

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY



















HISTORY  
OF  
FORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FROM ITS EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO 1908

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VOL. II.

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BY E. A. GARDNER

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ILLUSTRATED WITH PORTRAITS AND VIEWS

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With Biographical Sketches of some  
Prominent Citizens of the County.

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*Hugh P. Beach.*

# BIOGRAPHICAL.

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## JUDGE HUGH PARISH BEACH.

Judge Hugh Parish Beach, a lawyer of Piper City and editor and proprietor of the Pan Handle Advocate, was born in a log cabin in the then wilderness about thirty miles south of Cleveland, in Montville township, Medina county, Ohio, more than sixty-six years ago. On the paternal side he is descended from an old family of New Jersey. His grandfather, David Beach, served in the war of the Revolution, and his grandmother, Mary Tomkins was a near relative of Daniel D. Tomkins, who was prominent in the early history of this country and at one time was governor of New York, and afterward vice president of the United States, for eight years, with President James Monroe.

Moses Tomkins Beach, father of our subject, was born in Cayuga county, New York, in 1810, and was reared to agricultural pursuits in that state. He married Maria Wylie Gillett a native of Bergen, Genesee county, New York, but directly connected with the Gilletts, Tullers, Phelps, Pages and other leading families of Hartford, Connecticut, and vicinity, in the early history of that state. Her mother's maiden name was Pattie Tuller, who married Grandfather Gillett at Hartford, Connecticut, before they moved to Genesee county, New York. With his young wife Moses Tomkins Beach moved to the Western Reserve of Ohio about 1830. Being a skillful woodsman, he cleared and improved several farms in that heavily wooded section but later in life engaged in the practice of medicine until his death. In politics he was a whig and afterward a republican, and was a strong opponent of slavery.

The mother of our subject died when he was fourteen years of age but to her teachings and the remembrance of her exemplary character he owes much. He was the fourth in a large family. He was early inured to hard labor on the farm but acquired a good education for that period, for the settlers in the Western Reserve always established good schools, no matter what else had to be sacrificed. When his mother died he left school and began to earn his own livelihood, with no resources but his intellect and a strong determination to succeed. He had read accounts of the struggles and successes of Benjamin Franklin and a desire was created thereby to

become a printer. In the spring of 1857 the opportunity presented itself to gratify the ambition, and for the next two years he was constantly employed in that work, successively in two well appointed newspaper offices, in the course of which he passed through all grades of work, from "printer's devil," to assistant in the local news department. Like many others, he is indebted to this early newspaper work for much of his earlier general information in regard to public affairs. Succeeding this, a desire was aroused to become a lawyer and accordingly, for two following years he was found under the able tutelage of two of the leading lawyers of the state, Hon. Henry Grove and Hon. J. K. Cooper (both now deceased), pursuing the "labyrinthine intricacies" of the law, as embraced in Blackstone, Kent and other leading textbooks of that department of learning. At that time he was a member of a home company of Zouaves, and when the country was startled by the firing upon Fort Sumter, the services of his company were immediately tendered to Governor Richard Yates, at Springfield. Not receiving any satisfaction from the governor, they sent one of their officers to Springfield to confer with him but, such was the patriotic rush to the defense of the country, Governor Yates replied to the effect that the applications ahead of the Zouaves were sufficient to fill the Illinois quota several times over. Nothing daunted, these determined patriots met in their armory and decided to tender their services direct to the general government and thereupon wired the then secretary of war, Hon. Simon Cameron, at Washington, D. C., to that effect. Imagine their disappointment when his reply came back: "Consult your governor!" This tended to abate the ardor of their patriotism, as there was no immediate hope of their services being accepted. A good part of the company returned to their accustomed pursuits but others kept up the organization and, months afterward, with recruited ranks, went to St. Louis and joined the Eighth Missouri Infantry. Still engaged in the study of the law, it was not until the government called for three hundred thousand volunteers that our subject went into actual service. Then for more than four years and a half continuously, in both infantry and heavy artillery, he served successively in about all positions from private to that of commander of his company. He was for a time clerk in the quartermaster's department at New Orleans, Louisiana; also clerk of a court martial in that city, and after being promoted to a commissioned officer was a member of a military commission by appointment of General Sheridan, commander of the Department of the Gulf. He campaigned through Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and across Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf of Mexico. He par-

ticipated in some of the most important military operations of the Mississippi valley, under Generals Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Banks, McClelland, A. J. Smith, Canby, Hurlbut, Ord and others, and was present at the engagements at Haine's Bluff, Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Magnolia Hills, Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Raymond, Black River Bridge and the siege of Vicksburg. He went on the famous campaign of General Banks up Red river, then across Lake Pontchartrain, and on the march of General Gordon Granger through eastern Mississippi in the combined movement against Mobile, being then in command of his company, and in all engagements of that campaign. During the latter part of his service he was stationed successively at Fort St. Philip and Fort Jackson, commanding the defenses of New Orleans, on the Gulf coast, at the mouth of the Mississippi. Through all his long and perilous service he received only two slight wounds, but he has now in his possession his army cartridge-box which undoubtedly saved his life, as it was perforated by a ball of the enemy in an engagement, while it was drawn in front of his body for convenience in loading his gun, as it was the practice in a fight.

While in the service and in command of his company, he raised a subscription in the company to the National Lincoln Monument at Springfield of seven hundred and fifteen dollars and thirty cents, and received a personal letter from Governor Oglesby in acknowledgment of its receipt, expressed in the most complimentary terms. The documents accompanying the subscription are now in the archives of the National Lincoln Monument Association.

Just about the close of his military career he was brevetted to a higher rank by the president of the United States "for faithful and meritorious services," as the parchment commission states. A singular incident is connected with this. The commission was forwarded at the proper time but to the wrong postoffice, and, not being called for, was returned to the war department at Washington. As the fact of being brevetted was unknown to the recipient of the honor, no call was made for the commission until many years after his return to civil life, when, accidentally, a brother officer in the east, who knew about it, mentioned the fact in a letter. This gratifying news led to correspondence with the War Department, at Washington, and the highly prized document was forwarded by return mail, after slumbering in the official vaults of the government for about twenty-four years; however it was none the less gratefully received.

Another matter relating to his military service, which also has a most grateful side to it, is the fact that no complete settlement was ever had with

the government of his accounts as an officer until the winter of 1892, when the government found itself indebted to the Judge several hundred dollars.

While in the military service, Judge Beach wedded Mary Estelle Smith, of Louisiana, a daughter of Captain Henry Lyon Smith, of the engineer corps of the regular army, and Mrs. Armalie H. Smith, nee Hebert. Captain Smith was a graduate of the West Point Military Academy and for a time professor at that school. Although himself a native of Maine, his military duties took him to Louisiana, where he married Armalie H. Hebert, a sister of his classmate at West Point, General Louis Hebert. The Heberts were a very prominent family under the old order of affairs before the war. Grandfather Vallery Hebert held a prominent position under General Jackson at the battle of New Orleans in 1851. Paul O. Hebert was a governor of Louisiana, another representative was a speaker of the legislature, still another was a superintendent of one of their railways, while another, Mrs. Ernestine S. Stevens, widow of the late General Walter Stevens, another graduate of the West Point Military Academy, was first librarian of the patent office at Washington, D. C., and for many years was librarian of the department of agriculture. She is rightfully classed among the great women of the nation. She is Mrs. Beach's aunt.

The subject of our sketch received his discharge from the army February 22, 1867, and, with his young wife, immediately came north, locating at Piper City (then called New Brenton), where they arrived April 19th. His sister, Mrs. Mary A. Wilber, now deceased, then resided here. It was her advice that brought him here. She and her husband and family had come from Ohio a couple of years before, when there was no town and only a few scattered residents near groves of timber on the then broad expanse of virgin prairie. She was a well educated, talented and exemplary woman and an especially devoted wife and mother. As a school teacher before her marriage and a shrewd investor in real estate after her marriage, she was a marked success. She died all too soon, in 1869, leaving a large family of young children to mourn her untimely loss. Her remains were laid to rest in Brenton cemetery at Piper City. Her husband built the first hotel in the town—the Wilber House—in 1867.

At Piper City, Judge Beach resumed the study of law and in 1870 was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of the state, and has since practiced that profession. In the early history of Piper City he was elected president of the board of trustees and it was during his administration that many important streets were graded, the town park, now a beautiful grove, was

planted, and a number of artesian fire wells sunk in different localities, which latter have since saved the place at least two very disastrous conflagrations. During said term the first fire engine was bought, which eventually led up to the present efficient fire department service of the village. In the spring of 1873 his fellow townsmen elected him a member of the county board of supervisors. In that body his advocacy of retrenchment, economy and reform in county affairs called public attention to him, and he was the same year nominated and elected county judge, and was reelected for two successive terms. He served until December, 1886, a year having been added by an amendment to the state constitution, and it is not too much to say that he had the good will and confidence of the people as a just, faithful and upright judge.

For the past quarter of a century he has been editor, publisher and proprietor of the *Pan Handle Advocate*. It is sufficient to say that as a journalist he has always endeavored to advocate that which was for the very best interests of the people among whom the paper circulates, and he is always able to state in clear and forcible language just what he means. His success in this department is highly deserved. He is an acknowledged forcible public speaker and has delivered many public addresses. In the presidential campaign of 1900 he was one of the campaign speakers in the state for the McKinley and Roosevelt Campaign Committee.

He is a Knight Templar in Masonry, is a patriarch in Odd Fellowship and has been in attendance upon the grand lodges of both bodies. He is a past post commander of Piper City Post, No. 361, Department of Illinois, Grand Army of the Republic, and while commander took the initiatory steps which resulted in organizing Gresham Camp, No. 187, Sons of Veterans, of which the Judge is an honorary member. Judge Beach cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln at Chicago in 1860, and has always been a believer in republican principles. He heard Lincoln and Douglas at Ottawa in the great joint discussion of 1858; has also listened to Lovejoy, Logan, Trumbull, Seward, Corwin, Hale, Ingersoll, Blaine, Oglesby, Harrison and a host of other leading orators of their day; has heard the greatest pulpit orator, Beecher; the greatest actor, Booth; and the greatest songstress, Patti. He was a member of the Pioneer Wide Awake Club of Chicago, in 1860, the captain of which was Orderly Sergeant J. R. Hayden, of the famous Ellsworth Zouave cadets.

Judge Beach has not accumulated wealth, but his love of good literature has brought around him one of the finest private libraries to be found anywhere. The field covered is very wide. Besides his law library, there are

works of history, biography, travel, philosophy, science, mathematics, rhetoric, poetry, art, music, also medical, theological, political, military, agricultural, horticultural, pomological, stock-raising and various other works, the accumulations of a half century. These, and current leading journals and magazines of the day, furnish an extensive field for intellectual thought and culture on all manner of interesting subjects.

Some years ago the judge found that his long and arduous military service, and too close confinement to sedentary pursuits since, had made inroads upon his health, to counteract which he has felt compelled to seek more active life in the open air than formerly, and in this connection he has what he calls his "gymnasium." It consists in interesting himself in the raising of blooded roadster horses and Jersey cattle, and taking care of them himself. Also in engaging in horticultural and other open air pursuits.

Judge and Mrs. Beach have a family of five living children. Henry Lyon, born and educated here and also trained in journalism in the Advocate office, was employed on the Chicago Tribune for four years and on the Record for one year. For the past nine years he has been connected with the Union Traction Company, now the Chicago Railways Company, of which he is a superintendent. He was married in Chicago, in 1899, and has a little daughter, Muriel. Carrie Estelle, Ernestine Kellogg, Metta Armalie and Daisy May have all received instruction and training in various duties in the office of the Advocate. All the children obtained a high-school education. Lillian Mary, the second daughter, pronounced a very interesting child by all who knew her, died suddenly of membranous croup in the fourth year of her age.

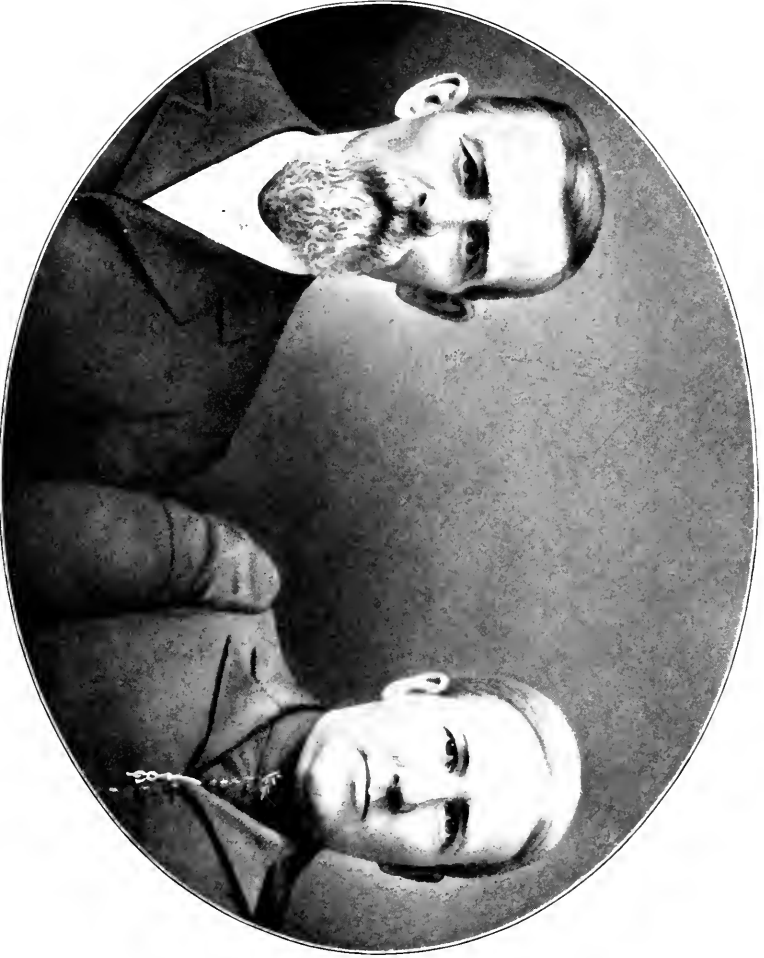
In closing this outline of the biography of one of Ford county's best known citizens, let us say that Judge Beach is an unassuming, pleasant and companionable gentleman and stands among the first for integrity of purpose and general high character in the community where he has so long resided.

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#### JAMES M. HIDDLESON.

An excellent farm of eighty acres on section 16, Rogers township, is the property of James M. Hiddleson. Today it is valued at two hundred dollars per acre but he purchased one-half of it for four dollars per acre and the remainder for seven dollars. Its rise in value is largely attributable to the





MIR. AND MRS. J. M. HIDDLESTON



care and labor he has bestowed upon it and the splendid improvements he has made thereon.

He is one of Illinois' native sons, his birth having occurred in Little Rock township, Kendall county, December 25, 1839. His parental grandfather was a native of the city of Dublin, Ireland, and was the first white teacher in the city of Philadelphia. A very highly educated man, he was closely associated with the early intellectual development of that city.

William Hiddleston, father of our subject, was born in Kentucky, April 23, 1801, and in 1836 took up his abode on a farm in Little Rock township, Kendall county, Illinois, where he spent his remaining days, passing away in March, 1896, at the venerable age of ninety-five years. When quite young he was left an orphan and later he removed to the vicinity of Canton, Ohio, being reared in that locality by George Williams. He was then a resident of the Buckeye state until 1836, when he came to Illinois, driving across the country with an ox-team. He suffered all of the hardships and privations incident to the establishment of a home upon the frontier. At one time, soon after his arrival in Illinois, while living in a log cabin, six members of the family were ill. He had only fifty cents in his pocket and no team, nothing but his two hands to aid in providing a living for his wife and children. He worked diligently and untiringly, however, to overcome the difficulties of pioneer life and win success here. He hauled all his products to Chicago, a distance of fifty-two miles, making the journey most of the time with ox-teams, before the building of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. In addition to his farming operations he conducted a brickyard on the bank of Fox river on the south line of his farm, where the Black Hawk Indians encamped. He carried on general agricultural pursuits and also the manufacture of brick, which he molded by hand. He was a remarkable man, of strong character and of high principles, never using tobacco nor intoxicants. His political allegiance was given to the democracy and he was a stalwart advocate of the Union cause during the dark days of the Civil war. He attended school but twelve days and in that time participated in thirteen fights because the other children made fun of his poor clothing. In the school of experience, however, he learned many valuable lessons and impressed upon the minds of his children the worth of integrity and upright character development.

William Hiddleston married Elizabeth Ferguson, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, and died on the old homestead in Kendall county in 1856. Their children were: Charles, a resident of Woodland, California; Mrs. Sarah Sargent, who became a resident of Ford county in 1863 and died near Cabery; John, who

died in infancy; Anna, the wife of H. N. Ryan, who is an attorney of Streator, while she died about two years ago; James M., of Rogers township, whose farm adjoins that of his brother William C., who is the sixth in order of birth in the family; Erastus, a retired farmer living in Cabery; George, whose home is in Rogers township; Romelious, of Plano; and Robert, who died in Guthrie, Oklahoma, in 1896. For his second wife Mr. Hiddleson chose Mrs. Hannah Sargent but there were no children by that union.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for James M. Hiddleson in his boyhood and youth. With the other members of the family he shared in the hardships of life on the frontier, all around stretching the wild, unbroken prairie, while the farm implements were very crude as compared with the modern machinery, and the homes were largely little frame or log cabins. He embraced such educational opportunities as were afforded and through much of the year was employed in the work of the fields, assisting therein from the time of spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn.

In August, 1862, Mr. Hiddleson, no longer content to remain at home while the preservation of the Union was in question, enlisted for service as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain John H. Lowe, of Plano, and Colonel John C. Van Armon. He and his brother William and stepbrother, Thomas Sargent, and a cousin, John Howard, all working in the same wheat field, left at the same time and went to Plano, where they enlisted. All four then returned to the field and helped finish the harvest. About two weeks afterward they went to Chicago and were at Camp Douglas, being mustered into the United States service September 6, 1862. They were sent to Memphis, Tennessee, where they went into camp and afterward marched to Pigeon Roost Gap, fifty miles away. They reconnoitered for about two weeks and then returned to Memphis. After a short time they took boats down the river to Milliken's Bend, unloaded and went into Chickasaw Bayou, being first under fire there. Heavy rains fell and the water stood on the ground to such a depth that the soldiers had to climb on logs. At Milliken's Bend they took boat for Youngs Point, near Vicksburg. Mr. Hiddleson participated in the siege of Vicksburg and in the battle of Chattanooga. He was all through the siege of Atlanta and was taken prisoner there July 22, 1864, after which he was sent to Andersonville prison, where he was incarcerated for two months. He was then exchanged and went to Cleveland, Tennessee, where he continued for about two months. Later he went to Chattanooga and Nashville and on to Cincinnati, Baltimore and Fortress Monroe,

whence he proceeded around Cape Hatteras and afterward to Raleigh, North Carolina. He joined his regiment there and participated in the campaign northward to Washington, where he took part in the grand review, the most celebrated military pageant ever seen on the western hemisphere. Later he was sent to Chicago, where he was honorably discharged with his regiment.

His brother William, who had enlisted at the same time, was wounded at Atlanta, Georgia, August 26, 1864, sustaining a gunshot wound in both hands. The first time he was wounded was on the 22d of July, when a bullet pierced his shoulder, and on the 3d of August following he was slightly wounded in the hip. At the battle of Resaca he received a part of a cap in the left eye, which nearly destroyed the sight. The injuries which he sustained on the 26th of August forced him to retire from active service and he was then transferred to Marietta, Georgia, where he remained in the hospital for about four weeks. He was then granted a furlough home and for three months was unable to feed himself. On the 1st of June, 1865, he rejoined his regiment at Washington, D. C., participated in the grand review and was mustered out in Chicago.

When the war was over James M. Hiddleston returned to Plano, Kendall county, Illinois, and in 1867 came to his present farm, where he has since resided. He has here eighty acres on section 16. The land which he purchased for four and seven dollars per acre is today worth two hundred dollars and constitutes a splendidly improved farm. All of the buildings and trees upon the place have been put here by Mr. Hiddleston, who has led a quiet but active and useful life of the farmer and has today a valuable property, which not only gives him a good living but also enables him to save something year after year.

On the 25th of January, 1868, Mr. Hiddleston was married to Miss Jessie Oglesby, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, November 10, 1842. She came to Illinois as a school teacher and resided with her brother James, who is now living in Kankakee. The death of Mrs. Hiddleston occurred June 8, 1899, after a happy married life of more than thirty years. They were the parents of two children: Edith, now the wife of L. G. Webster, a resident farmer of Norton township, Kankakee county; and Charlie M., who remains with his father and operates the home farm.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Hiddleston has been a supporter of the democrat party and its principles. He voted for Douglas and has filled some township offices, serving as collector for two terms, while for the past five years he has been township assessor. He was also a school director for eighteen years and has ever been loyal and faithful in the discharge of his duties. He is a charter member of Cabery Post, No. 664, G. A. R., and thus

maintains pleasant relations with his old comrades, delighting in the camp fires and in recalling in his association with his old comrades at arms the scenes and events which occurred upon the battlefields of the south. He has attended nearly all of the national encampments of the Grand Army and has twice visited California.

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#### JOHN L. KREITZER.

John L. Kreitzer has been identified with blacksmithing, farming and merchandising but is now living retired, the activity of his former years being succeeded by a period of well earned rest in which to enjoy the fruits of his former toil. Of foreign birth, he first opened his eyes to the light of day in Prussia, Germany, in 1849, his parents being Rudolph and Wilhelmina (Velkner) Kreitzer, who were also natives of Prussia. The father was a blacksmith and farmer and also practiced veterinary surgery. His wife died in Germany, after which he came to the new world and is now living in Wichita, Kansas.

John L. Kreitzer spent the first sixteen years of his life in the land of his birth and then determined to come to America, believing that he might have better business opportunities in this country. He crossed the Atlantic alone in 1865. He sailed from Liverpool on the boat Wieland and landed at Quebec, whence he made his way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was employed at an early day as a farm hand by the month by George Nolan and later worked for an uncle in a blacksmith shop at Grafton, Wisconsin. Subsequently he spent a short time in the employ of M. L. Sullivan, at Sibley, Illinois, breaking prairie, and afterward worked on the railroad to some extent. He used every opportunity that opened to him for earning an honest living and by untiring industry and careful saving he at length acquired a sum sufficient to justify his purchase of land. In March, 1885, therefore, he invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land in Champaign county, for which he paid forty dollars per acre. He then rented it to Giles Gardner for a year, after which he sold it, in 1888, for forty-seven and a half dollars per acre.

Mr. Kreitzer next bought three hundred and twenty acres from R. Fairbank situated three miles south of Elliott on section 35, Dix township, Ford county. He cultivated this farm for two years and then sold the south half to Charles Johnson for forty-seven and a half dollars per acre, clearing seven and a half dollars per acre on the purchase price. He next invested in forty acres in



J. L. KREITZER





Indiana, but traded that property to W. A. Cameron, of Elliott, for a large store in the village. He was afterward identified with merchandising for ten years, from the 1st of March, 1893, until 1903, when he turned the business over to his son, W. A. Kreitzer, who now conducts it. Since that time Mr. Kreitzer has bought and sold different pieces of realty and has usually realized a good profit on his investments. He purchased a house and two lots from Charles Sanberg in the northeast part of Elliott and afterward bought a store building, which he later gave to his daughter Mrs. Jones, she and her husband there conducting a store and restaurant. Mr. Kreitzer purchased a nice home from Mrs. Wilcox in the north part of the town, including four lots and the dwelling. He also bought a lot of Louis Lorenz and sixty acres of land from Clarence Alexander, which lies within the corporation limits of the village at the north. Mr. Kreitzer was the first to put in a concrete sidewalk in Elliott and his son, W. A. Kreitzer, was the second. He now owns two hundred and twenty-six acres of rich and valuable land in Dix township and from his property interests derives a good income which enables him to live retired.

On the 18th of February, 1872, occurred the marriage of Mr. Kreitzer and Miss Avery Stowater, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of August and Fredericka Stowater. Her father was a teacher and taught in both English and German. He also possessed more than ordinary mechanical skill and ability. Coming from Strassburg, Germany, to the new world, he settled in New York city, where he remained for ten years, and then removed to Cleveland, Ohio, after which he became a resident of Cedarburg, Wisconsin. He next purchased four hundred acres of land but rented it. He died about thirty-five years ago and is yet survived by his widow, who resides in Iowa.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kreitzer have been born three children: Gertrude, the wife of Oscar Jones, conducting a store and restaurant in Elliott; Emma, the wife of Charles Cameron, who is connected with his father in the banking business at Elliott; and William, who married Bertha Frederick and is now conducting the large general store which was formerly carried on by his father in Elliott. He is a prominent and leading citizen and business man of the village and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Kreitzer is a stalwart republican in his political views and for one year served as village director. He belongs to the German Lutheran church and is interested in all that pertains to the material, intellectual, political and moral development of the community. Ford county finds in him a worthy and valued citizen and, moreover, he deserves to be classed with the self-made men who have been the architects of their own fortunes and have builded wisely and well. He

never had a single cent given him but from an early age has been dependent entirely upon his own resources. He became imbued with a laudable desire to attain something more than a bare living and through the improvement of his opportunities and the recognition of his possibilities he has gradually worked his way upward, building his prosperity upon a sure foundation of diligence, perseverance and untiring effort. His fellow townsmen respect him for what he has accomplished and admire him for the honorable methods he has followed in attaining his success.

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#### AUGUST ONKEN.

August Onken, now living in Gibson City, was in former years closely associated with the agricultural interests of Ford county. He is a self-made man and he deserves credit for what he has accomplished, for he started out in life empty-handed. He was born in Ost Friesland, in northern Germany, October 21, 1840, a son of Welki and Elizabeth (Hoyne) Onken. The father was in limited financial circumstances and provided for his family by strenuous effort at farm labor. The opportunities which his son August enjoyed in youth were rather meager. He had the advantage of only three years' training in the schools and afterward worked on different farms in the vicinity of his birthplace for thirteen years until twenty-six years of age, when he determined to seek a home and fortune in America, believing that he might have better opportunities in the new world. When he crossed the Atlantic his possessions consisted of little more than the clothes which he wore. The middle west was his destination and he made his way direct to Jacksonville, Illinois, while later he went to Tallula, Menard county, west of Petersburg. It was in the year 1867 that he crossed the Atlantic as a passenger on a sailing vessel, which was forty-two days in completing that voyage. Mr. Onken worked as a farm hand for two years and nine months in Menard county and then began farming on his own account on rented land.

In the year 1871 he was married to Johannah Harms and unto them were born two daughters, but both died in infancy, and the wife and mother passed away in 1873. In 1876 Mr. Onken was again married, his second union being with Teany Elizabeth Weakman, of Ford county. They had four children: Louis, who is now a broker of Spokane, Washington; John, who is also located in Spokane; and Henry and Emma, who died in childhood.

After cultivating rented land for several years, Mr. Onken, as the result of his unwearied industry and careful expenditure, was enabled in 1882 to purchase one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid forty dollars per acre. From that time on he has steadily progressed in the business world and as his financial resources have increased he has from time to time added to his property holdings until he became the owner of seven hundred and eighty acres in Ford and Champaign counties. He gave three hundred and twenty acres of this to his sons and the remainder he now leases for general farming. Two years ago he removed to Gibson City and bought a fine home, which he occupies in the enjoyment of well earned rest. He is a member of the Lutheran church and gives his political allegiance to the democracy. Well known throughout this section of the state, he has a wide and favorable acquaintance and enjoys in large measure the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen. Arriving in the United States with no capital save a stout heart and willing hands, he realized the fact that while in this country labor is unhampered by caste or class it is only by unflinching diligence, guided by sound judgment, that success can be secured. By the exercise of these qualities he has made steady progress and is now one of the substantial residents of Gibson City.

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#### WILLIAM M. MILLER, M. D.

Dr. William M. Miller, a physician and merchant of Cabery, who is meeting with success in both professional and commercial lines and is regarded as one of the foremost residents of the village, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, October 28, 1858. His father, Dr. G. M. Miller, was also a physician and a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. He prepared for his chosen calling as a student in Philadelphia Medical College, from which he was graduated, and during his residence in the east his time and energies were always devoted to the practice of medicine. After removing to the west he retired from active life and spent his remaining days on a farm. His death occurred at Ottawa, Illinois, when he had reached the age of sixty-four years. In early manhood he wedded Rebecca Chroyer, a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, who still survives and is now living in Ottawa. In their family were five daughters and four sons.

Dr. William M. Miller was a youth of twelve years when he accompanied his parents on their removal westward to Illinois, the family home being

established at Ottawa. There he resided until 1884, when he came to Cabery, Ford county, where he has since lived. He completed his literary education in Ottawa high school and then, determining upon the practice of medicine as a life work, he supplemented his preliminary reading by a course of study in Rush Medical College at Chicago, from which he was graduated with the class of 1884. He located for practice in Cabery and in the same year established a drug store. Six years ago he removed to his present quarters and increased the scope of his business by adding a stock of general merchandise. In this enterprise he is associated with W. H. Clayton under the firm name of Miller & Clayton. They are conducting a growing and gratifying business, which is pleasantly housed in a building erected by Dr. Miller—a one-story brick structure, thirty-seven and a half by eighty feet. They carry a well selected line of drugs and general merchandise and a liberal patronage is accorded them. As a physician Dr. Miller is very successful and keeps in touch with the general trend of progress and improvement made by the medical fraternity through his reading and investigation.

In 1886 was celebrated the marriage of Dr. William Miller and Miss Alice Clayton, a daughter of William Clayton. Their children, four in number, are Hazel, Clayton, Genevieve and Charles, all born in Cabery. The family is one of prominence here, having ever occupied an enviable position in social circles. Dr. Miller is a stalwart Republican, and was at one time very active in political circles, serving for a number of years as a member of the school board; was also a member of the town board and for three or four years was its president. In that capacity he capably administered the municipal affairs of the village, and his devotion to the public good was manifest in his effective effort toward promoting public progress and improvement.

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#### WILLIAM A. WALLRICHS.

A valuable farming property comprising two hundred and forty-three acres, situated on section 2, Pella township, is the home of William A. Wallrichs, who is engaged in general agricultural pursuits and stock raising, making a specialty of the latter. He was born in Germany, March 11, 1852, where his parents lived and died. He is the eldest of a family of eight children, the others being: Ricka, the wife of J. J. Lantry, of Kansas; Thomas J., who makes

his home in Livingston county, Illinois; Wallace, deceased; Delia, who has also passed away; Chris, who resides in Colorado; and two, who are deceased.

Mr. Wallrichs acquired his education in the schools of his native land, and was a youth of sixteen years when he emigrated to the new world, being attracted by the favorable reports which he had heard concerning this country. Upon reaching American shores he at once made his way to Chatsworth, Illinois, where for a year he was employed on the railroad. He then worked at the blacksmith's trade for two years, subsequent to which time he entered the butchering business, which occupied his time and attention during the succeeding twenty-one years. In 1900, however, he disposed of that business and located on his present farm, comprising two hundred and forty-three acres of rich and productive land, situated on section 2, Pella township. He is here engaged in cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, and is also engaged in raising stock, giving the greater part of his attention to this field of activity. Altogether Mr. Wallrichs has followed farming for fifteen years, and is meeting with excellent success in his undertakings, following only the most practical and modern methods in carrying on his work.

In 1876 Mr. Wallrichs chose as a companion and helpmate for the journey of life, Miss Sophia Dannaman, who is likewise a native of Germany, her birth having there occurred in 1853, and she is one of a family of four children, whose parents are both deceased. Unto our subject and his wife have been born eight children, of whom six are living. The family record is as follows: Tena, deceased; Henry, who resides in Ford county; Tena, the second of that name, who married John Keefe; Minnie, at home; Mattie, who passed away; Ricka, who is still under the parental roof; Anna, who is engaged in teaching school; and William, at home.

Mr. Wallrichs gives his political support to the republican party and for the past seventeen years has served as school director, the cause of education ever finding in him a warm and stalwart friend. He is a member of Chatsworth Lodge, No. 539, A. F. & A. M., and also belongs to the chapter at Fairbury. Both he and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful part, giving freely of their means toward the support of this organization.

Mr. Wallrichs is familiar with the development and improvement that has been carried on in Livingston and Ford counties through almost four decades, for when he located in this section of the state there were many pioneer conditions still to be seen. Much of the land was still unimproved, and deer and other wild game were still to be seen roaming over the prairies. He can

recall an incident in the winter of 1869, when he shot several deer about a mile north of his present home. He is a self-made man, deserving of much credit for what he has accomplished in the business world, for though he came here in early youth, dependent upon his own resources for a livelihood, he has through his close attention, careful management and untiring industry, gained a success which now enables him to enjoy all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

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#### ROBERT E. PURDUM.

Robert E. Purdum, who is engaged in general farming on section 33, Pella township, has a tract of land of one hundred and seventy acres, whose fertility is indicated in the large crops which he annually garners. He was born in McLean county, Illinois, June 16, 1857, his parents being John and Nancy (Hamilton) Purdum, who were natives of Brown county, Ohio, in which state they remained until 1856, coming in that year to Illinois. They settled in McLean county, where their remaining days were passed. Unto them were born seven children, of whom four are still living: Samarimus, the wife of Guy Farr, now living in Lamar, Missouri; Whalen, whose home is in Colton, California; Elizabeth, the wife of Colonel Wilson, a resident of Dallas county, Iowa; and Robert E. The father was a farmer by occupation, following that pursuit throughout his entire life in order to provide for his family.

Mr. Purdum remained at home with his parents up to the time of his marriage. He then purchased eighty acres of land and began farming on his own account. He had acquired his education in the public schools and when not busy with his text-books had aided in the work of plowing, planting and harvesting. He continued upon his original farm for thirteen years, when he sold that property and purchased his present place of residence of one hundred and seventy acres on section 33, Pella township. It has since been his home and the attractive appearance of the place indicates his careful supervision and practical methods. There have been no exciting chapters in his life record but year after year he has worked on diligently and persistently and has thus acquired a comfortable competence.

In 1887 Mr. Purdum was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Stevens, who was born in Livingston county, Illinois, a daughter of Henry and Elnora (Siekler) Stevens, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, their family numbering eight children. Both the father and mother are now deceased.



MR. AND MRS. R. E. PURDUM





Unto Mr. and Mrs. Purdum have been born eight children: John L., Elmore Belle, Ida May, Ruby Margaretta, Edgar R., Clarence LeRoy, Pearl Odessa and Blanche R. The four eldest children are now attending the high school at Piper City, Mr. Purdum desiring that all shall have good educational advantages and thus be well equipped for the duties of life.

He supports the Methodist Episcopal church and is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge and also the Modern Woodmen camp of Piper City. His political views accord with the principles of the republican party and he has held several township offices, the duties of which he has discharged capably, for every trust reposed in him is faithfully performed, yet he does not seek nor desire public office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which, capably managed, have brought to him a fair measure of prosperity.

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#### JOHN M. THOMPSON.

The name of Thompson has throughout a long period been closely identified with the business and official interests of Melvin and Ford county, representatives of the name having occupied a prominent place in the public life of this section of the state. John M. Thompson is a native of the Buckeye state, his birth having occurred near Williamsburg, Noble county, April 24, 1837, and is the fourth in order of birth in a family of children born unto William and Catherine (Dyer) Thompson, natives of Virginia and of Ohio respectively. Three members of the family died in infancy and those who still survive are: Mrs. Nancy Grove, of El Paso, Illinois; John M., of this review; T. D., of Paxton; Mrs. Sarah Day, of Melvin; and William H., also of Melvin. The father accompanied his parents from Virginia to Belmont county, Ohio, and it was there that he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Dyer. In 1843 he removed with his family to Monroe county, that state, but after seven years returned once more to Belmont county, where the wife and mother died April 8, 1863, when she had reached the age of fifty-four years. The year following the father removed to Illinois, settling first in LaSalle county, near New Rutland, where for several years he engaged in farming, which had been his occupation previous to coming to this state. His death, however, occurred in Melvin, in March, 1874, where he had resided for about four years prior to his demise. Both he and his wife were consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

John M. Thompson of this review, spent his boyhood and youth under the parental roof, accompanying his parents on their removals in Ohio until 1864, when he was brought to Illinois. He was reared to farm life, devoting his time and energies during the summer seasons to work on the home farm, while in the winter months he pursued his studies in the district schools. He also attended Barnesville Academy, and taught school in Belmont county, Ohio, for three years, from 1858 until 1861. It was in 1872 that he came to Ford county, and engaged in the dry-goods and grocery business in partnership with his brother, T. D. Thompson, who now makes his home in Paxton, where he is filling the office of circuit clerk. The brothers were quite successful in this undertaking and conducted the business for several years, but in 1878 John M. Thompson sold his interest in the business to his brother, after which he engaged in the implement business, to which he later added a stock of lumber. He was thus successfully engaged until 1886, when he disposed of his interests to his son, William E., and his brother, William H. Thompson. In his business affairs he met with a gratifying measure of success and acquired a competence which now classes him among the substantial citizens of this section of Ford county.

Mr. Thompson has been married twice. He first married in 1861, to Miss Jane Day, who was born in Belmont county, Ohio, September 18, 1837, a daughter of John and Anna (Crew) Day, natives of Pennsylvania and of North Carolina respectively. Their marriage was blessed with three children: William E., who was born February 9, 1863, and wedded Miss Maggie Stather, now making his home in Melvin; Anna C., who died June 17, 1874, at the age of four years; and Frank M., who was born February 3, 1877, and is now a practicing attorney of Paxton, Illinois. On the 15th of May, 1887, Mr. Thompson was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife, and on the 6th of December, 1888, he was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Jennie Thompson, his brother's widow. She was born in Lancashire, England, March 25, 1851, and when a child of two and a half years was brought to America by her parents, Joseph and Sarah (Brierly) Fletcher, who were likewise natives of England, the family home being established in Kendall county, Illinois. The parents are both deceased, the father having passed away in Illinois, while the mother's death occurred in Iowa. The daughter first gave her hand in marriage to Israel A. Thompson, by whom she has one daughter, Katherine, and by her marriage to John M. Thompson she has one child, Gail Fletcher.

Mr. Thompson has given his support to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. His first presidential ballot was cast for Lincoln. He has filled many public offices, having for twenty-five

consecutive years filled the office of justice of the peace, his long continuance therein giving proof of his fidelity and trustworthiness in the discharge of his duties. In 1898 he was elected drainage commissioner and served in four drainage districts, and has filled the office to the present time. He was also elected township supervisor to fill out an unexpired term. He is a charter member of Peach Orchard lodge, No. 179, K. P., in which he has filled all of the chairs, including that of deputy grand chancellor. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Melvin, in which he is serving as trustee. It is fitting that the sketches of the distinguished citizens of the county should find a place in this volume, in which connection Mr. Thompson by the consensus of public opinion is rated. He stands today as a high type of American manhood, who has won the good will and confidence of his fellowmen by his public service and private life.

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#### HENRY STEDMAN.

Henry Stedman is one of the younger representatives of the farming interests of Ford county, and one of its native sons. He now resides in Pella township, deriving his income from a good farm of one hundred and eighty acres situated on sections 10 and 11. He was born on the 25th of February, 1881, of the marriage of Nelson and Harriet (Read) Stedman, who are mentioned elsewhere in this volume in connection with the sketch of Earl Stedman.

At the usual age Henry Stedman was sent to the public schools and mastered the branches of learning therein taught, thus qualifying for the duties of life which come when one leaves the schoolroom. During the summer months he had been inured to the work of the farm and the occupation to which he was reared he determined to make his life pursuit. When nineteen years of age he began farming on his own account and his first investment in property made him the owner of forty acres. To this he has added until he now owns one hundred and eighty acres on sections 10 and 11, Pella township, being regarded as one of the young enterprising farmers of the community. His place has a well kept appearance and the fields annually bring forth rich crops, for the work of plowing, planting and harvesting is systematically done, due attention being given to the condition and quality of the soil.

In politics Mr. Stedman is a republican and fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 481, at Piper City, and also the Woodmen Camp at Piper City.

In 1903 occurred the marriage of Henry Stedman and Miss Theresa Drinan, who was born in Ohio. Her father, John Drinan, now lives in Gilman, Illinois, but the mother is deceased. Mrs. Stedman was one of two children, and by her marriage has a daughter, Lorna Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Stedman attend and support the Methodist Episcopal church. They are well known in Ford county, and are much esteemed by a large circle of warm friends.

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#### ARBY D. READ.

Arby D. Read, who has extensive farming interests in this county, is a native of Chautauqua county, New York, where he was born on the 14th of April, 1854, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Read, further mention of whom is made in the sketch of Thomas Read on another page of this work. Our subject was one of a family of eleven children, six of whom still survive: Edwin T., of LaSalle county, Illinois; Franklin and Henry, who have passed away; Helen, the widow of Henry Morse, living in Indiana; Harriet, deceased; Thomas, who makes his home in Piper City; John, who also resides in Indiana; Theodore, deceased; Charles, of Pella township; Arby D., of this review; and James, who has also departed this life.

When he was nine years of age Arby D. Read accompanied the family on their removal to Illinois, working in company with his brothers until he had attained his majority. He then followed farming in connection with his brother Charles for fifteen years, on the expiration of which period he bought the old homestead, where he still resides. He has, however, greatly improved the place, having added all the accessories and conveniences of modern farming, and in addition to the erection of a fine fifteen-room residence he has also built a large barn. His landed holdings comprise eight hundred and thirty acres in Pella township, Ford county, and seven hundred acres in Mississippi. He is a self-made man, who has worked persistently and earnestly for the success which has come to him, for although he started out in life empty-handed he has gained the prosperity which is the reward of untiring perseverance and executive ability.

In 1876 Mr. Read was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Long, a native of Pennsylvania, who was one of a family of eight children. She also became the mother of eight children, six of whom are still living: Dora and Edwin, both



ABBY D. REED AND FAMILY



deceased; Melvin, who follows farming in Iroquois county; Edna, a school teacher of Mississippi; Ethel, Wilbur, Mary E. and Ruth, all at home.

In his political views Mr. Read is a republican and has served as school director for several years. He was also drainage commissioner and is interested in all those movements and measures which tend to promote the general welfare. Fraternally he is connected with lodge No. 608, A. F. & A. M., at Piper City, and with the chapter at Fairbury, Illinois. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are highly esteemed throughout the community by reason of their genuine personal worth and sterling traits of character. His life has been one of continuous activity, in which has been accorded due recognition of labor, and today he is numbered among the substantial and prosperous citizens of his county.

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#### JOHN S. HUNT.

John S. Hunt is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of the state, where he has spent his entire life, so that he has witnessed much of the growth and development of this section of the country. His memory goes back to the time when all of the evidences of frontier life were here found; when the prairies were wild and uncultivated; when the forests were uncut; the streams unbridged; when deer and other wild animals roamed over the countryside; and when the Indians still disputed the right of the white man to intrude upon what he regarded as his domain. The memory of John S. Hunt forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present.

He was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, in 1829, his parents being Cornelius and Ann (Sidell) Hunt, who were natives of New Jersey. The father removed with his parents to Pennsylvania, and subsequently the family home was established in Muskingum county, Ohio, among the first settlers there. The father built a log cabin with a clapboard roof and puncheon floor and door, and in the true style of the frontier the family began their life in the Buckeye state. There they cleared a farm and with the development of that place Cornelius Hunt was actively connected, so that pioneer experiences were not unfamiliar to him when he came to Illinois in 1828. He made a location in Vermilion county, where he lived for eighteen months, and then removed to Putnam county, purchasing a claim on which there was a log cabin. It remained his home for six years, after which he sold that property and removed

to Marshall county, Illinois. He there purchased two hundred and twenty acres, entering eighty acres of timberland and paying for it the usual government prices. With characteristic energy he began the development of the farm, turning the first furrows in the fields and carrying on the labor of general agriculture for fourteen years. He then rented his Marshall county land and purchased a farm in La Salle county, near Lostant. To this place he removed and made it his home until his death, which occurred May 12, 1874. His wife survived for about sixteen years, passing away in 1890.

In their family were ten children, seven of whom survive, as follows: Ruth H., now the widow of Andrew Mailer and a resident of Melvin, Illinois; John S., of this review; Jane, the widow of James Dixon, also of Melvin; E. S., of Melvin; Elizabeth, the widow of George Dixon, who resides in Melvin; William J., who makes his home in the same town; and Philip, who is located in Paxton, Illinois.

John S. Hunt remained with his father until he had attained his majority and his labors were those which usually fall to the lot of the agriculturist as he took part in the work of field and meadow. He afterward took a trip to California overland with an ox-team in the year 1850, making the long journey across the stretches of hot sand and through the mountain passes until he reached the district where he hoped to find gold in abundance. He remained for fifteen months, and, while he did not meet with the success he anticipated, he had many experiences of interest and value. The return trip was made by way of the water route and upon again reaching Illinois he located in La Salle county, where he purchased eighty acres of land. He then began farming and his father gave him an additional tract of eighty acres, while subsequently he bought twenty acres of timber and forty acres of prairie land, thus coming into possession of a good farm of two hundred and twenty acres. With characteristic energy he began the development and improvement of the place and as time passed the tangible result of his labor was manifest in rich crops and well developed fields, the work being systematized in every particular. It meant much hard labor, but he performed the work in such a manner that the best results possible were accomplished and the years brought him the reward of his diligence.

In 1852 Mr. Hunt was united in marriage to Miss Jane Burley, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Anderson) Burley, who were natives of Pennsylvania but are now deceased. In their family were nine children, but Mrs. Hunt is the only one now living. By her marriage she has become the mother of twelve children: Elizabeth A., now the wife



of Joseph McMann, a resident of Chatsworth; Ruth H., the wife of William Thompson, who is living in Melvin; Nina B., the wife of Paul Hubler, who is living near Buckley; Julia, the wife of Clarence Sauter, of Gilman, Illinois; J. W., at home; Della, the wife of Frank McClure, a resident of Ford county; John M., also living in Ford county; and five who have passed away.

While operating the farm, Mr. Hunt made a specialty of raising and feeding stock, keeping good grades of cattle and finding a ready market for them. He now owns four hundred and eighty acres of land on sections 25 and 36, in Peach Orchard township, which cost him eight and nine dollars per acre, but which is today worth between one hundred and two hundred dollars per acre. His success is well merited, because it has come through diligence and perseverance. He has now reached the age of almost four score years and looking back over his life, there is no occasion for regret. Mistakes, of course, have been made—for who does not make them—but in his entire life his intentions have been honest and his work has been honorable. In his political views he has always been a stalwart republican, unfaltering in his support of the principles of the party which has ever been the political organization of reform and improvement. He has served as supervisor and collector and for ten years was school director, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He has also done good work for the public highways as road commissioner and his influence has ever been on the side of improvement and progress. He built three houses in his township and in the work of improvement and development he has borne his part. In 1881 he removed to Melvin, where he has since lived retired, owning in the village a fine residence and sixteen lots, while from his farming property he derives a gratifying income. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and people of the highest respectability, enjoying the full measure of confidence and trust from their fellowmen.

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#### DANIEL KEWLEY.

Daniel Kewley is a retired farmer who yet has good income property in the farm upon which he resided for so many years, giving his time and energies to its cultivation and development. He was born on the Isle of Man, December 7, 1865, his parents being Daniel and Ellen (Clay) Kewley, who were also natives of that isle. The father was a miner in the old country and ere his emigration

to the new world as a permanent resident, he made two or three trips to the United States and also one to Australia. After taking up his abode in this country his life was given to farming and though he started out empty-handed, he accumulated a fine estate and was for a long period numbered among the substantial residents of Ford county. He had two hundred and twenty acres of rich and valuable land in the home place and a tract of four hundred and sixty acres elsewhere in the county. While on a trip to California for his health in 1903, he passed away at the age of sixty-eight years. In his political views he was ever a stalwart republican and in religious faith was a Methodist. Since his death his widow has continued to make her home in California. In their family were four children: Daniel, of this review; James, who is cashier in the bank at Onarga, Illinois; Anna, the wife of F. W. Willet, a jeweler of Watsonville, California; and Lena May, who is living with her mother on the Pacific coast.

Daniel Kewley was only about a year and a half old when brought by his parents to Illinois, the family home being established in Mona township, Ford county. In 1874 they removed to Brenton township, Daniel Kewley residing there and in Pella township from that time to the present. He was reared to the occupation of farming, early receiving practical training in the best methods of tilling the soil and converting the fields into a productive tract of land, bringing forth rich harvests. As he started out in life for himself his previous experience well qualified him for the work which he undertook, and as the years passed he prospered, transforming his farm into one of the valuable properties of the county. He continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits until December, 1906, when he removed to Piper City, where he erected and now occupies a beautiful and commodious residence, modern in every respect, it being one of the best homes of Piper City. Mr. Kewley is now giving his supervision to his real-estate interests, and to the enjoyment of such pleasures of life as were denied him when his farming interests made heavy claims upon his time and energies. His excellent farm property comprises three hundred and twenty acres of land situated on sections 15 and 16, Brenton township. It is well improved with substantial buildings, and everything about the place indicates his careful supervision and the practical methods which he brought to bear in carrying on his farm work. He also operated his father's farm—a tract of five hundred and forty acres—and was very successful in his labors as an agriculturist. What he undertook he carried forward to successful completion, and in all things was eminently practical. Besides his property in this state, he owns a half section of land in South Dakota.

In 1888 Mr. Kewley was united in marriage to Miss Cora A. Munson, a native of this county, and a daughter of Charles and Iowa (Jennings) Munson. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kewley have been born two children, Bertha and Helen. The family is prominent socially, the members of the household occupying an enviable position in the social circles in which they move, while the hospitality of the best homes of this part of Ford county is freely accorded them. Mr. Kewley is a republican with independent tendencies, usually, however, voting for the men and measures of the party. He has served as school director and has recently been elected assessor. His religious faith connects him with the Presbyterian church. Never heedlessly passing by the opportunities of the business world, he has through the utilization of the advantages that have come to him, steadily advanced from a humble position to one of affluence.

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#### JOHN C. MEYER.

John C. Meyer, postmaster and merchant of Garber, is a successful business man who owes his prosperity to enterprise, unfaltering determination and inflexible business integrity. These qualities never fail to win success and the life history of Mr. Meyer is another proof of the fact that they constitute a sure foundation upon which to build the superstructure of business advancement.

A native of Indiana, he was born near Osgood, Ripley county, July 27, 1864. No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him in his boyhood and youth. His time was divided between the duties of the schoolroom and the work of the home farm, for during the periods of vacation he assisted in the labors of field and meadow. When about seventeen years of age he left home and went to Dearborn county, Indiana, where he was employed for one year as a farm hand. On the expiration of that period he removed to Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, where for eight years he worked as a farm hand. He afterward spent two years in Pekin, Tazewell county, Illinois, as farm hand, coming thence to Garber, and after serving as farm hand for one year he rented a one hundred and twenty acre farm and engaged in general agricultural pursuits on his own account in the operation of rented land for five years, when with the capital he had acquired through his energy and diligence he purchased the store building and property of S. D. Litwiler and leased it to T. J. Williams for one year, but at the end of the year he purchased the stock and fixtures of Mr. Williams. At that time the stock was very small.

being worth only about three hundred dollars, but he soon increased it, so that today it is valued at over five thousand dollars and he is conducting a successful business as a general merchant. Besides this he owns other property. He is also acting as agent for the leading implement manufacturers of the country and in 1907 his sales in all departments amounted to thirty thousand dollars. His success is due to his earnest desire to please his patrons and the carefully selected line of goods which he carries and to his straightforward dealings.

In 1894 Mr. Meyer was united in marriage to Miss Katie Gerber, of Pekin, Illinois, a daughter of Peter Gerber, a Frenchman. They have a daughter, Hazel, now eleven years of age, but they lost their only son, Edward, at the age of six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are members of the United Brethren church at Gibson City and he is interested in the education as well as the moral development of the community, having served as school trustee for the past ten years. He does all in his power to further the interests of public education. In politics he has always been a republican, with strong prohibition tendencies, and he has long been recognized as a stalwart advocate of the cause of temperance. In fact, his aid and influence are always given to the side of reform, progress and improvement, and he stands inflexibly for truth and justice on all occasions.

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#### HARRY BONNEN.

Harry Bonnen owns and occupies a farm on section 29, Dix township. It is a place of one hundred and fifty-six acres and the corner adjoins the corporation limits of the village of Guthrie. He is not actively engaged in the development of the fields now but rents the land to others, although he still lives there.

He was born in Germany on the 11th of January, 1850, his parents being Bonnie P. and Tillie (DeGrote) Bonnen, who came to America in the fall of 1867 with their family of four sons and three daughters, namely: Richard, who now follows farming in Dix township; Harry, of this review; Anna, who is living in Kansas City; Peter, who was killed by a horse; Bertha, the wife of Henry Farris, who is farming in Drummer township; George, who carries on farming in Dix township and is mentioned elsewhere in this work; and Caroline, the wife of Harry Schutte, who is also represented on another page of this volume.



MIR. AND MIRS. HARRY BONNEN



The father was a farmer by occupation, devoting his entire life to that pursuit. Sailing for the new world on the vessel *America*, accompanied by his family, he landed at New York city after a voyage of fourteen days and then went to Springfield, Illinois, where he remained for three days. He next proceeded to Petersburg, Menard county, and soon afterward rented an eighty-acre farm about ten miles from Petersburg. In 1873 he purchased the tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 28, Dix township, upon which Harry Schutte now resides. He lived in Menard county for three years and in Cass county for one year and then came to Ford county, settling on a farm two miles south of Gibson, which was his home until his labors brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase what is now the Schutte farm. His life was one of industry and enterprise and in this regard proved an excellent example for his family.

Harry Bonnen was reared to habits of thrift, industry and perseverance. He acquired his education in the schools of Germany and the home atmosphere was always one of culture and intelligence. His father was a highly educated man, who acquired his education in Germany and for two years studied for the ministry of the German Lutheran church. He was especially proficient in mathematical lines and could readily figure out most difficult problems. Harry Bonnen was about seventeen years of age when he accompanied his parents to the new world, assisting them in the work of the home farm until 1878, when he started out in life on his own account. He has since been dependent entirely upon his own resources, and his perseverance and diligence constitute the basis upon which he has builded his success. After his parents died he remained with his brother George for several years or until his marriage. Eighteen years ago he purchased his farm of one hundred and sixty acres and for a considerable period was active in its management and development.

On the 15th of March, 1899, Mr. Bonnen was united in marriage to Miss Mollie Gerdes, who was born in Menard county, a daughter of Ubbe and Meta (Oncen) Gerdes, who were farming people and came to Ford county in 1873. After residing here for three years they removed to Champaign county, where they are now living, their home being on a farm near Mayview. Their family numbered seven children, namely: Mrs. Bonnen; William, who carries on general agricultural pursuits near Urbana, Illinois; Elizabeth, at home; George, who follows farming in Dix township; Tena, the wife of Kirk Suedeker, who is farming about three-fourths of a mile south of Champaign; Frank, who carries on the same pursuit near Urbana, Illinois; and Ernest, at home. Mrs. Bonnen acquired her education in the schools of Champaign and Ford counties and by

her marriage she has become the mother of three children: Bonn H., Charles Edward and Leslie V.

Mr. Bonnen now rents his land and the property provides him with a good income, obviating the necessity for further labor on his part. His political allegiance is given the democracy but he has never sought the honors nor emoluments of public office. His fellow townsmen have long known him as a representative agriculturist and regard him as a citizen of worth.

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### C. A. LARSON.

Honored and respected by all there is no man who occupies a more enviable position in commercial circles in Paxton than C. A. Larson of the P. Larson Company, owning and controlling the largest mercantile house in Ford county. His position in public regard is due not alone to the success which he has achieved but also to the honorable, straightforward policy that he has followed. It is true that he entered upon a business already established but he has enlarged and extended this and in so doing has displayed the strong traits of character of the successful merchant, who recognizes and utilizes his opportunity and upon the substantial basis of diligence and commercial integrity builds his success.

Mr. Larson was born in Attica, Indiana, February 1, 1859. His father, Peter Larson, was the founder of the present business, to which his three sons succeeded upon his retirement. The father was a pioneer merchant tailor of Paxton. A native of Sweden, he was born in Olmsted, Jonkopings lan, December 12, 1833. He was reared and educated in his native land and learned the tailor's trade prior to his emigration to America in 1854. He first became identified with the business interests of Attica, Indiana, and while living there was married in 1857 to Miss Lovisa Gustafson, a daughter of Jacob Gustafson, a native of Linderas, Sweden, whence she came to the new world in 1853.

In 1864 Peter Larson removed with his family to Paxton, where he began business as a merchant tailor and dealer in ready-made clothing in company with William Lindberg and John Nelson, under the firm name of Lindberg, Larson & Nelson. From 1870 until 1883 he was alone in business and succeeded in building up a profitable trade. In October of the latter year he sold out to his sons, Charles Albert and J. T. Larson, and C.



A. Englund, who continued under the firm style of P. Larson & Company. Mr. Larson made an excellent reputation for business probity as well as enterprise, and was the founder of what has become the leading mercantile house of Ford county. He possessed the strong characteristics of the Swedish nation—the perseverance and unfaltering industry and the thorough reliability which have ever marked the people of that peninsular country.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Peter Larson were born six children, of whom four survive: Charles Albert, Jacob Theodore and Peter Edward being associated in mercantile interests; and Ida Otillia, of Paxton. Two children, Emil and Ida Otillia, died in infancy.

Charles Albert Larson, the eldest son, was but five years of age when brought to Paxton by his parents. He acquired his education in the public schools and was early trained in the work of the store. He gave close attention to the business and remained as assistant to his father until the latter's retirement in 1883, when, with his brother, J. T. Larson, and C. A. Englund he succeeded to the business. They retained the firm name of P. Larson & Company for business advantages accrued therefrom, the partnership remaining the same until 1887, when a younger brother, Peter E. Larson, was admitted to the firm. On the 27th of February of that year a branch store was opened at Gibson City, with Peter E. Larson in charge, and in August, 1891, another store was opened at Watseka, the youngest brother at that time assuming the management in the latter city. In October, 1901, they disposed of the Watseka store and on the 6th of February, 1903, the company was reorganized as a stock company, under the name of the P. Larson Company, with Peter E. Larson as president; C. A. Larson as secretary and treasurer; and T. J. Larson as vice president. This company owns and controls the Paxton store, while the Gibson City branch is under a separate management, with the name of the P. Larson Clothing Company. Of this latter business organization C. A. Larson is the president. In September, 1905, a branch store was opened by the incorporated company in Hoopetown, which proved to be very successful from the beginning and is now profitably conducted. During the early years of their business career the brothers also operated a branch store in the town of Roberts but later disposed of that.

On the 13th of January, 1887, C. A. Larson was married to Miss Anna Larson, a daughter of Andrew Larson, of Paxton, and unto them have been born four children, of whom three are now living: Clarence R., who is attending Culver Military School at Culver, Indiana; and Mabel A. B. and Grace V., both at home. The second son, Noble, is deceased. The father is a member

of Paxton Lodge, No. 210, I. O. O. F., and Patton Lodge, No. 398, K. P. He also belongs to the Court of Honor, the Independent Order of Foresters, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen of America. In community affairs he is deeply and helpfully interested, being a member of the board of trustees of the public library of Paxton, a member of the Swedish Lutheran church and a cooperant factor in many measures for the public good. He is one of the most prominent of Paxton's successful business men and one of its foremost citizens.

T. J. Larson, vice president of the P. Larson Company, and also of the P. Larson Clothing Company of Gibson City, was born in Attica, Indiana, September 26, 1861, and was therefore but three years of age when his parents arrived in this city in 1864. At the usual age he began his education, passing through successive grades in the Paxton schools until he became a high-school student. His business training was received under the direction of his father and as a salesman in the store. He continued in active connection with the business until 1883, when he became a member of the firm that succeeded to the father's business.

T. J. Larson was first married to Miss Nellie Nelson, a daughter of August Nelson, of Paxton. The only child of that marriage is deceased, and the mother has also passed away. In 1887 T. J. Larson was again married, his second union being with Emily Peterson, by whom he had four children, three yet living: Harry P., who is attending the State University at Champaign; Edna and Orville, at home. Fraternally he is connected with various branches of Masonry, with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, while his wife is connected with the ladies auxiliary of the last named. For a number of years T. J. Larson served as a member of the board of aldermen of Paxton and his official support was ever given to those measures which tended to promote municipal interests and upbuilding. He is a man of genial nature whose friends are many, while his record in business circles commands for him the confidence and admiration of all.

Peter E. Larson, the youngest of the three brothers, was born in Attica, Indiana, in August, 1863. Like the others, he was a student in the public schools of Paxton and later he continued his education in Rice Collegiate Institute. He, too, received his business training in the store established by his father, and in 1887 became a member of the firm, in which year the Gibson City store was established and he became manager. In 1891 on the opening of the store in Watscka, he removed to that city and took charge there. In Watscka he wedded Mary E. Netterville, and to them has been born a daughter,

Marguerite L. They still reside in Watseka, where Peter E. Larson is numbered among the leading and public-spirited citizens.

The Larson brothers are extensive owners of farm property in this state and Iowa, having made judicious investments of their surplus earnings in real estate. They are numbered among Ford county's most successful business men and belong to that class of representative American citizens who promote public progress in advancing individual success. Perhaps no history published in this volume can serve as a better illustration to young men of the power of honesty, integrity and unabating industry in insuring success. They are men of broad capabilities who have recognized and utilized opportunity and while making constant progress along the pathway of success they have at the same time manifested a public-spirited devotion to the general good that has received tangible evidence in their substantial aid of the various measures that have contributed to Paxton's upbuilding and prosperity.

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#### HENRY A. DRENDEL.

The name of Drendel has for four decades figured in connection with the agricultural development of Ford county and upon the old family homestead in Mona township occurred the birth of Henry A. Drendel, his natal day being November 16, 1875. He is a son of Frank S. and Mary (Slater) Drendel and a brother of George Drendel, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. At the usual age he entered the public schools and mastered the branches of learning therein taught. In the periods of vacation he assisted in the work of the fields and under the careful direction of his father gained intimate knowledge of the best methods of carrying on the farm work in all of its departments. Ambitious to engage in business on his own account, on attaining his majority he began farming where he now lives and is today engaged in the cultivation and further improvement of two hundred acres of the old homestead. He is living a life of industry and enterprise and the years have marked successful accomplishments in his business.

Mr. Drendel is pleasantly situated in his home life, having been married in 1900 to Miss Lucy Koerner, who was born in Livingston county, Illinois, and was one of the seven children whose parents are Frank and Gertrude (Elbert) Koerner. Her father was born in Germany and her mother in Woodford county, Illinois. They are now living in Cullom, being well known residents

of that place. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Drendel has been blessed with four children: Esther E., Harry F., Francis H. and Viola E.

The parents are communicants of the Catholic church at Cullom and Mr. Drendel gives his political allegiance to the democracy. He is serving as a school director but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs. He has been a member of the Woodmen lodge at Cullom since November, 1896, and is much esteemed in the order and wherever he is known. His life history is as an open book to his many friends in Ford county, for he always lived within its borders.

