1838, daughter of William and Alethea (Gundy) Wallace, natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Wallace died March 9, 1872, and Mr. Wallace came to Morris in 1858, thereafter following his trade of millwright in Morris and other places. He married Mrs. Jane Johnston in Mahoning County, Ohio, and came back to Grundy County, but later went to Indiana, and thence to Texas, where he died, January 11, 1876.

Mrs. Johnston has resided at her present home, on the corner of Fulton and Jackson streets in Morris, since 1872. She and Mr. Johnston had two children: Etta F., of Washington, D. C., for 25 years employed in the Patent office; Carrie W., also of Washington, for 26 years employed in the Pension office. Mrs. Johnston is a believer in the doctrines of Christian Science, and the comforting faith of her creed offers her consolation in all her bereavements. Mr. Johnston was a Republican, and for two years served his ward as alderman. Fraternally, he was an Odd Fellow, and was popular in his lodge. It is a beautiful faith that sees those gone before as but exchanging one phase of existence for another, and the rounding out of character in a better world.

**JORDAN, Hon. A. R. (deceased),** who for many years served Grundy County as one of its judges, was a man of highest standing and clearest judgment. He was born in Kennebec County, Maine, December 13, 1843, a son of Samuel and Philena (Dow) Jordan. In 1851 the family migrated to Morris, Ill., where the father died in 1885, and the mother in 1884. Judge Jordan was educated in the public schools



of Morris, under the private tuition of Prof. H. K. Trask, and in 1860, he entered Union College, from whence he went forth to fight for his country as a member of Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as a private during the Civil War. After being discharged on account of disability in November, 1861, he again enlisted in the spring of 1862, and was commissioned Second Lieutenant of Company I, Sixty-ninth Illinois Infantry, and received his discharge at the expiration of the three months' service for which it was formed. He then went to Central City, Colo., and worked in the mines, and taught school, and there became a member of the Third Colorado Cavalry, being a participant in the Sand Creek massacre. In 1865, he returned to Morris, Ill.; later went to Council Bluffs, Ia., but within two years, he returned to Morris, and entered upon the practice of law, attaining to a high position in his profession. A Republican, his party honored him upon numerous occasions, and he served as States Attorney and County Judge with dignified capability. In 1869, Judge Jordan married Miss Sarah D. Parmelee, a daughter of Charles D. Parmelee of Morris. His death occurred in 1905.

**JORDAN, William A.**, who served as postmaster of Morris in the eighties, was a dealer in agricultural implements and one of the sound business men of the County Seat. He was born at Hudson, N. Y., July 17, 1829, a son of Allen Jordan, but came to Grundy County in 1865, locating at Minooka, where he established himself in an agricultural implement business, but removed it to Morris in 1870. A strong Republican, he became a leading figure in his party, served as a member of the Board of Education, and was the logical candidate for the office of postmaster, to which he was appointed in 1882, by President Arthur. His fraternal relations were with the Masonic order. On November 1, 1853, he married Annie E. Wing, and they had seven children, only four of whom lived to maturity, namely: Clifton, Frank, Kate and Annie.

**KANGLEY, Owen.**—A man who understands how to farm properly can always make money, especially in days like the present, when the demand for farm produce is so stupendous. Many of the substantial men of Grundy County realize this and are devoting themselves more or less exclusively to agricultural pursuits with results that must be gratifying to them, and certainly serve to advance the general prosperity of the country. One of these progressive farmers of Aux Sable Township is Owen Kangley, who is operating 120 acres of land. He was born in Shanahan Township, Will County, Ill., October 7, 1863, son of Peter and Mary Ann (Kindelain) Kangley. The father was born June 26, 1830, and his wife January 9, 1838, both being natives of Ireland. They came to Shanahan Township, Will County, in the winter of 1860-1, and Mr. Kangley worked

in the warehouse on the canal about three years, before he began farming. When he was able to buy two lots, he erected a house upon them, continuing his farming in that vicinity until 1886. He then moved to Fayette County, there buying 200 acres of land for which he paid \$25 per acre. This he farmed until March, 1912, when he sold his personal property, rented his farm, and bought a fine residence at Hawkeye, Iowa, and there he and his wife are living retired. Their children were: Bernard, who lived at Wilmington, Ill., died December 15, 1913; Owen; Patrick, who lives at Hawkeye, Iowa; Julia, who lives at Sioux City, Iowa; Anna, who is Mrs. Martin Boomer, of Brown County, Kan.; Margaret, Mrs. Sampson, who died at the age of thirty-four years; John, who lives at Kansas City, Mo.; Terrence, who lives at Oklahoma City, Okla.; Rose, who lives at Cedar Rapids; and Mamie, who is Mrs. Judd Fish, of Hawkeye, Iowa.

Owen Kangley was educated in the rural schools and grew up on the farm, where he remained until he became of age, at which time he left home to work for neighboring farmers. In 1886 he rented 160 acres of land in Aux Sable Township, and spent ten years on this farm. Owing to the illness of his father, he was then forced to leave and go to the homestead where he remained for three years assisting in operating it. In 1910 he moved on the Tabler homestead and is now operating 120 acres of this property, devoting it to general farming and stock raising. On February 28, 1910, Mr. Kangley was married to Elizabeth Tabler, born in Aux Sable Township, daughter of Ezra and Helen (Randall) Tabler, natives of Virginia. No children have been born of this marriage. Mr. Kangley belongs to St. Mary's Catholic Church of Minooka. Politically, he is a Democrat. He is recognized as an excellent farmer and good business man.

**KAUZLARIC, Anton**, general blacksmith of Coal City, and dealer in buggies, wagons, harness, farm implements and general hardware, has been one of the important factors in the business life of this community since 1895, during which period he has proven himself worthy of the confidence now reposed in him. He was born in Austria-Hungary, June 10, 1868, a son of Simon and Mary Kauzlaric. The father, a carpenter, died in his native land in 1900, the mother having passed away in 1889, they having had six children: Mary, who is deceased; Veronica, who is deceased; Anton; Rosalia, who is deceased; Petra Galbreath, who lives at Coal City; and Blaze, who resides at Coal City.

Anton Kauzlaric had no educational advantages in his native land, but being bright and industrious, he picked up a good working knowledge of conditions and learned the blacksmithing trade. Coming to the United States in 1892, he was at Streator and Seneca, Ill., for a few months. In 1893 he came to Grundy County, working at his trade at Gardner until 1895, when he located at Coal City, and established





*Alanson D. Smith. M.D.*





himself in his present business. In 1902 he returned to his native land for a visit of seven months, but was glad to return where conditions are so much better. His present building was erected by him in 1905, at which time he put in a stock of hardware and harness. Mr. Kanzlarie's experiences have been varied, for in 1890, prior to coming to the United States he worked on a railroad in Asia as a blacksmith.

The Catholic Church holds his membership, and he belongs to the Catholic order of Foresters, the Bohemian Lodge of the White Cross, and is now treasurer of the former organization. A Democrat, he has been a member of the City Council of Coal City for one term, and proved his worth in that connection. Honest, energetic and aggressive, he has built up a good business and made his influence felt in the city he has adopted as his own. Mr. Kanzlarie is unmarried.

**KAY, Abraham Lincoln.**—England has contributed of her sturdy, reliable sons some of our best citizens, men who climb high in civic affairs, and attain to prosperity in business circles. One of these residing at Morris, is Abraham Lincoln Kay, who is proprietor of a large teaming and transfer business, and is alderman of the Fourth Ward. He was born in Lancashire, England, October 29, 1865, a son of Robert and Mary (Cryer) Kay. The father died in 1878, and Abraham Lincoln Kay, with his mother came to Morris, in October, 1879. After arrival in this city, Mrs. Kay married George Worth, and died in 1892.

Educated in the public schools of his native land, Mr. Kay is a well-informed man. After arrival in Morris, he mined for two years, and then established a general teaming and transfer business, which he has since continued, now operating six teams. In October, 1891, Mr. Kay married (first) Jennie May Leach, born in Kendall County, Ill. The children of this marriage were: Vivian, Harold, Mary Ruth, and Irvin Lincoln, all at home. Mrs. Kay died in September, 1901. In October, 1902, Mr. Kay married (second) Della Adams, born at Greenville, Ill. No issue. Mrs. Kay died in March, 1904. On January 16, 1907, Mr. Kay married Lida Howe, born at Ober, Ind., and married at Medaryville, Ind. Two sons were born of this marriage: Earle Edward and Howard Glenn. Mr. Kay belongs to the Free Methodists, of which he has been trustee since 1909. In politics, he is a Republican, and is serving his second term as alderman of the Fourth Ward. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the K. O. T. M. both of Morris. A man of energy and keen foresight, he has forged his way to the front, and is universally respected by his wide circle of acquaintances and friends.

**KARNS, Thomas.**—Too much cannot be said in praise of the enterprising Grundy County farmers who have brought their calling up to its present high standing and developed to an

almost perfect condition, the property they own. One of these progressive agriculturists is Thomas Karns of Highland Township, born in County Wexford, Ireland, August 26, 1865, a son of Michael and Mary (Dugan) Karns, both of whom passed away in Ireland where they had been born and reared.

In 1888 Thomas Karns came to Grundy County and began working as a farm hand, thus continuing for three years. For the next twelve years he rented land, but in 1901 was able to buy 120 acres in Highland Township, to which he has since added eighty acres so that he now has 200 acres all of which he operates with very desirable results. Mr. Karns married Bridget Kelley, born in County Wexford, Ireland, who came to the United States in girlhood. Mr. and Mrs. Karns became the parents of three children: George, who is at home; Leo, who is of Bloomington, Ill., and Ella. Mrs. Karns died January 7, 1904, having been a faithful wife and mother. Mr. Karns is a Catholic. Politically he is a Democrat, but has never sought office, being too much occupied with his own affairs.

**KEITH, Fred.**—Not only do many of the most progressive of the Grundy County men carry on agricultural pursuits successfully, but they are also interested in other lines of endeavor, and bring to bear upon all their affairs a broad and determined policy that works out for the betterment of their community generally. One of these farmers and business men of this locality is Fred Keith, of Mazon Township, who owns and operates 150 acres of fertile land, and is treasurer of the Farmers Elevator Company. He was born in his present township, August 26, 1854, a son of Henry and Lucy (Daniels) Keith. The parents were natives of Vermont and New York, respectively, who came first to Grundy County, but later went to Minnesota, where the father died when Fred Keith was nine years old. The mother survived him and afterward married Albert Ishem, and died later in Indiana. They had four children: William, who is deceased; Fred; May and Frank, both of whom are deceased.

Fred Keith was educated in the country schools, and well trained in farm work. When he was twenty-four years old, he began farming on rented land, later buying his present farm on which he carries on general farming. When the Farmers Elevator Company was organized, he was made its treasurer and has held that position ever since. He is a member of the Grundy County Fair Association, and is a recognized authority on agricultural matters. The Masonic lodge affords him fraternal diversion, while politically he is a Republican, and has been school director for two terms, assessor for three terms, and school treasurer for two terms.

On February 24, 1878, by Rev. Ferner of Mazon Township, Mr. Keith was married to Clara Irons, born October 26, 1858, in Mazon Township, and they have one child, now Mrs. Hattie I. Robinson. She was married April 10,



1907, by Rev. Seibert. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have two children: Dorothy K. and Donald F.; and they reside in Mazon.

**KELBEL, Frank J.**—The dignity of labor intelligently performed and well executed is something men are beginning to properly recognize and appreciate. One of the men who has developed a wide-spread reputation for high-class shoeing of horses throughout Grundy County, is Frank J. Kelbel of Morris. He was born at Chicago, in July, 1873, a son of Frank and Catherine (Becker) Kelbel, born in Germany, who came to the United States in their childhood, and married when they grew to maturity. The father was a blacksmith for many years, and for a quarter of a century, had his own shop in Chicago. His death occurred in 1889, and his wife died in 1886.

Living at home until his father died, Frank J. Kelbel received a public school education. He started to learn his trade with his father, but when the latter died, in 1889, he engaged in bottling soda water and thus continued for two and one-half years in Chicago. Then he resumed working at his trade, and completed it and came to Morris in 1898, where he started to work for Charles Weese. In 1905, he bought the business, and is carrying it on, specializing on horseshoeing.

Mr. Kelbel is a member of Trinity German Lutheran Church of Chicago. He belongs to Richard Cole Lodge No. 697, of Chicago, and Morris Lodge No. 198, Knights of Pythias, and twice has represented them at the Grand Lodge. Mr. Kelbel was also Deputy Grand Chancellor of this district, P. O. E. No. 1024, of Morris, and held the office of president from 1900 to 1912. He also belongs to the Fraternal Life Reserve Association No. 42, and the K. O. T. M. of Morris.

A strong Republican, Mr. Kelbel was elected Mayor of Morris, his term expiring in the spring of 1911. During the period he was executive head of the city, Morris enjoyed an era of prosperity and civic development that reflected credit on him and his methods. During the Spanish-American War, he enlisted for service in the First Illinois Cavalry at Chicago, April 28, 1898, and was honorably discharged October 12, 1898. Mr. Kelbel has never married. A man of sterling characteristics, he has proven himself a very desirable citizen, and either in war or peace can be depended upon to do his full duty as he sees it.

**KENNEDY, Joseph P.**—With the almost universal adoption of the automobile as a means of locomotion, has come an insistent and increasing demand for first class repair work, and Grundy County men have not been slow to enter into this line of endeavor. One of those whose name is a synonym for honest and efficient work is Joseph P. Kennedy of Gardner, Ill., who does all kinds of boiler, engine and automobile repairing. He was born in Marion County, Ill., in 1876, a son of James and Melinda

(Jones) Kennedy. The father was born in Alabama and the mother in Indiana. Growing up in his native State, James Kennedy was engaged in agricultural work there until his coming to Illinois in 1864. He located in Marion County and continued his farming, there married, and he and his wife became the parents of eleven children, six of whom survive. Both parents died in Illinois, the father in 1908, and the mother in 1910.

Joseph P. Kennedy was brought up on a farm and there taught lessons of industry and thrift which have never been forgotten. He attended the local schools and assisted his father until he was nineteen years old at which time he entered the machine shops at Decatur, Ala., where he remained for four years. This line of work so suited him that he has continued in it, and in 1907, seeing an opening at Gardner, he came here and worked as an engineer until 1909, when he opened up his business, and now is agent for the Ford and Overland cars, both excellent makes. In addition, he conducts a first class garage and controls the greater part of the business in his several lines for this section.

On March 22, 1910, Mr. Kennedy married Mildred Colstock, born at Gardner, Ill. In politics he is a Republican, but has not gone into public life. Fraternally he is a Mason. His sterling characteristics and business honesty entitle him to the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

**KETCHAM, William.**—A number of the more advanced of Grundy County agriculturists have satisfied themselves by long experiment that it pays to feed their grain to high grade stock which they breed and raise for the market. One of the men who is making a success of grain farming and stock raising, and gaining a well-earned prestige among his associates as a good business man, is William Ketcham of Aux Sable Township. Mr. Ketcham was born at Cheyenne, Wyo., August 18, 1876, son of Frank and Zelda A. (Haight) Ketcham. The father was born at Chesterville, Ohio, and his wife at Burlington, Iowa. The families on both sides went out to Wyoming before any railroad was built through the west, and the parents were married at Cheyenne. They were stock raisers, and the father died on his farm in 1908, the mother surviving him and operating the ranch.

William Ketcham was brought up in Wyoming, where he received a good public school education, and training in agricultural matters. When he was thirty-one years old, he came as far east as Grundy County, Ill., and located in Aux Sable Township. Here he was married in 1906, and began operating a portion of the Newman homestead of 412 acres in this same township. Until the fall of 1911, Mr. and Mrs. Ketcham resided with Mrs. Newman, but at that time moved into their own house built on their part of the farm. Mr. Ketcham has been very successful in his operations and is now largely devoting himself to the raising of grain for his stock.





Clarence Spiller Family.



On September 3, 1906, Mr. Ketcham was married to Carrie Newman, born in Aux Sable Township, daughter of Henry and Magdalena Newman. There have been no children of this marriage. Politically, Mr. Ketcham is a Socialist and looks forward to the time when some of the problems which confront the intelligent man of today, are solved by the application of the remedies advocated by the adherents of his party.

**KIME, Samuel M.**—The agricultural interests of Good Farm Township, Grundy County, are ably represented by Samuel M. Kime, a substantial farmer and a citizen of worth and standing. Mr. Kime was born in La Salle County, Ill., January 2, 1867, the fifth child of Paul and Margaret (Eshenbacher) Kime. They were natives of Neuenburg, Germany, from whence they came to the United States in 1876 and both located in Kendall County, Ill. After their marriage, they removed to La Salle County, where Mr. Kime plied his trade of shoemaker until he was able to purchase a tract of land near Grand Ridge, Ill. After a few years there he sold out and in 1874 came to Good Farm Township, Grundy County, and bought eighty acres of land. Later, he purchased 240 acres in Good Farm Township and eighty acres in Livingston County, and continued to successfully cultivate these farms until his retirement from active pursuits. His wife passed away about 1902, and Mr. Kime died while on a trip to his old home in Germany, in September, 1909. Of their fourteen children, ten are still living.

Samuel Kime received a district school education, and was reared to agricultural pursuits, thus growing to manhood. At the time of his marriage, he rented eighty acres of land from his father, and to this he has added from time to time until today he is the owner of 240 acres of some of the best land to be found in the State. He has erected good buildings, uses modern methods and machinery, and is justly accounted one of his community's most substantial farmer-citizens. General grain farming has received the greater part of his attention and the success which has rewarded his efforts testifies eloquently to his ability. Mr. Kime is now building a fine modern house and substantial outbuildings, including a large silo. For many years Mr. Kime has served in township offices, including those of school director, road commissioner and tax collector. His support is given to the Republican party in political matters, while his fraternal connection is with the Gleaners, among whom he has numerous friends.

On October 12, 1894, Mr. Kime was married to Miss Emma McBain, who was born at Coolidge, Kas., a daughter of George and Emma (Harris) McBain, the former a native of England and the latter of Scotland. Seven children have been born to this union: Effie, Randall, Harvey, Esther, Oliver, Mattie and Willis, and of these Effie died in infancy.

**KIRKENDALL, Lorenzo C.**—Many of the most prosperous farmers of Grundy County combine operation of their land with buying fine stock for the market with profitable results. One of the men who has made his name well known in connection with his stock operations is Lorenzo C. Kirkendall of Braceville Township. He owns a fine farm of 240 acres in Braceville Township, which he devotes to general farming, and at the same time he carries on a large stock business. He was born in Livingston County, Ill., December 20, 1860, being a son of William and Margaret (Clover) Kirkendall, both of whom were born in Indiana, but came to Grundy County in 1851, where the father farmed until he moved to Dwight, Ill., where he died June 14, 1908. His widow still lives at Dwight. They were the parents of five children: George Edwin, Lorenzo C., Belle Harvey, Ella, who is deceased, and Everett E.

Lorenzo C. Kirkendall attended school in Livingston County and remained on the homestead until he was thirty-one years old. In 1892 he rented 320 acres of land in Grundy County, and operated it until he bought his present farm in 1897, on which he has made all the improvements. He has developed his stock business from small beginnings, until now he is one of the leading buyers in this and surrounding counties. On February 16, 1890, Mr. Kirkendall married Nellie Parmenter and they have five children: Clinton, Delmer, Cecil, Fayre and Merle, all at home. The family all belong to the Congregational Church. Mrs. Kirkendall began teaching school in Grundy County when eighteen years of age and taught until she was twenty-three years old. She is a member of the W. R. C. and the Gleaners. A Democrat, Mr. Kirkendall has served as a school director for six years, and secretary of the Adams school. Mrs. Kirkendall has served as a school director for two terms in Braceville Township, and has been superintendent of the Sunday school. They are both influential in the social and educational life of their neighborhood, and their home is a pleasant gathering place for their hosts of friends who are entertained with sincere hospitality.

**KNAPP, Almeron K.**, whose name is closely associated with the development of Minooka, was born in Chenango County, N. Y., in 1836, a son of Simeon Knapp. Recognizing the importance of Minooka as a distributing point, soon after locating in Illinois in 1865, he established himself in a lumber and grain business there, and also gave his support to other enterprises of the community. He married Miss Pamela Griswold. In politics he espoused the principles of the Republican party, although he cast his first vote for Stephen A. Douglas. Early in life he became a Mason and passed through all the degrees.

**KNUDSEN, Nels P.**—Of the Grundy County men who have followed agricultural pursuits and have so prospered that in the evening of life,





they are able to live retired and enjoy the competence brought to them by their years of labor, Nels P. Knudsen, of Good Farm Township, is an example. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark (now a part of Germany), January 9, 1838, and there attended school until the age of eleven years. At that time he commenced to learn the trade of tailor, at which he worked until 1860, and in that year had several months' military experience.

Being ambitious to better his condition, Mr. Knudsen came, in 1867, to the United States, and almost immediately settled in Grundy County, Ill. For a short time he worked at his trade, that of tailoring, in Dwight, then spent one season as a farm hand, and then rented land and farmed for himself until 1872. In that year he purchased eighty acres of land in Good Farm Township, but thirty acres of which had been broken, and at once settled down to develop his farm. He succeeded in making it a handsome and valuable tract, received good returns for his ventures, and through industry and well-directed effort accumulated a competence. In 1906 he retired from business, and since that time has rented out his land. Mr. Knudsen is a Republican in politics, and the religious connection of the family is with the Danish Lutheran Church of Dwight, the movements of which Mr. Knudsen supports liberally.

In the fall of 1867, Mr. Knudsen was married (first) to Kern Lauritsen, who was also born in Denmark, and she died in 1907, without issue. On September 5, 1907, Mr. Knudsen married Mattie H. Baskof, who was born in La Salle County, Ill., and one daughter has been born to them: Kern Christina, born August 23, 1910.

**KRUG, Christie G.**—Within recent years the young men of the agricultural districts have no doubt come to realize more than before, that there is no better line of business for them to follow than that of farming. Various successful experiments in adding to the fertility of the soil, the advance in prices for farm products, the betterment of transportation facilities, and the invention of labor-saving machinery, have all tended towards raising agricultural standards, and the farming communities are holding their best young men as never before. One of those who has been devoting himself to farming in Grundy County is Christie G. Krug, manager of his mother's 160-acre farm in Good Farm Township.

Christie G. Krug was born in Grundy County, in the township now his home, March 24, 1883, a son of Leonard and Christianna (Perchlinke) Krug, both natives of Germany. The father came to the United States in young manhood, and during the Civil War, served as a guard at Morris, Ill., for a period of three months. His death occurred in 1898, on the farm now operated by his son, and he is buried in the German Lutheran Church cemetery in the neighborhood. The mother is living at Dwight, Ill. These parents had thirteen chil-

dren, eleven of whom survive, Christie G. Krug having been one of the youngest of the family. He grew up on the homestead and attended the schools of his district.

On December 23, 1903, Mr. Krug married Riea Fillman, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Griefe, of Good Farm Township. She was born October 20, 1883, in Good Farm Township. Mr. Krug belongs to the German Lutheran Church. In political faith he is very liberal, believing better ends are attained by not holding too close to party lines. He is now serving in his second term as a school director of his township, also tax collector, and during 1913, was one of the judges of election. Fraternally he belongs to the A. O. of Glensires of which he was a charter member, and he has been on the drill team. Owning an automobile and having many modern improvements on his farm, Mr. Krug not only is making a success of his work, but he is enjoying it, and keeps himself thoroughly abreast of the times in every way. He is one of the best examples Grundy County shows of the live, modern agriculturalist of the twentieth century. Mr. Krug raises Holstein cattle, full-blooded Silver Laced Wyandotte chickens, Mammoth Bronze turkeys, and massive Toulouse geese, all of which he shows at agricultural fairs and has taken many prizes.

**KRUG, William Conrad.**—Those who know nothing about farming possess the idea that an agriculturalist leads an easy life, reaping without toil, bountiful crops which yield him a steady and large income. They have no appreciation of the hard labor necessary, which continues from the enriching of the soil in the fall to the garnering in of the harvest the following year. They do not comprehend that farming is a business, a profession, that requires careful training and constant care. The men engaged in this line of work know just what it means when one of their number achieves success, they realize that it has come about through individual effort and good management. One of the men who has attained to prosperity as a farmer is William Conrad Krug, owner of 212 acres of land in Mazon Township, on which he raises corn, oats and wheat. He also buys and feeds cattle and horses and hogs.

William Conrad Krug was born in Good Farm Township May 7, 1875, a son of Leonard G. and Christianna (Perchlinke) Krug, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. Mr. Krug was reared on his father's homestead, and attended the schools of his district, and one term at Dixon College. When he was twenty-two years old he rented a farm and conducted it until 1901, when he bought his present place, which he keeps up to the highest standard. He has fine barns, also a silo, and his property is conceded to be one of the finest farms in the county.

On November 28, 1900, Mr. Krug married Emma K. Roeder. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Voght of Good Farm Town-





GEORGE STALLWITZ



ship. Mrs. Krug was born February 9, 1879, and reared in Good Farm Township. Mr. and Mrs. Krug have had eight children: Marion, who died in infancy; Leonard; Martha, who died in infancy; and Walter; Frank; Erna; Victor and Clarence. The German Lutheran Church holds his membership and receives his support. While he is a Democrat on national matters, he believes in supporting locally the man best fitted for the office. He is interested in the Farmers' Elevator Co. of Mazon; has stock in the County Fair Association; and is school director. He has pronounced musical talent and has played the cornet in bands at Mazon, Gardner and Dwight, and he also plays the violin and the piano.

**LAASE, Frederick Ernest.**—Ownership of land is in itself a good thing but unless the proprietor knows how to cultivate his soil, the profits will not be much. The agriculturalists of Grundy County are, however, in the main, men of experience and practical knowledge and their results are eminently satisfactory. One of these modern farmers is Frederick Ernest Laase, owner of 240 acres of fertile land in Mazon Township, on which he carries on general farming. He was born in Germany in 1860, son of Joseph and Fredericka (Kluppien) Laase. The family came to the United States in 1864, locating in La Salle, Ill., from whence they went to Livingston County where the father died on his farm in 1898, and the mother passed away that same year.

Frederick Ernest Laase attended school in Livingston County and helped his father, remaining at home until he was twenty-five years old. When he attained that age he bought his first land and remained on it for five years, and then went to Chicago where he became a general contractor of street improvements and sidewalks. After three years, however, he returned to Livingston County and farmed until 1900 when he bought his present farm. In 1886 Mr. Laase married Anna Roth, a native of Germany, and they have six children: Walter, Emma, Caroline, Anna, Freddie and Victor. Mr. Laase belongs to the Lutheran Church. Politically he is a Republican and has served as a school director of Mazon Township. His years in business at Chicago gave him valuable experience and he has applied his knowledge to his farm work and has prospered accordingly.

**LAASE, Walter Adolph.**—The Grundy County agriculturalist operates under particularly favorable conditions and for this reason the holding of farming land is considered a good investment. One of the leading men engaged in farming here is Walter Adolph Laase, owner of eighty acres of land in Good Farm Township, upon which he raises corn, oats, horses, cattle and hogs with desirable results. He was born at Chicago February 13, 1884, a son of William and Bertha (Groth) Laase. Growing up in the metropolis of his birth, he was given the educational advantages afforded

by the public schools there, and after finishing his course in them, he learned to make sash, doors and blinds. In 1909, however, he decided to turn his attention in a different direction, and moved on his present farm, upon which he has made all his improvements, developing a valuable property that is yielding returns on his investment.

On May 20, 1908, Mr. Laase was married by Rev. Miller, of Chicago, Ill., to Minnie Roeder of Good Farm Township, a daughter of Balzer and Maria (Truwest) Roeder. Mrs. Roeder is deceased. Mr. Roeder is a farmer in Good Farm Township. One child, Raymond William, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Laase, August 16, 1910. Mr. Laase is a Republican in his political opinions, but has never sought public office. He holds membership in the Lutheran Church, and is generous in his donations to it. Although for some years he devoted himself to a business that kept him indoors, Mr. Laase has proven his fitness for the outdoor life of a farmer. His neighbors hold him in high esteem because of his many good qualities.

**LAMSON, S. Clifford.**—The substantiality of the business interests of Morris is evinced by the individuals who are conserving them. There are here gathered as fine a class of business men as can be found in any community of similar size in the country, and one of them is S. Clifford Lamson, who is in the tin and sheet metal line. Mr. Lamson was born at Neoga, Cumberland County, Ill., July 30, 1869, a son of Thomas D. and Caroline (Hildreth) Lamson, natives of Switzerland County, Ind. Thomas D. Lamson was a carpenter by trade. During the Civil War he served his country in the Third Indiana Cavalry, and was a brave and efficient soldier. After the close of the war, he moved to Illinois where he engaged in a wagonmaking business, and later on in life was a hardware merchant at Cowden, Ill. He died in the spring of 1908, his wife having passed away in 1877.

After the death of his mother the home was broken up, and S. Clifford Lamson lived with his paternal grandmother until he was fourteen years old. At that age he returned to his father, and attended school until he was sixteen years old, when he began working for himself on farms, thus continuing for two years. At that time he began learning the tin-smithing trade at Serena, Ill., there remaining until 1892. Following that date he worked at his trade at different points throughout Illinois, and in January, 1903, located at Morris, to engage with Cronin Bros., as tinner, having charge of their tin shop. On Nov. 1, 1911, he embarked in a tin and sheet metal business for himself, and has built up a very fine business, gives employment to two men and his contracts are increasing, as his work is entirely satisfactory in every respect.

On June 15, 1892, Mr. Lamson was married to Ida B. McInturf of Serena, Ill., a daughter of Adolph McInturf. Mr. and Mrs. Lamson are the parents of two children: Gail Clifford, who



was born November 8, 1896; and Leila Mildred, who was born May 28, 1900. Politically Mr. Lauson is a Republican, but as yet he has not been active in public matters as he has centered his efforts on his private affairs.

**LANDPHERE, Allen De Witt.**—The most intelligent men of the country realize the dignity and importance of agricultural pursuits and many of them not only give their time and attention to cultivating the soil, but are investing heavily in farm lands in different parts of the United States. One of the progressive men of Grundy County who has secured very satisfactory results as a farmer and stockman, is Allen De Witt Landphere, proprietor of Pleasant View farm, and owner of 320 acres of valuable land in Mazon Township, this county, and 480 acres of land in Oklahoma. Mr. Landphere was born in Mazon Township, Grundy County, in 1882, a son of Perry and Rhoda (Jackson) Landphere, both natives of New York State. The father came to Grundy County in childhood, his people being among the earliest settlers of Mazon Township. Here he died in 1911, the mother having passed away in 1898. They had two children: one who died unnamed in infancy; and Allen De Witt.

Allen De Witt Landphere was reared on his father's homestead and sent to the local schools. His life has been spent in agricultural work, and he has every reason to be proud of what he has accomplished. On his Mazon farm he raises corn, feeds cattle, raises mules for sale, and is a breeder of pure bred Holstein Friesian cattle. His property is known as the Pleasant View farm, which name is very appropriate as from the residence a beautiful landscape is enrolled to view. In 1903 Mr. Landphere was married to Bess S. Randall, and they have two children: Majorie Randall and Maxwell Jackson. Mr. Landphere belongs to the Masons, while politically he is a Republican. He is as highly regarded throughout Grundy County where his ability and business acumen are appreciated and respected.

**LARSON, Henry M.**—Morris affords opportunities for progressive men in many varied lines, and attracts to it some of the best business minds in the county. One of the men of the County Seat who has done exceptionally well both in a real estate business and as an auctioneer is Henry M. Larson. He was born in Fox Township, Kendall County, Ill., December 25, 1858, a son of L. and Mary (Henderson) Larson of Bergen, Norway. They went to Kendall County about 1850, there securing government land to the extent of 160 acres for which they paid \$1.25 per acre. At the time they located upon it, the farm was raw prairie land, but the father improved it, erecting the necessary buildings and farmed it for many years. Both he and his wife are still living, and are very active in spite of their advanced years. Their children were: L. N., who is on the old homestead; Sarah, who died in 1881;

Henry M.; Lewis, who is of Dallas, Tex., where he is a horse trainer; Lyna, who is Mrs. L. S. Shurson of Lisbon, Kendall County; Mary, who is with her parents and Rachel, who is Mrs. Olie Surson of Driscoll, N. D.

Henry M. Larson resided with his parents until 1883, when he and a comrade drove with a team and buggy to Iowa, then on to Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Black Hills of Dakota. After a trip of two years, Mr. Larson returned to his home, and soon thereafter began auctioneering, and handling real estate. In order to better carry on these two lines he moved to Morris where he has since resided. He has cried sales all over this part of Illinois and in Iowa. Mr. Larson handles real estate, specializing on western lands, and farming property in Iowa and Illinois, and has succeeded very well in all he has undertaken.

On November 22, 1888, Mr. Larson was married to Annie Olson, born in Big Grove Township, Kendall County, Ill., a daughter of Gunner and Mary Olson, natives of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have had the following family: Silas J., who is a veterinary surgeon of Livingston, Mont.; Ida Mae, who is at home; and Arthur, who died in 1906, aged eight and one-half years. Mr. Larson belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Bethlehem Church. A Republican, he has been County Constable, and is a man upon whom every dependence can be placed.

**LARSON, Lars H.**, proprietor of one of the leading furniture houses of Grundy County, and a first class undertaker, is one of the responsible residents and business men of Gardner. He was born in Grundy County, Ill., in 1866, a son of Henry Larson, a native of Norway, who came to Morris, Ill., in 1866. Henry Larson was a carpenter in his native land, and continued to work at his trade after coming to Morris, until he began farming, and then alternated, giving his farm attention during the summer months, and working as a carpenter in the winter. He is now living retired at Gardner, Ill., his wife also surviving, as is his mother, a venerable lady of ninety-six years. Henry Larson had eight children, five of whom survive: Lars H., Helen, Ole, Katie, Michael, Elizabeth (1) and Elizabeth (11), who are both deceased; and Johan, who died at the age of eight years.

Lars H. Larson was born on the homestead and attended the neighboring schools in Greenfield Township. He remained with his parents until twenty-two years old when he began working at the carpenter trade, thus continuing until 1902, when he established himself in his present business with a partner whom he bought out in 1909, since which time he has continued alone. Mr. Larson carries a full and assorted line of wall paper, window shades, curtain fixtures, carpets, oil cloths, linoleums, sewing and washing machines, paints and oils, in addition to furniture of all kinds, while in his undertaking establishment he is fully prepared to render professional service whenever called on.





In 1894 Mr. Larson was united in marriage with Mary Christianson, who was born in Norway and came to the United States by herself. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have had three children: Henry, Alice and Leonard. The eldest son is a graduate of Worsham Embalming School of Chicago, Ill., and has charge of the undertaking department of his father's establishment. Mr. Larson belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Gardner, of which he has been a trustee for three years, and treasurer for ten years, still retaining these positions. Politically he is a Republican, but has not desired public office. A man of skill in his profession, and carrying on his business upon broad and honorable lines, he has won and retains the full confidence of his fellow townsmen.

**LARSEN, Tollef.**—Morris is not only the county seat of Grundy County but it is also the home of some of the most substantial of its retired farmers who seek here urban advantages and rest from their former arduous labors. These men have the time and leisure to devote to civic matters, and are therefore a desirable addition to any community. One of these is Tollef Larsen, a good representative of the Norse-Americans of the country. He was born near Nord, Norway, in 1858. His parents died in that locality, having never left it.

When Tollef Larsen was twenty-five years old he left Norway and coming to the United States, located at Morris, Ill., from whence he went out into the adjoining rural regions to work for the farmers, thus continuing for about six years. He then worked various farms on shares for Hendley Hoge of Nettie Creek Township, remaining with him for nine years, when he went to work under the same terms for James Johnson. In 1905 he bought a lot on East Jefferson Street, Morris, and built a residence which has since continued to be his home, he now living here in retirement.

On July 20, 1891, Mr. Larsen married Anna Margaret Hanson, born at Stavanger, Norway, October 10, 1861. Her parents died in Norway and she came to the United States, first settling in Fillmore county, Minn., remaining there from 1885 to 1889, when she came to Morris and worked for families here until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Larsen have had no children. He belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Church towards which he contributes. Politically he is a Republican but he has not desired office. A good, reliable, industrious man he has honestly earned all he has and commands the confidence and respect of those who know him.

**LEACH, John H.**—It perhaps might be kind if instead of waiting until a veteran of the Civil War has answered to the eternal roll call, popular opinion regarding the value of his services were expressed during his lifetime. Such appreciation is due the heroes of the greatest conflict history had then known, and ought to be

accorded every man who belonged to the "Boys in Blue." One of the honored veterans of Grundy County is John H. Leach, now living retired at Morris. He was born in Marshall County, W. Va., December 12, 1838, a son of Greenbury and Mary (Stamm) Leach, natives of West Virginia. The father was a farmer and early settler in West Virginia, where he died in 1841. His widow married (second) Robert Murry, also a farmer, and died in West Virginia in 1899.

After his father's death John H. Leach was taken by a cousin, John Harvey, of West Virginia, and lived with him until 1859, when he came to Morris. He learned the carpenter trade and followed it for thirty-six years. On June 16, 1861, Mr. Leach enlisted in Company K, Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, known as the Joliet Company, and served in many important engagements, including General Sherman's famous march to the sea. On July 25, 1865, he received his honorable discharge, having been a brave and gallant soldier. On November 5, 1877, Mr. Leach was married to Caroline (Goodman) Bassett, born in Pennsylvania, daughter of William G. and Mary J. (Crandall) Goodman, natives of Canada and Cattaraugus County, N. Y., and widow of Peter Bassett. By her first marriage, Mrs. Leach had four children: William, of Joliet; and Thomas, Maud and Clara, all deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Leach have had the following children: George L., of Morris; Benjamin H., of Joliet; Ada, Mrs. A. C. Frick, of Morris, who has one child, Claudia; and Addie, who died in infancy. In religious faith Mr. Leach is a Methodist, and politically, is a Republican. He belongs to the Carpenters Union, and the G. A. R. Post of Morris. Upright, honorable, loyal, true as steel to his friends, Mr. Leach is highly respected by a wide circle.

**LEACH, Samuel J.**, one of the substantial retired business men and farmers of Morris, is rounding out an active life by spending his declining years in the ease and comfort his own industry have provided. He was born in Nettie Creek Township, Grundy County, July 12, 1856, a son of Samuel and Mary (Livey) Leach, natives of Lancashire, England, who came to Morris, Ill., in the early forties. The father was a farmer and came to the United States to seek better opportunities, which he found in the new home, and was able to buy 160 acres of land in Nettie Creek Township several years after his arrival. He died on his homestead in 1892. The mother added forty acres to the original holdings, and remained upon the farm until 1879, when she moved to Morris, and there died in January, 1883. She and her husband had the following children: Martha, who is deceased; Helen, who is the widow of Thomas Caisley of Morris; Mary H., who is Mrs. D. A. Matthews, of Morris; John E., who is of Vermillion County, Ill.; and Samuel J.

Samuel J. Leach was brought up on the farm and sent to the district school. He resided with



his mother after the others had left home, but when he married he went on the farm owned by his father-in-law, and there lived until 1903, when he removed to Morris, where he has since lived retired. In addition to his farming operations, covering many years, with a partner, E. C. Thompson, he established a flourishing agricultural implement business at Lisbon, Ill., but seven years later sold his interest to Mr. Thompson.

On December 25, 1882, Mr. Leach was married to Mary E. Hoyle, born in Nettle Creek Township, May 19, 1855, daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Ashton) Hoyle, natives of England. Mrs. Leach attended the Lisbon academy. A member of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Leach has served it as a trustee since 1901. A Republican, on that ticket he was elected road commissioner and served six years. His fraternal affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors. Having now the time and opportunity, he is interesting himself in civic matters, and is lending his influence as a private citizen, to secure a betterment of existing conditions.

**LEWINS, William**, one of the substantial men and successful miners of Coal City, who has filled the office of supervisor of Felix Township since April, 1911, is a man who knows how to represent his fellow workmen because he is one of them. His influence among the miners is strong, and he wields it for a good purpose and for the bettering of existing conditions. Mr. Lewins was born in Durham County, England, in 1870, a son of Martin and Elizabeth (Mills) Lewins. Both parents were born in the same county as their son. The father was engaged in operating some newly opened mines in England, prior to 1887, when he came to the United States. He located in Alabama, where he worked as a stone mason and his family joined him in 1888. Alabama continued to be their home until 1892, when the father went to Joliet to work in the wire mills there. He is now living at Hot Springs, Ark., where he is working as a stone mason. The children in his family were: Samuel; Mary Lewis, who is deceased; William; Martha Harding; John Thomas, who is deceased; Elizabeth Heiman; Thomas M.; Gertrude; and James, who is deceased.

William Lewins attended the public schools of his native place until he was twelve years old, and then entered the mines, where he worked as shipping clerk for the company, and was employed also in a stone quarry. In 1893 he came to Coal City and here entered the mines where he has been employed ever since. He is an important factor in the Mine Workers Union, of which he has been secretary for eight years. While he works at Coal City, his place of residence is at Eileen, where he has held the office of village clerk for ten years. For five years he has been on the school board of Felix Township, and was the successful candidate for

the office of supervisor from the township in 1911.

On December 31, 1896, Mr. Lewins was married to Martha Betts, born in England, who came to Coal City in 1884 with her mother to join her father who had come here in 1881. Mrs. Lewins is a daughter of Andrew Betts, who is now a guard in the Joliet penitentiary. Mrs. Betts is living in Coal City. Mr. and Mrs. Lewins have had four children: Myrtle, Russell, William L. and Hazel, of whom William L. is deceased. The family are Episcopallians. Fraternally, Mr. Lewins belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows. In political faith, he is a Republican and has done yeoman service for his party. He is one of the live men of this locality.

**LINDSAY, William D.**—The gradual advance of the present prosperous Grundy County agriculturalists, tells the story of earnest effort along progressive lines which have given them the ownership of fertile farms and a high standing in their communities. One of the men who deservedly belongs to this class is William D. Lindsay of Vienna Township. He was born in this township, December 13, 1865, a son of Robert S. and Elizabeth J. (Lindsay) Lindsay, natives of Glasgow, Scotland, and Utica, N. Y., respectively. Robert S. Lindsay came to Canada with his parents in 1842, but in 1850, left Canada for Morris, Ill. Later he spent several years in Kendall County, Ill., from whence he came to Vienna Township, Grundy County, purchasing eighty acres on section 30, which he immediately began to improve. As he became able he added land until he owned 240 acres, of which 100 acres were on section 30, and eighty acres on section 33. His death occurred April 2, 1899, his widow surviving him until September 5, 1902. The children of these parents were as follows: Mary E., who is Mrs. W. W. Bachlor of Vienna Township; Ella R., who is Mrs. P. G. Gingerich of Vienna Township, and William D.

In addition to attending the schools of his neighborhood, William D. Lindsay took a course at the Geneseo Normal, and is a well informed man. He resided with his parents, operating the homestead for them until 1893 when he bought the 160 acre farm on Section 33, jointly with his father, and in addition to conducting it, operated the remainder of the original home farm. In 1911, he bought eighty acres more of the homestead from his sister, who had inherited it, and now has as fine a property as can be found in the State. On it he carries on general farming, specializing on raising Duroc-Jersey hogs, and has been more than ordinarily successful.

On September 9, 1896, Mr. Lindsay married Sophie J. Weber, born in Jackson County, Ohio, a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Dixon) Weber, natives of Ohio, who came to Livingston County, Ill., about 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay have a daughter, Ada R., who was born March 8, 1900. Mr. Lindsay has always been





*Eli Stocker*



a staunch Republican, and has served as road commissioner, assessor and in other township offices. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and is favorably known not only in this order, but to the people at large throughout Grundy County.

**LINN, Clarissa (Pangborn).**—Of old and distinguished family and of long residence in Grundy County, Mrs. Clarissa Linn is highly deserving of place in this connection. She was born in Syracuse, N. Y., December 13, 1835, a daughter of Moses and Catherine (Sitterley) Pangborn, both of Albany County, N. Y. Prior to her marriage to Peter Bradt, she lived with her parents, but later went to Waupoosee Township, Grundy County, where her husband, though a contractor and builder by trade, commenced farming. The history of the Bradt family in America dates back to 1650, when Andrew Bradt left Holland to make his home in the wilderness of the newly organized New York Colony. After some forty years of successful struggle against the adversities of pioneering, he lost his life in the great Schenectady massacre, and his infant son, who was saved by his mother's forethought in wrapping him in a shawl and hiding him under a hedge fence, was left as the sole survivor of the family. He later grew to manhood, and from him the name has been handed down. Peter Bradt added materially to the stock of family history and traditions, when, during the Civil War, he fought, first with Company C, Eleventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, later with Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded, twice made prisoner, the last time in Libby Prison, and was finally honorably discharged after rendering most useful service for the cause. Peter Bradt died in December, 1873, leaving behind him two sons, Benjamin and James, who died at the age of seventeen and four respectively. His widow was subsequently married on the 13th of December, 1874, to Alexander Linn, born in Washington County, Penn., a son of Moses and Nancy (Spear) Linn, likewise natives of Washington County. His mother was an own cousin of President James Buchanan. His father was extensively engaged in farming in Pennsylvania. Alexander Linn came to Illinois in 1868, and secured a splendid farming property in Waupoosee Township, where he engaged in stock raising very profitably. In September, 1881, he died, and, as his only son, Alexander, Jr., had not lived beyond his fourth year, his wife was left alone, owning the handsome estate.

Mrs. Linn still lives on the old homestead, her nephews operating the farm, and the proceeds provide for her more than an ample sustenance. She is indeed a very admirable woman, and her friends, who are many in number, unite in wishing for her the very ripest of silver years. Martin Bradt has now in his possession the family Coat of Arms, which was brought to this country by Andrew Bradt, and which is a very highly treasured heirloom.

**LIPPOLD, Herman Frederick.**—Were it not for the intelligent, capable, progressive agriculturalists of the rural regions the people of this and other countries that look to us as a source of supply, would fare badly. As the farmer prospers, so does the rest of the world. He feeds the rest of the people. From his acres come the cotton, the flax, the wool and the tobacco. His farms once yielded perhaps vast outputs of timber. Keeping all this in view there is every reason why the intelligent men of Grundy County should give so much attention to agricultural matters. This part of the State is admirably adapted to farming purposes, particularly is Good Farm Township, and one of the men who owns a desirable property here is Herman Frederick Lippold. He is carrying on general farming on Sections 14 and 15 where he has eighty-three acres of fertile land, and is enjoying a well earned prosperity. Mr. Lippold was born in Germany, September 11, 1859, a son of Christian and Minnie (Rose) Lippold. The father was a weaver in his native land, but after he brought his family to this country in 1870, settling at Aurora, he worked in a foundry for two years. At the expiration of that period he went to Kendall County, Ill., and conducted a farm until his death in 1855. He is buried in Kendall County, where the mother, who survived him until 1893, is also interred. They had nine children, six of whom survive.

Herman Frederick Lippold went to school in Germany until he was eleven years old, and then worked as a weaver. After coming to Kendall County, he gave his father valuable assistance on the farm, remaining at home until he was twenty-two years old. In 1900 he came to Grundy County which has since continued to be his home, where he has developed into one of its substantial men. When he was twenty-four years old he married Louise Bretthauer of Kendall County, and they had three children: Albert, Fred and Lydia. The first Mrs. Lippold died twenty-five years ago while they were living in Kendall County. In 1887, Mr. Lippold married Catherine Kriz, who was born in Grundy County, Ill., and died in September, 1909, and they had four children: Edna, Alma, Amanda and Margaret, the last named dying in infancy. Mr. Lippold belongs to the German Lutheran Church. Politically he is a Republican and has been road commissioner for two years.

**LLOYD, William Deland (deceased).**—Not only do men's deeds live after them, but the material evidences of their industry and thrift which have resulted in prosperity. Many of the substantial residents of Morris owe their present comfort to the efforts of those who have passed out of this life. The late William Deland Lloyd not only was an efficient farmer and business man, but while living made provision for his widow and children, and this thoughtfulness is remembered by his loved ones, who deeply honor his memory, and deplore his loss. Mr. Lloyd





was born in Oneida County, N. Y., March 28, 1825, a son of William Riley and Lucy (Deland) Lloyd, natives of Massachusetts and New York State respectively. When Mr. Lloyd was one year old, the family migrated to Chautauqua County, N. Y., where his boyhood was spent. He worked with his father until fifteen years old, when he began to support himself. In 1853, the family came to Morris, where the parents bought land, living upon it until they died.

For four years following his marriage, William Deland Lloyd lived in Chautauqua County, N. Y., and then came west to Kendall County, Ill., where he bought a farm, and operated it until 1888, when he moved to Morris, and lived retired until his demise, November 24, 1910. His widow has lived at their home in Morris ever since. On January 5, 1853, Mr. Lloyd was married to Julia Atwater Abbott, born at Clinton, Oneida County, N. Y., November 4, 1830, a daughter of Samuel W. and Ursula (Bryan) Abbott, natives of Massachusetts and New York State, respectively. Mr. Abbott died in Clinton, N. Y., and his widow lived with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd until her death at Morris, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd had children as follows: Herbert, who died at the age of four years; Maynard, who died at the age of one year; Lucy, who is Mrs. June Hubbard of Kendall County, Ill., and Elva, who is Mrs. William Elarding of Montana. Mr. Lloyd belonged to the Congregational Church. In politics he was a Republican. His life was an upright one, and he always endeavored to give to all a square deal. His record as a farmer and citizen was a fine one, and he was always highly respected in any community in which he lived.

**LORD, Lucius N.**—While a number of the substantial farmers of Grundy County have retired either to the County Seat or one or other of the towns adjacent to their property, many of them still retain the land from which they made their money, believing the investment is about as good as any they could make. One of the men who is thus displaying his faith in the future of Grundy County farm land is Lucius N. Lord of Morris. He was born in Oswego County, N. Y., February 7, 1831, a son of Davis and Clarissa (Lake) Lord, natives of England and Vermont, respectively. Mrs. Lord witnessed the battle of New Orleans which was the last engagement of the War of 1812. When Davis Lord was a lad, he was brought from England to New York State by his parents, and there he was married. Until 1842, he was engaged in farming in that State, but then came on west to Grundy County, Ill., by way of the great lakes to Chicago, and thence by wagon to Kendall County, where he had obtained land by trading New York State property for it.

Lucius N. Lord was educated in the district schools of his native place, and was taught farming from his childhood. On August 1, 1852, he married Catherine E. McFarlan, born in Eastbrook, Pa., daughter of James and Rosanna (Davidson) McFarlan, who came to Illinois in

1850. After his marriage, Mr. Lord bought a farm of 130 acres in Big Grove Township, Kendall County, Ill., and one of 140 acres in Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, and resided on both at different times, but later disposed of them and bought another farm in Mazon Township, consisting of 170 acres which he still owns, and one of 180 acres in Saratoga Township, renting his land to others. In 1867 he came to Morris, and has since lived retired. Mr. and Mrs. Lord became the parents of one daughter,—Clara, who married H. G. Gorham an important farmer and merchant of Wauponsee Township. Mrs. Lord is a Christian Scientist, and takes a great deal of comfort in her religious belief. Politically Mr. Lord is a Republican, but although he has always done a man's duty in casting his vote, he has not cared to enter public life as an official. Widely known, and universally respected, Mr. Lord is an excellent type of the older resident of this locality who can remember when conditions were radically different. He owns his residence at Morris, where he welcomes his many friends, his hospitable views being shared by his wife.

**LOTT, Edward Lloyd.**—Some men are specially fitted for a business life, their ability and inclination aiding them in the transaction of various deals by means of which they advance their interests. In so doing they also assist in the increasing of the commercial importance of their communities and the general advancement of material prosperity. One of the men who for many years has been largely interested in various enterprise, but is now living retired from business life at Morris, is Edward Lloyd Lott. Mr. Lott was born at Warren, Ohio, July 16, 1845, son of Lewis P. and Delia L. (Clark) Lott, the former born at Trumansburg, N. Y., and the latter at Philadelphia. The father was in a general wool business in Warren, Ohio, from whence he went to Cleveland and became the proprietor of a newspaper in partnership with a Mr. Sanford. Some years later, he moved to Racine, Wis., and still later to Morris, where he opened a general store and conducted it many years. He became circuit clerk and held that office for four years. In time, he bought land in the southern part of Grundy County and rented it. For some years prior to his death, he lived retired at Morris, where he passed away April 22, 1885. His widow died in November, 1906, aged eighty-five years and three months. Lewis P. Lott was a man of honorable principles.

Edward Lloyd Lott embarked in a drug business at Grand Tower, Ill., but in 1883 sold his interests, having in the meanwhile acquired considerable property. He then bought a stock of drugs and conducted a store at Morris for five years. In 1890 he traded this property for a half section of land in Lyon County, Iowa. Since that time, he has disposed of this land at a large profit, and is now living retired at Morris. In addition to 240 acres of land in Wauponsee Township, Mr. Lott owns consider-





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able property in Morris, and is a man of large means. He has never married. Fraternally, Mr. Lott is a Mason, having served the local Blue Lodge as secretary for twenty years, and Orient Chapter in the same office for an equal length of time. For many years he has been a Knight Templar, belonging to Blaney Commandery. He attends the Congregational Church. Politically he is a Republican, and has served as city treasurer of Grand Tower for four years. Since coming to Morris, he has held many minor offices, and for twenty years has been treasurer of Evergreen Cemetery.

An uncle of Mr. Lott, Dr. A. F. Hand, was a very prominent physician of Morris, and one of the first of his profession to locate here. He was born at Barrabees Point, Vt., July 11, 1816, and in 1847 came to Morris. Dr. Hand was a graduate of the Jacksonville (Illinois) Medical College and a man eminent in his calling.

**LOTT, Lewis P.** (deceased), for a number of years a merchant of Morris, was born at Covert, N. Y., in 1813, a son of Zephaniah and Permilla (Thelps) Lott, and in 1848, located at Morris which continued to be his home, and the scene of his business successes. In addition to extensive operations as a merchant, Mr. Lott was connected with the agricultural interests of the county, owning at one time 200 acres of improved land, and he also invested in Morris realty. He served as Deputy Clerk for eight years, and was Alderman, Superintendent of Public Schools, School Treasurer, Supervisor, serving as chairman of the board for many years, and Justice of the Peace, being elected on the Republican ticket to all these offices. He was a Baptist in religious faith, and fraternally belonged to the Masons and Odd Fellows. Mr. Lott was married at Cleveland, Ohio, February 22, 1844, to Delia Lloyd, and they had four children, but only one, Edward L., lived to maturity.

**LOUIS, Joseph.**—No man is promoted to a responsible position in which he has to take charge of a large body of men, unless he possesses more than ordinary ability along many lines, including the power to control others through his personality. The superintendent of the Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion mines, Joseph Louis, is one of the most efficient, practical miners of Grundy County, and has held his present important position since July, 1906, having been assistant superintendent for the two preceding years, his promotion being due entirely to merit. Prior to 1904, he held the position of weighmaster and top foreman, for fourteen years. His connection with this company, however, dates further back than that, for it was in 1885 when he first became associated with it at Braidwood, as a laborer.

Joseph Louis was born in Germany, in 1864, a son of Joseph and Victoria (Duffner) Louis, the latter of whom died in 1877, and the former in 1883, both passing away in Germany, where the father was a successful merchant.

When thirteen years old, Joseph Louis was placed at college, from which he was graduated, and began teaching school. In 1881 he left his native land for the United States, and came to Chicago, Ill., where, in spite of his educational advantages, he had to work as a gardener, six months afterward coming to Wilmington, Ill., where, for three years he was variously engaged. He then entered the employ of his present company at Braidwood, since which time his progress has been steady, and always well deserved.

In 1886 Mr. Louis married Anna Jelinek, born in Germany, who came to this country at the age of thirteen years. Nine children have been born of this marriage, six of whom survive: Susie J., who is the wife of Peter Borella; and Maggie, Emma A., Victoria, and Carrie and Lilly. The other three all died in infancy. Mr. Louis belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, No. 648 of Braidwood, and the Knights of Pythias No. 85, of Braidwood, while he is also a member of Braidwood Lodge, A. F. & A. M. No. 704, Wilmington Chapter, R. A. M., No. 42, and the Blaney Commandery, K. T., No. 5, Morris. Politically he is a Republican and has been president and clerk of the school board for nine years at South Wilmington. In addition to other interests, Mr. Louis owns his home at South Wilmington. He is an efficient man and good citizen and stands high in public favor.

**MAGNER, Morris Knight.**—Some men are fitted to rise in one direction, and others in a different line. Each avenue of endeavor requires certain requisites, and any man who mounts ahead of others, deserves commendation. One of the men whose activities in the Masonic order have made him known all over the State, is Morris Knight Magner, of Morris, Ill., who is also a good business man, and has held political office with creditable capability. Mr. Magner was born at Woodhull, Ill., July 1, 1867, a son of William C. and Maria E. (Stevenson) Magner. When he was nineteen years old, Mr. Magner's parents moved to Morris, while he was attending Wabash College, at Crawfordsville, Ind., from which institution of learning, he was graduated in 1888. On coming to Morris he was appointed deputy Circuit clerk of Grundy County, and after four years of useful service, went to Joliet, where he was employed in a banking capacity, and was also at the Illinois Steel Company's mills, while in that city two years. Coming back to Morris, he associated himself with the Woelfel Leather Company, which concern was founded by his father-in-law, in 1862.

On May 10, 1892, Mr. Magner was married to Anna L. Woelfel, born at Morris, daughter of George and Margaret (Flack) Woelfel, natives of Germany. The children born of this union have been: Philip G., Margaret S., Dorothy L., Helen M., Elsa M., and Morris K., Jr. Mr. Magner is a Presbyterian and served as superintendent of the Sunday school from 1902 to 1906, and an efficient teacher in it at present.



He was president of the school board for five years, and prior to his elevation to this office, had been a member of the board for one term. Mr. Magner is a Mason, belonging to Cedar Lodge, A. F. & A. M., No. 121; Orient Chapter No. 31; Blancy Commandery No. 5, and the Eastern Star, and is Past Master of the Blue Lodge, and Past High Priest and Past Commander of the Commandery. A man of much ability, he possesses a pleasing personality that makes friends wherever he goes, and has contributed largely towards the success of his order in Grundy County.

**MAGNER, William Campbell.**—Although many of the stirring events preceding the outbreak of the Civil War seem far away in the dim past to the rising generation, there are many men still living who distinctly remember when they occurred, and the powerful effect they had upon the country. One of these representative citizens of Grundy County whose recollections are valuable to the student of history, is William Campbell Magner of Morris. He was born in Orleans, Ind., October 21, 1837, a son of John A. and Sarah (Campbell) Magner, natives of Bourbon and Clark Counties, Ky. The paternal grandparents, William and Mary (Hopkins) Magner, were natives of Indiana; while the maternal grandparents, Robert and Mary (Key) Campbell, were born in Scotland and Maryland, respectively. All were among the pioneers of Kentucky. Mr. Campbell was a slaveholder, but freed his slaves long before the Civil War, as he believed it contrary to his religious principles to hold them. He was a Presbyterian, as were all the other members of his family, and those of the Magner family as well.

John A. Magner and Sarah Campbell were married at Orleans, Ind., where Mr. Magner was a farmer, owning considerable land. In March, 1852, however, he moved to Paris, Ill., and two years later entered land in what is now Douglas County, which, at that time was undeveloped prairie. After five years on this new farm, he moved to Arcola, where he bought ten acres and lived until his death, in 1871. His wife had passed away in 1859, having borne her husband five sons and four daughters, of whom William C. was the eldest son and second child.

William C. Magner was given more liberal educational advantages than come to some, for after he had attended the common schools, he was sent to the Paris Academy in 1856, and later to Washington College, Pa., from which he was graduated in 1860. Following this, he taught school in Mississippi, being there during the disturbing period preceding the Civil War, and was forced to serve for three months in a Mississippi company of infantry, but at the expiration of that time, he was able to get through the lines to Paris, Ill., where he enlisted in Company E, Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Although he enlisted as a private, he was promoted in October, 1861, to be second lieutenant, and in April of the following year

was advanced to be first lieutenant. At this time he was detailed into the United States Signal Service. Mr. Magner had the misfortune to be wounded by a gun shot in the right foot during the battle of Shiloh. He received his honorable discharge August 6, 1861, and returned to Paris, Ill. For the two years following his return, Mr. Magner was principal of Edgar Academy, at Paris, and during this time he was preparing himself for the ministry, and was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Palestine in April, 1863. His first charge was at Woodhull, Ill., where he remained six years, and for the following four years he was in charge of the church at Carthage. For the next four years, he was in charge of the church at Onarga, when he was called to Rossville, Ill., where he spent six useful years in pastoral work. For the next twelve years he was pastor of the church at Morris, when he retired, being installed as pastor emeritus.

After the siege and surrender of Vicksburg, Mr. Magner was granted a furlough home, and on August 13, 1863, he was married to Maria E. Stevenson, born April 3, 1843, at Philadelphia, Pa., daughter of John and Susan (Meyer) Stevenson, natives of Ireland and Pennsylvania. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Magner have been: Claude S., who lives in Chicago; Morris K., who lives in Morris; Sue S., who is at home; Sarah J., who is now Mrs. Dr. Frank A. Palmer of Morris; Willard C., who is postmaster of Morris; Harold, who died at the age of nineteen years; Joseph G., who lives at Morris; and Paul E., who is an inspector in the navy yard at Bremerton, Wash. Mr. and Mrs. Magner celebrated their golden wedding Aug. 13, 1913.

Mr. Magner once served as collector of Morris on the Republican ticket. He is a Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery Mason. Many of the experiences of Mr. Magner are very interesting to hear related, for he had the pleasure of listening to the famous Lincoln and Douglas debate, at Charleston, Ill., and has met eight Presidents of the United States, having known Grant and Harrison personally. He saw and heard the famous Kentuckian, Henry Clay, and remembers well the election of William Henry Harrison. In 1874 Mr. Magner took a trip to Europe, and he has been in twenty-eight States of the Union, so his travels have been many and spread over a wide territory. In 1895 his book, entitled "Better Bible Study," was published and met with a gratifying reception. In his declining years Mr. Magner's life is made happy by his family, which consists of his wife, children and fourteen grandchildren. His life has been a very useful one, and he can look back with satisfaction upon it for he has never neglected a duty or failed to carry out any task imposed upon him, although at times his responsibilities have been heavy. A learned man, he yet knew how to get to the hearts of the simplest of his congregations, and was one of the most beloved pastors his churches ever knew.





**MAHON, William.**—Perhaps no calling permits of so early a retirement as that of farming, but then few exact so much from those who labor. The farmer exposed as he is to all the changes of weather and forced to overwork in season, wears out sooner than one who can regulate his hours and protect himself from the elements. However as it may be, it is certain that there are more men of substance who have earned their wealth from agricultural pursuits in Grundy County, than in any other way, and one who is specially deserving of mention in this connection is William Mahon of Waupunsee Township, now living retired upon his farm which he rents to his sons. Mr. Mahon was born in Ontario, Canada, June 4, 1838, a son of Thomas and Maria (Towriss) Mahon, natives of Ireland and England respectively. At maturity they came to Canada, where both died, the mother in 1841, and the father some years later.

When he was seventeen years old, William Mahon began working in Canada among neighboring farmers, thus continuing until 1869, when he came to Grundy County, Ill., and renting land, operated it a few years until about 1876, he bought eighty acres in Waupunsee Township. This property was unimproved and he erected the necessary buildings upon it and conducted the farm until his retirement in 1905, which was co-incidental with his renting of it to his sons.

On September 24, 1861, Mr. Mahon was married by the Rev. McClaren of Ontario, to Elizabeth Lane, who was born in Ontario, Canada, a daughter of George and Julia (Read) Lane, natives of Canada. Mrs. Mahon died June 12, 1910, and is buried in the Sample Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Mahon became the parents of children as follows: George, born January 26, 1863, died August 18, 1864; James P., born in Canada, June 9, 1865, lives in Waupunsee Township, and married Minnie Williams, born in Mason County, Ill., a daughter of Joseph and Naomie (Anderson) Williams, natives of Canada and Ohio, respectively, they having the following children.—Myrtle Mahon, born February 13, 1893, and Mildred Mahon, born September 15, 1901, who are both at home; Elenor, who was born March 18, 1870, died October 7, 1875; and Freeman L., born in Mason Township, August 25, 1877, is on the homestead, and married Amy L. Hunt, born September 2, 1878, in Felix Township, a daughter of Sheldon and Catherine (Patterson) Hunt, they having one daughter,—Blanche L. Mahon, born November 29, 1903. Politically Mr. Mahon is a Republican, but has never desired office. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church. A man of unblemished honor, he has gained and retained the confidence and respect of all with whom he has been brought into contact.

**MAIER, Jacob.**—Although now living in quiet retirement at Seneca, enjoying the ease that his long years of toil has brought him, Jacob Maier still takes a keen and active interest in agri-

cultural affairs, although he now rents out his large tracts of land in Grundy and LaSalle Counties, and is accounted one of the substantial citizens of his part of the state. He has spent his entire life in this locality, having been born at Ottawa, Ill., August 31, 1855, a son of Lazarus and Catherine (Becht) Maier, natives of Germany. Lazarus Maier came to the United States when twenty-five years of age, and on the same ship came Catherine Becht, whom he soon made his bride, and they commenced housekeeping in Ottawa, where Mr. Maier accepted such employment as opportunity presented, being willing to work at anything that was honorable. Several years later he began renting land, and at the end of six years was able to purchase a farm located north of Seneca, residing thereon until 1903, when he retired and moved with his wife to Seneca, and they still reside in that place. He is aged eighty-three years, and his wife is eighty-one years old. They have twelve children.

Jacob Maier was the next to the oldest of his parents' children, and was reared to agricultural pursuits, in the meantime securing his education in the German Catholic school at Ottawa. He remained with his parents until reaching the age of twenty-three years, at which time he became a renter in Erieanna Township, Grundy County, where he remained two years. He next spent three years as a renter in Vienna Township, and then purchased 137 acres of land in Section 19. On this property there were located a number of old buildings, which he soon replaced with new ones, and from 1887 until 1908 he continued to carry on general farming and stock raising with marked success, and made numerous modern improvements. In 1908 he rented his farm and moved to Seneca, where he has since lived in retirement. He also owns fifty-three acres in Brookfield Township, LaSalle County, and 154 acres in Highland Township, Grundy County, and these farms he also rents to good tenants. His land brings him a handsome revenue and he is justly considered one of the affluent men of his community. He takes a keen interest in matters of public importance, and acts with the Democratic party. He is a member of the Catholic Church at Seneca, and belongs also to the German Benevolent Society at Ottawa. At all times he may be relied upon to use judgment and discretion in matters pertaining to the welfare of his county, the interests of which he has always sought to advance.

Mr. Maier was married February 3, 1880, to Miss Nora Donovan, who was born at Seneca, Ill., daughter of Patrick and Anna (Stahla) Donovan, of Ireland. Four children have been born to this union: Anna, who married William Devaney and resides at Seneca; Charles Edward and Jerome, who are working on one of their father's farms; and George, who is married and works the farm in Highland Township.



**MAJOR, John Chastine, M. D.**, who has been engaged in the successful practice of his profession since 1900, was born in McLean County, Ill., December 31, 1876, a son of Chastine and Mary (Maurice) Major. Chastine Major was born in McLean County and his wife is also an Illinoisian. He was engaged in farming in that county until his death, which occurred in 1904 at Arrowsmith. Mrs. Major dying in 1890 at the same place and she and her husband are buried in McLean County. They were the parents of two children: John Chastine and Thomas W.

The boyhood of Dr. Major was spent on a farm. He attended the district school of his locality, then entered the Illinois Wesleyan University, studying there three years, and subsequently entered Rush Medical College of Chicago, where he was graduated in 1900. He then located in Braidwood, Ill., where he remained until 1906, when he came to Coal City, at which place he has built up a good practice and has established an excellent reputation for skill in his profession.

Dr. Major was married, January 1, 1901, to Ida Jack of Braidwood, who was born in Braidwood, April 2, 1881, and to this union two children were born: Rex Chastine, born December 24, 1902, and Bessie Bell, born July 10, 1906, who died November 2, 1908.

Dr. and Mrs. Major are Methodists. He is a member of the following lodges: Masonic, Knights of Pythias, Foresters, Eastern Star and the White Cross. Politically he is a Republican. He is now deputy coroner of Grundy County, having served on the Board of Health of Coal City for two years. He is modest and unassuming in demeanor, pleasant and courteous to all, and has a multitude of close personal friends in all stations of life. He owns 170 acres of land in Maine Township.

**MALADY, John.**—The farmers of Grundy County are, as a rule, men who work their land according to intelligent, scientific, profit-producing methods, and their results are satisfying not only in relation to their own individual prosperity, but as a whole affecting the financial standing of their community. One of the men who has always taken a sane, sound view of agricultural matters, with definite results, is John Malady of Mazon Township, owner of 200 acres of fine farming land, 100 acres of which are located in Mazon and forty in Waupoose Township. He was born at Morris, June 18, 1857, a son of Michael and Hannah (Walsh) Malady. Both parents were born in Ireland. Michael Malady left his native land when young, and came direct to Grundy County, Ill.

John Malady grew up in Grundy County, and attended public school in the vicinity of his home. Having decided to become a farmer, he concentrated his efforts along agricultural lines, was always a hard worker, and has made a success of his undertakings. On November 7, 1882, Mr. Malady was united in marriage by Father Fitzsimmons of Morris Im-

maculate Conception Church, with Margaret J. McCartney, who was born in the home where they are now living, March 12, 1857. She is a daughter of John W. and Ellen (Calwell) McCartney, natives of Ireland. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Malady: John P., born March 9, 1885, died February 13, 1905; Ellen L., born March 17, 1887, died October 14, 1897, buried in Mt. Carmel cemetery; and two who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Malady now live on Mrs. Malady's old homestead where she has lived all her life excepting a few years spent near by in Mazon Township, and one year in Livingston County. They are members of the Roman Catholic Church at Morris. In national affairs Mr. Malady votes with the Democratic party, but in local matters uses his own judgment.

**MALECEK, Cyril M.**—With the development of any community comes the need for good construction work, and the men who continue to hold the patronage of the public are those who have proven their worth and stability. One of the men whose connections as a general contractor are firmly formed, is Cyril Malecek of South Wilmington, one of the leading men in his line in Grundy County. Mr. Malecek was born in Bohemia, in 1864, and there attended school and was taught the trade of cabinetmaking. In 1880 he came to the United States with his father and the rest of the family, and for a time they lived at Chicago where the father was a laborer. He retired some time prior to his death, which occurred in that city, in December, 1909. The mother passed away in the same city in 1890. There were nine children in the family: Joseph, Cyril, Veronika, Anna, Mary, Almyra, Fannie, Bessie and Josephine.

Cyril M. Malecek left Chicago in 1891 for Braidwood, Ill., where he began contracting, later moving to South Wilmington, where he has since continued. Mr. Malecek has practically built this town, as he had the contract for the construction of every church and hall and the majority of the residences in the place, and his work is the best advertisement he could have. In 1889 Mr. Malecek married Annie Smolick, who was born at Chicago. Nine children have been born of this marriage: Cyril, Emma, Josephine, Rosa, Joseph, Lillian, Frank, Clara and Bessie, the last two being deceased, the former dying in infancy, and the latter when twelve years old. Mr. Malecek belongs to the Knights of Pythias, of the C. S. P. S. and the C. S. B. P. S., all of Chicago. Although a Democrat, he is very liberal in his political views. Not only is he a man of capability in business, but also stands very well personally in the community that has been his home for so many useful years.

**MALLORY, Allen F.**, proprietor of the Commercial Hotel at Morris, belongs to one of the old families of Grundy County. He was born in Ohio City, now West Cleveland, Ohio, Novem-





Mr. C. Sturtevant M. D.



Charlie E. Sturtevant.



ber 6, 1840, a son of Hiram and Phoebe (Hall) Mallory, and grandson of Isaac Mallory. The family came to Morris in 1832, and there Hiram Mallory became a farmer and grain dealer and was interested in canal boats on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. His death occurred at Morris in 1872. Allen F. Mallory was in the employ of the Yeoman Printing Co. in boyhood, worked in a machine shop, was a grocer's clerk, and then in 1861, enlisted in the Union service as a member of Battery B, First Regiment Light Artillery, New York Volunteers, and was a bugler. On February 22, 1864, he was veteranized, was enrolled in the same battery, and was discharged June 18, 1865. While in the service, he sent money home to his father, and the latter bought a canal boat of which Mr. Mallory assumed charge upon his return from the army. Selling it he later went to Chicago and was in a grocery business. A year later he returned to the canal, and then in November, 1867, established himself as a grocer at Morris, and conducted this business for eighteen years. He then went to Kankakee, Ill., and bought a hotel, which also bears the name of the Commercial. In 1889, he bought the old Hanna & LeRoy business block at Morris and converted it into the present Commercial Hotel of Morris, which was opened December 31, 1889. Mr. Mallory has been twice married. He is a Mason, and is a member of Blaney Commandery.

**MALMQUIST, Frank.**—The history of the successful men of foreign birth in many sections of the United States shows a record of hard work and persistent effort that eventually ends in prosperity. It appears that many of those who come here from other countries and take up different kinds of work are so earnest and industrious and so naturally frugal that their success is certain. One of the men of Grundy County who has thus prospered is Frank Malmquist, a farmer of Vienna Township, who was born at Tida, Rytterns, Westmanland, Sweden, October 21, 1872, the youngest of a family of seven children of Andrew Gustav and Lovisa (Carlson) Malmquist. In 1888 he came to his present township from Sweden and began working for his brother, who had already established himself here as a farmer, having come to Grundy County in 1878.

On January 14, 1908, at Joliet, Ill., by Rev. A. H. Laing, Mr. Malmquist was united in marriage with Ellen Harford, daughter of Aaron and Frances (Dewey) Harford. Their home is one of the old landmarks. Mrs. Malmquist's maternal grandfather, John Dewey, having settled here in 1844. Their son, Aaron Frank, born October 10, 1900, represents the fourth generation of the family to call it home. Mr. Malmquist puts his best efforts into stock raising along with his farming operations, being one of the first in the county to establish a herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle, those "Bonnie Black Skins." He cultivates 320 acres of land, 200 being devoted to grain culture, and the remainder to pasture and timberland.

In politics Mr. Malmquist is a Republican, and he has proven himself a loyal citizen as well as a thorough-going agriculturalist, and has reason to be contented with his lot in life. The following quotation from Joaquin Miller is a fitting tribute:

"And I have said, and I say it ever,  
As the years go on and the world goes over,  
'Twere better to be content and clever  
In the tending of cattle and the tossing of clover,  
In the grazing of cattle and the growing of grain,  
Than a strong man striving for fame and gain."

**MARKESON, Ammi Manuel.**—One of the large land owners and enterprising business men of Seneca, Ill., is Ammi Manuel Markeson, president of the Seneca Grain, Lumber and Supply Company, and a citizen whose career has been filled with noteworthy achievements. He has spent his entire life in this locality, and has won success and position through the medium of his own unaided efforts. Mr. Markeson was born in Miller Township, LaSalle County, Ill., November 19, 1865, and is a son of Andrew and Sarah (Larson) Markeson. Andrew Markeson and his wife were both born at Stavanger, Norway, he coming to Ottawa, Ill., in 1854, and she two years earlier. He started to work as a farm hand, and after marriage the young couple settled on a farm in Miller Township, LaSalle County, which they rented until 1862. In that year Mr. Markeson purchased a farm of eighty acres, cleared and developed it, erected substantial buildings and made numerous improvements. A man of industry, enterprise and high ability, he invested his capital in land, and at the time of his death, in 1908, when eighty-one years of age, was the owner of 375 acres, all in Grundy County with the exception of eighty acres, located just across the line in LaSalle County. The mother, who was born in 1823, still survives, and makes her home with her son. The children born to Andrew and Sarah (Larson) Markeson were as follows: Bessie, Mrs. Daniel Danielson, of Miller Township, LaSalle County; and Ammi Manuel.

Ammi M. Markeson received his education in the public schools of Morris and the normal college at Geneseo, and was reared a farmer, remaining at home and assisting his father until his marriage in 1888, at which time he removed to one of his father's farms, located in Nettle Creek Township, and there he carried on operations as a renter until he purchased 130 acres of land. There, in addition to general farming, he made a specialty of raising Poland-China hogs and Percheron horses, as well as doing a large business in grain. He resided on this farm until the death of his wife, September 9, 1909, at which time he moved to the old homestead farm, which was left him by his father's will. He is now the owner of 415 acres of valuable land located in Grundy and LaSalle counties, which he rents out, his attention now being confined to the raising of Percheron horses and to the duties devolving upon him as presi-





dent and member of the board of directors of the Seneca Grain, Lumber and Supply Company. He is accounted one of the substantial men of his community, where his long connection with affairs of importance have made him a well known figure in agricultural and commercial circles. A Republican in his political views, he has served eight years as Township Clerk, has also acted as Road Commissioner, and for five years has been a member of the Board of Supervisors of Grundy County, of which he has been chairman for two years of this period. With his family, he attends the Lutheran Stavanger Church.

On February 22, 1888, Mr. Markeson was married to Miss Hannah Johnson, who was born at Stavanger, Norway, daughter of Thomas and Dora Johnson, who on emigrating to the United States first located in Fillmore County, Minn., and later moved to South Dakota, where they now reside. Mr. and Mrs. Markeson met in LaSalle County, where she was making a visit to her sisters. They became the parents of three children: Sebrell, Lillian and Bernice, all living with their father.

**MARSH, George Washington.**—The operation of farm land in Grundy County is a business that pays handsome dividends, as the soil is fertile and productive of bountiful crops. These facts account for the location here of some of the most intelligent and shrewd men of the county on lands in the rural districts. One of the men who is thus engaged is George Washington Marsh, renter of 252 acres of land in Mazon Township, and 160 acres in Maine Township, all of which he plants in oats and corn. In addition he buys and sells horses for the market and does a large and profitable business annually.

Mr. Marsh was born on his homestead, a son of William and Elizabeth (Moyer) Marsh, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania. William Marsh came to Grundy County about sixty years ago, homesteading in Mazon Township, and he lived upon his farm until death claimed him in 1892. His widow survived him until 1906. They had three children: Timothy, who is deceased; Mina, Stephen, and George. Both parents had been married before.

George W. Marsh remained at home, attending the district schools, until his marriage. In 1888, he was united in marriage with Emma Cragg of Maine Township, a daughter of George Cragg of Maine Township. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh have had the following family: Hazel May, who is deceased; Guy Festus; and Elsie Elizabeth. Mr. Marsh is a Republican but has never sought office, being too much occupied with his private affairs. He is a man of exceptional ability and his success is but the just reward for his endeavors.

**MARSHALL, George W.**—There is no section of Illinois where modern methods in agriculture more generally prevail than in Grundy County, and the farms of this section show the results of

advanced agricultural ideas intelligently applied. One of the men who owns one of the best equipped properties in the county is George W. Marshall of Goose Lake Township, a progressive farmer and good business man. He is a son of William and Caroline (Benson) Marshall, natives of Indiana and Ohio. After marriage they settled in what is now Goose Lake Township, and bought a farm along the Mazon River where Mr. Marshall still lives, owning ninety-six acres. His wife died January 8, 1903.

George W. Marshall grew up on the homestead and was sent to the local schools while being taught farming. When he attained his majority, he first rented a farm in Goose Lake Township, but in 1902 bought eighty acres of improved land. Since taking possession of this property, he has tiled it, erected new buildings and made other improvements. On it he carries on general farming, specializing in grain raising. On January 1, 1895, he married Angie Winzenburg, born at St. Louis, Mo., daughter of Andrew Philip and Margaret (Staub) Winzenburg, natives of Wurttemberg, Germany. The parents were married in Germany, but became early settlers of Missouri. The father was a bookbinder of Sedalia, Mo., for many years, dying there November 11, 1907, since which time his widow has resided in Morris. Their children were: Robert William, who is of St. Louis; Agnes B., who is Mrs. J. Leonard Joos of Morris; Katie, who was Mrs. Samuel White of Goose Lake Township, died November 17, 1906; and Angie, who is Mrs. Marshall. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall became the parents of one daughter, Jeanette Catherine, who was born July 10, 1901. Mrs. Marshall was educated in the public schools of Sedalia, Mo. Both Mr. and Mrs. Marshall belong to the Baptist Church in which they are deservedly popular. Mr. Marshall is a Republican and served one term as township collector, and also was road commissioner and school director. He has developed into a leading agriculturalist of his locality and is universally respected.

**MARSHALL, William.**—No man who has spent years of earnest endeavor as an agriculturalist ought to deny himself rest and comfort in his declining years, for he has certainly earned all he possesses. There is no class of work that is so difficult or restricted as that of cultivating a farm, and one who has successfully carried out his plans, and is now living retired, enjoying a comfortable fortune, is William Marshall of Goose Lake Township. Mr. Marshall was born at Toledo, O., October 25, 1836, son of Noyes and Zilpha (Richardson) Marshall, natives of New Hampshire and Vermont. About 1831, these parents went to Toledo, O., from whence they moved to Clay County, Ind. In 1856, another change was made when they came to Grundy County, Ill., and bought land in Felix Township. After ten years in that section, they went to Sedalia, Mo., where both died.





*David & Hobbler and Family*



William Marshall grew up a healthy farmer boy, and attended the schools of his district. After his marriage he bought a tract of land and lived on it for three years, when he bought ninety-six acres of timber land in Goose Lake Township, clearing off forty-five acres of this. Until 1901, he operated the farm himself, but now rents it, although he still lives upon it, being retired from its activities.

In 1864, Mr. Marshall was married to Caroline Benson, born in New York State, daughter of Seneca and Sarah (Miles) Benson, natives of Cattaraugus County, N. Y., early settlers of Waunpsee Township. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall became the parents of the following children: Sarah, who was born in Felix Township, married William Bartlett of Waunpsee Township; Esther, Mrs. Solomon Pose, who died July 15, 1909; George, who lives in Goose Lake Township; and John, who is also of Goose Lake Township. Mrs. Marshall died January 8, 1903, after a useful life, having been a devoted wife and mother, and a good, Christian woman. Mr. Marshall is a Universalist. Politically, he is a Republican, but has never desired office. A man of unflinching principle, he has endeavored to live up to his ideals, and enjoys the esteem of his neighbors.

**MARVICK, Sam S.**—Some of the most active operators in real estate are the men who have learned the value of land by working upon it. The rich farm land of Grundy County affords excellent investment for funds, while city property is always valuable. One of the men who is carrying on extensive operations in both farm and city property at Morris is Sam S. Marvick. He was born in Nettle Creek Township, this county, March 11, 1863, a son of Sivert and Lorenzo (Notland) Marvick, born in Norway, who came to this country in 1857, settling in LaSalle County, Ill. There they lived for a few years, but then moved to Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, buying land. In time, they became extensive land owners, and lived upon their property until they sold in 1906, and bought a farm in Story County, Iowa, where they reside. The father has attained to the venerable age of eighty-five years, while his wife is eighty years old. Their children are: M. O., of Story City, Iowa; Joseph, also of Story City, Iowa; Mary, Mrs. Ole Hansen, of Story City, Iowa; Sam S.; Rev. L. S., of Black River Falls, Wis.; Celia, Mrs. Joseph H. Ansmore, of Morris; Andrew, of Siston, S. D.; and Margaret, at home with her parents.

Sam S. Marvick attended the local country school and the Morris Normal school for two terms. When he was of age, he left home, and later bought and operated a farm in Nettle Creek Township, until 1903. In that year he rented his farm, which then comprised 240 acres, and moved to Morris, where he embarked in the real estate business, handling city and farm realty, and making loans on real estate.

In February, 1887, Mr. Marvick was married

to Maggie Bjelland, born in DeKalb County, Ill. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Marvick are: Ruby Grace, Mrs. Walter T. Uarland of LaSalle County, Ill.; Oren Spencer, of Morris; Edith Myrtle, Mrs. William Page, of Morris; E. Leslie, attending college at Northfield, Minn.; and Olive B., Silas G. and Byron Grant, all at home. Mr. Marvick belongs to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. While living in Nettle Creek Township, Mr. Marvick served as supervisor from 1895 to 1903, being elected on the Republican ticket. Since embarking in his present undertaking, Mr. Marvick has proven himself to be a reliable, substantial man of business, and one who deserves the respect and confidence of his associates.

**MATHEWS, David Alfred.**—In every community there are certain men who develop into leaders of their kind. Some attain local distinction as business men, others as politicians, while some combine both claims to leadership. Morris is fortunate in having so many men of more than average ability, and one of them worthy of special mention is David Alfred Mathews, whose services in political office have been valuable, while he has added to the general prosperity of the community by locating here so many of his business interests. Mr. Mathews was born in Delaware County, Pa., August 18, 1847, son of John McHenry and Margaret (Ashton) Mathews, natives of Maryland and England, respectively. The parents were married in Pennsylvania, and the father died before his son, David A., was a year old. The mother came to Kendall County in 1856, and there married Thomas Hoyle, and survived him.

David Alfred Mathews made his home with his mother and step-father, and attended the local public schools. After his marriage in 1869, he began farming in Kendall County, continuing his agricultural operations until 1892, when he came to Morris and invested very heavily in city property, now owning a beautiful residence, a business block and a number of houses which he rents. When the Morris Hospital was organized, December 5, 1906, and incorporated under the State laws, Mr. Mathews was made president; M. C. Hull, secretary, and James Hanson, treasurer. Later the organization consisted of five trustees: D. A. Mathews, president, and L. S. Hogue, J. Leach, Thomas Hall and Eugene Cryder. The original medical staff was A. E. Palmer, deceased; Frank Palmer, G. T. Nelson, deceased; T. C. Bowker, H. M. Ferguson and W. E. Walsh. This institution is a fine one and has accommodations for twenty-five patients.

On December 23, 1869, when he was twenty-two years old, Mr. Mathews was married to Mary Hephzibah Leach, born in Nettle Creek Township, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Livsey) Leach, natives of England. Mr. and Mrs. Mathews had one son, Arthur E., who was killed by the kick of a horse when aged twenty-four years. He married Mary E. Cobligh, and



their daughter, Fern, died at the age of seventeen months.

Mr. Mathews has taken a very active part in politics, being a staunch Republican, and has served as alderman of his ward for five years. While living in Kendall County, he was a member of the school board for nine years, and was elected supervisor of Morris Township April 7, 1914. He is a Chapter and Knight Templar Mason, being connected with the local lodge at Morris and Medinah Temple, Mystic Shrine, at Chicago; belongs also to the Knights of Pythias and the Pythian Sisters, and the Eastern Star. He is vice-president of the Lincoln Club of Morris, and is in every way a man of worth.

**MATHISEN**, Knudt, one of the substantial and progressive agriculturists of Grundy County, who is carrying on general farming operations on an excellent tract of 180 acres, located in Section 33, Garfield Township, is a native of a country to which America is indebted for some of its best citizenship, as he was born in Norway, in 1836, a son of Math Mathisen, who died in Norway at the age of forty years, following which the mother and four children, Knudt, Anna, Mary and Susan, came to the United States to join the three children, Matt, Peter and Maggie, who had preceded them, and whom they reached at Morris, Ill., in 1870.

In his native land, Knudt Mathisen received his education in the public schools, in the meantime assisting his father with the work of the home place. He was also for some years engaged in fishing, but on coming to America again applied himself to tilling the soil, in which he has continued to be occupied to the present time. In 1892 he purchased his present property, on which he has made all the improvements, and although he is now living somewhat retired, with his son doing the active work of the place, he still takes a great interest in the work, and keeps himself fully abreast of the various changes and advancements of agriculture. He has succeeded because he has possessed industry, ability and perseverance, and because he has ever maintained a reputation for the strictest integrity in matters of business. Essentially a farmer, he has never been an aspirant for political honors, but served one term as a member of the School Board, and has always supported Republican candidates and principles.

In 1862 Mr. Mathisen was married to Miss Sarah Munson, who was born, reared and educated in the same place as her husband and there married. They became the parents of eight children, as follows: Sarah Munson, Matt, Gertie, Muns, Annie Siegel, Sadie Edmunds, Myrtie Onsen and Knudt, Jr. The last named is managing his father's property, and is known as one of the practical farmers of Garfield Township. The family has long been connected with the Congregational Church, and its members are known as honest, industrious and God-fearing people.

**MATTESON**, Beriah H.—Those who know and appreciate the value of the business interests at Morris, understand that they must of necessity be guarded by men of more than usual acumen, and one who has contributed his share towards developing his locality is Beriah H. Matteson. He was born in Lapeer County, Mich., August 3, 1856, a son of Beriah H. and Susan (Jones) Matteson, he born in 1811 in Syracuse, N. Y., and she in 1812, at Buffalo, N. Y. They were married in the latter city, and soon thereafter moved to Lapeer County, Mich., settling in the wild timber, in which he had to clear a space for his log house. Following this he cleared off the remainder of his land and developed a valuable farm, operating it until 1873, when he sold and moved to Morris and lived retired until his death on July 28, 1885. His widow survived him until December 10, 1886. They had nine children, five of whom are living, namely: Storey, who is of Morris, Ill.; Rosy, who is Mrs. Frank Dwyer of Spokane, Wash.; Arella, who is Mrs. O. C. Dwyer of Chicago, Ill.; Battie, who is Mrs. James Stevens of Washington; and Beriah H., who was the youngest of the family.

Beriah H. Matteson remained with his parents, attending school and making himself useful about the farm until he was twenty years old, when he began farming in Saratoga Township, Grundy County. After four years in that township, he went to Nettle Creek Township and remained seven years, and then in January, 1906, he moved to Morris, purchased a handsome residence, and the outfit for sprinkling the streets, and since then has held the contract for this work.

Mr. Matteson was married at Morris, December 25, 1879, to Lizzie Coop, who was born in Aux Sable Township, a daughter of John and Nancy (Sandiford) Coop of Lancashire, England. Mr. and Mrs. Coop were married in England, but later came to Aux Sable Township. Mr. and Mrs. Matteson have had the following children: Melvin, who is of Morris; Lee, who is of Nettle Creek Township; Nettie, who is Mrs. Ed. Hall of Morris; Howard, who is of Morris; Jessie, who is Mrs. Ray Thayer of Odell, Ill.; Olive, who is at home; and Myrtle and Pearl, who are at home. Mr. Matteson is a Republican and served as Alderman from the Fourth ward of Morris for two years. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of the World and the Royal Neighbors. His religious connections are with the Presbyterian Church. An earnest, reliable, steadfast man, Mr. Matteson can be relied upon to do his full duty and his excellent qualities are appreciated by his wide circle of friends.

**MATTESON**, Elwin J.—The Matteson family is one of the old ones of Grundy County and its representatives are to be found engaged in various lines of endeavor, but they are specially well known as agriculturalists, and as such are rendering valuable aid in providing food stuffs for the country. One of these men, who





is a successful farmer of Saratoga Township, is Elwin J. Matteson, born near Geneva Lake, Wis., December 7, 1847, son of Thompkins and Cythera (Wilson) Matteson. These parents were born in Genesee County, N. Y., and were married in their native State, but early in their wedded life moved to Wisconsin where they took up land and engaged in farming. In 1883 they came to Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Ill., where both died.

Growing up in Wisconsin, Elwin J. Matteson attended the district schools of his native locality and also learned how to farm, from the beginning on up. In 1883 he came to Grundy County and for eight years lived in Aux Sable Township, then bought fifty acres of land in Saratoga Township, one and one-half miles from Morris, on the north of the city. Here he has developed a fine property and his work is yielding him excellent results.

In September, 1875, Mr. Matteson was married to Anna B. Collins, born in Saratoga Township, who died in April, 1886. She was a daughter of Joshua and Harriet (Cryder) Collins, natives of New York State and Ohio, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Matteson had two children: Eugene W., who lives in Saratoga Township; and Price C., who lives at Morris. On January 22, 1889, Mr. Matteson married (second) Mary Walstrom, born in Sweden, daughter of Eric and Keziah (Larson) Walstrom. Mr. Walstrom came to Morris in 1869, the family following in 1870. Later, they settled on a farm in Kendall County, Ill., where he died February 21, 1912. His widow lives with Mr. and Mrs. Matteson. One daughter, Anna Bell, was born of this second marriage of Mr. Matteson, on November 2, 1897. Mr. Matteson is a Republican. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and to the Masonic order, being now a Knight Templar and a member of the Mystic Shrine, Medinah Temple, Chicago. A man of practical ideas, he has never failed to make the most of opportunities as presented, and his present success is well merited.

**MATTESON, Eugene W.**—Advanced agriculture has many followers in Grundy County, for the farmers here are men of intelligence who appreciate the necessity for using the latest methods in working their land so that they may force it to produce to its full capacity. One of the prosperous general farmers of this locality who is conducting a farm of 320 acres of land, is Eugene W. Matteson of Saratoga Township. He was born in this township, September 15, 1875, son of E. J. and Anna (Collins) Matteson, natives of Wisconsin and Saratoga Township, respectively.

While growing up on his father's farm, Eugene W. Matteson learned much about agriculture. He attended the common schools and the Morris High school. Until 1898 he resided with his parents, and then moved to a magnificent farm left to him by his mother, on which he

carries on diversified farming with profitable results.

On March 15, 1898, Mr. Matteson was married to Julia Walstrom, born in Grundy County, November 9, 1876, daughter of Eric Walstrom, a native of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Matteson have four children: Earl, Ralph, Florence and Evelin. Politically he is a Republican, but has never cared for public office, his time and attention being too fully occupied with his business of farming for him to engage in outside matters. He stands high in Masonic circles, belonging to the Blue Lodge of Minooka, the Chapter and Commandery of Morris, and the Mystic Shrine of Chicago. A man of energy, he has forged ahead, and is now justly numbered among the leading agriculturists of Saratoga Township. Although he was not compelled to earn his land, he has developed and improved it to such an extent that he has proven his worth and capability.

**MATTESON, Story Hibbard (deceased).**—In the life and achievements of the late Story Hibbard Matteson, whose death occurred at his home in Morris, April 8, 1913, there is found something worthy of emulation by every aspiring youth—something of a nature encouraging to those who are struggling, without means or influence, to gain a position and fortune among their fellows. From a penniless farm laborer he worked his way steadily to the position of being one of the larger land holders of Grundy County and to the directing head of a number of his community's most important enterprises, at all times holding the respect and esteem of those about him. Although living retired at the time of his death, having reached the age of seventy-four years, he still took an active interest in all that affected the welfare of Morris, and could be depended upon to support both with his means and influence any movement making for the general good of its people.

Story Hibbard Matteson was born at Lapeer, Lapeer County, Mich., February 15, 1839, a son of Beriah H. and Susan (Jones) Matteson, natives, respectively, of Canada and New York State. The parents were married in the latter locality, and settled in Michigan during early wedded life, remaining there on a farm until 1866, when they disposed of their property and went to Wisconsin. There they continued seven years, when once more they sold out and moved to Morris, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Story H. Matteson received an ordinary education in the district schools of Lapeer County, Mich., and when twenty-two years of age left home and came to Morris, Ill. He was practically penniless and with no influential friends, but soon obtained work on a farm and continued at the same occupation for three years. At the end of that time he was allowed to work on shares, and by industry and frugal living he was able to accumulate something over \$1,000, with which he made a payment on 100 acres of land, at \$40 an acre. After his marriage, he rented land for one year



and then operated some property owned by his father-in-law. At the time of the latter's death, Mrs. Matteson inherited 640 acres of land in Saratoga Township, and to this Mr. Matteson subsequently added until there were 1,000 acres in this farm, all lying in Grundy County. He was also the owner of several hundred acres of land in Johnson County, Mo. In 1898 he retired from his agricultural operations and moved to Morris, where he maintained his home up to the time of his death. His connection with large business and financial enterprises was extended. He was one of the organizers of the Morris Grain Company, of which he was the president from the time of its inception, and associated with him in this enterprise as the directors of the company were J. A. Wilson, O. T. Wilson, J. M. Pattison, J. R. Collins, O. E. Collins and Cryder Collins. The company owned and operated two elevators and handled immense amounts of grain annually. He was one of the directing officers of the Grundy County Bank and of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, at Morris, and was the owner of the largest amount of stock and outstanding securities of the Gazette, published here. A man of peculiarities and pronounced feeling in many ways, those who knew him best found him a man of large heart and deep sympathy, ready to give a helping hand upon occasion when he was, perhaps, the only one. During the week prior to his death he was one of the committee soliciting funds for the flood sufferers. He contributed to the successful growth of the city in many ways. Politically he was always a Democrat, and at one time was a member of the Morris city council, although office holding did not appeal strongly to him. A high Mason, he attained to the thirty-second degree, belonged to Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Chicago, held membership in the Eastern Star of Morris, and his funeral was in charge of the Knights Templar Commandery.

While he had been attending to his ordinary affairs and had been about the streets right along, members of the family knew he was in ill health and had been worried about him. On the morning of April 8, 1913, while seated at the breakfast table, he was stricken, and not long thereafter he passed away, after several minutes of peaceful sleep. His death caused universal sorrow in Morris. The Gazette, speaking editorially, said in part: "Three-quarters of a century ago Story H. Matteson came into this world. Yesterday his soul passed back again into that great unknown. The seventy-four intervening years, which saw his rise from a poor boy to a man of influence in the community, marked him as an exceptional character, one in whom the good predominated to a marked degree and one who made the world better because of his having lived in it. . . . The book of life contains few pages as spotless as that on which is chronicled the earthly career of Story H. Matteson and as we stand beside his bier for a last look upon that which was mortal, we know that he who doeth all things

well, recognizes better than it is possible for mortal man, the beauty of his character, and the angels in heaven are rejoicing over another spirit come home."

On December 25, 1865, Mr. Matteson was married to Miss Virginia Collins, who was born in Saratoga Township, Grundy County, Ill., daughter of Joshua and Harriet (Cryder) Collins, pioneers of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Matteson became the parents of the following children: William E., who is a resident of Saratoga Township; Grace, who is Mrs. John Craig, of that township; Story J., Jr., also residing there; Cora, who is Mrs. J. D. McKeen, of Morris; Hattie, residing at home; Jennie, now Mrs. E. E. Quigley, of Regina, Canada; and Cryder, a resident of Saratoga Township.

**MATTESON, William Edward.**—The development in the stock interests of Grundy County, in recent years, has been remarkable. The farmers of this locality are producing as fine a quality of registered stock as can be found in any part of the country, and the produce is exhibited at all of the stock shows annually, a gratifying number of the blue ribbons going to the growers here. One of the men who is giving special attention to this branch of agricultural life is William Edward Matteson, who belongs to the well-known family of that name which has been associated with the growth of Grundy County for many years. He was born January 5, 1868, a son of Story and Virginia (Collins) Matteson, well known people of this locality, and he is a native of Saratoga Township where he still resides. Growing up at home, he attended the local schools, and then spent two years at the Morris High school. When he attained his majority, he began farming on his father's homestead, and now has 160 acres of as fine land as can be found in the entire township.

On February 22, 1892, Mr. Matteson married May Widney, born in Kendall County, daughter of John and Emily (Van Duzer) Widney, natives of Will County, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Matteson had two children: Russell and Virginia, who are at home. The mother of these children died April 6, 1906. Mr. Matteson is independent in his political views. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias of Morris. For some years Mr. Matteson has been specializing on raising Percheron horses and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and has been very successful along this line, being a recognized authority upon these two strains, as well as a prosperous farmer of Saratoga Township.

**M'ALLISTER, William J.**, Mayor of South Wilmington, and one of the leading men of Grundy County has held this important office since 1911, and has been responsible for the progressive movement in civic affairs which has placed this community in the vanguard of those seeking to reach a high standard. He was born at Streator, Ill., in 1875, a son of Hector and Hannah (Elwood) McAllister, natives of Eng-





Clara B. Tappan



Andrew B. Tappan



land. Hector McAllister was a miner in his native land prior to coming to this county at the age of eighteen years. He located at Streator, Ill., where he continued his mining operations and was state inspector of mines, having held this important office for sixteen years. He and his wife still reside at Streator. They have had the following children: Margaret Beard; one who died in infancy; Elizabeth Morrison; James; one who died in infancy; William J.; Mattie Hall; and Bertha Ramsey.

William J. McAllister was reared at Streator, where he attended the public schools, spending four years in the High school. He then entered the machine shop of the C. W. & Coal Co., at Streator, Ill., continuing there until 1905 when he was transferred to the South Wilmington plant of the same company, now being one of their master mechanics. On December 11, 1895, Mr. McAllister married Florence Brooker, who was born in England, but was reared at Streator, Ill. They have the following children: Chester, who is working under his father; Margorie, who is at home; and Elwood. Mr. McAllister is a Republican, and has been honored by his party by election to his present office, to which he was elected in 1913. The Baptist Church holds his membership. Fraternally he is a Mason and belongs also to the Loyal Americans of Streator, Ill. A conscientious official and skilled workman Mr. McAllister is a man of whom his community may well be proud for he stands for good citizenship and moral uplift and is a powerful factor in the county.

MCBRIDE, N., who came to Morris in 1855, was one of its earlier business men whose efforts were directed towards the successful carrying on of an insurance and surveying business. He was born in Pennsylvania, June 13, 1824, a son of James McBride. After locating at Morris, Mr. McBride developed into one of the leading men of the city, and was made Police Magistrate and later County Surveyor, and held both offices many years. He was first married April 29, 1846, to Lydia Davidson, who died at Morris in 1876. On May 2, 1877, Mr. McBride was married (second) to A. F. English. By his first marriage he had five children. In politics he was a Republican.