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#### AUGUST VOGELBACHER.

August Vogelbacher is cultivating an excellent farm of two hundred and eighty acres on section 2, Brenton township. It is a fine property to which he has added modern improvements and equipments and throughout this locality he is regarded as one of the leading agriculturists. He was born in Baden, Germany, December 26, 1867, his parents being John and Nothburger (Hettich) Vogelbacher, who spent their entire lives in Baden. Their family numbered six children, of whom August was the fifth in order of birth. He was, however, the first to come to America and the others arrived in the following year. The members of the family are: Isadore, who is living at Big Stone City, South Dakota; Mary, now the wife of Anthony Boma, of Brenton township; Bertha, the wife of Killian Way of Iroquois county, Illinois; Julius, living in Big Stone City, South Dakota; August of this review; and Pauline, the wife of John Smith, of Mason City, Iowa. The mother was killed by lightning when her son August was but nine years of age and by a second marriage the father had three children: Xavier, Emma and Nothburger.

August Vogelbacher was a youth of seventeen years when in 1884 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States with a cousin, Anthony Boma. He has lived in Ford county continuously to the present time, covering a period of twenty-four years. Empty-handed at the time of his arrival he immediately sought and secured employment as a farm hand and was thus engaged for seven years when, desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself, he rented a tract of land, on which he lived for about five years. He also became a partner of his father-in-law, Joseph Burger, and at his death Mr. and Mrs. Vogelbacher re-



MR. AND MRS. AUGUST VOGELBACHER



moved to their present farm, which had formerly belonged to her father. They have two hundred and eighty acres of land all in Brenton township. There is eighty acres in the home farm on section 2, another eighty acre tract on the same section, forty acres on section 3, and eighty acres on section 6. Upon this farm are two sets of good buildings. The fine modern residence which adorns the place and is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vogelbacher was erected by our subject. It is attractive and commodious, containing ten rooms, and is modern in all of its appointments. He also erected good outbuildings, putting up all excepting the barns. His entire time and attention are devoted to the farm and his business interests are bringing him a gratifying financial return.

On the 16th of June, 1892, Mr. Vogelbacher was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Augusta Burger, who was born at Norwich, Connecticut, April 6, 1857, and with her parents went to Fulton county, Illinois, in 1866, removing thence to Ford county in the spring of 1869. Extensive mention of her father and his family is made elsewhere in this work. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Vogelbacher have been born four daughters: Edna, Dora, Mary and Josephine. The family are prominent socially, their many friends entertaining for them warm regard.

In politics Mr. Vogelbacher is a democrat and has served as one of the three school trustees of Brenton township. He belongs to Piper Camp, No. 718, M. W. A. Ford county has no more loyal citizen than this adopted son, who has a deep attachment for America and her institutions. While he still maintains a love for the land of his birth his interest centers in the United States and he is in hearty sympathy with its institutions, its purposes and its governmental policy.

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#### AUGUST BRUCKER.

August Brucker has since 1890 resided upon his present farm which at the time of his purchase comprised one hundred and sixty acres. In the years which have since elapsed he has added to his possessions until he is now one of the extensive landowners of the county and one of its most prominent agriculturists. With him the possession of wealth indicates a life of well directed industry and unflinching perseverance, the careful utilization of his opportunities and the ability to adjust himself to circumstances.

Mr. Brucker is a native of Tazewell county, Illinois, born February 27, 1861, his parents being Gotlieb and Catherine (Clabe) Brucker, who were natives of

Germany. They came to America about 1848 and settled in Tazewell county, where they were identified with farming interests. Following a later removal to Livingston county, Mr. Brucker there purchased land and for a long period carried on general agricultural pursuits, meeting with success in his undertakings but at length he retired. He died in Cropsey, May 22, 1908, at the age of seventy-six years. His family numbered nine children, namely: Adam; August, of this review; Henry; Annie, the wife of Jacob Huppert; Caroline, the wife of John Stein; Charley; Emma, the wife of Ernest Lange; John; and Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Sutter.

The public schools afforded August Brucker his educational privileges although his opportunities in that direction were somewhat limited. When he attained his majority he began farming on his own account, renting land for this purpose. For eight years he continued to cultivate leased land and eventually purchased one hundred and twenty acres of improved land, for which he paid fifty dollars per acre. It was with genuine pleasure that he located upon this farm, knowing it to be his own, and for some years he continued its improvement and development. He then sold it and in 1890 he purchased the place upon which he now resides, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid forty-seven dollars per acre. It was also improved to some extent. As the years passed he has added to the property from time to time until he now owns in all nine hundred acres, costing from forty-seven to one hundred and fifteen dollars per acre. Today it is worth on an average of one hundred and fifty dollars per acre and upon it are good improvements. He and his sons cultivate the entire amount and all are men of untiring industry and commendable energy.

Mr. Brucker was married on the 8th of November, 1882, to Miss Mary E. Steine, a daughter of Henry and Christina (Burlett) Steine, who were natives of Germany. They came to America in 1868, settling in Livingston county, where Mr. Brucker engaged in farming. In 1881 he removed to Ford county, where his remaining days were passed, his death occurring November 24, 1904. He left a widow and five children, as follows: Mary E., now Mrs. Brucker; John; Fred; Elizabeth, the wife of Charles Brucker; and Henry.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Brucker has been blessed with twelve children and the record is a notable one in that the family yet remains unbroken by the hand of death. The children are as follows: Henry, William, George, John, Albert, Edward, Catherine, Alice, Charley, Arthur, Ida and Oscar.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Brucker are members of the Evangelical church of Sibley and he gives his political support to the republican party. He has, however,



never sought nor desired office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs. He is a representative of the best type of American manhood and chivalry. By perseverance, determination and energy, he has overthrown the obstacles which barred his path to success and reached the goal of prosperity. He is widely and favorably known throughout his part of the state and his record should serve to encourage and inspire others, showing what can be accomplished if one but has the will to dare and to do.

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#### RANSOM REED MURDOCK.

There are few men whose lives can be crowned with the honor and respect that were uniformly accorded Ransom Reed Murdock, nor in so large a measure have enjoyed the love and confidence of their fellowmen. A life governed by the most honorable principles, Mr. Murdock never deviated from what he believed to be right between himself and his fellowmen and in much that he did was actuated by a public spirit that found manifestation in the tangible aid which he gave to the city of his adoption. His personal characteristics, his straightforward business career and his efficient public service have made his memory sacredly cherished since he was called from this life.

He was born October 21, 1829, in the town of Ridgeway, Orleans county, New York, and was the eldest child of Seymour B. and Eliza A. Murdock, the former a farmer of considerable wealth and influence in his county.

In early life Mr. Murdock displayed a keen interest in horticulture and fortified himself for work of that character by acquiring an extensive knowledge along that line. After several prospecting trips to the west he finally decided on Paxton as a location, and here purchased large tracts of land. From the time of his settlement here he gave his heartiest efforts and loyal support to the upbuilding of the city and county. He established and conducted a large nursery, developing an extensive business in that line, and he has propagated a breed of corn known today as Murdock's Early, or Murdock's Corn. He was also the first to discover and make the test with the clay of this region which proved that it was suitable for tile. He took the clay for this purpose from the present site of the Brick & Tile Company in Paxton. In many other ways he promoted the city and forwarded its interests. His business affairs were always of a nature that contributed to public progress. He learned to correctly value life's contacts and experiences.

In 1885 he removed to Chicago, where for fifteen years he was interested in real estate, handling property in both the north and the south. He was largely instrumental in the upbuilding of Hammond, Louisiana, which is now so well known as a winter resort. He likewise traveled quite extensively, taking parties to Oklahoma and thus promoting the interests of the new state.

In 1858 Mr. Murdock was married to Miss Louise S. Hoag, and unto them were born two daughters, Effie E. and Luella C., but the latter died in 1893.

While living in Paxton Mr. Murdock held many public offices, including those of trustee and alderman. He was always a staunch democrat and was connected with every public enterprise affecting the welfare of the city, especially during the early period of its existence. He was largely instrumental in securing the railroad station, the postoffice, the county seat and the courthouse. His public service was of such a nature as to render his history an integral part of the annals of Paxton. For years he was an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity, but dropped his connection after removing to Chicago. Although never a member of any church organization, in early training and in belief through life he was an Universalist. He died at his home in Chicago, December 20, 1907. All who knew him found him a faithful and considerate neighbor, a man of kindly thought and spirit, generous and helpful in actions. He realized as few men seem to do, his obligation to his fellowmen and to the city of his residence. He looked at life from a broad standpoint, and the simple weight of his character and ability carried him into important relations with the public and with business affairs.

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#### HENRY C. HALL.

Henry C. Hall was too well known in business circles in Paxton to need special introduction to the readers of this volume. His name was an important one in trade circles and was a synonym of all that is honorable, straightforward and reliable in business transactions. For many years he operated extensively in grain but later gave his attention to real-estate investments and the sale of property.

Mr. Hall was a native of Fountain county, Indiana, born October 11, 1841. His father, James Dow Hall, was born in Ross county, Ohio, April, 1821, and died in Paxton, in January, 1903, when in the eighty-second year of his age. With an older brother, William Hall, he went to Fountain county, Indiana, where



HENRY C. HALL.



he remained for several years, subsequently removing to Warren county, that state, where he opened up and improved a farm, upon which he lived for nine years. In 1852 he arrived in Ford county, Illinois. Two years previously he had driven one hundred milk cows to Wisconsin, where he sold them to the farmers in the dairy district, this being before the era of railroad shipment. On the way he met George B. McClellan, afterward General McClellan, commander of the Union forces, who, with a staff of assistants, was surveying for the route of the Illinois Central Railroad. Through General McClellan he became enthused regarding the conditions of the country through which the railroad was to pass and decided to locate near the line. Accordingly, in 1852, he settled twelve miles east of Paxton, at Henderson's Grove, Vermilion county, but not being able to secure government land in that neighborhood he removed in the spring of 1854 to a claim five miles southeast of Paxton, where the greater part of his life was passed, his time and energies being given to the cultivation of his farm, which became a valuable property. His early political allegiance was given to the whig party and on its dissolution he became a republican. He was elected the second sheriff of Ford county, serving for two years, beginning in 1860. During the first year of his service the old courthouse was built and in the following year he had his office there, being the first sheriff in that temple of justice. He married Eliza Whisman, a native of Wythe county, Virginia, who was reared by her grandparents in that county. She died in Paxton, at the age of seventy-nine. In their family were four children: Henry C.; William Franklin, who died forty years ago; Melvina E., the deceased wife of Dr. Piekerd, of Indianapolis, Indiana; and Mrs. Rebecca Snyder, a widow, living in Paxton.

Henry C. Hall was but ten years of age when he came to Illinois, the family home being established in Vermilion county, where for two years they lived prior to a removal to what became the old farm homestead near Paxton. For fifty-six years Henry C. Hall lived in or near this city. The experiences of pioneer life with all its attendant hardships, privations, duties and pleasures became familiar to him. His education was acquired in the common schools and when not occupied with his text-books he aided in the labors of the farm. On attaining his majority, thinking to find other pursuits more congenial, Mr. Hall came to Paxton in March, 1862, and entered the grain trade here, being successfully and extensively connected therewith until four years ago. He did not confine his attention, however, to the grain trade alone but dealt also in live stock, lumber and coal, operating in all those lines during the greater part of the time. The sphere of his activity was also extended to include neighboring towns and

cities as well as Paxton and at one time he had twelve different stations. He established business before he was of age and for about three years was alone, after which his father became his partner, under the firm style of J. D. & H. C. Hall. That relation was terminated after five years and Henry C. Hall was then joined by his brother-in-law, under the firm name of Hall & Snyder. They were together for five or six years, after which Mr. Hall admitted Timm Ross to a partnership and they operated in the above mentioned lines under the firm style of Hall & Ross. Later Mr. Hall was alone. He became the largest operator in grain, lumber, live stock and coal of any man in the business. He bought and sold grain most extensively, though he shipped large quantities of live stock of all kinds and his annual sales brought him a very gratifying financial return. For thirty-six years he has occupied offices in the Clark block. After he had been in the office for a year he was married and built the present residence of his widow on West Franklin street, which was afterward his home. Four years before his death he sold his grain business and withdrew from the trade for two years but later was engaged in the real-estate and loan business. He admitted J. M. Marsh to a partnership, under the firm style of Hall & Marsh. In this connection he handled much property and negotiated many important realty transfers. He was a man of resourceful business ability, readily recognizing and utilizing opportunities and his efforts were so discerningly directed along well defined lines that he won a most gratifying measure of success.

On the 10th of October, 1872, Mr. Hall was united in marriage to Miss Mary Pierpont, who was born in 1849, in Morris, Connecticut, and in 1858 came to Ford county with her parents, Leonard and Cynthia Pierpont, who were also natives of Connecticut. Her father was the youngest brother of the Rev. John Pierpont, a man of national reputation. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hall were born five children: Mary T., now the wife of George L. Shaw, of Chicago; Bertha M. and Edith P., at home; Clara W. who died in 1880; and Henry Pierpont, who was born in June, 1885, and died of typhoid fever in February, 1907. He was a young man six feet in height, of athletic build and a favorite with his many friends, so that his death was deeply regretted in social circles as well as by his immediate family.

In his political views Mr. Hall was always a stalwart republican after casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He served as township trustee for forty consecutive years and declined to fill the office for a longer period. This simple statement is the highest proof that can be given of the position which he held in public regard and in the confidence of those who

knew him. For twelve years he was a member of the city council and was still serving on the board of alderman at the time of his death. His fidelity to municipal progress found tangible evidence in his active work for many movements for the public good. He belonged to the Congregational church, to the support of which he contributed liberally, and his family were associated with him in this membership. He found appropriate place among those men of business and enterprise in the state of Illinois whose force of character, whose fortitude amid discouragements, whose sterling integrity, whose good sense in the management of complicated affairs and marked success in shaping large industries and bringing to completion great schemes of trade and profit, have contributed in eminent degree to the development of the resources of this noble commonwealth. His career was not helped by accident, or luck, or wealth, or family or powerful friends. He was in the broadest sense a self-made man, being both the architect and builder of his own fortunes.

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#### P. E. HUNT.

P. E. Hunt, a representative of the business interests of Paxton, is well known as a gardener and farmer. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, February 12, 1848, his parents being Cornelius and Elizabeth A. (Sidel) Hunt, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were married in Ohio, to which state they had gone in early life with their respective parents. In 1828 they removed to Putnam county, Illinois, at which time there were only two or three families living in the county. The journey was made in a wagon drawn by ox-team over roads that were little more than a trail and they had to go to Chicago for supplies. Previous to taking up their abode in Illinois, they had resided for a time in Indiana on the Wabash river, east of Danville, Illinois, and had raised a crop there, bringing with them to this state supplies almost sufficient for one year's sustenance. There was no mill nor market near and the settlers had to depend upon their own labors and devices for everything. The method employed by Mr. Hunt to grind his corn into meal was primitive in the extreme. Having cut down a large oak, he smoothed the top, bored holes in the stump some eighteen inches and set fire to it so that each hole was burned in the shape of a bowl. He then arranged a heavy sweep or hammer made of iron to pound his corn into meal. Neighbors came from fifteen to twenty-five miles to use this improvised

mill, each man doing his own pounding and frequently remaining all night awaiting his turn. All around was the unbroken prairie or the uncut timber and the Indians were far more numerous than the white settlers. During the Black Hawk war Mr. Hunt took his wife back to Ohio, after which he returned to Illinois and assisted the white settlers in prosecuting the war and subjugating the savages. Purchasing land, he remained upon the farm for two years after his wife came to Illinois and later he purchased a farm on the prairie, where they lived until his death May 12, 1874. Thus passed away one of the honored pioneer settlers whose worth in the community was widely acknowledged, for he proved an able assistant in reclaiming this region for the purposes of civilization.

He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, all of whom reached adult age, namely: Mary, who first married John Moore and later became the wife of Harry Crawford but is now deceased; John, a retired farmer living in Melvin, Illinois; Caroline, the deceased wife of Ephraim Frazee; Sarah, who became the wife of Joshua Polin but is now deceased; Ann, who has also passed away; Enoch, a retired farmer making his home in Melvin; Ruth, the widow of Andrew Miller; Jane, the widow of James Dickson; Elizabeth, the widow of George Dickson; William, who served in the United States army for two years during the Civil war and is now living retired in Melvin; Jacob, who served as a soldier of the Civil war and was wounded at Altoona Pass, Georgia, his injuries resulting in his death; and P. E., whose name introduces this review.

The last named was educated in the country schools of LaSalle county and in youth became familiar with the arduous task of developing new land and carrying on the work of the farm. At the age of twenty years he was married to Miss Alice Campbell, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Blakely) Campbell, who came originally from Kentucky to Illinois. In their family were eight children, as follows: William, who makes his home in Mattoon, Illinois; Louisa, the deceased wife of John Longnecker; Alice, now Mrs. Hunt; Sarah, the widow of James W. White; Laura, the wife of Douglas Conrad; Wallace, who is editor of a newspaper at Anderson, Indiana; Hilary, who is now serving as postmaster at Roberts; and Lawrence, who resides in Paxton.

Through the period of his early manhood Mr. Hunt carried on agricultural pursuits but on the 17th of June, 1889, removed to Paxton and became one of the founders of what is now the Paxton Hardware Manufacturing Company. In 1891 he sold his interest to his partner, F. E. Bonney, and purchased his present place at the edge of Paxton, consisting of twenty-four acres of land. Here he devotes his time and attention to the raising of garden produce, for



which he finds a ready sale on the city market. His business is carefully conducted and is bringing to him well merited and gratifying success. He raises about five hundred chickens each year, making a specialty of brown leghorns and Rhode Island reds.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hunt have been born four children: Jacob W., now deceased; Murray E., who is engaged in the grocery business in Paxton; Frank, a veterinary surgeon of Gibson City; and Gertrude, the wife of John Waldron, a cabinet maker of this city.

Mr. Hunt has never aspired to office, although he has served as school commissioner and road commissioner. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and they are both highly esteemed in the community, their good qualities of heart and mind bringing to them the warm friendship of many with whom they have come in contact.

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#### JOHN KARSTEN.

John Karsten, who is now living retired in a commodious and substantial home of his own at Melvin, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, September 2, 1842, losing his father when but two years of age. He acquired his education in the schools of his native land and remained in Germany until 1866, when he crossed the Atlantic to America, wishing to take advantage of the broader business opportunities offered in this country. He located in Marshall county, Illinois, where he was employed as a laborer for three years and then rented a tract of land, which he successfully operated for nine years. On the expiration of that period he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 23, Peach Orchard township, Ford county, where he made his home for fifteen years. Having by this time accumulated a handsome competence he put aside the active work of the fields and removed to Melvin in 1894, where he has since resided in the enjoyment of well earned ease. He is now the owner of four hundred acres of land, all on section 23 and 24, Peach Orchard township, and is therefore numbered among the large landholders and progressive citizens of the county.

While still a resident of Germany Mr. Karsten was united in marriage to Miss Dora Haas, who was one of a family of five children. She is now the mother of four children, namely: Mary, the wife of George W. Spelmier, of Ohio; Charles F., who lives in Ford county; Anna, who became the wife of

Henry Knox and also resides in this county; and William G., likewise of Ford county.

In his political views Mr. Karsten is a republican and is quite prominent in the local ranks of his party, having served as school director for thirteen years and as commissioner of highways for seven years. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest, Mr. Karsten having acted as trustee for many years. Except for the aid of his estimable wife, he owes his present splendid prosperity entirely to his untiring perseverance and excellent business management, for when he came to the United States he was empty-handed and has since achieved the success which entitles him to a prominent place in the history of the representative and enterprising residents of Ford county. He and his wife have resided in this county for thirty years and are therefore largely familiar with its history from a very early period, being moreover highly esteemed throughout the entire community by reason of their upright and honorable lives and many good traits of heart and mind.

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#### EDWARD McDERMOTT.

Edward McDermott, one of the enterprising and prosperous agriculturists and stock-raisers of Ford county, is a native son of Will county, Illinois, where his birth occurred on the 10th of April, 1864, his parents being John and Katherine McDermott. The parents were natives of Ireland but in an early day emigrated to the new world, taking up their abode in New York, where they remained for six years. On the expiration of that period they made their way westward to Illinois, locating in Will county. In the year 1868, however, they removed to Ford county, where the father purchased a farm and was successful in its operation. He passed away on the 14th of March, 1907, but is still survived by his widow, who makes her home in Piper City, Illinois. They were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are still living: John, who resides in New York; Mary, the wife of John McCormick, of Kansas City, Missouri; Bridget, deceased; Owen, living in Pella township, Ford county; Edward, of this review; William, of Piper City, Illinois; Peter, who makes his home in Creston, Illinois; Martin, residing in Champaign county, Illinois; and two who have passed away.

Edward McDermott acquired a common-school education and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, when he rented a



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD McDERMOTT



farm, which he operated successfully for eight years. He then purchased a tract of land of two hundred acres in Pella township on section 14 and later, as his financial resources increased, added eighty acres more on section 36 of the same township. In addition to this property he also owns three hundred and twenty acres near Winnipeg, Canada. His holdings are therefore quite extensive and in the cultivation of his fields he is meeting with a gratifying measure of prosperity by reason of his well directed energy and capable business management. In addition to his agricultural interests he makes a specialty of raising cattle, horses and hogs and this branch of his business is also proving a good source of income to him.

On the 5th of February, 1896, Mr. McDermott was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. McGreevy, who was born in Livingston county, Illinois, in 1866. She was one of a family of fourteen children, the mother of whom is still living, the father, however, being deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McDermott were born four children, as follows: John J., Edward L., William Vincent and Eugene Francis.

In his political views Mr. McDermott is a stalwart democrat and has served as school director for several years, the cause of education finding in him a staunch friend. Both he and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church at Piper City and are widely recognized as people of genuine personal worth and sterling integrity. Mr. McDermott has resided in this county from early childhood and is therefore largely familiar with its upbuilding and substantial development, especially along agricultural lines, with which he has been connected throughout the entire period of his manhood.

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#### JOHN ADAM STADLER.

John Adam Stadler was for many years one of the leading, enterprising and honored farmers of Ford county. He always exemplified in his work the spirit of progress, and his successful accomplishment resulted from close and unremitting application and well directed industry. Moreover, in his business affairs he was so reliable that he commanded the unqualified confidence of all with whom he was associated. His birth occurred in Baden, Germany, June 8, 1836, his parents being George and Sybilla (Bachfish) Stadler, who emigrated to America when their son John was a little lad of eleven years. The family home was established at Newark, New Jersey,

where John Stadler spent his youth, later, however, becoming a resident of Cohecton, New York, where he engaged in farming for a time.

Mr. Stadler was there married to Matilda Detzel, who died in the Empire state, leaving two sons, George and John Stadler, who are now in business in Chicago. In Cohecton, Sullivan county, New York, Mr. Stadler was again married on the 14th of August, 1861, his second union being with Catherine Valendor, who is a native of Germany, having been born in Baden, her parents being John and Catherine Valendor. She was a maiden of six summers when brought to the Empire state, where the death of her father occurred. Her mother died in Baden and the father was again married there before he brought his family to the new world. Mr. Stadler continued to engage in farming in New York until 1867, when he emigrated westward, thinking to find better business opportunities in Illinois. Locating in Ford county, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 20, Brenton township. It was then a tract of wild prairie, but the possibilities for the development of a good farm were there, and with characteristic energy he began its development, and in course of time brought it under a high state of improvement. He erected a comfortable home and good outbuildings, planted many rods of hedge fence, and made other substantial improvements which transformed the property into one of the attractive farms of the locality. Although he started in life empty-handed, at his death he was the owner of a valuable property of three hundred and sixty acres, which annually returned him a good income. He kept everything about the place in excellent condition, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the farm indicated his practical ideas.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Stadler as the years went by were born ten children: Jacob, who was born in New York, wedded Annie Ristow, and now resides in Piper City; Lewis, who died at the age of twenty-six years; Catherine, the wife of Fred Ristow, of Piper City; Frank, who is mentioned on another page of this work; William, who died at the age of nineteen; Helen, the wife of Joseph K. Montelius, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Sam, a resident farmer of Livingston county, Illinois, and also the owner of farm property in Brenton township, Ford county; Annie, the wife of George D. Montelius, who is also mentioned in this work; Elizabeth, the wife of Ferdinand Luther, who resides in Piper City; and Charles, who is with his mother in Piper City.

In his religious faith Mr. Stadler was a Lutheran and in all his relations with his fellowmen was upright, honorable and reliable. His political

allegiance was given to the democracy, but the honors and emoluments of office had no attraction for him, as he preferred to give his entire attention to his business affairs. He died September, 26, 1884, and was laid to rest in Brenton cemetery. Many friends as well as his immediate family mourned his death, for he was respected wherever known, and had a wide acquaintance in the county. For the past twelve years Mrs. Stadler has resided in Piper City in a fine home which she erected. She has a wide and favorable acquaintance in the city and in the surrounding district, having for more than forty years resided in Ford county. Of its growth and development she has been an interested witness, and her memory goes back to a period when much of the county was still unimproved.

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#### PETER J. PETERS.

Peter J. Peters, who owns and operates three hundred and forty acres on section 19, Wall township, was born in Holstein, Germany, on the 11th of September, 1851, his parents being Hans and Margaret (Heesch) Peters, both of whom passed away in the fatherland, the former in 1867 and the latter in 1878. The father was a farmer by occupation. His family numbered eight children, namely: Hans II., residing in Gibson City, Illinois; Katherine, the wife of Peter Linderman, who still resides in Germany; John, of New Orleans; Henry and William, who are also living in the fatherland; and two who are deceased.

Peter J. Peters acquired his education in the schools of his native land, and when he had attained the age of twenty years emigrated to America, having heard many favorable reports concerning the broader business opportunities and other advantages which the new world offered. On his arrival in this country he located first at Bloomington, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand for nine years, on the expiration of which period he operated a rented farm in McLean county, Illinois, for fifteen years. He then came to Ford county. At that time he had gained capital sufficient to enable him to purchase three hundred and forty acres on section 19, Wall township, removing to this place in 1896. He has partly improved his land and has also built a fine residence and other buildings on the west quarter of the farm, where his daughter now resides. He started out in life empty-handed and the splendid success which he has achieved is entirely the result of his own

well directed labor and enterprise. In the spring of 1908 he expects to retire from the active work of the fields, having already made plans for the erection of a handsome residence in Gibson City, where he will spend the remainder of his life in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

Mr. Peters has been married twice. He first wedded Miss Ida Schoemaker, a native of Germany, by whom he had one daughter, Mary, the wife of Edward Tetzloff, who lives on a part of her father's farm. In 1876 our subject was joined in wedlock to Miss Maria Lambrecht, also a native of Germany, by whom he had thirteen children, as follows: Emma, the wife of Jacob Rammers, of El Paso, Illinois; William, who makes his home in Peoria; Ella, who became the wife of Harry Sharp, and resides in Ford county, August, at home; Anna; Henry; Minnie; Elma; Albert; Carl, deceased; Louise; Ada; and one who died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Peters is a democrat and has served as school director for fifteen years, the cause of education ever finding in him a staunch friend. Both he and his wife are devoted members of the Lutheran church and are well and favorably known throughout the community as people of genuine personal worth. Germany has furnished to the United States many bright, enterprising young men who have left the fatherland to enter the business circles of this country with its more progressive methods, livelier competition and advancement more quickly secured. Among this number is Mr. Peters. He found the opportunity he sought in the freedom and appreciation of the growing country. Though born across the water, he is thoroughly American in thought and feeling, and is patriotic and sincere in his love for the stars and stripes. His career is identified with the history of Ford county, where he has acquired a competence and where he is an honored and respected citizen.

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#### GOTTLIEB HAHN.

Gottlieb Hahn, a retired agriculturist now making his home in Roberts, this county, was born in Germany on the 27th of September, 1827. His parents were also natives of the fatherland and there passed away when our subject was very young, the latter being now the only survivor of his father's family of five children.





RESIDENCE OF GOTTLIEB HAHN



Gottlieb Hahn acquired his education in the schools of his native land and lived with his sisters until he had attained the age of twenty years, when in 1847 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States that he might enjoy the broader business opportunities which he had heard were offered in the new world. He located first at Hennepin, Putnam county, Illinois, where he was employed as a laborer for a year, after which he removed to La Salle county and worked for one man for two years. He was then married and brought his bride to a log house which he erected near Hennepin, its dimensions being fourteen by sixteen feet. In this primitive structure, with its clapboard roof, he continued to live for several years, subsequently carrying on agricultural pursuits as a renter for nine years. On the expiration of that period he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Livingston county, for which he paid seven dollars per acre and on which he lived for thirteen years. As the years passed by he converted the wild land into rich and fertile fields that annually responded in golden harvests to the care and labor which he bestowed upon them. Moreover, his well directed energy and capable business management brought him a large degree of success and when he had accumulated a competence he retired from active work and has since lived in the enjoyment of well earned ease at his pleasant home in Roberts, Ford county. He is also recognized as one of the pioneer agriculturists of the state, for he did his full share in the work of early development and progress here and has watched with interest the transformation of a wild and windswept prairie into a rich farming district, inhabited by a prosperous and contented people.

In 1850 Mr. Hahn was united in marriage to Mrs. Elizabeth Warner, the widow of George Warner and a native of Germany, where her birth occurred in 1820. She accompanied her parents on their removal to Putnam county in 1837 and is the only one now living in their family of four children. By her first marriage Mrs. Hahn had five children, two of whom still survive: Mary, the wife of David Wilsoncroft, residing in Roberts; and Elizabeth, who became the wife of James Moore and makes her home in South Dakota. Unto our subject and his wife have also been born five children, namely: Conrad, of Momence, Illinois; William, who resides in Roberts; Amelia, the wife of David Barnett, also living in Roberts; and two who have passed away. Mrs. Hahn is remarkably well preserved, still doing her own housework with the energy and capability of a much younger woman.

Mr. Hahn has voted with the republican party since becoming a naturalized American citizen and has been prominent in local work of the organization, having held several township offices both in Livingston and Ford counties.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hahn are members of the Congregational church and they receive the respect and veneration which should ever be accorded those who have traveled far on life's journey and whose course has ever been upright and honorable. The hope that led him to leave his native land and seek a home in America has been more than realized. He found the opportunities he sought, which, by the way, are always open to the ambitious, energetic man,—and making the best of these he has steadily worked his way upward.

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#### THOMAS W. CHAMBERLIN.

In determining the salient features of any life history it cannot be denied that long and valiant service in the Civil war constitutes a chapter in that history of special prominence and one of which the possessor may well be proud. Mr. Chamberlin is numbered among the veterans of the war for the Union, and moreover is classed with the business men of enterprise in Paxton, where he is now associated with Colonel Charles Bogardus in the real-estate and loan business, while independently, he has a large clientage in fire insurance. He was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, August 20, 1840, his parents being Reuben and Susan (McClave) Chamberlin, natives of Vermont and New Hampshire respectively. His maternal grandfather, John McClave, was an officer in the American army in the war of 1812, while in the paternal line his great-grandfather Chamberlin served as a soldier of the Revolutionary war.

On leaving New England, Reuben Chamberlin became a resident of Ohio, settling near Cincinnati. For many years he was engaged in teaching and was afterward a prominent merchant of Hamilton county. He passed away a number of years ago and was for some time survived by his wife, who reached the advanced age of eighty-eight years.

Thomas W. Chamberlin, who is the only survivor in a family of five children, was educated in the district schools of Warren county, Ohio. In 1858 he left school and again engaged in farming and was thus occupied for about two years. During the opening year of hostilities between the north and the south he enlisted in the United States army at Indianapolis on the 8th of October, 1861, as a second-class musician in Lieutenant Oliver B. Lisher's band of the Twelfth Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Colonel William H. Link commanding. The regiment, which was organized May 11, 1861, left Indianapolis on the 11th

of June for Evansville and on the 23rd of that month started for Baltimore, arriving there on the 27th of July. On the succeeding day they removed to Sandy Hook, Maryland, near Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and were assigned to Banks' army of the Shenandoah. From that point they moved with the army to Hyattstown, Maryland, as it was reported that the Confederate general, Joe Johnston, was on the opposite side of the Potomac river, the march of the Unionists being made to prevent his crossing. After many marches the regiment on the 1st of December, 1862, engaged the Confederate troops in battle at Dam No. 4 in Virginia and subsequently performed outpost duty until March, 1863, when they crossed the Potomac river and after a skirmish near Winchester, Virginia, entered that town, being the first regiment to enter after the rebels had evacuated. Mr. Chamberlin was commissioned as captain of Company B of the Second Ohio State Militia on the 4th of July, 1863, after his second enlistment. During the period between his two enlistments he had returned to Ohio and was engaged in farming in Warren county and also attended a commercial college in Cincinnati. From the 1st until the 26th of July, 1863, he was in pursuit of Morgan, who was making his raid through Indiana and Ohio, and in that connection rendered very important service but finally resigned from the militia in May, 1864, at Lebanon, Ohio. He is now a member of Seaver Post, No. 253, G. A. R., and thus continues in close and pleasant relations with his old army comrades. In the local post he has served as junior vice commander and as quartermaster.

Mr. Chamberlin arrived in Paxton in May, 1864, and for six years was employed by the American Express Company. He afterwards went to California, where he spent one year as chief clerk in the Calistoga Springs Hotel. Later he returned to Paxton and resumed his former position with the American Express Company but gradually broadened the scope of his labors. He, with Mr. McFerren established the McFerren & Chamberlin Bank at Hoopestown, Vermilion county, Illinois, in 1872, which institution still exists under the name of the First National Bank. In November, 1875, Mr. Chamberlin went to Rantoul, where he organized the Exchange Bank, which he successfully conducted until 1892. In that year he sold out and removed to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where for seven years he was engaged in the brokerage business. About 1899 he returned to Paxton, where he has since been associated with Colonel Charles Bogardus in the real-estate and loan business, while independently he has conducted an extensive fire insurance and brokerage business. His interests in these connections have already assumed an important character, bringing him substantial profit and he also derives a good income from his realty holdings,

which include one hundred and sixty acres of land in South Dakota and over two hundred acres in Michigan.

On the 12th of December, 1887, Mr. Chamberlin was married to Miss Ella L. Bronson, of Swanton, Vermont, whose father was a prominent contractor and builder. Mr. Chamberlin is a member of the Congregational church, while his wife is a member of the Episcopal church, and they are active in church work and generous to the support of the church in which each worship. He is a Knight Templar and has been a Mason of high standing since 1866. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and while in Rantoul he was treasurer of the school board and also city treasurer but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. His interest in public affairs is that of a citizen who without desire for the rewards of office is concerned in public affairs which are of vital moment, with an earnest desire to promote public progress and development. He is a strong temperance man and has done effective work in checking the liquor element in this county. He stands for all that uplifts instead of pulls down his fellowmen and his own life has ever been guided by high and honorable principles.

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#### HENRY FARRIS.

Henry Farris is a farmer of Ford county owning and cultivating a tract of two hundred acres of rich land in Drummer township. His parents were Christopher and J. (Stauffer) Farris. The father, a native of Hanover, Germany, emigrated with his family to America when his son Henry was but a small boy. As his financial resources were limited he rented a farm for a few years, or until he was able to purchase property, when he became the owner of eighty acres, which he afterward sold at a good profit. In 1887 he bought two hundred acres, constituting the old family homestead, and as the years passed, brought this under a high state of cultivation.

Henry Farris was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors incident to the cultivation of the fields. He attended the public schools, his time being divided between the acquirement of an education and the assistance which he rendered his father, with whom he remained until his marriage. He was, however, absent in the south during the period of the Civil war, having enlisted on the 6th of August, 1861, as a member of Company E, Seventy-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He participated in a number of



MR. AND MRS. HENRY FARRIS





important engagements, and the hardships and rigors of war so undermined his health that he was obliged to return home before the cessation of hostilities.

In 1872 Mr. Farris was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Bonnen, a daughter of B. Bonnen, the wedding being celebrated in Paxton. They had six living children: Elizabeth, the wife of August Rosenau, of Iowa, and the mother of three children; Bennett, who lives in Minnesota; Margaret, Richard, John and Katherine, all at home. The wife and mother died December 22, 1907.

The family residence stands in the midst of a good farm of two hundred acres on section 32, Drummer township, which Mr. Farris now owns. He devotes his land to the cultivation of corn, oats and other cereals best adapted to the soil and climate and now has a well developed property, having brought his fields under a high state of cultivation. Besides his property in this county he owns a quarter section of land near Storm Lake, Iowa, where his daughter resides. In politics Mr. Farris is independent, voting for men and measures rather than party. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church and his belief guides his life and shapes his conduct in his relations to his fellowmen.

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#### JOHN HUSTON.

John Huston, who for thirty-one years has been a resident of Ford county, carries on general agricultural pursuits on a farm on section 21, Dix township, and the place is neat and well improved, indicating in its attractive appearance his careful supervision and practical methods. A native of Ireland, he was born in County Meath, April 20, 1830, his parents being Christopher and Mary (Payne) Huston, both of whom spent their entire lives on the Emerald isle. Their son William is still living on the old home place there, where he follows farming.

John Huston acquired his education in the schools of his native country, where he remained until about eighteen years of age, when, attracted by the opportunities of the new world, he came to America in 1848. He remained here until 1857, the year of the wide-spread financial panic, when he returned to his native country and spent two years there. He then once more crossed the Atlantic and has since been a resident of this country. After some time spent in Philadelphia he was for sixteen years a resident of Rhode Island, where he engaged in working on army goods in woolen works.

Following the close of hostilities between the north and the south Mr. Huston came to Illinois and for a short time resided at Kirkwood near Monmouth. He afterward rented land in Henderson county, where he remained for twelve years, thence came to Ford county in 1877. In that year he located upon a farm which is yet his place of residence. Here he first bought one hundred acres of land from his brother and later purchased sixty acres of raw prairie, since which time his undivided attention has been given to the further development and improvement of his place, which he has brought under a high state of cultivation, so that he annually gathers good crops as a reward for his care and labor. The Illinois Central Railroad now crosses the farm at the southeast corner, taking off about five acres. This place cost him about three thousand dollars. Today it is as valuable as any land in the locality, being one of the excellent farms of the community. That Mr. Huston has prospered as the years have gone by is indicated by the fact that he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Sullivant township in addition to his home farm, purchasing the latter tract in 1904.

In 1865 occurred the marriage of Mr. Huston and Miss Mary Ann Josephine Ryan, who was born in Rochester, New York, in 1845, a daughter of Patrick Ryan and a sister of F. M. Ryan, who is president of the International Association Bridge & Structural Iron Works, located in the American Central Life building at Indianapolis, Indiana, a man very prominent in this field of labor. The death of Mrs. Huston occurred November 5, 1891. The family numbers ten children, as follows: Mary E., who was born in Providence, Rhode Island October 25, 1865, and is the wife of William A. Cleary, a resident of Dix township; Sarah, who was born August 27, 1867, in Kirkwood, Illinois, and is now the wife of W. G. Wilson, a resident farmer of Dix township; Elizabeth, who was born October 14, 1870, in Kirkwood, and is the wife of George Bomen, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Teresa Ann, who was born April 1, 1872, was educated in the Sisters school at Chatsworth, Livingston county, Illinois, and is now the wife of John S. Crawford, a farmer of Ford county; Christopher, who was born June 7, 1876, and died April 17, 1878; John Francis, who was born July 29, 1878, was educated in the district schools and in the college at Valparaiso, Indiana, and is now managing the home farm for his father; Clara May, who was born March 23, 1881, and married Edward Harrington, a resident of Livingston county, Illinois; William Edward, who was born February 19, 1883, was educated in a school in Kankakee and now resides in Sullivant township, Ford county; Joseph Alfred, who was born February 19, 1885, was educated in the Gibson high school and also in Valparaiso, and is now teaching in

Livingston county; and Gertrude, who was born April 28, 1889, and is now a student in St. Joseph's Academy.

Mr. Huston has served as road commissioner and is interested in having excellent public highways. In politics he is independent regarding the capability of the candidate rather than his party affiliation. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to America, for in this country he has found the opportunities which he sought and through their utilization has worked his way upward, becoming one of the successful representative farmers of the community, his life indicating what may be accomplished by determination and well directed energy.

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#### C. P. SMITH.

C. P. Smith, who is the largest individual farmer in Ford county, is, moreover, a self-made man, owing his success entirely to his well directed energy and enterprise. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, October 30, 1857, a son of Isam and Elizabeth Smith, but does not remember much about his parents, as the father was killed while serving as a loyal defender of the Union in the Civil war and the mother died a short time afterward. They had a family of four children, as follows: Mary, the wife of Albert Miller, of Piper City, Illinois; C. P. of this review; Harriet, who became the wife of John Madden and resides in Colorado; and Alice, the wife of Lon McCann, who lives in Forrest, Illinois.

C. P. Smith acquired his education in the public schools and after putting aside his text-books he worked at common labor until twenty-five years of age, when he rented a farm and has since followed agricultural pursuits, now operating six hundred and forty acres of land on section 31, Lyman township, Ford county. He also owns eighty acres on section 6, Wall township, this county; three hundred and twenty acres in Iowa, and six hundred and forty acres in the state of Mississippi. He paid fifty dollars per acre for the latter tract, and now receives an annual rental of twenty-five hundred dollars therefrom. His extensive landed interests make him one of the prosperous and representative citizens of the county, and his success is all the more creditable by reason of the fact that it has been honorably gained, being entirely the result of his untiring industry and straightforward business methods.

On the 22d of February, 1882, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Phillips, a native of Philadelphia. Her parents, who are now deceased, had a family of four children. Unto our subject and his wife were born the following named: Charles, who is married and operates his father's farm of eighty acres in Wall township; James, Albert and Benjamin, all of whom have passed away; and Phillip, John and Verne, who are still under the parental roof.

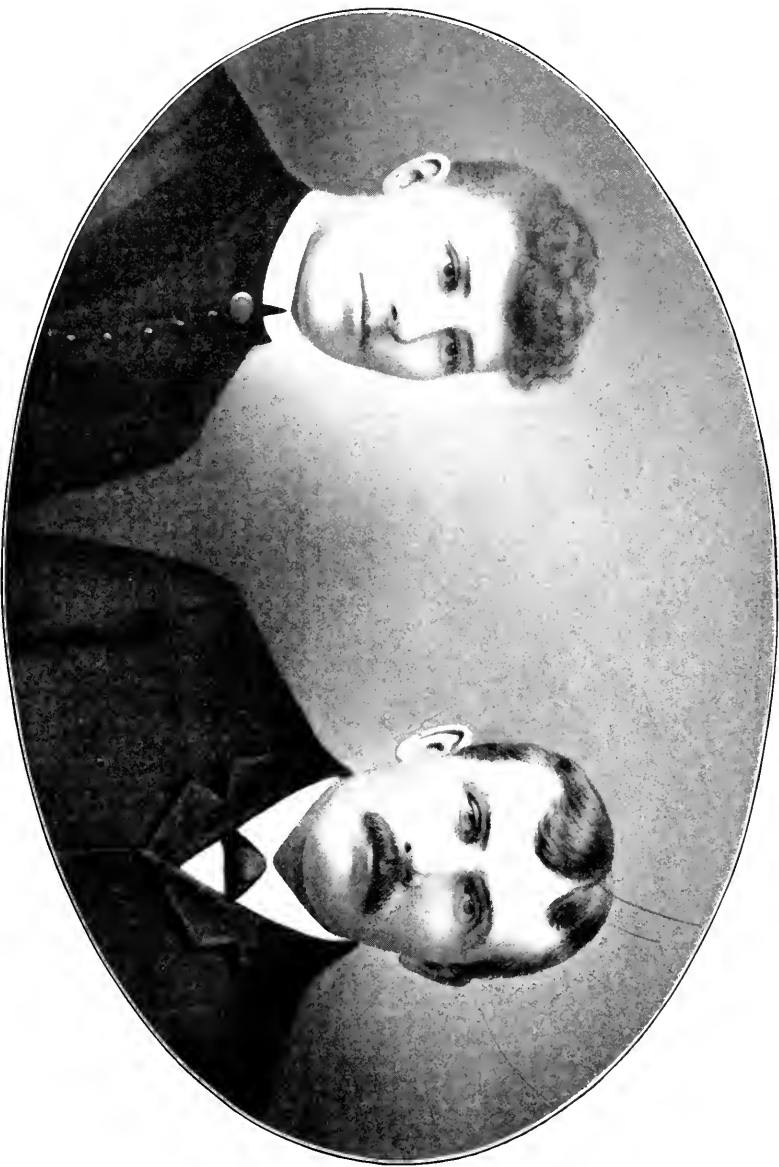
In his political views Mr. Smith is a republican but has never sought office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs. Fraternally he is connected with the Woodmen camp at Melvin and with the Knights of Pythias at the same place, while his religious belief is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs. They are well and favorably known throughout the community as people of genuine personal worth, and during the long period of their residence here have gained the respect and esteem of all with whom they have been associated. His life has been one of continuous activity, in which has been accorded due recognition of labor and today he is numbered among the substantial citizens of his county. Moreover, he is ready at all times to lend his aid and cooperation to any movement calculated to benefit this section of the country or advance its wonderful development.

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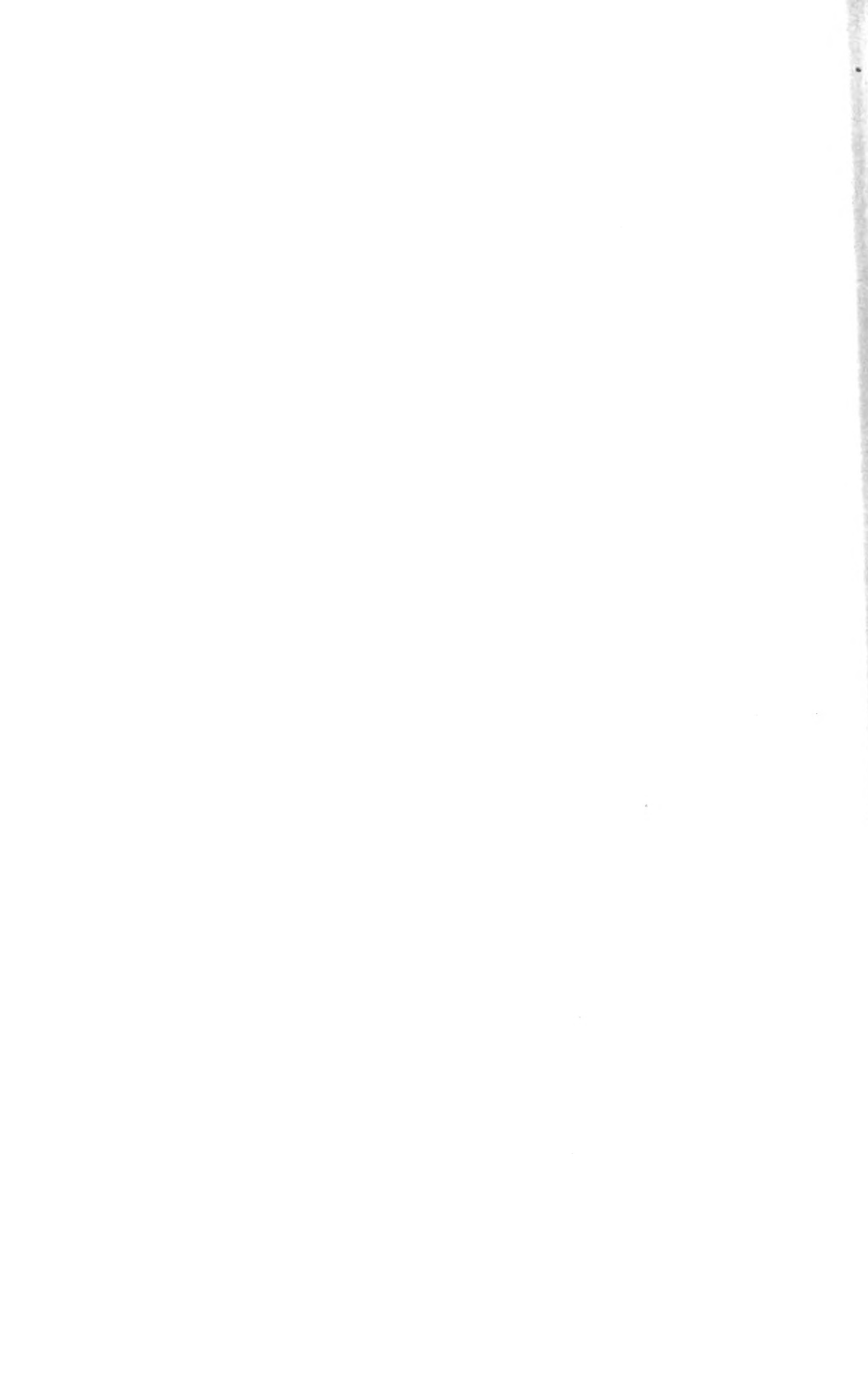
#### LOUIS HUSSONG.

Louis Hussong, who owns one of the best improved farms in Mona township, is a native of the fatherland, his birth having occurred in Germany on the 5th of September, 1863. The parents, Louis and Louisa (Geleer) Hussong, both natives of Germany, emigrated to America in 1879 and locating in Peoria county, Illinois. There the father successfully carried on agricultural pursuits until 1887, in which year he purchased land in Ford county and brought his family here. Four children were born unto him and his wife, namely: Louis, of this review; Louisa, the wife of John Leibly, of Woodford county, Illinois; Conrad, who makes his home in Minnesota; and William, who resides in Iroquois county, Illinois. The parents are both now deceased.

Louis Hussong acquired his education in the common schools of his native country and was a youth of sixteen years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world. He remained under the parental roof until



MR. AND MRS. LOUIS HUSSONG



he had attained his majority and was then employed as a farm hand by the month, working for one man for four years. He then operated a rented farm for twelve years and at the end of that time, through the exercise of careful economy, he was enabled to purchase a farm of his own. The tract comprises one hundred and sixty acres and is located on section 23, Mona township. As the years have passed he has added many substantial improvements to the place, including a handsome ten-room residence, a fine barn and all necessary out-buildings for the shelter of grain and stock, for in addition to his general farming interests he is quite extensively engaged in raising and feeding cattle. In both branches of his business he is meeting with a gratifying measure of success and is widely recognized as one of the substantial and enterprising agriculturists of his community. His farm is one of the best improved properties in Mona township and in its neat and attractive appearance gives proof of the supervision of a practical and progressive owner.

In 1888 Mr. Hussong was united in marriage to Miss Anna Schoon, who was born in Woodford county, Illinois, while her parents were natives of Germany and reared a family of seven children.

In his political views Mr. Hussong is independent, not considering himself bound by party ties but voting for the man whom he believes best qualified to fill the office to which he has been nominated. He served as assessor for one term and has also been school director, the cause of education ever finding in him a helpful friend. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows lodge at Kempton, Illinois, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Lutheran church, with which his wife is also identified. Save for the assistance which he received from his estimable wife, he has gained his present prosperity entirely through his own labor and perseverance, and through the utilization of the opportunities which the United States offers to ambitious, determined young men.

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#### CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON.

There is no record which the American public holds in higher regard than that of the man who has carved out his own fortune, winning his success by enterprise, integrity and perseverance. Such has been the history of Christopher Anderson, now one of the most prominent business men of Ford county, owning and conducting the Roberts Exchange Bank and also engaged in the

manufacture of brick and tile. He has at other times been connected with other interests and is today the owner of considerable valuable farming property.

Mr. Anderson was born in Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, on the 28th of April, 1842. His parents were Adam and Martha (Hamilton) Anderson, who spent their entire lives in Scotland, where the father was a coal master. The maternal grandfather, Captain James A. Hamilton, won his title by service with the Sanquhar Volunteers and had charge of Waterloo prisoners at Sanquhar for some time. His watch and sword are now in possession of Mr. Anderson and are cherished heirlooms. The father's family numbered four children, namely: Mary, who first married Alexander Smart, of Scotland, and after his death came to Piper City, where she lived some years and then moved to Evanston, where she died in 1907; James, who remained in Scotland; Christopher, of this review; and Jean, the wife of George Campbell, who came to this country from Scotland in 1872 and located in Piper City, Illinois, where he conducted the Piper City Bank for some years.

Christopher Anderson was six years of age when his parents removed from his native town to East Lothian. He attended the grammar schools at Musselburg until fourteen years of age, at which time he began providing for his own support, entering the auditing department of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railroad at Glasgow. There he continued from 1856 until 1860, and was afterward in Dumbartonshire until 1866 in connection with the coal trade.

On the ninetieth anniversary of the proclamation of American independence—July 4, 1866,—Mr. Anderson sailed from Glasgow to Montreal, Canada, whence he made his way to Chicago and on to Chatsworth, Illinois, reaching that place about six months after sailing from Glasgow. In the fall of 1866 he worked as a farm hand in Marshall county. Desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself, he then purchased a quarter section of land in Lyman township, Ford county. It was raw prairie, for which he paid eight dollars per acre, and in the spring of 1867 he took up his abode thereon and began its cultivation, continuing his farm work until the fall of 1872. He brought the fields into a state of rich fertility and made a number of substantial improvements upon the place. Thinking to find other business interests more congenial and more profitable, he removed to Roberts and began general merchandising in connection with J. A. Montelius and George Campbell, under the firm name of J. A. Montelius & Company. This relation was continued for about three or four years, after which Mr. Anderson pur-



chased his partner's interests and continued the business under his own name for a number of years, meeting with success in the undertaking. He has also been engaged in the grain business from the time he located in Roberts in 1872, until 1896 or 1897. In 1878 he built the Roberts Brick & Tile Works, which he operated until 1880, when the plant was destroyed by fire. He was then joined by John Kenward and they rebuilt the works, which are still in operation under the firm style of Anderson & Kenward. In 1879 Mr. Anderson purchased the private bank then owned by J. B. Meserve and has since been sole owner of the Roberts Exchange Bank, which is a substantial financial institution of which he has active charge. His various business interests have ever been of a character that has contributed to the substantial development of the village and promoted the general welfare, at the same time proving of substantial benefit to Mr. Anderson. In addition to his financial and industrial interests, he has valuable farming property, including three hundred acres of rich land in Lyman township, and fifteen hundred acres at Tensas, Parish, Louisiana.

Aside from his business interests, Mr. Anderson has done effective work for the village in public office, serving as justice of the peace for the past thirty years. He takes considerable interest in local politics, has served on the village board and does everything in his power to promote the welfare and upbuilding of the community. He does not consider himself bound by party ties but is independent, with leanings toward the democratic party.

In 1869 Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Mary G. Martin, of Marshall county, and a native of Peoria. They have ten children: Margaret; Dr. Martha Anderson, who is a physician of Roberts; Georgia, who is with her uncle in Scotland; Mary, the wife of Irvin H. Murray, of Morgan Park, Chicago; Bethia, the wife of Reynold J. Blesch, who is engaged in farming near Roberts; Jean, who is filling a position as bookkeeper at Clyde, Illinois; Anne, who is cashier in her father's bank; Marian, who is studying music in Chicago; and Flora and Adam, at home.

Since coming to America, Mr. Anderson has made two trips back to his native land and there learned a matter of interesting local history concerning Ford county—the naming of Paxton, which was so called in honor of Sir Joseph Paxan, the architect of the London exposition of 1851, who was knighted for that work. He was sent to America by an English syndicate that furnished the capital for the building of the Illinois Central Railroad. He remained all night at Paxton and in his honor the name of the town was changed from Prospect City to Paxton. Mr. Anderson has never had occasion

to regret his determination to seek a home in the new world. Coming to Illinois when a young man of twenty-four years, he availed himself of the opportunities here offered, and as the years have passed he has steadily worked his way upward until his orderly progression has gained him rank with the leading, prominent and substantial residents of the county.

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#### CHRISTIAN G. RYERSON.

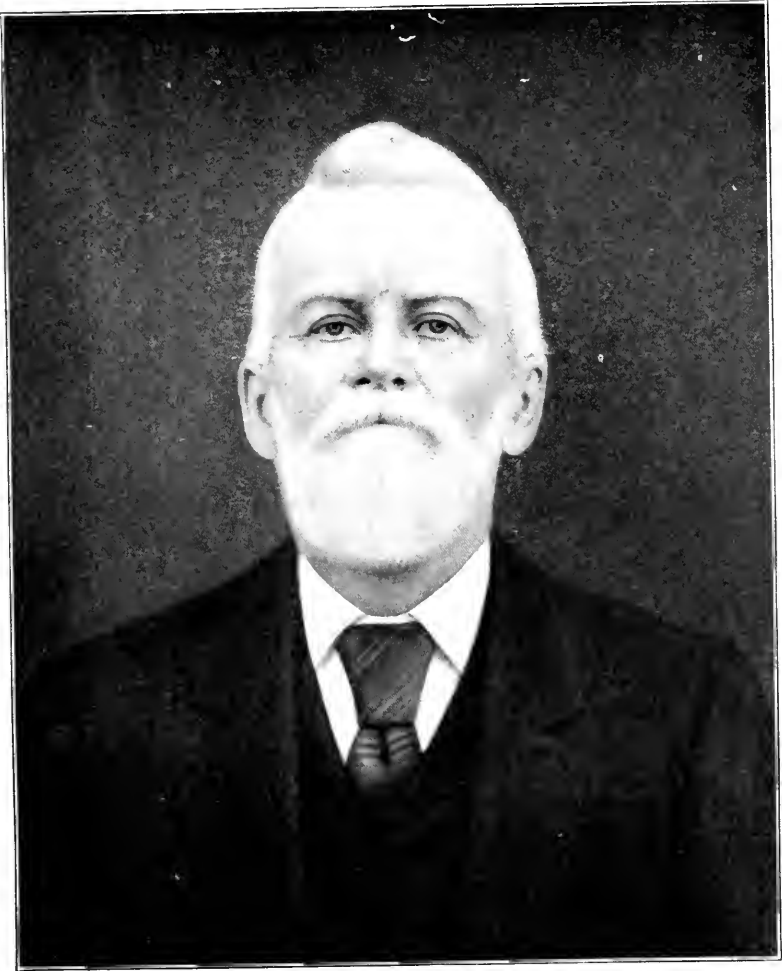
Christian G. Ryerson in his life record exemplifies the sterling traits of his Norwegian ancestry, belonging to that race which has long borne a reputation for reliability and industry—qualities which are indispensable in business and are important factors in good citizenship. He now follows farming on section 28, Dix township, where he owns and cultivates a good property. He was born in the land of the midnight sun in 1832, his parents being Ryer and Anna (Larson) Ryerson, both of whom were natives of Norway, where they spent their entire lives. Christian G. Ryerson was there reared and remained a resident of his native land until twenty-four years of age. He acquired his education in the schools of Norway, and in 1857 came to the new world with his brother Peter, who is now following farming in Iowa and is eighty years of age. His second brother, Ole, came to this country in 1855. Another brother, Thomas, is a retired farmer, living at Pontiac, Illinois, while Ananias is a blacksmith living at Norway, La Salle county, Illinois.

On the 7th of May, 1857, Christian G. Ryerson started for America, crossing the Atlantic on a sailing vessel, which ultimately reached the harbor of Quebec, June 23, 1857. He arrived at Chicago July 4, and then went to Ottawa, Illinois, where his two brothers lived. He arrived in this country during the hard times occasioned by the financial panic of 1857. As his financial resources were such as to make immediate employment imperative he began working at farm labor, receiving seventy-five cents per day, or fifteen or sixteen dollars per month. Carefully saving his earnings he was at length enabled to purchase a tract of one hundred and twenty acres of railroad land in the fall of 1867, paying for this eight dollars per acre. It was all raw prairie, not a furrow having been turned nor an improvement made thereon. There were few houses between his farm and Sibley, Illinois, and upon him devolved the arduous task of converting the raw prairie into cultivable fields. In the early days he saw deer and wolves. He raised practically nothing the first





MRS. C. G. RYERSON



C. G. RYERSON



two years, for his land was very wet and geese, brants and ducks ate up about all that was raised. With characteristic energy, however, he began to drain the fields and to make improvements thereon and he now has his place under a high state of cultivation, the farm being well tilled, while the latest improved machinery has been secured to facilitate the work. He now owns a place of one hundred and sixty acres, in the midst of which stands a valuable residence. In the early days he did most of his trading at Paxton and the roads at that time were often impassable, especially at the time of the spring rains. When he removed to his farm he built a little house there of one room, which was unplastered, but as the years have passed he has been enabled to add many comforts that go to make life worth living.

In 1860 Mr. Ryerson was married to Miss Inger Knutson, who was born in Norway and came alone to America in 1859 as a passenger on a sailing vessel to Quebec. She was attracted to this country from the fact that she had a sister and a brother living in La Salle, Illinois. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ryerson have been born ten children, of whom two died in early life. Anna married M. W. Peterson and has three children, Edith, Frances and Reuben. Josie is the wife of M. L. Yeager and has four children, Earl, Azalia, Frances and Raymond. Christina is the next of the family. Celia, now deceased, was the wife of David Cooper and had one child, Lela. Richard, now living in Urbana, is married and has one child, Catherine. Lena is the wife of J. C. Langley. Sarah and Carrie are at home.

In his political views Mr. Ryerson is a republican and has served as school trustee but otherwise has held no public office. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Norwegian Lutheran church. He has now passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey but is still supervising his farm work and displays business energy that is equal to that of many a man of much younger years.

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#### J. B. CARSON.

The business interests of Perdue find a worthy representative in J. B. Carson, who is the owner of two grain elevators. He is also dealing in seeds and coal and his business under his capable management has developed to large and profitable proportions. He has placed his dependence not upon

any outside aid or influence, but has won success through close application and unflinching diligence, guided by sound judgment.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Carson was born in Pickaway county, in May, 1863, his parents being Ebenezer and Jennie (Berry) Carson. The father, who was born near Chillicothe, Ohio, died in October, 1891, at the age of sixty-three years, in Ford county. His wife, who was born near Canonsburg, Washington county, Pennsylvania, died in 1896, and was also about sixty-three years of age at the time of her demise. They were the parents of five children: David M., who is engaged in the grain business at Clarence; Bessie, now the wife of Harvey Thompson, a resident of Paxton; J. B., of this review; Ulysses T., who follows farming near Paxton; and Mary B., also of Paxton.

J. B. Carson spent the first sixteen years of his life in the county of his nativity and then accompanied his parents on their removal westward to Illinois. The family home was established on a farm a half mile south of Perdue in Ford county, and in this locality he has since remained, gaining for himself an enviable place in business circles. He assisted his father in the work of the home farm, taking his place in the fields, where he labored from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn. In 1889 he established the grain business in Perdue, beginning, however, in a primitive way. During the first ten years all grain was loaded in the cars with a scoop shovel, but he had visions of what he would do when his success was greater, and year by year he added to his earnings as the result of his industry and careful expenditure. At length his capital was sufficient to enable him to see the formation of his hopes in the building of an elevator in 1899. This had a capacity of thirty thousand bushels, and in 1904 it was increased to sixty thousand. In 1907 Mr. Carson purchased an elevator of fifty thousand bushels and now operates both, having built up an extensive grain trade which is not only a source of income to him but also of value to the community, furnishing a market to the grain producers in this part of the state. He also deals in coal and seeds and his business has become extensive and gratifying. He likewise owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of land, upon which his elevator stands, and his farm is likewise a desirable asset to his business.