MCAMBRIDGE, Patrick.—Many of the farmers of Grundy County have so prospered in their operations that they are able to retire comparatively early from active labor and live in ease and comfort. Patrick McCambridge, of Kinsman, Ill., is one of the men who has gained a comfortable competence from his farm land, which embraces 900 acres of land in Grundy County, 400 of which are in Highland Township. He was born in the northern part of Ireland in January, 1829, a son of John and Mary (McAllister) McCambridge. The family came to America in 1849 and settled in Kendall County, removing to Grundy County in 1854, where his father died on the farm in Vienna

Township, his mother having died in 1874. To this union were born the following children: Margaret and Bridget, deceased; Mrs. Mary Ann O'Malley of Seneca, Ill.; John, deceased; and Patrick.

Patrick McCambridge was born and reared on a farm, and received his schooling in the district schools of Kendall and Grundy Counties. His first position was on a farm where oxen were used, and for his work he received \$8 a month. Mr. McCambridge was well acquainted with the old Indian chief Shalbena. On March 4, 1889, Mr. McCambridge was united in marriage with Catherine Weir, a native of Grundy County, and daughter of John and Catherine (Feral) Weir. Mr. and Mrs. Weir, who are deceased, came to this country in 1854, and were the parents of the following children: Owen, deceased; Thomas, Mrs. Patrick McCambridge, Mary, James, Patrick, deceased; Sarah Connor, and Michael. Mr. and Mrs. Patrick McCambridge had three children: Mahle, deceased, and John and James, living at home. In religious belief, Mr. McCambridge is a Catholic. In politics he is a Democrat, his policy being to vote for the best man. He has been on the village board for several years, and is a highly respected citizen.

MCCLLOUD, Jonathan R.—It is no slight task to improve land which has never been under cultivation and yet the majority of the older agriculturalists have developed magnificent farms from raw land. One of the men who has a property of which he may well feel proud, as it is practically the work of his own hands, is Jonathan R. McCloud of Aux Sable Township, born in Clinton County, N. Y., June 6, 1835, a son of John and Pollina (Rickerson) McCloud. John McCloud was born in Vermont, and his wife in Clinton County, N. Y. In 1837 they came westward with a horse team to Plattville, Ill., to join Mrs. McCloud's parents, Jonathan and Esther Rickerson, who had previously come to Illinois. John McCloud entered government land in Kendall County, but a few years later moved to Livingston County, Ill., where he again entered land, and both he and his wife died upon it. They had eight children: Jonathan R.; Julia, who is Mrs. David Tabler of Aux Sable Township; Platt, who is of Will County, Ill.; Simeon, who is of Livingston County; James, who died in California; Jemima, twin of James, is deceased; John, who is of Southern Illinois; and Martin, living on the old homestead.

When he was twenty-five years old, Jonathan R. McCloud came to Grundy County and bought fifty-seven acres of unimproved land in Aux Sable Township. He immediately began developing it, erecting all the buildings and putting in many desirable improvements until now it is very valuable. He has always carried on grain farming. In February, 1857, Mr. McCloud was married to Margaret Kerr, born in Scotland. They have no children. Politically Mr. McCloud is a Republican. He is a man of action rather





than words and stands well in his neighborhood where he has spent so large a part of his life.

**M'NULTY, Robert W.**, who has served capably and conscientiously in the capacity of postmaster since 1900, at South Wilmington, Ill., is one of his community's foremost citizens, and his signal services in various official positions have won him the confidence and esteem of his fellow-townsmen. Mr. McNulty was born in the town of Braidwood, Will County, Ill., in August 15, 1870, and is a son of William and Margaret (Walker) McNulty. William McNulty was born, educated, reared and married in Scotland, and there was engaged in working in the coal mines until 1867, in which year he emigrated to the United States, coming at once to Braidwood, Ill., where he secured employment in the mines. His wife joined him at that place in 1869, and they made their residence there until 1902, when the family came to South Wilmington. Here William McNulty died in January, 1904, while his widow survived him until June, 1911, and both were laid to rest in the cemetery at Braidwood. They were the parents of seven children: William, who is a resident of Pennsylvania; Daniel, whose home is in Colorado; Robert; James, who died August 5, 1913, at South Wilmington, Ill.; Thomas, who lives in Kansas; Margaret, of Braidwood, Ill.; Mary, who is the wife of Anton Kaiser, of Braidwood; and Janet, who married Carl Kruse, of Chicago.

The early educational advantages of Robert McNulty were somewhat limited, as at the age of ten years he left the public schools of Braidwood to take up the work of a printer's "devil," and was so engaged until entering the mines with his father at the age of twelve. In 1900, when appointed postmaster of South Wilmington, Mr. McNulty left the mines, and since that time has devoted himself to his official duties, in addition to which he handles an up-to-date line of school supplies and stationery. He has proved to be an efficient, courteous and faithful public servant, and in his business affairs is known to be strictly reliable and honorable in his dealings. He has long been prominent in Republican politics, for as early as 1889 he was elected the first mayor of South Wilmington, in which capacity he served one year. Subsequently he was made the first fire marshal here, and still continues to occupy that office. Before coming to this place, he served two years as alderman of Braidwood. His entire public service will stand the closest examination and no stain or blemish mars his record.

On November 3, 1895, by Rev. Wm. E. Craven, of Joliet, Ill., Mr. McNulty was married to Miss Jennie Palmer, who was born in England, April 29, 1878, and came to the United States with her parents when two years of age. Two children have been born to this union: Robert, born June 18, 1897, now attending college at Hanover, Ind., and Wilbur, January 12, 1899, attending High school at Gardner, Ill. Mr. McNulty is well known among the

miners of South Wilmington and served as first president of the union here. He is fraternally connected with the Knights of Pythias at Braidwood, and the Odd Fellows at Braceville, and has attained to high position in Masonry, being a member of Braidwood Blue Lodge, Wilmington Chapter, Morris Knights Templar and Gardner Order of the Eastern Star, and Shrine at Peoria, Ill., in all of which he has numerous friends.

**MEIER, Aurhur J.**, a prosperous agriculturalist of Good Farm Township, has the distinction of being a grandson of John Meier, one of the first settlers of this township, who emigrated from Bavaria, Germany, in the latter forties, and located in Good Farm Township, Grundy County. With his wife he took a prominent part in the beginning of what is now one of the best farming communities of the county. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters: Augusta, Carrie, Maggie, John, Leonard, George and Henry. Henry Meier, father of Arthur J. Meier, was born in Good Farm Township, where he was reared on the homestead of his father, and sent to the neighborhood schools. He was married to Minnie Schrothberger, and they had nine children, six of whom are deceased. Laura, who died June 16, 1914, lived with her parents. Mable, who was Mrs. F. Dransfeldt, died in Good Farm Township, February 12, 1914. Arthur J. and Jesse, who lives in Good Farm Township; and Pearl, who is living at Dwight, Ill., with her parents, the father being retired.

Aurthur J. Meier was born in Good Farm Township, November 14, 1882, and while assisting his father in the work of the farm, went to school. He remained with his father until he was twenty-six years old at which time he married and settled on 120 acres of the old homestead. On this property he is carrying on general farming, making a specialty of breeding Chester White hogs and thoroughbred Rhode Island chickens.

On June 22, 1909, Mr. Meier was married to Nellie Patmore of Gardner, Ill., a daughter of Orlando and Anna (Gough) Patmore, natives of Pennsylvania and of Nova Scotia, respectively. They came to Gardner, Ill., where the father died in 1896, his burial being in the Braceville Cemetery. The mother survives, having married (second) George Beverly, of Gardner, Ill. There were three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Patmore: Lucinda, who is now Mrs. George Myers of Joliet, Ill.; Nellie, who is Mrs. Aurthur Meier; and Erwin, who is living at Joliet, Ill. There were two children born to the second marriage of Mrs. Meier's mother: Edward Beverly, who is living at Gardner, Ill.; and Mayona, who is deceased, and is buried in the Braceville Cemetery. Mr. Meier is one of the progressive farmers of the county and he and his wife take an important part in the social affairs of this locality, their hospitable home being the scene of many pleasant gatherings.





G. E. Towsley



**MENOZZI**, Isodoro, one of the business men of South Wilmington, is another of the sons of Italy who have succeeded in the new world which he chose as his home. He was born in northern Italy in 1875, a son of Caesar and Clotilda (Ferrari) Menozzi, both natives of Italy. The father was a merchant and farmer in his native land, continuing in business until his death. The mother is also deceased, both passing away in Italy. They had the following children: Artineo, who resides in Italy; Rita, who resides at Clark City, Ill.; Pete, who resides at Cardiff, Ill.; Massino, who lives in Italy; Isodoro; and Marie, who lives in Italy, living, and Angelo, who died in Italy; Joseph, who was killed at Clark City, Ill., in a mine accident; four who died when very young; and Clementa, who died in Italy.

Isodoro Menozzi assisted his father while attending school, thus continuing until he was thirteen years old, at which time he began working as a laborer. Within three years he went to France and was employed in excavating a tunnel. Desiring to enter broader fields, he came to the United States in 1905, and for a year worked in the mines at Coal Gate, Okla., but returned to Italy in 1907 and gave his country a military service of one year. In 1909 he returned to Oklahoma, but after a short stay, came to South Wilmington, Ill., and embarked in his present business. He is also treasurer of East Brooklyn, Ill., and is highly regarded by his associates.

In 1902 Mr. Menozzi was married to Gilda Monari, the ceremony taking place in Italy. Mr. and Mrs. Menozzi have had four children: Caesar, Hattie, Nora and Frederico, all at home. He belongs to the Eagles, the Marco Polo Lodge of the Solar Rispolende. The Catholic Church holds his membership. Politically he is a Republican, and a leader in his party.

**MERRIAM**, William Richardson (deceased).—The records of Grundy County show that many of its substantial citizens gained their competence from farming. Later on in life many of these men retired from the farm, and coming to the County Seat, passed their declining years in peace and comfort. The late William Richardson Merriam, after a somewhat eventful life, located on a farm in Waupoosee Township and lived there until his retirement. He was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., November 29, 1829, a son of Archibald and Polly (Rowhall) Merriam, natives of New York. The father died in 1835.

When he was nineteen years old, William Richardson Merriam learned the trade of cabinetmaking and painting, and in 1848, came west to Saukumauk, Ill. Later he obtained employment on a farm by the mouth, and after a year, went to Joliet, Ill., where he worked on the Illinois and Michigan Canal as boatsman. Within eighteen months he was made steersman of a freight boat which was consigned to John B. Chapin & Co., of Chicago. Mr. Merriam entered the employ of this firm, and after seven years

became owner of a boat called William Merriam. Two years later, he sold a half interest, and two years after that, disposed of his other half. In 1861, he bought eighty acres of land in Waupoosee Township, and operated it until 1881, when he retired. In the meanwhile, he had added to his holdings until he owned 280 acres. Refraining from the farm in 1884, he came to Morris and bought a handsome residence on East Washington street, where he died, September 3, 1901.

On March 26, 1854, Mr. Merriam was married at Saratoga, Ill., to Rubie S. Lyons, born in Jefferson County, N. Y., October 30, 1836, a daughter of Vernon and Maria (Taylor) Lyons, natives of New York State. The family moved to Kendall County, Ill., in 1847, locating six miles east of Lisbon, and in 1857, came to Morris, where Mr. Lyons died August 27, 1872, aged sixty-three years. His wife died December 1, 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Merriam had no issue. Mr. Merriam was a Methodist, and in politics, was a Republican, although he never cared for public office. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Merriam has lived at her residence, generally alone. She is a most estimable lady, and enjoys universal respect, as did her husband during his life.

**MILL**, Albert Osmond Thomas, better known, perhaps, as B. O. Mill, is one of the energetic, enterprising business men of Coal City, Ill., where he is also a partner in the Thom Hardware Company and has various other interests. He has lived in this county all of his life, having been born at Braceville, November 3, 1873, and is a son of Jesse and Katherine (Penney) Mill. Jesse Mill was born at Appleton, England, and there followed the vocation of lawyer, but in 1867 emigrated with his wife and one son, William, to the United States and settled in what was then Grand Prairie, but which subsequently became known as Braceville, Ill. He followed mining for about eight years, and upon giving up that occupation was elected to the various offices within the gift of the people of his township. His wife died March 1, 1911, and was buried at Braceville. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom are still living, as follows: William, now a resident of Blackstone, Ill.; Jerome, who is a barber of Coal City, Ill.; Augustus, in the bottling business at Braceville; Jessie, who is now Mrs. E. B. Leepy, of Denver, Col.; B. O.; Charlie, manager of a mining company store at Rathbun, Iowa; Sealy, a clerk in the store at Rathbun; and Frank, who is engaged as clerk in an electrical store at Houston, Texas.

B. O. Mill was three years of age when brought to Coal City by his parents, and here secured his educational training in the public schools. His first employment was in a printing establishment, where he remained for three years, and then became bookkeeper in the office of the Big Four Wilmington Coal Company, where he remained eight years. On August 1, 1900, he embarked in business on his own ac-



count when he bought the hardware and furniture store formerly owned by Hugh Burnett, an establishment which he conducted as sole proprietor until 1907. In that year he opened a branch store and conducted it in connection with his main business for about one year, then discontinuing the branch. On January 6, 1909, with Alexander Thom, Jr., he formed a copartnership and bought out Bert Waters' hardware and furniture store, which is now conducted under the firm style of the Thom Hardware Company, which carries a full line of hardware, furniture and agricultural implements and has grown to be the leading business of its kind in the city. Mr. Mill still continues to conduct his original business, has stock in the Illinois Aero Construction Company, and is recognized as one of the substantial and thoroughly reliable business men of Coal City. He is a Republican in national affairs, but in local matters is liable to exercise his prerogative by voting for the man or movement which he considers will best forward the interests of the community.

On June 22, 1903, Mr. Mill was married to Miss Kittie Brennan, daughter of Patrick Brennan, a native of New York State, who came to Braidwood, Ill., about the time of the organization of that town, where Mrs. Mill was born. One child has come to Mr. and Mrs. Mill: Mary, born May 16, 1906, who is attending school. Mr. Mill is a Mason, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias, and in the last named order was master of finance for four years. He is widely known throughout Grundy County, where he has numerous warm friends.

**MILL, Augustus Josiah.**—The increase in the use of bottled goods has given birth to a number of concerns of merit which engage in the production of beverages to meet the growing demand. One of the men whose product has met with a deserved appreciation from the public is Augustus Josiah Mill of Braceville, Ill. Mr. Mill was born at Braceville, Ill., June 8, 1871, a son of Jesse and Catherine (Penny) Mill, natives of England.

Augustus Josiah Mill was educated in the schools of Braceville and those of Coal City. After completing his educational training, Mr. Mill learned the butchering trade at Coal City and worked at it for a time. He then spent twelve years in the coal mines, when in 1905 he came to Braceville and established his present business, now being the leading bottler of Grundy County, his principal product being soda. In 1896 Mr. Mill married Elizabeth Robinson, who was born in England. They have four children: Arthur, Clifford, Leona and LeRoy. The Methodist Church holds his membership and benefits from his earnest, liberal support. A Republican, he has served as a trustee of Coal City for four years and was a most efficient man in that office. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America of Braceville, and the Knights of Pythias of Coal City. The progress made by Mr. Mill

proves that nothing is impossible to the energetic, ambitious American who knows how to work and save. Not only has he achieved material prosperity, but he has gained the confidence and good will of his fellow townsmen and is a man highly respected by all who know him.

**MILLER, George Parker,** owner of the "Elms" farm, situated in Felix Township, is one of the progressive farmers and enterprising business men of this section and enjoys the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens. Mr. Miller was born at St. Charles, Ill., August 7, 1852, and is a son of Norman and Harriet (Parker) Miller, the former a native of Penn Yan and the latter of Erie County, N. Y. They were pioneers and traveled 1200 miles with ox-teams and when they reached Fort Dearborn, now Chicago, they could have bought land there for \$1.25 per acre. Norman Miller died in 1895, in Iowa, and his wife in 1910, at Morris, Ill. They were parents of the following children: Mrs. Augusta Winterstein, Calista Trotter, George Parker, Martha Humphrey, Alice Napier Albert L., Orvil, Harriet Mitchell, Dora Primrose, Norman, Nelson and Lottie, and one who died in infancy.

George Parker Miller attended a country school in Linn County, Iowa, and when he located in Grundy County, in 1870, obtained employment on a farm and continued so engaged until 1880, in which year he was married to Miss Jennie Trotter, who was born in the house they now occupy. Many years ago the father of Mrs. Miller bought forty acres of the present farm, the old Trotter homestead. Mr. Miller has 160 acres of land, 120 of which belonged to Mrs. Trotter as her portion of the estate. He makes the breeding of cattle and raising Berkshire hogs an important feature of his work and keeps fully abreast of the times in all his industries, being a member of the Farmers Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Grundy County.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two children: Cora May, who is the widow of Harry Winder; and George E., both of whom live at home. Mrs. Winder has one daughter, Ruth L., who was born September 24, 1903. Mr. Miller is a member of the Methodist Church and is now serving as a trustee of the same. In politics he is a Republican and has served as school trustee of Felix Township for three terms, two terms as school director and thrice has been elected to the office of tax collector. He belongs to the order of Modern Woodmen of America and has been through all the chairs. He has thoroughly demonstrated the fact that he is one of the solid and reliable men of his section and as one who can always be depended upon to support any measure which in his judgment will be productive of good to his neighborhood.

**MISENER, Isaac Newton.**—Unless a man possesses characteristics which set him a little







D. M. Towley



apart from the ordinary run of people, he is not likely to be elected to represent large interests in any body. The supervisors of Grundy County are carefully selected for the people understand that upon their county board devolves much that is of interest to the county at large, and so try and get representatives who will not only protect them, but see that the taxes are expended wisely and intelligently. One of the ablest men upon the county board today is Isaac Newton Misener, of Mazon Township, now serving in his second term. He owns 160 acres of fertile land in Mazon Township, and another farm of 210 acres which he rents. Mr. Misener specializes on breeding Belgian horses, and raises considerable stock which he feeds and ships.

Isaac Newton Misener was born in this township, August 4, 1861, a son of Henry F. and Margaret (Layman) Misener. He was reared to farming, and sent to the district schools. When he was twenty-one years old he married Anna E. Jackson, born in Mazon Township, and they have two children: Elsie M. Wilkinson and Gardis C. A Democrat in politics, Mr. Misener has been called upon to fill other offices aside from that of supervisor, as he was assessor for three years and a member of the school board for many years. He is one of the most progressive farmers of his township, and operates upon an extensive scale. For years he has been treasurer of the Grundy County Fair Association. He was also one of the organizers of the Farmers Elevator Company at Mazon, Ill., and in 1912 he, with others, organized the First National Bank at Mazon, with a capital of \$35,000, of which he is a director. A man of energy and foresight, he utilizes his natural faculties and successfully develops whatever he undertakes.

**MISENER, John H.**, whose services during the Civil War entitled him to the consideration of his government, long was an important factor in the life of Maine Township. He was born in Hamilton County, O., December 22, 1834, a son of Ransom Misener. In 1851 he came to Grundy County, and worked among the farmers until he enlisted, April 27, 1862, at Ottawa, Ill., for service during the Civil War, in Company G, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged June 6, 1865. After the war he returned home and lived in Braceville Township until his marriage, when he located in what is now Maine Township, there becoming the owner of considerable property. On December 12, 1867, he married Esther C. Hill, and they had two children: Emma S. and Arthur H.

**MUFFLER, Henry.**—Grundy County, Ill., has no more progressive and enterprising farmer and stockraiser than Henry Muller, whose modern ideas and methods have brought him noteworthy success in the line of his calling. He is a native of the Prairie State, having been born at Ottawa, September 5, 1861, and is a

son of Thomas and Kreszentz (Hess) Muller, natives, respectively, of Baden and Wurttemberg, Germany, the former of whom came to the United States in 1858, and the latter three years later. After his marriage Thomas Muller followed various lines of employment until 1865, when he began farming in La Salle County, on rented land, but in 1877 came to Vienna Township, Grundy County, and purchased 160 acres of land, partly improved, which he put under a high state of cultivation. He continued to follow farming until his death in 1896, and in the following year the mother moved to Seneca, Ill., where she still resides, at the age of eighty-two years. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Muller had seven children, the two living being: Joseph, of Norman Township; and Henry, of Vienna Township.

Henry Muller secured good educational advantages in his youth, attending both the common schools of La Salle County and the Sisters and Brothers Catholic school at Ottawa. At the time of his father's death his brother Joseph inherited 200 acres of land in Norman Township, while Henry was given the old home place, now one of the finest farms in the county, and known as the Fairview Grain and Stock Farm. He has always been engaged in general farming, and successfully breeds Belgian horses, Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. The many improvements on his place and the highly cultivated fields indicate great thrift and industry on the part of the owner, and his success has not been gained at the expense of his fellow-men. He owns also 160 acres in Manitoba, Canada.

In the year of 1898, Mr. Muller was married to Miss Emma J. Gettler, who was born at Seneca, Ill., May 4, 1878, a daughter of Frank and Elizabeth (Moser) Gettler, natives of Germany, who accompanied their parents to the United States as children, and were reared and married in Pennsylvania. Mr. Gettler died in 1890 while the mother survived until 1901. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Muller, as follows: Henry Howard, June 8, 1899; Velma Marie, July 29, 1901; Celia Emma, March 16, 1903; Mabel Elizabeth, June 17, 1905; and Loretta Kreszentz, August 18, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Muller are consistent members of the Catholic Church at Kinsman. He is a Republican, but has never cared for public office.

**MULVANIE, James.**—There are no more representative men in Grundy County than those who utilize the natural advantages of their locality for agricultural purposes, and found among them is James Mulvanie, of Vienna Township. He was born September 24, 1851, in Ormstown, Canada, a son of Patrick and Mary (Moore) Mulvanie. The father died at the old home in Canada in 1854 and the mother in Illinois in 1875.

James Mulvanie came to Grundy County, Ill., in 1871, where he rented land for ten years, and then bought a farm in the southern part of Vienna Township. This he improved, and four



years later sold, and purchased his present property, one-half mile south of Waupunsee Station. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Mulvanie is a fine farm of 240 acres and the improvements are evidence of earnest effort, intelligently directed.

On March 28, 1877, James Mulvanie was married to Fannie May Harford, born in Vienna Township, a daughter of Aaron and Frances (Dewey) Harford, natives of Connecticut and England, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Mulvanie have one child, Jessie, born May 8, 1880, now the wife of E. B. Benson of Vienna Township. Mr. Mulvanie has served his school district as director and the township as assessor, road commissioner and supervisor, at all times proving himself efficient and conscientious. Fraternally he belongs to Verona Lodge No. 757, A. F. & A. M., and Verona Lodge, K. P. In these fraternal relations as in the outside world, Mr. Mulvanie is popular and well deserves the prosperity which has attended him.

**MUNSON, Joel S. (deceased).**—It is but fitting that a lasting tribute be paid the memory of so good a man as the late Joel S. Munson, formerly of Saratoga Township and later of Morris, Ill. He was born in Manchester, Vt., August 26, 1838, a son of Benjamin and Maritta (Pratt) Munson, both natives of Manchester, Vt., where they were farming people. Mr. Munson remained at home with his parents until his marriage, December 28, 1865, with Alida Ellen Walker, born at Ft. Edward, N. Y., September 21, 1846, daughter of Daniel P. and Flora Sophia (Bendall) Walker, natives of Manchester and of Sandgate, Vt. The Walkers came in 1871 to Saratoga Township, Grundy County, and located on a farm that Mr. Walker had previously bought and until 1887 he lived on this farm, and then moved to Morris, where he lived retired until his death in 1901, his wife having passed away in 1900.

In 1878 Joel S. Munson moved to Saratoga Township from Manchester, Vt., and lived on Mr. Walker's farm until January, 1905, when he came to Morris, and here he died February 11, 1911, his remains being laid to rest in beautiful Evergreen Cemetery. Since his demise, his widow has lived in her modern residence on Vine street. Mr. and Mrs. Munson were the parents of the following children: Herbert A., who married Myrtle Pettet, lives at Tacoma, Wash.; Bertha, who married William M. Hoge, lives at Morris; Murray R., who married Grace L. Sprunt, lives at Morris; Tracy, who married Mrs. Anna Arnold, resides in Joplin, Mo.; Flora M., who lives with her mother; Loveland C., who married Nina Sleazer, lives at Deerfield, Ill.; Grace C., who lives with her mother; and Chester W., who lives at Granite City, Ill. Mrs. Munson is a highly educated lady, being a graduate of the Manchester seminary, which institution also graduated her husband. Both of them early attended the Congregational Church. Mr. Munson was a Republican and served as justice of the peace during his residence in Saratoga Township.

He was a man of sterling character, because of which he won and retained friends, and in his death, Morris lost one of its substantial citizens and his family a kind and loving husband and father.

**MURPHEY, Jacob H.**, now living retired at Minooka, after a long and useful career both as farmer and hardware merchant, is an excellent example of the substantial Grundy County citizen. He was born in Belmont County, Ohio, September 18, 1830, son of Horatio and Hannah (Beam) Murphey. The father came of Scotch-Irish descent while the mother was born in Ohio of German descent. The parents married and settled at St. Clairsville, Ohio, where the father was a jeweler for many years. In 1851, Jacob H. Murphey and a brother, John Murphey, drove horses from Ohio to Morris, Ill., arriving there in March of that year, and Jacob H. Murphey was so pleased with the locality that he began working for a Mr. Bradshaw on his farm. He intended to thus continue, but sickness interfered with his plans. Afterward, by borrowing money, he began to handle horses, and was so engaged for three years, at which time he married and then rented land in Erieau Township. The owner of the land was glad to remit the amount of the rent for the work Mr. Murphey did in developing the farm, and thus he was able to save money and to buy a farm of his own in 1862. This contained 210 acres, and was the one on which he had worked upon first coming to Grundy County. Of this place 160 acres were on Section 8 and 40 acres on Section 5, and as the land was improved he moved on the property immediately and soon began to add to the buildings. He erected a nice frame residence and commodious outbuildings replacing the original ones of logs, and for years he did a big business in raising horses, cattle and hogs. In the meanwhile, he had rented other land, and on it he carried on general grain farming and stock raising, and still owns his farming land. In 1888 he rented his property and moved to Minooka, where he has a comfortable residence and for eight years was in the hardware business.

On October 18, 1859, Mr. Murphey was married to Mary V. Pumphrey, born in Belmont County, Ohio, December 30, 1838, and died April 9, 1875. They had the following children: Laura who was born October 15, 1860; Mrs. Charles Perkins of Kendall County, has three children, Harriett, Alvin and Serena; William H., who was born September 3, 1862, of Joliet, Ill.; and Nettie, who was born January 2, 1874, died July 22, 1877. On January 27, 1876, Mr. Murphey was married (second) to Mrs. Prudence (Curtis) Whittington, born in Whitehall, N. Y., September 23, 1837, widow of Richard Whittington, daughter of Thaddeus and Eunice Maria (Reynolds) Curtis, born in Rutland, Vt. By her first marriage Mrs. Murphey had four children: Charles H., who is deceased; Cyrus H., who was killed while working on a street car line out of Joliet, was married to





John Trotter





Ida Thayer, and they had one son, Cyrus Earl; Arthur W., who is of Detroit, Mich., married Ora Smith, and they have four children, Carlton, Velma F., Jerry, and Arthur; and Mary M., who lives with Mr. and Mrs. Murphy. Mr. and Mrs. Murphy became the parents of two children: Fred C., who was born December 27, 1876, now of Klamath Falls, Ore., married Myrta Leach, of Pana, Ill.; and Jessie May, who was born May 10, 1879, died October 27, 1881. Mrs. Murphy came with her mother to Will County, Ill., the latter bringing her five children by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo, and thence on a steamer to Chicago. From that city the little party went to Plainfield by team. Mrs. Curtis died about 1871.

Mr. Murphy is a member of the Methodist Church and is active in church work. A Republican, he has held all the township offices, with the exception of supervisor and assessor, and was appointed deputy sheriff at one time. He is a man who has always held the confidence and esteem of his associates, and his standing in the community is undisputed.

**MURRAY, Augustus O.**, whose associations with Mazon Township were of an important nature, was born in Oswego, County, N. Y., February 9, 1832, a son of Jonathan C. Murray, one of the pioneers of Grundy County. The latter met his death by drowning in June, 1844. Augustus O. Murray married on October 18, 1852, Lydia A. Isham, and they had the following children: Louis R., Ella L., Bettie T., Frank A., Gertie E., Eva W., and Maud May. Not only was he a heavy landowner in Mazon Township, but he was interested in the grain and lumber trade at the village of Mazon. For years he took an active part in temperance movements, and was an influence for moral uplift in his community.

**MURRAY, Frank Augustus**, proprietor of the Brookside Farm of 330 acres, situated in Mazon Township, has exemplified in his agricultural operations and his life that nothing is impossible to the man who is willing to work hard and devote himself to his business in hand. On his property Mr. Murray is carrying on general farming and the raising of registered Polled Durham cattle. Mr. Murray was born July 10, 1864, and has spent his life, more or less, in agricultural pursuits although during the winter months, for some years, he taught school, and thus rendered valuable service to his community. In addition to raising registered cattle, Mr. Murray buys and sells them quite extensively, and is a heavy exhibitor of his stock and advertises in all the stock journals.

On May 3, 1888, Mr. Murray married Genevieve McKeen, born on the farm now owned by Mr. Murray, a daughter of I. H. and Louisa (Hupp) McKeen, who are now living retired at Morris, Ill. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Murray was also a school teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Murray have three children: Lyle G., Arden O.

and Geraldine Grace, all at home. Mr. Murray belongs to the Congregational Church, and gives it a generous support.

As chairman of the committee that organized the Grundy County Fair, in 1906, Mr. Murray has always been interested and is now general superintendent of the association. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Murray is treasurer of the Mazon Mutual County Fire Insurance Company, as well as one of its directors. This company was organized in 1888, and is in a flourishing condition. He is also secretary of the Farmers Elevator Company, and a director of the First National Bank of Mazon. For some years he has been on the board of education of the Township High School and is now serving it as clerk, his experiences as a teacher proving of great benefit to his fellow members. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, the Modern Woodmen, the Fraternal Reserves and the Eastern Star. Mrs. Murray belongs to the Eastern Star, and the Royal Neighbors, and is president of the Woman's Study Club of Mazon, Ill. Enterprising, energetic and capable, Mr. Murray succeeds in what he undertakes and is today one of the most representative men of his township, as well as of the county at large.

**MURRAY, Kay Hiram**.—The legal profession has some sound exponents in Grundy County, these men being well versed in their calling and connected with some of the important litigation of the State. One of the men who still in the very prime of young manhood, has already built up a valuable patronage, is Kay Hiram Murray of Morris, an attorney of worth, widely and favorably known not only all over Grundy County, but in the outside territory as well. He was born in Mazon Township, April 20, 1883, a son of Lewis Ross and Catherine (Riggall) Murray, both of Mazon Township. The paternal grandparents, Augustus Owen and Lydia (Isham) Murray, were very early settlers of Mazon Township, the former being a general merchant of Mazon, and the latter deceased.

Kay Hiram Murray was the only child of his father's first marriage, and remained at home until he was eighteen years old, when he entered the university at Bloomington, Ill., and later attended the law school of the same place. After being graduated from the latter institution in 1907, he perfected himself in his profession, and in 1908 with a Mr. Hayes, opened a law office at Morris.

In August, 1906, Mr. Murray was united in marriage with C. Lucille Crews, born at Abington, Ill., a daughter of Richard and Florence (Skelly) Crews, natives of England and McLean County, Ill., respectively. Mr. Crews, now deceased, was a Presiding Elder of the Methodist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Murray are the parents of the following children: Louis Crews and Mary Frances Crews. Mrs. Murray is a consistent member of the Methodist Church. Politically Mr. Murray is a Republican, and was on his party's ticket for State's Attorney in the



fall of 1913. His fraternal affiliations are with the Mazon Lodge No. 826, A. F. & A. M., while socially he belongs to the Phi Gamma Delta and Phi Delta Phi, college organizations. A young man of boundless ambition, carefully trained in his profession, he is steadily advancing and is destined to become one of the leaders in his part of the State.

**MURRAY, Louis Ross**, third son of Augustus Owen and Lydia (Sham) Murray, was born on the Murray homestead, March 6, 1859. He inherited good nature and an opportunity to tackle the many things a farmer had could do. A district school in winter and a term at the Morris Normal fitted him for a few turns at farming, while a desire to see more territory led the young man to canvass as agent and salesman for various lines. At a proper age our subject began married life with Kittie E. Riggall, of Mazon, Ill., her presence making the farm a happy home. This union was crowned with the birth of a son, Kay H. Murray, of Morris, Ill., for whom the mother gave her life. After some years, Mr. Murray shared his name and fortunes with Lillie Hamilton, the second daughter of John and Maria (Sadler) Hamilton, of Mazon Township. Three sons, Norris F., Forrest H. and Sprague E., are in manhood's estate, and a daughter, Resda Clare, share the comforts of a favored home.

In the winter of 1888, "L. R." as he is generally known, succeeded N. Balchowsky in general merchandising and has been proprietor of Murray's Store, and quite widely known in business and social circles, for the past twenty-seven years. He never had a taste for politics, but is ever ready to champion a cause for the betterment of society, and is recognized as a "booster" for all worthy objects in his community. As editor and owner of the Mercantile Co-Operator, a trade journal for the merchants, Mr. Murray is building up a friendship and business interest that invites attention in several states.

The family are patrons of some leading colleges and it may be predicted that the family name will be long remembered for ambition and accomplishment.

**MURRAY, Patrick T.**, city editor of the Grundy County Gazette, first saw the light of day in Liverpool, England, March 20, 1868. He was the youngest son of Thomas J. and Catherine (Mulheir) Murray, who were born in County Galway, Ireland, and passed away at the ages of sixty-five and seventy-five years respectively. He came with his parents to Morris, Ill., when six years of age, and has lived here continuously ever since. A sister and two brothers emigrated here before the parents came.

Mr. Murray was educated in the Morris schools, leaving the high school at the age of fifteen years, when he was about to graduate. At that age he entered upon the stormy career of a printer's "devil," accepting employment with the Morris Independent, and has been

identified with the printing profession in the different departments from "devil" to proprietor, since that time.

In July, 1889, he joined with F. N. Hull and J. A. Kutz in the establishment of the Morris Daily Post. Perhaps no newspaper was ever started under more inauspicious circumstances. Five printers were idle in Morris at that time, and the Daily News was being published by Rev. C. R. Morrison. The News' subscription list had been dwindling for some time, and Messrs Kutz, Hull and Murray were urged to launch a daily in opposition. The principal difficulty was the lack of funds. Finally the father of Mr. Hull offered to furnish the office for the paper in the Hull block as his son's share, until the firm could pay rent. Mr. Kutz possessed an antiquated jobbing-press and a few fonts of type, which he tendered as his share. It was up to Murray to furnish the cash capital; an inventory of his assets showed a "lead quarter" and no real estate. At last, when hope had almost departed, he was furnished \$50 by the late Truman A. Hand, with nothing but his personal note for security. Thus was the Daily Post started on a cash capital of \$50. It made money and existed for twenty years. In 1891 Mr. Kutz relinquished his holdings and in 1894, Mr. Murray retired, leaving Mr. Hull as the sole owner.

On January 31, 1893, Mr. Murray was married to Miss Celia Malady, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Malady, early pioneers of Grundy County. They have two children, a son and a daughter. Mr. Murray is a member of the Catholic Church and was for a time leader of its choir. He is Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and Recording Secretary of the Catholic Order of Foresters, and has held other offices of trust in both societies, since they were chartered. He has been a staunch Democrat since he attained his majority, but has never sought or held any political office. He has been identified in some manner with most of the newspapers in Morris and is well acquainted with the upward and downward careers of all of them. He and his family reside at 614 East North Street, Morris, Ill.

**MUSSATTO, John.**—It is a self-evident fact that many of the leading men of Grundy County are those of foreign birth, who have shown appreciation of the advantages and opportunities offered them here, and have made good use of their chances. Not only are these naturalized citizens of the United States proving their business ability, but they are being entrusted with the duties of some of the most important offices of their communities and discharging their responsibilities conscientiously and capably. One of those who belong to this class is John Mussatto, marshal and street commissioner of South Wilmington, Ill. He was born in Northern Italy in 1867, a son of Baptista and Theresa (Berrano) Mussatto, farming people of Italy.

In 1882, realizing that he needed a broader field in which to work than that afforded in his





MRS. JOHN TROTTER



own land. John Mussatto came to the United States and located at Braidwood, Ill., where he worked in the mines until 1902, in which year he came to South Wilmington, where he continued his connection with mine work, and also conducted a butchering business for a few years. For the past six years he has been on the village board and has rendered very efficient service in this connection as well as in the offices of marshal and street commissioner. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Mussatto owns his residence at South Wilmington, and has the best interests of the place at heart. In 1888 Mr. Mussatto married Bertha Jack, who was born in France, but came to the United States with her parents who located at Braidwood, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Mussatto are the parents of the following children: Joseph, who resides at Joliet, Ill.; Maggie Lawlis; John; Lillie; Mary, who is deceased; and Mary (II). In religious faith Mr. Mussatto is a Catholic. He belongs to the Foresters and the Knights of Pythias, and the Italian lodges of Braidwood, Ill. A man of ability and strong character, Mr. Mussatto has honestly won his present position, and stands high in public estimation.

**NELSON, Gunner (deceased).**—Norway has contributed some of its most representative men and women to this country. They have brought with them sturdy characteristics which have enabled them to succeed and bring up their children in ways of right living. One of the men of Grundy County who was born in this country of the far north, and whose parents gave him a thorough training, was Gunner Nelson, formerly a substantial business man of Morris, Ill. Mr. Nelson was born in Norway, January 26, 1862, a son of Ever and Julia Nelson, who came to the United States when their son was an infant, and settled at Gardner, this county. They became farming people.

Gunner Nelson remained at home with his parents until his marriage which occurred February 22, 1887, when he was united with Hattie McConnell born at Wilmington, Ill., a daughter of James and Matilda McConnell, natives of Ireland, who were married in New York. Mr. McConnell was a stone mason during his active life and now lives retired with a daughter at Clark City, Ill. His wife died in 1902. After marriage Mr. Nelson operated a farm in the vicinity of Gardner for a year, when he moved to that city and for another year was engaged in teaming and land filling. He then went to Clark City, Ill., but within another year came to Morris where he conducted a butcher shop for a year. He was engaged in the same line of business at Seneca, Ill., but returning to Morris was in a liquor business until his death which occurred November 2, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson had children as follows: Julia; Ella, who is Mrs. Wm. Hodson of Joliet, Ill.; Howard, who married Henrietta Bissland, lives at Morris; George, who is of Morris; Roy, who is at home; Willie, who is at home; Charles, who is at home; John; and Valma. Mrs. Nel-

son is living in her residence, No. 814 Price street, Morris.

**NELSON, John**, the owner of 160 acres of land located in Garfield Township, on which he is carrying on general farming operations, was born in Norway, January 27, 1861, and came to this country as a lad of five years, in 1866. The father of Mr. Nelson was a farmer in Norway, and on coming to America in 1866 took up that occupation in Kendall County, Ill., where the mother died in 1872. In 1887 the father came to Grundy County, and for a number of years carried on agricultural pursuits, but moved to Gardner and lived retired for ten years prior to his death, which occurred March 23, 1912. He is buried in the cemetery near Braceville, Ill. Mr. Nelson married (first) Julia Gundersen, and to this union there were born four children: John, Mrs. Carrie Raymer, Gunner and Mrs. Anna Milburn. He was married the second time to Carrie Olsen, of Kendall County, Ill., and to this union there were born six sons: Nels, who is deceased; and Thor, Gerhardt, Martin, Iver and Ben.

John Nelson received his education in the district schools of Kendall County, and at the age of eighteen years began to work among the farmers for monthly wages. By the time he reached the age of twenty years he had saved enough from his earnings to purchase his first team and tools, and had enough left to rent land. From that time on his rise was rapid and continued, and in 1900 he bought his present handsome farm, a property consisting of 160 acres, all in a high state of cultivation. On this land he has made many fine improvements, and his house and barns are among the finest farm structures to be found in the township. In 1889 Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Elizabeth Perry, who was born in Wales and came to this country alone. Six children have been born to this union: Mrs. Lillian Burkhardt, Eva, Mrs. Mabel Barrett, Guy, Beatrice and Della. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and their children are consistent members of the Presbyterian Church, and have taken an active interest in its work. He is a Republican in politics, and has served five years as a member of the board of school directors. His fraternal connections include membership in the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Neighbors and the Glens. During his long residence he has formed a wide acquaintance in Garfield Township, and in this he numbers many friends.

**NELSON, O. J.**—It would be difficult to discover any of the various activities of Morris which have not enlisted the attention of O. J. Nelson. Primarily a business man, handling large insurance interests, he possesses those peculiar talents so necessary to the successful salesman of policies; but it is probable that he has a still wider reputation as a public speaker, for no event of importance is complete unless he is called upon for one of his characteristic speeches. Withal, he is a sturdy and helpful





citizen, and an influence for the greatest advancement and progress in civic affairs.

Mr. Nelson was born in Norway, in 1847, and is a son of John and Annie (Olson) Nelson, who left their native land and came to the United States in 1858, first settling on a farm in Kendall County, Ill. The country schools of that rural community furnished Mr. Nelson with his educational training, but when a lad of seventeen years he laid aside his school books and shouldered a musket in defense of his adopted country's flag, enlisting at Lisbon, Ill., in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, May 24, 1864. The greater part of his exciting military service was passed in the "hushwhacker" country of Missouri, and October 14, 1864, Mr. Nelson received his honorable discharge with an excellent war record. Returning to his Kendall County home, he resided there until September, 1866, when he came to Morris and obtained employment in a store. Following an experience of five years as bookkeeper for a grain house, he became a member of the firm of William McEwen & Company and continued to be identified with that concern for a like period. At that time he formed a partnership with his brother, Nels J. Nelson, the firm continuing in business until 1884, when it met with financial reverses that caused it to close its doors, and settlement was made with creditors at fifty cents on the dollar by O. J. Nelson, who continued the business alone. It was while thus engaged that he became interested in the subject of insurance, in which he was to achieve a remarkable success. The building in which his stock was stored, and which cost \$15,000, burned to the ground, with insurance of only \$1,000. While his own loss was being adjusted, Mr. Nelson made a study of insurance, which impressed him as a favorable field in which to resume business life. He accordingly became a general insurance agent, and has never had reason to regret the step he made, as at this time he has many of the largest and most representative interests of the county on his books, and represents twenty fire insurance companies, including all the old line concerns. His career has been a particularly successful one, although it has been characterized by the vicissitudes which are to be met in the lives of all men who have the courage to embark in new fields and trust to their own ability to carry them through. His offices are located at the corner of Liberty and Washington streets.

In 1872 Mr. Nelson was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Erickson, born at Morris, a daughter of E. and Esther (Olson) Nelson, natives of Norway. Two children have been born to this union: Esther, who is the wife of W. H. House, of Chicago; and Olive Josephine, one of the most popular young ladies in social circles of Morris, who is residing with her parents. Politically a stalwart Republican, Mr. Nelson has frequently mounted the rostrum in campaign work, and through his eloquence and logic has rendered his party yeoman service.

He served his township for twenty-five consecutive years as supervisor, and for a number of years was alderman of his ward at Morris, and in both capacities capably and conscientiously discharged the duties of his position and fully vindicated the confidence and faith that had been reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. A member of the Lutheran Church from boyhood, he has given its movements his generous support. Mr. Nelson is an active and prominent Mason, belonging to the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery, and is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Lincoln Club. During his long residence at Morris he has formed a wide acquaintance, and through his geniality and fidelity has attracted to himself a number of warm friends, whom his loyalty and continued integrity have allowed him to retain.

**NELSON, Thorvald.**—It is a generally recognized fact that in order to succeed in the growing of plants, one must have a love for them, and an understanding of their needs. Some men are born with this comprehension of the requirements of plants, and if they engage in raising them, this instinct comes into good play. One of the successful florists and gardeners of Grundy County is Thorvald Nelson, who from childhood cherished a desire to sometime engage in the very line of work he is now pursuing. He was born in Norway, September 22, 1858. In 1880, Mr. Nelson left his native land for the United States, arriving here in the spring of that year. For some time, he was engaged in iron mining at different points, and then came to Morris, where for eleven years he was in the employ of the Coleman Hardware Company. For the next six and one-half years, he was sexton of Evergreen Cemetery. Having been thrifty and saved his money, he found himself in a position where he could go into the line of business that had always attracted him, and so he bought his home at No. 833 E. North street, where he has three acres of land. He built greenhouses, and embarked in a general florist business, handling garden and bedding plants, ornamental shrubs and taking contracts for general gardening.

In May, 1882, Mr. Nelson was married to Hannah Nelson, born in Sweden in 1860, who came to Morris in 1881. She died September 12, 1912. They had no children of their own, but reared a niece of Mrs. Nelson's, Helda Nelson, whom he married October 9, 1913. Mr. Nelson belongs to the Swedish Baptist Church of Morris. He is a Republican, and for two years was an efficient Collector of his township. Always hardworking and saving, Mr. Nelson has been able to make a success of the business he is interested in, and deserves full credit for what he has accomplished.

**NEWMAN, Henry, Jr. (deceased).**—Grundy County is one of the leading agricultural centers of Illinois, and this prestige has been gained through the public spirited efforts of its





Robert Trotter  
& Wife



farmers. One who bore his part in this noble work, although he has now passed to his last reward, was the late Henry Newman, Jr., for many years a farmer of Aux Sable Township. Mr. Newman was born in Saratoga Township, December 4, 1862, a son of the late Henry and Magdeline Newman, natives of Germany, the former of whom came in young manhood, and the latter was brought to this country in childhood. They married and settled on what became their homestead in Aux Sable Township, where the widow still lives.

Henry Newman, Jr., attended the local schools, and was brought up to a farming life, remaining with his parents until his marriage, which occurred December 31, 1890, when he was united by Rev. Hitchcock with Fannie Paul, born at Troy, Will County, Ill., November 22, 1869, daughter of Oliver and Elizabeth (Shepley) Paul. Mr. Paul was born in Pennsylvania, but his wife was a native of Lancastershire, England. The grandparents were James and Mary (Mowery) Paul and William and Fannie (Kay) Shepley, the latter being natives of Lancashire, England. The Shepley family came to Plainfield, Kendall County, Ill., at an early day. They later moved to Minooka, Ill., where they both died. Oliver Paul died December 17, 1876, and his widow was married June 2, 1881, to Joseph Eaton, and they now live at Joliet, Ill.

After his marriage, Henry Newman, Jr., moved to a portion of his father's 400-acre farm, on which his father had built a house and other necessary buildings. He owned 227 acres of fine land, and cultivated 200 acres of it. While living on this property, he made improvements, and took pride in keeping things in excellent order. He raised corn and oats on the land under the plow, devoting the remainder to hay and pasturage, as he fed and raised cattle on an extensive scale, and handled a large number of hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Newman became the parents of the following children: Henry Oliver, who was born January 7, 1895; Arthur William, who was born August 12, 1897; and Gladys Olive, who was born February 14, 1899, all at home.

Mr. Newman became so seriously ill that he was operated upon, on December 6, 1909, at the Presbyterian hospital at Chicago, and for a year was relieved of the suffering he had been enduring, but his disease then made such progress that he was taken back to the hospital, but the skill of the surgeons availed nothing, and he passed away March 14, 1911. Since his demise, Mrs. Newman has continued to operate the farm with the assistance of her son and hired help. Mrs. Newman is an accomplished lady, was a pupil in the Minooka High school, and secured a teacher's certificate, and prior to her marriage taught music. Mr. Newman was a Republican and held the office of school trustee for three successive terms. He belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias, both of Minooka, and was as popular in these organizations as he was in

his neighborhood, where he was held in the highest esteem.

**NEWMAN, Henry, Sr. (deceased).**—From Germany came to the United States some of her most substantial men who bore an important part in the development and advancement of their adopted land. Hard workers, these men bent their intelligent minds to the task of directing their bodies, and never spared themselves. Especially did their work count in the rural regions, and many broad acres today producing heavy crops, were redeemed from the wilderness through the industry of the German-American settlers. This is certainly true in Grundy County, and one of the men who bore his part in securing the present agricultural supremacy of this part of the state was the late Henry Newman, Sr., for many years a prominent farmer of Aux Sable Township. Mr. Newman was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, January 6, 1825, and came to New York in 1850, a son of Casper and Margaret Newman, who lived and died in Germany. Upon his arrival in New York City, Mr. Newman tried to secure work, and found employment at Buffalo and other New York State points for three years. In 1853, however, he came west as far as Grundy County, and for several years worked in and about Morris. All the while he was saving his money, for he had in view the purchase of land, and in 1861 was able to buy 190 acres in Aux Sable Township, for which he paid \$14.50 per acre. He located on this land, and lived there until his death which occurred December 17, 1902. Having added to his original purchase, at the time of his demise, he owned over 400 acres of productive land.

In March, 1853, Mr. Newman was married to Magdeline Hirsch, born November 18, 1827, daughter of Christian and Christina (Myers) Hirsch, the former of whom died in Germany. After he passed away, Mrs. Hirsch brought her two daughters to Grundy County. Mrs. Newman obtained employment at fifty cents per week, and thus continued until her marriage, being advanced to one dollar per week, and then to one dollar and one-half per week. Mr. and Mrs. Newman became the parents of the following children: Adelaide, who died at the age of six years; Mary, who is Mrs. Albert Patton of Lake City, Iowa; George, who lives at Huron, S. D.; Henry, who is deceased; John, who died at the age of four years; Elizabeth, who is Mrs. James Kay of the homestead; and Carrie, who is Mrs. William Ketcham of Aux Sable Township. Mr. Newman was a Democrat, but never desired office. His religious connections were with the Methodist Church. In his death, Grundy County lost an honorable citizen and most worthy man, and his family a kind and loving husband and father.

**NICHOLSON, Bert C.**—A progressive, enterprising citizen, who has won his way to the forefront solely through the medium of his own well-directed efforts, Bert C. Nicholson has at-



tained not alone financial independence, but the esteem and respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens in Coal City, Ill., and is universally recognized as one of his community's rising young men. He is a native of Grundy County, born in Mazon Township, on the farm where his parents, George and Rose (Bray) Nicholson, lived. His father, a native of Canada, came to Grundy County when twenty-one years of age, and here passed his life in agricultural pursuits, dying in 1907. Mrs. Nicholson, a native of Ireland, survives her husband, and makes her home in Oklahoma City, Okla. There were six children in their family: Bert C., Maud M., Mrs. Alice Brooks, Edie, Margaret and Lucille.

Bert C. Nicholson received his early education in the district schools, while assisting his father in the work of the home farm, and subsequently attended a business college at Ottawa for one year. A young man of versatile talents, he has at various times been engaged in the livery, butcher and draying business, and in 1909, upon coming to Coal City, established himself as the proprietor of a railroad tie and cord-wood business, in which he is still engaged. He is the owner of the John Corlett farm, a well-developed tract of eighty acres located in section 14, Mazon Township. He is progressive in his methods and his ideas, and his willingness to co-operate with his fellow-citizens in promoting movements of a beneficial nature has made him known as one of his community's useful men. In 1904 Mr. Nicholson was married to Miss Belle Archibold, of Braidwood, Ill., daughter of David and Jessie (Montgomery) Archibold, natives of Scotland, who came to America in 1876 and settled in Braidwood as pioneers of that place. Two children have been born to this union: Dale George and Paul Archibold. Mr. Nicholson is a popular member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Pythias and the Masons. His political connection is with the Republican party, but he takes only a good citizen's interest in public matters.

**OLROYD, Walter P.**—It is a remarkable fact that many of the most successful and responsible men of Grundy County have come here from some foreign land, developing into good citizens and loyal boosters for their special section. One of the leading agriculturalists of Grundy County is Walter P. Olroyd of Greenfield Township. He was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1866, the son of James and Mary (King) Olroyd. As the family came to the United States in 1888, the Olroyds have been associated with Grundy County for over a quarter of a century. They located at Braceville, where the father engaged in mining in the coal mines, and there died in 1893 from injuries received in the mines. His widow lived until 1909. These parents had eleven children, all of whom survive.

Walter P. Olroyd attended school in England and was engaged in farming and mining prior

to the family exodus. After coming to Braceville, he worked in the mines until 1894, when he resumed his agricultural operations. At present he owns 100 acres of fertile land on Section 13, where he carries on general farming. His success has come from persistent efforts, intelligently directed, and a natural ability and willingness to work. In 1910 Mr. Olroyd married Loretta Camden, a native of Ohio. They have had no children. Mr. Olroyd belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias. A Republican, he has served as collector for two years, and as highway commissioner for eleven years, still retaining that office. Mrs. Olroyd is a member of the Christian Church. He is a man of purposeful character, and has directed his efforts towards advancing himself, and at the same time he has won and retained the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been brought into contact.

**OLSON, Martin.**—Every branch of industrial endeavor is represented at Morris, for the whole county looks to it as a source of supply, and depends upon its business men to provide for its needs. One of the prosperous business men of Morris, who is known throughout Grundy County as an expert in his line, is Martin Olson, proprietor of a first-class blacksmith and general repairing shop. He was born in Kendall County, Ill., December 25, 1880, a son of Albert and Isabell (Soram) Olson, natives of Norway, who were married in Illinois. They were farming people who operated a large property in Kendall County but since coming to Morris, in 1898, Albert Olson has lived retired. Twice married, he lost his first wife in 1897. Later he married Sarah Eng.

Until his mother's death, Martin Olson remained at home, but following that, rented land in Kendall County, and operated it. Coming to Grundy County, he farmed in Waupee Township for six years, when he moved to Morris, and was engaged for a time in clearing off stumps on wild land. In 1911 Mr. Olson opened a blacksmith shop, and since then has done all kinds of expert blacksmithing and general repair work. Owing to his thoroughness and his knowledge of his trade, Mr. Olson commands a large patronage and his volume of business shows a constant and healthy increase.

In February, 1902, Mr. Olson was married to Josie Thompson, born in Grundy County. They have two children: Agnes and Lawrence. Mr. Olson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, and gives liberally toward its support. Ever since casting his first vote, Mr. Olson has supported the candidates of the Republican party. He is a hard-working, industrious young man, and his progress has been earned through perseverance and thrift.

**OLSON, Olans.**—Among the younger generation of farmers of Grundy County, Ill., who through their extensive operations have been important





factors in promoting the agricultural welfare of this section, none stands higher in the esteem of his fellow-citizens than Olaus Olson, of Nettle Creek Township. Mr. Olson is a native of Grundy County, Ill., having been born in Erienna Township, December 18, 1880, and is a son of Theodore and Bertha (Thorson) Olson. The parents of Mr. Olson, natives of Stavanger, Norway, came to the United States in 1867, and settled first on a farm in Kendall County, Ill., but later moved to Nettle Creek Township, and subsequently lived for different periods in other townships, but finally bought a home in Morris, Ill., where the father died March 27, 1910, while the widow is still a resident of that city, living at No. 850 East Washington street.

Olaus Olson received educational advantages in the district schools of Grundy county, and resided with his parents until the age of twenty-two years, being thoroughly trained in the vocation of agriculture. At that time he embarked in agricultural operations on his own account, with one of his sisters as housekeeper, and after her death another sister and an aunt controlled the household duties until Mr. Olson's marriage, June 7, 1905, to Miss Caroline Thorson. She was born March 19, 1886, in Nettle Creek Township, daughter of Aamen and Serena (Rasmussen) Thorson, natives of Norway. Three years after his marriage, Mr. Olson moved to the farm of Sam Marvick, in Nettle Creek Township, and in 1913 came to his present property, the 240 acres of William Hoge, located in the southern part of the township. He has shown himself to be a good and energetic farmer, bringing his land under a high state of cultivation and proving his ability to cope with conditions and achieve success in the keen competition of trade. He has been prominent in Republican politics for some years, and has served as township collector for two terms and as a member of the school board for a like period. With his family he attends the Lishon Lutheran Church. His acquaintance is wide and his friends numerous.

To Mr. and Mrs. Olson there have come four children: Tillir Bernhardt, born June 12, 1906; Sedell Arlian, born November 3, 1908; Spencer Alvin, born March 9, 1911; and Charlotte Olyda, born July 8, 1912, who died September 10, 1912.

**OLSON, Thomas B.**—Not only have the agriculturalists of Grundy County proven themselves men of expediency, as farmers, but they are making a record for themselves as breeders of fine stock. One of the men who has found it profitable to breed and raise Belgian and Norman horses is Thomas B. Olson, of Nettle Creek Township. He was born in Erienna Township, this county, September 15, 1883, a son of Theodore and Bertha (Thorson) Olson, born at Stavanger, Norway. After their marriage they came to Morris, Ill., and the father farmed for the following twenty-six years on the same farm in Erienna Township, in 1909,

he returned to Morris, where he died in 1910. His widow survives and lives at Morris.

Thomas B. Olson attended the schools of his home neighborhood and remained with his parents until his marriage when he rented 140 acres of land in Erienna Township, later renting fifty acres more. For three years he operated this property, and then moved to his present farm of 261 acres in Nettle Creek Township. He devotes 190 acres to grain and the balance is hay land and pasture for his stock.

On December 18, 1905, Mr. Olson married Alice Clauson, born in Miller Township, La Salle County, Ill., a daughter of Martin and Little (Brue) Clauson, the former born in La Salle County, and the latter in Nettle Creek Township. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have the following children: Truman, Milan, Florence, and Lyday E. Mr. Olson is a member of the Stavanger Church. Politically he is a Republican, but his time and attention are so taken up with his farm industries that he has little time for outside matters, so has made no effort to enter into public life.

**ONDESCO, George.**—A number of the progressive farmers of Grundy County are dividing their attention between farming and stock raising, realizing the immense profits to be obtained through the latter line of business, and recognizing the fact that the land here is specially adapted to feeding purposes. One of the men who has made a success of this, as well as kindred lines, is George Ondesco, a native of Austria Hungary, born in 1862, son of John and Mary (Kolch) Ondesco, natives of Austria, who lived and died there. They were the parents of five children: John, a resident of Austria Hungary; Andrew, deceased; Mike, a resident of Central City, Ill.; George; and Anna, deceased.

George Ondesco received but six weeks' schooling in his native land, and was employed on a farm until the death of his parents which occurred when he was but a child. He then became a herder of sheep and cattle, which vocation he followed until 1881, when he embarked for America, locating in Ohio. Here he was employed by a railroad company, and received only one penny for his first month's service, the company deducting his cost of transportation. He remained in the East until 1884, then went to Braidwood, Ill., subsequently to Braceville, where he secured work in the mines as coal digger, fireman and engineer. He followed this line of work until 1907, when he purchased 160 acres of land in Maine Township, which he has since improved and upon which he does general farming. He is the owner of cattle and hogs, and his specialty is the raising of good work horses. In 1888, his marriage to Susie Dancisak, native of Austria, was solemnized, and to this union have been born six children: a babe, who died in infancy; John; Mary, a school teacher; and Anna, Andy and Emma. The Greek Catholic Church holds Mr. Ondesco's membership. His political views are Repub-



lican. Mr. Ondesco is in every sense of the word a self-made man, and there are few who stand higher in his community than he. His success is merited, for it has been earned through hard work.

**ONSON, Peter.**—The land of Grundy County is admirably adapted for farming purposes and the men who have invested in it have no reason to regret their action. One of the prosperous retired agriculturalists of Goose Lake Township who takes a pride in what he accomplished on his farm and the improvements he made upon it is Peter Onson. He was born at Stavanger, Norway, in January, 1841, a son of Osen and Mary (Olson) Onson, who came to the Province of Quebec, Canada, in 1866. From there they made their way to Chicago, and thence to Morris, Ill., where the father died in 1876, and the mother in 1901.

Peter Onson was brought up at home, and remained with his parents until his arrival in Grundy County. He engaged with farmers for ten years, and then having gained a valuable experience and saved some money, in 1874 bought eighty-five acres of land in Goose Lake Township; but the farm was in bad condition, necessitating some very hard work and management to bring it into its present excellent condition. He improved the buildings and land, and had one of the best places for its size in the township. He sold this farm in 1913, but still resides on it with his daughter, Mrs. John Philips, who was the purchaser.

In 1867 Mr. Onson was married to Annie Knutson, born in Norway, who died in 1882, having borne him the following children: Onie, who is with his father; Andrew, who is a farmer of Goose Lake Township; Carl, who is of Waupoose Township; Bertha, Mrs. John Philips, who is the owner of the homestead in Goose Lake Township; and Martha, Mrs. Get Olson, who is of Livingston County, Ill. Mr. Onson belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican, but has never taken any active part in public affairs, as his farming duties have claimed him too closely. A hardworker, and very thrifty in his habits, Mr. Onson has steadily advanced, and his success is well merited.

**OSBORNE, Robert.**—Among the men whose activities in the mining fields of Grundy County have brought them into prominence, few, perhaps, are better known than Robert Osborne, serving his fifth term as a member of the State Executive Board of the United Mine Workers of America. From earliest boyhood he has been connected with mining operations, and has risen, step by step, from the humblest position to one that makes him an important factor in settling controversies between operator and miner. Mr. Osborne is a native of Ayreshire, Scotland, born in 1873, a son of William and Jeanette (Mitchell) Osborne. William Osborne was employed as a miner in his native Scotland until the year 1884, when he emigrated

to the United States and entered the mines in Illinois. There, during the same year, he was joined by his wife and six children, the latter being: Robert, William, Hugh, James, Jeanette, who is now Mrs. Stuart; and Mary, who also married a Mr. Stuart. The parents still survive and make their home at Gillespie, Ill., where Mr. Osborne is employed in the mines.

At an early age, Robert Osborne began to assist in the family support, working one day in the thread mill of his native place, while the following day would be spent in attendance at the public school. Thus he continued until coming to America, when, at the age of eleven years, he became a trapper in the mines in Illinois. When he came to Diamond, he worked first as a mule-driver and was subsequently promoted to coal digger, and was so employed in 1902, when he was appointed deputy sheriff under Sheriff Joseph Frances, an office which he held nearly four years. In 1905 Mr. Osborne was elected sub-district president of the Wilmington field, and in 1908 became a member of the State Executive Board, in which capacity he has continued to act to the present time. A man of the utmost integrity, he has won the confidence of those with whom he has been associated, and has been an important factor in settling disputes among the miners and operators. He maintains offices at Coal City, and at all times has been active in promoting the best interests of his community and its people.

Mr. Osborne was married (first) in 1896 to Miss Allie Morrison, and they became the parents of three children, namely: Esther; Isabel, who died at the age of four years; and a child who died in infancy. Mrs. Osborne died at the time of her last child's birth. On September 15, 1908, Mr. Osborne was married (second) to Catherine Miller, who was born in Scotland, and came to America as a child, and for eight years acted as assistant postmaster at Coal City under Postmaster Bennett. One child, Margaret, has been born to this union. Mr. and Mrs. Osborne are consistent members of the Presbyterian Church. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Order of Scottish Clans. A Republican in politics, he has been active in the ranks of his party, and at the present time is acting in the capacity of precinct committeeman.

**OSMANSON, Joseph.**—A visit to Grundy County will disclose excellent conditions among the farmers. The land not only is fertile, but advanced and intensive farming has made it produce to its fullest extent and crops raised here are banner ones. The buildings are modern and the premises kept neat and orderly. Many of the agriculturalists are specializing on raising blooded stock, and nearly all of them are prosperous. One of the men who has proven by his success that it pays to devote time and attention to farming is Joseph Osmanson of Saratoga Township. He was born in this township, August 8, 1881, a son of Oliver H.





MIR. AND MRS. ALBERT D. WALKER



and Susan (Johnson) Osmanson, natives of Kendall County, Ill., and Norway, respectively.

Like most farmers' sons, Joseph Osmanson grew up on the homestead, helping with the general work, and attending the district schools. Until his marriage, he remained at home with his parents, but after that went on a farm of his own and now operates about 300 acres of land, carrying on general farming and stock raising. He belongs to the Norwegian Church. In politics, he is a Republican and for two years served very acceptably as a school director. On December 17, 1902, Mr. Osmanson married Emma L. Severson, born in Greenfield Township, daughter of Lars and Anna (Severson) Severson, natives of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Osmanson are the parents of three children: Gladys Susan, Vivian Loretta, and Ernest R. Mr. Osmanson is a man who has already accomplished much although he is numbered among the younger farmers of his neighborhood. Industrious and thrifty in his habits, he has known how to invest his money, and is a substantial man with a bright future before him.

**OSMANSON, Ole, Jr.**—Farming and stock raising are two kindred occupations which are oftentimes carried on together by the more progressive of the agriculturists of every farming community, and Grundy County is no exception to this rule. One of those who is making a success of these lines of endeavor is Ole Osmanson, Jr., of Saratoga Township. He was born in this same township, July 14, 1883, a son of Oliver H. and Susan (Johnson) Osmanson, natives of Lisbon, Ill., and Stavanger, Norway, respectively.

Ole Osmanson attended the schools of his district and grew up amid healthy, wholesome country surroundings. After marrying in 1895, he began farming on his own account on the homestead of his parents, thus continuing until 1912 when he bought his present property in Saratoga Township, on which he raises grain and standard Belgian horses. On January 22, 1895, Mr. Osmanson was married to Grace Pyle, born at Morris, a daughter of James H. and Josephine (Waters) Pyle, of English descent. They have two children: Willis Enis and Clarence Ole. Mr. Osmanson is a Lutheran, but his wife is a Methodist. Politically he is a Republican, and served three years as a school director. Hard working, energetic and conscientious in his work, he has prospered and enjoys the full confidence of all who know him.

**OSMON, Austin (deceased).**—Something more than a simple notice is due to the memory of a citizen who has spent his life in assisting in the development of the industrial interests of his community. In this class was the late Austin Osmon, for many years one of the leading agriculturists of Grundy County, who was widely known and highly respected not only for his own worth of character, but as a veteran of the Civil War. Mr. Osmon was a

native of Norway, born June 24, 1841, and a son of Osmon and Isabelle E. Osmon. The family emigrated to the United States when Austin was a lad of eight years, settling in Lisbon Township, Kendall County, Ill., and a few years later removing to LaSalle County. The elder Osmon became the owner of large tracts of land in various parts of Illinois, and died in Ford County.

Austin Osmon left home when he was but eleven years of age and began working on the farms of neighboring agriculturists, being thus employed at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted in the Fifty-third Illinois Cavalry, and later volunteered in the Fifteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. While in the former regiment, he had his horse shot under him in an engagement, but secured another which had lost its rider, and continued in the battle. Receiving his discharge January 9, 1865, after a brave and meritorious service, Mr. Osmon returned to Illinois, and was engaged in farming until his retirement, in the fall of 1892, at which time he moved to Morris. There his death occurred July 3, 1903, when his community lost one of its best citizens. In March, 1866, Mr. Osmon was married to Miss Helen Hill, who was born in Kendall County, Ill., daughter of John and Susan (Anderson) Hill, natives of Norway. Mrs. Hill came to the United States in 1834, when she was fourteen years of age, and her husband emigrated to this country five years later. They were married at Ottawa, Ill., and settled on a farm which Mr. Hill had purchased from the Government some time before his marriage. To this he kept adding from time to time, and when he died, December 30, 1892, he was the owner of a fine tract of 320 acres in LaSalle County. Mr. Osmon was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in which he numbered numerous friends. A Republican in politics, he served one term as alderman, while his religious views were those of the Fethlehem Lutheran Church. After his death his wife went to live with her daughter, at whose home she passed away May 18, 1910, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years.

**OSMON, Joseph H.**—When Grundy County land is worked properly it yields large profits to the owner and enables him in time to retire from the activities of life. One of the men who early appreciated this fact and conducted his farming operations intelligently and successfully is Joseph H. Osmon of Morris. He was born in Big Grove Township, Kendall county, Ill., March 30, 1869, a son of Osmon and Helen (Hill) Osmon, natives of Norway and Kendall County, Ill., respectively. When the father was six years old, he was brought to this country by his parents, who settled near Streator, but later moved to Kendall County. The mother's people, John and Susan (Anderson) Hill, were also natives of Norway, who came to Kendall County, being among the first of their nationality to locate in that





locality and enter land. The parents of Joseph H. Osmon married in LaSalle County, and settling in Big Grove Township, Kendall County, lived there until 1890. In that year, they came to Morris, where the father died in July, 1902, but the mother survives, making her home in Morris.

Joseph H. Osmon had more educational advantages than many farmer boys, for after going to the district schools, he attended the public schools of Lisbon and the Normal school of Morris. Until his marriage, he lived with his parents, but at that time farmed for himself for a year in Kendall County, and then moved to Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County. In 1902, he went to Saratoga Township, on a farm owned by his mother, where he remained until 1907, and then came to Morris. He still owns land and has farming interests in Illinois, as well as property in Roberts County, S. D., where he spends his summers, living during the winter at Morris. He rents his farming land, having retired from active participation in the work of operation.

On September 17, 1890, Mr. Osmon married Celia Marvick, born in Nettle Creek Township, daughter of Cevick and Lorenzo (Noadland) Marvick, natives of Norway, who were married in La Salle County, Ill. Three years later, they came to Nettle Creek Township, but since 1903, they have lived at Story City, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Osmon became the parents of the following children: Viola, who was born December 13, 1892, married Ray Bannon and they live at Morris, Ill.; Earl, who was born May 16, 1897, and Russell, who was born March 12, 1900, are both at home. The family belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Church. A Republican, Mr. Osmon served as supervisor of Nettle Creek Township for two terms, and was a good official. He has also been school director, and displays in his conduct of public affairs the same wise judgment and conscientious action which characterize his conduct of his private business.

**PEACOCK, George A.**—A number of the most substantial of Grundy County agriculturalists have gained their practical knowledge of farming while conducting operations on different properties, so that when they bought land for themselves they were able to bring to bear valuable experience thus gained. One of the men who has in this way attained to prosperity and is now numbered among the excellent farmers of Nettle Creek Township is George A. Peacock. He was born in Nettle Creek Township March 23, 1883, a son of Alexander and Emma (Towsley) Peacock.

Until he was twenty-two years old, George A. Peacock remained at home and then began farming for himself on the home farm. After two years there, he spent a year on the Wilson farm, in Erienna Township, then moved on the Hatchert farm in that same township, where he spent two years. He then returned to Nettle Creek Township to take charge of

160 acres of land belonging to the Peacock estate. On it he successfully carries on grain growing, study and experience having taught him that this land is best suited for grain. He is a man of more education than the farmers' sons sometimes secure, as he not only attended the excellent schools of Morris, but also took a course in Brown's Business college at Ottawa, Ill., and the knowledge thus gained has served him well in his agricultural activities, for the day has gone by when a man can operate land unintelligently and succeed.

On February 4, 1909, Mr. Peacock married Grace Morrall, born at Morris, Ill., January 15, 1888, a daughter of Henry and Killey (Henry) Morrall. Mr. and Mrs. Peacock have two children: Hazel, born November 3, 1909, and Alberta, born March 1, 1911. Mr. Peacock is a Republican and served his township in the office of collector while living in Erienna Township. He is an experienced man and good farmer.

**PEACOCK, Irvin David.**—The life of the modern farmer is full of interest, for he has to be ever on the alert in order to make his land yield its full value and pay a good percentage on his investment of time and money. The time has long passed when the farmer was willing to labor long and late just to secure a living. Agriculturalists now conduct their farms as any other business is carried on for fair and reasonable profit, and that they are succeeding the number of wealthy farmers proves conclusively. One of the men of Grundy County, who has shown wisdom in selecting farming as his life work, is Irvin David Peacock of Nettle Creek Township. He was born in Erienna Township, September 26, 1887, a son of Leander A. and Emma D. (Towsley) Peacock.

Growing up on his father's homestead, Mr. Peacock not only attended the district schools of his township, but the Morris High school, and later took a business course at the Metropolitan Commercial college at Joliet. Mr. Peacock remained with his parents until his marriage which occurred February 22, 1910, when he was united by Rev. Schneider with Ella M. Caldwell, born in Nettle Creek Township, February 27, 1887, a daughter of William L. and Mary A. (Charlton) Caldwell. Mrs. Peacock attended the Morris High school. Following marriage, Mr. Peacock moved to Nettle Creek Township, settling on a farm of 160 acres, on which he carries on general farming, with excellent results. He and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal Church, and contribute towards its support. A Republican, Mr. Peacock has given his party a loyal support and served his township as road commissioner. A good farmer and excellent business man, Mr. Peacock is rapidly forging to the front and is justly numbered among the efficient men of his township.

**PEACOCK, Leander Alexander (deceased).**—One of the well-cultivated and valuable farms of





William E. Wash



Grundy County, Ill., is that known as Pleasant View, located in Erienna Township, on Morris Rural Route No. 3, which for many years has been the home of the Peacock family. Here resided for a long period the late Leander Alexander Peacock, whose skill as an agriculturalist and activities as a citizen made him a valuable and valued man in his community, and whose death, which occurred February 27, 1902, was widely mourned. Mr. Peacock was born in Erienna township, Grundy County, Ill., June 17, 1851, and was a son of Alexander R. and Mary (Stewart) Peacock.

Alexander R. Peacock was born in England, and as a young man emigrated to Canada, where, at Leperara, he was married to Mary Stewart, a native of the Dominion. In 1837, after the birth of their first child, they came by wagon to the United States, locating first at Morris, Ill., but subsequently moving to a farm in Saratoga Township. Later they bought a property of 240 acres, located in Erienna Township, and another tract of 100 acres in Nettle Creek Township. Mr. Peacock died on the Erienna Township farm, January 18, 1855, while his widow survived many years, passing away at the home of a daughter in Iowa, April 13, 1899.

Leander A. Peacock received a public school education, and was reared to agricultural pursuits, the early death of his father making it necessary that he start to aid in the family support when he was still but a lad. He was married November 1, 1876, to Miss Emma D. Towsley, who was born July 8, 1858, a daughter of George and Sophia (Shipman) Towsley, of Ontario, Canada, and granddaughter of Harmon Towsley, of Vermont, and Ezra and Mary Ann (Gallop) Shipman, of Canada. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. Abing of Morris, Ill. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Peacock resided with the former's mother until the following spring, when they moved to a farm owned by Mr. Peacock in Nettle Creek Township, a tract of 100 acres, where they remained and farmed until January, 1885. At that time they moved to Mr. Peacock's father's old place, Pleasant View Farm, which he had purchased from the heirs and here he owned in all 400 acres. He was known as a skilled and progressive farmer, alert to the progress made in his calling, and as a public-spirited citizen and desirable neighbor. A stalwart Republican, he took a deep interest in public affairs, and at various times served as road commissioner, supervisor, township treasurer, school director and justice of the peace. His fraternal connection was with the Knights of Pythias of Morris, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Peacock were the parents of the following children: Iva E., born August 11, 1877, now Mrs. Daniel Hohenshell, who has three children, Russell, Ethel and Alta; Alfred A., born September 25, 1878, who married May Clark, and lives in Morris, Ill., has one daughter, Lois; Ada L., born January 7, 1880, now Mrs. Albert Hoge, of Nettle Creek Town-

ship, who has three sons, Gordon, Chester and Earnest; Lila A., born August 18, 1881, now Mrs. Fred Dix, of Morris, Ill.; George Adelbert, born March 23, 1883, a resident of Nettle Creek Township, married Grace Morrall, to whom were born two daughters, Hazel and Alberta; Chester D., born October 24, 1885, who died October 11, 1906; Irvin D., born September 26, 1887, a resident of Nettle Creek Township, married Ella Caldwell; Herman Ray, born April 3, 1889, living at home with his mother; Charles A., born September 28, 1891, at home; Clifford H., born February 2, 1893, also at home; and Gladys Grace, born September 23, 1894, also living at Pleasant View Farm. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Peacock has managed the operation of the home place, and has made a decided success both in general farming and in the raising of thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs. She is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is widely known and highly esteemed in the township in which she has made her home for so many years.

**PEACOCK, Robert W.**—The man who earnestly endeavors to improve his land and raise the standard in his special line of work, is a public benefactor, for true progress is measured by the practical accomplishments of the residents of any community. No locality can advance faster than its people, and one reason for the desirable conditions prevailing in Grundy County is that its men and women are progressive in spirit and effective in action. One of the farmers who has accomplished much during his fifty-eight years of life is Robert Peacock of Morris Township. He is a native of the township, born here June 23, 1856, a son of John and Rebecca (Anderson) Peacock, natives of England and Ohio. These parents came to Morris Township about 1841, and eventually became the owners of 780 acres of land, upon which both died.

Growing up in his native township, Robert Peacock attended both public and select schools, and learned farming in all its details. He resided with his parents as long as they lived, and then the children kept together until the youngest in the family attained his majority. At that time the estate was divided, and Mr. Peacock received his portion, located on sections 1 and 2, and now owns 100 acres. Since coming into possession of his farm, he has made many improvements, including the erection of new buildings. On it he carried on general farming and raises horses, and is one of the substantial farmers of his township.

On March 18, 1885, Mr. Peacock married Lydia White, who was born in Felix Township, December 18, 1860, a daughter of William and Lydia (Benton) Peacock, natives of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Peacock have had the following children: Edward, who is of Morris Township, married Minnie May Reardon; Florence, Ruth, and Leslie, who are at home; and Maggie B. and Austin, who are deceased. Mr.



Peacock is a Baptist in religious faith, and his wife is a Presbyterian. Politically he is a Republican. His standing in his community, which is a high one, has been attained through honorable endeavor and faithful adherence to high standards. Mrs. Peacock is a member of the Royal Neighbors.

**PEART, James P.**—Many of the substantial agriculturists of Grundy County are carrying on operations on land cultivated for years by their fathers. Born on their farms, and spending their whole lives thereon, they are familiar with soil and climatic conditions, and can bring to their labors that intelligence and knowledge that insures success. In this class may be mentioned James P. Peart, the owner of 160 acres of land, which has been in the family possession for nearly a half a century. Mr. Peart was born on his present property, in Goose Lake Township, in March, 1877, and he is a son of Cuthbert and Mary Ann (Walker) Peart, natives of England. The parents of James P. Peart both came to the United States as children, their families locating first in Ohio, where Mr. and Mrs. Peart were married. About the year 1861 they migrated from the Buckeye State to Grundy County, Ill., where the father purchased a tract of eighty acres in Goose Lake Township. To this he added from time to time, increasing his earnings by working in the mines during the winter months, and he was thus occupied until his death, October 13, 1910, when he was the owner of 160 acres of land and one of his section's substantial men. The mother, who survives him, resides at Carbon Hill, Ill. They had the following children: John, who is deceased; Jeremiah, who resides in Goose Lake Township; Joseph, of Carbon Hill; Mary, who is the widow of Roscoe Brown, of Carbon Hill; Emerson, who is of Springfield, Ill.; James P.; and Jessie, who married Thomas Nicholson, lives at Divernon, Ill.

James P. Peart received a common school education in the schools of Grundy County, and was reared to agricultural pursuits. On February 19, 1901, he was married to Anna Wilson, who was born at Braddwood, Ill., daughter of William and Margaret Wilson, and two children have been born to this union: William and Milford. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Peart settled on the farm of his father, in Goose Lake Township, of which he has been the owner since the older man's death. He is thoroughly skilled in farm work, and the general air of prosperity noticeable on his property gives ample evidence of good management and industrious effort. In all matters pertaining to the welfare of his community he shows an active and intelligent interest, but has never been a politician, and supports Republican principles only as a good citizen. Fraternally he holds membership in the A. O. O. G. and the I. O. O. F. of Coal City.

**PEART, Jeremiah.**—One of the substantial general farmers and constable of Goose Lake Township, who stands high among the leading agri-

culturalists of Grundy County, was born in Ohio, October 11, 1864, a son of Cuthbert and Mary Ann (Walker) Peart, natives of England. The father was taken to Ohio by his parents, but the mother came there alone. The parents met and married in Ohio, where they resided until 1866, but in that year moved to Felix Township, Grundy County, Ill., where the father bought 160 acres of land, on which he died October 13, 1910, having retired from active work in 1903. His widow lives at Carbon Hill, Ill.

Jeremiah Peart grew up on the homestead and attended the schools of his neighborhood. In 1894 he rented land in Goose Lake Township, and continued to do so for three years, but then bought eighty acres in the same township. This property is still his home, and he has developed it into a valuable farm, erecting all the buildings and making other important improvements. Mr. Peart devotes his land to general farming, and his results justify his course. On November 29, 1891, Mr. Peart was married to Anna Swenson, born, reared and educated in Denmark, which she left when twenty years of age to come to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Peart are the parents of the following children: Mabel, Ethel and Cuthbert. The family are Methodists in religious faith. In 1905 Mr. Peart was elected Constable of his township and still holds that office, while for twelve years he was Judge of Elections and for eighteen years was a School Director. Some years ago he joined the Mohawk Harbor of A. O. O. Gleaners, and is interested in the work of that organization. A man of action, steadfast in his allegiance to church and party, he is one of the reliable men of his locality, and is properly esteemed by those who know him.

**PETERSON, Edwin F.**—One of the prosperous farmers of Saratoga Township is Edwin F. Peterson, who belongs to that practical class of agriculturists who keep fully abreast of the times and conduct their farms with the same care as a merchant buys and sells goods. Farming is no longer a haphazard proposition. He was born in his present township, September 16, 1870, a son of Wier and Anna (Thompson) Peterson. After going through school in his own district, Mr. Peterson took a year's course at Northwestern college, at Naperville, and coming home assisted his parents on the farm until his marriage, January 25, 1894, at which time he rented land and operated it for a year in Saratoga Township. He then went to Mazon Township and continued to rent land for two years, then moved back to Saratoga Township and rented for seven years more. In 1904 he bought 120 acres of land in Saratoga Township, upon which he still resides. His is a fine property and he devotes it to grain growing.

On January 25, 1894, Mr. Peterson married Bertha Nelson, born in Norway, a daughter of Ole and Sarah (Thompson) Nelson, who came to Grundy County in 1891. Mr. Nelson is now





deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have had children as follows: Sadie, born March 13, 1895; Ralph, born July 5, 1897; Winnie, born December 21, 1898; Nora, born September 13, 1900; Fern, born November 15, 1903; Howard, born May 23, 1905, and Darwin, born April 10, 1907, all of whom are at home. The Lutheran Church holds Mr. Peterson's membership, and benefits from his generosity. He is a Republican and has served as school director and road commissioner, giving entire satisfaction in both offices, for he is as competent a public official, as he is a farmer, and considering his success, that is saying a good deal.

**PETERSON, Wier.**—The Norwegian element is a very important one in Grundy County, for the sturdy sons of the Northland make desirable citizens wherever they elect to live, and where they are found there is sure to be thrift and industry. One of the good examples of what a Norwegian can accomplish in this country, provided he is willing to work hard and save money, is Wier Peterson, a retired farmer of Morris. Mr. Peterson was born in Norway, May 15, 1828, where his parents both died. In 1858 Mr. Peterson came to the United States, and at first came to Morris, but later moved to Lisbon, where he worked out for farmers. After his marriage in 1861, Mr. Peterson rented land for two years until he was able to buy forty acres of prairie land in Saratoga Township. This he improved, and built a house on it and when he sold it, he made a good profit. The money he received for his first farm was invested in eighty acres in the same township, and he added to this from time to time, in Grundy, and just across the road, in Kendall County, until he became the owner of 520 acres. He lived on his farm until he retired to Morris, when he disposed of his land to his sons.

On July 4, 1861, Mr. Peterson was married to Annie Thompson, a native of Norway, who came to Morris just before her marriage. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Peterson were: William, of Morris; Julia, Mrs. Ed. Erickson; Sarah, Mrs. Ever Sampson, of Morris; Mary E., Mrs. Lars Orstrom, of Iowa; and Thomas O., Edwin F. and Eli F., all of Saratoga Township; John, of Kendall County, and Anna M., who keeps house for her father. Mrs. Peterson died May 24, 1909, and is still deeply mourned by her sorrowing family. Mr. Peterson is a Lutheran. He is an independent Republican, and served as school director for many years. His interest for many years was centered in farming, and he was recognized as one of the leading agriculturalists of Grundy County. Few men stand any higher in public estimation than he, and the Norwegians in this locality are especially proud of him, feeling that he has set a high standard for them to emulate.

**PETTEYS, John G.**—It is an unquestioned fact that the men who have accomplished the most

in the world's history are those who have won their own way. The stimulus of necessity acts as a spur, urging men onward and upward. The self-made man is not new to this country. This type existed from the beginning of civilization and will continue to be in evidence as long as civilization continues, for when this kind of citizen dies out, advancement will cease. One of the men who deserves more than passing mention because of what he has made of himself, is John Gordon Petteys, a leading attorney of Grundy County, residing at Morris. Mr. Petteys was born in Wayne County, N. Y., July 25, 1871, a son of Freeman David and Almary (Jenkins) Petteys, natives of New York. They married and settled in Wayne County, N. Y., where they lived until 1879, when they moved to Detroit, Mich. After two years in that city, they moved to Bureau County, Ill., and farmed until 1892, when they left the farm, going to Tiskilwa, Ill., where they are now living retired. Their children were: Jesse Aubrey of Wyoming, Ill.; John Gordon; Wayne A., a letter carrier at Morris; William Lloyd G., who was drowned when three and one-half years old at Tiskilwa; and Hazel, a schoolteacher in the Evanston, Ill., public schools.

John G. Petteys graduated from the Tiskilwa High school in June, 1889. Entering the service of the United States Government as a railway postal clerk in 1890, he thus continued until 1901, when he resigned to take up the practice of law at Morris, Ill. In 1896 he entered the Northwestern University Law school from which he graduated in June, 1899, having completed the course while in the employ of the government, as a postal clerk. Mr. Petteys is possessed of the true legal mind, that is acquired from practical experience while being carefully trained in his profession.

A Republican in politics, he was Public Administrator of Grundy County for four years. He is a prominent Mason, being a member of the Blue Lodge of Tiskilwa, Ill.; Orient Chapter No. 31 of Morris, Ill., which he served as High Priest for two years; and the Royal and Select Masters and Council of Joliet, Ill., and received the thirty-second degree in Oriental Consistory, at Chicago, Ill. He also is a member of the Knights of Pythias of Morris, Ill. Mr. Petteys has one child, Dorothy, born in January, 1901.

**PETTIT, Joseph Higgins.**—Since earliest boyhood the life of Joseph Higgins Pettit has been one of tireless industry, strict integrity and eventual notable accomplishment. Losing his father when he was still a child, he was handicapped in youth by the lack of extended educational advantages, but his subsequent career furnished him with experience that not only made up for this early loss, but gave him a broad outlook on life and its complexities. Today, while retired from the cares and struggles of the business arena, he is known as one of his city's most highly esteemed citizens, and the



reputation he gained during his long and useful career still makes his name much respected in commercial circles. Joseph Higgins Pettit was born February 6, 1842, in Hunterdon County, N. J., and is a son of Mahlon and Amanda (Higgins) Pettit. Mahlon Pettit died in 1849, and in 1856 his widow brought her only son to Illinois, where, in 1858, she was married to Henry T. Mallory.

Joseph H. Pettit secured his education in private schools in New Jersey, and on coming to Illinois started work at an early age as a clerk in a store of general merchandise. In 1859 he returned to his native State, and while there, in April, 1861, enlisted in Company H, Third Regiment, New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. Three months later he was discharged at the expiration of his term of service, and returned to Morris, Ill., entered employment with a former employer, remained with him until in December, 1864, when he again became connected with the Union forces as a clerk in the Quartermaster's department, with Gen. Sherman's army. In August, 1865, when the Quartermaster received his discharge, Mr. Pettit returned to the occupations of peace, and came to Morris, Ill., where he re-entered the employ of L. B. Ray, with whom he continued until 1869. At that time Mr. Pettit entered the Grundy County National Bank, where his enterprise and faithful service won for him the position of cashier, but on October 1, 1871, he resigned his position and went to Chicago, there becoming receiving teller of the Cook County National Bank, and was connected with that institution until March 1, 1872. Mr. Pettit then decided to enter active commercial life, and in company with Leander Irons purchased the hardware stock of E. R. Field and Company, at Morris, this association being continued for four years. He then sold his interest to George Riddle, and for the following two years was employed in an attorney's office, then securing a position in the county clerk's office, where he remained until being appointed clerk of the Circuit Court, December 5, 1878. Mr. Pettit was subsequently succeeded by Gideon R. Taxis, and for nine years acted as deputy circuit clerk, and in 1888 was elected to the office of circuit clerk, acting in that capacity for two years. He was then succeeded by Fred S. Johnson, the present incumbent of the office, and acted as his deputy until 1897, when he again entered the business arena as the proprietor of an abstract and real estate business. This was successfully continued until 1908, since which time he has lived retired.

On January 30, 1873, Mr. Pettit was married to Myra S. Massey, who was born in LaSalle County, Ill., daughter of Jonathan W. and Nancy B. (Dow) Massey, natives of New Hampshire. Mrs. Pettit died January 15, 1911, having been the mother of two children: Muriel, who is now the wife of Herbert A. Munson, of Tacoma, Wash.; and Raymond J., who died at the age of six years.

Mr. Pettit is a popular comrade of Darveau Post No. 329, Grand Army of the Republic, and

holds membership in Cedar Lodge No. 124, A. F. & A. M., Orient Chapter No. 31, R. A. M., and Blaney Commandery No. 5, at Morris. Politically he is a Republican and is known as one of the strong party men of his community. His religious connection is with the Congregational Church.

PETTY, Richard, who, after many years of industrial endeavor during which he has achieved a well-earned prosperity, is now living retired at Morris where he stands very high in the estimation of his fellow citizens. He was born in Limestone County, Ala., August 10, 1842, son of Abner and Kittie (Carrington) Petty, the former born in England, and the latter in Virginia. The father died when his son Richard was a child, but prior to his death made a number of changes, moving from Alabama to Mississippi when Richard was eighteen months old, and later to Arkansas where he bought a farm, but within a year returned to Mississippi.

Richard Petty grew up in the rural districts of Mississippi, and in the spring of 1861 enlisted in the Fiftieth Mississippi Volunteer Infantry, but after a year of service was detailed to take back home a number of sick. He then enlisted in Battery F, First Illinois Artillery, and was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee under General Logan and General Sherman. Two years later, he was transferred to Battery E. Although he was very sick at Bridgeport, Ala., he was never wounded and remained with his company during all of his service. On July 15, 1865, he received his honorable discharge at Chicago, and went from there to Ozle Station, where he worked on a farm. Having never had any educational advantages, during the winter of 1865-6, he attended school and studied hard. In the spring of 1866, Mr. Petty went to Dixon, Ill., and apprenticed himself to learn the blacksmith trade. Later, he was employed in a plow factory as blacksmith. Going to Philadelphia, in the spring of 1869, he was married, and then coming back west as far as Chicago, he worked in that city at his trade until June 10, 1869, when he came to Morris to work on the river bridge, and later, for eighteen months, on the Ottawa canal. Afterward he worked at his trade at Morris, both independently and in the plow factory, and then began buying and selling poultry, meeting with considerable success. In connection with this business, he became interested in the grocery trade and later established himself in a grocery business, which he conducted until 1892, when he sold at a profit. For a year he worked in a grocery as a clerk, and then opened up a dry goods store at Morris, which held his interest until 1904, when he sold and since then has lived retired, owning one of the finest residences in the city.

On April 27, 1869, Mr. Petty was married at Philadelphia, to Martha Locke, born in England, daughter of William and Ann Locke. Mr. and Mrs. Petty became the parents of the following children: Harry, who lives at Pitts-

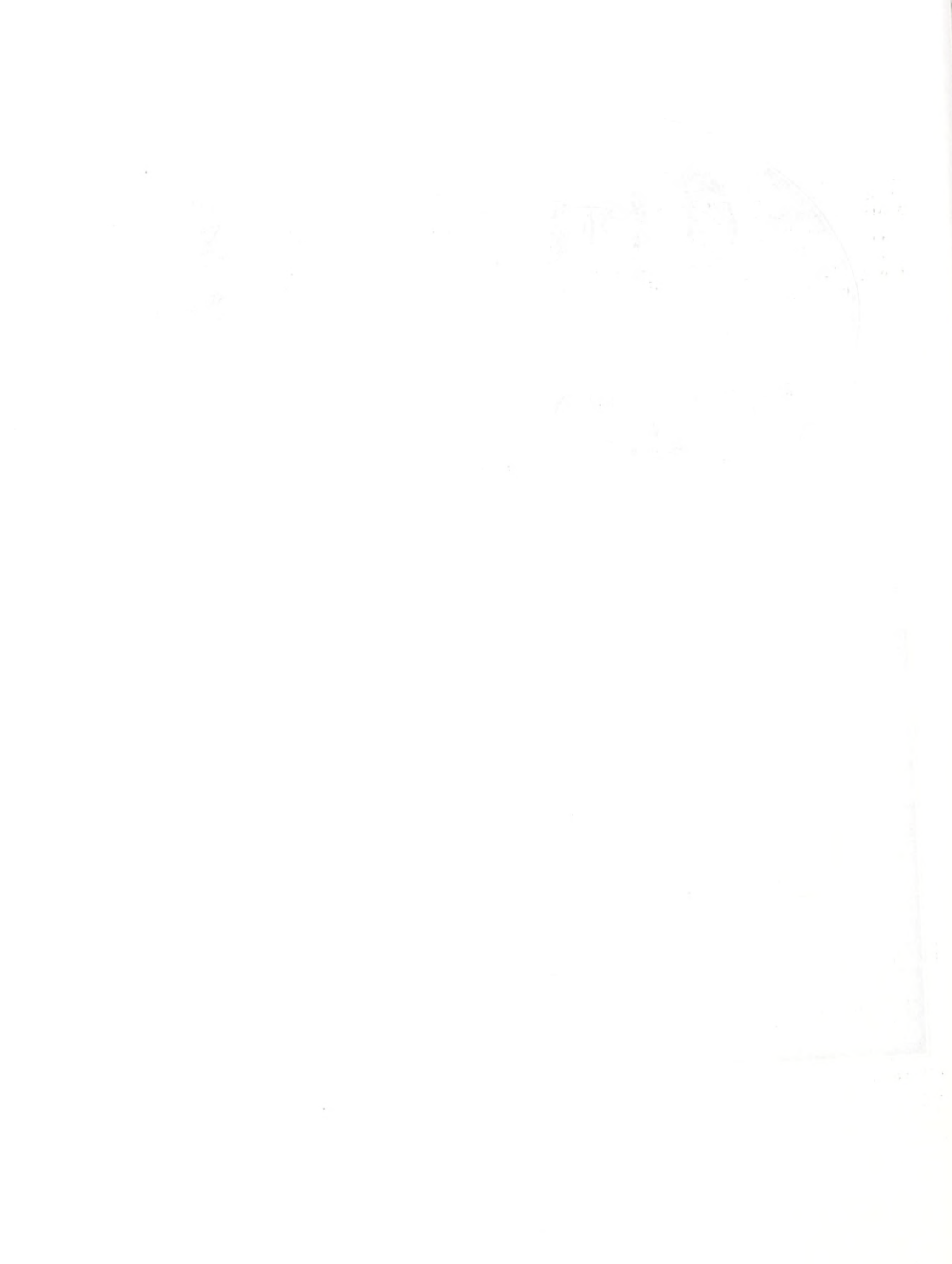




Samuel H. & Kate M. Whit.



Samuel R. & Cynthia Whit.



burgh; Minnie, who is Mrs. William F. Buck, of Morris, and Cora E., who is a high school teacher at Lincoln, Ill. Mr. Petty is a prominent Baptist, serving his church as deacon and trustee. He is a Prohibitionist and served four years as constable. The Modern Woodmen of America and the Grand Army of the Republic hold his membership. A man of strong convictions, he lives up to his principles and gains the confidence and respect of all with whom he comes into contact.

**PFEIFER, George Allen.**—One of the best investments of both time and money a man can make in these days, when the raising of food supplies is so important an industry, is in agricultural land, and judging by the character of those who own the farming properties in Grundy County, the very best class of its citizens have recognized this fact. One of the men who have made a success of their farming is George Allen Pfeifer of Good Farm Township, owner of 177 acres of as fertile land as there is in this section. He is devoting this property to general farming, and is specializing on raising draft horses. His property bears the appropriate name of Maple Grove Farm, which is taken from the beautiful maple trees on the place. Mr. Pfeifer was born on this same property June 12, 1880, a son of Fred and Margaret (Schrott) Pfeifer, both natives of Good Farm Township. They are now living retired at Dwight, Ill.

George Allen Pfeifer attended the local schools of his district and at the same time rendered his father capable service on the farm, in this way laying the foundation for his present prosperity. He is a good farmer, understanding his work thoroughly, and is anxious to adopt new methods when he is convinced they will work out successfully. His position as one of the leading agriculturalists of his township has been won through actual achievement, and he holds the confidence of his neighbors who appreciate his ability. On July 3, 1902, Mr. Pfeifer married Edith Schock, born in Kansas, and they have had two children: Freddie Elwood and Charles Wallace. Mr. Pfeifer belongs to the German Church. He is a Republican but as yet he has not taken time to go into politics actively, although his personal popularity would probably elect him if he did allow his name to appear on his party ticket.

**PHELAN, John (deceased).**—The late John Phelan, the eldest son of Edward and Margaret (Long) Phelan, was born at Troy, N. Y., and had but one brother, Edward. Mr. Phelan came at an early age with his parents to Illinois, where he grew to manhood, being engaged in farming.

On October 10, 1876, John Phelan was united in marriage to Sarah McClintock, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McClintock, and to their union was born eight children: Mar-

garet, Edward, John, Hugh, Sade, Will, Mary and Catherine.

In 1902 Mr. Phelan purchased a farm in Grundy County, which he cultivated until his death, which occurred December 13, 1910. At the time of his death he owned 520 acres of land in the southwestern part of Grundy County. In his religious belief Mr. Phelan was a staunch Catholic. He belonged to the Republican party, but took no active part in politics, although always interested in the general welfare of the community. His estate is now managed by his widow and children.

**PHILLIPS, Walter.**—Nearly all of the more progressive agriculturalists of Grundy County specialize on some one product, finding it more profitable to concentrate their efforts in this way. One of these men, who is becoming wealthy as a result of his intelligent foresight and good management is Walter Phillips, of Goose Lake Township, who specializes in grain raising. He was born in Washington County, Ohio, May 6, 1847, a son of John and Czarina Buchanan Phillips, natives of Pennsylvania, and Vermont. They were married in Ohio and settled on a farm, where he died in 1857. His widow later came to Grundy County, where she died in 1900.

When he was fourteen years old, Walter Phillips left school, having been attending those of his vicinity, and learned the harnessmaking trade, at which he worked in Ohio until 1865. From then until 1869, he worked at different things, and in that year came to Grundy County, where, for two years, he worked by the month. He then began farming, at first renting land in Goose Lake Township, but after fourteen years was able to buy eighty acres of land which he improved, erecting all the buildings and putting up good fences. In 1900 he bought 160 acres opposite his homestead on the east, in Felix Township, and operates this as well. On December 23, 1873, Mr. Phillips was married to Sarah J. Conklin, born in Indiana, daughter of Orin and Ruth (Conrey) Conklin. They have had children as follows: George, who resides in Goose Lake Township, married Agnes Barr and they had three children, Walter, Edna and George, and married (second) Edith Gabb; John, who is of Goose Lake Township, married Bertha Onsan, and they have one son living, Raymond, and one deceased, Arthur; Orin, who is of Saratoga Township, married Lizzie Perry, and they had one child, who died in infancy; Charles, who is of South Dakota, married Susie Wren and they have two children living, Irwin and Martha, and two deceased, Muriel and one in infancy; Jasper and Jesse, twins, are of Aux Sable Township; Jasper married Christine Olson and they have two children, Viola and Elsie; Jesse married Mary Bots; Otis, who is at home, married Josephine Ribbard; William, who is of Waupese Township, married Lena Peterson and they had two children, Carl and Clarence; Lydia, who is Mrs.





Hubert Bols, of Goose Lake Township, and she had two daughters, Harriet and Marion; and Mary, who is at home.

Mr. Phillips is a Republican and served as road commissioner of Goose Lake Township many years. In 1909 he was elected supervisor of the township, and served for two years, giving his section a fine administration and yet, at the same time, conserving the county's interests. He is one of the most valued men of the county, and his services as a farmer and public official cannot be too highly commended.

**PIAGNO, Mrs. Peter.**—A striking example of what may be accomplished through industry, perseverance and good management is found in the career of Mrs. Peter Piagno, who is the directing head of the largest general merchandise business at Coal City, Ill. This establishment was started in 1889 as a modest candy store by Mrs. Piagno and her late husband, and from its inception its growth has been steady and continuous. Mrs. Piagno was born as Constant Galliger, in Switzerland, January 1, 1864, and was there married to Peter Piagno, a native of Northern Italy, who was born March 19, 1858, a son of Peter Piagno. Not long after their marriage, which occurred May 17, 1879, Mr. and Mrs. Piagno emigrated to the United States, where they had learned there were excellent opportunities for business advancement and independence. In 1881 they took up their residence in Coal City, Ill., bringing with them their daughter, Bertha, who had been born in Switzerland, January 25, 1880, and who is now the wife of William Somerville, of Coal City. Mr. Piagno secured employment in the shaft at Coal City, and there worked faithfully eight years. Being of an industrious and ambitious nature, he carefully saved his earnings, and in 1889 had accumulated enough to establish himself in business as the proprietor of a small candy store. This he continued to conduct, adding to his stock and equipment from time to time as his finances permitted, and through his good management and the able assistance of his wife built up the largest business in Coal City. In September, 1906, he decided to visit his native country, and while there his death occurred on October 18. He was an excellent business man, a good and public-spirited citizen, and had the warm regard and esteem of a wide circle of friends in Coal City. Mr. Piagno belonged to the Foresters and Odd Fellows. After his death his widow took up the reins of business, and has continued to carry on the business, with her daughter, Mrs. Somerville, as manager. They enjoy the respect of the people of their community and because of their activities are considered decided factors in the business life of the city. Mrs. Somerville is the mother of three children: Constance, Lillian and Peter, all residing at home.