In December, 1892, Mr. Carson was united in marriage to Miss Edna A. Kemp, a native of Marshall county, Illinois, and a daughter of Nicholas M. and Katharine (Axline) Kemp, the former a native of Pennsylvania but now deceased. The mother resides in Paxton. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Carson have



been born two children: Jessie, who was born March 4, 1900, and John Kemp, born May 13, 1903.

Mr. Carson is a republican, having given stalwart support to the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has served as school treasurer here since 1898 and was assistant supervisor for four years, from 1903 until 1907. While manifesting a public-spirited interest in all things pertaining to the general welfare, he prefers to concentrate his time and energies upon his business. He has reason to be proud of what he has accomplished, having been both the architect and builder of his own fortunes. Brooking no obstacle that could be overcome by determined and honorable effort, he has steadily advanced on the highway of success and day by day is drawing nearer to the goal of prosperity.

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#### AUGUSTUS A. BARROW.

Augustus A. Barrow, who for several years has lived retired from active business life, enjoying well earned ease as the result of his energy and diligence in former years, makes his home in Gibson City. He is a native of Frederick county, Virginia, born July 8, 1848, of the marriage of Frederick and Mary (Smith) Barrow, the latter a daughter of Louis Smith, who was a soldier of the Prussian army. Frederick Barrow was born in Virginia, as was his father, and in that state reared his family. In his youthful days, Augustus A. Barrow attended a private school and when not occupied with the duties of the schoolroom assisted his father in the work of the home farm. With him he came to Illinois in 1867, the family home being established near where Gibson City now stands. The father purchased three hundred acres of land in Dix township, Ford county. His family numbered ten children.

Mr. Barrow of this review continued at home until he had attained his majority, when he went to Iowa, where he remained for a year. Following his return he was united in marriage to Miss Martha E. Barrow, a cousin, in 1870 and unto them were born four children—Hattie, who died at the age of twenty years; Weaver, who died at the age of seven; one who died in infancy; and Louis A. at home. The wife and mother departed this life in 1887 and Mr. Barrow afterward married Miss Belle Stephens, a daughter of James Stephens, of Melvin, Illinois.

In his political views Mr. Barrow is a democrat, stalwart in support of the principles of the party. He has held the office of tax collector and assessor for one term and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, also called him to the office of justice of the peace and his decisions were characterized by the utmost impartiality. He was one of the first drainage commissioners of the Big Four Drainage Company, which position he held for eight years.

For several years Mr. Barrow has now lived retired, deriving a good income from the rental of his farm of two hundred and fifty acres of rich and productive land, which he brought under a high state of cultivation and which is now a valuable property. The energy and unfaltering diligence which he displayed in former years make his present rest possible and he is now numbered among the substantial men of Gibson City. He belongs to the Odd Fellows Society, with which he has been identified for twenty-seven years, and has held all of the chairs in Gibson City lodge. For almost a quarter of a century he has been connected with the Knights of Pythias.

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#### WILLIAM H. GULLETT.

William H. Gullett is a retired farmer now living in Roberts, his activity in former years having gained for him the competence that now enables him to enjoy the comforts of life without further recourse to labor. He was born in Devonshire, England, May 25, 1844, and comes of one of the old families of that land. Tradition has it that the Gulletts crossed from Normandy to England at the time of the invasion of that country by William the Conqueror. The ancestral history is traced back in unbroken line through five hundred years and graves of members of the family through that period are now seen in the parish of Shaw in Devonshire. The parents of our subject were Robert and Elizabeth (Skelley) Gullett, also natives of Devonshire. The mother died there nine years before her son William came to America but the father afterward joined his son here and lived with him for twelve years prior to his demise. In the family were two sons and five daughters and the sons and two of the daughters became residents of America.

There were five generations of Robert and Elizabeth Gulletts who were laid to rest in one cemetery in Devonshire, and the subject of this review, being the eldest child, according to custom should have been named Robert, but his



M<sup>R</sup>. AND M<sup>R</sup>S. W. H. GULLETT



second brother was given that name. His father's grandmother, who also bore the name of Elizabeth, was born in Philadelphia and married a Mr. Grant, who was an American officer in the Revolutionary war. He was killed in battle and she afterward married an English officer, Colonel Fox, and went to England to live. Thus Mr. Gullett claimed to be part American before he came to this country.

William H. Gullett spent the first thirty-nine years of his life in his native land. He followed farming there until 1868, when he went to London, where he did police duty for four years and then returned to the farm, carrying on general agricultural pursuits until his emigration to the new world. In 1883 he crossed the Atlantic, establishing his home in Woodford county, Illinois. He was accompanied by his wife and six children and for ten years they lived upon a farm which he rented in Woodford county. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode upon a farm a mile southwest of Roberts, renting land from his uncle, and, as his financial resources increased, buying land for himself. He now owns two farms of eighty acres each, one in Wall and the other in Lyman townships. As the years passed he carried on the work of the fields and annually harvested rich crops as the reward for the labor which he bestowed upon the farm. Thus his financial resources annually increased and with a comfortable competence he retired from active farm work in March, 1904, and took up his abode in Roberts, since which time he has built the dwelling which he now owns and occupies.

In 1869 Mr. Gullett was married to Miss Marian Baskerville, who was born in Devonshire, England, in March, 1847, a daughter of John and Mary (Tozer) Baskerville, who spent their entire lives in England. The Baskervilles were an old family of that country, supposed to have gone from Normandy to England at the time of the conquest of the Anglo-Saxons by the Norman people. Mr. and Mrs. Gullett have eight children who are yet living: William H., a resident farmer of Wall township; Robert John, who is living on his uncle's farm in Lyman township; Albert Edward, who is engaged in the grain business in Roberts as a member of the firm of Roberts & Gullett; Ernest James, of Omaha, Nebraska; Julia Mary, the wife of W. A. Kenwood, of Wall township; Albert Thomas, who follows farming in Lyman township; Elias Frederick, of Lyman township; and Esther Maud, who is on the farm with her single brothers. They also lost two children—Francis George, who died in infancy, and Bessie Marian, who died at the age of four years.

Mr. Gullett has been active and influential in community affairs and has filled several township offices. He has served as township drainage commis-

sioner for the past seven years, has been school director for ten years and a trustee for nine years. He is interested in all that pertains to the material, intellectual, social and moral progress of the community. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and his religious faith is that of the Congregational church, in which he has served as a trustee for six years. Though born across the water and maintaining a love for his native land, he is yet thoroughly American in spirit and interests and loyal to the institutions of his adopted country. He and his wife have revisited their native land, making a trip to England in 1905. There they visited the scenes of childhood and renewed many of the acquaintances and friendships of their earlier years but willingly returned to Ford county, which they recognize as their permanent home.

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#### NELSON SOUCIE.

Nelson Soucie, filling the offices of deputy sheriff in Ford county and connected in his business interests with farming, was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, December 4, 1857. His parents were Joseph and Arrilla (Manny) Soucie, both of whom were natives of Canada. They came to the United States in 1847 and settled in Kankakee county, Illinois, the father following the occupation of farming there when the entire district was an almost unimproved and unsettled county. He was numbered among the pioneers of the locality and it was he who hauled the timber to build the first courthouse of the county in 1848, the structure being built of logs. Later he removed from Kankakee to Iroquois county, where he remained for twelve years. It was in that county that he first purchased land and in the course of time he became a successful agriculturist and stock-raiser. In 1868 he returned to Kankakee county, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, for which he paid thirty-seven and a half dollars per acre. For some time he continued active in the further development and improvement of his place but is now living retired, making his home in St. Anne, Illinois. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted in response to the country's call and served for a brief time during the latter part of the war under Captain Chimquie. He has been married twice. His first wife died June 3, 1895, and in 1897 he married Mrs. Fouchizier. There were eleven children by his first marriage, of whom nine reached adult age: George, a resident of Kansas City, Missouri; Nelson, of

this review; Flora, the wife of Nazzard Bantrant, of St. Anne, Illinois; Delia, the wife of Eulis Claument, of Clifton, Illinois; Deloima, at home; Clophase and Thomas, both of St. Anne, Illinois; Annie, the wife of Frank Danou, of Aurora, Illinois; and Daniel, who is now deceased.

Nelson Soucie had but limited educational advantages in his boyhood days, owing to the fact that there was no school within a distance of five miles and he spent but three days there as a student. When he was twenty-four years of age he was familiar with the alphabet but could not read or write. Becoming impressed with the value and necessity of an education, he entered upon the task of counteracting this lack of his earlier years through study and reading. He has since been an earnest student, constantly broadening his knowledge, and is today a much better informed man than many who had good school privileges in youth. He is recognized in the community as a practical man of business and there are indeed few topics of general interest which he cannot discuss interestingly and intelligently. He has been in public office for a number of years and the ability which he has displayed has been a matter of astonishment and admiration to those who have known of his lack of opportunities in his early life. Few men have had the ambition and strong purpose to make the advancement that he has done with as little assistance in early years.

Mr. Soucie made arrangements for having a home of his own when on the 2d of July, 1881, he was united in marriage to Miss Lena Greenwood, a daughter of August and Julia (Martin) Greenwood. After paying the minister the wedding fee he had remaining a cash capital of three silver dollars with which to commence housekeeping. He rented a portion of the Sibley estate and purchased horses, plows and other equipments for the farm on credit. He first undertook the cultivation of eighty acres of land and today he farms on the same estate one hundred and three acres, which he has brought under a high state of cultivation and so ably conducted that he now derives a gratifying annual income from his farming operations. While he does not own his own farm, he has invested in other property and is one of the prosperous residents of the community. He is also interested in the real-estate and loan business.

In 1900 Mr. Soucie was elected constable of Sullivant township and served for four years, while during the past six years he has filled the office of deputy sheriff. Previously he was elected to the position of cemetery trustee of the township, and is now president and secretary of the cemetery association—one of the important offices of the township. He has lived continuously in Ford

county since 1877 and since his marriage in 1881 has remained upon the Sibley estate. Unto him and his wife have been born three children: Edith, the wife of J. S. Stephens, of Melvin, this county; James A., deceased; and Lester H., at home.

Mr. Soucie is a member of Columbian Lodge, No. 733, I. O. O. F., and the Gibson Encampment. Both he and his wife are faithful and consistent members of the Presbyterian church, and he has acted as a trustee of the church for some time. They contribute generously to its support and take a helpful interest in its work. When a young man Mr. Soucie was a member of the church choir and others of his family were also thus actively connected with the church worship, the family possessing considerable musical talent. There is perhaps in this volume no biography which illustrates so clearly the possibilities for accomplishment when one has ambition, determination and perseverance. Mr. Soucie's record is certainly a most creditable one. There are many men who are self-made financially, but there are few who start out in life handicapped by a lack of even the common branches of English learning. He stands today as the result of his own efforts among the well informed, enterprising and successful citizens and capable public officials, and has many friends who honor and esteem him for what he has accomplished.

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#### LEWIS H. PHILLIPS.

Lewis H. Phillips, whose home is within the corporation limits of Melvin, has for many years been identified actively and successfully with the agricultural interests of Ford county. He was born in Hope township, LaSalle county, Illinois, July 17, 1853. His parents were Abraham and Sarah (Dixon) Phillips. The father was born in Manchester, England, April 6, 1829, and in 1842 came to the United States with his father and five brothers, settling in Magnolia, Putnam county, Illinois. He had lost his mother when but two years of age. The grandfather bore the name of Philip Phillips and after reaching the new world he remained at Magnolia for a brief period and then located upon a farm, which he continued to cultivate and improve throughout his remaining days. His children, all now deceased, were George, Edward, Thomas, William, John and Abraham, the last named being the father of our subject.

After coming to this country, Abraham Phillips spent one winter in Magnolia and then went with his father to Hope township, LaSalle county, about





L. H. PHILLIPS AND FAMILY



three miles from Magnolia, where he lived throughout his remaining days. He became the owner of four hundred acres of land and developed an excellent farm, which enabled him to provide a good living for his family. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church from 1862 until his death, which occurred July 27, 1905. His wife was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1835, and came to Illinois with her parents, the family home being established in Putnam county. She is now a resident of Los Angeles, California, where she spends the winter, and also maintains her home upon the old farm in LaSalle county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Phillips were born twelve children: Lewis II., of this review; Mrs. Laura Moore, of California; Elmer, of Tonica, Illinois; Mary and George, twins, the former now a resident of California, while the latter was drowned at the age of thirteen years; Mrs. Salina Coan, of Texas; John, living on the old homestead in LaSalle county; Frank, who also resides upon a part of the old homestead; Adelbert, a farmer of Lostant, Illinois; Orville, of California; and Lela and Elizabeth, twins. The former died at the age of eighteen years and the latter is now Mrs. Hildebrand, of Tonica, Illinois.

Lewis II. Phillips was reared upon the old homestead where his birth occurred, continuing there with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, when in the spring of 1880 he came to Ford county. Here he has since lived on the south half of section 2, Peach Orchard township. This farm was purchased by his father, a tract of raw prairie, for which he paid eight dollars and a half per acre and which was owned by him until his death. It is now a part of the estate. He and his brother John came and purchased the entire section at that time. Lewis II. Phillips broke a part of this farm, set out the trees and erected all of the buildings. He has also made all of the modern improvements upon the place and has here carried on general agricultural pursuits for twenty-seven years, devoting his time and energies to both grain and stock-farming. The fields are rich and productive and annually produce good crops as a reward for the care and labor he bestows upon them. He also handles stock of good grades and both branches of his business are proving remunerative.

On the 25th of November, 1879, Mr. Phillips was united in marriage to Miss Ellen J. Burt, who was born in Cuba, Alleghany county, New York, July 1, 1854, a daughter of Charles Henry and Mary Margaret (Wood) Burt. The father's birth occurred in Monroe county, New York, June 5, 1822, while the mother was born in Smithfield, Jefferson county, Ohio, January 18, 1832. Their marriage was celebrated in Clarksville, Alleghany county, New York, August 23, 1853. About 1856 they removed to Harrisville, Wisconsin, and in 1863 made their way

to Magnolia, Illinois. Their family numbered six children: Mrs. Phillips; Mrs. Emily Broadhus, deceased; Lyman, who is living in Trego county, Kansas; Margaret, who died in childhood; Charles, a resident of Durango, Colorado; and William, who died in infancy. The father died in Trego county, Kansas, in 1901 and the mother spent her last days in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, passing away in 1902. Mrs. Philips accompanied her parents on their removal to Wisconsin and afterward to Illinois, living at home up to the time of her marriage. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have been born three children: Mary Jessamine, Laura Novella and Carroll Burt. The family are well known in their part of the county, the parents having a large circle of warm friends who esteem them for their genuine personal worth and good traits of heart and mind.

Mr. Phillips is a stalwart republican and has held several village offices, to which he has been called by the vote of his fellow townsmen. While his life work has been that of a farmer, his home is within the corporation limits of the village. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and to the Modern Woodmen camp and is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His entire life has been passed in this part of Illinois and since the spring of 1880 he has lived on the farm which is yet his home, now covering a period of twenty-eight years. The evidence of his labor is seen in the well developed property, which is one of the attractive features of the landscape, being in many respects a model farm property.

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#### W. O. MCKINNEY.

The name of McKinney has been so closely and honorably associated with the business activity and enterprise of Piper City that the subject of this review needs no introduction to the readers of this volume. He was born here August 18, 1867, and is a son of John McKinney. He has always lived in the village and after acquiring his preliminary education in the public schools he pursued a course in Bryant & Stratton Business College, Chicago. He started in business as his father's partner under the firm style of John McKinney & Son, dealers in lumber and proprietors of a furniture, undertaking and hardware establishment. In 1897 the business was incorporated under the name of the John McKinney & Son Company, since which time the son has managed the business, the father being practically retired. They also have a branch house

at La Hogue, where they engage in the sale of lumber, hardware, furniture under the name of J. F. Moore & Company.

On the 25th of January, 1898, W. O. McKinney was married to Miss Ethel Barrett, of Glendora, California, a native of Onarga, Illinois, and a daughter of Dr. W. M. Barrett, formerly of Onarga, but now of Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. McKinney have one son, Donald, nine years of age.

Fraternally Mr. McKinney is a Mason, having taken the degrees of the commandery and of the Mystic Shrine. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is recognized as one of the leading business men of Piper City. It is true that he entered upon a business already established but in enlarging and controlling this many a man of less resolute spirit would have failed. He has resolutely undertaken the tasks that have devolved upon him, however, and the capable management that he has displayed, combined with unflinching diligence, show that success is not a matter of genius or of fortunate circumstances, as held by some.

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#### ELBERT E. HILLS.

Elbert E. Hills is devoting his time and energies to the cultivation and improvement of a farm of four hundred acres on section 23, Mona township, and is also well known as a stock-raiser. He was born in Kendall county, Illinois, October 28, 1863, his parents being Austin and Cornelia (Vreeland) Hills, the former a native of New York and the latter of New Jersey. They came to Kendall county at an early day and the father, who was a harness-maker by trade, followed that pursuit through much of his life. He and his wife are now living in Kankakee county and are well known in this part of the state. In their family were six children, of whom Elbert E. is the eldest, while the others are: Levi M. and Frederick P., both residents of Kankakee county; Henrietta, the wife of John Inkster, a resident of Herscher; Leroy W., also a resident of Herscher; and one deceased.

The boyhood and youth of Elbert E. Hills were passed in a manner similar to that of most boys of the period. He remained with father until he reached manhood, in the meantime acquiring his education in the public schools. When he had attained adult age he started out in life for himself and worked by the month for three years. He next rented a farm for fourteen years, after which he married and established his home where he now resides. The

lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Hills was in her maidenhood Miss Emma Dancer. She was born in Ford county and is a daughter of John and Mattie Dancer. She owns eighty acres of the farm on which they live on section 23, Mona township. The place comprises four hundred acres and the soil is rich and productive, responding readily to the care and labor which is bestowed upon it. In addition to the production of the cereals best adapted to the soil and climatic conditions, Mr. Hills also makes a specialty of raising stock and fine grades of cattle are seen upon his place, while his sales annually reach a large figure.

Mrs. Hills is a graduate of the Onarga Seminary and also of the Northern Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso. She has likewise studied music and is a lady of broad and liberal culture. Her father died in 1894, leaving a wife and two children to mourn his loss, and Mrs. Dancer is now living in Cullom, Livingston county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hills have been born three children: John Russell D., Irene M. and Milton Albert, but the last named is now deceased.

The parents attend and support the Methodist Episcopal church and are people of genuine personal worth, enjoying in large measure the friendship and high regard of those with whom they have been brought in contact. Mr. Hills is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, No. 612, at Herscher. He has served as school director for several years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. His political allegiance has been given to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hills are widely and favorably known in this locality and their home is justly celebrated for its gracious and warm-hearted hospitality.

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#### FRANK STADLER.

Frank Stadler owns and cultivates a well improved farm of one hundred fourteen and a half acres on section 1, Brenton township. His entire life has been passed in this county, his birth having occurred on the 4th of March, 1870, on a farm seven miles southwest of Piper City. There he resided continuously until 1905, when he came to his present farm, which he had purchased the previous year. He is a son of John and Katharine (Valendor) Stadler, who were natives of Germany. The father came to America with his parents when eleven years of age and the family home was established on the unbroken prairie of



MR. AND MRS. FRANK STADLER





Brenton township, Ford county. Here he aided in turning the first furrows on the farm and planted the first tree. As the years went by he brought his place under a high state of cultivation, having one hundred and sixty acres on section 30, Brenton township. To this he added from time to time until he was the owner of a valuable property of three hundred and sixty acres, all in one patch on sections 30 and 31. He continued his place of residence until his death, which occurred in September, 1884, when he was but forty-nine years of age. He bought his first land at twelve dollars per acre and it was many times worth that sum when he was called from this life. A most industrious and energetic man, he labored untiringly in tilling the soil and as the years passed gained a gratifying measure of success which was proof of his well directed labor and sound business judgment. He belonged to the Lutheran church, of which Mrs Stadler was also a member. She still survives him, resides in Piper City and is mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

In their family were the following named: Jacob, now living in Piper City; Louis, who died at the age of twenty-six years; Katie, the wife of Fred Risto of Piper City; Frank of this review; Helen, the wife of Joseph K. Montelius, also represented on another page of this work; Samuel, a resident of Livingston county, Illinois; Elizabeth, the wife of Ferdinand Luther of Piper City; Charles, also of Piper City; Anna, the wife of George Montelius; and William who died at the age of nineteen years. By a former marriage the father had two children: George, now living in California, and John, whose home is in Chicago.

In taking up the personal history of Frank Stadler we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in this locality for he has always lived in Brenton township. As a boy he was occupied with the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the home farm and lessons of industry and integrity were early instilled into his mind and have borne fruit in his business career. Since attaining his majority he has worked at farm labor and his present place of residence indicates his careful supervision for it presents a most attractive appearance, being a well improved place of one hundred fourteen and a half acres on section 1. He has remodeled and added to the buildings and has made many other substantial improvements. He raises the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and rich harvests annually reward his efforts.

In 1895 Mr. Stadler was married to Miss Anna Jacobsen, who was born in Denmark in 1872 and came to Piper City in 1891 with friends, her family remaining in the old country. Mr. and Mrs. Stadler are now members of the Second Presbyterian church of South Brenton, of which he is serving as an elder

and in the moral development and progress of the community they are deeply interested. His political support is given the democracy. For eight years he has served as school director and has done effective work in behalf of the cause of education, of which he is a stalwart champion.

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#### CLAUS H. REITZ.

Claus H. Reitz, who owns a valuable tract of land of two hundred and forty acres on sections 20 and 17, Wall township, is one of the worthy sons that Germany has furnished to the United States, his birth having occurred in Holstein on the 24th of May, 1855. His parents, Andrew and Margaret (Beck) Reitz, were both natives of the fatherland the former still living in that country, his wife having passed away in 1905. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Claus H., of this review; Frederick and Christian, both of whom are deceased; Anna, who became the wife of Henry Powerson and makes her home in Germany; John, who has also departed this life; Hans, also living in Germany; Maggie, the wife of Herman Weist, of Germany; and one who died in infancy.

Claus H. Reitz pursued his education in the common schools of his native land and after he had attained his majority served as a soldier for three years in accordance with the laws of his country. In 1880, however, he crossed the ocean to the new world, being desirous of testing the truth of the favorable reports which he had heard regarding the excellent business opportunities which were here offered. On his arrival in the United States he located first at Gibson City, Ford county, Illinois, where he was employed by the month for three years; on the expiration of that time he operated a rented farm for thirteen years. He then purchased eighty acres of land but subsequently traded that tract for one hundred and sixty acres in Sullivant township, and in 1899 he traded the latter tract for three hundred and twenty acres in Troquois county, Illinois. After living in that county for two years he sold his farm there and bought two hundred and forty acres on sections 17 and 20, Wall township, Ford county, where he has since made his home and which he has partly improved. When he arrived in this country he had but one hundred dollars but as the years have passed by he has prospered, owing to his well directed labor and capable business management, and is now numbered among the substantial and enterprising agriculturists of Ford county.

Mr. Reitz has been married twice, being first wedded in Germany, in 1879, to Miss Anna Rahr, by whom he had two children: Christina, the wife of Mat Stafgan, of Wall township; and John, at home. In 1887 he was married to Miss Lena Borgers, also a native of Germany, where her birth occurred in 1866. She came to America in 1886, and has become the mother of three children: William, Margaret and Albert, all at home.

Politically Mr. Reitz is a republican, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Lutheran church, with which his wife is also identified. For more than a quarter of a century he has been identified with the agricultural interests of this part of the state and has therefore been an active factor in the work of development which has transformed the region from a wild and uncultivated state into one of rich fertility and productiveness. He is numbered among those who left the fatherland to identify themselves with American life and institutions, who have pushed their way to the front and who are a credit alike to the land of their birth and that of their adoption.

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#### SAMUEL J. LEFEVRE.

Samuel J. LeFevre of Gibson City, is a native of Little York, Ohio, born April 16, 1841, and belongs to a family originally of French Huguenot ancestry. His parents were W. C. M. and Martha (Jewett) LeFevre, the latter a daughter of Doctor Jewett, a physician of St. Johnsbury, Vermont. W. C. M. LeFevre was born in Miami county, Ohio, and in 1856 came to Ford county, Illinois, settling here at an early period in its upbuilding. He, too, was a member of the medical fraternity.

Samuel J. LeFevre acquired his education in the common schools of Indiana, accompanying his parents on their removal to that state in his boyhood days. When fifteen years of age he began working for his father on the home farm and in 1872 came to Gibson City, where he entered the lumber business, continuing in that field of merchandising for several years. Subsequently he established a coalyard, which he yet conducts. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land adjoining Gibson City.

Mr. LeFevre was a young man of twenty-one years when in response to his country's call he joined the Union army as a private on the 24th of July, 1862, and was assigned to duty with Company K, Seventy-sixth Illinois

Volunteer Infantry. He continued at the front until the close of hostilities, and was mustered out as corporal in 1865. He was wounded in the foot in one of the engagements in which he participated. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg and in various battles of the war. He now belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and thus maintains pleasant relations with his former comrades. He is also a member of Gibson Lodge, No. 733, A. F. & A. M., G. S. Chapter, No. 183, R. A. M.; Gibson Council, No. 72, R. & S. M.; and Mt. Olive Commandery, No. 38, K. T., at Paxton. Prominent in Masonry, he served as district deputy grand master for four years and was grand master of the state for the Royal and Select Masters. His political allegiance has been given to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to positions of public honor and trust. He has filled all of the city offices, including that of president of the ward.

Pleasantly situated in his home life, Mr. Lefevre was married in 1866 to Miss Laura A. Carver, a daughter of David L. and Lorena Nash Carver. Their children are Marietta, now Mrs. Fulton, of Charleston, Illinois, and Anna J., who is secretary to the dean of education in the University of Chicago. A resident of Ford county from his boyhood days, Samuel J. LeFevre is well known here as a man whose record in military circles, in politics, in business and in social life commends him to the good will and respect of his fellowmen, and as such he deserves classification with the representative residents of this part of the state.

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#### WILLIAM T. GASH.

William T. Gash was for many years actively identified with the agricultural life of Ford county, cultivating one hundred and twenty acres of land in section 25, Peach Orchard township, but since 1903 he has lived retired in Merom, still retaining possession of his farm property, however, from which he derives a good rental. Mr. Gash was born in Wilsford, Lincolnshire, England, his natal day being June 3, 1847. His parents, Thomas and Mary Blinnings Gash, were likewise natives of Lincolnshire, where they spent their entire lives, the father passing away there in 1856, while the mother survived for a long period, and died in 1888, at the advanced age of eighty years. Their



WILLIAM T. GASH



family numbered four sons and four daughters. Thomas and Helen are in Australia. Charles is still a resident of his native land. The other members of the family, Ann, Robert, Edward and Ellen, are all deceased, Edward having passed away in Henry county, Illinois.

William T. Gash was reared in his native land and there acquired a very meager education, having attended school but three months. He has, however, added greatly to his knowledge through experience, reading and observation. At the age of fourteen years he secured employment as a footman, which continued to be his work until he attained his majority. Having heard favorable reports concerning the advantages to be enjoyed in America he then, in 1858, made his way to the United States, locating first in Henry county, Illinois, to which place he was accompanied by two cousins. He secured employment at farm labor, working in that way for two years. At the end of that time, feeling justified in embarking in business on his own account, he rented eighty acres of land and through the assistance of a friend he operated it until 1864, when he was married and established a home of his own. He had a house erected on the property which he rented and in that continued to make his home for several years but in 1869 he came to Ford county and purchased eighty acres of land. He later added a tract of forty acres and now owns one hundred and twenty acres in Peach Orchard township, situated on section 23, two and a half miles northwest of Melvin. He was here engaged in general agricultural pursuits throughout a long period, or until 1903, when he removed to Melvin, where he has since lived retired, enjoying in well earned ease the fruits of his former toil.

As above stated, Mr. Gash was married in 1864, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah A. Bevins, who was born in Newark, New Jersey, in 1844, a daughter of William and Mary (Bott) Bevins, who were natives of England. They came to the United States in 1843, locating first in New Jersey, but in 1858 they made their way to Henry county, Illinois, where they passed away. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gash has been blessed with two daughters and two sons: Elizabeth is the wife of William E. McLaughlin, a resident of Melvin; Clifford, of Omaha, Nebraska; and Cora married C. M. Foster, of Clarence, and they are on our subject's farm. Their eldest child, William H., died in 1898, at the age of thirty-two years, leaving a family of five children.

Mr. Gash gives his political support to the republican party. For the past twenty years he has filled the office of justice of the peace and has also been school director for a like period, while he was road commissioner for six years, township collector three years and township assessor three years. He

was reared in the faith of the Episcopal church, while his fraternal relations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a public-spirited man, ever ready to give his aid and cooperation to any movement which tends to benefit the community. His record as a business man, as an official and as a private citizen has been so honorable that he has gained the confidence and good will of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### JOHN A. MAXWELL.

John A. Maxwell is now living retired in Gibson City, but for a long period was identified with agricultural interests in this section of the state, and by his well directed industry and capable management gained the success which now enables him to enjoy a well earned rest. He is one of Illinois' native sons, his birth having occurred in Tazewell county, near Danvers, on the 23d of December, 1857, his parents being Eli and Amanda (Hill) Maxwell. The father was born in Greene county, Ohio, and the mother was also a native of that state. She died when her son John was but six months old and the father, long surviving her, passed away about 1893. He became a resident of Illinois in 1852, at which time he located near Danvers in Tazewell county, where he followed farming. There he remained until called to his final rest at the age of seventy-six years.

John A. Maxwell was reared upon the old homestead farm and acquired his education in the district schools of McLean county, Illinois. He early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and on starting out in life on his own account, first rented land in McLean county. He has also been identified with industrial pursuits and for several years operated a sawmill, while for twenty years he also engaged in threshing in McLean county, owning a threshing machine. Purchasing land, he was for a long period successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits, bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation and so conducting his business affairs that his interests returned to him a gratifying annual income. He is still the owner of five hundred acres of good land which he drained, putting in twelve miles of tile, and thus brought it into a rich state of fertility. He carried on the work of tilling the soil year after year and gathered rich crops until 1897, when he left the farm and removed to Hudson, where he lived for several years. About 1900, however, he came to Gibson



City and purchased the Damman home, which is one of the finest residences of the city. He also owns another house and lot here, and from his farming property he derives a good income. In 1906 he rented his place, which was devoted to the raising of stock and grain while he resided upon it.

In March, 1879, Mr. Maxwell was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Fay, a daughter of Dr. Louis Fay, who died in Florida about 1897, after having lived there for fifteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell have become the parents of six children: Lillian, who is the wife of William R. Greer, a farmer living near Woodford in McLean county, Illinois; Bessie, the wife of Rollie B. Price, who carries on general farming north of Bloomington; Mahala, the wife of Roscoe Moore, who is engaged in farming about four miles southwest of Gibson; Mollie, Ruth and Bryan, all at home.

Mr. Maxwell has been called to some local offices, serving for four terms as collector in his township before his removal from the farm. He is a member of the Lotus Club of Gibson City, and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He is a man of broad mind, of genial nature and social qualities, and wins friends wherever he goes, while he and his family are held in the highest esteem by those who know them.

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#### WARREN O. SANDERS.

Warren O. Sanders, who since the 1st of June, 1903, has been owner, editor and publisher of the Roberts Herald, was born in Lowell, Indiana, February 18, 1866, and is a son of Charles H. and Abigail (Sanders) Sanders. The mother was also a native of Lowell, while the father's birth occurred in Wood county, Ohio. He and his wife, however, now reside near Lowell. Their family numbered four sons and a daughter, of whom Warren O. Sanders is the eldest. He remained in the neighborhood in which his birth occurred until twenty-four years of age and attended the district schools. He prepared himself for teaching and, desirous of further educational development, he became a student in the Indiana State Normal School at Terre Haute. For eighteen years he successfully engaged in teaching, having the ability to impart clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he has acquired. For six years he was a teacher in West Creek township, Lake county, Indiana, and one year in Kankakee county, Illinois. He also taught for a short time near Winamac, Indiana, after which he resigned and for five years was a teacher

in Piatt county, Illinois, while for six years he was principal of the schools of Roberts. His labors here were effective and beneficial, as he promoted the standard of education and introduced practical methods wherewith to secure desired and advanced results. At length he determined to turn his attention to journalism and on the 1st of June, 1903, purchased the printing outfit and has since been editor of the Roberts Herald, which was established in 1898. He also prints the Melvin Transcript, established in 1893 and the Thawville Reporter, established in 1904. He has a well equipped office and makes a specialty of job work, and his paper and also his job office have a good patronage. The paper is conducted as a republican sheet and is published in the interests of Roberts and the locality, being devoted to the dissemination of local and general news.

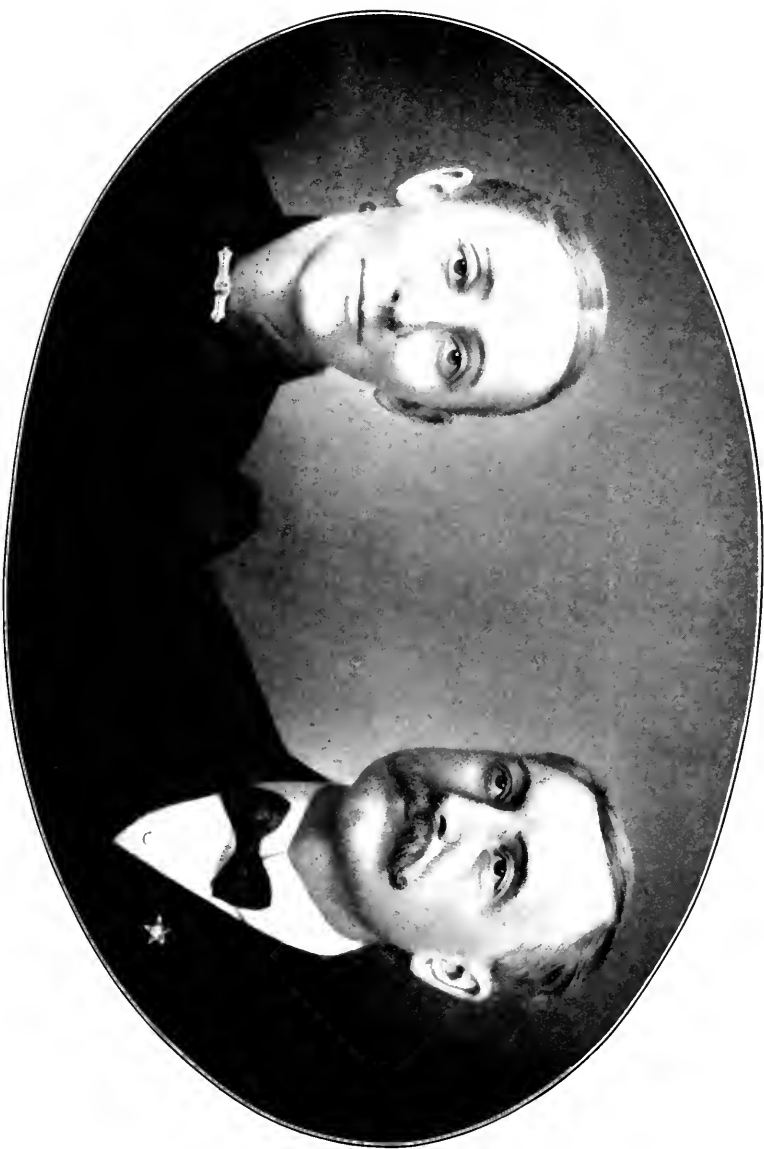
Mr. Sanders was married October 7, 1894, to Miss Susannah Biser, who was born February 23, 1871, near Winamac, Indiana, her parents being Samuel and Esther (Miller) Biser, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father still resides at Winamac but the mother is now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sanders have been born six children: Orth Biser, Esther, Fern, Clarence, Clara and Lucile. All are yet living with the exception of Clarence, who died at the age of ten months.

Mr. Sanders is a stalwart champion of republican principles and does all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of the party. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to office. He was township clerk for eight years and he also served on the school board and acts as its clerk. Socially he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and for five years has been clerk of the local camp. He also belongs to the Court of Honor, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Thawville and the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He is a gentleman of strong mentality, who has made a success as an educator and is now capably conducting the Roberts Herald.

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#### EUGENE HENRY GEORGE.

Eugene Henry George, identified with the farming interests of Rogers township, his home being on section 22, indicates his progressive and enterprising spirit in the excellent and well kept appearance of his place. He is cultivating a half section upon which he has lived since January, 1902, devoting the farm



MIR AND MRS. E. H. GEORGE



to the raising of grain and stock. He was born near Ottawa, Illinois, November 17, 1859, his parents being Newell P. and Thusy Ann (Weeks) George.

The father was born in Sunapee, New Hampshire, July 23, 1832, a son of Worthen and Rachel (Emerson) George, representatives of old New England families, who traced their ancestry back to Scotland. Many representatives of the name lived in New Hampshire, and at one election twenty-three votes were cast by those bearing the name in one town. The paternal great-grandfather of our subject, Elijah George, served as a soldier in the war of 1812. Newell P. George was afforded good educational advantages during the period of his youth, completing the high-school course. When he attained his majority he began teaching, following that pursuit for a time, after which he was employed in a mercantile establishment for five years, and it was during that time that he was married in 1855 to Miss Thusy Ann Weeks, who was born in Vermont in 1837 but at the time of her marriage was living in Massachusetts.

Removing westward with his family Newell P. George first located in Kendall county, Illinois, where he rented land and engaged in farming until 1869, when he removed to Livingston county and purchased forty acres of land in Broughton township. He improved this place with good buildings and added to his landed holdings until his place comprised one hundred and sixty acres. Although for two years after his removal to this state he engaged in teaching school in addition to his farming interests, his later years were entirely devoted to general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He was ever known as a public-spirited citizen, giving loyal support to many movements which tended to promote the welfare of his section of the state. His political allegiance was given to the democratic party and for twelve years he served as road commissioner, while for a quarter of a century he acted as school director.

His family numbered the following children: Charles H., who died in Livingston county; Eugene H., of this review; Isabelle, who died in infancy; Edward, who died in infancy; Carrie, who died at the age of two years; Burton, who resides in Kankakee county, Illinois; Frank S., of Bradley; Adelbert, who resides in Emington, Livingston county, this state; and Ed who makes his home in Kankakee county.

Eugene Henry George was an infant when the parents removed to Newark, Kendall county, Illinois, where they resided eleven years, after which they took up their abode in Broughton township, Livingston county. He continued under the parental roof until twenty-three years of age and was trained to habits of industry, economy and unflinching diligence. He was married at the age of twenty-four years and began farming on his own account in Broughton

township, Livingston county, where he remained for four years. He then removed to Gross township in the same county, where he resided for five years, after which he again took up his abode in Broughton township. When eight years had passed he came to his present place of residence in January, 1902. Here he cultivates a half of section 22, Rogers township, the place being the James Oglevie farm. It is devoted to the raising of grain and stock and in his business interests Mr. George is meeting with well merited success. Two years ago he purchased an improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Jackson county, Minnesota, and still owns this property.

In 1885 Mr. George was united in marriage to Miss Kate Hughes, who was born in Wisconsin, November 18, 1859, and when about six years of age was brought to Ford county by her parents, John and Mary (Morris) Hughes, both of whom were natives of Wales and spent their last days in this county. The father was born August 15, 1818, and when about thirty-five years of age crossed the Atlantic to New York. He was married in that state near Bridgewater to Mary Morris, who was born in Wales in 1828 and came to the new world on the same vessel on which Mr. Hughes crossed. After a short residence in the Empire state they removed to Racine, Wisconsin, where he worked as a farm hand for a time and afterward began farming on his own account. In 1865 they arrived in Rogers township, Ford county, and for thirty-six years thereafter Mr. Hughes carried on general agricultural pursuits prior to his retirement from active business life. He took up his abode in Cabery about ten years ago and there resided in the enjoyment of well earned rest until called to his final home June 27, 1905. His wife passed away January 23, 1903. Soon after coming to the county Mr. Hughes purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and afterward bought an adjoining tract of one hundred and sixty acres, and at his death he left his valuable farming property of three hundred and twenty acres, together with a good house and lot in Cabery. When his farm came into his possession it was wild prairie land and all of the improvements upon it were made by him. He lived in a neighbor's barn until he could erect a small house but as the years passed he was enabled to add modern improvements and substantial buildings to his place and his energy and well directed activity gained for him a handsome competence. Both he and his wife were members of the Cabery Presbyterian church. Unto them were born six children: Mary, now the wife of N. C. Hall, of Kankakee county; Anna, the wife of D. A. Bouk, of Kempton; Mrs. George; David, of Missouri; John, of Emington; and Thomas, who is living upon the old homestead place.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. George have been born three children: Oliver and Olive, twins, born April 21, 1887; and Harry, born October 9, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. George are well known in this locality, having for many years resided in this part of the state and they have a large circle of friends in Rogers township.

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#### J. YOUNG SHAMEL, M. D.

Dr. J. Young Shamel, a prominent representative of the medical fraternity, with experience and ability that places him foremost in the ranks of those who are successful in the profession, was born February 20, 1871, in Springfield, Illinois. His parents were Conrad and Caroline (Alkire) Shamel. The father, a native of Bavaria, Germany, was thirteen years of age when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, the family home being established north of Springfield, in Sangamon county, Illinois, theirs being one of the pioneer homes of that locality. The grandfather purchased land there and upon the homestead farm Conrad Shamel was reared. He completed his education in the public schools, assisted in the farm work and eventually was married and resided in that locality until his son, Dr. Shamel, was three years of age. He then removed with his family to Christian county, Illinois, settling near Taylorville, where he purchased land, and as his financial resources permitted invested more and more largely in property until he became the owner of eight hundred acres of as fine farm land as can be found in the entire Mississippi valley.

In his family were four sons. The eldest, Charles H. Shamel, won the degree of Bachelor of Science at the Illinois University, while the degrees of Master of Science and Bachelor of Laws was conferred upon him at University of Michigan and those of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy by Columbia University in New York city. He is now living with his mother on the old homestead near Taylorville and is managing the estate, having previously practiced law for a short time. Clarence A. Shamel, the second son, after being graduated from the Illinois University with the degree of Master of Science, is now editor and business manager of The Orange Judd Farmer at Chicago. He also owns a large wheat ranch in Canada. Archibald D. Shamel is a graduate and was formerly an instructor in the Illinois University and is now one of Secretary Wilson's experts on farming in the department of agriculture at Washington, D. C. The last two brothers are married.

Dr. Shamel attended the district schools and for one year was a student in the preparatory department of the Illinois University, where he spent three years, remaining there until his father's death in 1890. In 1891 Dr. Shamel entered the University of Pennsylvania for the purpose of pursuing a medical course and was graduated with honors in the class of 1894. While in college he became a member of the John Ashhurst, Jr., Surgical Society. Following his graduation he came to Gibson City, where he has since been located in the successful practice of his profession. In addition to a large private practice, he is official surgeon for both the Wabash and Illinois Central Railroads.

Dr. Shamel was married October 18, 1899, to Miss J. Anita Snyder, a daughter of W. E. Snyder, of Moweaqua, Illinois, where he follows farming. Mrs. Shamel is a graduate of the high school of that place and also of the Cummoek School of Oratory at the Northwestern University of Chicago. She likewise pursued a two years' course in the Illinois Training School for Nurses. By her marriage she has become the mother of three sons: Clarence A., Dixon S. and John Hayden, the first two being twins.

Dr. Shamel belongs to the Masonic fraternity, being a past master of Gibson Lodge, No. 733, A. F. & A. M., also a chapter Mason and a member of Mt. Olivet Commandery, K. T., at Paxton. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he is now serving as president of the board of education for the second term. He belongs to the Lotus Club and is a gentleman of genial, social nature. Professionally he is connected with the Iroquois-Ford Medical Society, the State Medical Society, the American Medical Association and the American Association of Railway Surgeons and the Wabash and Illinois Central Railroads Associations. He takes delight in his work from the scientific standpoint and also because of the humanitarian spirit, which rejoices in the good that he can do for his fellowmen.

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#### PATRICK GALLAHUE.

Patrick Gallahue dates his residence in Ford county from 1869. He was a lad of seven years at the time of his arrival here in company with his parents, Peter and Julia (A'Hern) Gallahue, who were natives of the Emerald Isle and came to America in 1851, settling first in the state of New York. There they lived for a year, after which they took up their abode in Pennsylvania and a year later, in 1854, they became residents of La Salle county, Illinois. Set-



thing upon a rented farm, the father there continued to carry on general agricultural pursuits for several years or until 1869, when he brought his family to Ford county and purchased land, upon which he lived until 1892, when he moved to Piper City, where he died April 26, 1898. He was one of the enterprising, well known and respected farmers of this part of the state. Unto him and his wife were born nine children, of whom four are yet living namely: Ellen, who resides in Piper City; Thomas, who makes his home in Pella township; Patrick, of this review; and Katie, the wife of Patrick O'Mara.

Patrick Gallahue was born in La Salle county on the 10th of July, 1862. He early became familiar with all the work of the farm as he assisted his father in tilling the fields from the time of early spring planting until the crops were harvested in the late autumn. He continued upon the home farm until twenty-six years of age and then rented the old homestead property, while now he has two hundred acres on section 24, Pella township, which is a part of the old homestead. His education was acquired in the common schools and in the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons. In his farm work he has been energetic and diligent, realizing that upon these qualities the most substantial success is builded. His farm is well developed, giving evidence of his care and supervision in the neat appearance of the fields and the improvements upon the place.

In 1891 Mr. Gallahue was married to Miss Ella Russel, who was born in this county in 1862 and is a daughter of Patrick and Mary Russel, who were natives of Ireland. They came to America in 1856, settling first in Chicago, Illinois, where the father worked as porter in a hotel for four years. He then came to Ford county in the fall of 1859, casting in his lot with the early settlers who were reclaiming a wild region for the purpose of civilization. At that time deer were seen on the prairies in great herds and much small game was to be had in abundance. Mr. Russel has lived here continuously since but his wife died in 1893, leaving a family of four children to mourn her loss. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Russel were born seven children, as follows: James, deceased; Maggie, who has also passed away; Mrs. Gallahue; John and Joseph, both of whom reside in Lyman township; and William and Katie, who have departed this life. The father is now living a retired life, making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Gallahue. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in Lyman township and likewise a tract of forty acres in Pella township. His property has all been acquired since coming to this county and is proof of the life of industry and enterprise which he has led. His political allegiance is given to the democracy and in his younger days he took an active part in

politics. He was called to serve in a number of local offices and discharged his duties with a promptness and fidelity that won him high commendation. As one of the worthy pioneers he well deserves mention in this volume, having for almost a half century lived in this county and therefore witnessed the greater part of its growth, while in the work of development and upbuilding he has borne his full share.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Gallahue was blessed with seven children: Peter J.; John P.; James T.; Mary and Margaret, deceased; Edward; and Ellen. Mr. Gallahue gives his political allegiance to the democracy, of which he is a stalwart champion, and he is now serving as drainage commissioner for the pan handle district. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church and are greatly esteemed in the community where they reside. Mrs. Gallahue taught school for ten years before her marriage and is a lady of culture and refinement. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gallahue enjoy in large measure the friendship and regard of those who know them and it is with pleasure that we present the record of their lives to our readers.

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#### LUMAN B. WILCOX.

Luman B. Wilcox is an enterprising and successful agriculturist, who since 1868 has resided on his present farm on section 1, Lyman township. He came to Illinois from New York, his native state, his birth having occurred in Loraine township, Jefferson county, in April, 1840. His father, the Rev. Luman Wilcox, was a native of New Hampshire and married Elizabeth C. Bliss, who was born at Long Meadow, Connecticut. Both were representatives of old New England families. The father largely devoted his early life to work in the temperance and anti-slavery movements in the Empire state, lecturing extensively on those subjects throughout New York. He was a minister of the Congregational church and spent the greater part of his life in New York but in 1862 became a resident of La Salle county, Illinois, and about 1868 removed to Ford county, where he resided up to the time of his death on the 10th of January, 1872, when he was seventy-six years of age. His wife survived him for about four or five years, also passing away in Ford county.

They had seven children: Samuel Mills, who died in La Salle county, Illinois; Henry Martin, now a resident of Onarga, who came to Ford county





L. B. WILCOX AND FAMILY

in 1868 and still owns a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres here, while he has sold one hundred and forty acres which he owned on section 1, Lyman township; Elizabeth C., the deceased wife of S. H. Penney; George Whitfield, living in Jefferson, Iowa; William W., now of Prairie City, Iowa, who came to Ford county in 1868, as did his brothers, George and Henry; Luman B., of this review; and Mary M., who died while a student in Onarga.

Luman B. Wilcox spent the period of his minority in the Empire state and in the spring of 1861 went to La Salle county, Illinois, where he joined his brother. In August, 1862, in response to the country's need, he enlisted from La Salle county as a member of Company C, Seventh Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, under Captain Bartlett. He participated in the battle of Nashville, the Grierson raid and the battle of Franklin, his services being mostly against Forrest in Tennessee. He was at the front for three years, doing a soldier's full duty in defense of the stars and stripes, and was mustered out in August, 1865. He then returned to La Salle county, where he lived until the spring of 1868, when he came to Ford county and settled upon his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 1, Lyman township. It was largely unbroken prairie, for which he paid ten dollars per acre. Today it is well cultivated property and the improvements have all been made by Mr. Wilcox. He and his son each have a good dwelling on the place and there are good out-buildings providing ample shelter for grain and stock. He conducted the place as a dairy farm for four or five years. In 1884 he went to South Dakota, where he owned a half section, but later sold that property and returned to the old homestead farm, which is now devoted to the raising of grain and stock. He makes a special feature of Percheron draft horses and this branch of his business is proving profitable.

While living in South Dakota Mr. Wilcox assisted in organizing the populist party in that state and was a candidate in his district for the legislature. He is now a supporter of William Jennings Bryan, but does not take a very active part in politics here. He was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic in South Dakota but there is no post in Roberts.

It was in the spring of 1868 that Mr. Wilcox led to the marriage altar Miss Ida B. Norton, who was born in Genesee county, New York, August 18, 1846, and was there reared and married, being brought to Illinois as a bride. Her parents were Herman and Laura (Brown) Norton, also natives of the Empire state. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox have become the parents of two sons and two daughters. Ernest Norton, who assists his father in operating the home farm, married Emily Sprague and has two children, Dorothy and Ida C.

Alice is the wife of Harold Rensburg and they reside with her father. Lloyd died at the age of six years; Elizabeth C., completes the family.

When Mr. Wilcox made his way to the middle west from New York he had very limited capital but he possessed strong purpose and resolute will and these qualities have enabled him to work his way steadily upward until he is now numbered among the successful agriculturists of his community. He is, moreover, a citizen of worth, giving loyal support to many measures for the public good and his influence is always found on the side of general advancement and improvement.

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#### JOHN H. JORDAN.

John H. Jordan, an enterprising farmer and tile manufacturer, is one of Ford county's native sons, born on the 15th of December, 1855. Here his entire life has been passed and his education was acquired in the primitive schools while spending his boyhood days under the parental roof. His parents were Andrew and Amanda (De Vore) Jordan. The father came to Illinois from Kentucky, having been born at Louisville in that state in 1828. A residence in Cass county was followed by a brief sojourn in Champaign county prior to the time when he took up their abode in Ford county in March, 1854. The usual experiences and hardships of the frontier came to the family and yet in the face of difficulties and obstacles they prospered and as the years passed gained a gratifying measure of success, the father owning at one time eleven hundred acres of land, while at the time of his demise his farming interests embraced eight hundred acres. He was also owner of a large brick and tile factory and it was this which John H. Jordan has taken as a part of his share of the estate and which he is now operating. He also has eighty acres of land devoted to the raising of corn and oats. He manufactures an excellent grade of tile and as a result of the quality and fair prices he is accorded a liberal patronage. In his farm work, too, he is systematic and energetic and his agricultural interests contribute materially to his annual income.

In 1878 John H. Jordan was united in marriage to Miss Mary C. Painter, a daughter of George C. Painter, who is now living with Mr. and Mrs. Jordan. They have five children: Marilla B., the wife of O. T. Thorson, a resident of Bloomington, Illinois; Fannie E., the wife of Fred Lucas, of Taylorville, Illinois, and the mother of two children; Amanda E., the wife of O. Davis, of

Peoria, by whom she has one child; and Vanna May and John D., both at home.

Mr. Jordan votes with the republican party and has served as school director. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen and he holds membership in the Christian church, in which he was reared. He was early trained to habits of industry, enterprise and integrity, and these have proven strong elements in his success and at the same time have gained the unqualified respect of his fellowmen.

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#### JOSEPH BURGER.

In a history of Ford county it is fitting that mention be made of Joseph Burger, now deceased, who for many years figured in agricultural circles as one who contributed in substantial measure to the development of the rich farm lands of this portion of the state and who by his close application and earnest purpose advanced from a humble financial position to one of affluence. There is perhaps in this volume no record which better illustrates the fact that prosperity may be gained by diligence and honest effort.

Mr. Burger was born near the Black Forest in Baden, Germany, on the 31st of August, 1833. His father, Franz A. Burger, had a family of wife and seven children, four sons and three daughters, whom he brought with him to America in 1850, settling in New London, Connecticut, where both he and his wife died. Of their children, Jacob passed away in that state; John died in Brenton township; George is deceased; Mrs. Mary Haubach resides near La Hogue; and Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips is also deceased.

Joseph Burger, the youngest of the family, attended the public schools of his native country between the ages of six and fourteen years and when a youth of seventeen crossed the briny deep with his parents, after which he provided for the support of himself and family by farm work in Connecticut until 1866. In 1854 he was married in that state to Miss Mary Gore, a native of New London and a daughter of Asa Gore, who was born in Pennsylvania. He was one of the survivors of the Wyoming massacre, being spared by the Indians owing to his delicate health. They thought he would die soon enough but he lived to be over eighty years of age and reared a family of eleven children, of whom Mrs. Burger was the youngest. In November, 1854, she gave her hand in marriage to Joseph Burger and they continued to reside

in New London county, Connecticut, for twelve years or until 1866, when they removed westward to Fulton county, Illinois.

Two years later, in the spring of 1869, they arrived in Piper City and the remainder of their lives was passed upon a farm in Brenton township. He secured a tract of raw prairie land and with characteristic energy began its cultivation and improvement, gradually adding to his first purchase until he was one of the extensive landowners of the community. His home place on section 2 comprised two hundred and forty acres of rich land and he also owned other farm property, aggregating four hundred and eighty acres. Besides he had farm land in Iowa. In earlier years he had need to help the other members of his father's family as well as provide for his own support. His success was acquired entirely through his own labors and well directed management and he lived a life of unremitting activity and enterprise. He was making plans for future investment at the time of his death, being suddenly taken ill while returning from a trip to southwestern Missouri to look for lands there with a view to purchase. His illness of but a few days' duration was terminated in death January 24, 1900.

Mr. Burger was a democrat in his political views but very independent, not considering himself bound by party ties. He stood as the champion of various measures and movements which he believed to be right. For seventeen years he served as supervisor of Brenton township and no higher testimonial of his capability could be given than the fact that he was so long retained in this office. In 1884 he was named as a candidate for the legislature on the greenback ticket and although the county did not advocate its party principles he carried the county, showing his popularity in the district where he was best known. He served at different times as road commissioner and school officer and was treasurer of the Pella and Brenton township drainage district. He circulated the first petition to establish a system of drainage, which has been of the utmost value and benefit to this section. He was treasurer of the Farmers' Insurance Company for many years, continuing in that position up to the time of his death. His life in its various phases was honorable and upright. Neither influence nor opposition could cause him to turn from a course which he believed to be right. He was straightforward in all of his business affairs and his record proves that success and an honorable name may be won simultaneously. He left to his children not only valuable property but also an untarnished name and his memory is yet cherished by those who knew him. He lost his wife on the 10th of January, 1896, when she was seventy-seven years of age.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burger had two children: Ruth Augusta, now the wife of August Vogelbacher, of Brenton township, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; and Asa E. Burger. The latter was born in Preston, New London county, Connecticut, November 1, 1860, and was brought by his parents to Illinois in 1866, while for forty years he has been a resident of Ford county. He was reared to the occupation of farming and successfully and energetically carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1903, when he removed to Piper City, where he built his present fine home, an attractive and commodious modern residence, in which he is now living retired, having good property interests from which he derives a gratifying annual income.

Asa Burger was married in 1888 to Miss Mary L. Jeffery, who was born in this county, September 25, 1866, and is a daughter of Thomas and Isabella (Forbes) Jeffery, who were natives of England. Mr. and Mrs. Burger had four children but lost their first two: Hattie, at the age of three years; and Alice at about two years old. The others are Joseph E. and Etta L. The family is prominent in the community, Mr. and Mrs. Burger occupying an enviable position in the social circles in which they move.

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#### REV. FREDOLINE M. ECKERT.

Rev. Fredoline M. Eckert, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Cabery, was born at Grand Deipe, Baden, Germany, January 3, 1839, and acquired his early education in the fatherland. In 1859 he crossed the Atlantic to New York, settling first at Lincoln, Illinois. He became a citizen of the United States in 1875. His early education was received in the schools of Freidburg, Briscow, and subsequently he studied in St. Francis Seminary at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Owing to delicate health he desired a change of climate and resumed his studies in Peoria College at Macon, Georgia.

He was ordained to the priesthood in Macon, May 21, 1875, after which he returned to Germany for the benefit of his health. Being greatly improved thereby, he returned after three months to Savannah, Georgia, and took charge of a negro church, remaining at that point for six years, during which time he built a fine cathedral. Again failing health prompted him to return to the fatherland in 1880, where he was greatly benefitted by the climatic change and after four months he returned to Bellevue, Iowa, where he remained for six months, when he located at Lourdes, Woodford county, Illinois. He was in

charge there for seven years, being appointed to the Uniontown, now the Loretta congregation. During that time he built a convent and school. After eleven years in charge of the Loretta congregation he came to Cabery in 1898, and in 1904 he began the erection of a new house of worship, which has recently been completed. For four and a half years he had Cabery as an out mission from Loretta. He has spent the last twenty years in this part of the state in three missions—Lourdes, Loretta and Cabery. The present church has a membership of fifty families.

As stated, St. Joseph's Catholic church at Cabery has recently been completed, the cost being ten thousand dollars. It is built in Roman style, thirty-six by eighty-five feet and has a seating capacity of three hundred. The altar is of Roman style, twenty-three and a half feet high and hand carved. There are also two side altars and the church is adorned with seven pieces of statuary, including the Sacred Heart of Mary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Anthony, St. Boniface, St. Patrick, St. Joseph and St. Francis. The church is heated by steam and is thoroughly modern in its equipment. It is a credit to the village as well as to the congregation. Father Eckert is doing excellent work here among his parishioners and has the respect of people of other denominations as well.

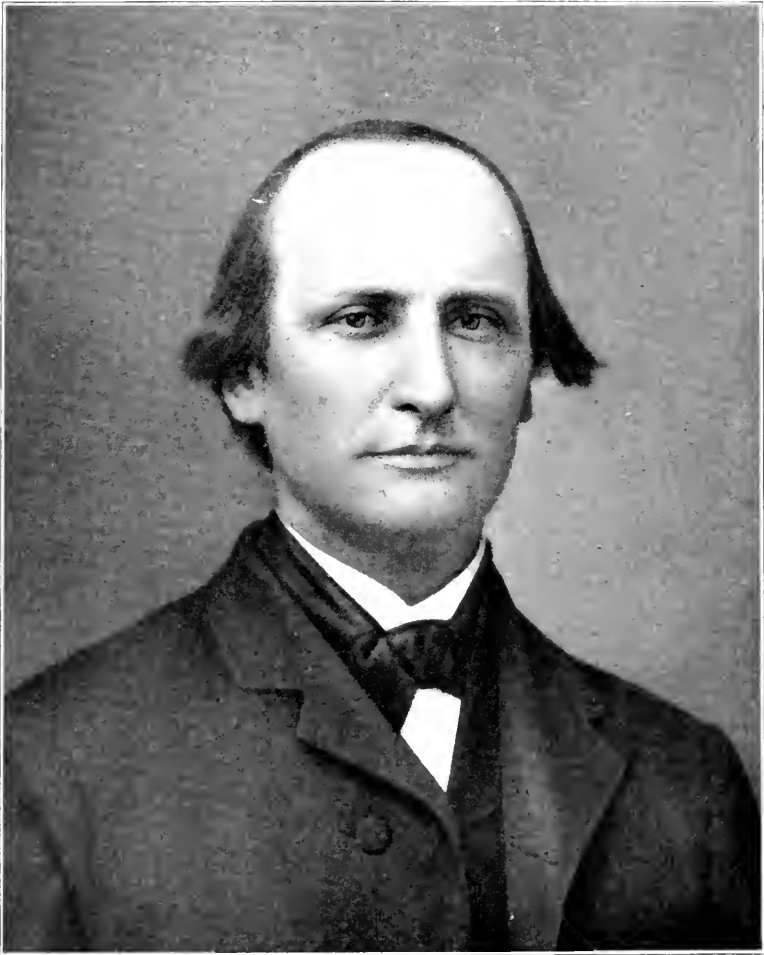
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#### JAMES SHELDON.

It is imperative and eminently proper that mention should be made of James Sheldon in this volume, for during forty-three years he has been a resident of Ford county and is, moreover, entitled to distinction by reason of his remarkable activity. At the age of eighty-three years he is still able to do a day's work in the fields and leads a life of intense activity. It has been a commonly accepted opinion that old age must necessarily suggest idleness or want of occupation but on the contrary there are many notable instances wherein physical powers remain largely unimpaired, while the mental and moral development is characterized by a continuous growth. Such has been the history of James Sheldon, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on section 30, Pella township.