**PICKLES, Benjamin.**—Good Farm Township has justified its name, for there are within its confines some of the finest agricultural prop-

erties in Grundy County if not in the state. The owners of these farms are very proud of them and vie with each other in sustaining the high standard which has been raised for this region. One of the men, who, with other members of his family, has borne his part in this progressiveness is Benjamin Pickles, owner of 160 acres of as good land as can be found in Good Farm Township. He was born on his present farm, April 16, 1877. A full sketch of the Pickles family is given elsewhere in this volume.

After spending the necessary time in the local schools, during which period he also assisted his father and brothers in operating the homestead, Mr. Pickles began devoting all his time to agricultural pursuits, and when his father's estate was divided his present property fell to his share. Although it was already a desirable farm, Mr. Pickles was not content with it, but ever since coming into possession of it has been adding to its improvements, erecting various buildings for sheltering his stock and machinery, and has just completed a fine sanitary hog house. In addition to carrying on general farming, Mr. Pickles specializes on raising Belgian horses and Jersey cattle, and his product is sold at big prices. The Republican party has always had his support, but he has been too occupied with his own affairs to seek public office. Mr. Pickles has not married. He is recognized as one of the leading young farmers of his township, and is one of its most progressive citizens. He is a member of the M. W. A. of Gardner and the Gleaners of Good Farm Township.

**PICKLES, Frank C. (deceased).**—The Pickles family have identified themselves with much of the progressiveness shown in agricultural work in Grundy County. The representatives of this family have all been good farmers, who have advanced with their work, always eagerly embracing new methods and installing improved machinery. One of the members of the family who was a heavy landowner and a widely known man, was Frank Pickles, formerly of Maine Township. He was proprietor of 200 acres of fine land, on which he carried on general farming and the raising of Belgian horses and it was his intention to turn his property into a stock farm, which enterprise, had he lived, would, without doubt have been successful, as it is admirably suited for such a purpose.

Frank C. Pickles was born on the Pickles homestead in Good Farm Township, August 24, 1875, and died October 27, 1911, burial being in the Wheeler cemetery. His family history is given elsewhere in this work. His boyhood was spent in alternating farming with attendance at the district schools, and he remained on the homestead until 1903, when he took possession of his present farm. In 1902, Mr. Pickles married Ada Meaden, who died in 1906, leaving one son, Robert Ray, who is at home. On November 26, 1908, Mr. Pickles married



Alice Treasure. Mr. and Mrs. Pickles had two sons: Charles and Treasure. Mr. Pickles was a member of the Methodist Church which benefited from his generosity. He belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America. His vote was always cast for the candidates of the Republican party, but he felt he had no time for public life himself. He was a man of enterprise, had worked hard, and his position in his township was fairly won and honorably sustained.

**PICKLES, Robert George**, one of the markedly progressive agriculturists of Grundy has made a record for himself as a farmer and stockman, and at the same time has not neglected his duties as a citizen. He was born in Good Farm Township in 1872, a son of Robert and Mary (Deffenbaugh) Pickles, natives of England and Germany, respectively. The former was a miner who came to America in hopes of securing better opportunities. At first he lived in Pennsylvania, but later came to Braidwood, Ill., where he was employed in the mines at that point. Still later he moved to Braceville, Ill., and continued as a miner until he bought land in Good Farm Township. That farm continued to be his home until his death, which occurred in 1912, his wife having died in 1903, and both are buried in the Wheeler Cemetery, near Mazon. They had seven children: Louis, who is living in Good Farm Township; Margaret, who is Mrs. Hornberger; Robert George; Frank; Benjamin; Emma, and Lucy.

Robert George Pickles attended the neighborhood schools and worked on the farm with his father until 1897, when he married and located on his present 160 acres of fertile land in Garfield Township. Here he carries on general farming, paying considerable attention to stock raising, handling cattle, hogs and Belgian draft horses. His property is in excellent condition and his premises reflect his good management and business acumen. In 1897 Mr. Pickles was married to Alta Hornberger, of Good Farm Township. Mr. and Mrs. Pickles have had one daughter, Lolla, who was born in 1904. Mr. Pickles is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is a Republican, and served on the School Board of Garfield Township for three years, and as a School Director for twelve years. A man of advanced ideas he is recognized as one of the progressive residents of Garfield Township.

**PLANETA, Stanley**, marshal of Coal City has held his present responsible position since 1910, having been elected as such twice in succession, and is one of the most efficient officials this city has ever had, for he is a man of unswerving integrity and ability. He was born in Austria in 1883, a son of Frank and Barbara (Wesley) Planeta, natives of Austria. The father was a farmer in his native land, but not being satisfied with conditions there, came to the United States in 1884, and located at Coal City, Ill., where he

found employment in the mines. For a year he worked in them, and then retired, both he and his wife living comfortably in Coal City. In 1912, Mrs. Planeta made an enjoyable trip to her old home in Austria, returning in September of that same year. There were thirteen children in the family, of whom Frank, Joe and Barbara died in early childhood. The others are: Josephine Dolansky, Anna Schimungo, Stanley, Fred, James, Mary, Frank, Joe, (II), Barbara and Willie.

Stanley Planeta was reared in Coal City and educated in the local schools. He worked in the mines at Coal City until 1910, when he was elected to his present office, and was forced to give up other employment to discharge the duties pertaining to it. In 1907, Marshal Planeta was married to Albena Smith of Coal City and they have two children namely: George and Irene. Politically Mr. Planeta is a Democrat, while his religious affiliations are with the Catholic Church. He is a leader in the Bohemian lodge of Coal City and extremely popular in it as he is on the outside. Recently, he built himself a new residence in Coal City and feels permanently located here. Fearless in the prosecution of his duties, Marshal Planeta is a man whom wrong doers respect for they know he will not tolerate any infringement of the laws, and the law-abiding people trust him implicitly for they appreciate the fact that he will maintain their rights and keep order.

**PRESTON, Ben Lee**.—No more striking example of what a man can accomplish through the force of his own ability and perseverance, through the sheer strength of his determination to succeed, can be found in Grundy County than that furnished by the career of Ben Lee Preston, of Coal City, Ill., who, in a few short years, has raised himself to a place among the substantial men of his section, as the proprietor of "The Five and Ten Cent Store," located in that city. He was born on a farm in Mazon Township, April 14, 1870, a son of Albert and Eliza (Hart) Preston, natives of Ohio. His father was engaged in the grain business in Streator, Ill., where he died about twenty-six years ago, since which time Mrs. Preston has lived with her only child, Ben Lee.

Ben Lee Preston attended the public schools of Streator, Diamond and Morris, Ill., and subsequently worked as a clerk for a coal company at Diamond, eventually attaining to the position of manager of the concern. This position he held for four years, until 1906, when he launched out into business for himself, and is now one of the prominent merchants of Coal City. In religious faith, Mr. Preston is a Methodist. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Foresters. In politics, he is a Republican. Mr. Preston has a host of friends, and his business associates esteem him highly because of his honorable dealings and strict adherence to the letter of any agreement into which he may enter.



**RANSLEY, Frank S.**—Grundy County farm land responds generously to work put upon it and for that reason many of the agriculturists here are able to rent their properties and live comfortably without over exertion when they feel that they have given up enough of their lives to the exacting demands of a farmer's existence. One of the prosperous business men of Grundy County, who has done well with his agricultural investments, is Frank S. Ransley, born in Vienna Township, March 10, 1875, a son of William and Dinah (Susans) Ransley, natives of England, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Frank S. Ransley resided with his mother until his marriage, when he moved to his new residence on a 100-acre farm one-half mile north of Verona. Until 1912 he operated this property, then rented it, and since has resided at Verona. During his boyhood days he attended the schools of his neighborhood, and afterward spent two years at the Northwestern college, Evanston, Ill.

On June 22, 1902, Mr. Ransley married Jessie Walsh, born in Vienna Township, a daughter of Thomas and Priscilla (Ward) Walsh, natives of Canada and New York State. Mrs. Ransley was educated in the public schools of her township. Mr. and Mrs. Ransley have no children. He has been assessor of Vienna Township, and was one of the census enumerators in 1900. A Mason, he belongs to Verona Lodge, No. 757. A. F. & A. M. and the Eastern Star, and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, also of Verona.

**RANSLEY, William (deceased).**—The history of no county would be complete if the record were confined to the deeds of those still living, for it is to those who have gone before that the present generation owes most. This is especially true of Grundy County which has been so developed through the efforts of those who were among its pioneers and early settlers. One of the men whose name is held in honored remembrance was the late William Ransley, who was born February 22, 1817, in the parish of Friendsbury, County Kent, England, a son of William and Sarah Ransley. He spent over three decades of his life in his native land, and then came to the United States on September 17, 1851, reaching New York City. After a stay there that extended until January, 1855, he came on to Grundy County, locating in Vienna Township, February 7, 1855, where he remained until his death on December 27, 1882, at which time he owned 293 acres of land.

On November 17, 1870, Mr. Ransley married Dinah Susans, at Milton, Ulster County, N. Y., born at Gravesend, County Kent, England, September 16, 1844, a daughter of William and Dinah (Strightfield) Susans. He died in England, but she came to New York, and later to Illinois, where she died. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Ransley were: William J., who was born August 28, 1871, of Vienna Township;

Beatrice F., who was born June 2, 1873, now Mrs. George B. Kilmer of Marengo; and Frank S., who was born March 10, 1875. Mr. Ransley served his township as collector and held other offices for he was a man in whom all had implicit confidence, and when he died his locality lost a good citizen, and his family a beloved husband and father.

**RANSLEY, William J.**, a successful farmer and stockman of Vienna Township, is one of the prosperous men of Grundy County who has found time in the midst of other duties to assume and ably discharge public obligations. Mr. Ransley was born in his present township, August 28, 1871, a son of William and Dinah (Susans) Ransley. The parents were born at Gravesend, near London, England, but came in their youth to the United States. They married in New York City from whence they came to Grundy County, settling on a farm near Verona, where the father died in December, 1882, the mother surviving him and making her home on the homestead. The children born to these parents were: William J.; Beatrice, who is now Mrs. George B. Kilmer of Marengo, Ill.; and Frank S., who is on the home farm.

William J. Ransley grew to manhood in his native township, after his father's death assisting his mother, and attending the schools of his district. On March 7, 1895, he married Lulu Small, born December 7, 1873, at Highland, a daughter of Nathan and Sarah C. (Hart) Small, natives of Bath, Me., and Chester, Pa. The grandparents of Mrs. Ransley were Alvin and Ann Small, and William and Jane (McClough) Hart, the latter natives of Pennsylvania, Alvin Small being a native of Scotland. After marriage Mr. Ransley moved to a portion of an estate of 100 acres just south of Verona, where he has since been engaged in farming and raising horses, cattle and hogs. Mr. and Mrs. Ransley have become the parents of the following children: William Nathan, who was born January 27, 1900, died January 2, 1901; Frank Burdett, who was born April 5, 1902; and Loretta Beatrice, who was born October 1, 1903. Mr. Ransley attends the Methodist Church. A Republican, he served for two terms as assessor of his township, and since 1903 has been on the school board. A man of more than usual ability, he has directed his affairs wisely, and has earned not only his material prosperity, but high standing among his fellow citizens.

**RAY, Hon. Lyman B.**—More than half a century ago, the country was agitated, as later, over the formation of a new party. Then there was the impending conflict between the North and South, to consider. The old organizations seemed unequal to the task of handling the issues before the people, and the leading men throughout the North, organized what was to become the mightiest party of the United States, the Republican party. Few of the orig-





*L. K. Wicks & Family*





inal founders of this organization are now living, but one of them, who was honored upon many occasions by this same party, is Lyman B. Ray, formerly of Morris, now living retired at Joliet, Ill., after an honorable career as a merchant extending over a long period.

Lyman B. Ray was born at Hinesburg, Vt., August 17, 1831, a son of John and Annis (Beecher) Ray, both natives of Vermont, the former a son of William Ray, and the latter, a daughter of Lyman Beecher, both of New England birth. The parents of Mr. Ray were farming people, who lived and died in Vermont. Although he grew up on the farm, from boyhood Mr. Ray had an ambition to become a merchant. After finishing his educational training in the common schools of Vermont, and the New England academy, he began to realize his hopes as a clerk in a store in his native place. In 1852, he came west to St. Charles, Kane County, Ill., where he continued clerking in a general store until 1855, thus gaining a valuable experience that served him well when in that year he came to Morris, and embarked in a mercantile business for himself. From then on to 1888, he conducted one of the leading stores of the county seat, and was known all over Grundy County as a reliable and honorable merchant.

After locating here, and becoming interested in public matters, Mr. Ray recognized the necessity of a new political party, and in 1856 assisted in the organization of the Republican party of Grundy County, his associates on this memorable occasion all now deceased. In 1872 he was honored by election to the lower house of the Illinois Legislature, and re-elected to the same office, and so well did he acquit himself, that in 1882, he was sent to represent his district in the upper house. In 1888 he was elected to the office of Lieutenant-Governor, and always gave of his best to the performance of the duties of his office.

On December 20, 1858, Mr. Ray was married at Morris, to Julia N. Reading, born in Hunterdon County, N. J., died December 16, 1912, her burial being in the mausoleum in Evergreen cemetery, Morris, Ill. They had one daughter, Julia E., now Mrs. Clifton W. Jordan of Joliet, Ill. Mr. Ray is a consistent member of the Congregational Church. He gave liberal support to all local enterprises of merit while living at Morris, and his beautiful home at No. 437 Vine street was one of the finest of the city. He took a prominent part in some of the most stirring history of Illinois and claimed as friends and associates many of the illustrious men of the time.

**REARDON, Cornelius.**—A thorough and profound lawyer, whose connection with much important law business has made him more or less a familiar figure in the courts of Grundy County and the State, Cornelius Reardon typifies the best type of legal mind, and his high standing at the bar is the more creditable, in that it has been entirely self gained. Further, he is a

stirring and stalwart citizen, a friend of progress and advancement, and, although Mr. Reardon would be the last to admit it, is a leader of the Democratic party in his part of the state.

Mr. Reardon is one of Morris' favorite native sons. Here he was born February 27, 1858, a son of James and Mary L. (Bagley) Reardon, natives of Ireland. The father came to the United States with an uncle, Patrick Ryan, and from the age of nine until he was fifteen years old made his home with Mr. Ryan at Chicago. He faced the world on his own account at that time, becoming a driver of canal boats on the Illinois and Michigan canal, an employment in which he was engaged for two years, and in October, 1852, came to Morris, where he took up the trade of a blacksmith and continued to follow that vocation until his death, June 11, 1907. The mother came to Morris when eleven years of age, to join an elder sister, with whom she lived until her marriage, and passed away many years prior to her husband's demise, dying in 1872. Six children were born to James and Mary L. Reardon: Cornelius, the eldest; Margaret, who is now Mrs. Redmond and resides at Kansas City, Mo.; Edward P., who died at the age of thirty-three years; Mary, who is Mrs. Ludwig, of Morris; Elizabeth, who is Mrs. Bray, of El Paso, Tex.; and James W., who died in infancy. After the death of his first wife, James Reardon married (second) Mary Kenrick, who was born in Grundy County, and they became the parents of two children: Edna, who became the wife of Thomas Connors; and Nettie, who lives at the old home.

While Cornelius Reardon was given the advantages of attendance at the graded and high schools of Morris, the greater part of his early education was acquired in the schools of hard work and experience. He was taught the blacksmith trade by his father, but had aspirations for greater things, and, having set his heart upon a career in the law, displayed his characteristic assiduity in the gaining of an education in jurisprudence. A long, hard day in his father's shop would be followed by hours of the utmost diligence in perfecting his knowledge of law, under the capable preceptorship of Judge Jordan, one of the early legists and jurists of Morris. When he was twenty years of age he gave up the blacksmith trade to work upon a farm, but during the next ten years he continued to apply himself to his legal studies, and his hard work and close application were eventually rewarded when he was admitted to the bar. From that time to the present his rise has been constant and steady, giving him prominence in his profession and the material rewards that such a position insures. While a general practitioner, he has made somewhat of a specialty of probate law, and in this difficult field has become known far and wide for the success he has attained in some important legal business. He has not ceased to be a scholar and his command of the law is comprehensive and in some sense remarkable. Among his fellow-practitioners he is recognized as an attorney who



strictly adheres to the best ethics of an honored calling.

Mr. Reardon was married February 5, 1879, to Miss Kittie Higgins, who was born in La Salle County, Ill., and she died in April, 1884. On April 2, 1888, Mr. Reardon was married (second) to Miss Maggie Eagan, who was born in Grundy County, Ill., daughter of Thomas and Mary Eagan, natives of Ireland and early settlers of Grundy County. Three children have been born to Mr. Reardon, namely: May, who became Mrs. Edward Peacock, of Morris; Thomas J., who has taken up farming for his lifework; and Edward C., who died in 1908, at the age of fourteen years. On January 30, 1913, Thomas J. married Helen Noonan, and one daughter, Helen Margaret, was born to them, November 8, 1913. This little granddaughter is the pride and joy of her grandfather's heart.

Mr. Reardon has been long and prominently connected with Democratic politics, although more as a directing power than as a seeker after personal preferment. He stands for the best that may be found in Democracy, and at all times supports those men and measures whom he believes will best favor the interests of his community. A Roman Catholic in his religious belief, Mr. Reardon belongs to the congregation of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. His fraternal connections are with Lodge No. 845, Knights of Columbus; and Lodge No. 281, Modern Woodmen of America, both of Morris. Both as a professional man and as a citizen, Mr. Reardon has won a high place in the esteem of the community, and is eminently qualified to be accounted one of Grundy County's representative men.

**REARDON, James (deceased).**—The influence of a good man does not cease with his passing from this earth, for it lives on in the lives of his children and the power of his works while alive. To those left behind, the loss is always a heavy one, but even in dying a man may set such an example as to influence others for everlasting good. The late James Reardon, formerly of Morris, Ill., was one of the substantial men of Grundy County. He was born in Thyperary, Ireland, May 27, 1835, and came to the United States with an uncle in young manhood. At first he was in the State of Indiana for a short period, then came to Grundy County which continued to be his home until death claimed him, June 11, 1907. For some years he conducted a blacksmithing and wagon making establishment, but his health failing he disposed of his interests and lived retired during his latter years.

By his first marriage, James Reardon had the following children: Cornelius, who is of Morris; Maggie, who is Mrs. James Redmond of Kansas City, Mo.; Mary, who is Mrs. Otto Ludwig of Morris; Lizzie, who is Mrs. Dr. T. A. Bray of El Paso, Tex.; and one who died in infancy. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Reardon married (second) on November 26, 1885, Mary Kenrick, born in Erienna Town-

ship, a daughter of Patrick and Ellen (O'Brien) Kenrick, natives of Ireland, but early settlers of Erienna Township. Patrick Kenrick died many years ago, but his widow survived until 1881. By his second marriage, James Reardon had two children: Edna, who is Mrs. Thomas G. Connor, of Morris; and Nettie, who is at home. The Catholic Church held Mr. Reardon's membership, he being connected with Immaculate Conception parish. Politically he was a Democrat, but he never sought public office. At one time he was very prominent in the A. O. U. L., and at all times enjoyed the full confidence of all with whom he was associated.

**REARDON, William.**—Grundy County has always been proud of its veterans and anxious to show them distinguished honors when opportunity offered. This section sent its full quota to help in the defense of the Union in its time of dire distress and now it recognizes the fact that its prestige in this regard was given it by the bravery and patriotism of the "Boys in Blue" who left their homes and went to the dangerous front in the early sixties. One of these old soldiers of Grundy County, now residing in Morris, is Captain William Reardon. He was born near Malone, Franklin County, N. Y., August 4th, 1837, a son of William and Catherine (Curtin) Reardon, natives of County Cork, Ireland. The parents came to these shores in early youth and were married here. The father was a farmer, living in the neighborhood of Malone, and he continued there until 1850, when he started West, making the trip by rail to Ogdensburg, from there by boat on the St. Lawrence river to Lewiston, and continuing on to Buffalo. He then journeyed, by rail, and on the Great Lakes, to Chicago; and, on reaching this western city, he left almost immediately and walked the entire distance to Grundy County. The following spring, in 1851, he sent for his family, and met them on their arrival in Chicago. They had brought with them a team of horses (French brood mares), and the family proceeded by wagon to Morris and finally settled in the Collins neighborhood. In July of the ensuing year, Mrs. Reardon died. Mr. Reardon, Sr., bought a small farm in the northern part of the county, and continued to make it his home until his death in 1873.

William Reardon, Jr., not only attended the rural public school, but enjoyed the further advantages of a commercial course in Bryant and Stratton's Business College, in Chicago, and graduated there 1858. Prior to taking this course of instruction, he had worked on the home farm continuously. On finishing school, he entered the employ of J. and H. Benjamin as salesman and bookkeeper in their mercantile house and here he was until July, 1862, when, on the nation's call for volunteers, he enlisted for service in the defense of the Union. He was among those who went directly to Kankakee, Ill., where a regiment was being organized. It was found in Kankakee that the men who





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had come with Mr. Reardon were not sufficient in number to form an entire company, so Mr. Reardon went back home and soon returned with the required number of new men. When the officers for the company were elected, Mr. Reardon was chosen the first lieutenant. C. C. Jones, who had been with Sherman's men in the Pioneer Corps, until it was disbanded, was given the rank of captain and, when the regiment was assigned its proper place he was placed in command of Company C, Seventy-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was the company to which Mr. Reardon belonged. The regiment was sent to Cairo and from thence to Columbus, Ky., where they were under the command of General Grant. Mr. Reardon was at the siege of Vicksburg, and after sixty-one days of hardship there was sent to Jackson, Miss., where the regiment participated in a big fight. Mr. Reardon was promoted to the rank of captain after the siege of Vicksburg, succeeding Captain Jones who was promoted to lieutenant colonel. On account of sickness he was sent home on a furlough and was honorably discharged December 4, 1864, for disability.

Mr. Reardon then embarked in a grocery business with his brothers, James and John Collins, the connection continuing until 1869, when Mr. Reardon moved to a farm in Nettle Creek Township, and began specializing in raising registered Shorthorn cattle, becoming so successful in this line of endeavor that he was made vice-president of the Shorthorn Cattle Dealers Association. He also raised all kinds of high grade stock, and was one of the leading stockmen of Grundy County.

On September 20, 1865, Mr. Reardon married Charlotte Hoge, born in Nettle Creek Township, October 8, 1841, daughter of Samuel and Matilda (Holderman) Hoge, natives of Virginia and Ohio. The family came to Grundy County at an early day. Mr. and Mrs. Hoge were married in this county, and settled along the present route of the canal. Mr. and Mrs. Reardon became the parents of children as follows: Elmer, who died at the age of two years and seven months; Abbie M., who died at the age of eleven and one-half years; Clarence H., who lives in Kansas City, Mo., and married May Thomas and they have one child, Grace; William H., who is on the home farm, married Miss Clara Heacox, a native of Grundy County; and Dora Virginia, who is Mrs. H. H. Quigley of Chicago, and they have three children, Elizabeth, Catherine and Donald. Mrs. Reardon died October 30, 1912. He is one of the most enthusiastic comrades of Darveau Post No. 329, G. A. R.

**REARDON, William Hendly.**—Concentration of effort upon any one line generally results in ultimate success, and William Hendly Reardon of Morris has proven this in his life work. He was born in Nettle Creek Township, July 12, 1873, a son of William and Charlotte (Hoge) Reardon. During his younger days he attended

the public and Normal school of Morris, later going to the Dixon, Ill., Normal school in 1896, and then returning home took up the business of life. From the time he was eighteen years old he conducted the homestead, and began giving special attention to raising horses and mules, and was so successful that he and his father entered into partnership in this line of business. In order to branch out, Mr. Reardon, Sr., bought 320 acres of land in Missouri, and until January 2, 1912, they carried on an extensive business in horse and mule breeding in Johnson County, Mo., when they closed that industry, but retain the land. During 1907 and 1908 Mr. Reardon conducted a butcher shop at Morris, continuing to operate the farm as well. Since February, 1912, he has been conducting a sale barn of horses and mules at Morris. In addition to his Missouri land, he controls 240 acres of his father's homestead in Nettle Creek Township, on which he raises many draft horses, and stands three stallions.

On March 19, 1899, Mr. Reardon was married to Clara Heacox, born in Nettle Creek Township, a daughter of Charles and Harriet Adeline (David) Heacox, natives of New York and Nettle Creek Township, respectively. Mrs. Reardon was one of the following family: Edward, who lives at Huron, S. D.; Lilly, who is Mrs. Edward Strong of Mazon, Ill.; Frank, who is a dentist of Brett, Iowa; Mrs. Reardon; Fred, who is of Morris; and Rose, who is Mrs. T. L. Robinson of Chicago. Mr. Reardon has been a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church for some years. A Republican, he has been road commissioner and school director, holding the latter office for four years. A man of great energy and keen foresight, he has developed large interests, and made many warm friends all over the country.

**RED, John,** is not only one of the representative Bohemian citizens of Grundy County, but is an influential and potent factor in municipal affairs, and is now serving in the office of supervisor of Braceville Township, to which he was elected in April, 1912. He was born in Bohemia, June 6, 1868, and is a son of Joseph and Josephine (Petros) Red, natives of Bohemia. In the place of his nativity, Joseph Red was engaged extensively in tilling the soil until bringing his family to the United States in 1871. In that year they located in Chicago, and were in that city at the time the great fire practically wiped that city from the earth, and in the year following moved to Braceville. There Joseph Red was engaged in mining until going to Braidwood, Ill., and subsequently, in 1877, he came to Coal City, where he worked in the mines until his death in 1902. He was buried at Braidwood. His widow still survives him and makes her home with her son John. There were six children in the family of Joseph and Josephine Red, namely: Joseph, who died at Coal City; John; Josephine, who died in Chicago; Frank, who died at Braidwood; Mrs. Mary Raimon, who resides at Coal City; and





Josephine, deceased, who was buried in Braidwood.

John Red was a child of three years when brought to the United States by his parents, and his education was secured in the public schools of Braidwood, which he attended until twelve years of age. At that time he commenced working in the coal mines for a salary of seventy-five cents per day, but after the family came to Coal City he again entered school for one year. He then returned to the mines, and worked therein until twenty years of age, when he became clerk in the company store at Coal City. He entered public life in 1896, when he was elected to the office of city clerk, a position which he retained for three years and then again entered the mines. From 1910 until 1912 he acted in the capacity of township clerk, and in the latter year was elected a member of the board of supervisors of Braceville Township. He is proving an able and conscientious public official and is rendering his fellow-citizens signal services.

Mr. Red was married in 1898 to Miss Josephine Vavrik, who was born at Crawfordsville, Ind., daughter of Joseph and Mary (Chandler) Vavrik, the former a native of Bohemia and the latter of Kentucky. The Vavrik family came to the coal fields of Illinois in 1886, and the father passed away here April 12, 1900, while the mother still survives and resides at Coal City. There were five children in the family: Josephine, who is now Mrs. Red; Andrew; Joseph, who is deceased; Mrs. Mamie Stuart, and Mrs. Catherine Dent. Mr. and Mrs. Red have three children, all attending school: Lola May, John Henry and Clarence Joseph. Mr. and Mrs. Red and their children are members of the Catholic Church. He is secretary of the Musicians' Union, has been secretary of the Miners' Union at Coal City for seven years, and is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Turners and the C. S. P. S., of which last-named organization he is a trustee. His political belief is that of the Democratic party.

**RICH, George Henry**, one of the men who has proven that the advantages do not always lie with the highly educated, but can be acquired by anyone who is willing to work and save, now owns a fine farm in Saratoga Township and holds the confidence and respect of his neighbors. He was born in Washington County, N. Y., May 21, 1862, a son of Charles H. and Sarah (McClelland) Rich. These parents, who were natives of Washington County, N. Y., came west as far as La Salle County, Ill., in 1878. The father became a farmer in the vicinity of Sheridan, and there died in 1884, the mother surviving him until 1910. After the death of her first husband, Mrs. Rich married Gersham Hunt. By her first marriage she had two children: Arthur C., who died in 1883; and George Henry. There were no children of her second marriage.

When not much more than a child, George Henry Rich began earning his own living, and

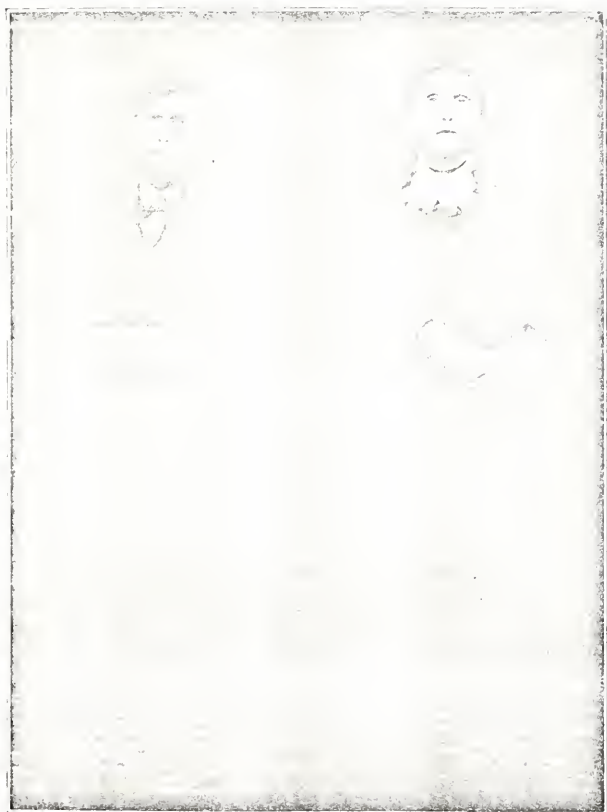
has never ceased to do so. His educational training was limited to a couple of months' schooling during the winter months for a few years, so what he knows he has taught himself. After coming to Illinois he remained with his mother, assisting her until his marriage, when he rented a farm in Nettle Creek Township, this county. Later he moved to Saratoga Township, and in 1892 bought his present farm of eighty-three acres on which he carries on grain farming and stock raising. This farm is very valuable on account of the many improvements he has made upon it.

On December 25, 1883, Mr. Rich was married (first) to Carrie Johnson, born in Norway, a daughter of John K. and Malinda Johnson. By this marriage Mr. Rich had the following children: May, who is Mrs. Thomas Grillich, of Chicago; and Myrtle, who is at home. Mrs. Rich died in February, 1908. On January 16, 1911, Mr. Rich was married (second) to Mrs. Martha (McKelvey) Kimbell, born May 26, 1862, widow of Jerome Kimbell. By her first marriage Mrs. Rich had five children: Emma and Ray, who are of Chicago; Ethel and Grace, who are of Clay County, Ill.; and William, who lives with Mr. and Mrs. Rich. Mr. Rich is a Republican and served for twelve years very acceptably as a School Director and for six years was Highway Commissioner. Both as a public official and private citizen, Mr. Rich has met his responsibilities honestly and capably, and is one of the leading men in his township.

**RIDGWAY, Emanuel, M. D. (deceased).**—During the Civil War many of the physicians and surgeons then in active practice felt called upon to offer their services to the government, and, while needed, rendered valued aid to the suffering and dying. Some of these self-sacrificing men have passed to another world, their lives in many instances shortened by the hardships they endured while at the front. One of these veteran surgeons of Grundy County was the late Emanuel Ridgway, for many years a resident of Morris, Ill.

Emanuel Ridgway was born in Ross County, Ohio, October 22, 1831, son of Joshua and Sarah Ridgway, natives of Ohio. About 1836, the family came to Grundy County, settling in Aux Sable Township, where the parents died during the childhood of Dr. Ridgway. The latter was reared by an aunt in Ohio. There he pursued his medical studies, being graduated from an eastern medical college, and following that, he came to Morris and entered upon an active practice. In August, 1862, he enlisted as surgeon of the Seventy-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. After being mustered out of the service, Dr. Ridgway returned to Morris and resumed his practice, and in 1881 he opened a pharmacy. This he operated until 1898, when he retired from business, living in ease and comfort until his demise, October 17, 1903. He was a man of broad sympathies, with a love of his calling,





Soren S. Ormou + Wife.



and made and retained many warm personal friends all over the county.

On August 4, 1869, Dr. Ridgway married Alcinda B. Hoge, born in Nettle Creek Township, May 11, 1842, daughter of William and Rachel (Bowbt) Hoge, born in Virginia, who, in 1831, came to Nettle Creek Township and there entered land, at a time when the Indians still held possession. They were the first white settlers of the county. Since the death of Dr. Ridgway, Mrs. Ridgway has lived at her home in Morris. Dr. and Mrs. Ridgway were the parents of the following children: Fred W., of Freeport; Henry A., of Nettle Creek Township; George M., living with his mother; Mary, Mrs. Frank Fey, of Morris; Frank S., of Freeport, Ill., and Rachel, who died August 17, 1910, aged twenty-eight years. Dr. Ridgway was a Presbyterian. A strong Republican he served as county coroner for twenty years. During his life in Morris he always served his city in every possible way and was a public-spirited citizen and one who had its best interests at heart. He was a school director for twenty-two years, and also was connected with the fire department for many years, in which he took great pride. From the formation of the local G. A. R. post, to his death, Dr. Ridgway was an honored member, and in it, as in every other connection of life, rendered a service that was highly valued.

**RIDINGS, William Arthur.**—It will be found that the most successful farmers of Grundy County are those who operate their property according to modern methods and with labor-saving machinery. Farming is like any other branch of endeavor, it is impossible to secure the best results with restricted appliances. One of the men who is reaping heavily from his land because of his progressive ideas is William Arthur Ridings of Waupunsee Township. He was born at Morris, Ill., September 26, 1856, son of John W. and Annie (Mather) Ridings, natives of Virginia and England, respectively. The maternal grandparents, Joseph and Martha Mather, were natives of England, who, upon coming to this country, located at Hillsboro, Ohio. The paternal grandparents, John P. and Eliza (Stone) Ridings, were natives of Virginia. John W. Ridings married Annie Mather in Ohio, and they later moved to Morris where they lived a year, and then bought a farm in Waupunsee Township. This was then all prairie land, but they moved upon it and commenced to improve their property. There he lived until his death in March, 1902, but his widow, who survived him, moved to Morris, where she passed away in March, 1910.

William Arthur Ridings lived with his parents, during his boyhood attending the local schools, and after marrying, moved to a farm of 100 acres that he had already purchased, adjoining the homestead on the west. This has continued to be his place of residence, and he has made many improvements, erecting all the buildings, putting up good fences and doing

everything to enhance its value and aid in carrying on the work. As a result he has one of the best improved farms in Grundy County. In addition to his original holdings, he has 140 acres. In March, 1891, Mr. Ridings was married to Mary Margaret Sample, born in Waupunsee Township, daughter of William and Matilda (Martin) Sample of Illinois. No issue. Mr. Ridings belongs to the Congregational Church, and is a worker in all church activities; was Sunday school superintendent for many years and also teacher of the men's class. He is one of the faithful laborers who, by precept and example help to hold all such workers together. For twelve years he has been justice of the peace and for the same period has been a school director. In every respect he has proven himself an excellent farmer, good business man and loyal citizen, and his high standing has been deservedly bestowed upon one who is worthy of the honor.

**ROBINSON, E. Robert.**—Farmers are beginning to awaken to the value of intensive farming and to the fact that there is more profit in a small tract highly cultivated than in a larger property but indifferently managed. One of the men who is making a big success as a market gardener is E. Robert Robinson of Waupunsee Township. He was born in Morris Township May 3, 1862, a son of Noble and Isabell (Lindsey) Robinson. Until he was married, E. Robert Robinson lived with his parents, having grown up on the farm and received a public school education. Following his marriage he worked in the Morris tile and brick factory until 1887, when he moved on an eighty-acre farm which he rents from his father. He raises all kind of garden truck, including melons and sweet corn, which he ships to the Chicago market. In addition to this land, he has bought a forty-acre tract in partnership with his brother, and he owns another forty-acre tract by himself. Mr. Robinson also owns two properties at Morris.

On August 26, 1885, Mr. Robinson was married to Ellen Moxham, born at Clarence Center, N. Y., November 29, 1858, a daughter of Fred and Mary (Robinson) Moxham, both natives of England. Mrs. Moxham is not living and Mr. Moxham resides in Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have had no children of their own, but adopted a daughter, Lillian, who was born in May, 1893, whom they have reared with tender parental care and love. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson belong to the Presbyterian Church, and are generous supporters of its good work. Politically he is a Democrat. His fraternal affiliations are with the Masons of Morris and the Odd Fellows of the same city. A hard-working man, possessed of unusual energy and foresight, he has been successful and is making plans to further extend his field of operation.

**ROBINSON, Noble.**—A citizen who has shown his versatility by engaging in several lines of business, and who has displayed his ability by making a success of each of his ventures, is



Noble Robinson, of Waupoosee Township, one of Grundy's representative men. Mr. Robinson is an Englishman, his birth taking place in Huntingdonshire, August 14, 1840. He was eleven years of age when he came to the United States on the sailing vessel, American Eagle, with his parents, Robert and Elizabeth Robinson, the family locating at Lockport, Niagara County, N. Y. Robert Robinson secured employment on the Erie Canal, and at different points acted in the capacity of superintendent, and eventually, after several years spent in Erie County, N. Y., brought his family to Grundy County, Ill. Several years later he removed to Bureau County, Ill., and there was the proprietor of a hotel up to the time of his death.

Noble Robinson was nineteen years of age when he came to Grundy County, and here secured employment in the coal mines, under Robert Davidson. In the spring of 1859 he returned to New York on a visit, but several months later came back to Illinois, and again became a coal miner, and afterward became an operator, but disposed of his interests and again worked in the coal mines until he was severely injured in an accident. In 1872 he located in Morris, Ill., where he first engaged in the liquor business, and soon thereafter took William Allen as a partner. This association continued for eleven years, when Mr. Robinson bought Mr. Allen's interest and continued to carry it on in the business block which he had built on Liberty street. In 1901 he sold out to Thomas Pattison, who conducted it for three years; then Mr. Robinson took the building and started in the grocery business which he conducted for three years and finally rented the building again to Mr. Pattison for same purpose as Mr. Pattison had previously used it for. Mr. Robinson is now devoting his attention to the cultivation of his farm, and is at this time the owner of 160 acres of land, all in a high state of cultivation. He has developed his property until it is one of the finest in Waupoosee Township, and substantial buildings add much to its value. Mr. Robinson is an able farmer and is capable of taking advantage of the various modern improvements. As a citizen he is accounted one of his locality's upright and public-spirited men, and his general popularity is attested by his many friends.

On April 22, 1861, Mr. Robinson was married to Miss Isabelle Lindsey, who was born near Montreal, Canada, whose parents were natives of the North of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have had these children: Ephraim Robert, of Waupoosee Township; William, of Morris, deputy county clerk; Agnes, who became Mrs. Richard Bahner, of Morris; Elizabeth, who married Frank Spees, of Morris; Thomas J., of this city; and Henry Rutherford, who is assisting his father in the conduct of the home farm. He had four children; one child who died in infancy; Noble, Frederick and Arthur. Mr. Robinson has lent a hand in the management of the public affairs of Morris, having

served efficiently as alderman of the Third Ward for three terms. His religious connection is with the Episcopal Church, and his fraternal affiliations with the Odd Fellows and Masons.

**RONCHETTI, Joseph.**—In the thriving village of South Wilmington, Ill., few men are better known than Joseph Ronchetti, head of the firm of Ronchetti & Company, dealers in meats, groceries and crockery. For more than ten years he has been identified with the business interests of this place, and through ability and straightforward dealing has become one of the substantial men of his community. Mr. Ronchetti was born in Austria, January 4, 1869, and is a son of Peter and Mary (Tonelli) Ronchetti, natives of Vezzano, Austria.

Joseph Ronchetti received his education in the public schools of his native land, and as a young man came to the United States, arriving in this country December 27, 1889. He at once made his way to Elmore, Colo., where he secured employment at the coke ovens, subsequently went to Texas, where he worked as a machinist for seven years, and then opened a general merchandise store, which he conducted for two years at Mingus, Tex. In 1901 he disposed of his interests in the Southwest and took his family back to Austria for a visit of one year. Upon his return to America, he located at South Wilmington, Ill., and since 1902 has conducted his present business, which has gradually developed into one of the leading enterprises of its kind in this part of Grundy County. He has made a success of his venture because of his excellent business ability and his sterling integrity, and by winning the confidence of his fellow-citizens has built up a profitable business.

On December 5, 1894, Mr. Ronchetti was married to Miss Mary Cha, born March 7, 1873, a native of Piazze, Italy, and a daughter of Giovanni and Angela (Basso) Cha, natives of Piazze, Italy. Mr. and Mrs. Ronchetti have five children: Pete, born October 5, 1895, a student in the Joliet (Ill.) High school, and his father's able assistant in business; Angelo, born September 2, 1897; Mario, born June 3, 1899; Irma, born October 19, 1905; and Inez, born June 23, 1909.

Mr. Ronchetti is a member of the Catholic Church. His fraternal connections are with the Fraternal Order of Eagles, of which he is secretary; the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of Druids. A Republican in his political views, he has served for six years as a member of the Board of Education of South Wilmington, and at this time is treasurer of the Fire Department. Every movement making for progress and development has his hearty support, and he is justly conceded to be one of his community's representative men.

**ROTHLISBERGER, William,** a general farmer of Felix Township, owns 160 acres of well-developed land, and carries on a general line of agriculture, meeting with very satisfactory





results. He was born at Wilmington, Will County, Ill., August 31, 1866, a son of John Rothlisberger. The father was born May 30, 1838, in the beautiful city of Berne, Switzerland, and many times told his children of the wonderful clocks that yearly attract tourists to that city, which were familiar to him in his boyhood. During his mature years he was a bookkeeper for different business houses. He married Bertha Spörri, who was born in Zurich, Switzerland, June 16, 1839.

William Rothlisberger attended a country school in Kankakee County, Ill., his home being on a farm until the family moved to town when he was fifteen years of age, after which he took a commercial course in the Northwestern Business College, at Naperville, Ill. He has always led a busy and useful life and, after working for some years in a general store, became a bank clerk and bookkeeper. Since his marriage Mr. Rothlisberger has given his attention to farming and stock raising.

On December 11, 1890, in the township of Felix, Mr. Rothlisberger was married to Miss Elizabeth Trotter, born in Felix Township, October 1, 1864, a daughter of Alexander and Jane (Bogue) Trotter, natives of Berwickshire, Scotland, where he was born February 15, 1825 and she was born January 1, 1825. In politics Mr. Rothlisberger is a Republican. Fraternally he is identified with Braidwood Lodge No. 704, A. F. & A. M.; Wilmington Chapter No. 142, R. A. M.; and Blaney Commandery No. 5, Morris, Ill. He is also a member of Ivanhoe Camp No. 1359, M. W. A., of Coal City, Ill., of which he was clerk for about nine years, and to White Star Chapter No. 452, O. E. S., Coal City, of which he has been Worthy Patron for the last three years. For more than twenty years he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In his various relations and association with others he has exhibited those qualities which have won confidence, respect and warm friendship.

**RYAN, Stephen E.**—The modern farmer needs to know how to work his land, what crops to plant, how to cultivate them, and where to market what he grows. No longer does he conduct his business in a hit or miss way, but according to methods he has learned by experience are the best. One of the men of Grundy County who is engaged in maintaining its high agricultural standard is Stephen Ryan, of Vienna Township. He was born in Vienna Township, January 1, 1851, a son of William and Elizabeth (Golden) Ryan, the former a native of Tipperary, Ireland, and the latter of County Roscommon, Ireland. The father came to the United States and located at Utica, Ill., in 1848, his wife having come in 1847. She was the widow of Christopher Weldon, and had a son, James Weldon, who is now a resident of Vienna Township. After marriage, William Ryan and wife settled on a farm in Vienna Township, Grundy County that the wife owned, and here he died, July 24, 1885, and she died November

6, 1908. They had the following children: Mary, who is Mrs. Mary Renne; Stephen E.; Eliza, who is Mrs. Hugh Newman, of Vienna Township; John, who died in infancy; William, who lives at Highmore, S. D., and Catherine, who died in infancy.

When he was twenty-one years old, Stephen E. Ryan, who had attended the local schools, began farming in Good Farm Township with his half-brother, James Weldon, remaining with him for three years. Later they dissolved partnership, and Mr. Ryan rented a Brookfield Township farm for a year, when he moved to Highland Township and rented a farm for five years. He then returned to the home place, and lived with his mother and sister, and at the death of the former, he inherited the land in partnership with his sisters. He has operated this property ever since, and also works forty acres more. He boards with his sister, Mrs. Mary Renne. Mr. Ryan belongs to the Catholic Church. Politically he is a Republican and has served as post master. He is a respected man in his community.

**RYAN, Thomas**, one of the substantial business men of Kinsman, Grundy County, Ill., was born in Ireland, November 11, 1839, a son of Dennis and Jane (Crough) Ryan, the former of whom was born in Ireland in 1795, and the latter in the same country, in 1798. They were farming people, who immigrated to the United States, locating at Syracuse, N. Y., on January 1, 1851, and lived in that city until October 1, 1853, when removal was made to Ottawa, Ill. On March 2, 1866, the family located at Highland, Ill.

Brought up by conscientious parents, Thomas Ryan lived a temperate life from boyhood, and has never changed his principles or ideas along these lines. While his educational training was confined to the public schools, he gained an excellent practical knowledge of men and affairs, and developed into a farmer and grain buyer. At present he is the owner of 280 acres of land in Highland Township, and 640 acres of land in Montana. His substantial standing and reliable habits brought him just rewards, and his value as a citizen was recognized by his election to the office of town treasurer, which he held for twenty years, and he was also supervisor of his township for several years. During his incumbency in office he justified the confidence reposed in him, and was an excellent official and public-spirited in every way.

On September 20, 1865, Mr. Ryan was united in marriage with Mary Landergan and six daughters and two sons have been born of this union, namely: Jenny, Katie, Nelly, Maggie, Dodie, Dennis, Willie and Loretta. In religious faith, Mr. Ryan is a Catholic and fraternally he is a Knight of Columbus.

**SACKETT**, William L., of Morris, was born at Holyoke, Mass., in 1866. When three years old, his parents took up their residence at Spring-



field, Mass. He lived there until eight years old. As the result of death and sickness, the family was scattered. Mr. Sackett came west to live with an elder brother who was a resident of Amboy, Ill. Through the winter months Mr. Sackett, in common with all boys of the farm, attended school, doing in summer farm work or anything that would bring a livelihood. Later he went to Hartford, Conn., living with a sister, and had the advantage of grade schools and two terms in the High school of that city. Family circumstances prevented his taking the full course of the school and graduating. He secured a place in a small printing office where he earned enough to provide board and clothes. In 1881 he had a long and nearly fatal illness. Following partial recovery he went to Dakota, spending a year or more on a ranch and recovered his health.

In 1883 Mr. Sackett did his first newspaper work as a reporter upon the Illinois State Journal at Springfield. He advanced through the various departments to the desk of night editor of that paper, and continued until a reorganization and sale brought changes. While devoting time to newspaper work Mr. Sackett became one of the most proficient stenographic writers in the State. He became confidential secretary for John R. Tanner, who was then state treasurer, but later became governor. Mr. Sackett later became the private secretary of Chief Justice Simeon P. Shope, of the Illinois State Supreme Court, and served in like capacity for seven years for Attorney-General George Hunt. While thus engaged he was honored by Governor Richard J. Oglesby, who selected Mr. Sackett as his confidential assistant in the disposition of the trying appeals for clemency made in behalf of the condemned Chicago anarchists in 1887, and was highly complimented by Governor Oglesby in an autograph letter upon his success in outwitting the hundreds of newspaper correspondents and getting news of the denial of the plea for pardon to the officials in Chicago ten hours before it became known in Springfield, that proper protection might be made to frustrate any plans for assailing the county jail and rescuing the anarchists. Mr. Sackett later aided Attorney-General Hunt in the preparation and hearing of this case on its appeal to the United States supreme court at Washington.

In 1891 Mr. Sackett came to Morris and purchased the newspaper plant of The Morris Herald. He has applied the methods of his metropolitan newspaper training to the paper; its growth has been steady and it is admitted on every hand to be a newspaper that reflects great credit upon the city of its publication. Taking an active interest in political affairs, Mr. Sackett has always been identified with the Republican party in Illinois. In 1896, in the McKinley campaign he was named by acclamation as the presidential elector for the Eighth Illinois Congressional District, which always had a Republican majority of 20,000. He cast the vote of the Twelfth District for Roosevelt

when elected after McKinley's death. He has been the secretary and treasurer of the Grundy County Republican Central Committee for years, and for the last ten years its chairman, resigning the position in September, 1914. In 1897 he was appointed as secretary of the Canal Commissioners of the State, by Governor John R. Tanner. Later Governor Richard Yates appointed him a member of the commission. He served continuously in this work until September, 1913, when Governor Dunne named a Democrat to succeed him. Mr. Sackett is considered one of the authorities of the State on the waterway development problem now being discussed in behalf of commercial waterway transportation.

In 1887, while in Springfield, Mr. Sackett was married to Miss Ida Irene Brown. As a result of this marriage two children have been born, namely: Loren B., now engaged in the publication of The Herald with his father, and Edwin, a student in the high school. Mr. Sackett is distinctively American, and so are his ancestors for generations. His father, Loren Sackett, is a direct descendant of the Sackvilles, the English branch of the family, which has been prominent in the history of that nation. His mother, Sarah (Downey) Sackett is a lineal descendant of a prominent Irish family. Representatives of both the paternal and maternal ancestry played a prominent part in the early history of America. They were members of the Pilgrim band and lovers of religious liberty and independence. The ancestors are found among the few that embarked on the Mayflower when it made its famous voyage to the New World to carry the little band of settlers who were to lay the foundation for the development of New England. Mr. Sackett is a great-grandson of Lieutenant Adnah Sackett, who was a volunteer soldier in the Revolutionary War. The name of Sackett figures prominently in the records of the Revolutionary War. Several of the family were engaged with Washington in his campaigns, two being upon the immediate staff of the Father of His Country. In the Civil War, one brother of Mr. Sackett, Captain William H. Sackett, of the Eleventh Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, met his death; while another brother, Joseph T. Sackett, had especial mention for heroic conduct on the field of battle at Ringgold Gap with Company C of the Thirteenth Illinois Infantry.

**SADLER, John.**—More than forty years have passed since John Sadler first came to Grundy County, Ill., and during all that period he has been known as one of this section's most reliable and successful agriculturists. At this time he is living a somewhat retired life, having turned over the burden of activities to younger hands and shoulders, but he still maintains an interest in all that affects the welfare of the community in which he has resided so long and to which he gave the best years of his life. Mr. Sadler is a native of Eastern Canada, and was born in October, 1837, a son of John and Ann (Mason) Sadler, natives of the North of Ire-





Louisa Winsor and daughter.  
Thelma.



F. V. Winsor



land. They moved to Canada about the year 1820, and there spent the remainder of their lives in agricultural pursuits. Of their six children, John was the youngest.

John Sadler was given ordinary educational advantages and continued to reside with his parents in their Canadian home until he reached the age of sixteen years, at which time he went to Vermont. One year later he came West and settled in Grundy County, where he rented land until 1872, and in that year purchased an unimproved tract of eighty acres of land in Vienna Township. To the developing and cultivation of this property he gave the rest of his active years, and through industry, perseverance and well-directed effort was successful in making one of the finest farms of its size in this part of the State. Since 1910 he has lived somewhat retired, the land now being under the capable management of his son, Harry, who has inherited many of his father's sterling traits of character.

In the spring of 1861, John Sadler was united in marriage with Miss Matilda Hamilton, also a native of Canada, and they have had children as follows: Anna, who married Robert Hamilton, and is now deceased; Susan, also deceased, who was the wife of George Baker; Cora, who married William Bradford, and resides in Mazon, Ill.; George, a resident of Colorado; Thomas, who is deceased; and Harry, the manager of the home place, who married Miss Bowman. The mother of these children died in August, 1908, in the faith of the Episcopal Church, to which Mr. Sadler also belongs. He is prominent in Masonry, having numerous friends in the Verona Lodge, and in his political views is independent.

**SAMPLE, John (deceased).**—In reviewing the history of Grundy County the thoughtful observer is struck by the patience and fortitude displayed by the pioneers of this section, who, coming here at a time when hardships were to be encountered on every side, and success was entirely problematical, worked quietly and unceasingly, laboring better than they knew, and producing the Grundy County of today. One of these men who earned the right to be honored as a Grundy County pioneer of the best class was the late John Sample. He was a native of Pennsylvania, as was his wife, Mary McKenzie, she being born in Washington County of that State. He was a son of William Sample, born in the North of Ireland. Mrs. Sample was a daughter of Daniel and Isabelle (Grant) McKenzie, natives of Scotland. John Sample and Mary McKenzie were married in Ross County, Ohio, and commenced farming near South Salem in that county. He was one of the founders of an academy and seminary at that place, and was a man of prominence in his community.

Attracted by reports of the fertility of land in Grundy County, Ill., John Sample joined a company in September, 1852, which reached there in October of the same year, and he and his wife decided upon Waupunsee Township

as a desirable section, and settled on a farm there. There was a little frame house on the place, in the midst of a prairie, and in it they began housekeeping. At that time there were but few neighbors, but they were too busy to get lonely, for their farm of from 700 to 800 acres was entirely unimproved, and they were constantly at work. As time went on Mr. Sample brought more and more of his land under cultivation, and became an extensive raiser of horses, and also carried on general farming. Soon after his arrival in the summer of 1853, he started a Sunday school in a small log schoolhouse in the neighborhood, which was the first Sunday school ever held in that town. Although a Presbyterian, as there was no church of his denomination there, he became affiliated with the Congregational Church of Morris. While much interested in politics, he was not an office seeker. His death occurred in 1864, after a long and useful life. His widow survived him until 1883, when she passed away at the age of eighty-nine years. There were ten children in the family, three of whom died in Ohio. Five children and the parents died on the farm in Grundy County. Two daughters, Narcissa and Ruth, removed to Morris in 1901, and spent their remaining years there.

**SAMPLE, William (deceased).**—Perhaps no resident of Grundy County was a more honorable man than the late William Sample, of Morris, whose life was filled with good deeds, and whose memory is tenderly cherished by those who knew him and thus appreciated his many virtues. He was born at South Salem, Ohio, October 16, 1828, a son of John and Mary (McKenzie) Sample, of Irish descent, who were farming people. In the spring of 1852 William Sample joined his father, John Sample, and came west from South Salem, Ohio, to look for a home in Illinois. Through the late William Hopkins, who was agent for the property, John Sample bought between 700 and 800 acres of land, four miles south of Morris, Ill., and in the following fall the entire family, and another one by the name of Stoneback, came to this new home, making the trip by wagon. From then on, William Sample made Grundy County his home, and became the owner of 266 acres of land in Waupunsee Township.

Having received a better educational training than some of his associates, as he attended the South Salem academy, he was naturally a leader in his community, and as he was honest and a thorough believer in doing what was right at no matter what sacrifice, Mr. Sample's influence for good was strong, although he never connected himself with any particular religious organization. However, he contributed generously towards religious work, and was recognized as one of the strong moral forces of his day and locality. A man of kindly impulses and genial manner, he was a welcome addition to any gathering. Until he married, he assisted his father, but after that, was engaged in conducting his own affairs. Mr. Sam-





ple was married at La Salle, Ill., to Matilda Martin, a daughter of Zachariah and Rebecca (Sutherland) Martin, the former born February 25, 1789, and the latter October 18, 1799. These parents died from scarlet fever when Mrs. Sample was twelve years old, leaving a family of six children. Mr. and Mrs. Sample had two daughters: Mary Margaret, who was born November 22, 1863; and Anna Rebecca, who was born May 15, 1865.

**SCHRODER, John B.**—The earnest, steadfast, reliable German-Americans are numbered among the very best citizens of this county, and are ever to be found in the ranks of the substantial people of any community in which they may elect to reside, for they are hard-working and thrifty, and know how to invest their money profitably. One of these excellent types of what can be accomplished by a blending of Germany and America is John B. Schroder of Morris, at present a police magistrate. Mr. Schroder was born in Baden, Germany, March 23, 1831, son of Adam and Eva (Masinger) Schroder, both of whom died in Germany, the mother when John B. was only two years of age. When twenty years old, Mr. Schroder went into the German army, and served in a cavalry regiment for six years, a portion of the time as riding master.

In 1854 at Havre, Mr. Schroder married Eliza Chulett, of Baden, Germany, and embarked from that port for America. During the voyage his young wife died, and he landed in New York City alone. From there he went to Chicago, where he was met by a brother, who resided at Elgin, Ill. Having learned the harnessmaking trade in his native land, Mr. Schroder was able to open a harness shop at Elgin, and conducted it for five years, when he sold, and afterward traveled throughout the West for a time and then located at Minooka, where he opened a harness and saddlery shop, and became an important man in the place. He served as constable and as town clerk, and in 1866 was elected sheriff of Grundy County, and held that important office continuously until 1890. During this period he brought many offenders to justice, and participated in one execution. Mr. Schroder was in Atchison County, Kas., for a year, buying and operating a farm during that time, and he also served as grain inspector at Chicago for another year. Finally disposing of his other interests, he came to Morris, and opened a harness shop. Almost immediately he was made a justice of the peace, and in 1892 was elected police magistrate, and still holds that office. In addition to his other interests, he owns four residences.

In 1855, Mr. Schroder was married (second), at Elgin, Ill., to Josephine Fessler, born in Alsace, France, daughter of Ehlbon Fessler. The children born of this marriage were: John B., of San Francisco; Josephine, Mrs. John Francis of Peoria, Ill.; and Adelaide N., Mrs. William Gilbert of Morris. Politically he is a Republican. Mr. Schroder is a Knight Templar,

Mason, and takes a deep interest in his fraternal connection. He is a man of strict integrity, and his wise, conservative rulings are usually sustained by the higher courts, for, although not a lawyer, he has good knowledge of the law and assisted by keen insight into human nature and long experience, he is able to decide correctly with regard to the cases brought before him.

**SENDENO, Torres T.**, who now lives retired at Gardner, owns 120 acres of fertile land in Garfield Township, and is one of the best examples Grundy County has of the intelligent Norwegian agriculturist who has attained to prosperity in this section, not because of inherited wealth or public favor, but through unaided labor and strength of purpose. Mr. Sendeno was born in Norway, in May, 1844, a son of Thomas and Bertha Sendeno, farming people of Norway. The father died in his native land in 1870, following which the oldest son, Gunder T., who was a sergeant in the Norwegian army, took charge of the farm and still lives on it. The mother died there in 1892. There were the following children in the family: Gunder T.; Torres T.; Sarah, who is deceased; Nels, who is deceased; Ingero; Serena; Thomas; and Osman, who died in infancy.

Torres T. Sendeno was educated in his native land and brought up as a farmer. When he was twenty-two years old he entered upon his military service, but within two weeks was so badly injured that he was honorably discharged. In spite of this he managed to put in the following two years at farm work, when he secured employment on the ship wharf at Vikedal. In 1870 he came to Kendall County, Ill., and worked as a farm laborer there for four years. Having saved a little money therefrom he began renting land and continued until 1892, when he bought his present farm, which he materially improved. During the past few years he has lived retired, his sons conducting the property for him.

In 1870 Mr. Sendeno married Susan Johnson, who came to America on the same ship as he. They had four children: Thomas, who married Gertie Chally; Anna, who is deceased; William, who married Anna Tofte; and Torres, who married Carrie Roe. His second marriage was on November 6, 1913, to Mrs. Bertha (Haugland) Thompson, a resident of Grundy County. She had two children, Elizabeth; and Oliver, who married Berdie Kenyon. The Norwegian Lutheran Church holds Mr. Sendeno's membership, and he has belonged to it for twenty years, now serving it as a deacon. Politically he is a Republican, but has never cared for office. Staunch in his friendships, honorable in his dealings, Mr. Sendeno has proved a very desirable citizen of the land he adopted so many years ago. He made a trip in 1913 to Norway.

**SEVERNS, Horace H.**—Morris is the home of a number of retired farmers who have selected the County Seat as a place of residence because



they fully realize the advantages accruing from being connected with a place of this class. Here, amid an abundance of their own dairy comforts their further industry has prospered. One of these substantial agriculturists of Grundy County is Horace H. Severns, born in Wauwasee Township, February 5, 1854, a son of Horace H. and Mary A. Aver. Severns, natives of New York State and Germany, respectively. She came with her parents to the vicinity of Chicago, and later to Grundy County, arriving here in 1870. Mr. Severns came to this section about that date, a bachelor and married, settling at Morris. This was his first home for a short time, when they moved to Wauwasee Township. When living at Morris he had been foreman of the mill, but he bought a farm in Wauwasee Township, and lived upon it, in 1887. His valley resides at Aurora, Ill., with her twin sister, the two having been born in 1892.

Horace H. Severns, Jr., lived at home with his mother, and then attended the local school, and assisted his father. After his marriage he moved to a farm of 120 acres in Wauwasee Township, but a bad season and drought until the spring of 1894 when he rented the farm and moved to Morris. Mr. Severns owns what was George Pick's place, named after Amusement Park, and is engaged in conducting it. On December 11, 1888, Mr. Severns was united in marriage with Laura A. Lattimer, who is Grundy County's daughter of Sam and Mary (Schaefer) Lattimer. Mr. Lattimer died in 1888, but his widow survives. Later at Nekepa, Wis., and at other places, Mrs. Mr. and Mrs. Severns are the parents of three full-blooded children: Lottie A., who married William Alfred Thomas, a real estate dealer of Morris; Otto K., who is of Morris; and Aaron M., who is at home. Mr. Severns is a Republican and served as a School Director for twelve years. High vice Commissioner for twenty years, and for six years was Supervisor. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Odd Fellows.

**SEVERNS, Otto K.**—All of the leading automobile companies have capable representatives in the centers of civilization to handle their business and accommodate their customers. The responsibility resting upon these special agents is heavy, for upon them depends the success or failure of that certain make in their territory. One of the leading business men of Morris is Otto K. Severns, agent for the Badger automobiles, which are manufactured at Columbus, Wis. He was born September 29, 1890, in Wauwasee Township, a son of Horace H. and Laura (Lattimer) Severns, natives of Grundy County. Horace H. Severns was born and married in Grundy County. For a number of years he was a farmer of Wauwasee Township, but in 1910 he came to Morris, where he is now operating the Morris Amusement Park. Mr. and Mrs. Horace H. Severns were the parents of

children as follows: Lottie, Mrs. W. A. Thomas of Morris; Otto, K., and Aaron, at home.

Otto K. Severns attended the public schools of Morris and secured his diploma from the eighth grade in 1907. After that he was employed working for a contracting firm, and was then hired for six years. The last year, after a vacationed period at Kaukauna City, Wis., he was employed for two years, and then he worked in a firm in Kaukauna, and then he turned to farming. He was engaged in his father's farm for four years. After expiration of that time he turned to Morris and is now the proprietor of the Morris Amusement Park, which he is now operating.

On April 12, 1907, Mr. Severns was married to Lottie A. Thomas of Wauwasee Township, a daughter of George and Mary (Schaefer) Lattimer. Mr. and Mrs. Severns have three children, of whom Lottie A. is born in 1909. Mr. Severns is a member of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Democrat and has formerly been connected with several papers. Now, of Morris, he is connected with the Grundy Advertiser and is a member of the board of directors of the Grundy County Agricultural Society. For his business address, see above, where they are mentioned.

**SHELLER, Thomas F.**—Blacksmith and harness-maker of Coal City, one of the outstanding men of his craft, one who has recently won the esteem in which he is held and who carries on an excellent business, which he established here in 1902. He was born at Wilmington, N. C., November 27, 1888, a son of Patrick and Anne (Kavanaugh) Sheller, natives of Ireland, who were married in 1860. They lived in Ireland until 1871, and later in Grundy County. They were among the early settlers of what was then known as Juntura. The mother died in 1875 and the father died at Coal City in 1903. They had eight children: Daniel, who died in 1890, of whom are deceased; Thomas, who is deceased; Margaret, Catherine, Owen, Thomas, John J. and Michael.

Thomas F. Sheller attended school in Coal County, Ill., and in his youth worked for farmers. Following this he learned the harness trade at Bridgeport, Ill., and in 1906 came to Coal City, where he engaged with James J. Kinier, remaining with him until 1907. Mr. Sheller then purchased his present business and owns both the store and shop he occupies. He carries a full line of horse furnishings on hand at all times, and is prepared to do various kinds of work in his line. On August 24, 1909, Mr. Sheller was married at Coal City to Lottie to Mary H. Shaver, born in Scotland, and one child was born of this marriage, who died in infancy. The family church holds his membership and records from the same source. Formerly he belonged to the V. M. W. Lodge and in national matters he is the leading tactician, but in local affairs is very liberal. For two years he served Coal City as a trustee and



is a responsible man who is able to perform any duties placed upon his willing shoulders.

**SHORT, Lemuel (deceased),** formerly a leading agriculturalist of Goose Lake Township, was born in Allegheny County, Pa., August 15, 1819, a son of James and Ellen (McFarland) Short. In 1856 he came to Grundy County and began buying land in what is now Goose Lake Township, continuing his purchases until at the time of his death he owned more than 2,500 acres of farm land in that township, and 373 acres in Lake County. His death occurred January 13, 1895. On December 31, 1845, Mr. Short married Sarah Burr, and their children were as follows: James, Worham B., Alvina, Lemuel, Jr., and William.

**SMITH, Alanson D., M. D.,** for many years a leading physician of Grundy and other Illinois counties, but now living retired at Morris, is proud of the fact that he comes of pure American stock, his ancestors having been passengers on the famous Mayflower, later developing into Colonists of note during the early history of the country. His grandparents on both sides of the house were soldiers of the Revolutionary struggle and men of distinction in New England, and in the family of his grandfather, Nathan Smith, was one son, Eleazer Smith, the father of Dr. Smith. Eleazer Smith married Maria Derby, and both were born in Vermont. They married in Jefferson County, N. Y., where their son, Dr. Smith, was born August 2, 1815. The family lived there until 1834, when removal was made to Marseilles, Ill., where the father continued his farming operations until January 1, 1856, when he went to Morris. Once more he invested in farm land, buying in Saratoga Township, but sold this property in 1881 and returned to Morris, where he died in 1886, the mother surviving him until 1902. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Dr. Smith was the sixth in order of birth.

Dr. Smith was given the usual educational training accorded the farmer boy, and when only seventeen years old he began working in a telegraph office at Morris. He was very ambitious, and while working in the day, studied at night to fit himself for the profession of medicine, thus continuing for four years. He then devoted himself to his medical studies under Dr. Freeman until 1869, when he entered the Long Island Hospital Medical College at Brooklyn, N. Y., and after one term there, entered the medical department of the University of New York, from which he was graduated in February, 1870. Following this, Dr. Smith went to Dwight, Ill., where he was associated with Dr. Keeley, and then came to Morris to take up the practice of Dr. F. C. White. Until 1910 Dr. Smith continued in active practice and then retired. He built himself a residence at Morris, which he has disposed of, as well as a fine brick business block of two stores, with a brick barn in the rear. This building is 62x120 feet and is a valuable piece of property. The political con-

victions of Dr. Smith make him a Republican. During his many years of practice he won the confidence and friendship of all with whom he came in contact, and his ability was always unquestioned.

**SMITH, Austin J.**—A practical knowledge of conditions governing working men aids materially in the practice of any profession, and in none more than that of law. One of the attorneys of Morris, a man who has labored with his hands among farmers, railroad men and coal miners, is Austin J. Smith, who has discharged the duties of one of its important offices with distinction. Mr. Smith was born in Addison County, Vermont, November 14, 1849, son of William Green and Isabelle (Bresse) Smith, natives of Vermont. The family on both sides traces back to early colonial days. In 1853, Mr. and Mrs. Smith moved to Kendall County, Ill., and there rented land for some time. Later they bought land in Will County, where both passed away.

Austin J. Smith resided with his parents until his mother died in the spring of 1873. In young manhood, Mr. Smith worked on the farm, but his ambitions led him to take up railroading, and later office work for coal companies. His knowledge of men led his employers to advance him to the position of superintendent and distributing agent, and he carried out his duties well. In 1902 Mr. Smith was elected county clerk of Grundy County, and served for two consecutive terms, his daughter Edith M., acting as chief deputy. While in office they devoted their spare time to the study of law, reading and taking examinations together and, after being admitted to the bar, entered into partnership with Henman B. Smith, an attorney of Morris and son of Austin J., thus forming a law firm of father, son and daughter, the firm being Smith, Smith and Smith. Mr. Smith was educated in the public schools and St. Paul's Academy of Kankakee, Ill.

On November 14, 1872, Mr. Smith married Lucy Vining, born at Kankakee, Ill., daughter of Samuel and Jane (Smith) Vining, natives of Illinois. The father was one of the early settlers of Kankakee, and a son of Abijah Vining. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have had two children: Henman Bresse and Edith Maud. Mr. Smith is a Republican. A prominent Mason, he is a Past Commander of Blaney Commandery No. 5, Knights Templar, and also belongs to Medinah Temple, order of the Mystic Shrine. In addition he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America of Coal City.

**SOMERVILLE, William E.,** who has served as Mayor of Coal City, is known not alone as a prominent figure in public affairs in Grundy County, but as an inventor in the field of aeronautics and as president of the Illinois Aero Construction Company. The high esteem in which he is held by his fellow-citizens is evidenced in the fact that he acted in an official





FRANCES A. WINSOR



WILLIAM H. WINSOR





capacity for a number of years and through his capable handling of the city's affairs won friends among men of all political parties. Mr. Somerville is a native of Scotland and has inherited many of the sterling characteristics of his forefathers. He was born April 12, 1867, and is a son of William and Christina (Edgington) Somerville, who passed their lives upon their native heath, where Mr. Somerville was for a long period engaged in mechanical engineering.

William E. Somerville attended the public schools in his native land, and continued his studies in a school of engineering. After a thorough preparation he became a marine engineer, a vocation which he followed for five years, and in 1892 shipped from Glasgow on an Anchor Line vessel as chief engineer, and, arriving in the United States, decided to remain here. Accordingly, he entered the employ of the General Electric Company, with which he continued for three years, and during this time traveled extensively in the company's service as an electrician. In 1895 he came to Coal City, and for five years followed electrical work, and in 1900 became superintendent of the new factory of the McComber Wire Rope Company. Having always been of an inventive turn of mind, and deeply interested in aeronautics, he conceived the idea of an airship which should have as its chief points stability and absolute safety. Accordingly, in 1910 he resigned his position and went to work to carry out his ideas. These resulted in the Illinois Aero Construction Company, capitalized at \$250,000, with the following officers: William E. Somerville, president and treasurer; Richard Seeley, vice-president; Anthony J. Testa, secretary; and E. J. Hazel, C. E. Cumming, O. A. Miller and L. Veronda, directors. The company was organized for the purpose of placing on the market flying machines and engines, invented and designed by Mr. Somerville, to operate a flying school and enter the exhibition business. The Somerville invention relates to the upturned wing tips, also to a system of opening the surface, both ideas being original and covered by letters patent. Mr. Somerville commenced his experimental work in 1909. In 1910 he built a biplane which proved so satisfactory that a patent was applied for on the original features and in 1911 the experimental work was continued. The results of experimenting and the expenditure of \$40,000 produced a machine that is practically automatically stable and the safest in the world. The planes and upturned ends are so designed that any movement tending to disturb the equilibrium of the machine laterally creates a righting force or "couple" which will cause the machine to right itself automatically without the assistance of the aviator. A mechanical system of maintaining lateral stability is also the invention of Mr. Somerville, which makes the machine safer than if only one system is installed. Although, as claimed above, the upturned wing will maintain the lateral stability while in the air, in landing in bad weather a gust of wind may tilt the machine and make a bad landing. To prevent

just such a case, the mechanical stabilizing arrangement, which consists of two shutters on the high side, will be opened, which will cut the lift and also break the high side, the result being that the low side will speed up and the machine will right itself. This is the safest, simplest and most economical system in existence. The company has a lease of 160 acres of land ideally located for a flying field.

In 1898 Mr. Somerville was married to Miss Bertha Piagno, of Coal City, Ill., and three children have been born to this union: Constance, Lillian and Peter, all living at home. Mr. Somerville has always been an active and stalwart Republican, and in 1905 was elected mayor of Coal City.

**SPILLER, Clarence.**—Grundy County farms have long been a source of pride, not only to the owners of these valuable pieces of property, but all the people of this locality, for it is a recognized fact that the standing of any agricultural section is measured by the prosperity of its farmers. One of the men who has achieved more than the usual amount of success as a farmer here is Clarence Spiller, owner of a fine eighty-acre farm in Mazon Township. He was born in Gardner, Ill., March 21, 1877, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Allen) Spiller. Thomas Spiller was born in England, but came to this country in young manhood, and died at Gardner in 1892. For some years he had been successfully engaged in business there as a harnessmaker. His widow survives and makes her home at Gardner. She and her husband had four children: Walter B., Frank D., Clarence and Harry.

Clarence Spiller attended the public schools at Gardner, and after finishing his educational training, went into the restaurant business in that village. Later he worked at the mines, but in 1905 he bought his present property, where he carries on general farming and feeds cattle for the market. Mr. Spiller purposes entering the dairy business in the near future with a fine herd of Jersey cattle.

In 1899 Mr. Spiller was married to Laura Savage, born in Grundy County. Mr. and Mrs. Spiller have had two children: Della May and Raymond Thomas, but the latter died January 1, 1908. Mr. Spiller belongs to the Methodist Church. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. While he has always cast his vote for the candidates of the Republican party in national events, in local matters he believes in supporting the best man. A good worker, and thrifty in his habits, Mr. Spiller has steadily forged to the front and is justly regarded as one of the substantial and reliable men of Grundy County.

**SPOULL, Charles Hamilton,** who is profitably engaged in operating 160 acres of land in Mazon Township, raises upon his farm fine crops of corn and oats, and at the same time conducts a flourishing live stock business, buying and selling horses. Mr. Sproull was born at Sheldon,



Ill., in 1887, a son of Jerry and Maria (Hamilton) Sproull, the former of whom survives, making his home in Mazon Township, being a man of substance in his community.

Charles Hamilton Sproull attended school in Mazon Township, and later in Indiana, and assisted his father until he was twenty-two years old. At that time he commenced working as a farmer on his own account, with gratifying results, and he has been on his present farm since 1909. In the conduct of this farm Mr. Sproull shows that he has gone into the matter of farming scientifically and his experiments are resulting so favorably that he is fast taking a front rank among the leading agriculturists of the county. In political affairs he has ranged himself with the Progressives, and will doubtless be heard from in the future in local affairs.

**STALKER, John.**—The coal deposits in Grundy County are valuable and the operation of the different mines by those who own them has brought wealth in many cases. While the quality of the coal here is not of the highest, it commands a ready sale and is not as difficult to mine as deposits in some other sections which are deeper down. One of the mine owners who is now operating upon a small scale is John Stalker, of Morris. He was born in Sterlingshire, Scotland, February 12, 1868, son of William and Charlotte (Blair) Stalker. The father was a coal miner who brought his family to Morris in 1881, attracted hither by the mines in this locality. Finding ready employment at mining, he worked industriously and later became a coal operator. His death occurred in 1884, and the mother survived until January, 1909.

John Stalker worked with his father until the latter's death, when John and a brother, William, took charge of the shaft and operated it together for one year. John Stalker then went to the mines at La Salle, but returned after a year to Morris and reentered the mines here. On December 7, 1908, he bought a shaft, two miles north of Morris, which has a 3-foot vein of coal. During the winter he employs from eight to ten men and in the summer from three to four men. The product of his shaft is readily sold at the mines.

On August 3, 1891, Mr. Stalker was married to Jennie Drysdale, born in Sterlingshire, Scotland, where her parents both died. She came to this country with her brother, James, and spent six months at Washingtonville, Ohio, after which she went to North Dakota. Two years later, she came to Coal City, Grundy County, where she met and married Mr. Stalker. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Stalker: William, who married Anna Fessler; Emily May, who is at home; and Lilly F., Stella, and John James. Mr. Stalker belongs to the Baptist Church, and is earnest in promoting its good work. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias. A man who has always worked hard and known how to save, his pres-

ent success has been achieved through his own individual efforts.

**STALLWITZ, George** (deceased).—In the life of the late George Stallwitz, formerly of Morris, a lesson was taught of self-sacrificing labor and devotion to home and family, which ought to influence others to act accordingly. He was one of the substantial German-Americans of Grundy County, as he was born in Germany in April, 1829. Brought up on a farm in his native land, he sought advancement there, but did not find it, and so came to the United States, and, arriving at Aurora, Ill., sought employment among the agriculturists of that region. Later he came to Grundy County, walking to Good Farm Township, as he had no money, and there found work. Prudent and thrifty, he saved his money, and in time bought a farm of his own, upon which he lived until 1890, when he retired and moved to Morris, where he died May 28, 1902, at the old homestead at No. 133 E. Jackson street, Morris, where his widow still resides.

Mr. Stallwitz was married (first) to Magdalena Echinbacher, of Morris, a native of Germany, and by her he had four children: Elizabeth, who is Mrs. Christ Simantel, of Good Farm Township; Mary, who is of Morris; Barbara, who is Mrs. James Weiner, of St. Benedict, Ia.; and John, of Peabody, Kas. The first Mrs. Stallwitz died October 10, 1878. On October 12, 1879, Mr. Stallwitz was married (second) to Anna Kummer Ehrler, the widow of Fred Ehrler. Mrs. Stallwitz was born in Holstein, Germany, in December, 1846, but in May, 1866, came to Ottawa, Ill., where she lived until her first marriage. By it she had one child, Fred, who is now of Morris. Mr. and Mrs. Stallwitz had one child, August, also of Morris. Mr. Stallwitz was a Lutheran in his religious belief, while his widow is a Catholic. Politically he was a Democrat, but held no offices, preferring to devote himself to his family and many friends.

**STAMM, Abraham**, one of the highly esteemed residents of Gardner, Ill., and the owner of 410 acres of valuable land, although now somewhat retired from active pursuits, still takes an interest in the affairs of Grundy County, where for many years he was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was born June 5, 1838, in Butler County, Pa., and is a son of Jacob and Susan (Ziegler) Stamm. The father of Mr. Stamm was born in Beaver County, Pa., in 1811, and the mother in Bucks County, Pa., in 1810, and they were the parents of eight children: Deborah, Abraham, Kezia, Solomon, Elizabeth, Mary, Susanna and Jacob.

Like other Pennsylvania farmers' son of his day, Abraham Stamm divided his boyhood and youth between attendance at the log school-house and working on his father's farm. In 1866 he came to Illinois and bought a farm of 160 acres, in Good Farm Township, Grundy County, but this he soon disposed of and purchased a quarter-section of land south of Gardner. This he also sold, and purchased 160



acres on section 6, and this he increased to 400 acres, made many improvements, and continued operations thereon until his retirement, since which time he has been living a quiet life on a 3-acre tract in Gardner. He is widely known as an honorable man of business, and his integrity and honesty of purpose have never been questioned.

Mr. Stamm was married (first) in Grundy County, Ill., to Miss Ellen Halteman, who was born in Miami County, O., in 1845, and they became the parents of six children: Jacob, Charles, Ming, Clifford, Ida and Chloe, of whom Clifford died in infancy. Mrs. Stamm passed away September 23, 1897, in the faith of the Methodist Church. In August, 1900, Mr. Stamm was married (second) to Miss Lucy M. Banks, who was born in Westchester County, N. Y., and there received her early education. When fourteen years of age she accompanied her parents to Illinois, here attended the Illinois State Normal School, and for thirty-three years was a teacher in the schools of Grundy and Livingston counties. Her parents, John and Mary (Barker) Banks, were natives of Westchester County, N. Y., and came to Grundy County, Ill., in 1857, Mr. Banks being here engaged in farming up to the time of his death in 1874. His widow survived him many years, passing away in 1898. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: Rocilla, who is deceased; Joseph; Elias, who died in the Union army during the Civil War; Lucy M.; Mary; Sarah, who is deceased; Margaret; Madora; Emma, who is deceased; and Antoinette.

Mr. Stamm was for a long period a supporter of Republican principles, but of late years has voted with the Prohibition party. For a number of years he served as a member of the school board in Garfield Township. In his religious belief he is a Methodist, while his wife adheres to the Presbyterian faith. Both are people of education and refinement, are much interested in historical data, and as a hobby have taken up the collection of relics. Mr. Stamm has in his possession a gun, with the Stamm coat of arms on it that was brought to this country by his great-grandfather, Conrad Stamm, who lived in Beaver County, Pa., where he died. They are highly esteemed in their community and in a wide acquaintance number many warm friends.

**STARR, Edgar Leroy.**—Among the old and honored families of Morris, that bearing the name of Starr is well known, its members having been prominent in business, social and public life, and a worthy representative of the family is found in Edgar Leroy Starr, a successful business man of this city. Mr. Starr was born at Morris, August 20, 1848, a son of Christopher and Mary Jane (Eaton) Starr, natives of Cornwallis County, Nova Scotia. Christopher Starr was born in June, 1822, a son of Charles Starr, and Mary Jane Eaton was born October 3, 1825, daughter of James Eaton, all of Nova Scotia. In 1841 Mr. Starr and his wife came to Morris by way of boat to Chicago, thence to Starr's

Grove, Will County, from whence they came on to Morris in the following spring. Mr. Starr was a contractor and builder and conducted a large machine shop, but in 1849 gave up his business when the California gold excitement lured him to make the journey across the plains on horseback, he being a typical "forty-niner." Returning by way of Cape Horn, a journey that consumed six months on a sailing vessel, he went to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and there rejoined his family, and they almost immediately returned to Morris. In 1861 Mr. Starr's business was destroyed by fire, and his capital almost completely wiped out, but in that year he enlisted in the Fifty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry for three years' service during the Civil War. His health failed and in 1863 he was sent home, where he remained until 1869, in which year he again went to California, and there died in 1870, since which time his widow has lived at Morris. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Starr: Charles, who is of Joliet; Edgar Leroy; Eugene, who is of Clay Center, Kas.; Fred, who is of California; and Viola, who married William Sparr, of Morris.

Edgar Leroy Starr received his education in the public schools of Morris and remained on the home place with his mother until January 1, 1871, when he was married to Belle Nichols, who was born at Dayton, O., in 1852. After his marriage he removed to Kaukaee County, Ill., and there farmed from February to July of each year, and did teaming, butchering and operated a corn-sheller during the remainder of the year. For some years he has been located at Morris, and is now engaged in trading in property. Mr. Starr is justly considered one of his city's representative business men, his enterprise being extensive and his reputation high. He is a Republican, but no politician, having never cared for public office. He belongs to the Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America, in both of which he has many friends. Mr. Starr's first wife passed away December 29, 1895, having been the mother of two children: Josephine, who died at the age of four months; and Mary Margaretta, born November 22, 1875, who married Frank Martin, has two children: Rosamond and Lonisa. In February, 1897, Mr. Starr was married to Mrs. Bessie Osman, of Kendall County, Ill., and they have had one daughter, Edna Emma, who is attending school.

**STECHER, Gottfried C.**—The German element is strong in many communities in the United States and those forming it are universally respected for they have the characteristics which make for success and eminent respectability. One of the highly esteemed German born residents of Grundy County is Gottfried C. Stecher of Morris, who was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, October 18, 1866, where his parents lived and died.

In the fall of 1888, Mr. Stecher arrived at Elgin, Ill., having emigrated from his native land, and found employment among the farmers





in the vicinity, and for four years was thus employed, and then, for some years, he worked in a laundry at Elgin, following which he was employed at Palatine, in Cook County, Ill., for a year, when he came to Morris. He bought the only laundry in this city that was conducted by a white man, and is still engaged in operating it. Employment is given seven people, and the equipment is thoroughly modern and well fitted to turn out the best class of work. Mr. Stecher's success is all the more remarkable for while he was well educated in his native land, his only schooling in this country was given him during the three months he attended the academy at Elgin.

On June 9, 1897, Mr. Stecher was married at Elgin, to Lydia Olman, born at Milwaukee, Wis., a daughter of William and Caroline (Runke) Olman, natives of Prussia, Germany, both of whom are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Stecher became the parents of two children: Esther and Raymond. Mr. Stecher is a steward in the Methodist Church, of which he is a consistent member. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America of Morris, and the Court of Honor of Elgin. In politics he is a Republican, but he has never aspired to office. He has shown much enterprise, and steadily forged ahead until he became a prosperous business man.

**STEPHEN, William** (deceased), formerly an agriculturalist of Kendall and Grundy counties, and later a retired farmer of Morris, was born in Scotland, May 26, 1817, and died in the latter city, May 18, 1889. On February 27, 1843, he married Margaret Waterman, and they had the following children: William L., Amelia A., Hester E., Merritt J., Ella P., Charles M., Ada H., Helen L., Hettie J., and Fred L. Mr. Stephen served as a Justice of the Peace, School Director, and Alderman. In 1854 he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and died in its faith. His widow survived him until February, 1900, when she, too, passed away.

**STOCKER, Eli.**—For more than thirty-six years Eli Stocker has been identified with the business life of Coal City, Ill., as the proprietor of a baking establishment, the first to be located in this community, which at the time of his arrival here was but a little hamlet. He has witnessed the growth and development of this place, and has contributed in no small degree to its advancement. Mr. Stocker is a native of England, born in Wilmington, June 30, 1850, and is a son of James and Ann Stocker. His father, a laborer, died in his native England in 1874, while the mother passed away there two years later.

Eli Stocker secured his educational advantages in the public schools of his native place, completing his studies at the age of fifteen years, when he became an apprentice to the baker's trade. He served almost three years in this capacity, and in 1874 came to the United States, the following year finding him a resident of

Morris, Ill. He spent two years in that city and three years at Verona, Ill., and in 1880 came to Coal City, where he opened the first bakery in town. During the years that have followed his business has developed with the place, and he is now in the enjoyment of an excellent trade, attracted from all over this part of Grundy County. He handles a full line of bakery goods and confectionery, using only the best of materials. As a citizen Mr. Stocker is known to be reliable and public-spirited, and may be counted upon to support all good movements.

While a resident of Morris, Ill., in 1876, Mr. Stocker was married to Miss Rebecca White, a native of England, and to this union there have been born seven children: Fred, who married Minnie Scott, has had three children: Albert, Warren, and Royton, who is deceased; Albert, who married Alice Howard, has three children: Marjorie, John and Velma; Herbert, who married Mary Castle; Maud; Mrs. Mabel Richmond, who is a resident of Joliet, Ill., has two children; and two children, Bertha and Edward, who are deceased. Mr. Stocker belongs to the Church of England, as do his wife and children. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, has gone through all the chairs in the Knights of Pythias, and is at present treasurer of the Foresters of America. His long residence in Coal City has given him a large acquaintance, in which he numbers a wide circle of friends. He was elected Supervisor and served continuously as such for eight years, and was President of the Village Board for four years. Upon two occasions he was the candidate of the Democratic party for Sheriff.

**STONEBACK, John M.**—A citizen who has borne an important part in the activities which have contributed to the growth and development of Morris, Ill., and the surrounding country in Grundy County during the past several decades, by reason of his connection with the contracting and building business, John M. Stoneback is still prosecuting his operations with industry and efficiency although he has reached an age when most men feel it their privilege to retire from active labor. Mr. Stoneback is a veteran of the Civil War, in which he fought as a member of the famous Irish Brigade, under the gallant Mulligan, and whether in war or peace has ever shown himself ready and willing in the performance of the duties entrusted to him. He was born October 4, 1843, at South Salem, Ross County, O., and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Snyder) Stoneback. The parents of Mr. Stoneback were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married, subsequently moving to Ohio. Prior to this, Jacob Stoneback, who was a mason by trade, had worked in the construction of Girard College, Philadelphia, Pa. In 1852, with a company of fifteen other families, all with their earthly goods loaded into wagons, Mr. Stoneback came to Morris, Ill., shortly thereafter buying a farm in Wapousee Township, on which he lived for three





years. He subsequently bought another farm from the Government, two miles to the south, and there resided until his death in 1892, the mother following him to the grave eight years later.

John M. Stoneback attended the district schools in his youth and was reared to agricultural pursuits. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was a lad of but seventeen years, but on May 20 1861, enlisted in Company E, Twenty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was assigned to service in Missouri, where, in September of the same year, he was taken prisoner. Three days later he was paroled, and then rejoined his regiment and came to Quincy, Ill., later going to St. Louis, Mo. For about three months the regiment was at home, and then became the first soldiers at Camp Douglas, which this regiment erected, and the command was then sent to Virginia under the famous Col. James A. Mulligan. Mr. Stoneback participated in all the engagements which marked the service of the Irish Brigade, and on June 19, 1864, at New Creek, Va., received his honorable discharge with an excellent record for gallantry and devotion to duty. On his return to Morris, he devoted himself to carpenter work, and gradually developed into one of the leading contractors of Grundy County, where he has erected some of the leading buildings. His reputation in business circles is that of a man of integrity, whose word is as good as a bond, and who has never been known to take an unfair advantage. In politics he is a Republican, although he has not been prominent in public affairs. With his family, he attends the Presbyterian Church. A valued member of Darveau Post No. 329, Grand Army of the Republic, in December, 1911, he was elected commander and held that post for two years.

On December 23, 1874, Mr. Stoneback was married to Miss Mary McKinley, who was related to President McKinley. She was born in LaSalle County, Ill., a daughter of Chillian and Martha (Gibson) McKinley, natives of Pennsylvania, who moved from that state to Kentucky, later to Ohio, and then to Illinois. Mrs. Stoneback died August 26, 1911, having been the mother of two sons: John W.; and Charles Milo, who died at the age of nineteen years.

**STOUGH, Hon. Samuel A.**, Judge of the Circuit Court of Grundy County, and a man of exceptional ability and sterling qualities, is one of the honored residents of Morris. He was born in Williams County, Ohio, September 2, 1852, a son of Dr. J. S. Stough. Judge Stough is a graduate of the law department of the University of Michigan, Class of 1877. Coming to Illinois he entered upon a general practice, his professional career being centered at Morris. For three terms, from 1888 to 1896, he served as State's Attorney, and in 1897 he was elected Judge of the Circuit Court on the Republican ticket. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of

Pythias. In 1892 he married Jennie Garrett and they became the parents of three children.

**STURTEVANT, Myron Curtis, M.D.**—Grundy County has been the home of some of the most efficient and learned of the medical profession from its earliest history. The health of this locality has been, and still is, carefully looked after by men of ability and high standing in their profession, and one who is remembered with kindly affection by those to whom he ministered for many years, although he has now retired from active practice, is Dr. Myron Curtis Sturtevant, of Morris. He was born at Lowell, Mass., January 12, 1835, a son of Cyrus and Rhoda (Harvey) Sturtevant. The father was born in Maine and his wife in Vermont. The paternal grandfather was Jaimus Sturtevant and the maternal grandfather was John Harvey, the former a native of New Hampshire, and the latter of Vermont. The parents married in Vermont, where the father followed the trade of a carpenter and he was engaged in this line after his removal to Lowell, Mass., early in his married life. In the fall of 1837 he came as far west as Cleveland, Ohio, where he became a builder and contractor. His business grew to such proportions that with his two brothers he organized the Sturtevant Lumber Company in 1854. Later the family moved to Wheaton, Ill., where he continued as a contractor and builder. Desiring a change of occupation, Cyrus Sturtevant then moved to a farm in Ogle County, but a few years later went to Wisconsin and still later to Crete, Neb., where he died. His widow lived with a daughter, and died at Raleigh, N. C.

Myron Curtis Sturtevant attended the Cleveland High School, Granger Academy and Oberlin College, and took his medical course at Cleveland. In 1873 he located at Morris and entered upon a general practice, which he continued with marked success until 1900, when he retired. In October, 1859, Dr. Sturtevant was married to Pearly E. Boynton, born in Vermont, daughter of Charles and Eliza (Stevens) Boynton, natives of Vermont and New York respectively. Dr. and Mrs. Sturtevant became the parents of one son, Wilbur C., who died at the age of thirty-four years. Dr. Sturtevant is a member of the Congregational Church and has held all the church offices and has been senior deacon since 1882. Politically he is a Republican, but has never cared for public office. He is a man of the highest standing, and is recognized as a representative of the best class of Grundy County citizens.

**TABLER, David C. (deceased).**—The record of a good man's life shows what he accomplished, and continues to exert a beneficent influence over the actions of his fellow creatures long after all that is mortal of him returns to the dust from which it was raised. The late David C. Tabler has been dead for many years, but his memory is tenderly cherished, and the influence of his action remains to aid others in their life struggle. Mr. Tabler was born in Delaware



County, O., July 12, 1833, a son of Nathaniel and Mary Ann (Cryder) Tabler, natives of Ohio. The parents came to Aux Sable Township in the early thirties, entering land from the government. The Cryder family is also numbered among the pioneer ones of Grundy County. David C. Tabler grew to manhood in Aux Sable Township, and remained with his father until his marriage, which occurred June 3, 1854, when he was united with Julia E. McCloud, born in Oneida County, N. Y., October 28, 1834, daughter of John and Paulina (Richetson) McCloud, natives of Vermont and New York, who came to Kendall County, Ill., in 1835, driving across country with horses and wagons, the journey consuming six weeks.

After his marriage, David C. Tabler spent two years in Saratoga Township, and returning to Aux Sable Township, rented land until 1860. In that year he and his brother Nathaniel bought 120 acres in Aux Sable Township, operating it in partnership for ten years. At that time they divided the property, to which they had added, and David C. Tabler received 120 acres as his share. On it he carried on general farming and stock raising until his death by accident on April 20, 1889. Since this sad event, his widow has resided on the place with her family. Mr. and Mrs. Tabler were the parents of the following children: Mary Eliza, who was born December 29, 1857, died September 28, 1863; Frank Henry, who was born March 13, 1863, died July 18, 1882; Lillian Elma, who was born January 18, 1868, died September 29, 1877; Irvin J., who was born July 13, 1874, died June 11, 1876; and Minnie, who was born December 5, 1878, married on December 23, 1908, William S. Lutzow. Mr. Lutzow was born in Seward Township, Kendall County, Ill., a son of George and Johanna (Olson) Lutzow, natives of Germany and Sweden, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Lutzow rent the farm from Mrs. Tabler, Mrs. Lutzow being the only living child of her parents. The family all belong to the Methodist Church and are very prominent in their neighborhood.

**TABLER, Henry R.**—The agriculturalists of Grundy County are an intelligent class who appreciate the value of scientific operation of their land and sensibly adopt those methods which they believe will aid them in bringing about the best results. One of these progressive farmers is Henry R. Tabler of Aux Sable Township. Mr. Tabler was born in this township December 15, 1872, a son of Ezra and Helen (Randall) Tabler, both natives of Aux Sable Township. The paternal grandfather, Nathaniel Tabler, was one of the pioneers of Grundy County.

Henry R. Tabler lived at home, on the farm, and attended the local public schools until his marriage, following which he was with his father-in-law, in Will County, but after a year moved on a portion of his father's homestead. The property is well improved and the buildings are large and were erected with the view of complying with the best sanitary regulations.

Mr. Tabler has sixty-five acres under cultivation, and thirty acres in pasturage, specializing on grain farming and stock raising.

On July 1, 1896, Mr. Tabler was united in marriage with Emma Johnson, born in Shanahan, Will County, Ill., daughter of Robert and Julia (Douglas) Johnson, natives of Joliet, Ill. The paternal grandparents, Adam and Mary Johnson, came from the north of Ireland, while the maternal grandparents, William and Jerusha Douglas, were born in New York State. Mr. and Mrs. Tabler have the following children: Hazel A., Raymond Robert, and Eugene Howard. Mr. Tabler is interested in getting good men in office and is independent in his political views. For nine years he served as school director of his district, and was as efficient as an official as he is in everyday life.

**TAPPEN, Andrew D.**—To succeed along agricultural lines, a man must have a practical working knowledge of farming in all its details and be able to put it into immediate use. Some of the most progressive men of Grundy County have devoted themselves to this line of work, and one of them is Andrew Davis Tappen, of Morris. He was born at Oyster Bay, L. I., March 27, 1870, a son of John I. and Mary Elizabeth (Davis) Tappen, natives of Greenvale, L. I., and Brookville, L. I., respectively. The father died at Oyster Bay in 1876, and the mother came to Joliet, Ill., in 1893, but in 1896 she moved to Morris and still resides there, living among her children.

After attending the public schools of his native place, Andrew D. Tappen began learning the carpenter and millwright trades, and also worked in a livery stable until 1895, when he came to Morris and was with the Coleman Hardware Company as a moulder. He was also in the nickelplate works in North Chicago. He was driving a bakery wagon for Fred Martin when he became interested in conducting a milk delivery business, and developed two routes. In 1910 he sold the routes, but continued to own cows and rents 100 acres of land, which he farms with gratifying success, and on November 1, 1912, again went into the milk business, and now has a herd of twenty-nine dairy cows.

On July 7, 1904, Mr. Tappen was married to Clara R. Wilson, born at Morris, a daughter of Alexander and Margaret (Minich) Wilson, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Morris about 1854. Their children were: William B., who is deceased; George Alexander, who is of Chicago; Henry Nixon, who is deceased; and Mrs. Tappen. Mr. and Mrs. Tappen have no issue. He belongs to the Methodist Church, and supports it liberally. The Republican party has had his vote since he has attained his majority. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow and Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to Morris lodges of both orders. A live, dependable man, he had many experiences in business lines before he found one suited to his ability, and since then has made considerable progress towards his desired end.



**TERRANDO, Joseph Steven, M.D.**—The medical profession of Grundy County, Ill., is represented by some of the most skilled and learned men of this calling to be found in the state. They have devoted themselves, their time and their energies, to the preservation of public health and the alleviation of the ills of mankind. One of the representative men, whose abilities, sympathies and devotion to his vocation have made him respected among his confreres and beloved by a wide circle of patients, is Dr. Joseph Steven Terrando, of South Wilmington. He is a native of Pertusio, Torino, Italy, born November 17, 1872, a son of Anton and Madalena (Caretto) Terrando, wealthy farming people of Italy, who passed their entire lives in that country, where the father died February 16, 1904, and the mother September 15, 1908. There were seven children in the family: Matthew, a resident of Staunton, Ill.; Joseph Steven; Victoria, who married Math Riva, of Taft, Ill.; Teresa, who married Barney Terrando, of Spring Valley, Ill.; Natale, living in Italy; Mary, who married F. Michela, of Toluca, Ill.; and Steven, living in Italy.

The preliminary studies of Doctor Terrando were prosecuted in the public schools and when he was eight years of age he entered the Episcopal College, at Bra, Italy, two years later becoming a student at Cavour Lyceum, Torino, and later studying three years in a preparatory school. He then went to the University of Torino for three years, and finally passed a like period in the University of Parma, and after securing his diploma, at the age of thirty-one years, began practice with his uncle, who was a professor in the university there. In 1904 Doctor Terrando came to the United States and joined his brother and sister at Toluca, Ill., and soon thereafter went to Chicago, where he passed the examination required by the State Board of Medical Examiners, at the Coliseum, July 15, 1904. On October 17, 1904, he came to South Wilmington, where he has since continued in active and successful practice. He enjoys a large and lucrative professional business, and is known as one of the best read and most skillful physicians and surgeons of the locality. A Republican in politics, he has not sought public office, but at this time is serving as a member of the Board of Health of East Brooklyn. With his family, he attends the Catholic Church.

Doctor Terrando was married July 17, 1905, to Miss Katie Bottino, daughter of Frank and Mary (Campo) Bottino, and four children have been born to this union: Madelina Inez, born April 9, 1906, who died July 23, 1906; Dolores Mary, born July 29, 1907; Inez May, born February 5, 1909; and Lillian Pearl, born April 4, 1912.

**TESTA, Anthony Joseph.**—The advent of the successful flying machine has created a profession altogether unknown a decade or so ago. Its members have learned their vocation not in schools, or from books, but in the workshop and

field, in daily contact with the work they have had to do. They have had no precedents to guide them, but have been compelled to work out the problems which their employment has brought them in the school of experience. Prominent among the men who have adopted this calling may be mentioned Anthony Joseph Testa, secretary of the Illinois Aero Construction Company, of Coal City, since the organization of this concern in 1911. He was born at Braidwood, Will county, Ill., in 1883, and is a son of Joseph and Louisa Antonia Testa. The parents of Mr. Testa were both born in Italy, where the father learned and followed the trade of a baker. Like many other honorable men of his country, he saw no future ahead of him there, and, accordingly, in 1882 emigrated to the United States, and located at Braidwood, Ill. He almost immediately secured employment in the mines, and for seventeen years followed the occupation of miner at Braidwood and Coal City, at which latter place he opened a bakery establishment in 1899. At the present time he is the proprietor of a bakery at South Wilmington, Ill., where his wife also lives. They have been the parents of the following sons: Anthony Joseph, William, Defendant and Charles.

Anthony Joseph Testa attended the public schools of Coal City, to which place he was brought as a small lad, and upon completing his education secured employment in the mines. An alert, intelligent and ambitious youth, he soon gained promotion to the position of clerk in the company store, and was thus engaged in 1909, when he became candidate for the office of City Clerk. He was subsequently elected thereto in that year, and for two years faithfully and efficiently served his fellow-townsmen in that capacity, and upon the expiration of his term, in 1911, became secretary of the Illinois Aero Construction Company, an office which he still holds. Among his business associates Mr. Testa is known as a young man of thorough reliability and good judgment, whose counsel is valued and appreciated and whose foresight is respected. He is a Republican in his political views and has always heartily supported that party's candidates and principles. His religious connection is with the Catholic Church, and fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. In 1906 Mr. Testa was married to Miss Mary Albright, and to them there have been born two children: Gilbert and Marie.