He is a native of the state of New York, having been born on the 8th of November, 1824, in Copake, Columbia county. Four generations of the family had previously resided in the Empire state. The grandfather was a Revolu-





JAMES SHELDON



MRS. JAMES SHELDON



tionary soldier and was present at Burgoyne's surrender. Gideon Sheldon, the father of James Sheldon, spent his entire life upon a farm in Columbia county, where he followed agricultural pursuits. He married Lydia Leak, a native of the same county, and his death occurred during the early boyhood of his son James, who was left an orphan a few years later by the death of the mother. Gideon Sheldon was quite prominent locally, serving for a number of years as justice of the peace and giving unfaltering support to the whig party throughout his entire life. All who knew him esteemed him for his many excellent traits of character. In his family were nine children, of whom James, who is the youngest, is the only one now living.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for James Sheldon in his boyhood days. He lost his father in 1836 and his mother in 1851. In the meantime he acquired his education in a select school and an academy. He remained at home until he attained his majority and for two years operated the farm, after which he started out in life on his own account as an agriculturist. In 1851 he removed to Genesee county, New York, where he lived for fourteen years, carrying on the work of tilling the soil. The year 1865 witnessed his arrival in Illinois and in Ford county he purchased eighty acres of land, which was still uncultivated. He has since lived upon the place which is yet his home and his was the sixth house erected in Pella township. He could ride across the prairie to Chatsworth without meeting any sign of settlement. In June the prairies were starred with thousands of flowers and covered with the native grasses, while in the winter they were enshrouded in one unbroken sheet of glittering snow. The cabins, too, were of a primitive character as compared with the commodious and substantial homes of the present day but the early settlers possessed a strong, courageous spirit that enabled them to bravely meet the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. Mr. Sheldon brought with him six hundred and thirty-one sheep, which he had purchased for twenty-two hundred dollars, the cost of transporting them to Ford county being one hundred and fifty dollars, but the low lands here were unadapted to sheep-raising and nearly all of the sheep died of disease, so that Mr. Sheldon lost heavily thereby. He borrowed four hundred dollars with which to make payment on his present place, comprising eighty acres, which he purchased from the railroad company for seven hundred and twenty dollars. At a later date he purchased forty acres additional, which he has since sold to his son, who now resides upon that tract. His land is very rich and productive and is devoted to general farming and stock-raising. The fields are now well tilled and the place presents a most

neat and attractive appearance, bringing to the owner year after year rich harvests and a gratifying financial income.

In September, 1845, in Columbia county, New York, Mr. Sheldon was united in marriage to Miss Annie Van Dusen, a native of that county and a descendant of one of the early families of the state. Her parents, Richard and Clara Van Dusen, spent their entire lives in Columbia county as farming people, the father owning nine hundred acres of land. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon has been born but one child, Gideon, whose birth occurred in Columbia county, New York, January 22, 1849, he being therefore about sixteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Illinois. Here he completed his education in the public schools and in Onarga Seminary, which he attended for one year. He herded cattle for his father all over this country for seven years and has killed deer in Pella township, while lesser game was very plentiful. On the 24th of July, 1872, in Genesee county, New York, he married Miss Nellie Clark. In 1882 he removed to Griggs county, North Dakota, where he entered a claim from the government and carried on farming for seven years. He has since purchased forty acres of land from his father and lives upon this tract adjoining the old homestead, being one of the representative and highly esteemed farmers of the community. Unto him and his wife have been born four children: Addie, the wife of Martin Crandall, of Indiana, by whom she has two children: Laura, the wife of John Holmes, of Pella township, by whom she has three children; Nellie, the wife of James Haas, of Iroquois county, Illinois, and the mother of one child; and James, who married Mae Wilkinson and is at home.

In 1904 Mr. Sheldon was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 1st of November of that year at the age of seventy-nine, her birth having occurred October 10, 1825. She had indeed been to him a faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey, so that her loss came as a great blow to him. Mr. Sheldon still resides upon the old homestead, which has been his place of residence throughout the entire period in which he has lived in Ford county. He has been somewhat prominent in public affairs and is a lifelong republican, who was sent as a delegate to the first republican convention in New York, thus participating in one of the most important historic events of the state. He was supervisor of Pella township for four years and declined other offices, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs. However, he has always been loyal to the best interests of the community and has done much to promote public progress and improvement. He is a man of exceptional vitality and energy and at the age of eighty-three



years is able to work in the fields every day, doing as much work as a man of half his years. In his business affairs he has ever displayed sound judgment and keen discrimination and at the same time has ever been straightforward and honorable, basing his business principles and actions upon the rules which govern strict and unswerving integrity. He is a man of many friends and has long been numbered among the valued citizens of the county.

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### JOHN P. SMITH.

John P. Smith, engaged in the banking business in Roberts and now president of the village, discharging his duties in a prompt, businesslike and progressive manner, was born near Kempville, Ontario, Canada, on the 17th of July, 1855. His father, James F. Smith, died in Roberts August 26, 1896, and the mother still resides here. A daughter of the family, Mary, who became the wife of R. S. Montague, died in North Dakota in 1895.

John P. Smith was only about four or five years of age when brought by his parents to Lyman township, Ford county, Illinois, the family home being established upon a farm about three miles north of Roberts. He early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist and assisted in the various departments of farm work until nineteen years of age. As opportunity offered, he attended the common schools and when a young man of nineteen years attended the Northern Indiana Normal school, at Valparaiso, for one term. He then accepted a position with the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield Railroad Company, now a part of the Illinois Central system, as station agent and operator, being located for seven years at Cornland. On the expiration of that period he came to Roberts, where he began business as a general merchant in connection with his father and two brothers, under the firm style of James S. Smith & Sons. This relation was continued for about seven years, from 1882 until 1889. In the latter year, John P. Smith sold out and with his father built an elevator, at a cost of four thousand dollars, and embarked in the grain business, in which he continued with success for about five years. On the expiration of that period he disposed of his interests in the grain trade and erected a business block in Roberts which he rented until it was destroyed by fire in 1892. He then rebuilt it and in 1895 established a banking business, to which he now devotes the greater part of his time and attention. It is conducted as a private bank under his own name. He

also carries on a general insurance business and in former years engaged in the coal trade, handling both bituminous and anthracite coal. Whatever he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion, possessing a spirit of strong enterprise that enables him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path.

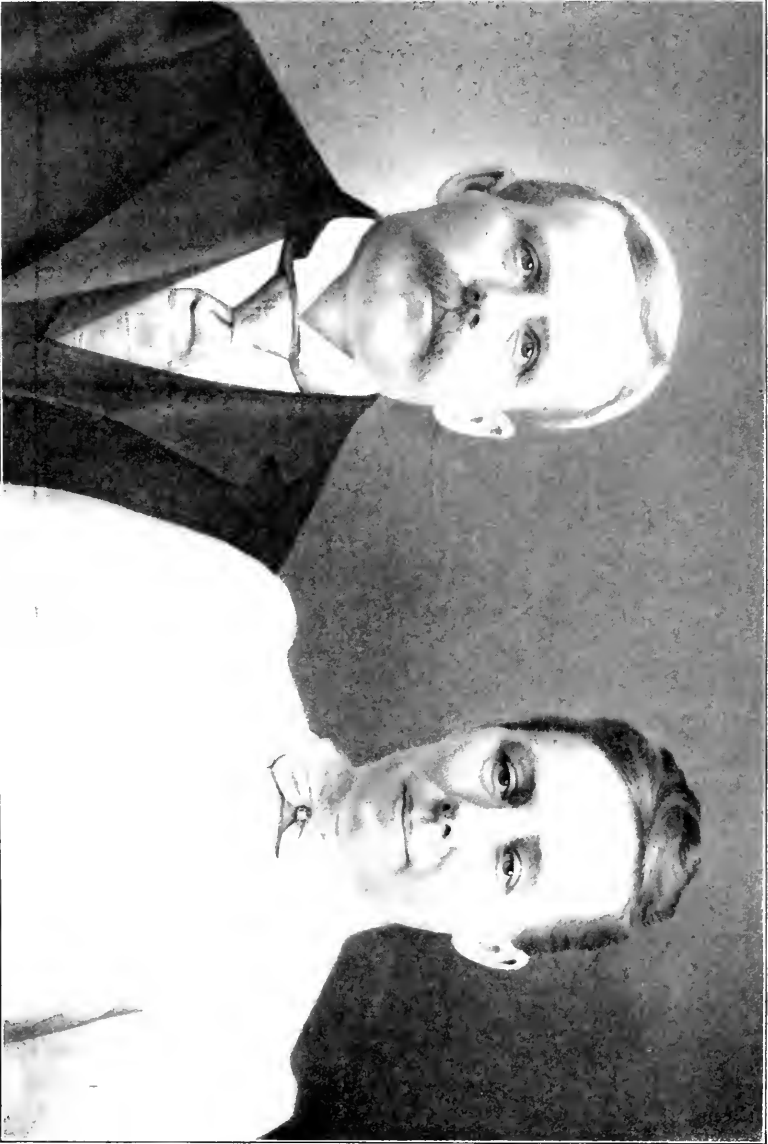
On the 6th of October, 1880, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Sarah N. Day, a native of Logan county, Illinois, and unto them were born three children, but the son, Clyde, died at the age of nine years. The daughters, Della and Edna, are twins. The former is assisting her father in the bank and is a graduate of the commercial department of Onarga Seminary. Edna has taken a course in music in the Wesleyan College of Music, at Bloomington, Illinois, and is now a teacher of piano.

Mr. Smith gives stalwart allegiance to the republican party, is recognized as a leader in its local ranks and has been elected on its ticket to fill local offices. He served as supervisor for one year, was school director for about twelve years and at the present writing, in 1908, is president of the village, in which position he is capably directing municipal affairs. He was also school treasurer of the township for eleven years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He and his wife are active and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as trustee, while in the various departments of church work he is deeply and helpfully interested. Almost his entire life has been spent in this county, so that his history is well known and his fellow townsmen give him their respect and confidence in recognition of the upright and honorable life that he has led.

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#### JOHN THOMAS PEARSON.

A farm of eighty acres on section 20, comprising the north half of the northwest quarter, pays tribute to the care and labor of John Thomas Pearson, who has continuously made his home upon this place for twenty years. He was born in Tallington, Lincolnshire, England, November 2, 1861, and is a son of John Thomas and Harriet (Taylor) Pearson. The father, whose birth occurred in Lincolnshire, on the 9th of March, 1833, died in August, 1905, and the mother, who was born in Northamptonshire in 1827, now makes her home with her son John T. and has passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey. The father was also living with his son John at the time of his



MR. AND MRS. J. T. PEARSON



death, which resulted from an accident. In their family were three children: John Thomas; Benjamin, who was born July 16, 1864, and is living in Douglas county, Missouri; and Mary, the wife of C. A. Petterson, of Grant county, Indiana.

John Thomas Pearson spent the first twenty-three years of his life in the land of his nativity and in June, 1885, arrived in Livingston county, Illinois, with his parents, his brother and sister. He has since made his home in this state and on the 1st of March, 1888, removed from Livingston to Ford county, taking up his abode upon the farm which has since been his home. It comprises eighty acres of land on section 20, being the north half of the northwest quarter. All of the improvements here have been made by Mr. Pearson, for when he took possession of the place there was only a little shanty and a corn crib upon the farm. He has erected substantial buildings and had brought the fields into a state of rich fertility, so that he annually harvests good crops and derives therefrom a gratifying income. He is not only progressive but also thoroughly practical in his methods and what he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion.

In December, 1905, Mr. Pearson was married to Miss Sarah Law, who was born in Utica, New York, December 5, 1853, her parents being John and Hannah (Hodges) Law, natives of England. They removed from the Empire state to Grundy county, Illinois, and in 1859 became residents of Livingston county.

In his political views Mr. Pearson is a stalwart republican but without desire for the honors or emoluments of public office. He has always preferred to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs and is justly accounted one of the representative and substantial farmers of the community.

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#### THOMAS READ.

Thomas Read, now living retired in Piper City, was for a long period closely, actively and successfully connected with agricultural interests, and the rest which he is now enjoying is well merited. He dates his residence in the county from 1870, having in the previous year purchased property here. A native of the Empire state, he was born in Chautauqua county, September 26, 1842, of the marriage of Thomas and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Read. The father was a native of Saratoga county, New York, but was married in Chautauqua county, where he lived for many years. He was a farmer by occupation and

always employed that means in order to provide for his wife and children. He died in July, 1861, and two years later, in 1863, the family came to the middle west, settling in La Salle county, Illinois, where they first rented land for a year. Thomas Read then purchased eighty acres, making payment for same with two crops. In 1868 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Iroquois county, which he sold the following year, at which time he bought a quarter section in Ford county on section 11, Pella township. In 1870 he came to the county and broke one hundred acres of wild prairie land. He then planted sixty acres of sod corn and thus was begun the development of his farm. In 1871 he and his brother took up their abode upon the farm in Ford county and kept "bachelor's hall" for two years.

In 1874 Thomas Read was united in marriage to Miss Emma Spaulding, of Cook county, Illinois, and unto them were born two children but both have passed away. The wife and mother died in 1881, and Mr. Read afterward married again, his second union being with Miss Katherine Hench, a native of Perry county, Pennsylvania. They became the parents of twins and also lost these children and Mrs. Katherine Read died in 1895. In 1898 Mr. Read was a third time married, his present wife, Mrs. Margaret Read, being a native of Scotland, who came to America with her parents at an early day.

While Mr. Read carried on farming he made a specialty of raising stock and always kept on hand good grades. From time to time he has added to his property and he now owns six hundred acres of valuable farm land in Ford county and seven hundred acres in Mississippi, both being good income property. As a farmer he was diligent and persevering and transformed his home place into a very valuable and productive farm, from which he annually harvested good crops, while his sale of stock also added materially to his *accumulation*. He was always watchful of opportunities pointing to success and through legitimate business methods won his prosperity.

In his political views Mr. Read has always been a republican and is interested in the growth and success of his party. He has served as school director, as road commissioner and as drainage ditch commissioner, filling the last named position for several years. He holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as a trustee and his life is in harmony with his principles. In all of his business undertakings he has been thoroughly reliable and straightforward and in every relation of life has been found worthy the regard and confidence of his fellowmen. Though he had no capital when he started out in life he realized the fact that labor is the basis of success and feared not that laborious attention to detail and that unremitting industry

which always secure advancement in business circles. Mr. Read has many warm friends in the county and is well known in this part of the state, where he has resided for thirty-seven years.

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#### GEORGE ONKEN.

George Onken belongs to that class of representative American citizens who are known as self-made men and his success has been built upon the substantial qualities of unfaltering energy, determination and honorable business methods. He is now numbered among the substantial farmers of Drummer township, living on section 10, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, while farming interests elsewhere in the county and state also pay tribute to him. He is a son of Wilke Onken, who spent his entire life in Germany as did also the mother of our subject. He had three brothers who were soldiers in the German army.

At the age of twenty-five years George Onken came to America, crossing the Atlantic in 1869. Making his way into the interior of the county, he settled first in Menard county, Illinois, where he worked by the day for three years. While he had no capital, he possessed laudable ambition, which prompted him to work steadily and save his money with the hope that he might later engage in business on his own account. When three years had passed he rented land at Petersburg, Illinois, and subsequently, about 1872, rented a farm of two hundred acres in Ford county, upon which he lived for two years.

On the expiration of that period Mr. Onken was married in 1875 to Miss Wilhelmina von Brethorst, a daughter of L. J. von Brethorst, of Ford county. Five years later he purchased a quarter section of land for twenty-five dollars per acre. Year after year the work of plowing, planting and harvesting is carried on, with the result that the place is today valued at two hundred dollars per acre. Many substantial improvements have been made on the farm and in addition to this property Mr. Onken also owns one hundred and seventy-four acres north of Gibson City, which he rents, a quarter section in McLean county, which is also rented, and a half section in North Dakota. His home is one of the finest residences of Ford county and stands as a splendid monument to his life of thrift, enterprise and unwearied industry. He has been very successful and now makes a specialty of the raising of corn and oats.

In all of his farm work he is practical and progressive and is numbered among the leading agriculturists of this part of the state.

As the years have passed Mr. and Mrs. Onken have reared a family of sons and daughters who do credit to their name. Minnie, their eldest child, now Mrs. Emminger, is a widow and has one son. Elizabeth is at home. Deana is a teacher in the ninth room of the Gibson public schools. Ida is the wife of Merton Gilmore and has two daughters. George is in the second year of the Illinois University. Alice G. is also under the parental roof.

In his political views Mr. Onken is a republican, with firm faith in the principles of the party yet without aspiration for office. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and his life has been guided by its principles and its teachings. While he has won notable success as an agriculturist, he has at the same time followed methods that have been most honorable, his life record proving that prosperity and an untarnished name may be gained simultaneously. His example, too, should serve to encourage and inspire others who have to start out as he did—empty-handed—placing their dependance solely upon their own labors.

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#### GEORGE H. HIDDLESON.

George H. Hiddleson, a practical, progressive and enterprising farmer engaged in the raising of grain and stock on section 18, Rogers township, was born in Little Rock township, Kendall county, Illinois, his parents being William and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Hiddleson. Upon the home farm George H. Hiddleson spent the days of his boyhood and youth and when not occupied with the duties of the schoolroom he worked in the fields or in his father's brickyard until twenty-two years of age. He has lived upon his present farm since February, 1867, and has converted the place into a splendid property, bringing forth rich harvests annually. He first purchased eighty acres of land and afterward added to it a tract similar in size. He also bought eighty acres in Norton township, Kankakee county, so that at the present time he has two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land, his last purchase being just across the county line. He has added to his farm many modern equipments and accessories and everything about the place is indicative of his careful supervision. His first purchase of eighty acres was a tract of raw prairie but with characteristic energy he began its development and in the





MIR. AND MRS. GEORGE H. HIDDLESON.



course of years waving fields of grain have taken the place of the native prairie grasses and the wild flowers that formerly covered the country-side. In addition to tilling the soil he also raises some stock of good grades and thus adds materially to his income.

On Christmas day of 1867 Mr. Hiddleston was united in marriage to Miss Amanda Inscho, who was born in Bristol township, Kendall county, Illinois, January 29, 1844, a daughter of Samuel Inscho. This marriage has been blessed with five children: Sarah, who is now the widow of Peter Seroy and resides in Herscher with her two children: Minnie, the wife of Nephly Olson, of Broughton township, Livingston county, by whom she has three children; Cyrus, who resides in Norton township, Kaukaee county, and has two children; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Guy Aldrich, of Cabery and has one child; and Frank, who resides upon the home farm. He is also married and has one child.

Mr. Hiddleston gives his political allegiance to the democracy and is recognized as one of the leading members of the party in this locality. He has served as township highway commissioner for over thirty-three years, continuing in the office until the spring of 1907. What stronger proof of his capability and fidelity could be given than the fact that he has so long remained in this position. For twenty-one years he has been a school director and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart friend. Mr. Hiddleston is numbered among the old settlers of the county, having for forty-one years resided within its borders, years that have witnessed remarkable changes here as the county has been converted from a western frontier district into one of the leading counties of this great commonwealth. He has done much for its agricultural development and has withheld his support from no movement or measure calculated to prove of general good. Moreover, the standard of life that he set up for himself has been one that has commanded for him the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

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#### HUGH DUNNAN.

Hugh Dunnan is a retired farmer and one of the large landowners of Dix township. From his extensive realty holdings he derives a gratifying annual income and, moreover, deserves much credit for his success which has mainly been acquired through his own well directed efforts. A native of

Pennsylvania, he was born in Lawrence county, April 4, 1839, his parents being John and Ann (Smiley) Duman, natives of Ireland and Pennsylvania respectively. The father was twice married but there were no children of the first marriage and after the death of his wife he wedded Miss Smiley in 1825 or 1826. Two of their children died in infancy, while those who reached adult age were: James A., now deceased, while his family resides at Mount Sterling, Iowa; Samuel R., living in Lisbon, Ohio; Robert S., who was a soldier of the United States army in the war of the Rebellion and died before Richmond, Virginia, in 1862; Hugh, of this review; and John, who resides at the old farm homestead at Mt. Jackson, Pennsylvania.

Hugh Duman was educated in the public schools of his native county and remained with his mother until his twenty-fourth year, when he joined Company D of the Fifth Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery to aid in the defense of the Union. Serving until the close of the war, he was mustered out in Virginia, June 30, 1865. He participated in the battles of Rectortown, Salem and Gobler's Mountain, where he assisted in capturing four of General Moseby's cannon. This was the most sanguinary engagement which occurred during the months of December, January, February and March. There were also several other skirmishes with Moseby's men and when his term had expired Mr. Duman returned home in impaired health.

Resuming farming upon his mother's place, Mr. Duman there continued until 1876, at which time he was married. It was on the 19th of October of that year that he wedded Miss Eliza Jennings Wallace, a daughter of James and Mary Jane (Johnston) Wallace, who were of Scotch descent. Ancestors in the paternal line came from Scotland to America in 1812, while the maternal parents came from County Down, Ireland, in 1826. James Wallace was a miller and farmer, who was not only active in business affairs but also served his county in several offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. He was overseer of the poor for twenty years or more and his long continuance in office plainly indicates his ability and fidelity. He died in June, 1888, while his wife passed away in 1894. They were the parents of twelve children, seven of whom reached adult age, namely: Thomas J., who served as a soldier of the Civil war as a member of Company C, Seventh Ohio Regiment, and is now deceased; William S., who also served in the Civil war as a member of Cooper's Battery, Pennsylvania Light Artillery, and was wounded in the seven days battle before Richmond in 1862, his death resulting therefrom two years later; Margaret E., the widow of William Aiken, of Alliance, Ohio; Eliza J., now Mrs. Duman; Ella J., the deceased wife of William

McGinnis, a resident of Mount Jackson, Pennsylvania; Minerva, the wife of R. C. Gailey, of Newcastle, Pennsylvania; and Mary L., who makes her home in Chicago.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Duman has been blessed with five children, as follows: James W., who is editor of the Eastern Illinois Register at Paxton; Margaret E.; Anna Jeannette; Martha M., who has passed away; and Luella E. The parents and children are members of the United Presbyterian church and principles of honor and integrity find place in their lives and govern their conduct. Mr. Duman is a member of Paxton Post, G. A. R., and his wife belongs to the Relief Corps, No. 125, of Paxton. Politically he is a democrat but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. His entire time and attention have been concentrated upon his business affairs, which, capably directed, have brought him splendid success. His investments have been carefully made and in all his business interests he has displayed an aptitude for successful management that makes him today one of the largest landowners of Paxton.

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#### WYLEY J. POPLETT.

Wyley J. Poplett has resided upon his present farm on section 20, Dix township, since the spring of 1901, and has brought the place into a state of rich fertility and development, owing to his carefully directed labors and sound judgment in agricultural matters. One of Illinois' native sons, he was born in Peoria county, in 1858, and is a son of William and Clarissa (Clifton) Poplett, both of whom are living in the village of Peoria Heights. The father who was a native of Indiana, came to Illinois in his childhood days and devoted his time and energies to farming until recent years, when he retired and is now enjoying a well earned rest.

Wyley J. Poplett was the second in order of birth in a family of nine children. He is indebted to the district school system for the educational privileges he enjoyed, attending a little school about seven miles north of the city of Peoria. Through the periods of vacation he worked in the fields and as the years passed became thoroughly acquainted with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He aided in the cultivation of the home farm until twenty-five years of age and then began farming on his own account, being thus engaged for two years prior to his marriage. In 1883 he

won a companion and helpmate for the journey of life, Miss Anna Perkins becoming his wife. She was born in Peoria county and is a daughter of B. H. and Elizabeth Perkins, who were farming people but are now deceased, their daughter Anna being the second in order of birth in a family of seven children. Following his marriage Mr. Poplett engaged in farming in Peoria county until 1889, renting land there, after which he removed to Ford county and rented a farm in Dix township from T. J. Brassfield. In the spring of 1901 he removed to his present place, which he had purchased in July, 1900, buying one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, for which he paid seventy-five dollars per acre. He has greatly improved the place since that time, has added considerable tile each year and has converted the farm into a productive and up-to-date property. Here he raises the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also keeps some good stock upon his place for his own use.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Poplett have been born four children, namely: Stella M., who is now attending Normal School; Ray E., who pursued a two years' course in Normal and also attended two terms in Gibson and is now teaching; Lee L., who is a student in the district school; and Orris P.

The family is well known in the community, the parents and children having many warm friends. Mr. Poplett gives his political support to the democracy and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability have called him to office. He is now serving as commissioner of public highways, filling the position in the sixth year. Since 1891 he has been a member of the Odd Fellows society and he is also connected with the Modern Woodmen at Guthrie. His life has been actuated by a laudable ambition to attain success and as the years have passed he has achieved a measure of prosperity which has come to him as the reward of persistent, earnest and indefatigable labor, so that he has gained place with the representative agriculturists of his community.

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#### JOHN H. NELSON.

John H. Nelson, sheriff of Ford county, and a resident of Paxton, was born in Sweden, January 24, 1853, his parents being Nels and Hannah (Hendrickson) Pearson, both of whom were natives of Sweden, where they spent their entire lives. The father, who followed the occupation of farming, died at the age of seventy-three, and his wife when seventy-four years of age.



JOHN H. NELSON





They were the parents of nine children, of whom five are yet living, as follows: Perry H., a resident of Sibley county, Minnesota; Nels H., of Paxton, Illinois; John H., of this review; Mrs. Anna Falk, of Sweden; and Ola, also of that country.

John H. Nelson was reared upon the home farm, acquiring his education in the public schools of his native country. Attracted by the favorable reports which he heard concerning the opportunities of the new world he came to the United States when nineteen years of age, his two elder brothers, Perry and Nels, having preceded him about a year. They were located in Paxton, where John H. Nelson joined them. He had no capital but possessed energy and determination and upon these qualities has builded his success. He was first employed as a farm hand, continuing to work in that way until 1879, when in connection with his brother Nels he began farming on his own account. They rented and cultivated a half section of land and for six years continued successfully to carry on general agricultural pursuits. On the expiration of that period, in 1885, John H. Nelson started for his old home, sailing on the 6th of March for Europe. He spent the summer in his native country, visiting relatives and friends and then returned to the United States in the fall, after which he and his brother Nels purchased a livery barn, and engaged in buying and selling horses. This business was conducted as a profitable enterprise for ten years when the partnership was dissolved and the barn sold.

Mr. Nelson of this review afterward took up the work of buying and selling cattle and hogs, with which he was identified until the fall of 1906, when he was elected to the sheriff's office, having the distinction of being the only democrat ever chosen to this position in Ford county since 1870. His official record, however, has ever been one characterized by the utmost fidelity and capability. He was elected a member of the board of aldermen of Paxton at a time when there was not a paved street nor a sewer in the city. He believed in improvements and took a firm stand in support of progressive public movements. To his official duties he brought the same spirit of enterprise and progress which have marked his business career. He was made chairman of the streets and alley committee, and while he met bitter antagonism in those who fought all public expense, he received the endorsement of the public-spirited citizens of his ward and was successively elected to office, serving continuously for thirteen years. During this time he was largely instrumental in securing the paving of the streets and other improvements which have resulted most beneficially for Paxton. Indeed the city owes to

him a debt of gratitude for what he accomplished along that line. In his present position he is fearless in the discharge of his duties, his course commanding the confidence of all law abiding citizens and the fear of all those who do not hold themselves amenable to the laws of the land.

Mr. Nelson was married in 1892 to Mrs. Ada Swanson, a daughter of Andrew Anderson, one of the early settlers and merchants of Paxton and the democratic candidate for sheriff of the county in 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have one daughter, Helen Frances. The family are members of the Swedish Lutheran church and have a large circle of warm friends in Paxton and the county. Mr. Nelson is prominent in fraternal circles, belonging to Paxton Lodge, No. 116, A. F. & A. M.; Ford Chapter, No. 160, R. A. M.; Mount Olivet Commandery, No. 38, K. T.; and Mahomet Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Peoria, Illinois. His residence in the county covers a period of more than a third of a century, and has been marked by uniform devotion to the public good, by activity and enterprise in business and by a fidelity to every public trust. He is today one of the well known and prominent citizens of this section of the state.

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#### E. S. HUNT.

E. S. Hunt, well known in Ford county as a representative of one of the worthy and honored pioneer families of this part of the state, was born in Marshall county, Illinois, October 15, 1833. His parents were Cornelius and Ann (Sidell) Hunt, who were natives of New Jersey.

The father removed with his parents to Pennsylvania, and subsequently the family home was established in Muskingum county, Ohio, among the first settlers there. The father built a log cabin with a clapboard roof and puncheon floor and door, and in the true style of the frontier the family began their life in the Buckeye state. There they cleared a farm, and with the development of that place Cornelius Hunt was actively connected, so that pioneer experiences were not unfamiliar to him when he came to Illinois in 1828. He made a location in Vermilion county, where he lived for eighteen months, and then removed to Putnam county, purchasing a claim on which there was a log cabin. It remained his home for six years, after which he sold that property and removed to Marshall county, Illinois. He there purchased two hundred and twenty acres, entering eighty acres of the timberland and paying for it the

usual government prices. With characteristic energy he began the development of the farm, turning the first furrows in the fields and carrying on the labor of general agriculture for fourteen years. He then rented his Marshall county land and purchased a farm in La Salle county, near Lostant. To this place he removed and made it his home until his death, which occurred May 12, 1874. His wife survived for about sixteen years, passing away in 1890. In their family were ten children, seven of whom survive, as follows: Ruth H., now the widow of Andrew Mailer and a resident of Melvin, Illinois; John S., of Melvin; Jane, the widow of James Dixon, also of Melvin; E. S. of this review; Elizabeth, the widow of George Dixon, who resides in Melvin; William J., who makes his home in the same town; and Philip, who is located in Paxton, Illinois.

In taking up the personal history of E. S. Hunt, we present to our readers the record of one who is widely and favorably known. He remained with his father until he attained his majority, acquired a common school education and was trained to the work of the home farm, lessons of industry and enterprise being deeply impressed upon his memory and constituting the secret of his later successes. When he had reached man's estate he began life on his own account by renting a farm and after two years thus passed he invested his earnings in eighty acres of land in La Salle county, Illinois, for which he paid thirteen dollars per acre. This he improved, making his home thereon until 1868, when he sold out and purchased a farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 1, Peach Orchard township, Ford county, on a part of which Melvin now stands. He also owns one hundred and twenty acres in Crawford county, Illinois, on which oil has been found, and he has leased the land for operation for oil for what the land cost him. He also gets one-sixth of the oil and retains the ownership of the land, so that from the property he derives a good income. He has a nice residence in the village of Melvin and during the past fifteen years he has engaged in farming with success, making a specialty of draft horses. His business interests are well managed, for he is a man of energy and determination.

On the 24th of December, 1854, Mr. Hunt was united in marriage to Miss Mary Griffin, with whom he traveled life's journey for more than a half century. Her death occurred November 14, 1906, and two children beside the husband were left to mourn her loss, while two children of the family also passed away. The surviving daughters are: Esther A., now the wife of C. B. Ellis, who is engaged with her father in carrying on the work of the farm; and Mary E., the wife of W. P. Shreve, a resident of Ford county.

Mr. Hunt came to his majority just about the time the republican party sprang into existence and from the beginning he has been one of its stalwart supporters. He cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont and has upheld the principles of the party at the polls continuously since that time. He has filled various offices, including those of assessor and collector, while for the greater part of a century he has been a school director. He contributes to the support of various churches but is identified with none through membership relations. However, he stands for all that is progressive and his influence is ever found on the side of right, reform and improvement.

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#### MATHEW KOERNER.

The excellent appearance of the farm on section 33, Mona township, which is owned by Mathew Koerner is due to the care and labor which he has bestowed upon the place. He has lived here for more than thirty years and now has a valuable farm property, in the midst of which stands a commodious and attractive residence. Not very far distant are substantial barns and outbuildings, affording ample shelter to grain and stock. Fine trees that now adorn the place were set out by him and the attractive appearance of the farm proves how industrious and energetic has been the life of Mr. Koerner through the years of his residence here.

A native of Baden, Germany, he was born on the 8th of April, 1843, and was the second in a family of five sons whose parents were Michael and Theresza Koerner, who spent their entire lives in Germany. Mathew Koerner remained there during the period of his minority and at the age of twenty-two years came to America, arriving in the United States in 1865. After six months spent in New York he went to Pennsylvania, where for nine months he worked in a livery stable. But thinking to find still broader business opportunities in the middle west, he made his way to Woodford county, Illinois, where he joined relatives who were residing there. For three years he again provided for his support by working as a farm hand by the month and after his marriage he rented land in Woodford county for seven years, thus gaining his start in life. His unremitting industry and his careful expenditure brought him the capital that enabled him to purchase eighty acres of land on section 32, Mona township, in 1877. He gave thirty dollars per acre for this property, which is today worth one hundred and fifty dollars. Two years ago



MR. AND MRS. MATTHEW KOERNER





he erected his present large and commodious residence, containing nine rooms. It is built in modern style of architecture and is one of the pleasant homes of the township. He has also added substantial barns and sheds to the place and has planted many beautiful trees. His life since 1877 has been devoted to the further development and improvement of this property and he also owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Woodford county, which he purchased two years ago. He raises considerable cane and each fall engages in the manufacture of molasses. Possessing much natural mechanical ingenuity, he can do almost anything with tools, has a good blacksmith shop upon his place and also works in wood, his ability in mechanical lines enabling him to keep everything upon his place in a state of good repair and improvement.

In 1870 was celebrated the marriage of Mathew Koerner and Miss Agatha Summers, who was born in Woodford county, Illinois, October 25, 1852, a daughter of John and Mary Summers, who were natives of Germany. In their family were three daughters and four sons. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Koerner have been born the following named: John, of Mona township; Frank, who is working in Walnut Grove but resides at home; Ed, William, Louis and Dan, all at home; Maggie, the wife of Louis Ginter, of Pella township; Ann, the wife of John Horn of Mona township; Theressa, the wife of Charles Horn, who is a mail carrier and resides at Cullom; Mary, the wife of John Carney, of Cullom; Lena, at home; and Katie, the wife of Fred Goetz, who is living on her father's farm in Woodford county.

Mr. Koerner is a democrat in his political views and has served as school and road officer, yet is not a politician in the sense of office seeking. He is, however, never remiss in the duties of citizenship but gives loyal support to every measure and movement calculated to prove of public good. He belongs to the Catholic church of Cullom and is a self-made man whose strong purpose and unfaltering diligence have unlocked for him the portals of success.

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#### IRA W. HAND.

Ira W. Hand is now living retired in Piper City but for many years was closely identified with the farming interests of Ford county. He has made judicious investment in property in Minnesota, from which he derives a good income. Since 1902 he has resided in Piper City and the rest which has come

to him is well merited. A native of the Empire state, he was born near the city of Utica in Oneida county, New York, April 1, 1831, his parents being Seth and Irene (Runyan) Hand.

The father was a native of Vermont, born May 20, 1807, but in his boyhood he became a resident of York Mills, Oneida county, New York, and throughout his business career was there engaged as overseer in cotton mills, following that pursuit until his death, which occurred on the 19th of December, 1845. His wife, who was born in New York, December 9, 1810, long survived him, passing away in Herkimer county, that state, in August, 1891, when in her eighty-first year. Three of their children yet survive: Thaddeus, Ira and Charles, while one son, William Harrison, who reached adult age, died in Little Falls, New York.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of life for Ira W. Hand in his early youth. He was, however, but fourteen years of age at the time of his father's death and was then forced to start out in life on his own account. Previous to this time he had attended the public schools to some extent but was largely educated in night schools. His record has always been characterized by intense and well directed activity up to the time when his former successes justified his retirement from business cares. While still living in the east he was married to Miss Harriet Seeber, a native of Montgomery county, New York, and a daughter of David and Lana (Yordon) Seeber, who were of German descent. Both of the grandparents of David Seeber served in the Revolutionary war. The parents of Mrs. Hand spent their last days in Sandwich, De Kalb county, Illinois. Their daughter Harriet was reared in Boonesville, Oneida county, New York, and following their marriage, which occurred on the 23d of August, 1853, Mr. and Mrs. Hand remained residents of the east for three years, when in 1856 they sought a home in Illinois, settling first in De Kalb county. In the east he had been employed at factory labor and his industry and careful expenditure enabled him to acquire the capital that justified his purchase of a farm on coming to Illinois. He lived in De Kalb county until 1859, when he removed to La Salle county and two years later he purchased and located upon a farm in Livingston county. There he was engaged in carrying on general agricultural pursuits at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war and with deep interest watched the progress of events in the south.

When it was seen that the northern troops could not achieve victory as easily as it was anticipated and that the war would prove a long continued contest Mr. Hand, with patriotic ardor, responded to the country's call, enlist-



ing on the 12th of August, 1862, as a member of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Infantry under Colonel G. P. Smith. The regiment was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, and assigned to the Tenth Division, R. S. Granger being commander of the brigade. They went in pursuit of Bragg to Crab Orchard, then retreated to Danville, and were sent to garrison Mitchellville, Kentucky, November 21, 1862. They were afterward on guard duty at Fort Thomas, and Gallatin, and in August, 1863, marched to Nashville, where they did guard duty until February 24, 1864. Previous to this, the regiment had been assigned to the First Brigade, Third Division, Twentieth Army Corps, under General Joseph Hooker. On the 3d of May, they started for Atlanta with General Sherman and participated in the battles of Resaca, Buzzard's Roost, Dallas and Peach Tree Creek. Mr. Hand was wounded at Kenesaw Mountain in the left leg. The ball passed through the leg and lodged in his pocket-book and this piece of lead he yet has in his possession. The wound proved quite serious and he was confined in the hospital until the 24th of June, when he was sent back to Chattanooga, and afterward to the Cumberland Hospital in Nashville. By the neglect of the surgeon, gangrene set in and his sufferings were intense. His father-in-law came for him and he returned home, just two years from the day of his enlistment. He received his discharge January 28, 1865. He might have had a position as captain of a colored regiment but determined to remain with the regiment in which he had enlisted. They marched to the front with nine hundred and twenty-seven and returned with less than two hundred, some being killed and others transferred.

The war having ended, Mr. Hand returned to his home with a most creditable military record. He was still suffering from his injuries and was yet on crutches when he resumed farm work in La Salle county, where he remained until 1872. That year witnessed his arrival in Ford county, where he has since remained. Here he purchased eighty acres of land and at once began the further development and improvement of his farm, bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation, while upon the place he put up substantial buildings affording ample shelter for grain, stock and farm machinery. Everything about the place indicated his careful supervision and for about thirty years he successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits. In 1902, however, he put aside the more active work of the fields and removed to Piper City, erecting a pleasant and attractive residence of eight rooms at the corner of Walnut and Pine streets, where he has since lived. He is now enjoying well earned rest and derives a good income from property in Minnesota. After selling his farm in Pella township he went to Minnesota with his sons,

David and Warren, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land three miles north of Staples, which property he still owns.

Mr. and Mrs. Hand are the parents of Cora, a native of New York, who was married November 29, 1877, to Jacob L. Miller, who lived for a time in Pella township and now resides at Staples, Minnesota. David S., who was born in La Salle county, was married February 15, 1882, to Minnie McLean and was at one time a resident of Seward county, Nebraska, but is now at Staples. Warren, born in La Salle county, was married on Christmas day of 1888 to Cora A. Serine in Randalia, Iowa, and is now living in Hawkeye, Iowa. William, born in De Kalb county, was married February 28, 1890, to Miss Edith Geary and is likewise a resident of Staples, Minnesota. Curtis J., who was born in Livingston county, Illinois, and is also located at Staples, married Virginia Thompson, who died February 24, 1892. Alma L., who was born in Livingston county, and Lewis S., a native of Ford county, are both at home. Mr. and Mrs. Hand also lost their firstborn, who was a native of De Kalb county, Illinois, and died in Livingston county, April 7, 1866, at the age of nine years. The children were provided with good educational privileges and the sons have followed in the political footsteps of the father, being stalwart advocates of the republican party.

Mr. Hand has long been recognized as one of the stalwart champions of republican principles in Ford county. While in Pella township he was made clerk of the board of drainage commissioners and acted with that board during the construction of all three districts. He justly claims the best drainage record of any man in the United States. He and Charles A. Cook worked together on this board for many years. He labored untiringly for the development of the county through an improved system of drainage and although his work was opposed by many men of wealth and numerous injunctions were served on him, he was victorious in the courts, his course being sustained by the United States courts at Springfield. There is perhaps no other agency which has contributed so largely to the welfare of the county as has the drainage work, whereby many acres of swamp land have been reclaimed and converted into fields of rich fertility. Mr. Hand has frequently served as a delegate to county and state conventions of his party and in 1887 was policeman in the capitol during the thirty-fifth general assembly. For fifteen years he was a director of the Brenton & Pella Fire Insurance Company and he has always been deeply interested in every movement and measure tending to benefit the community at large and promote its wonderful development. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church, with which they have

long been identified, and of the Grand Army Post at Piper City Mr. Hand is a prominent representative. He thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades and for some years he served as chaplain of the post and was also adjutant and commander. He was likewise treasurer of the Fair Association of the county for a number of years and no practical, progressive movement in the county has failed to elicit his endorsement and in many instances his active cooperation. Starting out in life on his own account when but fourteen years of age, denied many of the advantages which many boys receive through inheritance, he nevertheless possessed the strength of character that enabled him to overcome difficulties and obstacles and to work his way steadily upward to a position of affluence. He is now comfortably situated in life and moreover he commands the respect and trust of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### JAMES A. JORDAN.

A student of history cannot carry his investigations far into the annals of Ford county without learning of the early and close connection of the Jordan family with its agricultural progress and with various interests and events which have left their impress upon the county's development. James A. Jordan was born in 1854 in a log cabin which constituted the family residence in the early days of their settlement here. It was in March, 1854, that the parents, Andrew and Amanda (Devore) Jordan, came to this county. The father's birth occurred in Louisville, Kentucky, in August, 1828, and he was descended from Scotch-Irish ancestry. Coming to Illinois, he settled in Cass county and after living for a while in Champaign county removed to Ford county, where he made purchase of one hundred acres of land and established his home upon the frontier. The family shared in the hardships and privations incident to pioneer settlement and as the years passed bore their full share in the work of improvement.

The primitive schools of the community afforded to James A. Jordan the educational privileges which qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties. He was married in 1876 to Miss Martha Barney, and although they began their domestic life in Ford county, in 1881 they removed to Kansas and spent eleven years in Montgomery county, after which they returned to Illinois. As the years passed by several children were added to the household,

the eldest being Norah Adelia, now the wife of George Hendricks, of Dwight, Illinois. The others are: Rolla E., now living in Rankin; Jennie E., the widow of Charles Quirk; and Henry H. and Andrew, both at home.

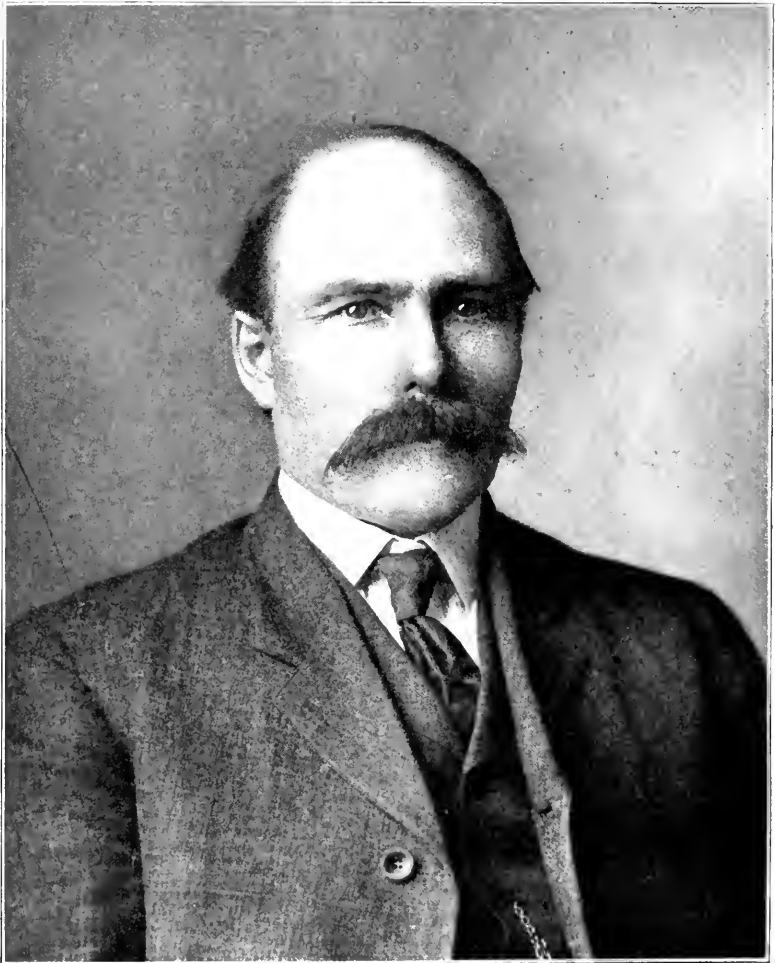
The father, James A. Jordan, occupies his time and attention with the cultivation of a half section of land belonging to the father's estate, adjoining the place upon which his brother Charles A. Jordan lives. The fields are rich and productive and he annually gathers large harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields. In all of his work he is practical and, moreover, his methods are honorable, commanding for him the confidence and good will of those with whom he is associated. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen, holding membership with Drummer camp, No. 235. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has supported the men and measure of the republican party at the polls, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Christian church. His many good qualities are displayed by the friendship which is uniformly accorded him by those who know him.

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#### JAMES PAGE GLASS.

James Page Glass, chairman of the village board of Piper City, has long been recognized as an active factor in democratic circles and is also well known as an enterprising and prosperous farmer, deriving his income from valuable properties in Pella township and also in Winnipeg, Canada. He was born in Hardin county, Ohio, February 4, 1859, his parents being George W. and Mary E. (Yates) Glass. The paternal great-grandfather was a native of Ireland, and in the latter part of the eighteenth century crossed the Atlantic and established his home in the town of Ebridge, Onondaga county, New York. The grandfather, William Glass, accompanied his parents on their emigration from Ireland to the new world, and spent his entire life in the Empire state, where he engaged actively in farming. He wedded Clarissa Whipple, a native of Vermont, whose death occurred in 1836, while he survived until 1844, passing away at the age of sixty-seven years. In his family were five children: Mrs. Eunice Choate; William, who served in the Civil war and died in 1863; Adeline, who died in Syracuse, New York; George W.; and James, whose death occurred in Auburn, New York.





JAMES P. GLASS



MRS. JAMES P. GLASS





The father of our subject, George W. Glass, was born in Onondaga county, New York, February 11, 1826. Through the death of his father, he was thrown upon his own resources at the age of eighteen years. He secured work on the railroad and at anything that would bring him an honest living. He was also employed as an engineer and spent some years in the railroad shops. He afterward operated a portable engine, making that his business until he had reached the age of forty years. In 1853 he made his way to Sandusky, Ohio, where he continued to operate his portable engine. He was married in the fall of 1863 to Miss Mary E. Yates, who was also born in the Empire state and was reared in the same neighborhood as was her husband. The young couple began their domestic life in Patterson, Hardin county, Ohio, where they lived for twelve years, subsequent to which time they removed to Stark county, Illinois, where they spent the winter, and in the following spring continued their journey to La Salle county, locating upon a farm near Streator, where they made their home until 1873. In that year they came to Ford county, where Mr. Glass purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land situated in Pella township. It was a tract of wet prairie, entirely unimproved, but he began its cultivation and development and in due course of time had made it an excellent tract of land. He made his home thereon until 1892, in which year he retired and removed to Piper City, where his death occurred in 1904, having survived his wife for about fourteen years, her death having occurred in 1890. He was thus identified with the agricultural interests of Ford county for almost three decades and was a respected farmer and business man. Unto him and his wife were born five children: George E.; James Page, of this review; Minnie, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Fannie; and Alice.

James Page Glass accompanied his parents on their various removals and during the period of his boyhood and youth he assisted his father in the work of the home farm and was occupied with the duties of the schoolroom in the acquirement of his education. While remaining an active factor in business life he continued to engage in farming and prospered in his work. To his possessions he added from time to time until he now owns two hundred and ninety acres in Pella township on sections 34 and 35, and also one hundred and sixty acres near Winnipeg, Canada. His home farm is very valuable and productive and returns him a gratifying annual income. He made it his place of abode for a long period and brought it under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Glass was married in 1895 to Miss Lottie Thompson, a representative of one of the well known and prominent families of the county, mentioned elsewhere in this volume. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Glass is the abode of

gracious and warm-hearted hospitality and they occupy an enviable position in social circles. In his political views Mr. Glass is an earnest democrat and has been active in the local ranks of his party, doing all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. He has served for four years as supervisor and at present is chairman of the village board of Piper City. His official service has always been characterized by the utmost devotion to the public good. He has ever placed the general welfare before partisanship and has done effective work officially and otherwise in behalf of public progress in his community. Fraternally he is connected with Piper City Lodge, No. 608, A. F. & A. M. and has also taken the Knights Templar degrees in the chapter at Fairbury. His residence in the county covers more than a third of a century and during this period he has largely witnessed the growth and progress which have marked the county's advancement and development. His cooperation has never been sought in vain in support of progressive public movements and his worth as a citizen is widely acknowledged.

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#### ISAAC C. LEMNA.

Isaac C. Lemna, engaged in the livery business in Piper City, was born in Detroit, Canada, November 12, 1849, his parents being Isaac and Amelia (Besonett) Lemna, who were likewise natives of Canada, whence they came to Illinois in 1855, locating first in Iroquois county, where they lived for ten years. They then moved to Chatsworth, Illinois, and the father was employed in the sugar factory there. The mother's death occurred in Chatsworth in 1899, and the father passed away on the 11th of October, 1907. In their family were twelve children, of whom six are now living, Isaac C. being the eldest. The others are: Frank, a resident of Kankakee, Illinois; Mary, the wife of F. M. Tavares of Dwight, this state; Lizzie, the wife of Godfrey Fortier of Kansas; Lena, the widow of John Daney and a resident of Chatsworth; and Cena, the wife of John Hoyle, living at Pleasant Hope, Missouri.

Isaac C. Lemna was but seven years of age when brought by his parents from Canada to this state and in his parents' home he spent the days of his boyhood and youth. He worked with his father until twenty-three years of age and in the public schools acquired a limited education. In the school of experience, however, he has learned many valuable lessons. On starting out in life for himself at the age of twenty-three years he rented a farm in Livings-

ton county, Illinois, where he resided for thirty years. He then bought a farm in Jasper county, Indiana, whereon he resided for two years, after which he sold his property there and came to Piper City, where he established a livery business, which he is largely conducting, his son Jesse being his partner in this enterprise. They keep a number of good horses and fine vehicles and receive a liberal patronage.

Mr. Lemna was married in 1873 to Miss Anna Fortier, who was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, and was one of a family of twelve children. Her parents are now deceased. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lemna has been blessed with nine children but two of the number have passed away. Those who still survive are: Jesse, who is now in business with his father; William, residing in Piper City; Fred, who is conducting a barber shop at Chatsworth, Illinois; Frank, at home; Sadie, Mary and Leo, who are yet under the parental roof.

The parents are communicants of the Catholic church and contribute generously to its support. In addition to his livery business Mr. Lemna owns a fine residence in the village of Piper City. In politics he is a republican and though he has not sought or desired public office he has been called upon to serve as school director and has filled the position for nine years, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart supporter. He is widely known in this county and as a business man displays a spirit of enterprise which has brought to him a desirable measure of success.

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#### DAVID CARL SWANSON.

David Carl Swanson, postmaster of Paxton, was born in the province of Jonkoping, near the town of Grana, Sweden, January 20, 1869. His parents, Lars J. and Hilda Swanson, immigrated to the United States in May, 1869, when their son David was but three months old. They resided for about a year in Beaver township, Iroquois county, after which they removed to Ford county and from that time on made their home within a radius of ten miles of Paxton. The father gave his entire life to agricultural pursuits and thus provided a comfortable living for his family. He was a republican in politics but never an aspirant for office, although he was ever a good citizen, loyal to the best interests of the community and the nation at large. He was a consistent member of the Swedish Mission church and died in that faith in March, 1889,

at the age of fifty-three years. Mrs. Swanson still survives and resides in Paxton. She too is a member of the Swedish Mission church. In their family were nine children and all are yet living, namely: David C.; Hannah J., the wife of John A. Walgren of Portland, Oregon; Gustav E., of Osage, Iowa; Amanda J., of Paxton; Eva C., living in Portland, Oregon; Jennie O., the wife of Elof Carlson of Rockford, Illinois; Oscar S., of Osage, Iowa; Ida, the wife of John Platt of Paw Paw, Illinois; and Esther, of Paxton.

David C. Swanson was reared on his father's farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He acquired his education in the district schools and as a youth of fourteen came to Paxton, where he secured a position as errand boy, working for one year in a grocery store and for one year in the mill. In October, 1885, he entered the drugstore of Hanson & King, which later became the firm of King & Helmer while subsequently John F. Helmer was the sole proprietor. Mr. Swanson remained in this store as a most faithful and trusted employe for eighteen years and then resigned his position, in May, 1903, on account of ill health caused by close confinement in the store. He then accepted a position in the lumber yard of B. P. Andrews, where he remained for eighteen months, when he returned to his former position in the drugstore, there continuing until he resigned to become postmaster of Paxton under appointment of President Roosevelt.

This is not the only office which Mr. Swanson has filled. In April, 1893, he was elected to the office of city clerk of Paxton, acting therein continuously for ten years and retiring from the office May 1, 1903, as he had entered it— with the confidence and respect of all concerned.

Mr. Swanson is a member of Paxton Lodge, No. 418, I. O. O. F., Paxton Lodge, No. 398, K. P., Paxton Camp, No. 259, M. W. A., and Council, No. 20, of the Yeomen of America. He attends and supports the Swedish Mission church and is one of Paxton's esteemed and honored citizens.

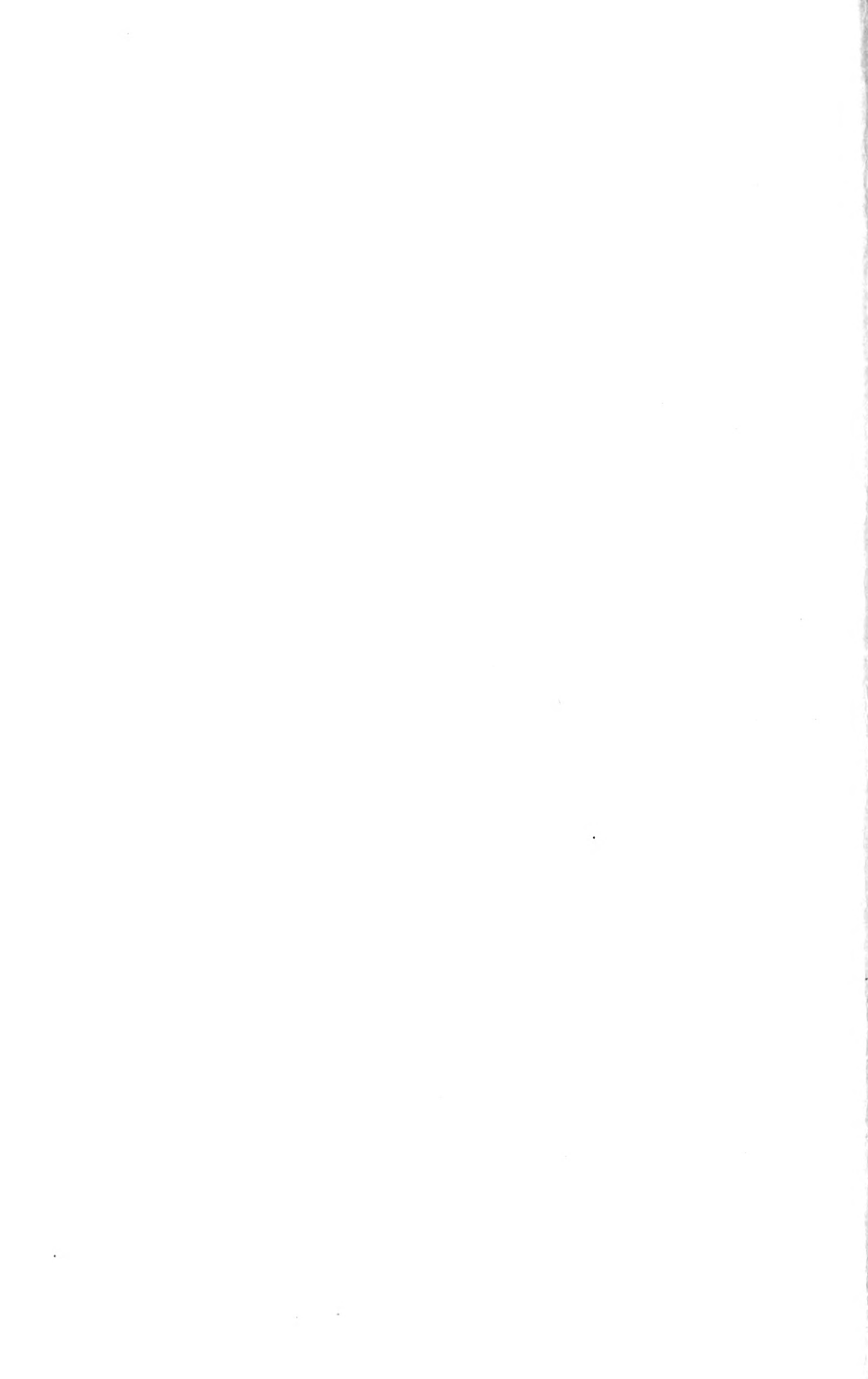
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#### LOUIS MUELLER.

Louis Mueller, the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, Mona township, was born in Germany on the 1st of February, 1859, a son of Adolph and Louisa Mueller. The father passed away in Germany and the mother afterward emigrated to the United States, now living



MIR. AND MRS. LOUIS MUELLER



near Seattle, Washington, with one of her daughters. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Mueller were six children, as follows: Carl, who resides in Germany; Louis, of this review; Adolph, deceased; Hannah, the wife of Godford Borchard, who lives near Seattle, Washington; Matilda, deceased; and Bertha, who became the wife of James Parson and also makes her home near Seattle, Washington.

Louis Mueller acquired a common-school education in his native country and when fourteen years of age began clerking, being employed in the same store for six years at a salary of six dollars per month. He had heard many favorable reports concerning the broader business opportunities of the new world and when twenty years of age crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating first in Champaign county, Illinois, where he secured employment on a farm. For about three months he was engaged in digging a tile ditch in company with several other men and at the end of that time his employer hired him as foreman and overseer of his farms, Mr. Mueller having already given practical demonstration of his fidelity and capability. He remained in this position for twelve years, but in 1889, desiring to engage in farming on his own account, he rented a tract of land which he successfully operated for four years. On the expiration of that period he purchased eighty acres of land on section 27, Mona township, which he conducted for three years, when he sold out and bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, Mona township. He has met with a gratifying measure of success in the conduct of his agricultural interests and is recognized as one of the substantial and enterprising farmers of the county.

In 1889 Mr. Mueller was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Stofferan, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1857, a daughter of Paul and Mary (Fleser) Stofferan. The parents were natives of Germany but emigrated to America in an early day, locating in Chicago, where the father worked at the carpenter's trade until 1870. He then purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Mona township, Ford county, successfully following agricultural pursuits here until the time of his death in March, 1906. Mrs. Stofferan departed this life in 1898 and the county thus mourned the loss of two of its worthy pioneer settlers. Their family, including Mrs. Mueller, numbered five children. Unto our subject and his wife have been born four children, as follows: Emma Marie and Lillie Minnie, who are both graduates of the high school at Cullom; and Etta L. and Benjamin, both at home.

In his political views Mr. Mueller is a stalwart republican but has never taken any active part in politics, preferring to give his undivided attention to

his business interests. Both he and his wife are devoted members of the Lutheran church and are widely and favorably known throughout the entire community. They are self-made people, for they started out in life empty-handed and acquired the prosperity which they now enjoy entirely through their own well directed labors and untiring perseverance.

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#### CLAUS JOHANNSEN.

Claus Johannsen, who carries on general farming on section 22, Dix township, was born in Germany in West Hamburg in 1858, his parents being Claus and Margaret (Hanson) Johannsen, who were farming people. The father was seventy years of age at the time of his death, which occurred in 1899. The mother came to America on a visit in 1894 and remained for eight months, after which she returned to the old home in Germany, where she is now residing. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Phebe, who lives in Germany; Hans, who follows farming in Wall township, Ford county; Claus, of this review; Margaret, Cathrina and Christian, all of whom have passed away; and Christina, who also makes her home in Germany.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Claus Johannsen in his boyhood days. He assisted his father in the cultivation of the fields and in the public schools acquired his education. He was twenty years of age when he joined the German army, rendering three years' military service to his country between 1878 and 1881 and receiving a medal for cannon firing. The year after leaving the army he came to America, landing at New York city in July, 1882. He made his way direct from the metropolis to Anchor, McLean county, Illinois, where for a time he worked by the day in order to provide for his support, for he brought no capital with him on his emigration to the new world. Believing that his labors might prove more beneficial to himself if he was not in the employ of others, he rented a small place north of Gibson City and there lived for five years. He afterward rented a farm three miles east of his present home from a Mr. Peters and also continued there for five years. He next removed to the John Richardson farm two miles north of Elliott, where he resided for five years, and in 1899 he purchased his present place then comprising two hundred acres of very wet swampy land, for which he paid sixty-one and a half dollars per acre. Later a dredge ditch was built through and Mr. Johannsen now owns one of the best



drained farms in the county, the soil being especially adapted for the raising of various cereals, especially corn and oats. He has built nice barns and cribs upon his place, has his buildings all painted and has a comfortable residence. In fact everything about the place is indicative of his progressive spirit and his unremitting care.

Just prior to his emigration to the new world, Mr. Johannsen was married on the 12th of May, 1882, to Miss Dora Semmelback, who was born in Germany and lived in the same neighborhood as the Johannsen family. She is a daughter of Nicklaus and Magretha (McGrote) Semmelback. Her mother died in 1901, at the age of seventy-four years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johannsen have been born three children: John, who married Maud Thompson and is a station agent in South Dakota; and Willie and Henry, at home.

Mr. Johannsen is a republican who, keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day, is able to support his position by intelligent argument. He belongs to the German Lutheran church and his life is an honorable and upright one in harmony with his professions. He has always realized that "there is no excellence without labor" and his entire career has been characterized by an unfaltering diligence and unflagging perseverance which have made him one of the prosperous citizens of this part of the county.

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#### AUGUST BECK.

The farming interests of Wall township find a worthy representative in August Beck, who owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 7 and has made it a well improved property. He was born in Posen, Germany, on the 27th of November, 1852, but since the spring of 1853 has been a resident of Illinois, having been brought to America by his parents, Gottlieb and Christina (Dreages) Beck. The father died in 1885, at the age of sixty-five years, and the mother passed away in Minnesota in 1907 at the age of eighty-one years. He was twice married and Fred Beck, of Melvin, is a son of the first marriage. The children of the second union are: Gottlieb, now deceased; August, of this review; William and Henry, who are residing in Minnesota; Albert, deceased; and Julia, the wife of Isaac Thompson, of South Dakota.

When the family came to the new world they settled in Chicago, where August Beck had the opportunity of pursuing his studies in the public schools

until about fourteen years of age. The family then removed to Marshall county, Illinois, where they lived for two years, and in 1868 came to Ford county, where they have since made their home. August Beck remained under the parental roof until his marriage and was early trained to habits of thrift, industry and economy, developing thereby characteristics which have proven of value to him in his later business career. On starting out in life on his own account he rented land, which he cultivated for about five years, his industry and careful expenditure during that period bringing to him the capital which enabled him to purchase his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 7, Wall township. He has placed upon it all of the buildings and modern improvements and it is now a desirable property, from which he annually derives a good income. He is practical in his methods and as the result of his work in the fields he yearly harvests good crops, for which he finds a ready sale on the market.

In February, 1880, Mr. Beck was married to Miss Mary Rose, who was born in Williamsburg, New York, now a part of Brooklyn, February 6, 1856, and in 1865 was brought to La Salle county, Illinois, by her parents, Henry and Anna (Schmidt) Rose, who in 1876 removed to Ford county. They were natives of Hesse, Germany, and arrived in the Empire state about 1842. After coming to Illinois, Mr. Rose spent most of his life in Ford county, but at length retired and removed to Streator, Illinois, where both he and his wife passed away, their graves being made in the cemetery there. Mr. Rose was more than eighty years of age at the time of his demise and his wife had almost reached the age of eighty years at her death. While in New York he was employed as foreman in a chemical factory in Williamsburg. The family of this worthy couple numbered three sons and a daughter: Henry, a resident of Chicago; Mrs. Beck; and George and Fred, who are also in Chicago. Henry was extensively engaged in merchandising in Streator at one time and his brother George was associated with him, but they both became followers of Alexander Dowie and removed to Zion City, Henry Rose putting much of his money in that place.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Beck have been born eight children: Anna, the wife of Dan Myers, of Melvin; George, at home; Elizabeth, the wife of Calvin Matthews, of Melvin; William, Laura, Walter, Edwin and Florence, all yet under the parental roof. The family are members of the German Lutheran church at Melvin and Mr. Beck gives his political allegiance to the republican party but has never been an office seeker, preferring to give undivided attention to his business interests. Almost his entire life has been spent in Illinois and he

is imbued with a spirit of enterprise and progress, which have been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of this section of the country. As he has lived for many years in Ford county he has a wide acquaintance here and his friends know him as an enterprising agriculturist and a man of genuine worth.

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#### J. A. THOMPSON.

J. A. Thompson is cultivating a farm of five hundred and sixty acres on section 17, Pella township, and is a farmer whose well directed energy and keen foresight are bringing to him a creditable measure of prosperity. He was born in Schuyler county, Illinois, August 1, 1861, his parents being Amos R. and Martha W. (Smith) Thompson, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

As a farm boy J. A. Thompson spent the days of boyhood and youth and in the public schools he acquired a fair education that qualified him to take up the more responsible duties of life when he put aside the tasks of the school-room. He remained with his father until twenty-two years of age, when he started out on his own account and for three years rented a farm in Iroquois county, Illinois. He then went to South Dakota, where he worked for his uncle, Ben Smith, for two years, after which he took up a homestead claim and at once began its improvement and development. There he remained for sixteen years and wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place as the result of the care and labor which he bestowed upon the fields. On the expiration of that period he removed to Minnesota, where he bought a farm and lived for two years. On the expiration of that period he sold out and bought another farm in Minnesota, which continued his place of abode for five years.

Mr. Thompson then came to Ford county, in 1905, and here rented five hundred and sixty acres on section 17, Pella township, where he has since made his home. He still owns a quarter section of land in Minnesota. He makes a specialty of raising stock and is an energetic, practical farmer whose labors have brought to him the success that he has enjoyed since he started out on his own account in early manhood.

In 1889 Mr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Sadie Kinsman, who was born in Minnesota. Her father is now deceased, while her mother is living in South Dakota. They were the parents of six children, and unto Mr.

and Mrs. Thompson five children have been born but they lost their fourth child, Byron. The others are still under the parental roof, namely: Clyde, Ray, Ethel and Martha.

Mr. Thompson has taken three degrees in Masonry in Piper City. He also belongs to the Woodmen Camp and to the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Waterloo, South Dakota. Much of his life has been spent in Illinois and he is a splendid type of the Illinois farmer, alert, enterprising and progressive. After a sojourn in the northwest he believes that there is no district so favorable to the agriculturist as his native state and is now closely associated with its agricultural development and improvement.

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#### MRS. ELIZABETH COOPER.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper is a lady most highly respected in Melvin, where she has lived since 1892, deriving her income from a good farming property, situated in Peach Orchard township, Ford county. Mrs. Cooper was born in Devonshire, England, in the year 1830. There she was reared and educated and in the early '50s emigrated to the new world, her destination being Perry, Wyoming county, New York, where she gave her hand in marriage to William Cooper, who was likewise a native of England, and emigrated to this country in the '50s.

Following their marriage the young couple removed to Geneseo, Henry county, Illinois, where Mr. Cooper secured employment as a clerk in a store. He also purchased a house and lot in Geneseo, and there made his home for several years, subsequent to which time he took up his abode in Livingston county, this state, where he remained for a short time and then removed to Ford county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, to which he later added an additional tract of eighty acres, which he improved and cultivated for many years. In 1892, however, he abandoned all active work and retired to Melvin, where he purchased a nice home and lived in well earned ease until the time of his death, which occurred in 1900. He gave his political support to the republican party and was called by his fellow townsmen to fill several public offices in the township. He was a man of honorable methods, straightforward in all his business dealings and his many excellent traits of character won him many friends, so that his death was the occasion of deep regret not only to the members of his household but to the people of the community in which he had lived.





WILLIAM COOPER



MRS. ELIZABETH COOPER





By her marriage Mrs. Cooper has become the mother of seven children but one of the number is now deceased. The family record is as follows: William A., who resides in Iowa; Jennie, at home; Watson J.; Mary, the widow of George Merrit; James, who makes his home in Ford county; Eva, who has passed away; and Cora, the wife of Neal Dixon, of Ford county.

Mrs. Cooper is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Melvin, to which her husband also belonged. She is in possession of a good farming property comprising one hundred and sixty acres left her by her husband, and from this farm she derives an income sufficient to enable her to live in well earned ease. She is a gentle, kindly woman, charitable in her estimate of every one and her many excellent traits of heart and mind have won for her the esteem and admiration of a host of warm friends.

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#### A. B. BROWNING.

A. B. Browning is a farmer of Drummer township who cultivates two hundred and eighty acres of land, of which he owns one hundred and twenty acres. He lives on section 8 and his home place is indicative of his enterprising methods, showing the care and labor which he bestows upon it.

Mr. Browning was born at Fairmount, Vermilion county, Illinois, October 3, 1869, his parents being George and Mary (Riley) Browning. The father, a native of Shropshire, England, crossed the Atlantic with his parents when ten years of age and became a resident of Springfield, Ohio. At the time of hostilities between the north and the south concerning the question of secession he enlisted for service with the Union army in 1861, as a member of the Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry, and continued at the front until the close of the war. He died in the year 1897 and is still survived by his wife.

A. B. Browning pursued his education in the public schools between the ages of six and sixteen years, and afterward worked with his father upon the home farm until his marriage in 1892 to Miss Lucy F. Wilson, daughter of W. J. and Lydia Wilson, of Ford county. They have become the parents of three children: Howard, fourteen years of age; Carl, a little lad of five years; and Ethel Marie.

Mr. Browning owns now one hundred and twenty acres of land and in addition to the further development and improvement of this place at the present time he also cultivates another tract of one hundred and sixty acres,

which he rents. With the care of two hundred and eighty acres of land his life is a busy and active one, characterized by energy and unfaltering diligence. The success that he has achieved is attributable entirely to his own labors. He is, moreover, a public-spirited citizen, and cooperates in measures for the general good. He is now a member of the Modern Woodmen camp at Gibson City, also belongs to the Presbyterian church and champions the cause of education as a school director. His political support is given to the republican party, and he is a popular man who has many friends in this community and well deserves the regard in which he is held.

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#### DAVID SPEEDIE.

David Speedie has since 1885 been the owner of a farm upon which he now resides on section 17, Dix township. He is of Scotch descent and was born at Fall River, Massachusetts, on the 7th of March, 1850, his parents being Matthew and Isabella (Colston) Speedie. The father was a millwright by trade and in Scotland built water wheels, threshing machines, etc. He came to America in 1849 as passenger on a sailing vessel, which, after a voyage of forty-two days, reached Nova Scotia. In Scotland, six months before his emigration, he was married to Miss Isabella Colston, and after reaching Newfoundland they proceeded on their way to Fall River, Massachusetts. All their children were born in that state, where they lived for about fifteen years, Matthew Speedie working at the machinist's trade. Removing to the middle west, he located in Logan county, Illinois, where he rented a farm in March, 1865. The following year he came to Ford county and purchased land on section 8, Dix township, becoming the owner of a tract of eighty acres, for which he paid six dollars per acre. It was raw prairie land, upon which no improvements had been made but with characteristic energy he began its development and cultivation and soon converted it into a productive farm. He later purchased eighty acres from an uncle, David Speedie, for which he paid twenty-one hundred dollars. He was progressive in all his work and was the first to use tile in the locality, paying thirty-five dollars per thousand for three-inch tile. He demonstrated to his neighbor the utility of this course and many others followed his example. His political views were in accord with the principles and purposes of the republican party.

Matthew Speedie was married twice, the mother of our subject being his second wife. His first wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Jack, died in Scotland. A son of that marriage, Andrew M. Speedie, is deceased. The children of the second marriage, are: David, of this review; Isabella Jane, the wife of J. S. Martin, a resident of Texarkana, Arkansas; W. T., who is engaged in the operation of the home farm; and Mary E., who became the wife of J. W. Preston but both are now deceased. The death of the father occurred when he had reached the venerable age of eighty-one years.

At the usual age David Speedie began his education as a district-school student in Massachusetts and throughout his entire life he has been interested in the cause of education, the public-school system of his locality finding in him a warm and stalwart friend, who has done effective service in its behalf while filling the office of school director for two terms. At the age of twelve years he began working in the Globe Print Works at Fall River, Massachusetts, and was there employed until the removal of the family to Illinois. His education therefore was largely acquired before he reached his twelfth year, save that in the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons and by reading and observation has added largely to his knowledge.

After the removal of the family to Illinois, he worked upon the home farm and started out upon an independent business career at the age of thirty-five. Having saved some money from the wages which he had earned by working on the home farm after he had attained his majority, he invested in the property which he now owns on section 17, Dix township. He bought this about 1885, securing one hundred and five acres, for which he paid forty dollars per acre. Later he bought an eighty acre tract in Iroquois county, which he afterward sold and subsequently invested in ninety acres about a half mile to the east of his present farm. Purchasing the J. Thornton place in 1899, he paid for this eighty dollars per acre. He also bought fifty-five acres adjoining the old homestead, for which he paid one hundred dollars per acre in 1901. He now has valuable realty and has placed most of the improvements upon his farm and has tilled and drained the land. His work is carefully executed, his methods being practical and progressive and his labors are bringing him merited success.

On the 5th of November, 1891, Mr. Speedie was married to Miss Sarah I. Metcalf, who was born in Dix township and is a daughter of David and Sarah (Bell) Metcalf, who were farming people. Her father died in Gibson City but her mother still survives. Mr. and Mrs. Speedie have but two children, Floyd D. and Ruby, both at home.

Politically Mr. Speedie is a republican and has served as pathmaster and as commissioner one term. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp at Gibson City, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, in the work of which they are much interested, while to its support they contribute generously. Their influence is always found on the side of right and progress and in business affairs Mr. Speedie has prospered, owing to his business integrity as well as his industry.

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#### JAMES WATSON.

James Watson, living in Piper City, is connected with the agricultural interests of the county, and, moreover, in his life record proves the fact that success is not a matter of genius, as held by some, but is the outcome of clear judgment, experience and indefatigable energy. He was born in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1856, his parents being William R. and Sarah Jane (Pullock) Watson, who were natives of Clarion county, Pennsylvania. The mother died when her son James was about ten years of age and the father afterward married again and removed with his family to this county. He is now living in Benton Harbor, Michigan. By his first marriage he had three sons and one daughter, while the children of the second marriage were two sons and three daughters.

James Watson, who is one of the two surviving sons of the father's first marriage, was a resident of the east until 1869, when, at the age of thirteen years, he accompanied his father on the removal to the middle west, the family home being established about five miles northeast of Piper City in Pella township, Ford county. Mr. Watson has since been identified with the interests of this part of the state except for one year, 1876, spent in Chicago. Excluding that period, he has always followed farming in Ford county and still superintends his agricultural interests, although he is now living partially retired at Piper City. He started out on his own account when about eighteen years of age and then worked by the month for seven or eight years. Ambitious to engage in farming on his own account he rented land from J. A. Montelius for ten or twelve years, carefully conducting the work of the fields so that in the course of time he had an income sufficient to permit his purchase of one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 27, Pella township. He bought this of Mr. Montelius on the 28th of April, 1890. It was his first



MR. AND MRS. JAMES WATSON



property and with characteristic energy he began its development, bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation so that he annually gathered good crops of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate. Today he is the owner of a half section of land in Garfield county, Oklahoma, which he purchased in September, 1906. Four years ago he built his present residence in Piper City and has since lived partially retired, although he gives supervision to his farming interests. His home, containing eight rooms, is built in modern style of architecture and is one of the attractive residences of the town.

On the 12th of August, 1880, Mr. Watson was united in marriage to Miss Clara Jane Francis, who was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, December 8, 1862, and went to Valparaiso, Indiana, with her parents. The father died there and Mrs. Watson afterward came to Ford county, at the age of nine years, to live with her grandmother, Sarah Ruff, who was a native of Pennsylvania. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Watson have been born two daughters: Alma May, now the wife of Wilfred McKee, who is living on her father's farm in Pella township and by whom she has one child, Watson J.; and Esther Belle, the wife of Edward Lyons, also a resident farmer of Pella township. Mr. and Mrs. Lyons also have one child, Myron James.

In his political views Mr. Watson has always been a stalwart republican and gives active support to every progressive public movement that tends to prove of general benefit. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp of Piper City and holds membership in the Presbyterian church. His life has been ever honorable and in all relations he has been found trustworthy. He certainly deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. His life has been one of unflinching activity and diligence and as the years have gone by he has gained a comfortable competence and now derives his income from valuable farm holdings. Moreover, the methods that he has employed in his business career have been such as will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny.

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#### CHARLES A. COOK.

Charles A. Cook owns and conducts the Pine Grove farm, one of the valuable properties of Pella township. It is situated on section 30 and is improved with all the conveniences and accessories that go to make up a model farm property of the twentieth century. In his business affairs Mr. Cook is thoroughly practical as well as progressive and his strong purposes and well

directed diligence constitute the basis of the gratifying success that he now enjoys. His birth occurred on the 3d of November, 1845, in London, Ontario, Canada, and he comes of English ancestry, his parents, Charles and Rosetta (Root) Cook, being natives of England and of Canada respectively. The former came to America when twenty-one years of age and for some time was employed in a wholesale store at London, Canada. He was married there and his wife died in Canada about 1851. Six years later he removed to Chicago, where he conducted a real-estate business for a time and then became a resident of St. Louis, Missouri. Afterward he took up his abode in New York city, where he held the position of superintendent of the Howard Mission. He died in July, 1892. The two sons of the family are Charles and George, the latter a resident of Los Angeles, California.

Charles A. Cook was a youth of twelve years at the time of his father's removal from Canada to Chicago and in that city he started out in life on his own account, when a youth of thirteen years. He afterward went to Sandwich, Illinois, and lived with Robert Dixon until he was eighteen years of age, when he took charge of Mr. Dixon's farm, which he cultivated for seven years, carefully directing his labors as an agriculturist.

On the 11th of December, 1870, Mr. Cook was united in marriage to Miss Angeline Dean, a native of Sandwich, Illinois, and a daughter of Nelson and Sarah Dean. In the spring of 1871 the young couple removed to Ford county and Mr. Cook purchased the tract of land which he has since owned and cultivated and which is now known as the Pine Grove farm. After residing in this county for six years he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away in July, 1877. He afterward married Carrie Montelius, a daughter of Ed Montelius, and unto them were born two children: Charles E., who is now in Jackson county, Kansas; and Mary A., the wife of Fred Keyes whose home is in Cass county, North Dakota. The mother died in 1883 and in the spring of 1884, in Piper City, Mr. Cook was joined in wedlock to Miss Minnie Montelius, who is a sister of his second wife and a native of Freeport, Illinois, although she was reared in Piper City. By this marriage there have been born five children: Anna B., now the wife of Roy Bennett, who is residing in Livingston county, Illinois; Myrtle Blanche, a stenographer in the National Bank of Piper City; Josy Dean; Edith R.; and George Dixon.

In his political views Mr. Cook is a republican, having staunchly supported the party since casting his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant in 1868. He takes considerable interest in local politics and at the present writing is serving as assessor of Pella township. He has been school director for thirty



years and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend, for he believes in the maintenance of good schools and the employment of competent teachers. He has been a delegate to a number of the conventions of his party, was commissioner of highways for thirteen years and has also been township treasurer. His wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. From early boyhood Mr. Cook has depended upon his own resources for a living. He soon realized that there is no royal road to wealth and that there is no excellence without labor. He found too, that honesty is the best policy and that success can be most quickly and surely secured through unfaltering perseverance and close application. These qualities have characterized him throughout his entire life and have made him one of the valued and representative farmers and successful business men of Pella township. His good qualities have gained him popularity and the consensus of public opinion places him with the leading citizens of Ford county.

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#### W. H. AYRESMAN.

W. H. Ayresman is the owner of a farm of seventy-four acres on section 17, Drummer township. His fields are largely devoted to the raising of corn and he is also well known in the community in connection with his work in shelling corn, having a sheller and receiving the patronage of a large majority of the people of this locality.

He is one of the native sons of McLean county, Illinois, born July 25, 1854. His parents were Jacob and Julia Ayresman, natives of southern Germany, whence they emigrated to the United States and settled in McLean county. While spending his boyhood days under the parental roof W. H. Ayresman gained practical knowledge concerning all the farm work and also acquired a good English education as a public-school student. He continued a resident of his native county until 1870, when he removed to Switch D, a corn market of Ford county. He has always been identified with agricultural interests and is now the owner of seventy-four acres of rich and productive land, from which he annually gathers a large corn crop. He likewise has a corn sheller and the work which he does for his neighbors keeps him busily employed through much of the year.

In 1889 Mr. Ayresman was married to Miss Jennie Favor, a daughter of Solomon Favor, of Ford county, and unto them have been born the following

named: Frank Lewis, who is now deceased; Myrtle and Clarence, both at home; Solomon, who has also passed away; and Loren and Ernest, yet at home.

Mr. Ayresman is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity and is also identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. His political views are in accord with the principals of the republican party, for he believes the platform of that great organization is best calculated to conserve the public welfare. He belongs to the Methodist church and his life is governed by its principles, fair dealing and consideration for the rights of others being numbered among his strong characteristics.

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#### CHARLES M. READ.

That Ford county affords ample opportunity for the acquirement of wealth through agricultural pursuits finds verification in the fact that Charles M. Read is now one of the prosperous and well-to-do agriculturists of this section of Illinois, owning at the present time eight hundred acres of valuable land, situated in Pella township. He is a native of the state of New York, his birth having occurred in Chautauqua county on the 24th of June, 1852, his parents being Thomas and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Read, extended mention of whom is made in connection with the sketch of Thomas Read on another page of this work.

Charles M. Read acquired a common-school education during the period of his boyhood and youth and when he embarked upon a business venture he chose as his occupation the tilling of the soil. To know of the success he has gained thereby one needs but to glance at his valuable farm, comprising eight hundred acres, situated in Pella township—a farm which for productiveness is exceeded by no other in this portion of Ford county. In addition to this land Mr. Read also owns seven hundred acres in Mississippi, from which he derives an excellent income. In his farming operations Mr. Read has always followed practical and progressive methods and his place in all its equipments presents an attractive appearance. He has improved his property with good outbuildings and a nice country residence, where are found many conveniences and comforts to be enjoyed by the members of the household.

It was in 1889 that Mr. Read established a home of his own by his marriage on the 25th of September of that year to Miss Melvina Marble, who was born in Odell, Livingston county, Illinois, in the year 1862, a daughter of Daniel and

CHARLES M. REE AND FAMILY





Alzada (Hugobom) Marble, both of whom were natives of the Empire state. In 1860 they made their way westward, locating in Missouri, where they spent one year, subsequent to which time, in 1861, they removed to Livingston county, Illinois. In 1869 the father removed with his family to Ford county and the father here passed away during that same year. He was a carpenter by trade, always following that pursuit in order to provide for his family, which numbered seven children. The mother, however, is still living and makes her home about a mile west of Piper City.

Mrs. Read was practically reared in the county in which she now makes her home, being a little maiden of but seven years when she accompanied her parents on their removal from Livingston to Ford county, and in the schools of the latter place she acquired her education. Prior to her marriage she engaged in teaching for four years, meeting with success in this venture. She has become the mother of three children, Charles Edwin, Orvil and Elmo E., all of whom are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Read voices his political allegiance through his support of the men and measures of the republican party. At the present time he is serving as a school director and ever takes a deep interest in educational affairs, doing all in his power to uphold the standard of the schools. He is a Mason, belonging to lodge No. 608, at Piper City, and the commandery at Fairbury. He also affiliates with Modern Woodmen Camp at Piper City, while both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The family is one well known not only in their immediate neighborhood but throughout various sections of Ford county and Mr. Read is numbered among the well-to-do landowners and capable business men of this section of the state.

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#### W. W. PORTER.

W. W. Porter, who has passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey, is now living retired in Kempton. He was for many years closely, actively and honorably associated with agricultural interests in this county and moreover, has a splendid record for military service as a loyal defender of the Union cause in the Civil war. He has always stood for those things which are right and honorable between man and man and of those principles which tend to promote the intellectual and moral progress of the race. He was born February 2, 1831, in the state of New York, his parents being

Benjamin W. and Polly M. (Wood) Porter, natives of Vermont and Connecticut respectively. The father was a cooper by trade and in 1844 removed to Lake county, Illinois, while subsequently he engaged in farming in McHenry county, this state, residing there for several years. He next took up his abode in Lake county, where he remained until called to his final rest. In his family were seven children, of whom four are yet living, namely: John A., a resident of Iowa; Versal, whose home is in Colorado; W. W., of this review; and Jarvis, living in California.

W. W. Porter spent the first seventeen years of his life under the parental roof and accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois. On starting out in life on his own account he worked by the month as a farm hand until he attained the age of twenty-two years, when he was married in 1853 to Miss Arminda Northrup, whose birth occurred in McHenry county, Illinois. In the '50s they removed to Minnesota, where Mr. Porter purchased a farm upon which he resided until 1864.

In that year he enlisted for service in the Civil war and continued with the army until the close of hostilities. He participated in the engagements at Nashville and at the close of the battle found in his clothing twenty-four bullet holes but only one bullet did him any injury. He was a true and loyal soldier, faithfully defending the old flag and the cause which it espoused.

When the war was over Mr. Porter resumed his residence in Minnesota but remained there only a short time and in 1866 again came to Illinois, settling in Ford county. Here he purchased a farm which he continued to cultivate and improve for twenty years, bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation and gathering therefrom rich crops. When two decades had passed he sold his property and took up his abode at Kempton, where he lived for five years. He then removed to Sibley, Illinois, where he lived for ten years, after which he returned to Kempton and erected a nice home that he yet occupies, enjoying here a well earned rest.

Mr. Porter was married a second time in 1868 to Miss Clara Sleezer, who was born in Kendall county, Illinois, a daughter of George and Harriet (Barrow) Sleezer, who were natives of the Empire state and came to Illinois at an early day. Mrs. Porter was one of a family of six children, and by her marriage has become the mother of seven children: Harriet E., now the wife of Thomas Drew; Mary A., the wife of Howard Woertendyke, of California; Elizabeth, who has departed this life; George W., living in Minnesota; Margaret M., the wife of Jacob W. Drew, of Kempton; Benjamin, living in Chicago; and William A., also of that city.

Mr. Porter is a member of the Masonic Lodge at Cabery, and has filled all of its chairs, while in his life he exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft. He is likewise a member of the Woodmen Camp, No. 1758, at Kempton, and he and his wife are associated with the Royal Neighbors, No. 4367. His political allegiance is now given to the republican party, for it embodies his ideas upon the temperance question. For ten years he served as justice of the peace and his decisions were strictly fair and impartial, being based upon the law and the equity in the case. He has also served as school director for several years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. His influence has ever been given on the side of right, truth and progress and he cooperates in all movements that are tended to uplift humanity. Mr. Porter, while well advanced in years, having passed the scriptural span of three score years and ten, in spirit and interests seems yet in his prime. He has kept himself young, as every man should do, and his youthful spirit was manifest in his riding a bicycle. He cared not for any criticism which might involve, stating his position on such in a few verses under the subject, "Riding on a Bike." Mr. Porter has always to greater or less extent written poetry and while in the army at Demopolis, Alabama, in August, 1865, he penned the following:

WHEN SHALL WE ALL MEET AGAIN?

In eighteen hundred and sixty-one  
 Clouds of darkness covered the sun,  
 The nation's heart convulsively throbbed,  
 Assailed by secession and treasonably mobbed,  
 And the question was asked by the cannon's flame,  
 When shall we all meet again?

They raised their banner, they made a stand,  
 And swore they would divide the land;  
 One half to be slave, the rest to be free,  
 They called their half the Confederacy,  
 But our bugles ask on the fields of fame,  
 When shall we all meet again?

On the battlefields of strife and gore,  
 Where sabers clash, where cannons roar,  
 Where the battle surges to and fro,  
 Causing pain, and grief and woe,  
 And the dying asks in grief and pain,  
 When shall we all meet again?

The wounded man thinks of his home ;  
 His wife and family are all alone ;  
 In distant states his children prattle,  
 While he lies on the field of battle,  
 Suffering from thirst, fatigue and pain,  
 Saying, When shall we all meet again ?

The battle is o'er, the victory gained,  
 The dead lie in heaps, the field is stained,  
 Their bodies in a common grave are whirled ;  
 Their spirits have gone to a better world ;  
 But the question applies to the living and slain,  
 When shall we all meet again ?

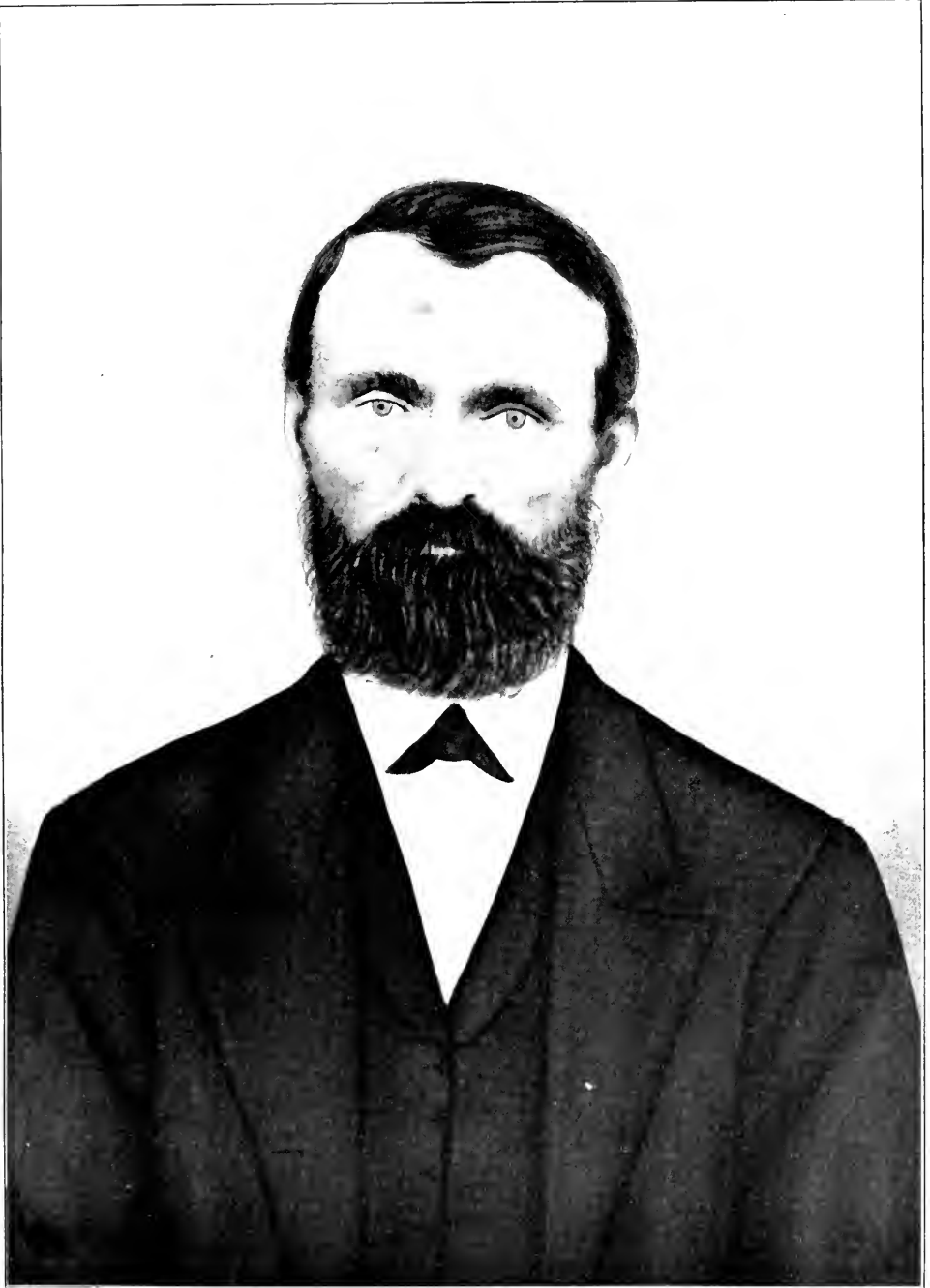
The war is o'er, the victory gained,  
 The bondmen are free, they are unchained ;  
 Our flag waves o'er our soldiers' graves,  
 Who gallantly were the Union's braves,  
 From heaven they speak in loving strains  
 Saying, Here's where we shall meet again.

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#### ROBERT C. WILSON.

When death claimed Robert C. Wilson, Ford county lost one of its representative farmers and a citizen whom to know was to respect and honor. He is yet well remembered by those among whom he lived, although twenty-three years have come and gone since he passed from this life. He was born in Greenbrier county, Virginia, April 4, 1824, and passed away on the old homestead farm on section 8, Brenton township, Ford county, in April, 1885. He was a son of John and Susan Wilson and had two sisters and three brothers. His boyhood and youth were spent in the south and his educational privileges were those afforded by the public schools. He was about twenty-one or twenty-two years of age when he came to Illinois, settling first in Knox county. He arrived in Ford county about seven years prior to his marriage, which was celebrated in 1867, and his remaining days were here passed upon his farm, comprising the southwest quarter of section 8, Brenton township. He broke a part of this land and all of the buildings upon the place were put here by





ROBERT C. WILSON



Mr. Wilson and his family. His entire life was devoted to general agricultural pursuits and in addition to the homestead property he owned two other farms of eighty acres each, which he sold. Both were situated in Brenton township.

In 1867 Mr. Wilson chose as a companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Julia Dunn, who was born in Warren county, Illinois, in 1842 and came to Ford county in 1865 when a young lady of twenty-three years. Her parents were Joseph and Mary (Paddox) Dunn, natives of New Jersey and Kentucky respectively. They came here in the spring of 1865 and further mention of them is made upon another page of this work in connection with the sketch of Richard Dunn. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were born five children: William Joseph, who is living in Brenton township; Robert Lee, who remains at home and operates the old farm; Lillian May, the wife of Robert Codlin, of Fairbury, Illinois; James Albert, of Brenton township; and Harvey Elmer, of Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Wilson exercised his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democracy but was not a politician in the sense of office seeking. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and to the Presbyterian church — associations which indicated much of his character as a man and citizen, showing forth the principles which governed his conduct in his relations with his fellowmen. He was thoroughly trustworthy, being never known to take advantage of the necessities of others in a business transaction. On the contrary he was just in his dealings, and his honesty and geniality made him popular with those who knew him.

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ALBERT A. ABSHER, M. D.

Dr. Albert A. Absher, engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Sibley, was born at Emma, White county, Illinois, February 5, 1869. His father, Samuel Absher, was a native of Kentucky and in early manhood came to Illinois, settling in White county, where he engaged in farming. After living there for some years he became actively interested in politics and was recognized as one of the local leaders of his party. He was first elected to the office of justice of the peace, wherein he served for many years, his fair and impartial decisions winning him golden opinions from all sorts of people. He was later elected associate judge and served in that judicial capacity for

many years with the same fidelity and trustworthiness that he had displayed in the lesser court. In fact he was holding the office at the time of his death, which occurred August 2, 1868.

His wife bore the maiden name of Amelia J. Tanquary, and unto them were born three children: Ida, the wife of Henry Shook, of Belmont, Illinois; George S., also of Belmont; and Albert A., whose name introduces this record. After losing her first husband Mrs. Absher was married in 1873 to Benjamin Finn, who died in 1886. Mrs. Finn now resides in Belmont, Wabash county, Illinois, at the age of seventy years.

Albert A. Absher was a student in the Belmont public schools and at the age of sixteen entered the State Normal School at Carbondale, Illinois, where he remained for a year. For two years he engaged in teaching in southern Illinois and at the age of nineteen entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, which is the medical department of the Illinois University. He was graduated therefrom at the age of twenty-three, and, locating at Sibley, has since practiced his profession here. He was one of ten who were on the roll of honor and at the graduating exercises was a member of the executive committee. He was also of the twelve men who during his entire college course was never marked down or "plucked," as college boys term it during the entire four years. Since his graduation he has kept in touch with the onward march of the profession and through reading and investigation has constantly broadened his knowledge and promoted his efficiency. That he has the confidence of the general public is indicated by the liberal patronage which is accorded him. In addition to his professional interests Dr. Absher was one of the organizers of the Sibley Telephone Company and has served as its only president.

On the 22d of August, 1891, Dr. Absher was married to Miss Lenora Helmick, a daughter of Frank and Annett (Foulkes) Helmick, early settlers of McLean county. Mr. and Mrs. Helmick were the parents of six children, as follows: Lenora, now Mrs. Dr. Absher; Ella, the wife of Ernest Holiday; Otto, who is practicing dentistry in Clinton, Illinois; Bessie, the wife of Bert Althouse, a resident of Cerro Gordo, Illinois; Fred, of Bellflower, Illinois; and Helen, also of that city.

Dr. and Mrs. Absher have but one daughter, Genevieve, who was born June 6, 1895. He and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church and his political allegiance is given to the democracy. He has served as a member of the town board of Sibley and is always interested in the welfare of the village, doing much for its progress and improvement. Fraternally he is

connected with Sibley Lodge, No. 761, A. F. & A. M.; with Burr Oak Lodge, No. 321, K. P.; with Lookout Camp, No. 1136, M. W. A., of which he is camp physician; and with Liberty Camp, No. 278, of the Royal Neighbors. In professional lines he is connected with McLean County Medical Association, the State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He adheres to a high standard of professional ethics and enjoys in large measure the confidence and good will of his professional brethren as well as of the general public.

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#### ROBERT BRUCE CODDINGTON.

Robert Bruce Coddington is engaged in the lumber business at Paxton and has built up a trade which makes his a profitable enterprise. He was born in Warren county, Ohio, April 13, 1849, a son of James and Harriet (Brown) Coddington, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Ohio. The father, through an active business life, conducted a real-estate office. He came to Tazewell county, Illinois, in 1852 and in 1855 or 1856 removed to Logan county, where he resided until his death in March, 1907, at the very venerable age of ninety-one years. He was one of the early real-estate men of the state and negotiated many important property transfers. He reared a family of four children: Charles E., now residing in Logan county, Illinois; Anna E., the wife of N. W. Barrett, of Logan county; Robert, of this review; and David, a resident of Logan county. The wife and mother passed away in 1876.

Robert B. Coddington began his education in the public schools of Lincoln, Illinois, and after completing the course there spent three years as a student in Notre Dame University at South Bend, Indiana. He left school at the age of twenty-two and entering business life engaged in the grain trade for ten years, meeting with good success in that undertaking, for he was watchful of all the details of his business and manifested that adjustment of circumstances and conditions in the business world which constituted the secret of all commercial prosperity. In 1878 he removed to South Dakota, locating at Blount, Hughes county, where he engaged in general farming and in the stock business. He followed this for eleven years and in 1889 he removed to Logan county, where he resided until 1896. He was, during that period, a resident of the town of Lincoln and conducted there a lumber business until his removal to Paxton, where he established a lumber yard, in which he has been quite

successful. As the years have passed he has secured a liberal patronage here and the volume of trade which he has secured makes him one of the representative merchants of the city.

In 1890 Mr. Coddington was married to Miss C. B. Andrews, a daughter of Baker B. and Martha Andrews, who were early residents of Lincoln. Their family numbered three sons and four daughters, namely: Mrs. Coddington; Lee, who resides in Canton, Illinois; F. J., of Jacksonville, this state; Louisa, the wife of J. C. Turner, of New York city; J. D., whose home is in Mattoon, Illinois; and William and Mamie A., both of whom are deceased. The Andrews family are all engaged in the lumber business. The father, Baker B. Andrews was one of the largest lumber dealers in the state, having at one time a line of lumber yards throughout Illinois to the number of fifteen. He thus controlled a large share of the trade in the state and in his business career displayed notable power in assimilating business interests and shaping them into a harmonious union. He died in 1906, at the age of seventy-one years. He was twice married, his first wife, who was the mother of his children, dying in 1889, after which he wedded Emma Hand, who still resides in Lincoln.

In his political views Mr. Coddington was a democrat for many years but votes an independent ticket at the present time, being strongly inclined toward that movement which is very common at the present time whereby measures and not party are made the dominant issue of a campaign. He belongs to Paxton Lodge, I. O. O. F., and his social qualities render him popular, while his business capacity and enterprise have gained him classification with the leading citizens of Paxton.

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#### JOHN T. McCLURE.

John T. McClure, a prosperous and progressive farmer, owning and controlling extensive interests in Drummer township, Ford county, is one of the native sons of Illinois, always interested in the welfare and upbuilding of his state and in the advancement of local interests as well. He was born in 1837 at Stouts Grove, McLean county, where his father, B. H. McClure, had located in 1825. He was a native of Posey county, Indiana, and wedded Frances Kellam, a native of Virginia. Following the removal to Illinois he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land, which he converted into well tilled fields. In his farm work he had the assis-



MRS. J. T. McCLURE







tance of his son, John T. McClure, who aided him more and more largely in the development of the fields as his age and strength increased. In his youth he was a pupil in the public schools and upon the home farm continued until twenty years of age, when he started out upon an independent business career.

In 1861 John T. McClure secured a companion and helpmate for life's journey through his marriage to Miss Jane A. Deal, a daughter of John Deal, of Dry Grove, McLean county, Illinois, who was a farmer and tanner. The year following his marriage Mr. McClure enlisted for active service at the front in the Civil war, becoming a member of Company D, Ninety-fourth Illinois Regiment of Volunteers. He participated in seventeen hotly contested battles and skirmishes, including the engagements of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, the siege of Vicksburg, the capture of Fort Morgan, and others of note, remaining at the front until mustered out with the rank of orderly sergeant, July 17, 1865.

Mr. McClure returned home with a most creditable military record and resumed the pursuits of civil life, purchasing sixty acres of land at Danvers in McLean county, where he resided until 1868, when he bought three hundred and twenty acres in Ford county. This farm is still in his possession but it does not represent his entire property holdings, for he now owns ten hundred and forty acres in Manitoba, Canada, which is cultivated by his son. In this county he raises Galloway cattle on an extensive scale, also Shropshire sheep, and his live-stock interests constitute an effective factor in his success.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. McClure have been born the following named sons and daughters: Elliott, who died in early childhood; Frank, a resident farmer of Gibson; Alice C., now the wife of Charles Foster, who is living in Canada and is operating Mr. McClure's land in connection with his brother-in-law, J. H. McClure; Ora D., who is chief engineer and electrician at the Cleveland Cliff Iron Company at Ishpeming, Michigan, and is a graduate of the Illinois University of the class of 1891 as a mechanical engineer, after which he pursued post-graduate work in electrical and civil engineering; Clyde B., a civil engineer who is now deceased; Nell T., living at home, who was formerly a teacher in the Gibson high school and assistant principal of the graded schools; J. H., who is engaged in cultivating his father's land in Canada; and Mrs. Susan J. Snyder, now living in Wisconsin. The wife and mother died May 17, 1894, and her loss was deeply deplored by many friends who esteemed her for her genuine qualities of heart and mind.

Mr. McClure is a member of the Presbyterian church and of Lott Camp, G. A. R. His political support is given to the republican party and he has

served as collector, while for fifteen years he was school trustee. He built the first gravel road in the county, demonstrating to his neighbors the advantage of such a highway. He has always stood for that which is progressive in citizenship and which tends to promote the material welfare of the community, and his labors have been a source of benefit to town and county, at the same time bringing to him the substantial and gratifying reward of earnest effort.

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#### O. K. BOSHELL.

The confidence and trust reposed in O. K. Boshell by his fellow townsmen is indicated by the fact that he is now serving for the fourth term as supervisor of Peach Orchard township. Here, on section 14, he owns and operates a good farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land, much of which has been reclaimed by him, and the extent of the labor and improvements he has placed upon it is indicated by the fact that while it was worth but eight dollars per acre when it came into his possession, it is today valued at two hundred dollars per acre.

Mr. Boshell is a native son of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Magnolia, Putnam county, September 2, 1848, but when he was only three years of age he was taken to Hope township, La Salle county, by his parents, Richard and Mary (Dikes) Boshell, who were natives of Manchester, England, the former born in 1809 and the latter in 1811. They were reared in that country and in 1831 Mrs. Boshell crossed the Atlantic to Pennsylvania, while Mr. Boshell arrived in this country in 1832. They located in Delaware and on leaving the east took up their abode in Richmond, Indiana. In the spring of 1838 they cast in their lot with the early settlers of Putnam county and aided in extending the frontier by reclaiming the wild land for purposes of cultivation and improvement. They continued residents of that county until about 1851, when they took up their abode in La Salle county, where for a long period the father was identified with general agricultural pursuits. He there died when lacking but two months of eighty years, after which his widow came to Ford county and lived with her son, O. K. Boshell, at whose home she passed away at the age of eighty-four years. They were consistent and devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, living earnest and faithful Christian lives. Mr. Boshell gave his political allegiance to the republican party but was not an active worker in its ranks, preferring to concentrate his time and energies

upon his business pursuits. In the family of this worthy couple were eleven children, but only four reached years of maturity: James, deceased; Mrs. Katharine A. Phillips, deceased; John W., now living in La Salle county; and O. K., of this review.

The early boyhood and youth of O. K. Boshell were passed in Hope township, La Salle county, upon the old homestead farm, and when not busy in acquiring an education in the district schools he devoted his time to the work of the fields. In 1874 he came to Ford county, where he remained until the spring of 1877, when he returned to La Salle county and there spent the succeeding ten years. In 1887 he again came to Ford county and took up his abode upon his present farm, which he purchased from the Illinois Central Railroad in 1867, comprising one hundred and sixty acres on section 14, Peach Orchard township. It was largely swamp land when he took possession there being only about seventy or eighty acres that could be farmed, but he has since drained the land, laying many rods of tiling and thus rendering the fields rich and productive. He has also placed many substantial improvements upon the farm and today it is an excellent property, indicating in its well kept appearance the careful supervision and practical methods of the owner, whose labors have transformed it from a comparatively worthless property which he purchased for eight dollars per acre into a splendidly developed tract that is today valued at two hundred dollars per acre.

As companion and helpmate for life's journey Mr. Boshell, in 1869, chose Miss Jane Bothwell, who was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1852, and came to La Salle county with her parents about 1863. She is a daughter of William and Mary (Burritt) Bothwell, natives of County Antrim, Ireland, whence they crossed the ocean to Canada after their marriage and are now residents of La Salle county, both being about eighty years of age. They had seven children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Boshell have been born six children: Dr. H. N. Boshell, a practicing physician of Melvin; Henry L., at home; Marietta, who is a milliner, of Crowley, Louisiana; Mary Wilma, the wife of Shelby Powell, of Peach Orchard township; Georgiana May and Vera Jane, both at home.

Mr. Boshell was formerly an earnest republican and was elected on that ticket to the office of supervisor in 1893 and in 1895 was reelected as the republican candidate. In 1901 he was chosen to the same office on the people's ticket and reelected in 1907, so he is now serving for the fourth term of two years in that office. He has been road commissioner for six years, has been school trustee and is now serving for the second term as school trustee. The

cause of education finds in him a stalwart friend and one who is ever loyal to its interests. He belongs to Melvin Lodge, No. 179, K. P.; and Melvin Lodge, No. 811, A. F. & A. M., while his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church indicates the guiding principles of his life. In business affairs he has always been notably prompt, energetic and trustworthy and by honorable methods has achieved the success which he is now enjoying.

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#### GEORGE BONNEN.

George Bonnen, who carries on general farming in Dix township, his home being on section 20, has practically put all of the improvements upon this place and the farm therefore in its well kept appearance is the visible proof of his life of unfaltering industry. He was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1860, and is a brother of Harry Bonnen, who is mentioned on another page of this volume in connection with whose sketch is given an account of his parents, who in 1867 brought their family to the United States as passengers on an American vessel called America. They arrived on the 14th of October, 1867, and soon afterward started for Petersburg, Menard county, Illinois, where the father secured land and engaged in farming.

Through the period of his boyhood and youth George Bonnen remained upon the home farm and assisted his father in its development and improvement until the father's demise. He then began working for himself. He was twenty-six years of age when he left home, he and his brother H. H. having previously operated the home place for the mother. On the 15th of November, 1892, he won a companion and helpmate for life's journey by his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Huston, a daughter of John Huston, who is also represented elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Bonnen attended the district schools until fourteen years of age, when she became a student in Chatsworth Convent and is a lady of culture and literary attainment. Mr. Bonnen had supplemented his district-school education by a course in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, which institution he entered when about twenty-one years of age.

Following his marriage he lived for one year on the old homestead and then bought eighty acres of land of Mr. Harris in Dix township, a part of the old Brassfield section. For this he paid forty-three and a half dollars per acre. Later he bought fifty-five acres adjoining this on the south and paid



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE BONNEN



for it eighty dollars per acre. He now owns one hundred and thirty-five acres in Dix township, constituting a valuable and productive farm and his property interests also include two hundred acres in South Dakota. The Illinois Central Railroad touches his Dix township farm at the northeast corner and the place is conveniently located not far from Guthrie. It is now well improved, owing to the unremitting labor of Mr. Bommen, who has erected here substantial buildings, providing ample shelter for grain and stock. He has also secured the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and he annually gathers good harvests as a reward of the intelligence which he displays in the planting and cultivation of his crops.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bommen have been born seven children: George Edwin, who was born on the 5th of January, 1894; Clarence Alfred, born April 5, 1896; Charles Henry, born February 16, 1898; Genevieve Bertha, whose birth occurred January 26, 1900; Edna Josephine, who was born February 14, 1902; Evelyn Gertrude, born March 27, 1904; and Mary Frances, who was born May 13, 1906. All are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Bommen is a Lutheran in religious faith, while his wife is a communicant of the Catholic church. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp at Guthrie and he votes with the democracy. He was but seven years of age at the time of the emigration to the new world and although born across the water he is thoroughly American in spirit and interests and most loyal in his devotion to the stars and stripes.

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#### ONNO ARENDS.

Onno Arends is the owner of valuable farming property in Peach Orchard township, his home being on section 4. He was born in Peoria, Illinois, September 15, 1857, a son of George O. and Henrietta (Athen) Arends, who were natives of Ostfriesland, Germany. The father came to Illinois in the '40s, settling at Peoria, where he was married. His wife died there when her son Onno was about four years of age and later the father returned to Germany where he married again. In his business life he met with prosperity and at his death left an estate of five hundred acres of rich and valuable land in Peach Orchard township, including the home place, constituting the northwest quarter of section 4. Almost his entire life was devoted to agricultural pursuits but he spent his last five years in Melvin. He was one of the pioneers of this

section of the county, coming here when the country was largely wild and unimproved. The railroad was not built, the village of Melvin was not then founded and Chatsworth and Paxton were his nearest markets. He aided largely in the material development and substantial progress of his community and died in Melvin, May 20, 1900, at the age of seventy years, respected by all who knew him. By his first marriage he had three children: Onno, Henry and one who died in infancy. By his second marriage there were eight children, of whom six are yet living.

When ten years of age Onno Arends came with his father to Peach Orchard township and has since resided upon section 4. He has one hundred and sixty acres on this section, eighty acres on section 3, and one hundred and sixty acres on section 5, making a total of four hundred acres of valuable land. All his possessions have been acquired through his own efforts. He never received assistance from any one but placed his dependence upon the safe substantial qualities of energy and determination. Today he is the owner of two farms and two good sets of buildings and those upon the home place have been erected by him. He conducted his place as a stock farm for a number of years, successfully raising stock for the market. Whatever he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion and holds to high ideals concerning the best methods of carrying on agricultural pursuits.

On the 9th of June, 1883, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Arends and Miss Elizabeth Fisher, of Norden Friesland, Germany, born May 19, 1861. She came to Melvin in 1882, in company with a sister and brother-in-law and has since resided in Ford county. Her parents, John and Anna (Arends) Fisher, both died in Germany before she came to the United States. In their family were eight children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Onno Arends were born the following children: Dina, the wife of Henry Merle, who is living upon her father's farm and by whom she has one child, Helen; Ida; Mary; George; Anna; Alma; Lillian; Gilbert; and Laura. Two children are deceased: Ametta, who died at the age of seven years; and Emma, who died in infancy.

Mr. Arends has always been interested in the welfare of the community and has given active and helpful support to many measures and movements of the public good. For the past twenty-eight years he has been a school director of district No. 59 and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He is now serving for the second term as highway commissioner. In politics he is a republican and has always voted that ticket. He belongs to the German Methodist Episcopal church of Melvin, is one of the trustees and is active in Sunday school work, for the past twenty-five years



servng as treasurer of the Sunday school. His life has been guided by high and honorable principles and his fellowmen have naught to say against his business integrity nor the honesty of his methods in any relation of life.

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#### EARL STEDMAN.

Earl Stedman is one of the well known citizens of Ford county, greatly esteemed by a large circle of friends. He was born in the state of New York, October 18, 1862, his parents being Nelson and Harriet Stedman, who were likewise natives of the Empire state. The father followed trapping there for several years and in 1864 came with his family to the middle west, establishing his home in La Salle county, Illinois, where he rented and cultivated land for about twelve years. During this period he carefully saved his earnings and, removing to Ford county, he invested his capital in two hundred and forty acres of land in the pan handle. Throughout the period of his residence in Illinois he carried on general agricultural pursuits and his life of diligence and activity brought him a well merited competence. He died December 26, 1892, having for four years survived his wife, who passed away in 1888. In their family were eight children, namely: Emma, now deceased; Earl, of this review; John, who is living in Kansas City, Missouri; Mary, who has also departed this life; James, a resident of Piper City; Helen, the wife of Louis Stoffem of the state of Washington; Nora, the wife of Austin Hanson, of Ford county; and Henry, who is living in Pella township.

Earl Stedman, whose name introduces this record, was but two years of age when his parents came to Illinois and was a youth of fourteen at the time of the removal to Ford county. His education was acquired in the common schools and when not busy with his text-books he assisted in the work of the home farm, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He remained with his father until twenty-five years of age, and then, with his father's assistance, purchased a farm on section 10, Pella township, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for five years. On the expiration of that period he rented his farm and removed to Piper City, where he engaged in general merchandising. For eight years he conducted his store and then sold out. In his commercial pursuits he has prospered, having enjoyed a large trade during his connection with the business life of Piper

City. After disposing of his store he lived retired for three years but indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature and, feeling that he would be more content with some business interest and duty, he took a rural mail route and has been in charge for eight years, delivering the mail in an automobile. He also derives a good income from three hundred and twenty acres of land which he owns in South Dakota.

In 1890 Mr. Stedman was married to Miss Josie Fortier, who was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, and was one of a family of twelve children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Stedman have been born five children: Lurline, John, Blanche, Gertrude and Mary, all yet at home.

The parents are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are much esteemed in the community where they reside. Mr. Stedman gives unfaltering allegiance to the republican party, which he has supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He served as a school director for several years and is also a member of Piper City lodge, No. 608, A. F. & A. M., the Odd Fellows lodge, No. 471, and the Woodmen camp, No. 718. He is loyal to the teachings of these orders and throughout his life has ever recognized individual responsibility. His friends—and they are many—know him to be a man of high principles and stalwart purposes and throughout the community in which he lives he commands the respect and confidence of those with whom he has come in contact.

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#### DANIEL MOUDY.

Daniel Moudy, formerly identified with agricultural interests in Button township but now living retired in Paxton, is yet one of the extensive landowners of the county, whose holdings comprise over eight hundred acres. Throughout his business career he has displayed excellent executive force, keen discernment and the unflagging industry which lead to success and, moreover, his path has never been strewn with the wreck of other men's fortunes.

A native of Indiana, he was born in Vermilion county, February 4, 1836, his parents being Peter and Elizabeth (Herring) Moudy, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Pennsylvania. The Moudy family was established in Butler county, Ohio, in 1805 and there Peter Moudy remained until 1835, when he removed to western Indiana. He afterward crossed the border into

MR. AND MRS. DANIEL MOUDY





Vermilion county, Illinois, where he settled in 1855 and made his home for twenty years or until his death in 1875, when he was seventy-one years of age. He was accounted one of the most successful farmers of his community, managing his business interests so ably that he seemed to have acquired at any one point of his career the possibility of successful accomplishment at that point. His family numbered twelve children, seven of whom grew to maturity: Hannah J., the widow of Frank McGinnis, of Warren county, Indiana; Mary A., the widow of Elisha Rodgers and a resident of Warren county; Margaret, the deceased wife of William Waits, of Vermilion county, Illinois; Daniel, of this review; Rosa, the deceased wife of William Martin, of Vermilion county, Illinois; Emily, the widow of Robert N. Atherton, of Danville, Illinois; and Jacob, a farmer of Patton township, Ford county. The mother passed away in 1886.

Daniel Moudy pursued his education in the public schools of Vermilion county, Illinois, and of Warren county, Indiana. He came to Illinois with his father when nineteen years of age and Indians were still quite numerous in some parts of the state. Starting out in life on his own account, he was employed as a farm hand and later he cultivated rented land for some time. He likewise spent four months at railroad work on the construction of the Wabash line and thus in his early career manifested the perseverance and diligence which have constituted important factors in his later success.

Mr. Moudy secured a companion and helpmate for life's journey by his marriage, at the age of twenty-two years, to Miss Margaret Leneve, a daughter of Obadiah and Polly (Lemons) Leneve. Her father was born in Halifax county, Virginia, and her mother in Tennessee. The Leneve ancestor in America came to this country with General La Fayette and aided the Americans in their struggle for independence. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Leneve were born eight children, of whom three died in early life. The others were: Samuel, who in 1851 made the trip overland with an ox-team to Oregon and died in that state; Nancy, the deceased wife of William Montgomery, of this county; Margaret E., the deceased wife of Mr. Moudy; John M., who has also passed away; and Rebecca J., the widow of Joseph Phillips, of Danville.

The marriage of Mr. Moudy was blessed with three children: William S., now a farmer of Chariton county, Missouri; Emma J., deceased; and Rose E., the wife of Perry Clark, of Paxton. Mrs. Moudy died January 31, 1879, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which she was a consistent and loyal member. On the 24th of March, 1880, Mr. Moudy was again married, his second union being with Miss Henrietta Campbell, a daughter of Obadiah and Margaret L. (Poyer) Campbell, natives of Pennsylvania. Her grand-

father, James Campbell, accompanied his parents on their removal to Pennsylvania when he was fifteen years of age. They were among the early colonial settlers of the state and some members of the family served with the American army in the Revolutionary war. The Poyer family was also established in Pennsylvania at an early period in its development, probably about 1810. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were born nine children, all of whom reached adult age: Robert F., now deceased; Abram L., who has passed away, while his wife is now in Arizona, his daughter in Indiana and his son in Chicago; William A., who died leaving a widow and four children, who are residents of Paxton; Francis M., of Chicago; Josephine, deceased; Oscar L., who died leaving a widow and two children, who are residents of Paxton; Mrs. Henrietta Moudy; Louisa, the widow of John M. Swinford, of Rankin, Illinois, and the mother of three children; and Lebritt, of Paxton. Mr. Campbell died February 17, 1885, while his wife passed away February 2, 1867. They were both earnest Christian people, Mr. Campbell belonging to the Presbyterian church and his wife to the Baptist church. For many years they remained residents of Ford county and enjoyed the highest esteem and good will of those who knew them. Mr. Campbell came to Ford county in 1851 and purchased two hundred acres of land of Joshua Trickle at what was known as Trickle's Grove, then a portion of Vermilion county, while Paxton was called Prairie City. Later it was known as Prospect City and at the time of Mr. Campbell's arrival here it contained only three houses. There were indeed but few residents in this part of the county, game of all kinds was plentiful and there were many evidences of pioneer life. The place which Mr. Campbell purchased was one of the two first improved places in the county. Supplies had to be hauled from Chicago, mostly with ox-teams and the settlers experienced many of the hardships and trials incident to the frontier. After being in the county a short time Campbell purchased from the railroad company a tract of eighty acres of land at two dollars and a half per acre. On his first purchase, the two hundred acres obtained from Mr. Trickle, the first schoolhouse of Ford county was erected it being a little structure twelve by fourteen feet, and therein quite a large number of those who are now numbered among the early settlers acquired at least a part of their education. Both Mr. Campbell and Mr. Moudy hauled their lumber for building purposes from Fountain, Covington county, Indiana, about one hundred miles, and Mr. Campbell, who was a carpenter, erected an addition to his double loghouse, which had been built by Mr. Trickle. This loghouse still stands as one of the landmarks of a period now long since passed and it was in that pioneer home that he reared his entire family.

Unto Mr. Moudy and his present wife have been born three children: Albert, of Paxton, who married Miss Jennie Ford and has two children, Opal and Metta; Lena; and Lee. Mrs. Moudy is a member of the Court of Honor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Moudy are widely and favorably known in the county, where they have many warm friends. It was in 1856 that Mr. Moudy arrived in Ford county and his father-in-law gave to him and his wife one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he had entered from the government at the usual price of a dollar and a quarter per acre. This land has since remained in possession of Mr. Moudy, who is its third owner and today it is worth from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and forty dollars per acre. When he took up his abode thereon deer, turkey and wild animals were numerous in the county, so that the huntsman had ample opportunity to indulge his love of the chase. As the years have passed Mr. Moudy has prospered in his undertakings and from time to time has added to his holdings until he has become one of the extensive landowners of the county. He now owns over eight hundred acres and has also given to each of his children by his first wife a good farm. His business affairs have been carefully conducted and he has been watchful of all indications pointing to success, while in making his purchases of land he has shown notably sound judgment in foreseeing the possible rise of property values.

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#### JOHN ZIMMERMAN.

John Zimmerman, now deceased, was formerly connected with the farming interests of Drummer township, where his family yet reside. He was a son of Herman and Foskie (Halgan) Zimmerman and was born in Germany on the 23d of November, 1847. His life record covered almost fifty-one years, his death occurring on the 1st of October, 1898.

He was a young man when he came to America in 1865, attracted by the broader business opportunities which were afforded in the new world. He settled at Garber, Illinois, with his mother and sisters, who had preceded him to this country. In the public schools of his native land he had acquired his education and after reaching America he started out in business life by working upon different farms in this part of the state, being thus employed for eight years. At length, when his labors had brought him sufficient capital to justify his purchase of property, he became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, which he bought in 1881 at thirty-one dollars per acre. He afterward

added to the property and his family now own three hundred and eighty acres of rich, productive and valuable land on section 19, Drummer township, devoted largely to the raising of corn and oats. Mr. Zimmerman improved his own land, transforming the wild tract into richly cultivated fields, while upon the farm he placed many substantial improvements.

In 1876 Mr. Zimmerman was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Escher, a daughter of John E. Escher, a resident farmer of Ford county. The wedding was celebrated at Paxton and unto them were born two sons and two daughters: Cynthia Ann, now the wife of A. W. Robinson, by whom she has two children; Frederick W. of Ford county, who is married and has one son; Maud, the wife of Roy Johnson and the mother of one daughter; and Herman J., who lives at home and carries on the work of the farm.

Mr. Zimmerman left his family in comfortable financial circumstances; having acquired good property. His son is now engaged in the further development of the farm, which comprises three hundred and eighty acres of arable land, devoted largely to the production of corn and oats. The father deserves much credit for the success which he accomplished, as he started out in business life empty-handed. He belonged to the Lutheran church and was a member of the Masonic fraternity. In his political views he was a republican and he served as school director but never sought nor desired political office. He felt that his time and attention were fully taken up by his business affairs and he desired above all things to provide a comfortable living for his family. When he was called to his final rest his death was deeply deplored, not only by the members of his own household but by his friends, neighbors and associates, who had learned to esteem him for his genuine worth.

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#### WILLARD E. PROCTOR.

Willard E. Proctor, one of the most straightforward, energetic and successful business men of Gibson City, is a grain merchant who has long been associated with the business interests of Ford county. Along legitimate lines of trade he has worked his way upward and belongs to that class of representative men who in every community constitute the commercial strength of the locality. He is a son of Willard and Sarah A. (Hewitt) Proctor, of Rutland county, Vermont. The mother was a daughter of Jonathan and Esther (Doolittle) Hewitt, who were natives of Connecticut and of English descent. Her grand-





MR. AND MRS. W. E. PROCTOR



father, Amos Hewitt, was one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war who valiantly fought for the independence of the colonies. The ancestry of the family can be traced back in England to the year 1461. Captain Willard Proctor, father of our subject, was a veteran of the late war and was born in Rutland county, Vermont, March 5, 1827, one of the eight children of Philip and Dorcas (Dimmick) Proctor.

The birth of Willard E. Proctor occurred October 13, 1854, at Wallingford, Connecticut, and when he was but six months old his parents removed to New Rutland, Illinois. He is indebted to the public-school system of the state for the greater part of his education, while his business training was received in a commercial college at Peoria. On putting aside his text-books he began working for his father in the grain business and later in connection with the dry-goods trade for three years. Removing to Proctor, Illinois, he settled on a farm and also carried on a grain business with gratifying success. He still continues in the grain trade, shipping to all parts of the country, and his annual purchases and sales are extensive. He has become known as a well known grain merchant of this portion of the state and in his business life shows keen discernment, sagacity and unwearied industry, qualities which constitute an excellent foundation upon which to build the superstructure of success. He and his wife own five hundred and twenty-five acres of rich and valuable land, which is devoted to general farming. The town of Proctor was named in his honor and there he maintained his residence until about 1905, when he removed to Gibson City, where he now makes his home superintending his business interests from this point.