**TESTA, Joseph.**—It is a notable fact that Italians are very clannish, preferring to deal with one of their own nationality to going to stores conducted by those who do not speak their language and understand their tastes. Because of this every community in which Italians form a considerable portion of the population there are to be found establishments conducted by prosperous sons of that country, and these men not only win and retain a large patronage from Italians, but from others who appreciate the excellence of their goods and the fairness of their methods. One of the men





who belong to this class is Joseph Testa, the leading baker of South Wilmington, Ill. He is a native of Northern Italy, born there in 1855, a son of Anton and Theressa (Talette) Testa. Anton Testa was a baker in his native land, where he died twenty years ago, his wife having died three years before.

Joseph Testa attended school in his native land until he was twelve years old, when he began learning to be a baker, with his father. In 1882 he came to the United States with his wife, proceeding direct to Braidwood, Ill., where he entered the mines. In 1883, however, he came to Coal City, and continued work in the mines for twenty years. Seeing then an opportunity, he opened a bakery at Coal City, and operated it until 1911, when he removed to South Wilmington, and opened up what is the leading establishment of its kind in the place. Joseph Testa married Louise Isabell Antonia and they have the following children: Tony; William, who is working with his father, married Mary Grean; Defendant, who is at home; Catherine and Charles, both of whom are deceased; and Charles (II), who is with his father in business. Mr. Testa is a Catholic. He votes with the Republican party and he belongs to an Italian lodge of Coal City. Earnest, hard working and honest, Mr. Testa has won respect and confidence and deserves the prosperity which has come to him.

**THOM, Alexander, Jr.**—Among the thoroughly reliable and substantial business men of Coal City, Ill., one who is advancing the commercial interests of his adopted city through his activities as directing head of the Thom Hardware Company, is Alexander Thom, Jr. Although a native of Scotland, he has resided in this city since childhood, and his entire business period has been spent here. He was born May 12, 1872, and is a son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Douglas) Thom.

Alexander Thom, Sr., was born at New Muckland, Scotland, in 1846, and is a son of George and Ann (Angus) Thom. His father was a butcher in Scotland, where he died in 1903, and his mother in 1867. They had nine children: Jessie, Ellie, George, John, Alexander, and four who died. Alexander Thom, Sr., entered the mines of his native land when ten years of age, and has been identified with mining all of his life. He first came to the United States in 1868, but returned to Scotland in the following year, and again came to this country in 1879. He has been a resident of Coal City since that year, has filled every position at the mines here, and is now county mine inspector of Grundy County. He was married in 1868 to Miss Elizabeth Douglas, of Scotland, who died in 1903, having been the mother of nine children, namely: George, who is deceased; John, a resident of Coal City; Alexander, Jr.; Jennie, who died young; Anna, who is the wife of George Bates; Maggie, who is deceased; Jean, who is the wife of John Boal; Robert, a

resident of Coal City, Ill.; and Jennie, who is the wife of Max Hanswaldt.

Alexander Thom, Jr., was but seven years of age when he was brought to the United States by his parents, and his education was secured in the public schools of Coal City, which he attended until his thirteenth year. At that time he entered the coal mines here, but after four years gave up that occupation to learn the trade of butcher, an occupation which he followed for twenty-one years. In 1900 Mr. Thom embarked in the hardware business in partnership with B. O. Mill, an association which has continued to the present time with mutual satisfaction and success. The Thom Hardware Company, as the business is known, handles a complete stock of furniture, hardware and farming implements of every description, and attracts its trade from all over Coal City and the surrounding country. Mr. Thom is a good business man, and in the management of his establishment has shown himself thoroughly conversant with the needs of his trade. His integrity and honesty have never been questioned, nor has his public spirit. He is a Republican, but has never sought office, but is at all times willing to enlist himself with those who are seeking to promote the community's welfare. He fraternizes with Scottish clans, and his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian Church.

On April 23, 1902, Mr. Thom was married to Miss Keziah Smith, who was born at Braceville, Ill., and to this union there have been born three children: Elizabeth, Arabella and Edward.

**THOM, Alexander, Sr.**—The career of Alexander Thom, Sr., county mine inspector of Grundy County, Ill., has been one of constant industry from early youth. A resident of Coal City since 1879, he is one of his community's best known citizens, and his long and varied experience in mining operations makes him one of the most valued men of his calling in the state. Mr. Thom is a native of New Muckland, Scotland, born March 17, 1846, and is a son of George and Ann (Angus) Thom. His father was a butcher in Scotland, where he passed his entire life and died in 1903, while Mrs. Thom passed away in 1867. They were the parents of nine children: Jessie and Allie, who still live in Scotland; George; John, a resident of Coal City, Ill.; Alexander, of this review; and four who are deceased.

Alexander Thom received only limited educational advantages, as when he was but ten years of age he began to be partly self-supporting by entering the mines of his native locality. His first employment was at putting checks on cars, for which he received twelve cents per day, but his faithfulness, industry and enterprise gained him promotion, and for one year he was assistant to the government man. Subsequently he returned to the mine as a coal pusher, and for a time following was engaged in prospecting, but in 1868 decided to try his





fortunes in the United States, and accordingly came here and located in the mining country of Pennsylvania. Mr. Thom remained there but one year, however, then going back to Scotland, where he continued ten years. He came to the United States a second time in 1888, this time as a permanent resident, and almost immediately settled in Coal City, Ill. Here his advancement has been steady and continuous, and he has held every position in the mines of this city. In 1908 he was made county mine inspector, a position which he still holds. During the thirty-five years in which he has lived at Coal City he has become widely acquainted, and everywhere is known as an expert in his vocation, a public-spirited citizen, and a loyal friend.

In 1868 Mr. Thom was married to Miss Elizabeth Douglas, of Scotland, who died in 1903, in Coal City, having been the mother of nine children: George, who is deceased; John, a resident of Coal City; Alexander, one of the proprietors of the Thom Hardware Company, of Coal City; Jennie, who is deceased; Anna, the wife of George Bates; Maggie, who is deceased; Jean, the wife of John Boal; Robert, of Coal City, Ill.; and Jennie, the wife of Max Hanswaldt, who has one child, Otto. Mr. Thom is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and belongs to the Knights of Pythias, in which he has passed through the chairs. He takes a good citizen's interest in public matters and supports Republican candidates and principles.

**THOMAS, Judge Samuel Barber** (deceased), who for many years was one of the most honored residents of Morris and one of the county's efficient officials, was born in Pennsylvania, a son of William Thomas. In 1855 Mr. Thomas located at Morris and in 1858 was elected a Justice of the Peace, and four years later was elected County Clerk of Grundy County, holding that office from 1861 to 1878. In November of that year he was elected County Judge, and was holding that office when death claimed him, September 12, 1882. Judge Thomas married Amanda Ferguson, but they had no children. He was a Mason and served his lodge as Worshipful Master.

**THOMPSON, Christ**, an enterprising and successful farmer of Grundy County, owner of 160 acres of land in Greenfield Township, was born in Norway, May 9, 1853, a son of Thorbjorn and Martha Lysnes Thompson, natives of Norway, both of whom are deceased and buried in their native land. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom survive: Abraham, Carrie and Stenvor, residing in Norway; Christ; Thorbjorn, a schoolteacher in Norway; and Joe, who is in America.

Christ Thompson was employed on his father's farm until 1880, when he came to the United States, locating in Saratoga Township, Grundy County, where he again took up the occupation of farming. From there he removed to Kendall County, securing a position

on a farm where he was paid by the month. In 1886 he rented some land in Garfield Township, remaining until 1892, when he purchased forty acres in Greenfield Township. Here he remained until 1903, when he bought 110 acres in Maine Township, which he sold in 1913 and purchased 160 acres in Greenfield Township, upon which general farming is carried on under the management of his sons.

In 1889 Mr. Thompson married Augusta Paulson, a widow and a native of Norway, who had one daughter, Carrie McGee, by her first husband. She now resides at Streator, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of three children: Martha, who lives at home; and Thomas and Hans, twins, who reside with their parents and operate the farm. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican. He is a pleasant, upright man of high character, is honest in his dealings with his fellowmen, and commands the respect of all who know him.

**THOMPSON, Leslie Eugene**.—Grundy County seems to have more than its share of fertile farms conducted and owned by enterprising agriculturists who understand their business and know how to make their acres yield bountiful crops. These men are not only interested in making money, but take a pride in keeping up their equipment so that their properties reflect the general prosperity of this region. One of the men who is thus aiding in advancing the conditions of his community is Leslie Eugene Thompson, owner of 145 acres of fine land in Good Farm Township, known as the John Crocker place, on which he carries on general farming and the raising of Holstein cattle. It is his intention to develop his property into a stock farm, for it is admirably adapted for grazing.

Leslie E. Thompson was born in Highland Township, this county, November 12, 1881, a son of Rhonello and Alice M. (Waite) Thompson, the former of whom was born in the State of Maine, coming to Grundy County, Ill., when he was but sixteen years old. He and his wife are now living retired at Dwight, Ill. Leslie Eugene Thompson spent his boyhood on his present farm and attended the local schools, as well as the high school at Dwight, Ill., and a Chicago high school. Following this he learned the machinist trade at Aurora, Ill., and lived in that city for seven years, after which he returned to Grundy County to resume his agricultural life.

On December 31, 1910, Mr. Thompson was married at Aurora, Ill., by Rev. Norman Carr, of Aurora, to Mahel Keck, who was born May 3, 1888, a daughter of Walter and Sarah (Elliott) Keck, natives of Kane County, where they reside. He belongs to the Baptist Church, while the Republican party has his support. A good farmer and excellent business man, Mr. Thompson has made rapid progress and is justly numbered among the live men of his locality.



**THOMPSON, Nels.**—Not only does Grundy County land afford a good living to those who work it, but it makes the owners of it wealthy men. Many of these farms are exceedingly valuable. For every dollar of improvement put on them this land makes ample return, and the modern farmers who recognize this fact do not hesitate to spend large amounts in developing their properties. One of the men who has made a success of his endeavors along this line is Nels Thompson, of Saratoga Township. He was born in Skonevig, Norway, June 25, 1845, son of Thorkel and Julia (Nelson) Thompson. The father came to Morris, Ill., in 1867, and died in 1873, having been afflicted with loss of sight. The mother survived him until 1882.

After arriving in Grundy County, Nels Thompson worked for farmers in the vicinity of Morris until 1880, when he moved to Chicago and for a time was a coachman, and later was a motorman on electric railroads in that city, and also worked as janitor of a large apartment building. In 1910 he moved to Kendall County, Ill., where he bought eighty acres of land, which he now rents to a tenant. In 1911 he bought eighty acres in Saratoga Township, Grundy County, which farm is now operated by his son, Mensell, both properties being very valuable.

In September, 1882, Mr. Thompson was married to Mary Smith, born in Denmark, who died October 8, 1888, having been a devoted wife and mother. They had two children: Anna E., who is deceased; and Mensell, who is a farmer. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Politically, he is a Republican, but has never sought office. An earnest, hardworking man, his efforts have been crowned with success and he deserves his prosperity.

**THORSON, John,** a veteran of the Civil War, and a man of large interests, is one who has borne an important part in the development of Morris and the increase in realty values in this locality, and is a good representative of the Grundy County citizen of worth. He was born at Boyd, Norway, September 13, 1843, son of Tathorson and Bertha Thorson. In 1847 the family came to America, with Morris as their objective point. A year after their arrival in this city the good mother died of cholera. Struggling along alone, the father did work by the day until he had saved a sufficient amount to buy eighty acres in Saratoga Township, on which he began farming. In 1855 he sold this farm and bought eighty acres in Kendall County, and later entered eighty acres more from the Government. This farm continued to be his home until 1895, when he rented it and went to Story City, Iowa, where he died in 1900. He had married (second) Anna Larson, a widow with no children, and she survived him for two years.

John Thorson was but a child when the family arrived at Morris, and grew up in Grundy and Kendall counties, attending the Norwegian school of Morris. When his adopted country

had need of him, Mr. Thorson responded to its call, enlisting for service during the Civil War, in August, 1862, in Company E, Ninety-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, but had the misfortune to be disabled and was taken prisoner in December, 1863, at Elizabethtown, Ky. He was sent to St. Louis, Mo., where he was paroled, and was discharged in May, 1864, at Chicago. Returning home, he remained with his father until his marriage in the next year. For the following twenty years Mr. Thorson was an agriculturalist of Kendall County, then moved to Morris in order to devote all of his time to the handling of realty and to auctioneering, having established himself in these two lines of business in 1865. He handles real estate on an extensive scale, and has made a decided success of all his operations.

On February 23, 1865, Mr. Thorson was married (first) to Margaret Johnson, born in Norway. She bore him these children: Lewis, who lives in Ford County, Ill.; Bertha, Mrs. Ollie Peterson, who lives in Nettle Creek Township; Mamie, Mrs. William Stott, who lives at Morris; Eddie, who died at the age of twenty-three years; Anna, Mrs. George Conklin, who lives at Morris; and George, who lives at Clear Lake, Iowa. Mrs. Thorson died in November, 1890. On December 23, 1893, Mr. Thorson was married (second) to Martha Olson, born in Fox Township, Kendall County, daughter of Elias and Julia (Johnson) Olson, born in Norway. Lillian P., now a young lady, has lived with them as a daughter since she was eight years of age. Mr. Thorson belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran Church, of which he is a generous supporter. Politically, he is a Republican. Since the organization of the local G. A. R. Post, Mr. Thorson has been an enthusiastic member, and has held all the offices in it. He is a man widely and favorably known, and is esteemed for his many excellent qualities of heart and mind.

**TOMASTICK, John.**—Examples are numerous of men who have come to the United States without means or friends and have risen to places of importance in agricultural life, and no better instance in point may be found than John Tomastick, farmer and stock-raiser, and owner of 223 acres of some of the best land in Grundy County, Ill. Coming to this country a poor Austrian emigrant lad, with no capital save a strong heart, willing hands and a firm determination to win success, he has made the most of his opportunities, and stands today in an enviable position among his fellow citizens, a man eminently worthy of being classed with those whose prominence and position have come through well-directed individual effort. Mr. Tomastick was born in 1862, in Austria-Hungary, and is a son of George and Anna (Dizong) Tomastick; the father having been a farmer and carpenter in the old country, where he and his wife still make their home. They had eleven children: Mrs. Mary Harearik, living in Austria; John; Anna, who



is deceased; Mrs. Helen Anderson; George, of Chicago, Ill.; Andrew and Joe, both of Hillsboro, Ill.; Michael, of Minneapolis, Minn.; Michelus, deceased; Mrs. Susan Palko, living at Streator, Ill., and Alice, residing in Austria.

John Tomastick was given ordinary educational advantages in the schools of his native land, and worked with his father until 1881, when he decided to try his fortunes in the United States. Accordingly, he made his way to this country and located in Pennsylvania, where he found work with a railroad company. He was thus engaged for four years, and, being thrifty and industrious during this time, managed to save enough money to return to his native land and marry Susan Tkach. They almost immediately returned to America, again locating in Pennsylvania, where Mr. Tomastick dug coal in the mines until 1887. At that time he came to Braceville, Ill., and dug coal until December, 1905, when he purchased the farm which he now owns, at that time a stretch of timber, underbrush and prairie devoid of improvements of any kind. He at once settled down to work, and through hard and industrious labor has converted this into one of the most desirable and valuable tracts in Braceville Township. He has a comfortable residence and commodious barns, both of substantial character and handsome architecture, and his other improvements are of the most modern structure. General farming has received the greater part of his attention, but he has also met with a great deal of success in raising Belgian horses, and a high grade of cattle and hogs. Everywhere he is known as a man of the strictest integrity, and his friendships are numerous.

Mr. and Mrs. Tomastick have had eight children: Myron, a stenographic teacher and now a graduate of the Valparaiso (Ind.) University law department and educational department; Mrs. Mary Irene Kakare, a resident of Joliet, Ill.; John Andrew, farming at home; Martha Ida, a music teacher; Anna, deceased; Anna Clara, a public school music teacher; Veronica May and Carl Edward. Mr. Tomastick is a consistent member of the Roman Catholic Church. His fraternal connections are with the Modern Woodmen of America Camp at Braceville, and Ancient Order of Gleaners at Gardner, Ill.

**TOWSLEY, George E.**—There is no more productive farming property in Grundy County than that found in Nettle Creek Township, and the agriculturalists of this region have demonstrated their local pride by doing all within their power to bring their farms to a standard of excellence seldom to be found, but always desirable. One of the men who has contributed towards this state of affairs is George E. Towsley, owner of 100 acres on section 27, Nettle Creek Township. He was born in Hamilton County, N. Y., March 9, 1862, a son of George and Sophia (McCarthy) Towsley, natives of Fulton County, N. Y., where both passed away.

George E. Towsley was brought up on his father's homestead, attending the local schools, and learning how to farm. In 1881 he came to Grundy County and for a time worked for the farmers in this neighborhood. In 1897 he bought his present farm, then partly improved, and has developed it into a model grain producing property, his success being directly due to his thoroughness and expert knowledge of his work. On August 13, 1890, Mr. Towsley was married by Rev. Wagner, of Morris, to Olive May Hoge, born in Nettle Creek Township, February 14, 1865, a daughter of Hendley and Sarah (La Salle) Hoge, natives of Grundy County, Ill., and Louisiana, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Towsley have had the following family: Lena, who was born May 10, 1891, of Morris, Ill.; George Hendley, born April 19, 1893, who is at home; Gertrude Alberta, born September 11, 1896; Iva, born April 17, 1899; Blanche, born June 23, 1900; and Ray, born August 20, 1901. One died in infancy, Paula P., born January 15, 1898, died September 23, 1898. The Methodist Church holds Mr. Towsley's membership, and he contributes generously towards its support. In political matters he has always been a Republican. No man stands higher in public esteem than he, and he deserves the confidence reposed in him, for he is a man of high principles.

**TROTTER, Benjamin Robert.**—Carbon Hill is the home of some of the most reliable business men in the State, who have gradually developed numerous experiences which have taught them self-reliance and economic habits. These men would be successful in almost any line of work, for they have the proper business sense, and are willing to devote themselves to the matter in hand untiringly and devotedly. One of these men of whom Carbon Hill is justly proud is Benjamin Robert Trotter, born in Braidwood, Ill., April 12, 1877. He received instruction in the public school at Coal City, Ill., and later attended school in Evanston, Ill., for two years, subsequently entering the mercantile business with his father, Robert Trotter, at Coal City. In 1907 he left Coal City for Carbon Hill, where he is now proprietor of the largest store in the place, carrying a general line of merchandise. He has other interests, owning 240 acres in Goose Lake Township. On September 19, 1901, Mr. Trotter was united in marriage with Helen Fleming of Carbon Hill, born February 20, 1879, and to this union have been born three children: Robert, Kenneth and Warren. Mr. Trotter is an active member of the Methodist Church. He is a Republican and is a director of the high school of the Coal City District. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Masonic Lodge at Braidwood, Ill. No man stands higher in the community than he as an intelligent and successful merchant and loyal citizen.

**TROTTER, George Alexander,** is one of the best representatives of the agricultural inter-





ests of Grundy County, although now living retired at Morris, because for many years he was actively engaged in farming, and owns some very valuable rural properties in addition to city realty. Mr. Trotter was born at Wilmington, Ill., May 13, 1856, son of Alexander and Jane (Bogue) Trotter. The parents were natives of Scotland, where they married, coming to this country in the spring of 1850. Their objective point was Manitowok, Wis., but as the father was not able to secure work to which he was accustomed, having been a shepherd in his native land, he went to Chicago after a year. In the latter city he obtained employment in one of the packing houses, but not liking it, went to Wilmington, Ill., within a year, and spent three years as teamster in that place. Hearing of agricultural opportunity offered in Grundy County, he came here and bought a farm in Felix Township. This continued to be his home until his death in 1905, he surviving his wife many years, as she died in 1896.

George Alexander Trotter remained with his parents until his marriage in 1879, having been brought up in the manner customary in those days. He was sent to the local schools in the winter months, and during the summer, worked on the farm. In 1879 he began farming for his father, thus continuing for two years, when he purchased a farm in Felix Township. This he operated a year, when he moved to Coal City, where he went in the butcher business. For sixteen years he was thus engaged, then sold his interest and went to Morris. Two years later, he again conducted a flourishing business for two years, when he traded it for a farm in Goose Lake Township so that he now owns 400 acres of farming property, all in the same township. This acreage he rents, and he also owns his fine residence on Vine street that he built himself, in which he lives retired from active pursuits.

On December 8, 1879, when twenty-six years of age, Mr. Trotter was married to Clytia A. Miller, born at St. Charles, Kane County, Ill., daughter of Norman and Harriett (Parker) Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Trotter are the parents of two daughters: Sadie J., who is at home; and Jessie, who has charge of the Conservatory of Music at Eureka, Greenwood County, Kan.

Mr. Trotter is a member of the Methodist Church and takes a prominent part in religious work, being president of the board of trustees. A prominent Republican, he served as township collector of Felix Township for two years; one year as township clerk; as supervisor of Braceville Township for two years; for twelve years was a member of the school board, during eight years being its president; two years as school treasurer, and has been on the Board of Review for one year. His fraternal affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America. A man of good judgment, he knew how to grasp his opportunities, and his success in life has been earned by the application of keen intellect, combined with hard work and thrifty habits.

**TROTTER, John.**—There are many examples of the self-made man to be found in Grundy County; men who, starting out entirely on their own resources, have worked their way steadily to the front in some chosen line and achieved success in spite of all obstacles. Few, however, have given their attention to many and varied occupations and proved successful in whatever they have undertaken, and it is in this way that John Trotter, vice president of the First National Bank of Coal City, is an unusual example. He was born in Braceville Township in 1858, son of Alexander and Jane (Bogue) Trotter, natives of Scotland. In 1851 they embarked for America, settling in Will County, Ill., where Alexander Trotter engaged in farming. Here he remained until 1856, when he removed to Felix Township, and carried on farming until ten years prior to his death, which occurred in 1904, his wife having passed away in 1893. They were the parents of seven children: Robert, deceased; Thomas; George, of Morris, Ill.; John; Mrs. Jennie Miller; Mrs. Catherine Penn; and Mrs. Elizabeth Rothlisberger.

John Trotter attended the district schools in his neighborhood and remained with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age. In 1882 he embarked in the meat business in Coal City, and now owns two markets. In addition, he has been engaged in the farming, timber and stock-raising industries, and in 1886 became a dealer in ponies, having shipped some all over the United States. In 1885 he married Mary Suffer, and they are the parents of six children: Samuel A., William J., George E., Ellen, deceased, Robert and May Bell. He was first wedded to Mattie Suffer, sister of his present wife, who died shortly after their marriage. Mr. Trotter is an influential member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he has been a trustee since its organization. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is a Republican. He was school treasurer of Felix Township for sixteen years, and also road commissioner. He is a prominent member of Grundy County Farmers' Association, and is the director of the First National Bank of Coal City and vice president. He owns 900 acres of land in Felix Township, 145 in Goose Lake Township and 80 acres in Braceville Township. He has the nicest residence in Felix Township and the finest barn in Grundy County. Mr. Trotter has always been identified with the best interests of the community, and has won the respect and esteem of all with whom he is associated.

**TROTTER, Robert.**—There are no more public-spirited men in Grundy County than those who spent their boyhood on farms, for they thus obtained a knowledge of the requirements of the rural districts which have developed them into good citizens. One of the prosperous business men of Coal City, who was brought up in a farming district is Robert Trotter, proprietor of the Racket store of Coal City, and





dealer in general merchandise, shoes, wall paper and notions. He was born in Scotland, April 12, 1815, a son of Robert and Catherine (MacDugal) Trotter. The father was a farm servant in Scotland, later developing into a buyer of eggs and butter, continuing in this line until his death, which occurred in 1857, never having left his native land. His widow survived him until 1892. Both are buried in Scotland. They had ten children, of whom Robert is the only survivor.

Robert Trotter attended school in his home district at Reston, Berwickshire, Scotland, and worked on farms until February 23, 1861, and was a fireman on the North British Railroad for two years, when he left Scotland for the United States. Upon his arrival in this country in 1866 he came direct to Grundy County and was a stationary engineer until locating at Braidwood, Ill., where he worked two years as fireman, when he was made a locomotive engineer and continued as such for twelve years. In 1882 he came to Coal City to open up his present store, and has continued it successfully ever since. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Trotter owns 1840 acres of land in Kansas, 80 acres in Grundy County and 160 acres in North Dakota.

In 1868 Mr. Trotter married Magdeline Paxton, who was born in Scotland, and died October 19, 1872. They had two children, both of whom died in infancy. Mr. Trotter married (second), May 25, 1875, Agnes Paxton, born January 29, 1849, and they have eight children: Benjamin, born April 12, 1876; Lizzie M. Campbell, born May 2, 1877; Jessie C. Anderson, born October 25, 1879; Matilda J., born February 15, 1880; Rose B. Cluskey, born August 28, 1881; Esther P., born August 10, 1886; Victoria Louise Davis, born October 26, 1888; and Agnes, born October 23, 1884, who died in infancy. Mr. Trotter has a number of grandchildren. His daughter, Mrs. Lizzie M. Campbell, has four children: Donald, Blanche, Gilbert and Louise; Mrs. Jessie Anderson has two children, Audrey and Rommore; Benjamin has three sons, Robert, Kenneth and Warren. Mrs. Trotter's parents both died in Scotland. They had one son and four daughters, Mrs. Trotter being the only one that came to America.

The Methodist Church holds Mr. Trotter's membership, and he belongs to the Masonic fraternity. A Republican, he has been school trustee for one term, and for sixteen years has served as treasurer of the Fire Department of Coal City, and is a man widely and favorably known.

**TROTTER, Samuel Alexander**, a representative and successful business man of Coal City, has spent his entire life in that village, where he was born February 25, 1887, a son of John and Mary (Suffern) Trotter. His education was acquired in the public schools, and he had the advantage of three years at the Morris High School. Later on for some time he was engaged

in the meat business with his father, and also assisted with the work on the farm. In 1912 the firm of John Trotter & Sons, dealers in hay and grain, with elevator at Coal City, was established, the partners being John Trotter and his sons, William J. and Samuel A., the latter being secretary of the Commercial Club of Coal City, and an enterprising and highly respected citizen, always ready to promote the public welfare and prosperity of the community.

On June 15, 1910, Mr. Trotter married Jennie Berta, born July 30, 1885, of Braidwood, Ill., and to this union was born one child, Dorothy Ellen, born January 4, 1912. Mr. Trotter is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Masonic order. In politics he is a Republican.

**VALERIO, Charles.**—It is remarkable how many sons of Italy have come to the United States, and arriving here, have developed into such excellent and desirable citizens. They know how to work and save, and many of them become prominent officials in the towns in which they locate. One of the men who belongs to this class is Charles Valerio, of Coal City, Ill., born in Italy, August 29, 1872, a son of William and Catherine Enrietto Valerio. The father was an agriculturist of Italy, who brought his family, then consisting of his wife and three of his children, George, Mary and August, to America in 1880. After coming here the parents had two other children, Frank, who is living at Marseilles, Ill., and August, who died in infancy. They located at Braidwood, Ill., where the father worked in the mines until 1883, but then moved to Diamond, where he continued mining until his death, which occurred in 1902. He is buried in the cemetery at Braidwood. The mother died in 1905.

Charles Valerio remained in Italy until 1887, during that period attending college at Turin for seven years, but in 1887 came to Diamond, Ill., where he entered the public schools in order to learn English. In 1892 he began working as a clerk in a store at Coal City, and by 1895 was able to open a store of his own at Diamond where he remained until 1907. In that year he became wholesale agent for the Palst Brewing Company of Milwaukee, Wis. Mr. Valerio also acts as agent for five different steamboat lines and is very prominent among his own countrymen who depend upon him and his judgment. He is also consular correspondent to the Italian consulate at Chicago.

Interested in fraternal matters, Mr. Valerio has associated himself with the Foresters, passing all the chairs, having been one of the charter members of his lodge, and he has been deputy grand for four years. Politically he is a Republican, and served as city clerk for eleven terms, beginning in 1895 when the village was organized. For eight years he served as postmaster of Diamond, holding that office until 1907. At present he is a Notary Public and has



been since 1894. The Catholic Church holds his membership.

**VERONDA, Anton.**—When a citizen has passed more than sixteen consecutive years as the incumbent of a public office, the fact is liable to be rather firmly established that he possesses qualities which recommend him to the public at large. This is the record of Anton Veronda, postmaster at Carbon Hill, Ill., since July, 1897, who has also served in various other offices and in every case has shown himself worthy of the respect and esteem which have been granted him. Mr. Veronda was born in Northern Italy, in 1865, and is a son of Maurice and Catharine Veronda. His father was an engineer in the cotton mills of Italy, an occupation which he followed for fifty years until his retirement. He died in his native country in 1877, and his wife has also passed away. They were the parents of fifteen children.

Anton Veronda secured his educational training in the public schools of Italy, but at the age of fifteen years emigrated to the United States, and at once secured employment as a coal digger in the Coal City mines. In addition to the five years which he had spent in the common schools of Italy, Mr. Veronda attended night school in Coal City while working in the mines, and thus secured a good education. After attaining his majority, he went to Michigan and worked in the copper mines there until 1890. During this time he had worked faithfully and industriously, and found in that year that he had saved enough money to return to Italy to claim the young lady who had consented to be his wife, Mary Configlione, whom he had left there and who had patiently awaited his return. Immediately after their marriage they returned to Coal City, and Mr. Veronda again entered the mines. In 1891, when the village of Carbon Hill was established, he moved to this point, where he has since resided with his family. He was chosen as Carbon Hill's second postmaster in 1897, and has acted in this capacity to the present time, has served one term as assessor of Felix Township, has been supervisor six years, has been a member of the board of trustees of Carbon Hill, and at the present time is county agent for Grundy County. He is a Republican. He is a charter member of the Odd Fellows, the White Tie and the Christopher Columbus lodges, in all of which he is very popular. He has had some misfortune, however. On June 12, 1913, while he was in Wisconsin to get his brother, his business place and the postoffice were burned, causing a heavy loss. Mr. Veronda had one of the most beautiful homes of the city.

Mrs. Veronda died in February, 1912, in the faith of the Catholic Church, and was laid to rest in the Cemetery at Braidwood, Ill. She had been the mother of seven children: Maurice; Frances; Louis, who died at the age of two years; William; Edward; Elsie; and Eva, who died in infancy.

**VERONDA, Louis (deceased).**—Among the men who have won their way to the front in Grundy County through the medium of their own efforts, Louis Veronda holds a deservedly high place. In the capacity of city treasurer of Coal City, Ill., he is showing himself possessed of executive ability as well as high ideals in regard to the duties of citizenship, while in business circles here he has been known for ten years as an agent for all the leading steamship companies. Mr. Veronda was born in Italy, January 21, 1871, and died June 12, 1913.

Like many others of his countrymen, who could in their own land see but years of toil ahead of them, with but little opportunity for gaining more than a modest livelihood, Mr. Veronda decided to try his fortunes in the United States, and accordingly emigrated to this country in 1893. In his native land he had attended the public schools and had been a miner, and this vocation he adopted in his new surroundings, at once securing employment in the mines of Carbon Hill, Ill. By the year 1901 he had accumulated enough capital to establish himself in the saloon business, and subsequently he was identified also with the ice and sawdust business, and finally became an agent for the leading steamboat lines, being thus engaged at the time of death. He made a success of his ventures and invested his means in real estate and owned 100 acres of good farming land in Horton County, North Dakota, as well as some valuable city lots in Gary, Ind. For ten years he acted in the capacity of notary public and participated actively in all movements of his fellow citizens. A Republican in his political views on national affairs, in city and county matters he was liberal. In 1913 he was appointed city treasurer of Coal City, and this position he continued to occupy for one year, giving general satisfaction to all concerned. He was a stockholder and director in the Illinois Aero Construction Company. Fraternally he was connected with the Foresters of America, in which he was chief ranger, the Italian Society of the White Tie, the Christopher Columbus Society, in which he was a leader, and the Alpina, of which he was an honorary member.

In 1898 Mr. Veronda was married to Miss Eva Querio, who was born at Braidwood, Grundy County, Ill., August 21, 1882, and to this union there were born three children: Andrew, born August 1, 1900; Louis, born June 21, 1901; and Katie, born January 13, 1905.

**VILT, John K.**—The substitution of the automobile for horse drawn vehicles has given rise to many new and varied branches of business, among them being the caring for these costly cars and supplying the owners as well with supplies of different kinds. In a section like Grundy County, where the roads are admirably adapted for automobile traveling, there is a constantly increasing demand for first class repairing of this class. This being the case, a man of the enterprise and mechanical ability



of John K. Vilt of Coal City, Ill., finds plenty of opportunity to conduct a flourishing business in auto repairing, vulcanizing and handling notions and supplies, while at the same time he acts as agent for the Indian motorcycle and automobiles.

John K. Vilt was born in Bohemia, March 10, 1885, and the following year was brought to Coal City, Ill., by his parents. The father found employment in the mines at this point, but being crippled in his work, he died in 1911. His wife passed away in 1892, and both are buried at Coal City. They had the following children: Joseph, who is deceased; Mary; Anna; John K., and one who died unnamed in infancy. Growing up in Coal City, Mr. Vilt attended the local schools, and at an early age began working in the mines as a digger. Carefully saving his money, in 1908 he was able to start in business for himself. In order to fit himself for his work, he took a course in automobile repairing at Chicago, and so is prepared to attend to any kind of work that comes his way. His handsome new garage is the finest in this locality, and his patrons appreciate the advantages it offers. In 1905 Mr. Vilt married Antonia Kafton, who was born at Braidwood, Ill., November 4, 1885. Four children have resulted from this union: Edward, Barbara, Josie and John. Mr. Vilt is a member of the Catholic Church, while in fraternal matters he belongs to the Bohemian lodge and the Foresters. He is very liberal in his political views and is one of the leading young business men of Coal City who certainly deserves the prosperity which has attended him.

**WALKER, Albert D.**, a prosperous retired farmer of Morris, is a representative agriculturalist of Grundy County, who, throughout his life, has believed in hard work and thrifty saving. Mr. Walker was born at Sandgate, Vt., May 9, 1851, son of Daniel P. and Flora S. (Randall) Walker, natives of Vermont. In 1871 the family came to Lisbon, Ill., and spent the winter. In the spring of 1872 removal was made to a farm which the father had purchased in Saratoga Township. This property he farmed until 1887, when he moved to Morris, where he lived retired until his death, in February, 1901, just a year after the demise of his wife.

Albert D. Walker attended the public schools of his neighborhood and the seminary at Manchester, Vt., and remained with his parents until his marriage, following which he operated his father's farm for three years. He then spent two years in Ford County, Ill., but returning, took possession of his father's estate, of which he eventually received 182 acres, which he still owns, although he retired from the farm in 1907 and now resides at Morris, renting his property.

On April 25, 1882, Mr. Walker was married to Cora L. Gifford, born in Felix Township, daughter of H. C. and Sarah J. (Gibson) Gifford, natives of New Jersey and Huron County, Ohio, and died January 31, 1913. Mr. and Mrs.

Gifford were married in the latter locality, but in 1850 went to California. He was a shoemaker by trade, but when he came back from California and as far east as Morris, he worked on the canal for several years. Following this he conducted a grocery store for a time, then sold and retired, dying at Morris, February 17, 1907, his wife having passed away in 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are the parents of two children: Addie May, now Mrs. Charles L. Sanderson of Morris and have one child, Margorie, born February 21, 1909; and Mabel, who married Arthur Sanderson, also of Morris, and they have one son, born in March, 1914, whom they have named Edward Dwight. Mr. Walker is a Republican and has served as road commissioner of Saratoga Township. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America of Morris and to the Lincoln Club, while his religious affiliations are with the Methodist Church. A man of strong convictions and willing to live up to them, Mr. Walker is respected for his opinions and his strictly upright life.

**WALKER, Eddie Webster.**—Experience has taught some of the most progressive of the Grundy County agriculturalists that the best results are attained through specializing along certain lines. One of the men who has devoted himself to raising fine cattle and horses is Eddie Webster Walker, owner of 280 acres of good land in Mazon Township. His family history is given at length elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Walker has three stallions, one a Percheron and the other two Belgian, and their product is famed all over the country. He exhibits not only at the Grundy County fairs, but at the International Stock Shows. In addition to his noted horses, he breeds and raises Shorthorn cattle, and has a fine bull. His property is known as the Recherche Stock Farm. In addition to the land he owns, Mr. Walker rents additional land, operating in all 800 acres.

In 1885 Mr. Walker married Miss Myrtle H. Keepers, born in Ohio, who, at one year of age came with her parents to make their home in Grundy County, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have had five children, of whom three sons have grown to young manhood. They are: Floyd Eddie Walker, who married Miss Myrtle E. Symons, daughter of S. B. Symons of Mazon, Ill.; Myr J. Walker; and Ollie L. Walker. The married son, Floyd E., has his own home on the farm, and Myr J. and Ollie L. are with their father and all together they comprise the firm of E. W. Walker & Sons, proprietors of Recherche Stock Farm, Mazon, Ill.

Mr. Walker belongs to the Methodist Church and gives it a liberal support. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He has served on the Board of Education, and has been instrumental in securing good schools for his district. Recent public events have made him a Progressive in politics, and he is an ardent supporter of the principles involved in that movement. A man of advanced ideas, Mr. Walker has taken advantage of every oppor-





tunity to aid him in his operations, and has the best equipped farm in Mazon Township. As is but natural, his authority upon stock breeding matters is unquestioned, and his example is followed by many less enterprising than he.

**WALKER, Isaac Benson.**—The farms of Grundy County show evidences of careful cultivation and modern improvements and this accounts in part for the banner crops raised in this locality. One of the men who has been more than ordinarily successful along agricultural lines is Isaac Benson Walker, owner of 260 acres of fertile land in Good Farm Township, on which he carries on general farming and the raising of cattle and horses. He was born in Monroe County, Ohio, January 10, 1855, a son of Lazendy and Ann (Clithero) Walker, both natives of Monroe County, Ohio, where the father was a farmer until coming to Grundy County, Ill., in 1858. Here he bought eighty acres of land in Mazon Township, and cultivated it until his enlistment at Morris, Ill., for service during the Civil War. He died in service in 1863 and is buried at Brownsville, Tex., in the Soldiers' cemetery at that point. His widow died at Mazon, Ill., in 1904. These parents had six children: William D.; Janie, who died in infancy; and Isaac, Thomas W., Edward W., and Oliver.

Isaac Benson Walker was reared on the farm and received but little educational advantages. When he was fifteen years old his mother bought a team of horses and he began operating her eighty acres. When he was twenty-seven years old, having been assisting her all this while, he began working for himself, and in 1891 was able to buy his present farm. Since coming into possession of it he has tiled it, built a beautiful brick residence and other buildings, the estate now looking like a small village, and being one of the finest places in the county.

On November 2, 1881, Mr. Walker married Hattie Williams, of Morris, Ill., and they have four children: Morris W., Anna Preston, Russell and Louise. Mr. Walker belongs to the Methodist Church. His fraternal connections are with the Modern Woodmen of America, while in politics he is a Republican, and served as school director for twenty years. He is one of the most advanced of the agriculturalists in his township and his success has been attained through intelligent work and wise investments.

**WALKER, Thomas Wilbur.**—The agricultural possibilities of Grundy County are not to be overlooked, for here are offered unusual opportunities to the progressive farmer if he understands how to take advantage of them. One of the men who has done this is Thomas Wilbur Walker, who is operating 215 acres of land in Mazon Township. He was born in this county in 1859, and after attending the local schools, began farming for himself, and now raises corn and oats and feeds and ships stock to the market.

In 1879 Mr. Walker was married to Martha Preston, and they had a daughter, Maud Ely. Mrs. Walker died eleven months after marriage. In 1887 Mr. Walker married (second) Florence Beckworth, born in Will County, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Walker became the parents of two children: Albert G. and Helen, both of whom are at home. Politically Mr. Walker is a Republican, and has been School Treasurer of Mazon Township for four years, and a School Director for the same length of time. The Congregational Church holds his membership. His fraternal relations are with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors. A man who faithfully endeavors to conscientiously perform the duties which lie nearest to hand, he has made a position for himself in his community and holds the universal respect of those with whom he is associated.

**WALLIN, Fritz.**—The modern farmer is a man of many plans and enterprising methods or else he would not succeed in this day of strong competition and struggle for survival of the fittest. In the conduct of his farm the Grundy County agriculturalist in particular strives to use the same systematic rules which apply in any other line of business, with the result that he ranks high among those of his class in the country. One of these enterprising and eminently successful farmers of Grundy County is Fritz Wallin, owner of 160 acres of fertile land in Maine Township, on which he is carrying on general farming.

Fritz Wallin was born in Sweden in 1861, a son of Andrew and Gustava Wallin, farming people of Sweden who never left their native land, where the mother died in 1906 and the father in 1908. They had the following children: Edwin, who died at Rockford, Ill.; Alfred, who was accidentally killed by a street car in Chicago, October 11, 1913; Fritz, Fred and Axel. Growing up in Sweden Fritz Wallin attended the local schools and learned farming. In 1880, deciding that there were not enough opportunities offered at home, he left Sweden for the United States and first located at Braceville, Ill., Grundy County, where he was employed in the coal mines, but as he desired to become a farmer in 1897 he rented land in Maine Township, and in 1908 was able to buy his present farm which he has since operated.

In 1890 Mr. Wallin married Christine Olsen, and they have eight children: Ethel, who died in infancy; Ida Burns, Arthur, Esther, Ruth, Fred, Elsie and William. Mr. Wallin belongs to the Methodist Church. Politically he is a Republican, while in fraternal matters he affiliates with the Knights of Pythias at Braceville.

**WALSH, Maurice Patrick,** manager of what is known as the old Dr. Palmer farm, in Mazon Township, is doing a fine business as an agriculturalist for he thoroughly understands his work and how to get the best results from his land. He was born in Highland Township, Grundy





County, in 1886, a son of Nick and Belle (Hinch) Walsh. Nick Walsh was born in Grundy County and for years was an agriculturalist of this region, but is now living retired at Morris, Ill. These parents had seven children: Philip, Maurice Patrick, Roy, Agnes, Joe, Robert and George.

Maurice Patrick Walsh grew up amid healthful rural surroundings on his father's homestead and attended the local schools, and also a business college for a few months. After leaving school he worked for the Telephone Company of Chicago for a year, and for another year was with a threshing outfit that worked throughout Grundy County. In March 1912, he took charge of his present farm, which became the property of Mrs. Walsh on the death of Dr. Palmer, in June, 1912. Mr. Walsh feeds and ships cattle and raises horses and hogs, and does a large business.

In 1910 Mr. Walsh was united in marriage to Louise Palmer, of Morris, Ill., daughter of A. E. Palmer. Mr. Walsh is liberal in politics, experience having convinced him that it is better to vote for the best man than to be tied down by party lines. A man of enterprise, industrious and thrifty, Mr. Walsh has succeeded in everything he has attempted, and stands high in the estimation of his neighbors and business associates.

**WALSH, Thomas A.**—From our friendly and peaceable neighbors to the north, the Canadians, the United States is indebted for some of its best citizens, for it is rare, indeed, that the individual born on Canadian soil fails to prove a thrifty and valuable addition to the community in which he locates on coming to this country. In this class is Thomas A. Walsh, a retired citizen of Grundy County, Ill., who for more than a half a century has been a resident of Vienna Township. Mr. Walsh was born in Lower Canada, November 12, 1835, and is a son of Robert T. and Elizabeth (McKeown) Walsh. His parents, natives of Ireland, were married there, and shortly thereafter emigrated to Canada, where the father was first a bookkeeper and later engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Thomas A. Walsh received ordinary educational advantages and was reared to agricultural pursuits, remaining with his parents until reaching the age of twenty-three years. At that time he came to Kendall County, Ill., and commenced working as a farm hand, but in 1860 moved to Mazon, Ill., and with his cousin, John Hamilton, engaged in operations on his own account. In 1862 Mr. Walsh purchased 320 acres in Vienna Township, with a partner, whose interests he bought one year later, and also added sixty acres to the original purchase. During the years that followed he became an extensive farmer and stock raiser, and was known throughout this section as a substantial and energetic citizen. A severe attack of asthma, however, in 1882, caused his retirement, and since that time the operations on the

home place have been carried on by his sons. Mr. Walsh is possessed of an enviable reputation for integrity and fair dealing, for public spirit and for generosity.

On March 30, 1868, Mr. Walsh was married to Miss Priscilla Ward, who was born January 11, 1845, in Oneida County, N. Y., daughter of Samuel and Harriet (Fellingham) Ward, natives of County Suffolk, England. They came to Kendall County, Ill., in 1847, and to Mazon Township, Grundy County, in 1852, and here passed the remainder of their lives. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Walsh were as follows: Elizabeth, who became the wife of Fred Dix, of Vienna Township; William, a resident of Verona, Ill., married Daisy Foster; Margaret, who married George Beal, of Verona, Ill.; Jessie, who married Frank Ransley, of Vienna Township; Hugh, of Alberta, Canada; Edmund C., residing with his parents, who was married in June, 1912, by Rev. H. E. Ketchum, to Iva Finch, and they have one daughter, Mary E.; Mary E., who died January 14, 1878; and George, who died September 11, 1891.

**WALSH, William E., M.D.**, was born near Montreal, Canada, in September, 1867, a son of George and Janet (Bryson) Walsh, of Irish and Scotch descent, respectively. His father was a farmer who died when William E. was about eight years old. His mother still resides at Ormstown, Quebec.

The early training of Dr. Walsh was secured in the Canadian common schools and an academy. When fourteen years of age he helped to take charge of a general store and sawmill, where he worked for three years. After this he attended McGill University, in Montreal, from which he was graduated in 1892, when he came to Morris and entered into a general practice, since then becoming one of the leading physicians in Grundy County.

In 1894 Dr. Walsh was married to Mrs. Edith (Cryder) Wilson, widow of Charles Wilson. After her death Dr. Walsh was married, June 1, 1898, to Emeline Nelson, daughter of John and Mary (Campbell) Nelson, natives of Ohio. Dr. Walsh has three children: Marjorie, Anita and Edmund. In his church connection Dr. Walsh is a Presbyterian; in politics he is independent. He is a Knight Templar, a Knight of Pythias and a Modern Woodman. In 1913 Dr. Walsh was elected mayor of the city of Morris on the Citizens' ticket with the law and order platform. He is deeply interested in all public movements and is one of the closest scientific students in Morris. He made a careful study of the disease known as milk sickness and discovered a remedy, which so far has proven a cure in all cases of this once deadly disease. His patented window tent, a device for use in sleeping in the fresh air during cold weather, is now shipped to and used in all parts of the world.

**WARD, Samuel.**—If Grundy County had no other interests save those connected with agri-



culture, it would still be a prosperous locality, for it is so preeminently fitted for farming and stock raising that the majority of its prosperous men are interested along these lines in one way or another. One of those who has made a success of his work as an agriculturalist is Samuel Ward, of Vienna Township. He was born in Suffolk, England, January 1, 1863, a son of John and Hannah (Elwood) Ward of the same place. The mother died in 1909, and the father in 1911.

Samuel Ward was somewhat hampered in the beginning of his business career by the fact that he had not been given a fair amount of schooling, but as time went on he remedied this by observation and experience. On October 3, 1883, he landed in New York City, from whence he came to Verona, Ill., and for five years worked out by the month, in Vienna Township. By this time he had saved sufficient money to justify him in renting the farm he now occupies, and in June, 1906, he bought it. This property comprises 145 acres on which he has erected the greater part of the buildings and made many other necessary improvements. Mr. Ward carries on grain farming and raises cattle and hogs, experience having proven that his land is best adapted to these products.

On March 15, 1888, Mr. Ward married Louisa Finch, born in Vienna Township, August 30, 1862, a daughter of George and Martha (Rumney) Finch, natives of England. Mr. Finch is deceased, but his widow, surviving, resides at Verona. Mr. and Mrs. Ward are the parents of the following children: George, born December 24, 1889, married, December 10, 1913, Mary R. Fleming; Laura, born January 16, 1892; Ruth L., born August 16, 1885, died April 4, 1911, and is buried in the Ward cemetery near Verona; and Lawrence, born September 12, 1888, lives at home.

**WARNING, Chris.**—Experience has taught some of the modern agriculturalists of Grundy County that it pays to specialize on stock raising. The conditions in this locality are particularly good for this class of work, and results are such as to encourage others to embark in the same line. One of the men who is achieving more than ordinary success in raising Jersey cattle and Belgian horses is Chris Warning, of Norman Township. He was born in Green Garden Township, Will County, Ill., March 22, 1877, a son of Henry and Sophia (Burmeister) Warning, natives of Germany. Henry Warning came to Will County when he was twenty-one years old, and Miss Burmeister a year later, and they were married and settled in Will County. Until 1886 the father rented land there, in that year coming to Norman Township, Grundy County, where he bought 160 acres of land on which he carried on general farming until 1899, when he retired and moved to Morris. This continued to be his home until 1910, when he went to Ottawa, where he still resides. Henry Warning lost his wife on June 19, 1906, and in 1911 he married a Mrs. Frost. By his first marriage,

Mr. Warning had two children: Henry, who lives in Chicago, and Chris.

As he grew up on his father's farm, Chris Warning was sent to the local schools, a German school at Frankford, and was taught farming on the homestead. He remained at home until his marriage, in 1900. At that time he began working in the Morris sawmill, but after six months, went to Ottawa, where, for four years he had charge of some high grade horses. In 1905, Mr. Warning moved on his father's homestead where he has since resided, carrying on general farming and specializing on the raising of registered Jersey cattle and Belgian horses.

On June 12, 1900, Mr. Warning was married to Marion Keeler, born in Grand Island County, Vt., April 2, 1878, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Martin) Keeler, natives of Connecticut and Grand Island County, Vt., respectively. The paternal grandparents, Clark and Harriet (Beers) Keeler, were born in Connecticut, while the maternal grandparents, Lyman and Fannie (Ames) Martin, were born in Grand Island County, Vt., and Colchester, N. H., respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Warning have had the following children: Clara, born October 24, 1902; and Harry Edgar, born August 10, 1905. Mr. Warning is a member of the German Lutheran Church, and Mrs. Warning of the Baptist. He is independent in his political views. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias No. 357 of Morris, Ill., and to Shabbona Lodge of the Gleaners of Waupunsee. The family is well and favorably known throughout Grundy County.