On the 30th of November, 1876, Mr. Proctor was united in marriage to Miss Carrie N. Allen, a daughter of Dr. H. D. Allen, of Rutland, Illinois. They had one child, Florence Mae, who is now the wife of William Hellmick. The wife and mother died July 30, 1890, and in 1892 Mr. Proctor wedded Mrs. Ellen Farlin, the widow of Joseph Farlin, by whom she had two children: George Bruce, who married Miss Elva Fox and is now living in Proctor; and Clementina, the wife of E. R. Fraser, of Latty, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Proctor hold membership in the First Methodist Episcopal church, are deeply interested in its work and cooperate heartily in an effort to promote its growth and extend its influence. Mr. Proctor is now serving as a member of its official board. He belongs to the Lotus Club and is a republican in politics, interested in the questions and issues of the day. He is now serving his second term as supervisor and was postmaster of Proctor for sixteen years. He is regarded as a public-spirited citizen, belonging to that

class of representative American men who by promoting individual success also contribute to the public welfare. He adheres to high ideals in business, in citizenship and in social life and without invidious distinction may be termed one of the foremost residents of Gibson City.

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#### W. J. HUNT.

W. J. Hunt, who is now living retired in a fine residence in Melvin, was born in Marshall county, Illinois, January 31, 1842, a son of Cornelius and Ann (Sidell) Hunt, who are mentioned at length on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of John S. Hunt. A brother of our subject, Jake, was shot while serving as a soldier in the Union army and died from the wound within seven days, thus sacrificing his life on the altar of his country.

W. J. Hunt acquired a common-school education and remained under the parental roof until 1862, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war as a member of the One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Infantry under Captain Ludington, being at that time twenty years of age. He was captured at Hartsville, Kentucky, but was held a prisoner for only ten days and during the course of his service in the Union army participated in the battles of Look-out Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Stone River and in a number of skirmishes. Whether on the firing line or on the lonely picket line he was always found loyal to his duty and returned home with a most creditable military record, being very fortunate in that he had never been wounded. After receiving an honorable discharge from the army he returned to La Salle county, Illinois, where he was engaged in operating rented land for a period of seven years. He then purchased one hundred and twenty acres on section 36, Peach Orchard township, Ford county, and later added forty acres more, so that he now owns one hundred and sixty acres of rich and valuable farming land, part of which is located within the corporation limits of Melvin. As the years passed by he added many improvements to his property and met with a gratifying measure of success in his agricultural interests, the fields yielding their annual tribute of golden grain as a reward for the care and labor which he bestowed upon them. When his well directed energy and enterprise had brought him a competence he retired from active farm work and has since lived in a commodious and substantial residence on Hunt street in Melvin, in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. While on the farm he made a specialty of

raising draft horses, this branch of his business also bringing to him a good financial return.

In 1866 Mr. Hunt was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. Vanhorn, a daughter of Joseph and Ann Vanhorn, who were natives of Ohio and are now deceased. Mrs. Hunt was one of a family of three children and by her marriage has become the mother of two children: Anna Bell, who has passed away; and Jacob Clyde, who is married and makes his home in Melvin. The latter has a son, of whom the grandparents are very proud.

Mr. Hunt is a republican in his political views, while fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 179, at Melvin, and maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in G. A. R. Post, No. 500. His wife is a valued member of Relief Corps, No. 159, and both she and her husband support the Methodist Episcopal church. Our subject is widely recognized as one of the pioneer agriculturists of the county, who aided in laying broad and deep the foundation for its present high state of development and progress, and whose aid and influence can ever be counted upon to further any movement or measure for the public good.

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#### REV. FATHER M. M. GLEASON.

Rev. Father M. M. Gleason, priest in charge of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic church at Gibson City, was born in Boston in 1872, and was educated in the public and private schools, completing a classical course in Boston College of the Jesuit Fathers in 1894. Having prepared for the priesthood and taken holy orders, Father Gleason came to Gibson City in 1900 as pastor of the church of Our Lady of Lourdes and has built up a fair congregation. The house of worship is one of the attractive little churches of the county, and the church work has been well organized in all departments.

Father Gleason has charge of the Catholic parishioners at Melvin and Roberts, making regular trips to those towns and looking after the spiritual welfare of his people. He is a man of literary tastes and scholarly habits and his studies and labors are continually promoting his efficiency. He has now served for seven years in this pastorate. The church was erected twenty-seven years ago, and the first resident pastor was Father Barry, who remained here for three years and was succeeded by Father Kelly, while later Father Cannon, now of Urbana, then had charge. The church was built by

the congregation and is self-sustaining. Father Gleason is much beloved by his flock, who come to him with matters of temporal as well as spiritual guidance, and find in him a friend and helper.

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#### SWEN ANDERSON.

In a history of those who have attained success and as a result of their activity and energy in former years are now enabled to live retired, mention should be made of Swen Anderson, who was formerly identified with the farming interests of Sullivant township and with mercantile interests in Sibley. His life record began in the southern portion of Sweden, near the town of Lund, January 6, 1844, his parents being Anders and Carrie (Swenson) Olson. The boy pursued his education in the common schools of his native country and in 1864 crossed the Atlantic to America as a young man of twenty years. He had heard favorable reports concerning the new world and its opportunities and resolved that he would try to better his financial condition on this side the Atlantic. He spent most of his time between 1864 and 1868 in Champaign county, Illinois, working as a farm hand, and in the latter year removed to Ford county. Entering the employ of Mr. Sullivant, he continued in his service until 1876, when he rented land of his employer and for six years continued the cultivation of the tract. In the meantime he was making gradual progress in a financial way and at length his industry and perseverance enabled him to engage in business on his own account. Removing to Sibley in 1882, he established a lumber and coal yard, which he conducted until 1905. Since that time he has lived retired, having acquired a capital sufficient to relieve him of the necessity of further labor and yet supply him with all of the comforts that go to make life worth living. As a lumber merchant he built up an excellent trade owing to his fair and honorable dealings, his reasonable prices and his earnest desire to please his patrons. Thus year after year he increased his capital until he is now numbered among the substantial residents of the community.

Mr Anderson has filled nearly all of the offices in his township to which the people could elect him. He served as justice of the peace for eighteen years and his decisions were strictly fair and impartial, few of his decisions ever being reversed. He is now president of the village and is also serving as notary public and he has had an appointment from every governor from the election of Beveridge to the present time. No public trust reposed in him has ever been be-





SWEN ANDERSON





MRS. SWEN ANDERSON



trayed in the slightest degree. On the contrary he is most loyal to the public interests and his labors have been attended with results highly satisfactory to the community.

In 1874 Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Lotta Swanson, of Fairbury, Illinois, a daughter of August Swanson. They became the parents of seven children but five of the number have passed away. Those still living are Carrie and James L., the latter a resident of this county.

Mr. Anderson was the pioneer among the Swedish people of Sullivant township and is today the oldest citizen of the township. When he came here much of the district was swampy and unfit for cultivation but drainage and persistent labor have transformed it into valuable and productive farms. In the work of general improvement he has borne his part and has been a factor in the agricultural and mercantile progress of the community. In his business affairs he has always been found thoroughly reliable and in all things has been actuated by a spirit of enterprise and progress that have constituted the basis of his success. He has been the champion of many progressive public measures, the cause of education especially finding in him a warm friend. The first schoolhouse in the township was located on the east side of the township, the district being formed from a portion of this and Peach Orchard township. The school, established in 1870, was known as the Bell school. The second school was established at Sibley, in what was known as school district No. 3, and was a very pretentious temple of learning for that time, containing four rooms. The first store in Sibley was erected by Eli Harvey and in it was carried a general line of merchandise owned by Mr. Church. The first postoffice of the locality was at Oak Grove, which was beyond the present corporation limits of the town of Sibley and M. L. Sullivant was appointed the first postmaster in 1872. The first elevator was built by Mr. Sullivant in 1873 at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars and is still in operation, although some improvements and additions have been made.

Mr. Anderson has always been deeply interested in the work of the development here and has given his aid and cooperation to many movements for the public good. He served as school director and as treasurer of the school board for a number of years and has always given his political allegiance to the republican party. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran denomination and he was one of the founders of the church in the town, being actively associated with its membership since its organization. Coming to America as a young man of twenty years empty-handed and unknown, he faced conditions which would dishearten many a man of less resolute and determined spirit. Mr. Anderson, however, possessed heroic qualities in his determination to win success

and as the years have gone by he has not only carved out a comfortable fortune for himself but has also made an honored name, his record winning for him the confidence, good will and admiration of those who know him.

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#### WILLIAM JACK.

William Jack owns and cultivates an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 22, Rogers township. He has resided upon this place since he made purchase of the property in the spring of 1903 and has made many substantial improvements upon it during the intervening years. He is a native of county Antrim, Ireland, born July 11, 1862, his parents being James and Nancy (McClintock) Jack, who spent their entire lives in Ireland. The father is still living there but the mother is now deceased.

William was the fourth in order of birth in their family of ten children, five sons and five daughters. He was reared to the occupation of farming and continued his identification with agricultural pursuits until he became connected with mining interests and when he determined to come to America he was serving as an assistant pit boss in the coal mines of his native land. The favorable reports which he heard concerning America and its opportunities, however, induced him to seek a home in the new world and in 1883 he crossed the Atlantic, being then a young man of twenty-one years. He made his way at once into the interior of the country, his destination being Kempton, Ford county, Illinois, where he arrived on the 3d of November. He has since resided in the county and for four years after his arrival he worked as a section hand. He then began working by the month as a farm hand, being thus employed for two years, after which he resolved to engage in farming on his own account and rented an eighty-acre tract of land which he cultivated for fourteen years. His diligence, perseverance and careful expenditure during that time brought him the capital that enabled him to purchase one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 22, Rogers township, in the spring of 1903. This is a well improved place with good buildings and all the modern machinery necessary to facilitate the work of the fields. Annually he garners rich harvests and everything about the place is indicative of the care and labor which he bestows upon the farm. Moreover, he is a stockholder in the Farmers' State Bank at Cabery and is now accounted one of the substantial residents of the community.

In October, 1884, Mr. Jack was married to Miss Jane Kenney, a native of county Antrim, Ireland, born July 11, 1863. She came alone to America in 1881 to join her brother, James Kenney, then of Gilman, Illinois. Her parents, Archie and Rachel (Corry) Kenney, spent their entire lives in Ireland but both are now deceased.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jack have been born five children: Wilbur, who died in infancy; Alice, at home; Ray, who died at the age of five months; Harvey, who is attending school at Onarga, Illinois, as a student in the Grand Prairie Seminary; and Ruth, at home.

Mr. Jack is a member of the Modern Woodmen Camp and gives his political allegiance to the republican party, keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He attends the Presbyterian church and his life commends him to the confidence and good will of his fellow townsmen. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished in a business way, for he started out here empty-handed and the success he has achieved is attributable entirely to his perseverance and labor, which have been intelligently directed and prompted by laudable ambition.

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#### MRS. CAROLINE ANTOINETTE JOHNSON.

Mrs. Caroline Antoinette Johnson is numbered among the highly respected residents of Roberts, Illinois, where since 1906 she has made her home. She was born in Denmark, February 15, 1840, a daughter of Christian and Catherine Johnson, whose family numbered ten children. The daughter was reared in her native country and being left an orphan at the early age of thirteen she was then compelled to make her own way in the world.

At the age of twenty-five Miss Caroline Antoinette Traudberg gave her hand in marriage to James Johnson, who was likewise born in Denmark, the date of his birth being January 29, 1830. Immediately following their marriage they emigrated to America, the year 1865 witnessing their arrival in Illinois. They first located in Washington county, where Mr. Johnson worked at his trades of carpenter and stone-mason, making his home there for six years, when in 1871 he came with his family to Ford county. He rented a farm in Peach Orchard township, which he operated for two years, at the same time carrying on his work as a carpenter and stone-mason. In 1874 he purchased eighty acres of land, situated on section 24, Peach Orchard township.

He improved the place with good buildings and carried on general agricultural pursuits there until his demise, which occurred October 18, 1906, and thus passed away one of the highly respected citizens of this section of the state, for during his residence here, covering a period of more than three decades he had gained a host of warm friends who esteemed him for his genuine personal worth. One brother, L. P. Johnson, still survives.

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Johnson disposed of her farming property and removed to Roberts, where she purchased a nice residence which, with her daughter, she now occupies. In addition to this property she also owns another residence and three acres of land in the village beside eighty acres of farm land in Iowa, from which she derives a good rental.

Mrs. Johnson became the mother of five children but three of the number are now deceased. The two surviving daughters are: Arnoldina, the wife of Andrew M. Nelson, a resident of Dupage county, Illinois; and May C., who resides with her mother. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have two sons, Le Roy, aged twelve years; and Melvin, aged six. Being herself left an orphan at an early age, Mrs. Johnson has always felt a deep interest in those deprived of parental love and care and through the kindness of her heart has taken into her home two orphans, one Alma E. Anderson, now seventeen years of age, having been reared by her from an infant of eighteen months, while Earl Rowcliffe, who became a member of her household at the age of fifteen months, is now a little lad of five years. Mrs. Johnson was reared in the faith of the Lutheran church but is now independent in her religious views. She is a gentle, kindly woman, charitable in her estimate of every one, and in Roberts and Ford county, where she has so long made her home, she has a host of warm friends.

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#### JOHN W. GILKESON.

John W. Gilkeson is serving for the fourth term as a member of the county board of supervisors and his official record is one which has ever reflected credit upon himself and at the same time has proven highly satisfactory to his constituents. He is, moreover, known as one of the enterprising farmers and extensive stock-dealers of the county, making his home upon an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres in Wall township.

He was born in Marshall county, Illinois, August 11, 1854, of the marriage of William B. and Cecelia (Lytle) Gilkeson. The father was born in Missouri



MRS. JANE WILSON GILKESON





in 1830, representing an old family of that state. He was two years of age when his mother (his father having died) removed to Peoria county, Illinois, where he was reared. When a young man he went to Marshall county, this state, where he married Miss Cecelia Lytle. At the time of the Civil war he espoused the Union cause and served for one year with the boys in blue at the front. In 1867 he removed to Ford county, Illinois, where he carried on general farming for about twenty-two years and in 1889 he took up his abode in Chicago, where he has now made his home for nineteen years. Unto him and his wife were born five children, of whom four are living: Thomas, of Battle Creek, Michigan; Mont, who makes his home in Yorkton, Canada; Morris, living in Iroquois county, Illinois; and John W., of this review.

The last named spent his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farm lads, acquiring his education in the district schools. The father being in ill health much of the time after his return from the war, the work of the farm largely devolved upon the son, who from the age of eleven years has led a most active life. Prosperity awaited him but the future was not revealed to the boy, who had to work hard in order to improve the farm and thus aid in the maintenance of the family in those early years. It is only through the stimulus of adversity that the best and strongest in man is brought out and developed and this early training brought forth in Mr. Gilkeson a strong manhood and a self-reliant character. At the age of twenty-one years he started out in business life on his own account as a farmer. For two and a half years he rented land and did his own housekeeping.

In October, 1878, however, Mr. Gilkeson secured a companion and helpmate for life's journey through his marriage to Miss Mary McClelland, of Iroquois county, Illinois. He brought his wife to the farm which he was then renting but which he purchased the following year, becoming owner of eighty acres. They practiced economy as well as industry and in 1885 were enabled to purchase an adjoining tract of eighty acres, while in 1903 the boundaries of the place were further extended until the farm now includes two hundred and forty acres of productive and valuable land, situated on section 13, Wall township. This is one of the best improved farms in the county, lacking in none of the accessories and conveniences of a model property. For years past Mr. Gilkeson has been extensively engaged in buying and selling of stock and is now one of the largest stock-dealers of this section, not only utilizing all the grain which he raises in this way but also buying extensively every year for feeding purposes.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gilkeson have been born three children: Myrtle, now the wife of Harry Marshal of this county; Charles Howard and Eugene, who are

with their parents on the farm. The family are prominent in the community and their own home is justly celebrated for its gracious and attractive hospitality.

Mr. Gilkeson is a member of Paxton Lodge, I. O. O. F., and of Lodi Camp, No. 1533, M. W. A. In politics he is a republican, recognized as one of the local leaders of his party. In 1887 he was elected town commissioner and filled the office so acceptably that he was continued therein for twelve consecutive years. He was then elected to the board of county supervisors and is now serving for the fifth consecutive term. In 1906, during the building of the courthouse, he was made chairman of the board of supervisors and the same year was made chairman of the building committee having in charge the erection of this new seat of justice. His business ability, his push and enterprise were manifest in the execution of the work and at all times in the discharge of his official duties he has displayed the same spirit of enterprise and determination which have characterized him in his business life. He is in the broadest sense a self-made man, being both the architect and builder of his own fortunes and has not only won a creditable and enviable position in business life, for in political circles as well honors have been conferred upon him. He enjoys in large measure the confidence and respect of his fellowmen and is distinctively one of the leading citizens of Ford county.

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#### C. A. NORDGREN.

The commercial interests of Paxton find a worthy representative in C. A. Nordgren, a hardware merchant, who has worked his way upward from a humble position to one of affluence and is now controlling one of the leading mercantile concerns of his adopted city. He was born in Allingsas, Westergotland, Sweden, on the 23d of October, 1861, his parents being C. A. and Caroline (Kjellstrand) Nordgren, whose family numbered seven sons, of whom three are living, C. A. Nordgren being the eldest. The others are Axel L., a minister of the Swedish Lutheran church; and G. Walter, who is chief clerk of the criminal insane asylum at Chester, Illinois, through appointment of Governor Deneen. The father was born in the locality in which the birth of C. A. Nordgren occurred, while the mother was a native of Nerike, Sweden. Both lived and died in that country, the former passing away at the age of forty-four years and the latter at the age of seventy. The father was employed at railroad work and thus provided for his family.

C. A. Nordgren spent his boyhood and youth in his parents' home and after mastering the branches of learning taught in the public schools he attended the college at Jonkoping, Sweden, to which place his parents removed in his childhood days. He pursued a four years' college course and was thus well equipped by mental discipline for the practical duties of life. At the age of seventeen he entered business circles as an employe in a hardware store of Jonkoping, but the broader business opportunities of the new world attracted him and in 1881, when nineteen years of age, he came to the United States. He did not tarry on the Atlantic coast but made his way direct to Paxton, Illinois, where lived his uncle, A. W. Kjellstrand. Not long afterward, however, Mr. Nordgren went to Chicago, where he was employed in the car shops of the street railway company for four or five months. He then came again to Paxton and accepted a position in the hardware store of Clark & Cruzen—the store which he now owns. He displayed diligence and adaptability, which won him promotion from time to time, and after eight years spent as a salesman he acquired a small interest in the business in 1890. Five years later, in 1895, the business was incorporated as the R. Cruzen Company with Mr. Nordgren as president. In 1902 he purchased the interest of his partners and became sole proprietor, since which time he has conducted alone the principal hardware store of Paxton. He carries a large and well selected line of shelf and heavy hardware and his trade is annually increasing his business proving a very profitable one. He is not unknown in financial circles, being a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Paxton, vice president of the Paxton Building & Loan Association and in the absence of the president for the past two years has been its acting president. It was largely through his efforts that the E. H. Stafford Manufacturing Company located its large furniture factory at Paxton.

Pleasantly situated in his home life, Mr. Nordgren was married in 1885 to Miss Emma Erickson, of Paxton, who was born in Sweden, her father, John Erickson, now deceased, having come to this city from Sweden during her childhood days. Mr. and Mrs. Nordgren hold membership in the Swedish Lutheran church. He is serving as one of the ushers in the church and as Sunday school teacher and was a member of the building committee for the erection of a new house of worship. Fraternally he is connected with Paxton Lodge, I. O. O. F.; Patton Lodge, K. P.; and Paxton Camp, No. 359, M. W. A.

He is always foremost in any progressive movement looking toward a greater city, having the interests of Paxton deeply at heart. He is justly accounted one of the leading and progressive business men and is president of

the Paxton Retail Merchants' Association, an organization formed to further the business life of the city. He is a very active member of the Swedish Republican State League and in 1900 was honored with its presidency. He has the strongest attachment for the land of his adoption and while not seeking to figure prominently in any public light he is nevertheless an earnest and valued supporter of every movement that tends toward the promotion of the welfare of town and county. By perseverance, determination and honorable effort he has overthrown the obstacles which barred his path to success and reached the goal of prosperity, while his genuine worth, broad mind and public spirit have made him a director of public thought and action.

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#### LANDY S. HOLDERMAN.

The student of history cannot carry his investigations far into the annals of this section of the state without learning of the important part which the Holderman family has played. Prior to the Black Hawk war they became residents of Illinois and since that time the Holdermans, grandfather, father and son, have been important factors in promoting public progress. The grandfather, as a pioneer, aided in laying the foundation for the future development of the county and the father carried on the work which he instituted. The son, L. S. Holderman, stands also as a representative of a progressive public spirit and as the years have passed the family have enjoyed the well merited fruits of labor, so that the subject of this review in possession of a handsome competence is today living retired, deriving his income from his extensive landed interests and other investments.

L. S. Holderman was born in Grundy county, Illinois, November 8, 1859, a son of Abram and Mary E. (Hoge) Holderman. The former was a son of Abram Holderman, Sr., a Pennsylvania Dutchman, who married Miss Charlotte O'Neal, of Irish parentage. When eighteen years of age he removed to Ross county, Ohio, of which place his wife was a native. They reared a family of seven sons and seven daughters. Abram Holderman, Sr., engaged extensively in farming and stock-raising in the Buckeye state and drove large herds of cattle to the Philadelphia and Baltimore markets prior to the period of railroad transportation. In July, 1831, becoming imbued with a desire to establish his home on the western frontier, he made his way to Illinois on a prospecting tour. There were no white settlers in this portion of the state at that time

and upon reaching Door Prairie he hired an Indian to pilot him through. He had no definite idea where he wished to go but traveled for seventy miles through the Indian country before stopping. They rode on across the trackless prairies, sleeping wrapped in their blankets where night overtook them, with their saddles for pillows. On the morning of the third day a lovely grove in the midst of broad prairies appeared before them and Mr. Holderman was so well pleased that he drove his stakes there and made his claim, selecting eighty acres of land which included the grove. He then returned to Ohio, gathered his earthly possessions consisting of one four horse Pennsylvania wagon, a common two horse wagon and a wagon drawn by oxen and with his household goods started for Illinois, accompanied by his wife and nine children. He also took with him eleven head of horses, nineteen head of blooded cattle and three yoke of oxen, forming quite a cavalcade. Such a journey was a great undertaking in those days, when there were no roads or bridges. They had to ford and sometimes swim the streams and flounder through sloughs, in which they were frequently mired. They traveled along the southern shore of Lake Michigan, having Chicago in view as a place where they might replenish their food supplies. The night before reaching the future metropolis of the west their provisions had become exhausted so that the family and the stock went to bed without an evening meal. They were in buoyant spirits, however, fully expecting to get plenty when they reached the fort by the lake. Morning dawned and they were twelve miles away with no breakfast. At length they reached the fort and imagine their surprise when four bushels of oats at four dollars per bushel and one loaf of bread was all that money could purchase. Twelve miles farther through mud and swamps brought them to Widow Berry's Point, where they secured supplies, obtained a meal and rested until the following day. Their bill for entertainment was forty-seven dollars—such was the exorbitant prices charged at that time. At this time they were only fifty miles from their destination and the next day they traveled to Plainfield, a distance of thirty miles. They reached the end of their journey in October, 1831, and another eighty acres of choice timber land was added to the original claim, which Mr. Holderman had staked out. Thus was established the Holderman family in Illinois and thus was laid the foundation for the family's fortune, while at the same time it was a momentous day for the section in which they located, as they planted the seeds of civilization there and were the vanguard in the work of development, improvement and progress.

During the spring of 1832 the family lived for six weeks on a poor quality of pounded corn, so poor that the horses refused to eat it. During that spring

Mr. Holderman went to St. Louis and invested four hundred dollars in supplies. He also purchased a keelboat and in that way took his provisions to Ottawa. On the 17th of May, the day after he had reached home, he was informed by a friendly Indian named Peppers that a band of eighty Mohawks were on the warpath and had murdered a family close by. The report of the murder, however, proved to be false, as the man of the house was away from home and the family had in some way received word in time and hid in the brush. Not long before this five families had settled near Mr. Holderman and when the news came of the uprising of the red men they all collected at the Holderman home. It was dark, however, when they arrived there, so that they could make no move before morning. When the dawn came Mr. Holderman and two or three other men went out to reconnoiter. They found the Indians at the home of the family who were supposed to be murdered. One was acting as sentry on top of the house and at the approach of the whites he jumped off and the whole party took to the brush but fired on the whites, who necessarily had to make a hasty retreat with the entire number of Indians following. Seeing that the Indians would pursue them to where their families were gathered the men resorted to a ruse to check them, Mr. Holderman pulling off his hat and waving it as if there were others in reserve. The Indians fearing a trap or ambuscade beat a hasty retreat and the white settlers reached home in safety. Everything was now in readiness for the retreat to Ottawa. The children, some of whom were asleep, were put in wagons, as well as the women. The women drove, and the men, mounted and on foot, kept guard until Ottawa was reached and there they remained for some time. The Indians, however, visited the homes of the settlers and destroyed everything they did not carry off and thus Mr. Holderman lost the supplies which he had brought from St. Louis at such great expense and hardship. However, the disturbance quieted down and the families returned to their homes. As the country developed and there sprang up a market for the produce, Mr. Holderman, who had a rich tract of land, made much money from his farming and stock-raising operations, becoming one of the prosperous residents of the community. He well deserved the success that came to him, for it was gained through hardships and difficulties in early days and through persistent, earnest and indefatigable labor. Moreover, his name is inseparably associated with the upbuilding of this part of the state. Being the first settler to locate here, from the beginning he was actively associated with the growth and development and aided in shaping the policy of the county during its formative period.

Abram Holderman, Sr., resided with his father until twenty-three years of age, at which time the father gave him a plow and harness and all the land he could use, rent free, saying "earn your own money and you will know how to prize it." With resolute spirit he set to work and was soon on the high road to prosperity. At the age of twenty-five years he married Miss Mary Hoge, a daughter of William Hoge, who, coming from Virginia, had reached this portion of the country two weeks before the Holdermans. Immediately after their marriage, which took place May 6, 1847, the young couple settled at Holderman's Grove, in one of the houses owned by his father, who at that time purchased most of his neighbors land. There they lived for two years and then removed to a quarter section of land which Mr. Holderman had purchased near Seneca for three dollars per acre. This was his first investment in property. Before his death his land extended along the canal and the Rock Island Railroad for seven miles east and west. From time to time he made judicious investments and during his later years he was the owner of seven thousand acres of choice land in the Illinois river valley. His family numbered eight children, seven sons and one daughter, of whom three sons died in childhood.

L. S. Holderman, whose name introduces this record, was reared on his father's farm and there remained to his twenty-sixth year. He received his education in the country schools and five years after attaining his majority he left home and in 1883 took up his abode upon a farm in Ford county, which he purchased. He only remained there for a year, however, when he removed to Paxton, where he engaged in trading and dealing in horses. He also gave considerable time to the raising of blooded stock, including both the raising of stock and heavy draft horses. This business he conducted in connection with the supervision of his farming interests until a few years ago, when he disposed of his stock. He was also connected with merchandising in Paxton for two years, dealing principally in farm implements. In all of his business affairs he has displayed an aptitude for successful management and in bringing to successful completion whatever he has undertaken.

In 1888 was celebrated the marriage of L. S. Holderman and Miss Laura J. Smith, a daughter of John and Adeline (Morehead) Smith, who were natives of England. Removing to the west, they settled in Vermilion county at the town of Potomac, being among the early residents of that locality. Mr. Smith was a farmer and stockman and was well known in business circles there. His family numbered four children: Martha J., the wife of William Kuykendall,

of Armstrong, Illinois; Alvin G. and Robert H., also of Armstrong; and Mrs. Holderman.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born five children, John A., Jennie A., Lillian M., Edward S. and Mary L. Mr. Holderman and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Holderman belongs to Paxton Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and to the Knight Templar commandery. He is also connected with Paxton Lodge of Odd Fellows. He has filled several city offices, including that of alderman and has ever exercised his official prerogatives in support of progressive public movements. He is a thoroughgoing man, enterprising and energetic, reliable in business and a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family.

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#### JAMES M. JOHNSON.

Illinois offers excellent opportunities to its agriculturists. In no other state in the Union is found richer soil or a climate more favorable to the production of crops. There is never an absolute crop failure in Illinois and generally the harvest is large and bounteous. Therefore the farmer who carefully conducts his interests may win success and gain a competence for the evening of life. This Mr. Johnson has done and although he is hardly yet past the prime of life, is now enabled to live retired, putting aside the farming and stock-raising interests which claimed his attention in former years.

He was born in McLean county, Illinois, July 26, 1841, his parents being James R. and Mary (Satterfield) Johnson, natives of Kentucky and White county, Illinois, respectively. The father came to this state when eighteen years of age, arriving in McLean county in 1832. The Indians at that time were the principal inhabitants of this part of the state, for the white settlers were very few and the red men resented their encroachment upon the hunting grounds which they claimed as their inheritance. When the Black Hawk war was inaugurated Mr. Johnson defended the interests of the early settlers and also participated in other expeditions against the Indians. He likewise served during the year 1847 in the war with Mexico, going to the front under General Zachary Taylor. When peace was restored he returned to McLean county and engaged in farming near the town of LeRoy, living a life of well directed industry and thrift until called to his final rest in 1866. His wife long survived him and passed away in 1902 on the day made memorable by the great Galveston





MRS. AND MR. J. M. JOHNSON



flood. They were the parents of seven children: Elizabeth, the wife of James R. McCan, of Jackson county, Kansas; Ellen, the widow of Thomas Reed; James M., of this review; George W., who resides in McLean county; Perrin, of LeRoy, Illinois; Lawson, who makes his home in Jackson county, Kansas; and Mary, the wife of A. Barnett, of LeRoy, Illinois.

James M. Johnson acquired his education through the medium of the public schools of McLean county but his opportunities in that direction were somewhat limited and it has been through his own efforts that he has become a well informed man, reading, observation and experience largely broadening his knowledge. At the age of nineteen years he joined Company B of the Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry and served with the Army of the James and the Army of the Potomac in defense of the Union cause. He participated in many of the battles fought by the Army of the James and while with the Army of the Potomac he was wounded in front of Petersburg, Virginia, being struck by a ball in the left hip. His injuries confined him to the hospital for three months, after which he rejoined his command and remained with the regiment until the close of the war, being mustered out of the service at Norfolk, Virginia, December 12, 1865. At one time he was captured and confined in Libby prison for three months. He had always been found loyal to duty, whether on the picket line or the firing line, and he took part in the long, hard marches and the sieges, together with the sanguinary conflicts which led up to the final victory that crowned the Federal arms.

When honorably discharged Mr. Johnson returned direct to Springfield, Illinois, and thence to his home. Immediately afterward he rented a farm and began its cultivation, carrying on general agricultural pursuits in McLean county for twenty years. In 1887 he removed to Ford county and rented a part of the Sibley estate, while for eighteen years he was manager of one of its extensive plantations, cultivating two hundred and forty acres which is still under his control. He retired from the active work of the farm, however, in 1905, in which year he purchased a home in the village of Sibley, where he is now living.

Mr. Johnson was married March 22, 1866, to Miss Jane E. Kimber, a daughter of Richard and Sarah E. Kimber. They became the parents of four children, of whom two died unmarried. The others are Cora, the wife of Walter Hammond, of McLean county, Illinois; and Charles, of this county. The wife and mother died January 27, 1878, and on the 5th of January, 1881, Mr. Johnson was married to Mrs. Lizzie Williams, the widow of George Williams and a daughter of Robert and Mary (Garner) Robertson, who were natives of Indiana and early settlers of Illinois. They came to this state when there were cou-

paratively few settlers within its borders and took up their abode in Cass county, the journey being made in wagons drawn by oxen. Mr. Robertson's father died on the way and as there was no burying ground in the district his grave was made by the wayside. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Robert Robertson were born seven children, of whom one died in early life. The others were: Ellen, the deceased wife of M. Darling; James, who has also passed away; Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson; Jennie, the widow of E. Cole; Kate, the wife of W. Pettit; and Charles, of California. Mr. Robertson was twice married, his second union being with Mrs. L. Bert, Perry, Ernest and Frank. The death of the father occurred in 1895. Morgan nee Miller, and they had the following children: Lincoln, Wiley, Alva,

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born three children but Clarence, the eldest, is deceased. Mamie is a teacher of this county, and Myrtle is at home. Mrs. Johnson belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Johnson belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Sibley. They are both people of the highest respectability, whose good qualities of heart and mind have won for them the confidence and friendly regard of all who know them. In his business career Mr. Johnson has displayed excellent ability and unfaltering diligence and as the years have passed his labor has been the measure of a gratifying success.

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## II. II. BEVINGTON.

Among those who, formerly identified with agricultural interests, have found in close application and careful management in the pursuits of the farm the means for the acquirement of substantial competence that now enables them to live retired is II. II. Bevington, of Paxton. He was born in Wayne county, Ohio, November 16, 1852, his parents being Samuel and Marcia Ann (Johnson) Bevington, who were likewise natives of the Buckeye state and of English parentage. The family came to America at an early day and was established in Ohio during the pioneer epoch in the history of that state. Samuel Bevington followed the occupation of farming and died in Defiance county, Ohio, after having devoted his active life to the work of the fields. Unto him and his wife were born nine children, eight of whom reached adult age, namely: C. J., a farmer of Crawford county, Kansas; Nancy, the wife of George Dodge, of De Kalb county, Indiana; Hannah, the wife of Osear Dodge, of Defiance county, Ohio; II. II., of this review; E. A., who follows farming in

Butler township, Ford county, Illinois; S. P., who is living in Buckley, Iroquois county, Illinois; S. E., whose home is in Hoopeston, Vermilion county, this state; and Delia M., the wife of Reed Place, of Defiance county, Ohio. The mother passed away December 15, 1891, while the death of the father occurred March 3, 1904.

H. H. Bevington acquired his education in the common schools of Defiance county, Ohio, and the year 1878 witnessed his arrival in this county. He was then a young man of twenty-six years and began life here upon a rented farm, for he had no capital with which to purchase property. Ten years of industry and economy, however, enabled him to become the owner of two hundred acres of land in Patton township, which he purchased for forty-one dollars per acre, and upon which some slight improvements had been made. With characteristic energy he took up its further development and cultivation and in course of time the fields were bringing forth rich and abundant harvests. This is now well improved with good buildings and the substantial barns and outbuildings necessary for the shelter of grain and stock. He has made it a model farm and everything about the place indicates his thrifty spirit and enterprising efforts. He continued active in the work of the fields until 1901, when he removed to Paxton and the following year purchased a nice home in the town, since which time he has lived retired.

On the 21st of June, 1877, Mr. Bevington was married, in Defiance county, Ohio, to Miss Alice U. Irish, a daughter of Charles R. and Eliza (Barney) Irish. They were the parents of eight children: Diana, now the widow of H. Keller, of Defiance county, Ohio; Augusta, the widow of A. T. Spencer, of the same county; Silas W., who is living in Williams county, Ohio; Francis V., of Chicago, Illinois; Delia V., the wife of J. A. Grandy, of Clarence, Ford county, Illinois; Alice, now Mrs. Bevington; Herbert E., who has passed away, while his family resides in Hicksville, Ohio; and Ina, the deceased wife of Thomas Eck, of Williams county, Ohio. Mr. Irish was called to his final rest May 16, 1889 and his wife died March 5, 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Bevington have but one child, Charles E., a graduate of the Rice Collegiate Institute, who was born July 23, 1881, and was married February 6, 1900, to Miss Emma L. Denman, a daughter of William Denman, of Paxton. They have two children, Bernina M. and Dorothy M., and they reside upon his father's farm in Patton township.

Mr. Bevington is a member of Paxton Lodge, No. 418, I. O. O. F., and politically is a democrat. For twelve years he served on the school board. He came to the county a poor man, but the road to success is open to all who

have the perseverance to continue therein. Through hard work and the exercise of true economy he has succeeded in accumulating a handsome property and is regarded as one of the most substantial, as well as one of the most respected citizens of this part of the state.

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#### JAMES R. SUTTON.

James R. Sutton, a prosperous and enterprising agriculturist of Mona township, was born on the farm on which he yet resides, his natal day being July 12, 1871. He is a son of John W. and Rachel Sutton, the former a native of England and the latter of Ohio. In the year 1850 the parents came to Illinois, first locating in Grundy county, where they operated rented land for three years. The father served as a loyal defender of the Union in the dark days of the Civil war, his term of enlistment covering three years and six months. In 1868 he came to Ford county, purchasing the farm which is yet the home of our subject. He had a family of three children, namely: James R., of this review; Elizabeth; and William. John W. Sutton successfully carried on his agricultural interests until the time of his death in 1906, but the mother still survives him, making her home in Mona township with her daughter.

James R. Sutton acquired a common-school education and assisted his father in the cultivation of the old homestead farm until he had attained the twenty-fourth year of his age. He then wished to start out in life on his own account and accordingly rented a tract of land for two years, but on the expiration of that period returned to the home farm, where he has lived continuously since. He now operates two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land, the fields yielding golden harvests annually as a reward for the care and labor he bestows upon them. He follows progressive and modern methods in the conduct of his agricultural interests and his farm comprises one of the neat and attractive properties of the county.

In 1900 Mr. Sutton was joined in wedlock to Miss Bertha R. Bute, a native of Livingston county, Illinois, whose parents now reside in Kempton. She was one of a family of three children and by her marriage has become the mother of four children, namely: Elmer L.; Clarence B., Velma F., deceased; and Arthur I.

In his political views Mr. Sutton is a republican and for three years acted as collector, while for four years he was deputy sheriff under Frank Mason.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES R. SUTTON





His public duties have been discharged with the same fidelity and capability that he displays in the conduct of his private business interests and he has ever received the warm regard and confidence of his fellow townsmen. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 406, at Kempton, and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They are held in high esteem throughout the entire community by reason of their upright and honorable lives. Mr. Sutton has spent his entire life in this county and is therefore familiar with its development from pioneer times down to the present, having aided in the arduous toil which brought about the wonderful transformation that is everywhere apparent in this part of the state. Although one of the younger representatives of agricultural interests in Ford county, he has already attained a measure of success that augurs well for the future.

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#### JOHN SHILTS.

John Shilts, who is a retired agriculturist living in Melvin, is still the owner of three hundred and thirty acres of rich and valuable farming land in Ford county, from which he receives a good income. He was born in Wittenberg, Germany, on the 22d of May, 1847, a son of Michael and Argatha Shilts, natives of the fatherland, who emigrated to America in 1852. They first located in Kendall county, Illinois, where the father worked as a laborer for seven years and then operated a rented farm for a period of eight years. In the year 1868 he removed with his family to Ford county, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 13, Peach Orchard township, which he improved and cultivated, making his home thereon until his death in 1883. His wife had passed away in 1874 and their remains were interred in the Chatsworth cemetery. They were the parents of the following children: John, of this review; Joe, of Melvin, Illinois; Reuben, who resides in Iowa; Mary, the wife of Robert Underwood, of Ford county; Frank, who makes his home in Missouri; Mathew, living in Crawford county, Illinois; Katherine, who became the wife of George Morris and reside in Tacoma, Washington; Maggie, the wife of Thomas Underwood, of Ford county; and three who died in infancy.

John Shilts acquired his education in the common schools and remained with his father until he had attained the age of twenty-three years, when he was married and started out in business life on his own account by renting

a tract of land. When a year had passed in this way he purchased eighty acres on section 24, Dix township, to which he added from time to time until his landed possessions now aggregate three hundred and thirty acres in Ford county, while in Crawford county he also owns a tract of forty acres. He brought his land under a high state of development, adding all the equipments and accessories of a model farming property, and met with such a large measure of prosperity that in 1895 he was enabled to retire from the active work of the fields. He now rents his farm and lives retired in a pleasant and commodious residence in Melvin, surrounded by all the comforts and luxuries which go to make life worth living. He is widely recognized as one of the extensive landowners and prosperous citizens of the county, and also as one of the early settlers who aided in the work of pioneer development and progress here.

The wife of Mr. Shilts bore the maiden name of Hannah J. McGee and is a native of Pennsylvania, accompanying her parents on their removal to Illinois at an early day. She has one brother and one sister: George, who resides in Oklahoma; and Margaret, who is the wife of John Crawford and lives in South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Shilts became the parents of seven children as follows: Minerva, deceased; Sybil E., who has also passed away; May E., at home; Calvin, who has departed this life; Ida M., deceased; Estella E., who became the wife of Albert Getleman and now resides in the state of Washington; and Elsie R., the wife of Philip Waleby, who also makes her home in Washington.

In his political views Mr. Shilts is a democrat and has served as school director for twenty years, the cause of education finding in him a warm and stalwart friend. He also acted as ditch commissioner for seven years and gives loyal support to all movements and measures instituted for the promotion of the general welfare and the prosperity of the country at large. He was reared in the Catholic faith but his wife and family are members of the Congregational church at Melvin, where the hospitality of the best homes is freely accorded them.

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#### RICHARD DUNN.

Richard Dunn is a well known and worthy representative of the farming interests of Brenton township and now derives his income from a good property of four hundred and fifteen acres on sections 9, 10, 15 and 16. He is also well known as a dealer in live stock and this has added materially to his success.

Mr. Dunn was born in Warren county, Illinois, November 14, 1840, and is a son of Joseph and Mary Dunn, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Kentucky. They came to Illinois in 1837 and cast in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Warren county, where the father entered land from the government and began the development of a new farm, living in the style of those who established homes upon the frontier. There he continued until 1866, when he sold the property in Warren county and removed to Ford county, investing here in four hundred acres of land on section 15, Brenton township. The place was at that time a tract of wild prairie but with characteristic energy he began its development and brought the fields under a high state of cultivation. He lived upon the farm for about seven years and then sold out, removing to Nebraska in 1873. Again he invested in four hundred acres of land and upon the farm which he there cultivated made his home until his death. The mother of our subject had passed away in Warren county, Illinois. They were the parents of nine children, of whom six are yet living; Sarah J., now the wife of N. Ward of Oklahoma; Richard, of this review; Julia Ann, the widow of Robert Wilson of this county; George, living in Kansas; Joseph, whose home is in Texas; and James, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Those deceased are William, who was the sixth in order of birth, and Harry and Mary, who were the youngest members of the family.

Richard Dunn was reared upon the home farm in Warren county amid the wild scenes of the frontier, sharing with the family in all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life and aiding in the arduous task of developing a new farm. He attended the common schools and continued to assist his father in the work of the fields until twenty-two years of age, when he began farming on his own account, purchasing eighty acres of land in Warren county, which he cultivated for a year. He then rented that place and took a trip to California, going by way of New York and the water route. He spent three years on the Pacific coast as stage driver for the Pioneer Company but preferring the middle west as a place of residence he returned to Warren county, Illinois, in 1866, and again took up the cultivation of the farm which he had there purchased. For three years he continued its further improvement and then sold out, after which he removed to Ford county and bought eighty acres of land. Upon this he located and as his financial resources increased he kept adding to his property from time to time until he now owns four hundred and fifteen acres, attractively and pleasantly situated on sections 9, 10, 15 and 16, Brenton township. The fields indicate his careful supervision and practical methods, bringing forth rich crops which are a merited reward for his labor. He has also engaged quite extensively in raising and feeding

stock, keeping an hand good grades and thus finding a ready sale for his stock on the market.

In 1864 Mr. Dunn was united in marriage to Miss Martha E. Poe, who was born in Wisconsin in 1848, a daughter of William Poe and a member of a family of six children. By her marriage she has also become the mother of six children who are yet living: William H., the eldest, left home six years ago and has not been heard from since that time. Fred, at home, is a graduate of the Davenport College. He belongs to the Masonic lodge at Piper City and is well known and respected throughout the community. His time is given to general agricultural pursuits and he owns eighty acres of land on section 9, Brenton township. He married Miss Mable King of Rock Island, Illinois, from whom he has since secured a legal separation. They had two children, James Richard Joseph, who is with the father, and Lula May, who is with the mother. Lula M. Dunn, the third member of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dunn is also a graduate of Davenport College and is at home. Herman is married and lives in Ford county. Joseph is a dentist practicing in Chicago. Lillian Belle is studying music and makes her home with her parents.

The cause of education has ever found in Mr. Dunn a stalwart champion and he has done effective work for the schools of his neighborhood during twenty-four years of service as school director. He belongs to the Masonic lodge at Piper City and also to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He supports and attends the Presbyterian church and his influence is ever on the side of those interests and movements which tend to promote educational, material political and moral progress. His worth as a man and citizen are widely acknowledged and in his business life he has shown how forceful are the qualities of diligence and perseverance when supplemented by sound judgment. His prosperity is due to these sterling traits of character and in all of his undertakings he has been so straightforward that his name is largely a synonym for business integrity to those who know him.

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#### ISAAC C. DAY.

Isaac C. Day, who owns and operates a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 30, Lyman township, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, on the 18th of September, 1843, his parents being John and Ann (Crew) Day, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of North Carolina. John



ISAAC C. DAY



Day removed to Ohio with his parents when but a small boy and when he had reached man's estate built a log house with clapboard roof and puncheon floor and a stick chimney, living in this primitive structure for twenty years. He purchased seventy-two acres of land, which he cleared of the heavy timber, thus making a nice farm and planting the seeds of civilization in a hitherto wild and uncultivated district. He also followed his trade of shoemaking in connection with his farming interests, and in politics was a staunch whig and later a republican, taking an active part in the local affairs of his party and giving loyal support to every movement or measure which he deemed would prove beneficial to the general public. His demise occurred in 1884 and the mother of our subject died in 1863, both passing away in Ohio. In the family were nine children, of whom six are now deceased. Stephen, who makes his home in Ohio, is the only survivor of his father's first marriage, and there are three by the second: Isaac C., of this review; James H.; and Anna, wife of Lon Hobbs, both residents of Barnesville, Ohio.

Isaac C. Day pursued his education in the common schools, remaining with his father until he attained the age of twenty-one years, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war as a member of Company E, Seventy-seventh Ohio Infantry, being mustered out at Brownsville, Texas, in the spring of 1865. He returned home at the close of the war with a creditable military record and then began earning his own living, being employed as a farm hand for two years. In the fall of 1866 he came to Illinois, locating first in Marshall county, where he also worked as a farm hand for two years. On the expiration of that period he came to Ford county, and after he had been engaged at farm labor here for a year he was married and rented a farm, which he successfully operated for eighteen years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 30, Lyman township, where he still resides, having brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and development. In addition to the work of general farming he also fed and shipped stock for several years, both branches of his business bringing to him a gratifying financial return annually. The success which he now enjoys is entirely the result of his own well directed labor and enterprise and he is accounted one of the substantial and progressive citizens of the community.

Mr. Day was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Thompson, who was born in Ohio in 1845, of which state her mother was also a native, while her father was born in Virginia. Mrs. Day was one of a family of seven children and by her marriage has become the mother of four children: William, of Lyman

township; H. A., at home; Anna, the wife of Andrew Arends; and Stanley, also at home.

In his political views Mr. Day is a republican and is quite prominent in the local ranks of his party, having served as school director for six years and as constable for three years. He is a member of the Grand Army post, No. 500, at Melvin, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs. He has been identified with the agricultural interests of Ford county from a very early day and has not only been a witness but also an active participant in the arduous labor which transformed this region from a wild and windswept prairie into one of the richest farming districts of the great state of Illinois. He is widely and favorably known throughout the entire community and has won the warm esteem and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### EVAN MATTINSON.

The specific and distinctive office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave the perpetual record establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his fellowmen. Throughout Ford county Evan Mattinson is spoken of in terms of admiration and respect. His life has been varied in its activity, honorable in its purposes and far-reaching and beneficial in its effects and has thus become an integral part of the history of the city and has left an impress upon the commercial and financial development of this part of the state. He is a son of Matthew and Margaret (Evans) Mattinson, and was born in Clark county, Ohio, September 30, 1857. His father, a native of Westmoreland county, England, was born October 15, 1810, and when a young man of twenty-four years came to the United States in 1834, making his home in Clark county, Ohio, where he was married on the 20th of December, 1841, to Miss Margaret Evans, a daughter of Edward Evans, a merchant of England, and of Welsh lineage. Mrs. Mattinson was born in north Wales in 1820, and came to the United States in 1837.

Upon his father's farm Evan Mattinson spent the days of his boyhood and acquired his education in the schools of South Charleston, Clark county, Ohio, passing through successive grades until he became a high-school student. In 1880 he came to Illinois and has since made his home in Gibson City. He



entered business circles here as a clerk in the banking house of Burwell, Leffel & Company, which institution constituted the nucleus of the First National Bank, of which Mr. Mattinson is now president. He filled a clerical position for two years and then purchased the interest of E. C. Leffel, of Springfield, Ohio, the business being conducted under the firm style of Burwell, Mattinson & Wilson. After two years the senior partner retired and the firm was reorganized, with Washington Wilson, Matthew Mattinson, father of Evan Mattinson, and William J. Wilson as partners, under the firm style of Mattinson, Wilson & Company. This relation was maintained for twenty-three years, Mr. Mattinson of this review acting as cashier until 1902, on the death of W. J. Wilson. In 1906 the bank was reorganized under the national banking laws and became the First National Bank of Gibson City, with Evan Mattinson as president, in which position he still remains. This is one of the safe and reliable financial institutions of central Illinois, following a conservative, yet progressive method that commends it to the support and trust of the business public.

Mr. Mattinson throughout his business career has made it his purpose to thoroughly acquaint himself with the interests with which he has become connected and in all things has displayed an aptitude for successful management. He studies every question from the standpoint of possibilities, of success and of failure and therefore places a correct value upon the opportunities that are before him. In matters of business judgment his opinions are regarded as sound and are often accepted as conclusive. Aside from his banking interests he has been treasurer and director of the Gibson City Canning Company since 1880, and president of the company since 1904, a leading productive enterprise of the county, employing three hundred operatives. Indeed the company is the largest employers of labor in Gibson City and the business is one that proves directly beneficial to the community not only by reason of the work given to many of the people of the town, but also to the fact that it furnishes a market for many farmers of the locality. At a former date Mr. Mattinson was also treasurer of the Gibson City Building and Loan Association.

On the 5th of March, 1885, was celebrated the marriage of Evan Mattinson and Miss Minnie Belle Wilson, a daughter of William J. and Lydia (Goodfellow) Wilson. They have one son, M. Clarence, who is a graduate of the Culver Military Academy of Indiana and now a student in the University of Chicago. In community affairs Mr. Mattinson is deeply interested and his aid and cooperation can always be counted upon to further any progressive and valuable public measure. Several times he has served as city treasurer and

is a member of the Gibson City Business Association, formed to further the commercial interests of the town. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he has attained high rank in Masonry, belonging to the lodge, chapter and council of Gibson City; Mount Olivet Commandery, K. T., of Paxton, Illinois; Mohamet Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Peoria; and to Oriental Consistory of the Scottish Rite at Chicago, in which he has attained the thirty-second degree. He is also identified with Gibson camp of the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Lotus Club.

Coming to Ford county in early manhood, he possessed the laudable ambition that prompts close application and earnest effort, and upon these qualities he has builded his success. His connection with any undertaking insures a prosperous outcome of the same, for it is in his nature to carry forward to successful completion whatever he is associated with. He has won for himself an enviable reputation as a careful man of business, and in his dealings is known for his prompt and honorable methods which have won him the deserved confidence of his fellowmen.

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#### STEPHEN LESCH.

In reverting to the life record of Stephen Lesch it is but fitting that he should be spoken of as a "self-made man," for from the early age of ten years he has been dependent entirely upon his own resources, having at that tender age lost his father. It is true that not unlike others in similar circumstances he has met obstacles and difficulties but through his own determination to win his way in the world he has overcome these and has pressed his way onward until one needs but to glance at his excellent farm of one hundred acres, situated in Lyman and Brenton townships, to know that he has succeeded well in life.

Mr. Lesch is a native son of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Lemont, Cook county, on the 15th of August, 1859. His parents were Christopher and Helen Lesch, the former having been born on a vessel during the emigration of his parents from Germany to this country. The mother was born in Germany and came to America with her parents when she was quite young. The subject of this review is the eldest in a family of four children, the others being: Peter, a resident of Chicago; John F.; and Maggie, the wife of Andrew Fridley, a resident of Chicago.

As above stated, Mr. Lesch lost his father when he was a little lad of but ten years and from that time he has made his own way in the world. At that age he began to work by the month at farm labor and this continued to be his occupation until he had reached the age of twenty-four years, when he was married and established a home of his own on the farm where he has since resided. This property comprises one hundred and sixty acres of good land, eighty acres of which is located on section 2, Lyman township, on which the house stands and the other eighty-acre tract lies just across the road on section 35, Brenton township. When Mr. Lesch took possession of the property there was a poor house on it but this has since been replaced by a more modern and commodious structure. He has also erected good outbuildings, has set out an apple orchard, shade trees, and has otherwise improved the place until it is now one of the valuable farms of this section of the state. In addition to raising grain Mr. Lesch is also engaged in raising good grades of stock and both branches of his business are bringing to him a good financial return.

It was on the 11th of March, 1884, that Mr. Lesch was united in marriage to Miss Rose Worlidge, who was born in Godman, Chester county, England, October 27, 1863. She came to America when a young lady of seventeen years, locating in Chicago, where lived an aunt, with whom she remained until the time of her marriage. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lesch has been blessed with five children: Florence, the wife of Edward Jones, of Thawville; Zarelda, the wife of Levi Eppelheimer, of Roberts; Edna; Roy; and Susie.

Mr. Lesch gives his political support to the republican party, casting his first presidential ballot for President Garfield. He has served as a school director for the past nine years but otherwise has filled no public office. He attends and supports the Congregational church, to which the other members of the household belong. The life of Mr. Lesch has been one of continuous activity, in which has been accorded due recognition of labor and today he is numbered among the substantial agriculturists of Ford county.

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#### JOHN SHORT.

John Short, who is living retired on his farm of three hundred and forty-one acres on sections 30 and 31, Wall township, was born in County Longford, Ireland, on the 12th of January, 1839, his parents being Edward and Mary (Thompson) Short. They came to the United States in 1845, locating

first in Brooklyn, New York, where the father worked at his trade of stonemason for four years. They then removed to Ottawa, Illinois, where Mr. Short was employed at his trade until the time of his demise, which occurred in 1870, his wife having passed away in 1847. They were the parents of five children, namely: John, of this review; Patrick; and Katherine, James and Mary, all of whom are deceased.

John Short acquired a common-school education and remained with his father until he had attained his majority, when he began work as a farm hand, being employed in that way for three years. He was then employed in the butchering business at Ottawa, Illinois, for two years, on the expiration of which period he removed to Chicago, and was engaged in the same line of business for a similar length of time. Subsequently he secured a position as fireman with the Rock Island Railroad Company, the firing being done with wood. After acting in this capacity for eighteen months he returned to La Salle county and was again engaged at farm labor for five years, subsequently operating a rented farm in that county for one year. He then removed to Lasant, Illinois, where he again went into the butchering business, but after a year moved to Livingston county, purchasing a tract of land of eighty acres, on which he lived for sixteen years. Selling that farm, in 1884 he bought three hundred and forty-one acres on sections 30 and 31, Wall township, Ford county, and has since made his home here. In addition to the work of general farming he has also made a specialty of raising and feeding stock, this branch of his business likewise bringing to him a gratifying financial return. He is now, however, living retired, having turned over the active work of the fields to his son James B. Mr. Short has met with a good measure of success in his agricultural interests, and has long been numbered among the prosperous and enterprising citizens of Ford county, having won a competence through the utilization of his native talents, combined with untiring perseverance and unabating energy.

In 1863 Mr. Short was joined in wedlock to Miss Martha Ann Philips, whose birth occurred in Putnam county, Illinois, in 1848, her parents being William and Martha (Roy) Philips, who were early settlers of this state and who died when their daughter, Mrs. Short, the youngest in their family of six children, was but two years of age. She is now the only survivor of the family, and by her marriage has become the mother of nine children, namely: George E., deceased; William, who makes his home in Iowa; Edward, who also resides in that state; James and Frank, both of whom have passed away; Mary E., the wife of Fred Sharp, of Wyoming; James B., who operates the homestead farm; Charles, who has also departed this life; and Nellie, who

became the wife of Frank Foster and resides in Ford county. Our subject and his wife now have twenty grandchildren living.

In his political views Mr. Short is a democrat and has served as school director for nine years. He was reared in the Catholic faith but his wife and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally he is connected with the Masonic lodge at Melvin. Mr. and Mrs. Short started out in life empty-handed, but have since accumulated a good fortune, enabling them to spend their remaining days surrounded by many of the comforts and luxuries which go to make life worth living. They have gained an extensive circle of friends during the long period of their residence in this county, their genuine personal worth commending them to the confidence and esteem of all with whom they have come in contact.

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#### JOHN H. DECKER.

John H. Decker has for fourteen years been a resident of Ford county, where he is now engaged extensively and successfully in the raising of stock of high grades, being well known in this regard. He was born in Williamsburg, West Virginia, August 8, 1867, and was the second in order of birth in a family of four sons and three daughters whose parents are Nathaniel Green and Louisa B. (Hinkle) Decker, both of whom are natives of West Virginia, and still reside in that state, the father following the occupation of black-smithing.

John H. Decker spent his early boyhood under the parental roof, and when thirteen years of age started out in business life on his own account, working as a farm hand to the age of eighteen. Thinking to find better business opportunities and to acquire success more quickly in the west, he made his way to the western part of Kansas, where he worked on a horse ranch for three years, going thence to McLean county, Illinois, where he resided for five or six years. He next made his way to Piper City, Ford county, and for about fourteen years has resided within the boundaries of this county. During the entire period he has carried on farming and stock-raising, and has owned two or three different farms, but has sold them. He is now renting the John Stadler farms, one of two hundred and forty acres and the other of one hundred and sixty acres, both in Brenton township. Here he has resided for three years and is extensively and successfully

engaged in business as a stock farmer, having devoted the last ten years to stock-raising. He has horses, cattle and hogs, and upon his place today are found twenty-five head of Percheron draft horses, all of which are thorough-breds, and he has won a number of premiums on exhibiting his stock. He also raises pure bred shorthorn cattle and has a pure Scotch bull, Gloster, at the head of his herd, which numbers thirty registered animals. He also keeps pure bred Duroc Jersey hogs, having one hundred and twenty-five upon the farm at present. As a stock dealer he has become very widely known and his business is extensive and profitable.

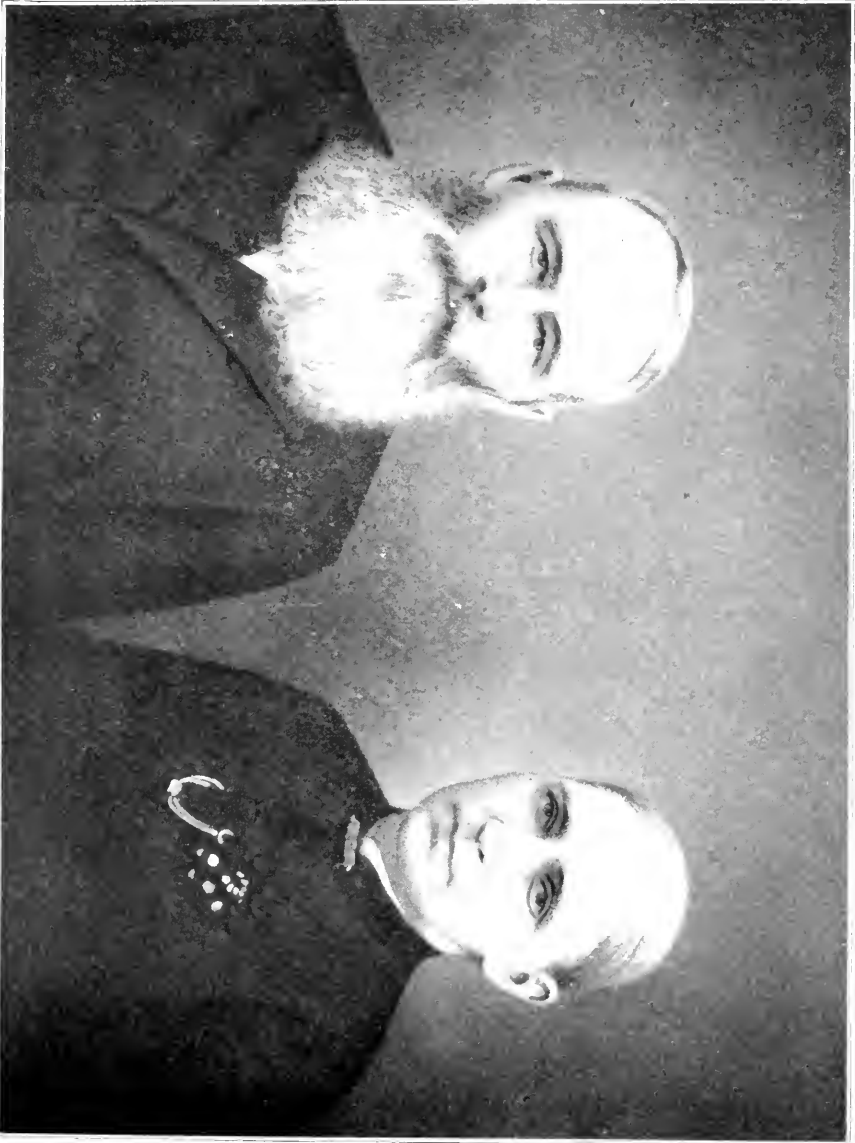
In 1891 Mr. Decker was united in marriage to Miss Katharine Irene King, a native of Ohio and a daughter of John and Lena ( Myre ) King, the former a native of Germany, and the latter of Ohio. The father was brought to the United States by his parents when only five weeks old. From Ohio he removed to this county, settling in Brenton township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Decker have been born four children: Nina, Leota, Iona and John Green.

Mr. Decker is a democrat and a public-spirited citizen, giving loyal support to many measures for the general good. He has served as school officer, and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. He is also a director of the Ford County Fair & Driving Association, and is a Master Mason of Piper City lodge. He likewise belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen camp, and is loyal to the teachings of these organizations. He may well be termed a self-made man, deserving all the credit which that term implies, for he started out on his own account when a youth of thirteen years, and has since depended upon his own resources for the success he has achieved. He is now one of the best known stock-dealers of Ford county, and has done much to improve the grade of stock raised in this part of the state.

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#### JAMES W. HERRON.

James W. Herron, in whose death Ford county lost a valued citizen, was for many years connected with general agricultural pursuits in this part of the state and the salient qualities of his character were such as commended him to the confidence, good will and high regard of those who knew him. He was born in Georgetown, Brown county, Ohio, August 21, 1825, his parents being John and Elizabeth (Killwell) Herron. The mother, who was of Scotch lineage, died in



MIR. AND MRS. J. W. HERRON





Ohio, while the father, who was of Irish descent, spent his last days in Woodford county, Illinois. In their family were three sons and three daughters, namely: Mrs. Jane McCoy, deceased; Killwell, who served in defense of the Union in the Civil war and is now deceased; Mrs. Rebecca Johnson, who has also passed away; James W., of this review; Mrs. Mary McCoy, deceased; and Andrew, who died in Ford county.

James W. Herron was reared in the state of his nativity and his environments were largely those of pioneer life, for it was during the early period of Ohio's development. He enlisted for service in the Mexican war but was rejected on account of having an injured foot. He was a young man of about twenty-three years when he came with his parents to Illinois, the family home being established in Woodford county. James W. Herron took up his abode upon a farm adjoining his father's place on the west, having there a tract of land of eighty acres, the father giving each of his children eighty acres of land. Upon that place he lived for about six years and in 1854 removed to another farm of ninety acres. Throughout his entire business career he carried on general agricultural pursuits, working diligently and persistently year after year to provide for his family. In February, 1885, he removed to Ford county, settling on a farm in Brenton township. He became the owner of two hundred acres of which eighty acres was in one tract and one hundred and twenty in another, about a mile apart. Upon his farm in Ford county he resided, until his death, which occurred on the 31st of October, 1896, when he had reached the age of seventy-one years. After coming to Illinois he worked at the carpenter's trade for a time but with the exception of a brief period he always gave his attention to a general agricultural pursuits and his practical methods and unflinching industry constituted the foundation upon which he built his success.

On the 6th of April, 1854, Mr. Herron was married to Miss Carrie Trunnell, who was born near Georgetown in Brown county, Ohio, November 29, 1837, and died in Woodford county, Illinois, when about forty-two years of age. They were the parents of nine children, of whom six are yet living, namely: John, a resident farmer of Brenton township; George W., who is living in Woodford county, this state; James P., who is living on the old homestead farm in Brenton township; Mary E., the wife of Joseph Tracy, of Brown county, Ohio; Minnie B., the wife of Samuel Wells, who is located in Brenton township; and Nellie, who is the widow of George Ross and resides with Mrs. Herron in Piper City. After losing his first wife Mr. Herron was again married, in 1881, his second union being with Miss Mary Elizabeth Berry, who was born in Brown county, Ohio, in the same neighborhood as her husband. Her natal day was February 1, 1835.

and her parents were Samuel and Rebecca (Hamilton) Berry, natives of Brown and of Trumbull counties, Ohio respectively, their entire lives being passed in the Buckeye state. In their family were eight children: Lorinda Espey, deceased; Mrs. Jane Ward, of Ohio; Mrs. Lilla Petticorn; Mrs. Anna Pareell; Mrs. Herron; Mrs. Amanda Richards; Robert W., of Ohio; and Marens. Both sons engaged in teaching school for many years and are now located on farms in the Buckeye state.

In his political views Mr. Herron was a stalwart republican but never sought nor desired office. While decided in his views and holding firmly to the principles in which he believed, he was never an agitator. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church at Piper City and his belief permeated his entire life, making him an honest, upright man. He was rather quiet and retiring in disposition but his genuine worth was recognized by all who knew him and at all times he did his full duty to his family, his friends and his country.

Mrs. Herron, still surviving her husband, has made her home during the past nine years in Piper City and erected the residence that she now occupies. She is a lady whom to know is to esteem and love. Her spirit is kindly, gentle and generous and to her step-children she has done a mother's full part and is loved by them with the same affection that would be given to an own mother. Her circle of friends is coextensive with the circle of her acquaintances and it is with genuine pleasure that we present the record of her life to the readers of this volume.

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#### JAMES CRAWFORD.

James Crawford is one of the extensive landowners of Ford county and all that he possesses has been acquired entirely through his own labors. His life record should serve to encourage and inspire others who have to start out as he did, empty-handed. Soon coming to a realization of the value of untiring industry, he has by persistent effort gained the place which he now occupies as one of the substantial residents of this part of the state. He makes his home in Ford county but is of Irish birth, although he was only ten years of age when the family came to America. He was born in County Clair, Ireland, April 12, 1838, his parents being Michael and Margaret (Flarity) Crawford.

When ten years of age the mother crossed the Atlantic with her family, landing at Quebec. The husband and father had died the previous year and

thus upon the mother devolved the support and care of her little ones. They settled in Ontario, near Hamilton, and in the fall of 1852 removed to Niagara county, New York. In the spring of 1857 they came to Illinois, taking up their abode about five miles south of Earlville, in La Salle county. There for many years Mr. Crawford followed farming and in 1875 he came to Ford county, settling on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 21, Peach Orchard township. In 1862 he had made his first purchase of land, joining his brother John in buying eighty acres in La Salle county. At the time of his marriage, however, he sold his interest in this farm to his brother and bought another tract of eighty acres. As the years have passed he has worked persistently and energetically to achieve success, and as his financial resources have increased he has invested more and more largely in property until he now owns six hundred acres of valuable Illinois land, of which five hundred and twenty acres lie in Peach Orchard township, and the remainder on section 15, Germanville township, Livingston county. Year after year Mr. Crawford carried on the work of his farm with the result that he annually gathered good harvests which found a ready sale on the market. He continued actively in agricultural work until the spring of 1900, when he put aside the more arduous duties of a business career and removed to Melvin, where he is now living retired. He had taken unbroken prairie and transformed it into fine farming property. Much of the land was wet and there were many duck ponds on it, but he drained and tiled it and made many substantial improvements. His first purchase in Ford county was made in 1872, but he did not take up his abode thereon until 1875. He gave seventeen dollars per acre for this tract, which comprises a quarter section, and as stated, he has since added to his possessions from time to time as opportunity has offered, until he is now one of the extensive landowners of the county. In addition to his property here, he has four hundred and eighty acres in Noble county, Minnesota, making a total of ten hundred and eighty acres. His business record is certainly most creditable, for all has been acquired through his own labors and the assistance of his children, to whom he gives much credit for the aid they have rendered him.

At the time of the Civil war, James Crawford enlisted at Chicago in February, 1865, as a member of Company L, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, under Captain Wilts, and was sent to Eastport, Mississippi, but took part in no engagements. There were not enough horses to mount all of the troops, so only a number of them participated in Wilson's raid, and Mr. Crawford was not of the number. He continued with his command until mustered out at Springfield in October, 1865. His health was considerably injured by the

hardships of war, as he suffered a sunstroke and was ill with ague for a year. He was formerly a member of the Grand Army post at Melvin until it was disbanded owing to an insufficient number of members.

Mr. Crawford's mother is still living and is now in her ninety-sixth year. In 1875 she became the wife of a Mr. Carpenter, and following his death she lived with her son James until about six years ago, when she went to Bloomington, Illinois. In the family were eight children, of whom five died in Ireland, while three came to America. Of these John who accumulated extensive landed possessions, died on his farm in Peach Orchard township, November 15, 1899. James is the second in order of birth and Martin Crawford is a resident of Ottawa, Illinois.

In 1866 James Crawford was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Roark, who was born at Long Island, New York, June 6, 1841, and died in Melvin, February 22, 1907. Her parents came to Illinois in 1856 and she arrived in January, 1858. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Crawford were born eleven children, John R., who is now living on his father's old homestead; Mary E., at home; Thomas, on the farm; James, who is operating a part of the old home place; Margaret, the wife of P. H. Freihl, of Germanville; Catharine, the wife of John Mulchey, living near Rankin, Illinois; Nora, who died at the age of two years; Frank, who is upon the farm; Lucy, at home; Gertrude and Walter. The sons John and Thomas have a large plantation of two thousand eight hundred acres in Mississippi, on the delta, fourteen miles north of Vicksburg.

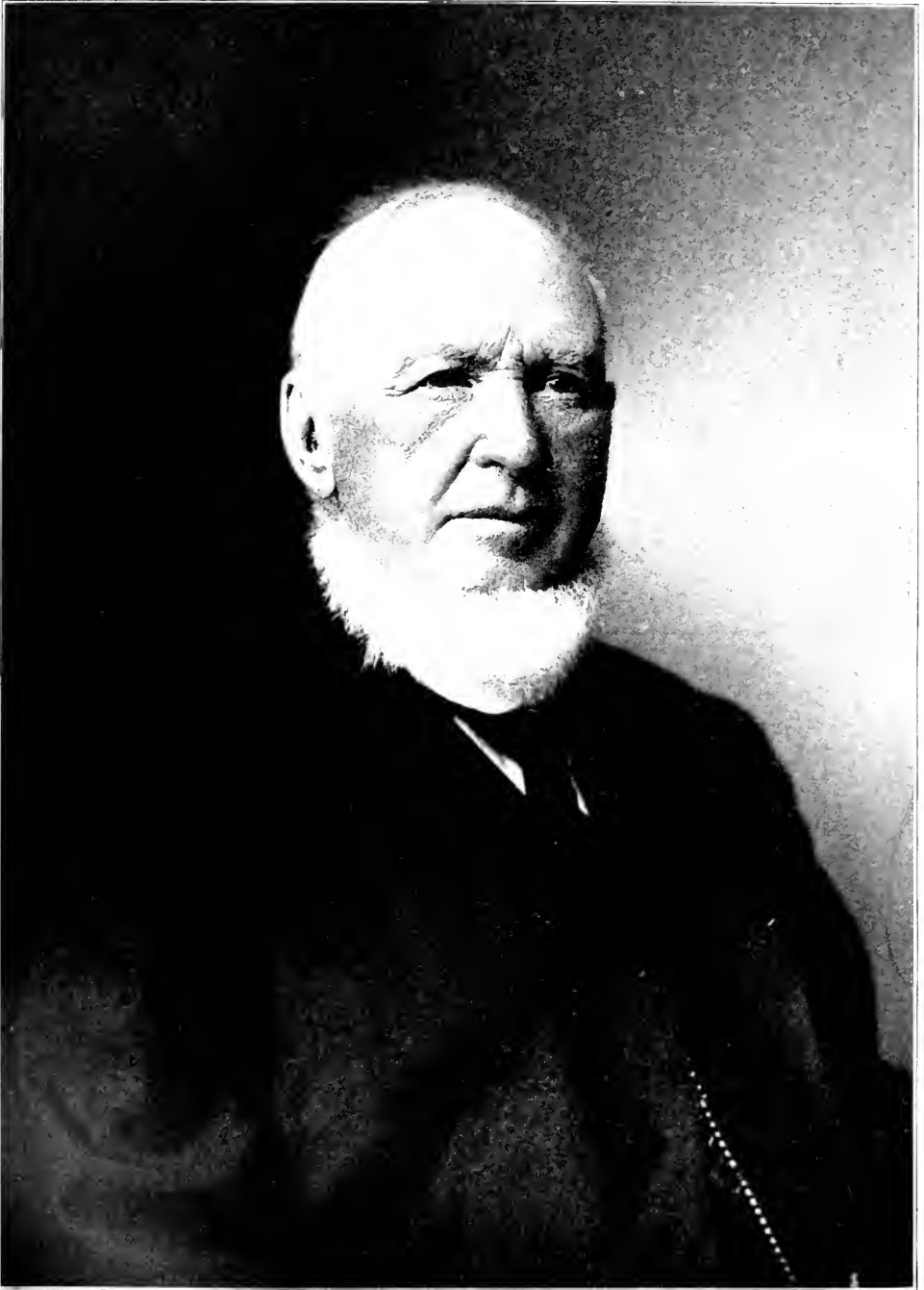
Mr. Crawford cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln and was a republican until General Grant's second term, when he joined the greenback party and later the democracy, but is now independent in politics. For many years he served as school director and was on the town board for a time. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Catholic church. He has lived a life of industry, perseverance and enterprise, and well merits the splendid success which has crowned his labors.

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#### RICHARD TRIGGER.

Richard Trigger, whose age exceeds the Psalmist's span of three score years and ten, has long been accounted one of the leading and prominent farmers of Ford county. He was born in Devonshire, England, March 10, 1833, his parents being John and Mary (Quick) Trigger, who were likewise





RICHARD TRIGGER



MRS. RICHARD TRIGGER





natives of Devonshire. After their son emigrated to the new world they also crossed the Atlantic to America and made their way into the interior of the country. From that time on they were residents of Peoria county until called to their final rest, Mr. Trigger passing away when about sixty-four years of age, while his wife died at the age of seventy-one years. They were the parents of nine children, of whom three died in infancy. The others were: John; Mary, now deceased; Elizabeth and William, who have also passed away; James, who is located in Peoria county; and Richard.

The last named was reared at his English home, remaining upon his father's farm there until eighteen years of age. In the meantime favorable reports reached him concerning America and the business opportunities here afforded. Accordingly he made his way to the United States and in 1851 reached Peoria, Illinois, in company with two brothers and a sister, Richard Trigger being the youngest. He lived in Peoria county for about five years and then went to Stark county, where he continued for eleven years. In 1869 he arrived in Ford county, where he has since made his home, and with its interests he has been closely and helpfully associated. He belongs to that class of representative American men who while promoting individual success also contribute to the public welfare. He had only about seven dollars on his arrival from England and this was largely exhausted when he reached Peoria. His financial condition rendered immediate employment a necessity and he worked by the month as a farm hand for about three years upon the farm of Bishop Case. Desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself he then rented a farm in Peoria county and afterward in Stark county, where he remained until he came to Ford county. Mr. Trigger then bought one hundred and sixteen acres of his home place and to this farm has added from time to time until he now has six hundred and forty acres of land lying on sections 11 and 1, Wall township, and also eighty acres on section 10 and eighty acres on section 1. All of the improvements here have been made by Mr. Trigger. There are three sets of buildings and the farm is devoted to the raising of grain and stock. This is the second largest farm in Wall township, the other being an estate. Mr. Trigger sold six thousand bushels of corn in the fall of 1907 and one year sold eight thousand bushels. He has used about two thousand bushels in feeding his stock and has sold as high as sixty head of hogs one year. He has also fed five carloads of cattle and his stock-raising interests have proved very profitable. His entire life has been devoted to farming. He paid twenty-five dollars per acre for his first prairie land, which is today worth from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars per acre.

In 1855 Mr. Trigger was married to Miss Elizabeth Ann Stoves, who was born in Durham county, England, in 1837 and died here in August, 1906. She came with her parents, Jacob and Mary Stoves, to America just prior to the emigration of Mr. Trigger. Mr. and Mrs. Trigger have the following named sons and daughters: Thomas, who is with his father; John, living in Wall township; Jacob, a resident of Oklahoma; Mary, the wife of William Ramshaw, of Wall township; Phoebe, the wife of Jacob Giep of Rantoul, Illinois; Helen, the wife of Clarence Patten, of Wall township; Alice, the wife of Orvil Andrews of Wall township; Mabel, the wife of Henry Irving, of the same township; and Louis, also of Wall township. They also lost three children, two dying in infancy, while Elizabeth passed away at the age of eight years.

Politically Mr. Trigger is independent. He has supported candidates of both the democratic and republican parties. He cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln and has always supported the measures which he deemed would prove of greatest benefit to locality, state or nation. For twenty-four years he served as highway commissioner and for six years was assessor of the township. He has been school director for thirty-six years, and his official duties are always discharged in prompt and able manner. Always mindful of responsibilities that devolve upon him as a citizen, he has given unflinching allegiance to those interests which tend to promote public progress and in his business life has conducted his affairs so actively and honorably that he has gained success and also the respect of his fellowmen.

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#### JAMES O. SULLIVAN.

James O. Sullivan, who was born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1826, died on the 16th of June, 1898, upon his farm on section 27, Mona township. His life record therefore covered seventy-two years—years that were fraught with successful accomplishments proving the strength of his character and his business ability. Although he had no special advantages in youth, he became one of the extensive landowners of Ford county, winning his success through judicious investments and honorable methods. His youth and early manhood were spent in the land of his birth, and in 1850 he came to America with his father, Lott Sullivan, and his two brothers, Ed and Lott Sullivan, Jr. They made their way to Reading, Pennsylvania, where they worked by the month as farm hands. The year 1853, however, witnessed their arrival in Peoria

county, Illinois, all of the family coming at that time. They rented a farm and the family have since been closely associated with the agricultural interests of this state. The mother died in Ireland previous to the emigration of the family to the new world. One brother of our subject, Michael Sullivan, died in La Salle county, and William is still living there. Lott is a resident of Minonk, Illinois. John, now deceased, reared a family of sixteen children. Dennis is also living in La Salle county. Michael, the eldest of the brothers, reared five families, having two sets of children by different marriages, and died in La Salle county in 1905, when more than one hundred years of age. He was widely known as a horseman and raised some of the finest horses ever seen in La Salle county. He lived five miles from Minonk, and such was his physical vigor and activity that at the age of eighty years he would prefer walking to riding into town.

James O. Sullivan was identified with agricultural interests in Peoria county until his removal to La Salle county, where he again carried on general agricultural pursuits. Some time later he sold out there and in 1873 came to Ford county, where his remaining days were passed. He located on section 27, Mona township, and made it his place of abode until he was called to the home beyond. His purchase embraced one-half of the section and for this property he paid thirty dollars per acre. There were only four or five families in the vicinity at that time and the country was wild and proved an excellent hunting ground. Many people visited the region in order to engage in hunting, and Mr. Sullivan's home was frequently the place of entertainment for them. Professional men, statesmen and various distinguished citizens sought shelter in his hospitable home while as disciples of Nimrod they engaged in the chase in this section of the state. Mr. Sullivan himself cared little for hunting, but his son became quite expert in bringing down game with the rifle.

When Mr. Sullivan took up his abode upon this farm there was a story-and-a-half house upon it, sixteen by twenty-four feet. In 1880 he rebuilt this, converting it into a residence of eight rooms, which was later used as a tenant house. Two families had occupied the little story-and-a-half dwelling before the Sullivan family took up their abode there. Five years ago the present beautiful home was erected. It is a palatial dwelling of fifteen rooms, being the largest and finest residence in Mona township. As the years passed Mr. Sullivan continued the work of cultivating and improving his farm, and as his financial resources increased he added to the property from time to time, his second purchase bringing him one hundred and twenty acres on section 32. Subsequently he bought eighty acres on the same section and later one

hundred and sixty acres on section 33. He also owned one hundred and sixty acres in La Salle county before his removal to Ford county. At one time he had twelve hundred head of cattle which he took to herd, utilizing the land east of him as pasturage, while his home place was largely devoted to the raising of grain. His business methods measure up to the full standard of upright dealing and the secret of his success lay in his close application, his unremitting industry and his keen business discernment.

In the fall of 1856 Mr. Sullivan was married, in Peoria, Illinois, to Miss Sarah Dawes, who was born in Ireland about forty miles from Dublin on the 20th of December, 1830. In 1849 she crossed the Atlantic to New Orleans, thence proceeded up the river to St. Louis and on to Peoria, making the journey with her parents, Michael and Bridget (McCort) Dawes. Her father died in New Orleans of ship fever the night after the family landed, leaving six daughters and two sons, the latter being ten and five years of age respectively. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan were born eight children: Bernard, residing at home; William, who was born in 1859 and died on the home farm in March, 1892, at the age of thirty-two years; Maggie, at home; Sarah, the wife of George Koerner, who resides in Mona township; Rose, James and Mary, all at home; and Kittie, the wife of R. A. Fruin of Ashton, Illinois. Mrs. Sullivan died in March, 1908.

The family own ten hundred and eighty acres, all in Mona township, and are numbered among the prominent and leading representatives of agricultural life in Ford county. To his family Mr. Sullivan left not only a good property, but also an untarnished name. For the greater part of a century he lived in the county and those who knew him respected him for his many good traits of character. His sons are carrying on the work which he began and the Sullivan property is classed with the valuable real estate of this part of Illinois.

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#### DELOSS P. FARLEY.

An excellent farm property of three hundred and twenty acres, comprising the half of section 23, Rogers township, is the property of Deloss P. Farley, who is well known as a successful raiser of grain and stock. His life record began in Somonauk township, De Kalb county, Illinois, September 7, 1852. His paternal grandfather, Samuel Chandler Farley, was a native of Pennsylvania,



MIR. AND MRS. D. P. FARLEY



devoting his life to farming, and died in Illinois. His family numbered four sons and two daughters, including Isaac Perry Farley, who was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, November 22, 1829, and died in Chicago, Illinois, November 1, 1892, when in the sixty-third year of his age. He accompanied his parents on their removal westward from Pennsylvania to La Salle county, Illinois, and his remaining days were spent in this state. Throughout his active business career he followed farming and when he retired he took up his abode in Chicago. At one time he owned all of section 23, Rogers township, except eighty acres, and he also had two hundred and forty acres two miles to the north in Norton township, Kankakee county. His property interests likewise included two large flat buildings in Chicago. His success, which was creditable and enviable, was all acquired through his farming operations and his judicious investments, and as a business man his life was characterized by high standards of commercial integrity. His religious faith was that of the Baptist church, and politically he was a republican. In early manhood he married Balinda Eddy, of Utica, New York, who died at Waterman, Illinois, although her home was in Chicago at that time. She passed away in 1903, at the age of sixty years. Her parents were Henry and Eunice Eddy, who came to Illinois from New York and died in De Kalb county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Farley were born five children: William K., a resident of Fulton, Illinois; Deloss P.; Eugene V., who died in Chicago; Herford E., also deceased; and Mrs. Elmore Sapp, who has likewise passed away.

Deloss P. Farley remained with his father through the period of his minority, his time being divided between the work of the fields, the duties of the schoolroom and the pleasures of the playground. When twenty-one years of age he came to Mona township, Ford county, and resided on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres given him by his father. There he lived for five years, after which he sold that property and took up his abode in Rogers township. He has lived most of the time in this part of the state although nine years ago he went to De Kalb county, where he resided for a year and a half. He afterward spent two years in Chicago in the clamp and nail business in connection with his brother Eugene V., under the firm name of E. V. Farley & Company. On the expiration of that period he became a resident of Herscher, Kankakee county, Illinois, where he resided until the spring of 1905, when he came to the farm upon which he now makes his home. He has owned this property for fifteen years and it is a valuable tract of land of three hundred and twenty acres, comprising the west half of section 23, Rogers township. He also yet owns his residence property in Herscher. His

farm is well cultivated and in the pastures are found good grades of stock, while the fields annually produce rich harvests.

On the 8th of July 1874, Mr. Farley was married to Miss Adelia N. Townsend, of DeKalb county, Illinois, born April 20, 1857, her parents being Silas and Augusta (Culver) Townsend, who are now residents of Herscher. Her grandfather, Avery Townsend, was a soldier of the war of 1812, and her great-grandfather was in the Revolutionary war. Mr. and Mrs. Farley have three children, Alida, Eugene and Edmur. The last two are at home, while Alida is the wife of Edward Bartlett, living near Roswell, New Mexico. They have two children, Walter and Blanche. Mr. and Mrs. Farley lost two children in August, 1880: Perry S., who died at the age of five years; and Edith, at the age of two years.

On Sunday night, August 26, 1907, Mr. Farley's barn, a structure forty-two by forty-four feet, with twenty-two feet posts, was destroyed by fire, together with all its contents, including thirty tons of hay, five sets of harness and five head of horses. There was also a corn barn destroyed, twenty-eight by forty-two feet, containing sixteen hundred bushels of oats. The cause of the fire has never been ascertained. The loss was partially covered by insurance and Mr. Farley is now engaged in the erection of new buildings.

In his political views Mr. Farley is an earnest republican believing thoroughly in the principles of the party, yet without desire for office. He belongs to the Mystic Workers and the Modern Woodmen Camp, and is a valued member of the Presbyterian church at Cabery, in which he is now serving as a trustee. His business interests have been carefully conducted, his duties of citizenship capably performed and at all times he has been true to the obligations and responsibilities that have devolved upon him in every relation of life, making him one of the worthy and much respected citizens of Rogers township.

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#### JUDGE J. H. MOFFETT.

Illinois has always been distinguished for the high rank of her bench and bar. Perhaps none of the middle west states can boast of abler jurists or attorneys. Among those who have conferred honor and dignity upon the bar of the eleventh circuit none are more entitled to mention than Judge John H. Moffett, in whom were united many of the rare qualities which go to make up



the successful lawyer and jurist. As a practitioner and upon the bench he displayed not only a high order of ability but also a rare combination of talent, learning, tact, patience and industry. Moreover he held to high ideals in citizenship and in private life, winning the love of family and friends and the respect and honor of all with whom he came in contact.

Judge Moffett was a native son of Illinois, having been born in Clayton, Adams county, on the 25th of February, 1856. His parents were Samuel R. and Mary (Strong) Moffett, who were natives of South Carolina, and in 1834 left that state, removing to Monroe county, Indiana, where they resided until 1855. That year witnessed their arrival in Adams county, Illinois, and ten years later they became residents of Paxton, where the father made his home until called to his final rest in 1879.

Judge Moffett was a youth of nine summers at the time of the removal of the family from Adams county to Paxton, and there in the public schools he continued his education until he had mastered the common branches of learning, while later he pursued a more advanced course of two years in the college at Monmouth, Illinois. His choice of a profession fell upon the law, and he began studying in the office of John R. Kinnear, under whose direction he thoroughly acquainted himself with many of the basic principles of jurisprudence and was admitted to the bar in 1880. Such was the esteem which his preceptor had for him, both personally and professionally, that he admitted him to a partnership and thus he entered upon the active practice of his chosen profession. At a later date Judge Moffett became a member of the firm of Tipton, Moffett & Day, which relation was maintained until Judge Tipton was called to the bench. The other gentlemen continued their partnership relations for several years and upon the dissolution of the firm Mr. Moffett was joined by M. L. McQuiston in a partnership which continued until Judge Moffett's election to the bench in 1897. The successful lawyer and the competent judge must be a man of well balanced intellect, thoroughly familiar with the law and practice, of comprehensive general information, possessed of an analytical mind and a self-control that will enable him to lose his individuality, his personal feelings, his prejudices and his peculiarities of disposition in the dignity, impartiality and equity of the office to which life, property, right and liberty must look for protection. Possessing these qualities, Judge Moffett justly merited the high honor which was conferred upon him by his elevation to the bench and his decisions were proof that the confidence reposed in him was well placed. That the public endorsed his course was indicated by his reelection in 1903 by the largest majority given to a republican candidate.

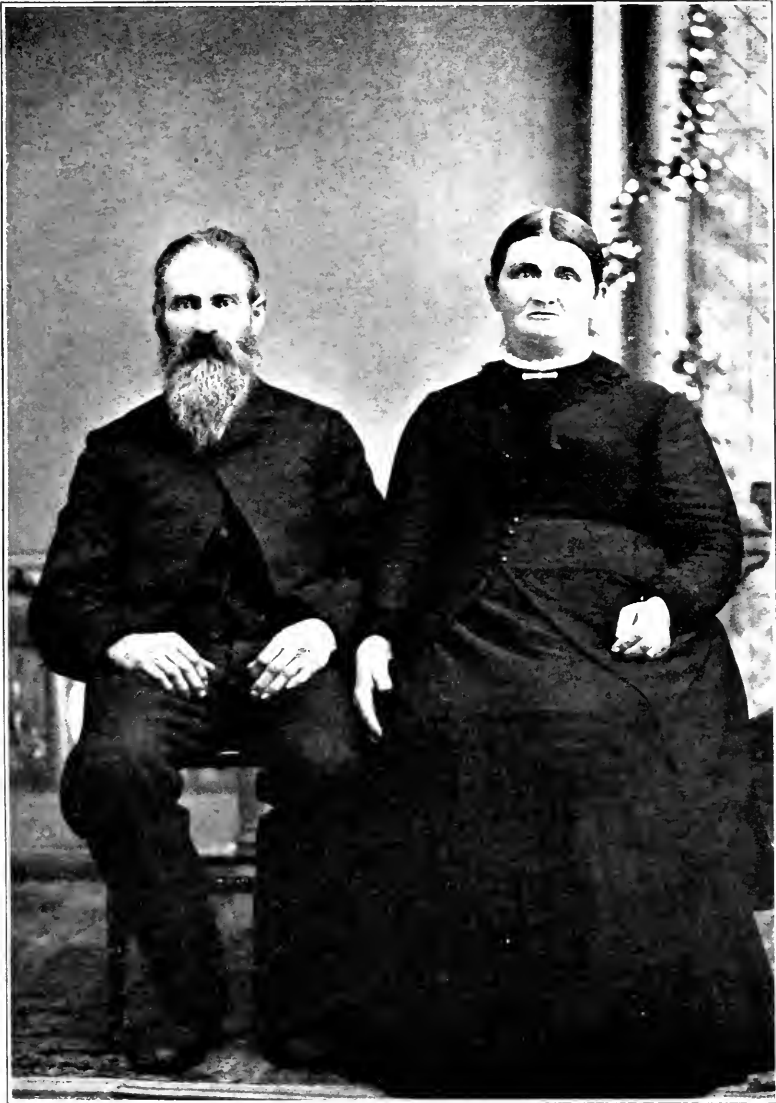
On the 16th of May, 1878, occurred the marriage of Judge Moffett and Miss Martha S. Gray, of Loda, Illinois, a daughter of Samuel and Mary J. Gray. They became the parents of five children but two died in infancy, while the sons, Claude, Carl and Donald, are still at home with their mother. Judge Moffett was devoted to the welfare of his wife and children, theirs being largely an ideal family relation. His interest centered in his home and he regarded no personal sacrifice on his part too great if it would promote the happiness or enhance the best interests of those who were nearest and dearest to him. His life span covered less than fifty years, and yet it may well be termed a life of successful accomplishment. He lived to attain an honored and prominent place in his profession and to enjoy the highest regard and respect of his fellowmen. One who knew him well said of him: "We are able to bear testimony to his manliness of character, his indomitable industry and sterling integrity. As a citizen he always showed commendable enterprise and as a husband and father was a model of all domestic virtues. To the bench and bar his death comes as a distinct loss. His knowledge of the law impelled the highest respect for his decisions and his fairness and courtesy endeared him to all with whom he was brought into personal relations. Probably no other judge in this district ever possessed the confidence and esteem of the bar to a greater degree."

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#### AMOS ROBBINS THOMPSON.

Amos R. Thompson, who spent his last years in Ford county, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Mercer county, in 1829, his father being a miller of that state. It was during the boyhood of our subject that he left there and went to Washington, Kentucky, where he worked at the cabinet maker's trade for about nine or ten years, and in 1849 came to Illinois.

For some time Mr. Thompson made his home in Schuyler county and there he was married in 1852 to Miss Martha Winslow Smith, who was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1832 and was a representative of an old Virginia family. They became the parents of nine children, of whom seven still survive, namely: Mary, the wife of Thomas Reed, now living in Indian Territory; A. C. and John A., both farmers of Pella township, Ford county; Ruth L., the wife of William Sullivan, of Oklahoma; Clarissa; Benjamin S.,



MR. AND MRS. A. R. THOMPSON



who is also a farmer of Pella township; and Charlotte Columbia, who became the wife of J. P. Glass. James is deceased.

After leaving Schuyler county, Mr. Thompson was engaged in farming in Woodford county, Illinois, for five years, and from there removed to McLean county. In 1859 he sold his property in this state and went to Utah, where he made his home for eighteen months, and on the expiration of that period returned to McLean county, Illinois, locating on a farm, which he cultivated for about fifteen years. On selling that place he removed to Iroquois county in 1874 and ten years later came to Ford county, where his remaining days were passed. During his residence here, however, he was in poor health most of the time and he died in 1894.

By his ballot Mr. Thompson supported the men and measures of the democratic party, and he was a faithful and consistent member of the Christian church. Upright and honorable in all that he did, he gained the confidence and respect of those with whom he came in contact and his death was widely and sincerely mourned.

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#### SVEN A. LUNDGREN, M. D.

Dr. Sven Adolph Lundgren, a successful practitioner in Paxton, was born in Westergotland near the town of Skara, Sweden, June 23, 1858. No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of life for him in his boyhood and youth, which were largely devoted to the acquirement of a public-school education. At fifteen years of age he went to Stockholm, Sweden, where he began providing for his own support as an employe in a drug store, learning the business and becoming eventually a pharmacist, taking his first examination in 1877. Three years were passed in that way, after which he went to the town of Soleftig in the northern part of Sweden, where he was identified with the drug business for three years and there finished his laboratory work. Ambitious to make rapid progress in the business world and feeling that broader opportunities were offered in the United States, he crossed the Atlantic to America, settling in Chicago, where he immediately took up the study of medicine.

His brother, Dr. Leonard Lundgren, had come to this country eight years before and was a graduate of the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College. It was through his influence that Dr. Lundgren of this review determined to

adopt the medical profession as a life work and therefore entered the same institution in which his brother had pursued his professional education. He was graduated therefrom as a member of the class of 1883 and began practice in Chicago, opening an office at No. 210 Oak street on the north side, where he remained for two or three years. He then removed his office down town in the old Central Music Hall and conducted a successful practice for five years. In 1891 he established his office and residence in Englewood, where he continued in practice for thirteen years or until April, 1904, when he removed to Paxton, having in the succeeding four years built up a lucrative practice here, so that he is now numbered among the leading physicians of the city.

Dr. Lundgren was married in 1885 to Miss Aleda J. Lamblee, of Chicago. They have three children: Anna, deceased; Henry Adolph, who is a graduate of the Paxton high school and is now employed in the Nordgren hardware store, of this city; and Charles Theodore.

Dr. Lundgren gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He belongs to the Congregational church, of which he is now serving as trustee and treasurer, and in the work of the church is deeply and actively interested. He belongs to the Paxton Club, of which he is a trustee, and he is also a valued representative of Paxton Lodge, No. 418, I. O. O. F., and Paxton Lodge of the Court of Honor. In professional lines he is connected with the Bi-County Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and is interested in all that promotes a knowledge of the human body—the onslaughts made upon it by disease and the possibilities for recovery through the use of remedial agencies. He is conscientious and faithful in the discharge of his professional duties and in his practice conforms closely to a high standard of professional ethics.

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#### MRS. JANE E. DIXON.

Mrs. Jane E. Dixon, well known in Ford county, where she has many warm friends, is a native of Marshall county, Illinois, born June 12, 1838. Her parents were Cornelius and Ann (Sidell) Hunt, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume in connection with the sketch of her brother, John S. Hunt. She is the widow of James Dixon, who was born in Manchester, England, June 9, 1836, and died at his home in Melvin, Illinois, May 12, 1904, at the age of sixty-seven years, eleven months and three days. He came to

America with his parents when five years of age, the family home being established in Putnam county, Illinois, where they resided for a number of years. They afterward removed to Connecticut, but remained there for only a year and then took up their abode in Wisconsin. Another year passed and they returned to Illinois, settling in La Salle county, where James Dixon was reared to manhood. During the period of his youth he aided in the work of the farm as his age and strength permitted, and received practical training in the labors that thus devolved upon him, becoming well qualified for future work of that character. At the time of the Civil war, however, he put aside all personal considerations and joined the army, enlisting in 1861, in response to the first call for volunteers. He was assigned to duty with Company G, Seventeenth Illinois Infantry, and after serving for one year was transferred to the navy under Commodore Foote as a member of the crew of the flagship Brenton. His position was in this regard often a most perilous one, and because of the greater danger a year was deducted from his term of enlistment. When his term had expired he returned to his home with a creditable military record, having done faithful, loyal service as a soldier.

On the 8th of October, 1865, Mr. Dixon was united in marriage to Miss Jane E. Hunt, and as the years passed seven children were added to the household, namely: Mary S., now the wife of George Worthington, who is living in Melvin, Illinois; C. H., a resident of California; James B., who is located in Ford county; Laura, the wife of James Cooper, whose home is in Livingston county, this state; Adelaide, the wife of C. A. Hildreth, whose home is in Ford county; J. M., who is located in Bloomington; and Grace, deceased.

In the year 1886 Mr. and Mrs. Dixon removed to Ford county, Illinois, where he resided until his death, with the exception of two years spent in Saybrook, this state. While there located he conducted a meat market and was among those who suffered heavy losses through the great fire which swept over that town several years ago. At the time of his death he was the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Peach Orchard township, Ford county, but since his demise his widow has disposed of that property. Mr. Dixon was a devoted and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a man whose life was at all times actuated by high and honorable principles. He enjoyed the respect and confidence of those who knew him, and was ever worthy of the trust which was given him. In the work of the church he was deeply and actively interested and was serving as one of the church trustees at the time of his demise. In politics he was a republican, interested in the work of the party and doing all he could to

promote the growth and extend the influence of that great political organization. For ten years he served as school director and the cause of education found in him a stalwart friend. Called to his final rest, his remains were laid in the Melvin cemetery, while his loss was deeply mourned by many friends as well as his immediate family. He left his children the priceless heritage of an untarnished name and an example well worthy of emulation.

Mrs. Dixon now owns and occupies a fine residence in the village of Melvin. She taught school for ten terms prior to her marriage and has always advocated those interests which promote the general culture and mental and moral progress. Her entire life has been passed in this section, where she has many friends.

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#### B. S. THOMPSON.

Although he started out in life empty-handed, B. S. Thompson is now one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers of Pella township. He was born in Woodford county, Illinois, in 1866, and is a son of A. R. and M. W. Thompson, who are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. As a farm lad the subject of this review became familiar with the work of the fields, assisting his father from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn. During the winter months he attended the public schools and in the school of experience he has also learned many valuable lessons. His early training, under the direction of his father, well qualified him to engage in farming on his own account when he attained his majority.

For two years Mr. Thompson rented a farm in Iroquois county and then came to Ford county, where he cultivated rented land for ten years. In the meantime, careful of expenditure and displaying unremitting industry in his work, he acquired the capital which in 1895 enabled him to purchase a farm of three hundred and twenty acres of rich land on section 27, Pella township. Later he bought an adjoining tract of one hundred and twenty acres, so that he now owns in his home place a valuable farm of four hundred and forty acres. This lies in Pella township and in addition he is interested with his brother A. C. Thompson in the ownership of four hundred and forty acres in Rock Island and Whiteside counties. His property interests are the visible evidence of a life of untiring thrift and energy, and proves what may be accomplished through well defined purpose and unflinching perseverance. In



carrying on his farm Mr. Thompson displays modern methods of agriculture, is practical and energetic, and has made his home place one of the valuable farm properties of the county.

In 1903 Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Mary Sherwin, and to them have been born two children, Martha Sherwin and Gwendolyn G. Mrs. Thompson belongs to the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Thompson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He was road commissioner and for seven years was school director. Whatever public service is entrusted to his care is faithfully performed and his aid and cooperation can always be counted upon to further any movement for the public good. He belongs to Piper City Lodge, No. 608, A. F. & A. M., and to the Knight Templar Commandery at Fairbury. He has been very successful through life and he now owns one of the finest farms of the Pan Handle valley.

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#### ALFRED PRESTON BAYLER.

Alfred Preston Bayler is now a retired farmer living in Roberts. For many years his life was one of intense and well directed activity as he carried on general agricultural pursuits and the years of his labor brought to him the competence that now enables him to live in well merited ease. He traces his ancestry back to Jacob Bayler, his great-grandfather, who was born in Germany and came to America with his son John on a sailing vessel. Before embarkation he agreed to pay a certain sum provided they crossed within a given time, and if not, to pay for the extra time required to make the voyage. They were much delayed on the passage because of rough seas and as Mr. Bayler was unable to pay the extra money, he sold his son John's time to one who would pay the passage for him and required the least length of service in return. Finally the arrangements were concluded whereby John Bayler was to work for seven years for a blacksmith at York, Pennsylvania. Jacob Bayler died at Hanover, Pennsylvania, in 1788. He crossed the Atlantic accompanied only by his son John, but brought the others of the family as he was able to do so, earning funds for their passage money. At his death he left six children: Jacob, Joseph, John, Mrs. Clowes, Mrs. Elizabeth Shultz and Mrs. Barbara Shaffer.

John Bayler, who had come with his father to the new world, was married, after attaining his majority, to Miss Katharine Kuhn, in 1813. He served his

country as a soldier in the war of 1812 and was present in defense of Baltimore. His death occurred May 30, 1832. His children were: Jacob Elder, now deceased; John, who died in Tazewell county, Illinois; Mrs. Elizabeth Stumbaugh, deceased; George, William and Katharine, who died in childhood; Henry, deceased; Joseph, who now resides in Oregon; and Mrs. Comfort Reader and Mrs. Amanda Smith, both of whom have passed away.

Of this family, George Bayler, the father of our subject, was born in Hanover county, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1819. At the age of four years he removed with his parents to Columbus, Ohio, where he remained until 1841. While there the father died and the family then came to Illinois in 1841, settling in Tazewell county, where George Bayler aided in the pioneer development of the locality. In 1845 he returned to Ohio and was married to Miss Elizabeth Flenkiken, who was born March 6, 1823, a daughter of Andrew Flenkiken, who served in the regular army during the battle of Lundy's Lane in the war of 1812, and was wounded by the explosion of a shell, which tore his arm to pieces. His wife bore the maiden name of Anna Mahan. All his life George Bayler followed the occupation of farming, and at his death left a good property of a half section of land. He died April 1, 1897, while living with his son Alfred at Emington, Illinois, and the mother died in January, 1908, at the home of Mr. Bayler in Roberts. There was one other child of the family, Joseph, who is now deceased.

Alfred Preston Bayler is a native of Illinois, having been born in Tazewell county, September 16, 1846. He was six years of age when his father removed from the timber to the prairie, and upon the home farm he remained until his marriage, assisting in the work of the field and meadow as the years went by, and gaining the practical experience and knowledge which well qualified him to carry on a farm of his own in later years. In October, 1869, he began operating part of his father's land and so continued until 1881, when he removed to Emington, Livingston county, and purchased one hundred and fourteen acres on section 17, Broughton township. There he lived until the spring of 1899, when he came to Roberts and, having sold his land in Livingston county, he bought two hundred and forty acres on section 27, Lyman township, a mile south of Roberts. His time and energies were then devoted to its further development and improvement until two years ago, when he built his present fine home in the village and has since lived retired, deriving a good income from his property and invested interests. He has made good use of his opportunities as the years have passed and, more than all, his success has been based upon unremitting labor.

In 1869 Mr. Bayler was married to Miss Nancy Elizabeth Van Meter, who was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, July 2, 1851, a daughter of Nathaniel and Corinna (Dorsey) Van Meter, who were natives of Kentucky and were reared and married there. They afterward resided in Indiana prior to taking up their abode in Tazewell county, Illinois, where the father died in 1865. The mother then came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Bayler, with whom she continued until her demise. Their family numbered six sons and four daughters.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bayler have been born the following named: Carrie Belle, who was born in July, 1870, became the wife of James Collins of Forrest, Illinois, and died June 2, 1901; Laura Alda, born January 27, 1874, became the wife of William Walden and died in Phoenix, Arizona, February 17, 1903; Jesse Gilbert, of Roberts, who was born July 2, 1875, was married February 26, 1902, to Carrie E. Stutzman and unto them have been born three children: Ruth, Florence and Gladys Marie. Lizzie Lenora, born February 2, 1878, is the wife of S. O. Burnett, living near Webster City, Iowa, and they have three children: Pearl, Grace Marie and Clifford Earl. Una Myrtle, born July 10, 1880, died when about fifteen years of age. Hattie Lucretia, born January 8, 1882, died when about three years of age. George Raymond, born October 9, 1883, and now following farming near Roberts, wedded Maude Stonebreaker and has one daughter, Ethel Evaline. Ernest Lee, born June 22, 1886, learned telegraphy and was an operator for a time, but is now a fireman on the Illinois Central Railroad in Iowa. Clarence Elton, born January 21, 1889, is now attending the State Normal School at Normal, Illinois. Clifford Earl, born March 9, 1891, died in infancy; and Edith Mary, born June 8, 1892, died in February, 1900.

Since his retirement Mr. Bayler and his wife have traveled quite extensively, visiting points of interest in this country. He has been a life-long republican, and while residing in Livingston county, served for seven years as township assessor. He was serving his first term there as supervisor of the township, when he sold his farm and removed to Ford county. He was one of the drain commissioners of the Little Lyman drainage district and of the Lyman and Wall townships district. He was also one of the township school trustees and the cause of education has found in him a stalwart and earnest champion. Since his marriage in 1869 he has continuously been a school official with the exception of three years and prior to his marriage he taught school for two years, beginning in 1867. His early education had been supplemented by two years' study in the Northwestern College at Plainfield, and reading, experience and observation have also broadened his

knowledge, making him a well informed man. That he is personally popular is indicated by the fact that while living in Broughton township, Livingston county, he polled a majority of thirty as the republican candidate, while the township usually gave a democratic majority of twenty. His worth as a citizen is widely acknowledged and it is a well known fact that he always stands for improvement and progress. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church since 1865 and his life, ever upright and honorable, has gained for him the warm esteem and unqualified confidence of those with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.

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#### R. E. BRADBURY.

Although one of the younger representatives of agricultural interests in Ford county, R. E. Bradbury is none the less prominent. He is operating two hundred and thirty acres of land on sections 3 and 4, Lyman township, and in addition to raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, he also conducts a dairy business. He was born in Livingston county, Illinois September 2, 1875, and is the eldest in a family of three children, whose parents are A. J. and Christina (Watson) Bradbury, the other members of the family being: James E., of Ford county; and Ida, the wife of Dan Cowden, a resident of Nebraska. The father, a native of Massachusetts, accompanied his parents to Peoria county, Illinois, when a small boy. He settled in Ford county in the year 1892, at which time he purchased three hundred and ninety acres of land in the Pan Handle district, this tract being located near Piper City, in which city he now makes his home.

R. E. Bradbury, whose name introduces this review, was reared as a farm lad, early becoming familiar with the duties of the agriculturist. He was educated in the district schools of Ford county, pursuing his studies in the winter months, while in the summer seasons he assisted in the work of the home farm. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained the age of twenty-three years, when he rented a portion of his father's land and began business on his own account. He is now operating two hundred and thirty acres situated on sections 3 and 4, Lyman township, and in addition to this work is conducting a dairy, in which he is meeting with excellent success, the products of his dairy finding a ready sale on the market, where they command the highest prices. He possesses considerable inventive genius



MR. AND MRS. R. E. BRADBURY



and patented an umbrella holder, August 4, 1903, and has also patented a stove ventilator.

Mr. Bradbury was married in 1905 to Miss Amy Mosher, a native of Ford county, and a daughter of Louis and Margaret Mosher, of German descent. Their family numbers five children. The parents now make their home in Roberts, Illinois. Mrs. Bradbury received a good education, having graduated from the Roberts high school. By her marriage she has become the mother of an interesting little daughter and son, Helen Ethel and Franklin Eugene.

Mr. Bradbury supports the men and measures of the republican party. He is now serving as constable and as school director, in which connections he is giving uniform satisfaction, for his official duties are ever discharged with the same promptness and fidelity that is characteristic of his private interests. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Roberts, in the work of which they are deeply interested. They are numbered among the highly esteemed young people of the community, and have a host of warm friends.

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#### SAMUEL LUDLOW.

Samuel Ludlow, a successful practitioner at the Ford county bar, maintaining his residence in Paxton, was born in the town of Ludlow, Illinois, being the eldest of the three surviving children of James D. and Susan (Middlecoff) Ludlow, whose family at one time numbered four children. The living daughters are: Teresa, the wife of John L. Benedict of Indianapolis, Indiana; and Katharine, the wife of William H. White, cashier of the First National Bank of Paxton.

The father was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1823, and there spent his youth. He supplemented his public-school education by a knowledge of civil engineering and about 1850 came to Illinois, after which he spent six years at surveying in different parts of the state. Desirous of owning property, in 1856 he invested in farm lands, settling in Champaign county on the present site of Ludlow, and when the town was laid out much of it was upon his lands and was named in his honor. There he resided until 1882, when he removed to Paxton, where he lived retired in the enjoyment of well earned rest up to the time of his death in 1886. He was a republican in politics, influential in the ranks of the party, and for some years held the office of county judge in

Champaign county. He was a member of the Christian church and a man of sterling qualities of heart and mind.

Samuel Ludlow spent his youth in his parents' home and early in the '90s began preparation for a professional career as a law student in the office of Judge J. H. Moffett. He also studied under Judge H. H. Kerr, and in 1895 passed the examination and was admitted to the bar. He then opened an office in Paxton, where he has since practiced and in the intervening twelve years has gained an enviable reputation as an able barrister. His knowledge of the law is comprehensive and his application thereof to the points in litigation is accurate and sound. He is clear in his reasoning and his deductions follow in logical sequence, so that he has won many notable forensic victories.

In 1890 Mr. Ludlow was married to Miss Adella Martin, a daughter of James Martin of Paxton. They are parents of four children, of whom three survive: Helen, Albert and Edmund, all yet at home. The parents are members of the Christian church, in which Mr. Ludlow is serving as elder. His political support is given to the republican party, but without hope or desire for political preferment as a reward for party fealty. His standpoint upon any question is ever a rational one and he looks at life with a broad understanding of its purposes and its possibilities, realizing man's obligations to his fellowmen.

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#### ROBERT B. CHAMBERS.

Robert B. Chambers, well known in Roberts and Ford county as an enterprising merchant and supervisor of his township, was born in Millinburg, Pennsylvania, August 10, 1853, and there spent the first eighteen years of his life in the home of his parents, Robert and Matilda (Smith) Chambers, who were likewise natives of the Keystone state, the former of English lineage and the latter of German descent. The grandfather, who also bore the name of Robert Chambers, was the founder of the city of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. An old clock which he formerly owned is now in possession of Robert B. Chambers of this review. It stands as high as the ceiling and may well be a cherished heirloom in the family.

Robert Chambers, the father, died when Robert B. Chambers was but ten years of age and the mother when he was eight years of age. The boy



remained with his older brothers and sisters upon the home farm, being one of a family of nine children, namely: M. B., who is now living at Prairie City, Illinois; Katherine E., who died at the age of seventy years; James, who was drowned at two years of age; James M., who is living in Avon, Illinois; W. J., also a resident of Avon; Rhoda, who died at the age of twelve years; C. M., a resident of Hutchinson, Kansas; Robert B., of this review; and Mrs. Sarah A. Wyland, of Massachusetts.

In his early boyhood Robert B. Chambers attended the public schools as opportunity offered and during the periods of vacation worked on the home farm. When sixteen years of age he began clerking in a country store and was thus employed for two years. In 1870 he arrived in Piper City, Illinois, where he made his home for two years, working as a clerk in a general store for J. A. Montelius, who in 1872 sent him to Roberts to superintend his branch general store at that place. Mr. Chambers continued clerking for Mr. Montelius until 1875, when his employer sold out. In the spring of that year Mr. Chambers erected a business block and established a general mercantile store on his own account, conducting it with constantly growing success for sixteen years. He then traded it for his present store, which is the one that he formerly conducted for Mr. Montelius. Mr. Chambers also carried on a creamery in connection with his store for ten years, and he has made judicious investment in property, being now the owner of four hundred acres of productive and valuable land on section 5, Lyman township, which he rents. He was likewise one of the organizers and stockholders of the Lyman Telephone Company and he owns a store and dwelling in Roberts.

On the 11th of August, 1875, was celebrated the marriage which united the destinies of Mr. Chambers and Miss Annie E. Thompson, who was born in New York city in 1855, her parents being Rev. John L. and Mrs. Thompson, the former a Baptist clergyman. Mrs. Chambers came with her parents to Illinois in early life, the family home being established at Onarga, and following their death she came to Roberts at the age of eighteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers became the parents of four children but Willie, the eldest, died in infancy and Ora T., the youngest, died at the age of two years. Robert Elmer, who assists his father in the store, wedded Bessie Davis of Roberts, and has one child, Milton J., now three years of age. Louis G., who cultivates a half section of land for his father, wedded Jennie White, of Missouri, and has one son, Robert W.

In politics Robert B. Chambers has been a life-long republican and is now serving for the second term as supervisor of Lyman township. He was also president of the village board for two years and was alderman from the time

of the incorporation of the town until elected president. In fact only one year has passed since that time when he has not been an officer of the village and all unite in commending him for capable, efficient service that has brought practical and desired results. He is active as a worker in republican ranks and has frequently been chosen as a delegate to the conventions of the party. He became one of the charter members of the Congregational church, has held all of its offices and for the past fifteen years has been one of its deacons. He labors earnestly and untiringly for the advancement of the church and the extension of its influence. He is also a charter member of the Modern Woodmen Camp at Roberts and is well known in the county, where he has now made his home for thirty-six years. With the interests and upbuilding of Roberts he has been most closely associated and is one of its best known and most highly respected citizens.

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#### JOSEPH K. MONTELIUS.

For more than forty years the name of Montelius has figured prominently in the business life and substantial development of Ford county and he whose name heads this review has reflected credit upon the family record. He was born in Piper City, February 17, 1870, and has here spent his entire life. He pursued his early education as a pupil in the public schools, afterward studied under a private teacher at home for two years and then spent two years in Lake Forest (Ill.) Academy. Following his return home he worked in his father's office until he entered the Piper City Bank in 1898 as cashier. This institution, then conducted by his father as a private bank, was reorganized on the 15th of May, 1900, as the First National Bank of Piper City, and Joseph K. Montelius has continued as cashier to the present time, the success of the bank being attributable in no small degree to his close application, his assiduous and unrelaxing attention to the details of the business and his unabating energy. Like his father he has made an honorable name for himself in business circles, nor has it been influence, nor parental aid that has gained him the respect of his fellowmen but the sterling worth of his own character as manifested in financial circles and in matters of citizenship.

Mr. Montelius has been a lifelong republican, thoroughly in sympathy with the principles and purposes of the party. He is the present supervisor of Brenton township, having been elected in 1905 and again in 1907, so that he is



J. K. MONTELIUS



now serving for the second term. He was also president of the village for two years, beginning in 1903. The moral development of the community awakens his deepest interest and at the present writing he is serving as treasurer of the Presbyterian church, while for many years he has been secretary of the Sunday school. Fraternally he is connected with Piper City Lodge, No. 608, A. F. & A. M. and also with the Modern Woodmen Camp of Piper City.

On the 30th of November, 1898, Mr. Montelius was married to Miss Helen B. Stadler, who was born in Ford county, about seven miles south of Piper City, a daughter of John and Catherine Stadler, who were natives of Germany, whence they crossed the Atlantic to New York. Later they became residents of Chicago and subsequently of Kewanee, Illinois, after which they came to Piper City. The father died on a farm in Ford county and his widow still resides in Piper City, Illinois. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Montelius have been born four children, Harry A., Catherine Louise, Alfred F. and Ruth E.

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#### BENJAMIN FRANK ILER.

The farm which Benjamin Frank Iler now owns and operates has been in his possession since 1882. He is furthermore well known as the only living charter member of Meadow Mound Grange and through a long period has been closely associated with the agricultural development of his community. He resides on section 10, Lyman township.

His birth occurred in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, July 24, 1848, his parents being Salem and Elizabeth (Snelling) Iler. The Ilers are of German descent and the Snellings of English lineage, the maternal grandfather of our subject having come from England to the new world. Salem Iler was born in Ohio, September 15, 1805, and having arrived at years of maturity, he wedded Elizabeth Snelling, who was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, August 22, 1808, and accompanied her parents to Ohio. There she was married June 29, 1836, and Mr. Iler at once began farming, which he followed as a life work. About 1860 he arrived in Illinois and lived for a time in La Salle county but spent his last days in Wall township at the home of his son, Benjamin, passing away on the 30th of June, 1872. His wife survived him and died at the home of her son Benjamin at the age of eighty-four years, three months and twelve days. Their family numbered six children: Mary Elizabeth, now the widow

of Sanford Boone, of Gilman; Hiram, who died near Mason City, Iowa; Hannah Ann, the widow of William Gillet, of Clear Lake, Iowa; and James E. and John M., both of whom died in infancy.

The youngest member of the family is Benjamin Frank Her, who was only about seven years of age when his parents removed to Delaware county, Ohio, where they lived for five years, and in 1860 started across the country to La Salle county, Illinois, with three horses, known as a spike team, hitched to the wagon. They came to Ford county in 1872 and after living in Wall township for three years Mr. Her of this review rented a farm two miles south of Roberts where he made his home for seven years. About 1882 he purchased his present farm, which is the only property he ever owned. He has here eighty acres constituting the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10, Lyman township, and most of the modern improvements upon the place have been made by Mr. Her. He has been engaged in grain and stock farming and during the past year has made dairying a special feature of his place, shipping cream to the creamery in Manteno. For the past two years he has owned a black full blooded, though American bred, Norman stallion, Thomas, No. 5027. He has also engaged quite extensively in raising Poland China hogs and he now has upon his place about fifteen head of horses and milks thirteen cows. He owns a thoroughbred red polled Durham bull, Royal Polled Duke, No. 255646. In addition to cultivating his own farm of eighty acres Mr. Her has for the past twenty-two years rented eighty acres near his home place and therefore operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He has also operated a threshing machine for twenty-seven years, operating a horse power machine for seventeen years, after which he purchased a steam thresher. He also operated a corn sheller and shredder for a number of years and also engaged in moving buildings. His varied interests have shown his enterprising spirit and he has lived a most strenuous life, connected with many lines of business.

On the 29th of November, 1867, Mr. Her was married to Miss Susanna Brown, of Montreal, Canada, born November 10, 1845. When she was seven years of age her parents removed to St. Anne, five miles east of Montreal, and when twenty-two years of age she went to La Salle county, Illinois, with the family for whom she was working. Her parents were John and Susanna (Lewis) Brown, natives of Ireland, in which country they were married February 6, 1836. They afterward went to Canada with two children and five others were added to their family in the Dominion. The father was frozen to death while working on the railroad section when Mrs. Her was but ten years of age. The mother died at Pembroke, Ontario, March 15, 1890, at

the age of seventy-five years. Owing to the death of her father Mrs. Her had to go to work and was employed by the others up to the time of her marriage. She was one of seven children, namely: Mary Jane, the wife of Louis La Belle, of Ontario; John, who died in infancy; Robert, deceased; Mrs. Her; John and Samuel, both deceased; and Stephen. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Her have been born eight children: Almada, the wife of Ed Dixon, of Wall township; Wilson, who married Anna Huston and is living in Onarga; Sarena, the wife of A. D. Smith, of Mountain Lake, Minnesota; Anna Elizabeth, the wife of Leonard Mott, of Mason City, Iowa; Nancy Katharine, the wife of Henry Woodard of Lyman township; Ida May, the wife of Clarence Wilson, of Brenton township; John L., at home; and Alice Elmira, the wife of Charles L. Woods, of Effingham, Illinois.

Mr. Her and his family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church, a fact which indicates well spent lives, guided by honorable principles. In politics he is a republican and for seven years has served as a school director. He belongs to the Court of Honor and is a charter member of Meadow Mound Grange of Lyman township, which was organized about 1873, shortly after his arrival in the county. At the time of his marriage Mr. Her was not worth a dollar and all that he now possesses has been acquired through his own labors. He carries on a more extensive business than any man in Ford county residing on eighty acres, having extended his efforts into various departments of activity and carefully conducting each, with the result that success has attended him in his various undertakings.

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#### W. S. HUSTON.

W. S. Huston, an enterprising farmer living on section 17, Drummer township, dates his residence in Ford county since 1876 and in Illinois since 1868. He is a son of John and Martha Huston, residents of Chester county, Pennsylvania. The family was founded in America during the colonial epoch in the history of the country, being of Scotch origin. At the time of the Revolutionary war John Huston joined the colonial army and was with Washington at Brandywine.

W. S. Huston was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, February 1, 1849, and supplemented his common-school education by an academic course. Thinking to find better business opportunities in the middle west, he left home at the

age of nineteen years and went to Putnam county, Illinois, where he arrived in 1868. There he cultivated rented land until his labors brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase eighty acres in Grundy county. There he resided until 1876, when he came to Ford county and bought one hundred and sixty acres. To this he afterward added another quarter section. His land, which is now very valuable, was purchased at thirty-five, fifty-five and seventy-five dollars per acre. The farm is devoted to general agricultural pursuits and in addition to the cultivation of the fields, which have been brought to a high state of fertility, he also raises some thoroughbred stock.

Mr. Huston has been married twice. He first wedded Miss Mary Foley in 1874 and six years later she passed away, leaving two sons. In 1899 Mr. Huston was again married, his second union being with Miss E. D. Charlton, a daughter of Thomas Charlton, of Chester, Pennsylvania, and they have one daughter.

Mr. Huston is a republican, active in the local ranks of the party, for he believes firmly in its principles. He has served as school director but otherwise has filled no public offices, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business affairs, which have brought him well merited success. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Presbyterian church, associations which are a clear indication of the principles which govern his life and guide his conduct in his relations with his fellowmen.

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#### W. T. GOURLEY.

When one meets a man who at a tender age was thrown upon his own responsibilities for a livelihood, has overcome obstacles and difficulties, and in the face of these has in later years attained a high degree of success, he cannot but feel that just credit is due to such an individual. This is the case of W. T. Gourley, whose name introduces this record. He was born in Indiana, June 27, 1858, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Gourley, the former a native of Indiana and the latter a native of Virginia. The father was previously married, and there are two daughters of that union, Margaret, of Iowa, and Mary, a resident of Oregon. Of the father's second marriage five children were born but three of the number are now deceased, the sister of our subject being Mattie, who resides in Princeton, Indiana. Both the father and mother are now deceased.





MR. AND MRS. W. T. GOURLEY



W. T. Gourley was left an orphan at the early age of two years, and was then taken into the home of an aunt, by whom he was reared to the age of seven. He then came to Ford county, Illinois, to make his home with a cousin with whom he remained until he had reached the age of eighteen years. During the period of his boyhood and youth he attended the common schools, wherein he acquired a fair English education, while from the ages of fifteen to eighteen he was employed at herding cattle in the Pan Handle district of Ford county. He then invested his earnings in a team and some farm implements and leased a tract of land, which he operated during the succeeding three years. So successful was he that he was at length enabled to purchase some land, becoming the possessor of forty acres situated on section 27, Brenton township. This has continued to be his home to the present time, although at different times he has added to his original purchase until his place now comprises two hundred and forty acres. He has improved his property with suitable outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock and also occupies a comfortable home. In addition to tilling the soil he also operates a threshing machine and corn sheller, having been thus engaged for the past quarter of a century, so that in this connection he is well known not only in his home locality but throughout various sections of the county. He also raises stock on quite an extensive scale, making a specialty of full blooded imported Norman horses, which he has handled for twenty-seven years.

In 1880 Mr. Gourley established a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Margaret Thomas, who has proved to him a faithful companion and helpmate on the journey of life. She was born in Onarga, Illinois, a daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth Thomas, and is one of a family of four children. The father served as a soldier in the Civil war, being a loyal defender of the Union cause. He was captured by the rebel soldiers and incarcerated in Libby prison, where his death occurred. The mother, however, is still living and makes her home in Onarga.

Five children grace the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gourley, namely: Gertrude L., the wife of William Asherman, of Thawville, Illinois; Wilbur E., a resident farmer of Brenton township; and Rolland T., Walter W. and James Arthur, all still under the parental roof.

In his political views Mr. Gourley is a republican and for five years served as road commissioner, while for six years he filled the office of school director, taking a warm interest in the cause of education. He supports the First Presbyterian church at Piper City. He is a self-made man in the truest sense of the term and is therefore deserving of the highest praise, for unlike

others who are compelled to start out in life at an early age, he has encountered many obstacles but possessing a courageous spirit he has surmounted every difficulty and has pushed his way upward to success. He is now the owner of a valuable farm property and in his various business connections is well known, meriting the highest respect and esteem from all with whom he is associated either in business or social capacity.

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#### WILLIAM GOODMAN.