**WASHBURN, Frank M.**—Any branch of industrial endeavor that has for its object the providing of food-stuffs for the masses, is sure to be profitable, provided it be conducted economically and sensibly. The market for eggs and dressed poultry is always active, and high prices are paid for first-class articles. One of the men who has become a well known figure in business along this line in Grundy County, is Frank M. Washburn of Morris. He was born at Morris, Ill., September 30, 1861, a son of Charles F. and Martha (Lyons) Washburn, both natives of the Empire State. They married there and about 1850 came to Morris, Ill., where, for some time Charles F. Washburn was interested in farming, but later became a dealer and shipper of poultry, and in conjunction with his poultry business, he operated a grocery during the sixties. He also owned a boat that he operated on the canal for many years, and for twenty years, alternated working on the canal in the summers and conducting his poultry business in the winters. His first wife died in 1887, and he married again, and survived his second wife. In 1906, his useful life came to an end, and Morris lost one of its worthy citizens. He was the father of three sons: George and Frank M., both of Morris, and Adelbert, of Lisbon, Ill.

As Frank M. Washburn worked with his



practical father during boyhood and youth he learned the poultry business thoroughly, so that when he assumed full control, he knew how to continue it profitably. He buys poultry and eggs and ships dressed poultry to eastern markets. On December 3, 1855, Mr. Washburn married Violet Washburn, whose death occurred April 7, 1908, her burial being in Evergreen cemetery. She was a daughter of Charles and Jane (Beasley) Washburn, natives of Illinois. Mrs. Washburn was born in Morris, and both she and her husband attended the public schools. They had the following children: Earl, Russell, Zella, Mrs. Noble Sampson, Franklin and Vera. The family are members of the Methodist Church and Mr. Washburn is active in church work. Politically he is a Republican, and fraternally belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Mystic Workers. A man of energy, thoroughly competent and reliable, Mr. Washburn has steadily forged ahead, and the position he now occupies has been honorably earned.

WEITZ, George H., whose large and important agricultural interests make him a representative business man of Grundy County, owns 470 acres of land in Erlenna Township, on which general farming is carried on, and is also the lessee of numerous feeding stations for stock. George H. Weitz was born in Henry County, Ill., September 17, 1865, and is a son of Conrad and Mary (Horchler) Weitz. The parents were natives of Germany, he of the province of Saxony and she of Hesse Darmstadt. In 1852 they came to the United States, living for a short period at St. Louis, Mo., and later, for one year, at Ottawa, Ill., in the latter part of 1854 settling permanently at Geneseo, Ill., where the father became engaged in business as a contractor and builder. There Conrad Weitz died, April 9, 1896, at the age of seventy years, his widow surviving until September, 1906. They had the following children: Hannah, who is Mrs. John Young, of Wabash County, Ind.; Louis, who is a resident of Carbon Cliff, Ill.; Emma, who is Mrs. William Kinney, of Chicago, Ill.; William, who is a resident of Rock Island, Ill.; George H.; and Edward, who died at the age of seventeen years.

George H. Weitz was reared at Geneseo, Ill., attended the public schools and took a course in bookkeeping in a commercial college, and afterward was connected with the firm of J. Galligan & Co., the junior partner being W. A. Remington, both members of this firm now being deceased. On July 12, 1890, Mr. Weitz became interested in Stockdale, as a grazing station for stock, and in the fall of 1892 large feeding barns for sheep were erected here. In the same year the Floral Fertilizer Company was organized, which was subsequently taken over by the Stockdale Fertilizer Company, now doing business, which is the fattening of sheep and the feeding of them in transit. In 1905 Mr. Weitz became the lessee of eight feeding stations on the Rock Island Railroad. All kinds

of stock are fed and fattened, but the Stockdale station is devoted exclusively to sheep. Stockdale is located four miles west of Morris on the Rock Island Railroad and to carry on the work here a large number of men are employed. Mr. Weitz has made Morris his home since January, 1907.

On June 6, 1889, Mr. Weitz was married to Miss Mary Hauschild, who was born in Holstein, Germany, a daughter of John and Margaret (Brandt) Hauschild. The mother of Mrs. Weitz still lives in Germany, where the father died in March, 1909. Twin children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Weitz, on October 28, 1891, Henry and Mae. Mr. Weitz and the family attend the Congregational Church. He has always been identified politically with the Republican party. In Masonry Mr. Weitz is prominent, at present being Eminent Commander of Blaney Commandery, Knights Templar.

WHEELER, George E., one of the representative men of Grundy County now living retired at Mazon, has exerted a powerful influence upon the history of his locality in many ways. Before his retirement he was one of the leading farmers of the county. The Wheeler family, of which he is a representative, comes of the old Puritan New England stock. The remote founders of the family in America came from England in the days of Puritan emigration from that country. The following account of the genealogy of the family is taken from a memorandum left by the late Henry H. Wheeler, father of George E. Wheeler.

Thomas Wheeler, the great-great-grandfather of the immediate subject of this sketch, was the first of the name of whom we have any record. He died while returning from the French and Indian war at Fife Miller tavern, near Pine Plains, Columbia County, N. Y., September 1, 1757. He is believed to have had a brother Solomon and they are thought to have lived at Woodbury, Conn., until 1749. Seth Wheeler, a son of Thomas and great-grandfather of George E. Wheeler, was born February 22, 1749, and was a captain in the patriot service in the Revolutionary War. He married Mary Treadwell, born November 23, 1751, and they had children, as follows: Thomas, born September 1, 1770; Ashbell, born August 17, 1772; Seth, Jr., born September 3, 1776; Mary, born September 25, 1778, who married S. Truesdale; Thomas, born January 31, 1781; Sarah, born June 10, 1783, who married John Truesdale; Lucy, born February 13, 1786, who married John Gilbert; Stephen, born June 6, 1789, died May 9, 1861, aged seventy-one years, eleven months and three days; Solomon, born July 25, 1793, died May 7, 1852. Myron Wheeler, a son of Seth, Jr., married Catherine Roe and was killed in the battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War. Stephen, a son of Seth Wheeler, born June 6, 1789, was married March 30, 1818, to Maria Powers, born October 20, 1795, and their children were as follows: Henry Harrison, born January 28, 1820; Mary, born March 8,





1822; Frederick Powers, born June 4, 1824; Richard Nelson, born February 21, 1826; John, born March 25, 1828; Frances, born April 10, 1830, who died February 18, 1832; Caroline F., born February 1, 1832, and died January 28, 1889; Sarah J., born September 28, 1834, who died March 14, 1835; Franklin, born February 20, 1836, who died November 24, 1863; Sarah J., born July 16, 1840; Helen D. (twin of Sarah J.), who married Edward C. Moody, November 26, 1862, and died June 24, 1879. Stephen died May 9, 1861; Maria, his wife, January 4, 1875. Henry Harrison Wheeler (a son of Stephen and Maria (Powers) Wheeler and Amanda R. Simmons were married October 16, 1849; Richard N. Wheeler and Lucy J. Wilson were married March 30, 1851; Sarah J. Wheeler and George W. Mersereau were married November 10, 1861.

Maria Powers, who married Stephen Wheeler, was the daughter of Frederick Powers, who was born March 31, 1765, and died December 21, 1831. He married Ruth Pennoyer, who was born February 25, 1767, and died July 16, 1853. The children of Frederick and Ruth (Pennoyer) Powers were as follows: Lucy, born October 4, 1779, who died October 2, 1803; David, born May 30, 1791, who died August 24, 1849; Talbot, born August 28, 1793, who died November 28, 1874; Maria, born October 20, 1795, who died June 4, 1875; Julia A., born May 18, 1797, who died June 6, 1875; George, born December 27, 1798, who died September 21, 1803; Caroline F., born March 3, 1801, who died November 9, 1888; Lydia, born September 16, 1802, who died June 19, 1883; William, born August 27, 1804, who died September 30, 1805; Frances W., born December 22, 1806; Charlotte J., born December 22, 1810.

Stephen Wheeler, grandfather of George E. Wheeler, became a farmer, but in early life was a carpenter. He owned a farm of 200 acres in Broome County, N. Y., where he died. Henry H. Wheeler, a son of Stephen and Maria (Powers) Wheeler, was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., January 28, 1820. He received a good education for the time, primarily in the common schools, and finishing his studies at Amenia seminary, located on his father's farm, in which his father was a stockholder. Mr. Wheeler was throughout his life a wide reader of good books and kept well up with the times. He married, in Broome County, N. Y., October 16, 1849, Amanda Simmons, who was born October 6, 1822, in Dutchess County, N. Y., a daughter of William and Charissa (Roe) Simmons. William Simmons was born August 7, 1785, in Dutchess County, N. Y. He was the son of Nicholas Simmons, of sturdy Holland-Dutch stock, and the grandson of Peter Simmons, who came from Holland in the eighteenth century and settled in the northern part of Dutchess County, or possibly in the adjoining County of Columbia, New York. Nicholas Simmons married Katrina Snyder, also of Holland-Dutch stock and born on the farm adjoining his father's. They had ten children:

Katrina, William, Henry, Anna, John, Charity, Hannah, Betsy, Polly and Anthony. Nicholas Simmons lived to be nearly eighty years old and died in Broome County, New York. In politics he was a Democrat. William Simmons, the father of Mrs. Henry H. Wheeler, was a soldier in the United States Army in the War of 1812, and came near death from yellow fever while in the service. He was a prosperous farmer, entirely a self-made man, of upright character and a remarkable physical constitution. He was twice married, the first time to Charissa Roe, in 1813, in the town of North East, Dutchess County, N. Y., where she was born March 7, 1794, a daughter of Silas and Mercy (Harvey) Roe. They settled on the Roe farm in Dutchess County, and lived there about ten years, and there she died September 13, 1827. For his second wife, he married Wealthy Roe, her cousin, who bore him two daughters: Charissa, December 8, 1832; and Laura, December 31, 1833. By the first wife (Charissa Roe) there were born five children. The eldest of these, Harvey R., born September 29, 1814, married Almira Marsh, who died January 2, 1889. They had two children who lived: Eugene W., born in 1840; and Rollin, born in 1846. Edward, the second son of William and Charissa (Roe) Simmons, was born April 11, 1816, and was twice married, first to Harriet Winchell. His second wife was Sarah (Mead) Trowbridge. There were two children by the first marriage: Alfred, who lived to be twenty-two years of age; and James, who died when two years old.

Of Edward Simmons more than a passing notice should be given. He lived at Millerton, Dutchess County, N. Y., near where he was born, and was one of the oldest lawyers in that part of the State, having reached the venerable age of ninety years when he died in 1905. He was distinguished for his prominence at the bar, his educational work and for long activity in public affairs. In the winter of 1832-3, he began teaching school in Lime Rock, Conn., and from that time until 1848, he followed that occupation with marked success. In 1838-9 he taught a school of a high grade at Greene, Chenango County, N. Y., and from there went to Great Barrington, Mass., teaching Latin and Greek and the higher English branches. In 1843 he returned to Millerton and with Alexander Winchell, afterward prominent as a geologist and long a conspicuous member of the faculty of the University of Michigan, opened a private school. Mr. Simmons built the store in Millerton now occupied by James Finch, and engaged in a general merchandise business there, which he conducted twenty-five years and then transferred to Mr. Finch, who had been his clerk for fifteen years. In 1867, Mr. Simmons was admitted to the bar. He has been a successful lawyer and was a member of the New York State Bar Association and ever gave some attention to legal matters. He was the financial secretary of the New York State Constitutional convention in 1867, of which





William A. Wheeler was the President and Samuel J. Tilden, Horace Greeley and other well known men of the time were members. He filled the office of Supervisor for five terms, and was the chairman of the board for one term, and he was also a member of the committee which appeared before the State Board of Assessors and secured a reduction in the assessment of Dutchess County, which in three years saved the taxpayers \$200,000. He was an advocate of good schools and favored every local improvement. Politically he was a free-soil Democrat in early years, but voted for Fremont in 1856, and since that time had been a Republican. He had been a member of the Baptist Church for sixty-four years, and was a member of the Masonic fraternity. (The above sketch of Edward W. Simmons was taken from a Dutchess County [New York] newspaper.)

Julia A., a daughter of William and Clarissa (Roe) Simmons, was born February 5, 1819, married Lewis W. Barnes and died in September, 1851, leaving a daughter, Eva Julia, born August 27, 1846. Amanda, another of their daughters, who married Henry H. Wheeler, will be noticed more at length further on. James Barlow Simmons, the fifth and last in the family, was born April 17, 1827, and married Mary Stephens, and they were the parents of Dr. Robert Stephens Simmons. William Simmons, the father of the above mentioned children, died in Dutchess County, July 14, 1868. Silas Roe, the father of Clarissa (Roe) Simmons, was an Englishman and a man of means, who owned a farm at North East, Dutchess County, which contained 300 acres valued at \$100 an acre. He died on the place, at a venerable age. His children were Uzzel, Annie, Jeduthun, Laura, Julia, Caroline, Amos, Clarissa, Lyman, Harvey, Harmon, Julia, Alvah and Amanda.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Wheeler, parents of George E. Wheeler, moved to Illinois, in May, 1850, not long after their marriage. They came to Chicago by way of the lakes, and thence penetrated the state as far as Morris. They settled on the farm, where the immediate subject of this sketch lived until his retirement, then consisting of 160 acres, on which had been built a double log house. A small crop had been put in. Mr. Wheeler paid \$500 for the place and improved it and made it a good home farm. In political opinion he was a staunch Republican, and one of the original members of the party, having voted for John C. Fremont. As a citizen he was honored, respected and influential in the township. A friend of good schools, he was for many years a member of the Board of Education; and he also held the office of assessor in his township. In early life he was inclined to military affairs and held the office of lieutenant in a militia company in New York. He was one of the respected pioneers of Grundy County because of his strong, fearless, outspoken character and his upright and straightforward treatment of every one. An old neighbor said of him: "He was always hon-

est and fair. He was independent in thought and always frank in his expression of his views." Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Wheeler were the parents of three children: George E., born February 20, 1851; Elmer E., born September 18, 1860, who died March 13, 1862; and Clara May, born January 20, 1863. Mr. Wheeler died January 27, 1897, at his residence in Morris, where he had lived since May, 1873. Mrs. Wheeler died October 27, 1907, eighty-five years of age. She was a lady of excellent memory and much beloved for her high character. Their daughter, Clara May, married Abraham J. Neff, January 21, 1891, and has three children: Mae A. born in 1891; Paul A., born in 1892; and Dorothy, born in 1899.

George E. Wheeler is one of the oldest continuous residents of Grundy County. He was born on the Wheeler homestead in Mazon Township, where he lived until retired, when he moved to Mazon, Ill. He was brought up to farming among the pioneers and can well remember many of them. His education was obtained in the common schools of the county. In the fall of 1869, he was given a certificate as a schoolteacher, by the late Hiram C. Gould, then county superintendent of schools. He taught school four winters, working the remainder of the year on the farm. Having received his education and taught in the schools of his neighborhood he fully realizes the necessity of better schools, so that the youth who has to acquire an education in this manner may have every opportunity. He is in favor of paying liberal wages to teachers—enough to secure the highest ability, so that all the preparatory branches and even some of the higher courses might be taught in the home schools. He has been a school trustee for ten years. He married, October 11, 1871, in Good Farm Township, Grundy County, Ill., Mary J. Keepers, who was born March 16, 1854, in Guernsey County, Ohio, a daughter of Israel J. and Mary (Kimble) Keepers. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler settled on the Wheeler homestead and by steady thrift and industry, have prospered and are the owners of two fine fertile farms, one consisting of 200 acres, the location of the old homestead, and the other 120 acres. Mr. Wheeler has served his fellow townsmen as Supervisor well and faithfully.

The following is an extract from the Morris Herald: "He (Mr. Wheeler) was first elected in 1885, serving two terms. He was again elected in the spring of 1889, and he served continuously until 1899, succeeding himself. He has been chairman of the Board during five years of this long service. In politics he is always a Republican."

When Mr. Wheeler first became a member of the Board of Supervisors, a levy of \$40,000 was required to pay running expenses and indebtedness. He has seen a business policy developed, and has helped to develop it, until this has been materially reduced. At one time county officers were allowed to retain all the fees of their offices, and in one case this



amounted to \$3,750 per annum, which is in excess of the maximum limit fixed by the constitution of the State of Illinois to the amount of \$750. Mr. Wheeler was an advocate and aided in the adoption of such legislation by the board as to allow officers a reasonable salary for services, and providing for an accounting of fees earned to the county. He occupies an enviable place in the esteem of the people of Grundy County, owing to his services in securing favorable action toward the care of the poor of the county by one person. It was Mr. Wheeler who wrote and presented the resolution to the board, which was adopted, providing for the appointment of a county agent for the poor. He has long been of the opinion, from his actual knowledge of the work, that better relief could be afforded in this matter, and more economically, under the supervision of one person, and the people at large better protected. There seems little question now of the wisdom of Mr. Wheeler's foresight. It has created a reform which has saved the people thousands of dollars a year, and yet has taken care of every needy case of want or suffering in the county, weeding out impostors and others who preferred to accept a public charity rather than work. In matters of reform Mr. Wheeler is sometimes termed radical, yet his years of experience have proven of great value to the people at large, and the measures he has advocated, as a rule, have resulted satisfactorily.

Mr. Wheeler was the president of the Vienna Township Mutual Insurance Company, which is chartered to do business in the townships of Vienna, Highland, Norman, Good Farm, Mazon and Waupee, since then merged into the Mazon Mutual County Fire Insurance Company. The company had over \$2,336,688.00 on December 31, 1913, in policies in force and he has been one of its nine directors for many years. He also is an earnest advocate of good roads and believes in the policy of beginning at once to improve the roads and doing as much as is consistent with the means at hand and in a practical and economical manner. No man is more favorably regarded in Grundy County than George E. Wheeler, and he has fairly won the high esteem in which he is held by his honest efforts in behalf of the people.

The children of George E. and Mary J. (Keepers) Wheeler are: Ellie Pearl, born March 11, 1877, and Vernon, born July 23, 1886. The former married on January 29, 1902, James Williams, a son of Evan and Sarah (Shannon) Williams. Evan Williams was born in the North of Ireland, while his wife was born at Llanarnmor, Wales. Mr. and Mrs. James Williams have had the following children: Loyd Arlan, who was born July 27, 1903; Azel Wheeler, who was born August 13, 1905; and Edward Evan who was born September 22, 1913. Vernon Wheeler was married July 14, 1910, to Margaret Jennie Winterbottom, born July 3, 1889, a daughter of John and Mary (William) Winterbottom, the former of whom was born in England, and the latter in Wales.

The children born of this union have been as follows: Russel Edwin, who was born April 27, 1911; and Kenneth, who was born July 8, 1912. Mrs. Wheeler and her daughter are members of the Baptist Church.

William Keepers, a great-grandfather of Mrs. George E. Wheeler, of the old colonial stock, was the owner of a good farm in Chester County, Pa., where he lived and died. He married Ann Hayes, of Pennsylvania, and had children as follows: John, Joseph II., Kate, Elizabeth and Jane. After his death his wife (Ann) married again and had one daughter, Ann. Joseph II. Keepers, a son of William and grandfather of Mrs. George E. Wheeler, was born in Chester County. He married in that county, Hannah P. Jordan and they moved to western Pennsylvania and settled in Beaver County. About 1835, they moved to Guernsey County, Ohio, with teams. There he was a pioneer and became a substantial farmer. A member of the Baptist Church, he was a straightforward, honorable man of the highest Christian character. His children were: Phoebe A., William, Sarah J., Israel J., Joseph, Mary E., Hannah M., Philena and Henrietta. Mrs. Joseph II. Keepers died April 28, 1873, aged sixty-eight, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hannah M. Warnock, in Iroquois County, Ill. Mr. Keepers died in Guernsey County, Ohio, December 6, 1842, scarcely past middle age.

Israel Jordan Keepers, the father of Mrs. Wheeler, went with his parents to Guernsey County, Ohio, in 1835, when he was about seven years old. There he received a good common school education and married, in Jefferson Township, August 22, 1850, Mary Kimble, a daughter of Adam and Ann Marie (Huffman) Kimble. Adam was the son of Nathan and Betsy (Davis) Kimble. Nathan Kimble was born in Germany. He came to America, settled in New Jersey and served his adopted country seven years and six months in the Revolutionary War. He afterward located in Washington County, Pa. From there he came to Guernsey, Ohio, as a pioneer in 1810, and took up and improved government land. He died in 1824, and is buried in Jefferson Township, Guernsey County. He was elected a justice of the peace in 1816 and was the first to hold that office in Guernsey County. In 1817 he was the chairman of the meeting to organize Jefferson Township. Nathan Kimble's children were: Adam, William, Washington, Robert, Jane and Mary. His first wife, Betsy Davis, died in Guernsey County, Ohio, and he married Rebecca Crawford, and their children were: Nathan George, Cyrus, Matilda, and Sarah A. Nathan Kimble's farm was known as Congress Field and was a fine property. In the early Indian troubles the family frequently took refuge in a rude blockhouse which stood close by their cabin. Mr. Kimble had a claim to land near Winchester, Ohio, by virtue of a soldier's warrant for his services in the Revolutionary War.

Adam Kimble, Nathan Kimble's oldest child,



was born in New Jersey, in 1794, and married Ann Marie Huffman, who was born October 15, 1800, and died in 1878. She was of sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, a daughter of John and Betsy (McClellan) Huffman, natives of that state. John Huffman was a pioneer in Guernsey County, Ohio, before 1800, from "The Glades" of Washington County, Pa. The Huffmans were originally from Germany. John Huffman cleared his forest farm and became a well-to-do and substantial farmer. He lived to be about seventy years old and died in Ohio, a member of the Presbyterian Church. John and Elizabeth (McClellan) Huffman were the parents of children named: George, Joseph, Abraham, Benjamin, John, Elizabeth and Mary. Adam Kimble was a soldier in the War of 1812. After his marriage to Ann Marie Huffman, he settled in Jefferson Township, Guernsey County, Ohio, and owned in time the fine property called Congress Field, besides much other land, and was considered well off. His children were: Elizabeth, Rebecca, Delilah, Davis, Huffman, William, Jane, Mary, Sallie, Eliza, Nancy, George, Nathan and Robert. The latter died in infancy. All the others lived to grow up. Nancy died, aged twenty-two years. The others, eight of whom are living, all reared families. Adam Kimble died January 4, 1862, as the result of a fall the previous New Year's eve. His wife lived to be seventy-eight years old. They were members of the Baptist Church. Israel J. Keepers settled in Guernsey County, Ohio, on the old Keepers home property, which consisted of 225 acres of land and a sawmill, which he owned in partnership with his brother Joseph. In September, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Seventy-sixth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for three years or during the war, and was honorably discharged at the close of the struggle. His regiment was stationed at Nashville, Tenn. He came to Grundy County, Ill., and settled in Good Farm Township, in 1866, and bought 123 acres of land. This farm was well improved and he lived on it until 1883. At that time he bought another farm in the same township, but never occupied it as a residence. He retired in 1884, and for some years lived at Gardner, Ill., but died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Carrie Taylor, at Mazon, Ill., October 3, 1892, aged about sixty-three years. He was a member of the Baptist Church, in which he was for many years an elder, and his official place in the church was filled by his son, William I. Politically he was a staunch Republican. A friend of education, he was long a school director, and he was a much trusted man of fine business capacity, and was the administrator of several estates and executor of a number of wills. His children are: William I., Mary J., Joseph H., Caroline, Hannah Myrtle and Olive W. Mrs. Keepers, his widow, who was born June 17, 1831, is a lady of intelligence and greatly beloved by all for her many good qualities of head and heart. It is said of her that "she is a mother to all." This is true especially

in times of sickness and trouble. Her home is now with her children.

**WHEELER, Vernon**, a farmer of Mazon Township, was born July 23, 1886, a son of George Wheeler of the same township. He is engaged in farming 200 acres of valuable land in Mazon Township, which he devotes, in large part, to corn and oats, and he feeds and sells cattle and hogs, and specializes on Belgian horses. Having received more than ordinary educational advantages, as he not only attended the local schools, and a high school course, but went to the University of Illinois for a year to study agriculture, he is well fitted for his work. Mr. Wheeler married Margaret Jennie Winter, born in Goose Lake Township, and they have had two children: Russell E. and Kenneth. Mrs. Wheeler belongs to the Baptist Church. In politics Mr. Wheeler is a Republican, while fraternally he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America at Mazon. His family is one of the oldest in Grundy County, and his father has been associated with the development of Mazon Township, while his mother is noted for her intellectual attainments and delightful personality. The old Wheeler Cemetery was opened for the use of the Wheeler family, and the name is otherwise associated with the history of this part of Grundy County.

**WHITE, Samuel H.**—The poet touched a tender chord when he asked—"Lives there a man with soul so dead that never to himself hath said, this is my own, my native land," for in everyone there is born a love of birthplace that can never be effaced. So strong is this love that men usually strive to own the farms upon which they were born, and devote their lives to improving the property handed down to them by their fathers. One of those fortunate enough to now own his birthplace farm is Samuel H. White, of Goose Lake Township. He was born on April 7, 1869, a son of James L. and Ruth (Benson) White of New York State. They were married in Morris, but later bought a farm in Goose Lake Township on which the father carried on farming extensively. He died on this property, May 27, 1906, his wife passing away in 1887.

Samuel H. White grew up on the homestead, and from boyhood assisted in operating it, while attending the local schools. When he lost his father, he inherited the homestead of 160 acres of land, and on it he has spent his entire life.

In March, 1898, Mr. White married Kate Winzenburg, who was born at Sedalia, Mo., November 22, 1845, a daughter of Andrew P. and Margaret (Staub) Winzenburg, natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. White became the parents of the following children: Samuel, born June 24, 1904, and Aznes, born February 16, 1906; one died in infancy. Mrs. White died November 14, 1908, having been a kind and loving wife and mother and a good neighbor. She was buried in Morris cemetery. Politically Mr. White is a Republican, but as his time has been fully occupied with his private affairs he has given no





attention to public matters. An excellent farmer and good business man, Mr. White is one of the leading men of his township and is respected accordingly.

**WHITMAN, Roscoe, M.D.**—The modern physician gains experience, as well as training, before beginning a practice which places in his hands the lives of his patients. Formerly this valuable knowledge had to be acquired after the doctor had left behind him his college days; now his hospital training is a part of his course. For this reason, the physician of today, no matter how short a period he may have been in practice, is better fitted in every way to render efficient service, than his predecessor was after years of experience. One of the highly trained and capable physicians of Morris, who has proven his real worth and the value of his skill is Dr. Roscoe Williams. He was born at Dodgeville, Wis., June 5, 1881, son of Joel and Anna Belle (McClure) Whitman, the former born in Hamilton County, N. Y., and the latter, in Prince Edward Island, Canada. Her parents went to Blue Mounds, Wis., when she was a child, and in 1855, Joel Whitman also located there, and the two met and married. He was a man of prominence, serving in the State Assembly two terms, as well as held the offices of postmaster, clerk of the Circuit Court, and county clerk, dying in 1906, aged eighty-three years. His widow survives, making her home at Dodgeville. Mr. and Mrs. Joel Whitman had the following family: George R., who died at the age of thirty-one years; Platt, of Highland, Wis.; and Roscoe, who was the youngest.

When he was nineteen years old, Roscoe Whitman entered the general science department of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1901, securing his degree of A. B. He then entered Rush Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1907, with the degree of M. D. Following this he was interne at the Cook County institutions for three months, and for sixteen months following this, he was interne at the Presbyterian Hospital of Chicago. Then feeling well equipped for his great work, he located at Morris, in January, 1909, since which time he has built up a large and lucrative practice. In political faith, he is independent. Fraternally, Dr. Whitman is a Mason. A scholarly man he keeps abreast of the progress in his profession, and ranks high among the medical men of Grundy County. He was married December 14, 1912, to Jessie E. Collins, daughter of Joshua and Emma (Cryder) Collins, natives of Grundy County.

**WHITMORE, Benjamin Franklin.**—Among the citizens of Grundy County whose careers are worthy of more than ordinary mention because of the success they have attained, is Benjamin Franklin Whitmore, now living retired at Gardner, Ill., who for more than a half century was engaged in agricultural pursuits here. During this time he secured financial independence, reared a family that did credit to him and his

community, and at all times has conducted himself according to the highest ideals of citizenship. Mr. Whitmore was born at Hagerstown, Md., September 12, 1841, and is a son of Daniel and Nancy (Lehman) Whitmore, natives of Maryland, who removed to Ohio in 1843. There were twelve children in the family, namely: John, deceased, who was a resident of Ohio; Abraham, who is deceased; Isaac, Jacob and Daniel, all of whom died in infancy; Samuel, deceased; David, a retired farmer living near Youngstown, Ohio; Joseph, deceased; Benjamin Franklin; Noah, deceased; and Elizabeth and Ann, twins, both of whom are deceased.

Benjamin Franklin Whitmore was but an infant when taken by his parents to Ohio, and there he received a liberal public school education, in the meantime assisting his father in the work of the home farm. He was twenty-one years of age when he came to Illinois, locating in Greenfield Township, where he hired out on a farm. In the following spring he rented a farm, which he conducted for two years, and then purchased 100 acres of good land. This he brought to a high state of cultivation, but after ten years sold it and bought 120 acres in Mazon Township, which he still owns. He retired in 1891, although he still resided on the farm until 1899, when he bought property in the village of Gardner, erected a modern home and moved his family here. He is a member of the Church of God. In political affairs he is a stalwart Republican, although he has taken only a good citizen's interest in public matters. During his long residence in Grundy County, he has formed a wide acquaintance, in which he numbers many friends, who have been drawn to him by his many admirable qualities of mind and heart.

On November 29, 1866, Mr. Whitmore was married to Matilda Shelby, a native of Pennsylvania, who came West with her parents, Milki and Lavina Shelby, to Livingston county, Ill., in 1855. To this union there were born two sons and one daughter: Nathaniel, who died May 15, 1912; William Wallace, an attorney of Bloomington, Ill.; and Iva, deceased, who passed away in infancy and was buried at Round Grove cemetery, Livingston County. Dr. Nathaniel Whitmore was born September 25, 1867, and was given his preliminary educational training in the public schools of Mazon Township. At the age of seventeen years he commenced his veterinary studies under the preceptorship of Dr. J. Y. Lehman, his father's cousin, at Sterling, Ill., and after one year of preparation entered the Chicago Veterinary College, where he was graduated at the age of twenty-one years. He then returned to Gardner and entered upon the practice of his chosen vocation, in which he gained widespread reputation. In June, 1908, he built a veterinary hospital in Gardner, which is second to none in the State. Here he had his laboratory, operating room, office, sleeping apartments, and full equipment for the successful practice of his calling, the barn being fitted with electric lights in order that he might work at nights to save the life of a stricken animal. He





became known as one of the foremost veterinary surgeons in the State and as a man who at all times honored his profession. He was buried in Wheeler cemetery, Mazon Township. Dr. Whitmore is survived by his widow and ten children.

**WICKS, Lewis K.**—It is given to some men to come into possession of property owned by their parents, and such take great pride in further developing the land to which they are connected by so many pleasant ties. Lewis K. Wicks of Nettle Creek Township owns and operates the homestead of his parents, although he was born in Big Grove Township, Kendall County, October 1, 1865, a son of Knute K. and Emily (Larson) Wicks, natives of Norway, who, after their marriage, left the land of their birth and came to Morris, Ill., about 1857. Soon thereafter, they moved to Kendall County and remained there until 1887. In the latter year they came to Nettle Creek Township, buying a farm of eighty acres to which they added until they owned 100 acres. The father died upon this property in 1882, and his widow in 1909. Their children were: Emily, who married John Olson, died in the spring of 1887; Knute, who died in November, 1893; Lewis K.; Ella, who married John Wilker of Morris; Thor, who died in June, 1894; Martin, who lives in Aux Sable Township; and Edward, who resides in Erienna Township, this same county.

Lewis K. Wicks has spent his life upon the home farm, alternating assisting his father during his boyhood days, with attendance in the district schools. In the fall of 1893 he purchased the property and since has been engaged in grain farming and raising horses, cattle and hogs. On June 10, 1893, he married Mary Osman, born February 6, 1870, in Kendall County, a daughter of Soran and Margaret (Anderson) Osman, natives of Norway. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. O. Anderson of Newark, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Wicks have had the following children: Newt R., born July 20, 1894, died August 15, 1894; LeRoy, born November 22, 1895; Esther, born December 6, 1897; Russell, born July 8, 1905, and Fern, born August 23, 1907, all of whom are at home. Mr. Wicks belongs to the Lishon Lutheran Church. Politically he is a Republican and has held the office of school director since 1903. An earnest and hard-working man, he has forced ahead and has honorably earned his present standing in his community.

**WILKINSON, Blanche William,** is a prosperous farmer cultivating 266 acres of land in Mazon Township, and his successful efforts point out a way for a man to gain substantial rewards by tilling the soil. He was born in Benton County, Ind., in 1866, and came to Grundy County with his parents when three years old. He attended the district schools of Mazon Township and at the age of seventeen years began farming for himself. For one year he farmed in Minnesota, then returned to Grundy County and in 1910

located on what is known as the Harriet Meyers farm, on section 21, Mazon Township. Here he grows corn and oats, raises Belgian horses and feeds cattle for the market.

In 1907 Mr. Wilkinson married Ethel Scurrah, of Braceville, Ill., a daughter of Alfred and Ethel (Edmunds) Scurrah, the latter deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson have three children: Earl B., Burl W. and Mabel V. The Methodist Church holds his membership. A Democrat in politics, he was his party's candidate in 1912 for collector, and was defeated by only thirty votes. Mr. Wilkinson is capable of entertaining independent views on public questions, takes much interest in local matters and personally is well liked by his neighbors.

**WILKINSON, Samuel Henry.**—The interests of Mazon are ably and worthily represented by Samuel Henry Wilkinson, proprietor of the City Meat Market, who has not alone taken a prominent part in business matters, but has aided in the progress and development of the community as a member of the Town Board of Trustees. Like many of his successful townsmen, he is a product of the farm, having been born on his father's homestead in Benton County, Ind., in 1875, a son of William and Melvina (Muler) Wilkinson. Mr. Wilkinson's father was born in Canada, and as a young man went to Michigan, where he was married, subsequently going to Benton County, Ind. He later came to Grundy County, Ill., and here passed the remainder of his life in agricultural pursuits, dying in 1904, the mother having passed away during the previous year. They were the parents of the following children: Samuel Henry; George, who is deceased; Blanche; Verl; Forrest and John, who are deceased; Mrs. Cora Strauss; and Grace, who is deceased.

Samuel H. Wilkinson received his early educational training in the public schools of Benton County, Ind., and later went to the Grundy County schools while assisting his father in working the home farm. Reared to agricultural pursuits, it was but natural that he should adopt the tilling of the soil as his field of endeavor, but in 1910, tiring of farm life, he came to Mazon and entered commercial pursuits, purchasing the business of which he is now the owner. He carries a full line of fresh and salt meats, with game in season, and enjoys a liberal trade, his business having been built up by honorable and straightforward dealing.

In 1893 Mr. Wilkinson was married to Miss Villa Keepers, who was born in Grundy County, Ill., and the following children have been born to this union: Bernice, Beatrice, Bessie, Joe, George, Ruby and Harold, of whom Bessie and George are deceased. Mr. Wilkinson is popular fraternally as a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Fraternal Reserves, the Home Forum and the Masons, in all of which he has numerous friends. A Democrat in politics, he has shown his executive ability as a member of the Town Board, where his fellow-members have relied upon his judgment and



foresight in matters of importance. With his family he attends the Congregational Church.

**WILSON, Joseph A.**—The importance of any community is measured by the public spirit of its leading citizens, and judged by this standard, Morris ranks among the foremost cities of its size in the State. Among those who have aided materially in the advancement of the county seat in every line is Joseph A. Wilson, financier, business man and former mayor, and the present supervisor of Morris Township. Mr. Wilson was born in Putnam County, Ill., February 20, 1850, son of Jonathan and Elma C. (Hoyle) Wilson, natives of Union County, Ky., and Belmont County, Ohio. Jonathan Wilson went to Putnam County, Ill., with his parents in 1828, while the lady who afterwards became his wife arrived there in 1833, and there they married and began housekeeping. In 1850 they came to Grundy County, settling on a farm in Vienna Township. In time, Jonathan Wilson became a man of large means, raising cattle on an extensive scale, and he also bought and sold stock and was a veterinary practitioner of some note. His death occurred in 1887, following which his widow moved to Morris where she died in 1898. Nine children were born to them, six sons and three daughters, three of whom survive, all residents of Morris: Edith E., Joseph A., and Orville T., the last named being manager of the Morris Grain Company.

Joseph A. Wilson grew up on his father's homestead learning how to conduct the farm, and attending the local schools. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-five years old, when he began working land for himself and buying and selling cattle. In those days there was plenty of open prairie on which to herd his cattle, so that the profits were greater, although the prices he received were lower. The first farm owned by Mr. Wilson was in Pulaski County, Ind., but he sold it four years after he bought it, and then purchased land in Saratoga, Aux Sable and Wanpensee Townships, Grundy County, as well in other parts of the State, owning some 1,300 acres in Grundy County alone, and also 400 acres in Jasper County, Iowa. All of this he rents, with the exception of 500 acres which he utilizes for pasture purposes, also 700 acres in Newton County, Ind. His cattle business is a large one for he handles from 500 to 600 head of cattle annually. Mrs. Wilson owns 1,300 acres of land in Grundy County. In 1881 Mr. Wilson moved to Morris from the farm, and in 1893 built a fine frame house containing all modern improvements on the corner of Nettle and Main streets. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Wilson is a director of the Grundy County National Bank and of the Morris Grain Company.

On March 5, 1879, Mr. Wilson was married to Harriet E. Collins, born in Saratoga Township, daughter of Joshua and Harriet (Cryder) Collins, natives of Queens, N. Y., and Chillicothe, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson became the parents of the following children: Mary E., who is now

Mrs. H. Philip Southcomb of Morris; an unnamed babe who died in infancy; Jay Collins, who is at home; and Henry J., who died at the age of seven and one-half months. Mr. Wilson is a member of the Congregational Church. A strong Republican, he has been called upon to represent his ward in the city council and in 1900-02 was elected mayor of Morris. While occupying the executive chair, he gave the city a clean, honest, business-like administration and is regarded as one of the best mayors the city ever had. A man of keen business sense, he has succeeded in whatever he has undertaken, and the city has benefited by his operations.

**WINSOR, Clarence Ray.**—If every farming section of the country showed as good conditions as Grundy County, the cost of living would be materially reduced. This locality is producing a large amount of food stuffs owing to the progressive spirit of its agriculturists, and among them one worthy of special note is Clarence Ray Winsor of Norman Township. Mr. Winsor was born in Norman Township, November 19, 1885, son of John and Sarah (Putt) Winsor, and grandson of Thomas and Martha Winsor and John Putt, the grandparents on both sides coming from England, while the parents were natives of Saratoga Township, Grundy County, Ill. John Putt located first at Lisbon, Kendall County, Ill., but later came to Saratoga Township, Grundy County, Ill., where he established himself as a brick and tile manufacturer, but later bought land in Norman Township, and operated it until his retirement to Morris, where his death occurred.

John Winsor and Sarah Putt were married in Kendall County, but commenced their married life on a farm in Norman Township, where Mr. Winsor owned 200 acres. He erected the buildings now standing, and further improved the farm, living upon it until his death January 9, 1907. His widow only survived him until February 3d. of the same year. The children of this excellent couple were: Wilbur, who lives at Peabody, Kas.; Guy, who died at the age of one year and three months; Leda, who is Mrs. E. B. Reeves, of Norman Township; Clarence Ray; and Otto T. and Chester P., who are on the home place.

Clarence Ray Winsor grew up on the farm owned by his father, and alternated attending the rural school with agricultural work. When his father died, the farm was left to the five living children, and the three younger sons rented it for two years, and then bought it, and are now conducting it in partnership, and are specializing on Percheron registered horses, Poland-China hogs and Shorthorn cattle. Their farm is one of the best known in the township, and they are justly numbered among the substantial agriculturists of Grundy County.

On June 21, 1907, Clarence R. Winsor was married to Georgia Aker, born in Vienna Township, this county, daughter of James and Cora (Passage) Aker, natives of Vienna Township and Wisconsin, respectively. Mr. and Mrs.



Winsor have one son, Gordon Aker, born April 21, 1908, and one daughter, Alice H. Mr. Winsor belongs to the Zion Methodist Church, of which he has been trustee since 1909. A Republican, he has served as school trustee since 1909. Mrs. Winsor was graduated from the Morris High school and taught school for three years in Vienna Township prior to her marriage.

Otto T. Winsor, who was born November 17, 1886, was married February 9, 1909, to Mabel H. Aker, born in Vienna Township, a sister of Mrs. C. R. Winsor. Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Winsor have a daughter, Dorothy E., born September 16, 1910. Chester P. Winsor, the youngest of the three Winsor brothers, was born July 17, 1893.

WINSOR, William Henry (deceased).—While Grundy County boasts some of the best citizens to be found in the State, a number who helped to bring about the present prosperous conditions here have passed from this earthly sphere, but their memories are still cherished, and their deeds are not forgotten. One of these men who was a good representative of the best class of agriculturalists of this section, was the late Henry William Winsor. He was born on the Isle of Man, March 27, 1859, a son of Thomas and Martha (Mann) Winsor, who came to Grundy County in June, 1890, after an ocean voyage of twelve weeks. From New York City they made their way on the canal and Great Lakes to Chicago. The father was a farmer and coal miner, as well as brick and tile maker, and worked hard at whatever came to his hand. Both he and his wife passed away at Morris, having seen the first train of cars run through that city. He also made the brick for many of the early buildings of Morris, including the present Commercial Hotel.

When he was twenty-one years old, having in the meanwhile acquired a common school education, Mr. Winsor began farming with his brother, John, and thus continued until his marriage, when he bought 240 acres of land in Vienna Township. He tiled and otherwise improved the place, and operated it until 1907, when, on account of ill-health, he was forced to leave the farm, and then bought a residence in Morris.

On February 6, 1879, Mr. Winsor was married to Frances A. Vanderpool, born in Morris, November 29, 1858, daughter of John and Maria (Rockwood) Vanderpool, natives of New York and Vermont, respectively. They came to Grundy County when the Indians were still here, and settled in Norman Township, where they died, after years of hard work on the farm. Mrs. Vanderpool entertained the celebrated Indian Shabbona at an early date. Mr. Vanderpool was also blacksmith and was a great temperance worker. Mr. and Mrs. Winsor became the parents of two children: Elsie May, wife of A. M. Wallace, living on the home farm, and they have one child, Everett Winsor, born November 15, 1903; and Vera Marie, born April 25, 1888, who died October 23, 1908.

On March 2, 1909, Mr. Winsor passed away,

rounding out a blameless, useful life, and is tenderly remembered by his widow and daughter. Mrs. Winsor has lived alone in her home at Morris since the death of her husband. Mr. Winsor was for many years very active in the work of the Methodist Church, and served in the office of steward. A Republican, he was a school director for fifteen years, and always took interest in educational matters. A man of strict integrity, he gave to others what he demanded for himself, a square deal, and won and held a high position among his fellow citizens.

WINSOR, James P.—Modern methods of farming have revolutionized agricultural work, and placed under cultivation much land that would otherwise be unproductive. Grundy County has benefited largely by the work of these progressive farmers who have eagerly embraced the new ideas, and among those who have done their part in bringing about existing prosperous conditions is James P. Winsor of Norman Township. He was born in Lisbon Township, Kendall County, Ill., July 23, 1853, a son of Thomas and Martha (Thomas) Winsor, natives of England. They were married in their native land, but in 1848 came to Kendall County, where Thomas Winsor worked for farmers during the first four years. Later, he bought some land just north of Morris, and finding coal, mined it, and also manufactured brick. In 1864, he concentrated his efforts on farming, going to Waupee Township, and later he bought a farm in Norman Township, where he lived until his retirement, when he moved to Morris, and there died July 14, 1902, his wife passing away in February, 1900. Their children were: Dorcas, who died in 1911; Thomas H., who died in infancy before the family left England; Samuel G., who lives in Richland, Mo.; Henry W., who died in March, 1909; John P., who died in February, 1907; Mary Jane, who died at the age of nineteen years; James P.; Richard J., who lives at Morris, Ill.; George T., who lives at Chicago; Esther E., who died in May, 1901; and Sarah E., who lives at Morris.

James P. Winsor attended the neighborhood schools, and growing up on the homestead, developed into an excellent farmer. He remained with his parents until he was of age, when he began farming for himself in Norman Township, continuing ten years, then bought eighty acres on section 22 of the same township, and has developed his property to a considerable degree, erecting new modern buildings and putting in tiling wherever needed, until he now has one of the finest farms in this part of the county.

On February 21, 1878, Mr. Winsor married Louisa Putt, born in Saratoga Township, daughter of Richard and Ann Putt, natives of England, early settlers of Saratoga Township. The Putt family lived there until Mrs. Winsor was seven years old, and then moved to Goodland, Newton County, Ind., where her marriage took place. Mr. and Mrs. Winsor have had four children: Cline G., Ritta Z. and Thelma M., all of whom are at home, and one who died, Inez M.





Mr. Winsor belongs to the Zion Methodist Church. Politically he is a Republican and his fraternal affiliations are with the Waupunsee Lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America. In all of his work, Mr. Winsor has been guided by good sense and an appreciation of its importance, and his success has been fairly won, as has his standing in his community.

**WIX, Martin K.**—The story of the success of Martin K. Wix, agriculturist and business man of Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, is short and simple, containing in it no exciting chapters, but in it lies one of the valuable secrets of the great prosperity which it records, and his private and business life are pregnant with interest and incentive, no matter how lacking in dramatic action—the record of an honorable life, consistent with itself and its possibilities in every particular. Mr. Wix has the distinction of being a native son of Grundy County, Ill., having been born on a farm in Nettle Creek Township, December 9, 1871, a son of Knute and Emily (Larson) Wix, natives of Norway. He was the third of seven children, the others being: Lewis; Ella, who married John Welker, of Morris, Ill.; and Edward, also of Grundy County; Knute, Emily and Thor, deceased.

Martin K. Wix grew up on the home farm and received his education in the country schools, where he proved an earnest, intelligent and ambitious student. Upon the completion of his schooling he assisted his mother in the work of the home place until he was married, and then rented land in Erienna Township, but one year later moved to his present property, a tract of 446 acres in Aux Sable Township, with eighty acres in timber and the balance in pasture and grain. About the year 1894 he bought 175 acres in Kendall County, a fine grain farm which he now has rented, in addition to which he rents out his 240 acres in Goodwin Township, Roberts County, N. D. He has interested himself in various business enterprises, being a director in the Minooka Bank and a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Grain Elevator at Minooka; also the Yorkville elevator. Mr. Wix's farm is one of the attractive places of Aux Sable Township, and is supplied with all modern accessories and conveniences, which give it an air of thrift, comfort and prosperity. It is a hospitable home, a favorite resort with many friends, and the best homes in the community are thrown open to Mr. and Mrs. Wix. They are consistent members of the Lutheran Norwegian Church at Morris. Mr. Wix is a stalwart Republican, and has served his fellow-citizens in the capacity of school director since 1905.

On March 7, 1894, Mr. Wix was married to Miss Enger Olson, who was born in Big Grove Township, Kendall County, Ill., daughter of Theodore and Bertha (Thordson) Olson, of Norway. To this union there have been born the following children: Clara, born December 16, 1894, who died February 24, 1898; Tilman, born October 11, 1896; Clara (II), born October 29, 1898; Irvin, born September 3, 1901; Blanchard,

born October 16, 1903; Gladys, born December 8, 1905; Evelyn, born June 7, 1908; and Arlott, born September 8, 1911.

**WOELFEL, George** (deceased), who was the founder of the largest manufacturing industry of Grundy County, the products of which are sold all over the world, was born in Bavaria, Germany, March 25, 1831, but came to the United States in 1853, and to Morris ten years later. Immediately thereafter he established the Morris tannery, and later conducted a boot and shoe store as a side line. Although the tannery was destroyed by fire, he rebuilt it, and in time his sons became his partners. Out of his initial plant has grown the Woelfel Leather Company, which gives employment to a large force of men and is recognized as one of the leading leather producing concerns of the country. Mr. Woelfel married November 29, 1861, Margaret Fleck, and they had the following children to grow to maturity: Edgar H., George L., Annie L., Albert and Ernest.

**ZIEBUL, Gustav.**—It is not so remarkable that a child who is given every advantage oftentimes succeeds in life, but it is worthy of consideration when one who has been forced to struggle for all he possesses achieves prosperity. The history of this country shows that some of the most representative of its men came from an orphan asylum, and without family or influence rose to positions of responsibility. A well known example of such a man is Gustav Ziebul, owner of 200 acres of fertile land in Good Farm Township, Grundy County. He was born at Chicago, June 7, 1870, and as he lost his parents in infancy, was consigned to Rose Hill Orphan Asylum, Chicago, where he remained until he was thirteen years old. At that tender age the bright lad came to Good Farm Township and began working among the farmers, receiving \$13 per month for his services. From this beginning, he has worked up to his present condition. This advancement did not come without persistent effort and unceasing work, but the rewards have been worth the struggle according to Mr. Ziebul's idea.

On February 25, 1902, Mr. Ziebul was united in marriage by Judge White of Pontiac with Miss Mary Zingrebe of Good Farm Township, who was born December 8, 1872, a daughter of George and Hannah (Allsesser) Zingrebe, whose homestead Mr. Ziebul now occupies. The father died February 25, 1902, and the mother died August 17, 1883. They were buried in Good Farm Cemetery. Politically Mr. Ziebul is a Republican, but aside from casting his vote for the candidates of his party, he has not been active, as all of his time and attention have been required in his business. He is an excellent farmer, and his property is one of the best cultivated in his township, for, having worked so hard for it, he appreciates its worth and takes a pride in its condition. Needless to say he is a good business man and excellent manager, for his rise in the world proves this beyond any question.





MORAN, James (deceased).—In his humble cabin which he had built a half century ago, on the banks of Waupacan creek, in Grundy County, James Moran, perhaps the oldest man in the United States, passed away in November, 1914. He was born in Ireland in 1803, and what an epoch of history his life covered. For many years, however, the doings of the great outside world have concerned him little, although, until recent years he kept informed as to local matters and enjoyed social companionship. He came to Morris over sixty years ago and long was a familiar figure in this vicinity. He helped to build the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the Rock Island Railroad, but afterward his brother Michael, who was accidentally drowned in 1869, gave him a life lease of four acres of land, located three miles from Morris, and there, in

comparative seclusion and according to his own method of living, Mr. Moran passed the rest of his life, for a number of years preferring to live alone. When age fell too heavily upon him his daughter Ann, who became motherless at the age of three years, insisted on coming to care for her aged father and his last years were made comfortable through her care. His two other daughters are: Mrs. Marshall, of Blue Island, and Mrs. Dora Webber, of Wauponsee, Ill. His burial was from the Catholic church, Rev. Father Darcy officiating.

As one of the old landmarks, as it were, James Moran will be missed. The older residents remember well his sturdy virtues and his independent ideas, and many of them cherished the kindest of feelings toward their venerable neighbor.