William Goodman, a merchant and banker of Kempton, whose enterprise has contributed in substantial measure to the business activity and development of the village, was born in Erie county, Ohio, April 28, 1856, and in September of the same year was brought by his parents to Ford county. He is a son of John and Sarah (Bellamy) Goodman, both of whom are now deceased. The father was born in Huntingdonshire, England, July 6, 1818, and was a son of William and Mary (Russell) Goodman, also natives of that country.

Upon a farm John Goodman spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and being left an orphan at an early age he started to provide for his own support when a youth of ten years, eagerly accepting any work that would yield him an honest living. At length he determined to make America his future home, and after one month spent on the Atlantic arrived at New York. He made his first settlement in Erie county, Ohio, where he worked at farm labor by the month until 1856 and then brought his family to Brenton township, Ford county, Illinois, where he purchased eighty acres of railroad land at eight dollars per acre. He had been married March 17, 1852, to Sarah Bellamy, daughter of John and Susan Bellamy, and they became the parents of four children: Susan, who is the widow of Joseph McKinney, of Kempton; William, of this review; Samuel, who was a hardware and lumber merchant at Deland, Piatt county, Illinois, where he died August 3, 1903; and Sophia, the wife of John W. Herron, a resident of Gifford, Illinois.

For a long period the father carried on general farming in Brenton township, there residing until 1882, when he removed to Piper City. Eight years later, in 1890, he took up his abode in Kempton, where he lived retired until his death on the 6th of September, 1903. His wife survived for about three and a half years and passed away March 25, 1907. A contemporary biographer

said of him: "His name was an index to his character and his honorable, upright life won him the high regard of all with whom he was brought in contact." His religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Methodist church, and his political belief by the stalwart support which he gave to the republican party.

William Goodman of this review was reared upon the old home farm on section 32, Brenton township, and lessons of industry and enterprise were early instilled into his mind. He continued upon the farm until the 14th of December, 1880, and then came to Kempton, where he entered the employ of his brother-in-law, Joseph McKinney, a hardware and lumber merchant, with whom he continued for three years, or until the death of Mr. McKinney in January, 1883. His sister, Mrs. McKinney, then became his equal partner in the ownership of the business, which was continued under the firm name of McKinney & Goodman. Mr. Goodman remained as manager of the enterprise until the 1st of May, 1903. He then organized the Bank of Kempton, in which he became an equal partner with his sister, Mrs. McKinney, while their nephew took the management of the lumber and hardware business, Mr. Goodman, however, retaining a third interest in the business. He has been cashier and general manager of the bank since its organization. It is conducted as a private banking institution and has been of much value to the town, while proving at the same time a profitable business investment for the owners. His business methods are such as neither seek nor require disguise, but on the contrary will bear the closest investigation.

On the 14th of May, 1891, Mr. Goodman was married to Miss Alice Cloke, who was born in Danforth township, Iroquois county, Illinois, January 15, 1870, a daughter of Richard and Mary Cloke. Her father was born in Canterbury, England, December 15, 1821, and was reared on a farm in that country. On the first of April, 1852, he was married there, and in the spring of that year crossed the Atlantic to New Jersey on a sailing vessel, seven weeks being required to make the trip from Liverpool to New York. He and his wife remained in New Jersey for four years, and for one year they "worked out" in order to get money with which to start in life in the new world, for they had a capital of only fifteen dollars when they landed. For three years Mr. Cloke cultivated a rented farm in the east and in the year 1856 made his way westward to Champaign, Illinois. For several years thereafter he cultivated rented land, and then purchased eighty acres of land in Ashkum township, Iroquois county, to which he afterward added another tract of eighty acres. He carried on the work of improving and developing his farm and made it his

home until 1886, when he returned to England, this being the fifth trip that he had made. There he died in the fall of 1898, after which his remains were brought back to this country for interment in Ashkum cemetery. He wedded Mary Ann Stupples, who was born in Dover, England, March 23, 1829, and died on the home farm in Iroquois county, November 23, 1879. After her death Mr. Cloke left the farm and spent the greater part of his time in England until his demise. He gave his political support to the democracy. While in his native land he was a member of the Church of England and after coming to the United States joined the Methodist church in 1869. In his family were nine daughters and two sons and with the exception of one daughter all are yet living. Six of the children became school teachers in Iroquois county and four of the number were educated in the Valparaiso Normal School (Ind.) and two in Onarga (Ill.) Seminary. Mrs. Goodman, who was the youngest of the family, completed her education in the Ashkum (Ill.) high school.

In his political views Mr. Goodman has always been a stalwart republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He served as township clerk in Mona township, being appointed thus to fill a vacancy in 1884, after which he was reelected in 1885, 1886, 1887 and 1889 and after that for every year until 1904. No more capable official has ever occupied the position and the endorsement of the public was indicated in his long retention. Active and prominent in the Methodist Episcopal church, he is serving as one of its trustees and as treasurer, and in the work of the church has taken a most helpful part. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and is a representative of our best type of American manhood and chivalry. By perseverance, determination and honorable effort he has overthrown the difficulties which have barred his path to success and reached the goal of prosperity, while his genuine worth, broad mind and public spirit have made him a director of public thought and action.

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#### BALTZ WEBER.

Baltz Weber carries on general farming on section 14, Brenton township, whereon he has lived for sixteen years. The place is neat and well improved, indicating in its attractive appearance the careful supervision of the practical and progressive owner. Mr. Weber is a native of Germany, his birth having occurred in Bavaria on the 19th of July, 1854. He spent the first nineteen years of his life in the fatherland and acquired a public-school education while

spending his boyhood days in the home of his parents, Lucas and Ursula Weber, who remained residents of the old world, spending their entire lives in that country. They were the parents of five children, of whom Louis Weber is now living in Iowa, while Barnard resides in Ford county. One sister and a brother remain in the fatherland.

In taking up the personal history of Baltz Weber we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in this part of the state. The favorable reports which he heard concerning America and its opportunities attracted him and led him to seek a home in the United States. Crossing the Atlantic, he made his way to Albany, New York, and spent four years there working by the month as a farm hand. In September, 1877, he arrived at Piper City, Illinois, and rented a farm until his labors brought him capital sufficient to purchase property. He bought his present place sixteen years ago, becoming owner of eighty acres on section 14, Brenton township. To this he afterward added a tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 13 and he also rents and cultivates a half of section 11. His farming interests are thus extensive and important and he is meeting with gratifying success in his undertaking. He has a well improved place on which all of the buildings have been erected by him save one. He carries on the work of tilling the soil and also feeds stock and his business interests are so carefully managed that annually his sales of grain and stock return to him a good financial reward for his labor.

In 1882 Mr. Weber was married to Miss Ellen Galvin, who was born in La Salle county, Illinois, February 11, 1858, and has spent her entire life in this state. Her parents were Patrick and Mary (Bresnehan) Galvin, natives of Ireland, in which country they were married. After coming to Illinois they settled at Ottawa, in June, 1850, and spent their remaining days upon a farm in La Salle county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Weber have been born four children: Mary Eunice, now the wife of Thomas Doran, of Brenton township; Joseph, George and Agnes, all at home.

In his political views Mr. Weber is independent but never fails to give hearty endorsement and aid to those interests which are instituted for the benefit and upbuilding of the county. He has served as drain commissioner since 1901 and has rebuilt the drainage ditch for twelve miles, deepening and widening it, thus adding to its value as a factor in the improvement of the county. He was also road commissioner for one term. His religious faith is that of Catholicism and he is identified with the church at Piper City. He came alone to America when a young man of nineteen years, nor has he ever had occasion to regret his

determination to seek a home in the new world, for the opportunities which he sought he found and improved and as a result is now one of the men of affluence in Brenton township.

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A. M. KUNTZ.

A. M. Kuntz, one of the leading farmers of Sullivant township, was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, April 12, 1863, his parents being Joseph and Barbara (Meister) Kuntz. They were both natives of Germany and came to America in early life, being married in this country. The father was a farmer of Tazewell county before his removal to Livingston county, Illinois, in 1868. The district in which he established his home was practically unsettled and unimproved. He was one of the first residents of Fayette township and covering a territory of eleven miles from his home to Fairbury there were but one or two houses. All kinds of feathered game was then more plentiful than are domestic fowls of today and it was a very common thing for the settlers to have quails or prairie chickens upon the family board.

Mr. Kuntz purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land for which he paid fourteen dollars per acre, and with characteristic energy he began its development, continuing the work of cultivation until it became one of the best improved farms in Livingston county. This farm was sold in 1898 for one hundred and fifteen dollars per acre and it could not be purchased today for less than one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. As the years passed Mr. Kuntz not only promoted his individual success by his farming interests but also contributed to the welfare of the community and in many ways was closely associated with the progress and development which transformed the district from a wild and unsettled region into one of the prosperous and progressive townships of the county. He died December 30, 1899, while his wife passed away in 1896.

They were the parents of nine children: Peter and Joseph, who are living at Strawn, Illinois; Henry, whose home is in Sherburn, Martin county, Minnesota; A. M., of this review; Mary, the wife of E. N. Gullberg, of Strawn; Susan the wife of Henry Wireburger, of Fairbury, Illinois; Kate, the wife of Andrew Roth, of Ford county; John, who is living in Germanville, this state; and Rose, the wife of August Ringler, of Livingston county.

Before coming to America the father had served in the German army for six years and during three years of that time was on active duty. He was with



the Bavarian forces in the trouble between Germany and France, being a Bavarian by birth and his military record was a creditable one. Actuated by laudable ambition to attain success in his business career, he carefully directed his labors by sound judgment and unfaltering perseverance and gained for himself and family a comfortable living.

A. M. Kuntz is indebted to the public-school system of his native county for the educational privileges he enjoyed. He was trained to the work of the farm as he assisted his father in the cultivation of the fields and at the age of twenty-two years he began farming on the old home place on his own account. After a year thus passed he came to Ford county when a young man of twenty-three years, and rented land from his father, who owned a farm in this county. For ten years he engaged in cultivating rented land and during that period carefully saved his earnings until he was enabled to purchase eighty acres of land and made investment in a tract of that size in Sullivant township. For this he paid eighty dollars per acre. At once he began the further cultivation and improvement of the place and that he has since prospered in his undertakings is indicated by the fact that to his original holdings he has added until he now has a fine farm of two hundred acres, with some of the finest improvements to be found on any farm in the county and but few better in the state. His home is a model of comfort, convenience and beauty, scarcely surpassed by any city residence. His barns and outbuildings, too, are commodious and substantial and furnish ample shelter for grain and stock. In all of his farm work he has been progressive and his life record is an indication of the fact that success is not a matter of genius, as some aver, but comes as the result of indefatigable labor, sound judgment and experience. In addition to his Ford county property Mr. Kuntz owns eighty acres in Livingston county near the town of Strawn, for which he paid one hundred and sixty dollars per acre. There were good improvements upon the place when he made the purchase and the work of improvement has been carried still further forward until the farm today is worth two hundred dollars per acre.

In 1891 Mr. Kuntz was united in marriage to Miss Selma Schroen, a daughter of B. and Wilhelmina (Pilsick) Schroen, who were natives of Germany and early residents of Livingston county, Illinois. Mr. Schroen followed the occupation of farming there for a long period but has at length retired from active life and he and his wife are now living in Chatsworth, Illinois. They were the parents of five children: Selma, now Mrs. Kuntz; Lena, the wife of John Kuntz, of Germanville, Illinois; Lizzie, the wife of Charles Falek; John;

and Charles. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Kuntz has been blessed with four children: Charles, Arthur, Gertrude and Lillian.

Mr. Kuntz is now and has been for a number of years a director in his school district, and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart and helpful champion. In politics he is a republican and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. His friends in the community are many and the fact that a large number of them have known him from his boyhood days to the present is an indication that his has been an honorable and upright career. While he has never sought to figure prominently in public office, he has nevertheless manifested qualities of citizenship which are most commendable and his life record contains valuable lessons concerning the advisability of carrying out a given plan along business lines that will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny.

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#### MRS. ELIZABETH (THATCHER) McTIER.

No history of Ford county would be complete without mention of Mrs. Elizabeth (Thatcher) McTier, who is the oldest lady living within its borders. For more than a half century she has been a resident of Illinois and since 1867 has made her home in Ford county. She is the widow of William McTier, who was born in New Jersey, October 23, 1808. The birth of Mrs. McTier occurred in the same state, May 28, 1812, and she is therefore now in her ninety-sixth year. She was left an orphan when very young, after which she lived with her grandparents until she was twelve years of age and then started out to earn her own living. She worked for others up to the time of her marriage, which was celebrated in New Jersey.

Mr. and Mrs. McTier continued to reside in the east until 1854, when they removed to Illinois, settling first in Canton. There the husband worked at his trade of wagon-making for a number of years or until 1867, when they removed to Ford county, where Mrs. McTier has since made her home. The death of her husband occurred on the 27th of June, 1886, and was the occasion of deep and wide-spread regret not only to his family but to many friends as well. Unto him and his wife were born eight children but only two are now living: J. B., who is a resident of Knox county, Illinois; and E. B. McTier, who is blind and makes his home in Piper City.



MRS. ELIZABETH MCTIER



Mrs. McTier derives a good income from a valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 14, Pella township. She also owns two nice residences in Piper City, renting one of them, while she occupies the other with her granddaughter, who is acting as her housekeeper. Mrs. McTier now has six grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Although Mrs. McTier is so well advanced in years she is yet quite active, retaining her physical and mental faculties in a remarkable degree. She is widely known in Piper City and Ford county, where she has now lived for more than forty years and throughout this entire period she has enjoyed the respect and esteem of those with whom she has come in contact, while her good deeds have closely endeared her to many. It is with pleasure that we present to our readers the life record of Mrs. McTier, the oldest lady of Ford county, and we join with her many friends in wishing that she may be spared to reach the one hundredth milestone on life's journey.

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#### SAMUEL McELWEE WYLIE, M. D.

The name of Samuel McElwee Wylie is well known in medical circles throughout America and is not unknown in foreign lands by reason of his contribution to medical literature, yet he has not sought the opportunity for winning fame or large financial success that is offered by the cities, preferring the quiet home life of Paxton, finding ample chance to exercise his professional skill in the practice which is accorded him in this locality. While the winning of success along honorable lines is at all times commendable, it has never been the chief motive in Dr. Wylie's professional career. A lover of scientific research, he possesses also the broad humanitarian spirit without which the physician and the surgeon never do their best work.

Dr. Wylie is one of Illinois' native sons, his birth having occurred in Oakland, Coles county, on the 15th of July, 1855, his parents being Dr. Jonathan Dixie and Agnes Isabel (Crawford) Wylie. A removal of the family to Paxton in 1868 enabled Dr. Wylie of this review to pursue his preliminary education in the common schools here and later he attended the Indianapolis high school and also Monmouth College at Monmouth, Illinois. His choice of a vocation fell upon the medical profession and in preparation therefor he matriculated in the Chicago Medical College, now the medical department of the Northwestern University, from which he was graduated with valedictorian

honors as a member of the class of 1878. Immediately after winning his degree he located for practice in Paxton, where he has since made his home. He has, however, at different times studied in this country and also abroad, enjoying the benefits of instruction and hospital practice in New York. He has taken post-graduate work in the New York Polyclinic at different times from 1880 until 1888, and in 1890 he went abroad for post-graduate work in Europe, coming under the instruction of some of the distinguished practitioners of Berlin, Vienna, Munich and Leipsic. He also visited Paris and London in his professional capacity. The science of medicine has ever been a theme of deepest interest to him and he has carried his investigations far and wide into the realms of scientific knowledge. In 1900 he went with Dr. Senn, of Chicago, to Central America to study tropical diseases, especially leprosy and yellow fever, and at that time made a report to the secretary of state in regard to the diseases prevalent there which were liable to be met with in digging the Panama canal. In 1902, in company with Dr. Senn, he attended the Red Cross International Congress in St. Petersburg, Russia, and with him afterward visited altogether two hundred hospitals in Russia, Turkey, Asia Minor, Egypt, and the principal cities of Europe, the trip consuming eight months. In 1906 he was a delegate from the American Medical Association to the International Medical Congress at Lisbon, Portugal, and subsequently visited hospitals in Spain, Italy, Switzerland and France.

Throughout all these years Dr. Wylie has written extensively for medical papers and addressed various medical conventions on many topics, but of all his writings the one which has awakened most wide-spread attention and won him the widest acknowledgment of his ability was an article on "Traction injuries of arteries." This was the first article ever written on the subject. He searched libraries all over the world and never found anything bearing upon the subject except fifteen lines in Russia. This paper attracted world-wide interest and when it was read in Germany the profession elected him to fellowship in the Royal Society of Surgeons of Germany. At different times Dr. Wylie has been offered prominent professorships in Illinois and in the east, the latest being offered by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago and the Rush Medical College. He has always refused such honors, however, for he prefers to labor in Paxton and enjoy the quiet home life here offered.

On the 19th of June, 1879, Dr. Wylie married Miss Emily J. Bushnell, a daughter of Sherrell and Adeline Bushnell. Her father was a very prominent resident here and was the organizer of the First National Bank of Paxton. Mrs. Wylie has been a true helpmate to her husband and he attributes much of his success to her assistance and encouragement. Dr. and Mrs. Wylie attend the





DR. S. M. WYLIE





MRS S. M. WYLIE



Methodist church and he has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in Masonry. In politics he is a republican, actively interested in the party and its success, yet always refuses office. In professional lines he is connected with the County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society, the Mississippi Valley and the American Medical Associations, the American Association of Military Surgeons and the German Surgical Society. In his practice he has always made a specialty of surgery, in which he has gained distinction, manifesting skill and ability in that line that places him on a par with the eminent representatives of the profession in the different metropolitan centers of the country. He is everywhere received in professional ranks with the most cordial evidences of respect and appreciation. He has succeeded because he has desired to succeed and he is great because nature endowed him bountifully, and he has studiously, carefully and conscientiously increased the talents that have been given him.

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#### THOMAS DORAN.

Among the citizens that Ireland has furnished to Ford county is numbered Thomas Doran, who follows farming on section 23, Pella township. He was born in County Carlow, Ireland, in 1848, his parents being Patrick and Margaret (Gain) Doran, natives of that land. The mother died in Pella township in March, 1896, at the age of seventy-six years, having long survived her husband, who passed away in Grundy county, Illinois, in the spring of 1867, one week after his arrival. He had previously followed railroading in Pennsylvania, and in other localities in which he lived carried on farming. At the time of his demise he was about forty-four years of age. The family numbered three sons: Edward, of Pella township; Thomas, of this review; and James, a blacksmith of Nebraska.

Thomas Doran spent the first eight years of his life in the land of his nativity and in 1856 crossed the Atlantic with his parents to Hamilton, Ontario. A year later they removed to Oil Creek, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, where they resided until 1867. In the meantime he worked as a switchman on the railroad and then removed to Morris, Grundy county, Illinois. A year later he came to Piper City, arriving in Ford county in 1868 and since that time he has lived in Pella township, making his home for thirty years upon his present farm. This district was to a large extent unimproved,

there being only four or five houses in Piper City at that time, while much of the land was still uncultivated, awaiting the awakening touch of the agriculturist to bring forth bounteous harvests. Mr. Doran secured one hundred and twenty acres of land on sections 22 and 23, Pella township, for which he paid twenty-five dollars for the first eighty acres and twenty-seven and a half dollars for his second tract of forty acres on section 22. His residence is situated on section 23 and all of the improvements upon the farm have been placed there by Mr. Doran, who is practical and progressive in his methods and a man of unfaltering diligence and perseverance. What he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion and he forms his plans readily.

In 1874 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Doran and Miss Anna Milligan, a native of New Jersey, who in early girlhood came to Illinois with her parents, William and Alice (Taggart) Milligan, who were born in Ireland and became early settlers of Ford county, Illinois, where both the father and mother spent their remaining days. They had a family of five sons, while Mrs. Doran was their only daughter. By her marriage she has become the mother of twelve children: Patrick, now living in North Dakota; William, a resident of Piper City; Margaret, the wife of John McGuire, of Pella township; Alice, the wife of George Carter, living at Streator, Illinois; Edward, whose home is in North Dakota; Anna, who died at the age of five years six months and two days; Archie John, at home, Elizabeth, who is a nurse in Chatsworth Hospital; Irene, at home; Lawrence and James, upon the old homestead farm; and Thomas, of Brenton township.

In politics Mr. Doran is an independent democrat, usually voting for the men and measures of the democracy, yet never seeking nor desiring office, nor does he consider himself bound by party ties. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church. From early age he has been dependent upon his own resources for a livelihood and whatever success he has achieved or enjoyed is attributable entirely to his own labors.

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#### FRANK L. REISING.

Frank L. Reising, who located on his present farm in the spring of 1888, now owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, eighty acres on section 20 and eighty on section 17, Brenton township, which is well kept, constituting one of the model farms of the locality and all of the improvements have been placed



MR. AND MRS. FRANK L. REISING



upon the farm by the present owner, whose life of intense and well directed activity has brought him the measure of success that he is now enjoying.

He was born in Cazenovia, Woodford county, Illinois, August 28, 1857, and was therefore in his ninth year when, in 1866, his parents removed to Brenton township, Ford county. He is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Rossman) Reising, who were natives of Byrne, Germany. The father, who was born in October, 1830, went with his parents to Ohio in 1837 and afterward accompanied them on their removal to Woodford county, Illinois. For many years he successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits and is now living retired in Chatsworth, Illinois, in the enjoyment of the rest which he has truly earned and which he deserves. His wife also survives and is now seventy-four years of age.

In their family were nine children: Kate, the wife of John Holdfelder, of Chicago; Frank L., of this review; Peter, living in Iowa; George, a resident of Brenton township; Mary, the wife of Frank Burger, of Iroquois, Illinois; Anna, the wife of Mike Rosenberger, a resident of Livingston county, Illinois; Gertie, who is at home with her parents; Ida, the wife of John Herr, of Chatsworth, Illinois; and Edward, a resident of Chicago.

Frank L. Reising was largely reared in Brenton township and early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, working in the fields when not busy with the duties of the schoolroom. He has continuously lived in this township with the exception of two years spent in Chatsworth. In the early days he could drive across the country to Chatsworth without fences or buildings to impede his progress. There were no roads and the entire countryside was largely undeveloped, while the privations and hardships of pioneer life were to be endured. The labors of the early settlers, however, have wrought a marked change and transformed Ford county into one of the richest agricultural districts of this great state. Mr. Reising has resided on his present farm since the spring of 1888 and here now owns and cultivates eighty acres of rich and productive land on section 20, Brenton township, and eighty on section 17. It is now a well improved property and its present excellent appearance is due to the labors and energy of the owner.

In 1879 Mr. Reising was married to Miss Mary A. Westerhausen, who was born in La Salle county, Illinois, in January, 1860, a daughter of William and Mary Westerhausen, who were natives of Germany. The mother is still living and now resides with Mr. Reising. The father, however, has passed away. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Reising have been born seven children: Alfred G., William F., Ford J., Agnes C., Dora, Clarence E., and Stephen.

Mr. Reising is a communicant of the Catholic church at Piper City and his political endorsement is given to the democracy. He has never desired nor sought office, however, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business interests and his careful control and development of his farm has made him one of the substantial agriculturists of this part of the state, with a valuable property from which he derives a gratifying annual income. For more than four decades he has made his home in this county and has therefore been a witness of almost its entire growth and development. The facts which have shaped its history are largely familiar to him and he has rejoiced in what has been accomplished for the improvement of the county along substantial lines.

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#### CARLTON I. REMSBURG.

After a long, active and honorable career Carlton I. Remsburg is enjoying the fruits of his former toil in well earned ease in a comfortable home in Thawville. He is also one of the few remaining citizens who engaged in service in the Civil war. He was born in Frederick county, Maryland, April 6, 1845, a son of Solomon and Mary Remsburg. The father was likewise a native of Maryland but for many years was engaged in farming in Bureau county, Illinois, but his later years were spent in honorable retirement and he passed away in Ohio, Bureau county, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years. He was twice married. By his first union there were two sons: Isaiah, who served in the Civil war as a member of Company I, Twelfth Illinois Infantry, and is now living retired in Ohio, Illinois; and Carlton I., of this review. By the second union there were three children, one of whom died in infancy, while the living members are: Anna, who first wedded James Ruff and after his death became the wife of W. S. Wilson, who is a banker of Ohio, Illinois, and George, who is a farmer and stock-raiser of Bureau county, Illinois.

Carlton I. Remsburg was but an infant at the time of his mother's death. He was reared in the home of his father, assisting in the work of field and meadow during the summer seasons, while in the winter seasons he pursued his studies in the common schools. He was a lad of fourteen years when the father removed with his family to Bureau county, Illinois, and there the son lived to the age of nineteen years, when, his patriotic spirit being aroused at the outbreak of the Civil war, he believed it his duty to go to the front in defense of the Union and in January, 1865, enlisted at Princeton, Illinois, as



a member of Company A, One hundred and Forty-eighth Illinois Infantry. The regiment was ordered to Quincy and later to Camp Butler, whence they were sent to Nashville and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland under General Thomas. They were then ordered to Tullahoma, Tennessee, on guard duty. The regiment afterward did guard duty at McMinnville, Tennessee, and subsequently returned to Nashville, whence they were mustered out of service on the 5th of September, 1865, and were honorably discharged at Springfield ten days later. With the exception of six weeks, during which time Mr. Remsburg was ill in the Cumberland Hospital at Nashville, he was always found at his post of duty.

Returning from the war Mr. Remsburg eventually located on a farm situated on section 3, Lyman township, Ford county, comprising one hundred and thirty-seven acres of good land, and here throughout a long period he was engaged in general agricultural pursuits. In his work he always followed the most systematic and progressive methods so that he won success in his chosen field of labor and in 1898, feeling that he had acquired a competence sufficient to enable him to spend the remainder of his years in ease, he took up his abode in Thawville, where he erected a comfortable seven-room cottage, and he and his estimable wife are now living retired, surrounded by a host of warm friends.

It was on the 12th of December, 1869, that Mr. Remsburg was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Hauenstein, who was born in Indiana, July 23, 1849. Her father was born in Switzerland, June 21, 1822, and followed farming as a life work. He wedded Susan Kindle, a native of New Jersey, and to them were born two daughters and one son: Mary, the wife of James Goodrich, a resident of Thawville; Sarah, now Mrs. Remsburg; and Joseph, who wedded Minnie Taylor and resides at Dwight, Illinois. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hauenstein were members of the Episcopal church, in the faith of which they died, the mother having passed away at the age of forty years, while the father, surviving for several years, passed away in Ford county in March, 1880, when he had reached the age of fifty-eight years.

Mrs. Remsburg acquired her education in the common schools and was trained to the duties of the household, so that when she assumed the duties of a home of her own she was well qualified to take charge of the same. She has proved to her husband a valuable assistant and with him is now enjoying a well earned rest. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Remsburg have been born two daughters and a son. Josie is now the wife of Charles Kingsley, who operates her father's farm in Lyman township. To them were born two daughters, Helen Ruth and Iva Marie, but the younger died in infancy. Blanche, the second

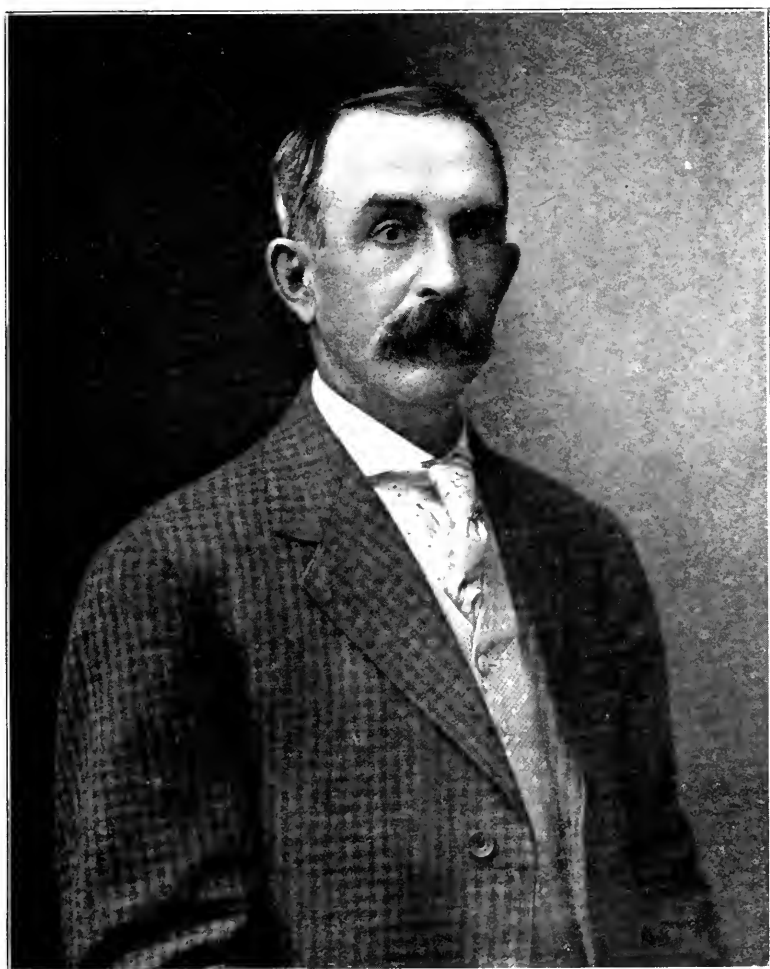
daughter, is the wife of Walter McNeil, of Thawville, by whom she has a daughter, Carrie. Harold S. wedded Miss Alice Wilcox, of Thawville, a daughter of L. B. Wilcox, who is mentioned on another page of this work.

Mr. Rensburg has always given stalwart support to the men and measures of the republican party and cast his first presidential ballot for General U. S. Grant. He has never been active in politics, however, the only public office he ever held being that of school director, in which he served for nine years. He is a member of Piper City Post, G. A. R., and at one time served as its commander, while in 1892 he was sent as a delegate to the state encampment which convened at Springfield. He has lived in Ford county throughout a long period and with its growth and development has intimate knowledge. He has gained many warm friends in this section of the county and is well and favorably known in Thawville, where he now makes his home, deriving a good income from his excellent farming property of one hundred and thirty-seven acres.

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#### GEORGE STOCKDALE.

George Stockdale is a representative of the farming interests of Ford county and is also serving as a member of the board of county supervisors. He was born in Yorkshire, England, February 9, 1851, his parents being William and Frances (Coates) Stockdale, both of whom were natives of Yorkshire, the former born in 1822 and the latter in 1819. The father was a farmer by occupation and resided in the place of his nativity until 1871, when he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, settling upon a farm near Bloomington, Illinois. For a long period he tilled the soil and in the careful management of his place developed an excellent farm, which year by year brought him a good financial return. In later years he has lived retired and at the present writing, in 1908, makes his home with his son George. He is a republican in politics and interested in the questions and issues of the day but has never been an office seeker. His wife died in 1884 at the age of sixty-five years and was laid to rest in the Bloomington cemetery. They were the parents of five children, of whom four are yet living: Thomas, of Bloomington, Illinois; George, of this review; Elizabeth, the wife of Christopher Doner, of Bloomington, Illinois; and Rose, who became the wife of John Mann and also makes her home in Bloomington, Illinois.



GEORGE STOCKDALE



George Stockdale was reared to his twentieth year in Yorkshire, England, and acquired his education in its public schools, but ambitious to enjoy better business opportunities than could be obtained in the home neighborhood, he crossed the Atlantic to the United States in 1871, landing at New York city in company with his mother and sisters. He had no funds with which to provide for their immediate wants and for a week or more, while waiting for transportation to Bloomington, he and his mother were sent to Ellis Island, where Mr. Stockdale shoveled coal for their board. When funds reached them they continued their journey westward to Bloomington, Illinois, and in that locality George Stockdale began his career as a farmer. He was employed at farm labor until 1876, when he came to Ford county and settled on the Sullivant estate. Here he has been identified with agricultural interests for the past thirty-one years and is now farming four hundred acres of land which is a part of the Sibley estate. The neat and attractive appearance of the place indicates his careful supervision and practical and progressive methods, he being widely known as one of the leading farmers of the county.

In 1878 Mr. Stockdale was united in marriage to Miss Laura Roseland, of Sullivant township. Unto them have been born seven children: Rose, now deceased; George, Maud and William, all at home; Florence, who has departed this life; Leta, at home; and one who died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Stockdale is a staunch republican and is serving for the third consecutive term as a member of the county board of supervisors, his reelections being a tangible proof of the confidence that is reposed in him by his fellow townsmen and of the ability which he displays in the discharge of his duties. He is a member of Burr Oaks Lodge, No. 321, K. P., and of Lookout Camp, No. 1136, M. W. A. He certainly deserves great credit for what he has accomplished, as he owes his success entirely to his own labors. Not afraid of hard work, his industry has proven the key which has unlocked for him the portals of prosperity.

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#### JOHN L. FALTER.

John L. Falter, carrying on general agricultural pursuits, his time and energies being devoted to the further development, cultivation and improvement of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Mona township, is numbered among the native sons of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Kan-

kakee county on the 5th of May, 1867. His parents were Louis and Margaret (Amie) Falter.

The father was a native of Germany and in early life became a resident of Columbus, Ohio, where he worked at day labor and thus gained a start in the business world. The year 1863 witnessed his arrival in Illinois, at which time he located in Kankakee county, but subsequently removed to Ford county. He here bought a farm, upon which he resided for three years, after which he went to Iroquois county and made it his home through the succeeding three years. Once more he came to Ford county and after carrying on general agricultural pursuits for three years he spent a similar period at Chebanse, Illinois. Again he came to Ford county and this time retained his residence here until he was called to his final rest, passing away in 1903. His wife died in 1901. In their family were the following children: George, deceased; Caroline, the wife of George Spear, of Chebanse, Illinois; Lillian, the wife of Harry Kamss, a resident of Kansas; John L., of this review; Katherine, the wife of George Ogyigle, of Iowa; George, Henry and Dora, deceased; and Margaret, the wife of Theron Crystal, of Iowa.

As a farm boy John A. Falter enjoyed the sports in which the youths of the period usually indulged and later his time was largely devoted to the work of the schoolroom and the duties of the fields. He continued to assist his father until twenty-three years of age and then rented the homestead farm for two years. As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Minnie E. Anderson, their marriage being celebrated in 1896. Mrs. Falter is one of a family of four children, whose parents were Andrew and Margaret Anderson. The father is now a resident of California but the mother is deceased. For seven years after their marriage Mr. Falter rented his father's farm, and with the capital which he saved during that period, purchased the farm upon which he now resides, comprising two hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land. His fields are well tilled and he also makes a specialty of raising full blooded shorthorn cattle and thoroughbred shire horses. Both branches of his business are bringing him a good financial return and he is justly accounted one of the substantial agriculturists and stock-raisers of this part of the county.

The home of Mr. and Mrs Falter has been blessed with five children: Derwood L., Orval A., Margaret N., John L., Jr., and Arthur R. The parents attend and support the Methodist Episcopal church of Kempton. They are well known socially and have many friends in the community. Mr. Falter belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Kempton and is interested in public affairs,

giving hearty cooperation to many movements for the general good. Politically a democrat, he is somewhat active in the work of the party and gives to it unflexible support. He served as collector of Mona township for three years and as school director for twelve years. The greater part of his life has been passed in this portion of the state and the favorable regard entertained for him by his fellow townsmen is proof that his life record has been an honorable one.

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#### PROFESSOR H. M. RUDOLPH.

Professor H. M. Rudolph, county superintendent of schools of Ford county and throughout his business career actively and successfully identified with educational interests in Illinois, was born in Champaign county, this state, on the 19th of March, 1863, his parents being Henry M. and Anna L. (Robbins) Rudolph. The father was born in Logan county, Illinois, of German parentage and died June 27, 1864, while serving in the Union army. His widow still survives him and now makes her home in Paxton.

In their family were eight children, of whom five are yet living: Frank V., of Paxton; Kansas F., who is a ranchman of Oklahoma; Fremont, who is engaged in the real-estate business in Kansas; William M., who makes his home in Fowler, Colorado; and H. M., of this review. Charles T. Rudolph, the oldest son, was a well known and respected man who was serving as a conductor on the Santa Fe Railroad when killed near Medicine Lodge, Kansas, in the spring of 1902. He left a widow and two children.

Under the parental roof Professor Rudolph spent the days of his boyhood and as a pupil in the district schools of Champaign county acquired his preliminary education. Later he attended the Collegiate Institute at Paxton and when eighteen years of age began teaching in order to acquire means to enable him to complete his own education. For a year he was a student in the Onarga (Ill.) Seminary, after which he followed teaching in Champaign and Ford counties for a few years. His careful expenditure during that time enabled him to acquire sufficient funds to continue his professional training and he entered the State Normal at Normal, Illinois. On leaving that institution he accepted the position of principal of the Elliott schools, acting in that capacity for three years. He then returned to Normal, where he took special work in the laboratory of Professor B. P. Colton, of the State University.

During the succeeding year he taught in the schools of Proctor, Illinois, after which he went to Gibson City, to accept the principalship of the high school there. He remained there for four years and in 1902 went to Melvin as principal of the schools of that place. The succeeding four years were there passed and during that time, in the summer of 1903, he pursued special work in sciences in the University of Chicago. In the spring of 1906 he announced himself as a candidate for the office of county superintendent of schools of Ford county and was elected. His previous excellent record as a teacher awakened public confidence in his ability to fill the position in which he is now serving.

In 1903 Professor Rudolph was married to Miss Jessie P. Hall, of Normal, Illinois, and to them have been born three children: Clithroe A.; Glenn F., now deceased; and Chalmer F.

Professor Rudolph is a republican in his political views. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is also a valued member of Hesperin Lodge, No. 123, K. P., of Gibson City, and Paxton Camp, No. 259, M. W. A. His attention from early manhood has chiefly been given to educational work and in his present position he is closely studying the schools of the county with reference to their improvement through the adoption of measures and means that will promote their efficiency and render them of still greater value to the youth of the county as a preparation for life's work. He is thorough and conscientious in all that he does along this line and public education finds in him a stalwart champion, whose service has been far reaching and beneficial.

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#### JOHN SPINDLER.

John Spindler, a retired farmer living in Paxton, was born in Knox county, Ohio, April 16, 1832, his parents being John and Jane (Yurek) Spindler, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ireland. The father was a farmer by occupation. The family numbered four children: David, deceased; John, of this review; Malinda, the deceased wife of William Potts, of Ohio; and Samuel P., who has also passed away.

John Spindler, whose name introduces this record, was educated in the district schools and in early life engaged in farming with his father, whom he assisted until he attained his majority. In 1858 he came to Illinois, settling in Logan county, where he worked as a farm hand until 1862. In that year,





MRS. AND MRS. JOHN SPINDLER



his spirit of patriotism being aroused by the continued attempt of the south to overthrow the Union, he joined Company F of the Seventy-third Illinois Infantry under Captain Montgomery and after the resignation of Captain Bennett, he became the commander of the company. The regiment was commanded by Colonel Jacques, who was a professor in the Female College at Jacksonville, Illinois. Mr. Spindler participated in the battle of Perryville, March 18, 1862, and was also at Stone River and Chickamauga. At the latter place he was wounded and taken prisoner. His left arm was shattered, the ball passing from his left side through the lower portion of his chest and coming out in the central part of his stomach. After being wounded he lay on the ground for several days at Chickamauga creek in the care of Confederate surgeons. From there he was taken to Richmond and placed in Libby prison, where he remained for six or seven months, after which he was transferred to Macon, Georgia, where he continued for some time. He was afterward sent to Augusta, Georgia, and thence to Charleston, South Carolina, where he was paroled and returned to Logan county, Illinois, being exchanged. After this he was sent to St. Louis, Missouri, to take charge of a company of paroled prisoners, and there remained from March until May, 1865, when he was transferred again to his regiment, which at that time was in the state of Tennessee and which from the time of its enlistment had been connected with the Army of the Tennessee. On the formation of his company in 1862 Mr. Spindler had been elected sergeant and after the battle of Stone River was made second lieutenant, which rank he held until mustered out of service at Springfield in 1865. He had a creditable military record, for on the field of battle he had always been faithful, and he also experienced the hardships of the southern prisons.

Soon after the war Mr. Spindler returned to Logan county, where he engaged in farming on rented land. There he remained until 1868, when he removed to Ford county and purchased land four miles east of the place, securing three hundred and twenty acres, for which he paid twenty dollars per acre. He has since increased his holdings to four hundred and forty acres and as the years passed he brought his land under cultivation, transforming it into productive fields, from which he annually gathered rich harvests that found a ready sale on the market. Year by year he was thus enabled to add to his capital and he is now living retired, his income being sufficient to supply him with the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Spindler was married first in Logan county, Illinois, in 1865, to Miss Mary E. Evans, who lived for only a short time thereafter, and on the 6th of

August, 1868, he wedded Miss Sarah F. Smead, a daughter of Ranaldo and Elizabeth (Crow) Smead. The mother died during the early girlhood of her daughter. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Spindler have been born three children: Jennie, the wife of Nicholas Berdine, of Hebron, Indiana; Anna, the wife of Oscar P. Wright, of Paxton and Mary, the wife of John Frederick, also of Paxton.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Spindler are active workers in the Methodist Episcopal church and are numbered among its most faithful and helpful members. Mr. Spindler belongs to Paxton Post, G. A. R., and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades, with whom he went on long, hard marches, or stood in the ranks of battle, facing the enemy's bullets. The family is one of prominence in the community and no history of this part of the state would be complete without mention of Mr. and Mrs. Spindler, who are justly termed representative citizens of Ford county. In his business career Mr. Spindler made a most excellent record, his success being attributable to his judicious investments, his careful utilization of opportunity and the alert and enterprising spirit which has in its vocabulary no such word as fail.

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#### JAMES KEEFE.

James Keefe took up his abode on his present farm on section 14, Brenton township, in 1892 and here owns two hundred acres of rich and productive land which is the visible evidence of a well spent, active and honorable life. He was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, May 1, 1843, his parents being James and Helen (Hennessey) Keefe, who were likewise natives of the Emerald isle. Crossing the Atlantic to the new world, their last days were spent in La Salle county, Illinois, where the father died at the age of seventy-eight years, while the mother passed away when about seventy-five years of age. In their family were five sons and six daughters, of whom James is the youngest and only three of the number are now living.

James Keefe spent the first thirteen years of his life in the land of his nativity and in the fall of 1856 arrived with his parents in Illinois. They did not tarry in the east but made their way direct to La Salle county after landing at New York from a sailing vessel on which they had spent nine weeks on the broad Atlantic. James Keefe resided in Ottawa, Illinois, for fifteen years and during most of that time worked at teaming. He then removed to a rented farm about twelve miles from Ottawa, where he worked with his father until

1868. He then went to Chatsworth, where he rented a tract of land north of the town and began farming on his own account. He conducted the place for four or five years and then married. About that time he purchased eighty acres of land lying in Livingston county and spent fifteen years on that place, bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation, so that he gathered good harvests therefrom.

On the expiration of that period he sold his property in Livingston county and bought his present farm on section 14, Brenton township, on the 16th of February, 1892. It has since been his place of residence, covering a period of sixteen years. The tract comprises two hundred acres on section 14 and 23, Brenton township, and is an excellent property, well equipped with modern conveniences and lacking in none of the accessories found upon a model farm of the twentieth century. The fields return golden harvests as a reward for the care and labor he bestows upon them and he also raises good grades of stock. His home is a commodious and attractive dwelling and not far distant stands a fine barn, together with good sheds and other buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. The farm presents a well kept appearance and everything about the place is indicative of the careful supervision of the owner, whose methods are at once practical and progressive. His industry has ever been one of his salient characteristics and has been the measure of his success.

In 1872 Mr. Keefe was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Walrich, who was born in Hanover, Germany, April 9, 1853, and was brought to Illinois when three years of age by her parents, Otto and Margaret (Hempkin) Walrich, who settled in Woodford county and afterward removed to Livingston county, where they spent their remaining days. They crossed the Atlantic on a sailing vessel, being more than nine weeks upon the water. In their family were three sons and eight daughters and two sons and seven daughters are yet living. Mr. Walrich in 1857 purchased land in Charlotte township, Livingston county, for which he paid the usual government price of a dollar and a quarter per acre. It is now in possession of his son Thomas, having never passed from the family, but has been the property of father and son for more than a half century. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Keefe has been blessed with nine children: William, a resident farmer of Brenton township; James, who is living in Chicago; Jesse, at home; Lester, under the parental roof; Mae, the wife of Isaac Dancy, of Piper City; Josephine, the wife of Ely Cooper, of Indiana; Margaret and Bessie, at home; and Mrs. Ella Munson, who died at the age of twenty-six years, leaving a daughter, Edna, now twelve years of age, living with her grandparents.

Mr. Keefe's study of the political questions and issues of the day has led him to give his support to the democracy. He has been officially connected with the schools and has also served as road officer. He was reared in the Catholic faith, while his wife was reared in the Presbyterian church. They are both well known in this locality and enjoy in large measure the esteem of those with whom they have been brought in contact. Mr. Keefe is known as a substantial farmer and the methods which he has followed are such as insure success. His labors are well directed by sound judgment and realizing the fact that zeal and energy constitute the basis of success he has pursued his work diligently year after year and is now one of the substantial agriculturists of Brenton township.

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#### MRS. FANNIE A. KOESTNER.

No history of Peach Orchard township would be complete without mention of Mrs. Fannie A. Koestner, who was the first white child born within its borders and is today its oldest resident, having remained here for a longer period than any other of its citizens. She was born May 29, 1857, a daughter of William B. and Eliza Holmes. Her grandparents in the paternal line were William and Mary (Womack) Holmes, the former an agriculturist of Derbyshire, England, where the Holmes, family had owned a farm for more than four centuries. It was upon this farm that his children were born and reared. They were John, who died March 9, 1881; Lizzie, the wife of Aaron Fletcher; Jane, the deceased wife of William Greene; Charles, who was a carpenter but afterward lived retired in Danville, Illinois; William, the father of Mrs. Koestner; and Henry, deceased. William Holmes, Sr., died December 15, 1859, having for a number of years survived his wife, who passed away in 1842. They were consistent Christian people, holding membership in the Methodist church.

As stated, it was at the old ancestral home of the family in Derbyshire, England, that William B. Holmes was born, his natal day being September 23, 1820. There he spent his boyhood days and when fifteen years of age was apprenticed by his father to a coachmaker for a term of six years, his labors being given for his instruction, as he received no wages in compensation for his services. He continued to work at his trade in England until 1849, when he took passage on a sailing vessel that weighed anchor at Bristol and in due course





MRS. FANNIE A. KOESTNER





MR. AND MRS. W. B. HOLMES



of time reached New York harbor. He was accompanied by his brother Charles and after a voyage of forty-nine days they landed in the eastern metropolis, whence they made their way to Albany, to Buffalo and by the Great Lakes to Milwaukee. There William B. Holmes was employed for a brief period in a sash and door factory but determined to give his time and energies to agricultural pursuits and located upon a tract of forty acres of heavy timber land in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, which he purchased from the government. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made and in the midst of the forest he built a log cabin and began breaking his land with ox-teams. Thus he cleared and placed under cultivation several acres but in 1852 sold that property preparatory to removing to Georgetown, Vermilion county, Illinois, where his brother Charles, with whom he had come to the United States, was then living. Together the brothers engaged in carpenter work until 1855, when William B. Holmes purchased from the government three hundred and twenty acres of land in that section of Vermilion county which has since become Ford county, the tract being located on section 27, Peach Orchard township. Mr. Holmes there built a house, broke ten acres of the land and made other improvements, after which he returned to Georgetown. In 1857 he brought his family to the farm which he had prepared and they made the first permanent settlement in Peach Orchard township. The experiences of pioneer life were theirs and all of the difficulties and hardships which fall to the lot of the frontier settler became familiar to them. As the years passed, however, the labors of Mr. Holmes wrought a change in his financial condition and the settlement of the county made it possible for the family to enjoy many of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life known to the older east. About the time the Holmes family established their residence here Joshua Nicholson also settled in the locality, bringing with him about one thousand peach sprouts, which he set out on his new farm and thus the name of Peach Orchard was given to the township.

It was on the 26th of December, 1844, that William B. Holmes was married to Miss Eliza Wrenn, a daughter of William and Sarah D. (Bennett) Wrenn. Her father, who was a professor of music, was born in Gloucester, England, and was a descendant of Christopher Wrenn, the great architect of London, who built St. Paul's cathedral and many other noted buildings. In the Wrenn family were eight children. The father died in 1855 and the mother in 1844, both being laid to rest in Bristol, England. It was there that Mrs. Holmes was born October 5, 1820, and by her marriage she became the mother of ten children: Henry, who died in 1845; Bartholemew, a farmer of Monticello, Indiana, and a native of Crewe, Cheshire, England; Lizzie, who died in 1852; Henry C., who

died at the age of twenty-one years; William S., an attorney practicing at Effingham, Illinois; John W., a farmer residing at Phillips, Nebraska; Mrs. Fannie Koestner; Mary, who died in 1887; and Sarah E. and Alfred L., who died in infancy.

The children were all reared on the old homestead farm in Peach Orchard township, where Mr. Holmes continued to successfully carry on general farming until 1888. As the years passed he transformed his property into a valuable tract of land but at length retired from active farm work and took up his abode in Melvin, where his remaining days were passed. His political allegiance was given to the democracy and he filled a number of local offices in a most creditable manner entirely satisfactory to his constituents. He was one of the first supervisors of Peach Orchard township, was also township assessor, highway commissioner and school trustee, while for fourteen years he served as justice of the peace, rendering decisions which were strictly fair and impartial. He resided in Peach Orchard township for ten years before there were settlers enough there to organize a board of directors. Both were members of the Congregational church. They were most highly esteemed throughout the community in which they so long resided and in their death the county lost two of its most honored, worthy and respected pioneers. Mr. Holmes passed away in Melvin, July 18, 1897, and his wife on the 9th of December, 1903.

Their daughter Fannie spent her girlhood days in the parents' home, being reared upon the farm where her birth occurred and a part of which she now owns. She has always resided in Peach Orchard township, her residence here antedating that of any other citizen. In early womanhood she gave her hand in marriage to Paul Koestner, who for some years was a well known and prominent farmer of Ford county. His birth occurred in Bavaria, Germany, August 20, 1851, his parents being John and Catherine Koestner, who were also natives of that country and had a family of eight children. The year 1866 witnessed the emigration of Paul Koestner to the new world. He was then but fifteen years of age and after arriving in New York City he made his way to Henry, Marshall county, Illinois, where he began providing for his own support by work as a farm hand, spending several years there. In 1871 he arrived in Ford county, where he continued to make his home until called to his final rest. For two years he was employed here at farm labor by the month and then rented land in both Wall and Peach Orchard townships. He devoted considerable attention to the raising of stock and therein met success. It was while on his way to Chicago with a carload of stock that his death was occasioned by a railroad accident January 11, 1888. His remains were brought back to Ford county and

interred in Melvin cemetery. He was then a comparatively young man of thirty-six years and his death was the occasion of deep and wide-spread regret to many friends as well as his immediate family. He was reliable as well as enterprising in business and progressive in citizenship, and his many good qualities won for him the confidence and respect of all who knew him.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Koestner were born three children but they lost their first, Henry E., in infancy. Frank is now operating the home farm for his mother, while William, the youngest son, is a student in the State University at Champaign, pursuing a course in civil engineering. Mrs. Koestner resided upon the old homestead farm formerly belonging to her father until twenty-eight years of age, and after her husband's death she removed to Melvin, where she resided for sixteen years. Four years ago she returned to the farm, owning here eighty acres of rich and productive land, together with town property, from which she receives a good income. She is a lady of excellent business ability, who has capably managed her private interests and reared her children, her sons being now a credit to her name. Mrs. Koestner has most intimate knowledge of the history of Ford county and especially of Peach Orchard township, and it is with pleasure that we present her record to our readers. She has seen the wild prairie land converted into rich farms, roads laid out, the streams bridged, and churches and schools built until the county today bears little resemblance to the district in which her girlhood was passed, for then the settlers had to endure many of the hardships incident to pioneer life. Today money can secure all the advantages and comforts of the older east and Ford county has been transformed into one of the richest agricultural districts of this great state.

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#### L. H. JOHNSON.

L. H. Johnson owns and cultivates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, Drummer township. The land is rich and arable and the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields results in securing large crops, for which he finds a ready sale on the market. He has always been a resident of Illinois and possesses the alert, enterprising spirit dominant in the middle west.

He was born in Fulton county, this state, May 4, 1859, his parents being E. B. and Phoebe (Lacy) Johnson, the latter a daughter of John Lacy, of Fulton county. While spending his boyhood days under the parental roof, L. H. Johnson attended the public schools and mastered the elementary branches

of learning. He was a student in both Fulton and McLean counties, accompanying his parents on their removal to the latter when ten years of age. The work of the farm early became familiar to him and he continued a resident of McLean county until the year 1895, when he came to Ford county and purchased his present farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land in Drummer township. His farm has been developed in keeping with the most progressive ideas of modern agriculture and he annually gathers rich crops.

Mr. Johnson was married in McLean county on the 26th of January, 1888, to Miss Jennie Davis, of Le Roy, Illinois, a daughter of George and Mariah Elizabeth (Benedict) Davis. Her father died in February, 1891, and her mother passed away in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have two sons, Ray and Earl, who are now attending school. In his political views Mr. Johnson is an earnest democrat and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Christian church. Since starting out in life on his own account he has worked on persistently, year after year, and his diligence and perseverance constitute the basis of his present prosperity.

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#### WILLIAM W. BURNS.

William W. Burns, deceased, who for some years was numbered among the energetic and successful farmers of Ford county, was born in Adams county, Ohio, on the 16th of May, 1818, his parents being James and Mary Burns. His father owned a farm in the Buckeye state and while spending his boyhood days under the parental roof there the son attended the public schools, acquiring a fair English education. When not busy with his text-books he assisted his father in the farm work and received practical training in all the duties of the fields.

William W. Burns was married in 1838 to Miss Margaret McClellan, also a native of Adams county, Ohio, and unto them were born three children. The wife and mother died in 1856, and in 1859 Mr. Burns wedded Miss L. A. Wallace, a daughter of John and Mary Wallace, of Adams county, Ohio. There is one child living by the first marriage, Mrs S. J. Fitz Henry. There is also a daughter by the second union, Margaret, now the wife of John Swearingen, by whom she has six children.

In 1874 Mr. Burns came to Ford county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, while subsequently he bought an additional tract of one



WILLIAM W. BURNS





hundred and twenty acres adjoining his first farm. He paid forty dollars for this property, which is today worth two hundred dollars per acre, owing to the cultivation and improvements he placed upon it and also to the natural rise in value and owing to the rapid settlement of this part of the state. Mr. Burns built the house which is now the old homestead and with no tools save a saw and hammer but he possessed considerable mechanical ingenuity and the work was very satisfactory when completed.

Mr. Burns gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and served as school director. He contributed to the building of the United Brethren and other churches in Gibson City, and was a public-spirited man, well liked and highly esteemed. In his business affairs he was energetic and progressive and was one of the first to improve his land by tiling. Mrs. Burns still survives her husband and a sister lives with her. Both are members of the First Presbyterian church of Gibson City. She is well known in the county and the family history justly deserves a place in this volume.

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#### VIRGIL GILMAN WAY.

Virgil Gilman Way was born at Sutton, Caledonia county, Vermont, March 17, 1847, his parents being Wells Horace and Susan Beckwith (Newell) Way. His parental ancestors were of Saxon and Irish birth, and his mother was of English parentage. Daniel Way, the great-grandfather of Virgil Gilman Way, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war from Connecticut. Wells Way, the grandfather of our subject, was twelve years of age when the English under Arnold burned New London, Connecticut. His father's house was destroyed and, together with his mother and the other children of the family, he was turned into the street, saving nothing except what they could carry in their arms. On seeing them an English soldier remarked in a jeering manner: "There goes John Rogers' wife and her nine children." The war of 1812 found the representatives of the Way family again in arms against England, and the descendants have been equally loyal to the country for whose freedom their ancestors fought so nobly during the time of British oppression. The death of Wells Way occurred at Way's Mills, Canada, in 1857.

Wells Horace Way, father of Virgil Gilman Way, was a house painter and farmer by occupation. He supported Lincoln during the Civil war,

though a democrat in political belief, and in religious faith was a Universalist. He passed away at Rutland, Illinois, July 16, 1868, while his wife survived him until September 24, 1894, her demise occurring at the home of our subject near Proctor, Illinois. She was a member of the Congregational church, and lies buried beside her husband at Rutland, Illinois. Her ancestors were soldiers in the Revolutionary army.

Virgil Gilman Way spent the first five years of his life in Sutton, Vermont, and then resided for four years in Nashua, New Hampshire, subsequently spending two years in Vernon county, Wisconsin. On the expiration of that period he accompanied his parents on their removal to Rutland, La Salle county, Illinois, and attended the common school at that place but laid aside his text-books, at the age of seventeen years, to enlist for service in the Union army. He joined Company B, Thirty-third Illinois Infantry, at Rutland, Illinois, for three years or during the war, and was discharged with the regiment on the 6th of December, 1865. Though still a lad in his teens he saw much arduous service and never faltered in the performance of any task assigned him, being commended by the officers for his brave and soldierly conduct. During his service he was wounded in the hands and leg and now draws a pension. Being of a very studious disposition, he carried on his studies while in camp and after being honorably discharged from the army, continued his education in his leisure time. He attended high school for three months and after obtaining a teacher's certificate became actively connected with that profession. He has taught altogether thirty-one terms of school in La Salle, Marshall and Ford counties, having a first-grade certificate from each county. He also learned the trade of house and carriage painting and was financially successful in that undertaking.

On arriving in Ford county in 1881 Mr. Way purchased the one hundred and sixty acre farm which he still owns and on which he yet makes his home. Through progressive methods of agriculture and the erection of suitable and commodious buildings he has made it the model farm property of Drummer township, and has always been among the foremost in the adoption of plans and improvements calculated to promote the agricultural interests of the county and state. He assisted in organizing the Ford County Farmers' Institute and after serving as its secretary for several years was elected president, which position he now holds. He was likewise expert corn judge at the Illinois State Fair, an interstate exhibit. He urged the construction and superintended the building of many miles of the gravel roads of Drummer township, and has served continuously for twelve years as commissioner of

highways, being treasurer of the board at the present writing. He also drew the plans and superintended the erection of the steel bridges in Drummer township. The gravel roads and steel bridges are the pride of the people of the township and have added greatly to the valuation of the land. In 1890 and in 1900 he acted as census enumerator for Drummer township, and in 1890 and 1891 was deputy United States marshal, while for four months, at Springfield, Illinois, he had charge of the courtroom during sessions of the court.

In August, 1900, Mr. Way was elected secretary and treasurer of the Thirty-third Illinois Infantry Regimental Association and assigned to the task of compiling and publishing the history of the regiment. This required three years of hard work but was at length successfully accomplished, seven hundred and forty-five copies being published. It is a beautiful volume of two hundred and eighty-five pages. More than two thousand men were on the muster rolls of the regiment during its term of service and the work gives a complete record of each one, including the time and place of enlistment and discharge. It is a very interesting and readable volume and the amount of labor necessary for the compilation of such a work can scarcely be realized by the uninitiated. The publishing and distribution of the history has been accomplished by Mr. Way without the loss of a dollar to the association. He financed the project and, in honor to his comrades, sold the histories at cost of publication. To show their appreciation of his faithful and excellent work in this connection, the association presented him with a specially designed diamond studded watch, handsomely engraved. Owing to the careful and thorough manner in which Mr. Way compiled the history, the association has the best record, as to living members, of any regimental association in the state, and the volume has been given a place of honor in the largest libraries of the country.

On the 31st of March, 1868, at Rutland, Illinois, Mr. Way was united in marriage to Miss Sarah D. Proctor, a daughter of Captain Willard Proctor, who commanded Company I, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Infantry, during the Civil war. The paternal ancestors of Mrs. Way were Revolutionary soldiers. The Proctor family are direct descendants of John Lock, who, prior to the Revolution, was a noted English writer on economic subjects. Mr. and Mrs. Way became the parents of the following children: Otis Willard and Virgilia G. were the first and second members of the family. Elliott Wells, the next in order of birth, is a prominent rice and cotton planter in Wharton county, Texas. He served for ten months as a Columbian guard at the World's Fair in Chicago. Henry Newell graduated at West Point, United States Military Academy, in the class of 1899, was assigned to the Fourth In-

fantry and joined his regiment in Luzon, Philippine Islands. He commanded the Fourth Infantry Scouts, a picked body of men, and while with them was promoted on the field for gallantry and awarded a medal of honor for bravery. Later he was selected by General Lawton to command a battalion of Macabebe Scouts and while serving in that capacity was killed in battle near Pilar on the 27th of August, 1900. The United States has erected a coast defense battery near Manila, Philippine Islands, and named it Battery Way in remembrance of his distinguished service. Chauncey Centius is a successful physician in Oklahoma. Susan S. and John W. Way are the next members of the family. George Fritz was graduated from the Gibson high school with the class of 1903, served eleven months as a Jefferson guard at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, and entered Knox College at Galesburg in 1905. The following year he entered the University of Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1908, with the rank of captain in the university regiment. An infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Way died soon after birth. Mrs. Sarah D. Way died March 20, 1904, after several years of suffering. She is buried at Gibson City, Illinois, by the side of her distinguished son, Henry N. Way.

On the 1st of May, 1905, Mr. Way was again married, his second union being with May, the youngest daughter of his wartime friend and regimental comrade, George J. Jordan, of Company C, Thirty-third Illinois Infantry, and Martha (McMillen) Jordan, a Civil war nurse. The latter also aided the Union cause by acting as a spy for General Benton in his campaign against the southern Missouri bushwhackers, who caused a reign of terror in the early '60s. The paternal ancestors of Mrs. May (Jordan) Way came from Saxony and Wales and served in the Indian and Revolutionary wars. Her grandfather Jordan enlisted from the colony of New York and her grandfather Cramer from the colony of New Jersey, the latter serving for seven years. Members of her family have fought for the Union in every war since the Revolution. Her maternal ancestors were of Scotch-Irish birth and settled in Maryland. At the time of her marriage Mrs. May (Jordan) Way resided in Carter county, Missouri.

In his political views Mr. Way is a republican, has served for sixteen years as a member of the Ford county republican central committee and for twelve years of that time as its secretary. His earnest work in behalf of the party is fully appreciated by the people of the county and state. At Rutland, Illinois, in 1868, he was made a Master Mason, and a Royal Arch Mason in 1870, and while living at that place served his lodge as junior deacon and secretary. After removing to Ford county he became a member of Gibson

Lodge, A. F. & A. M., Gibson Chapter, R. A. M., and Gibson Council, R. & S. M. He is a member of Lott Post, No. 70, G. A. R., of Gibson City, Illinois, has served as commander of the post, inspector of posts in Ford county and member of the official staff of the Department of Illinois, Commanders Wilson, Trimble and Mathews, with the rank of colonel. Liberal in his religious views, he is not a member of any denomination but is a believer in the Christian religion. He has a well selected library, containing principally military and political works and finds recreation and pleasure in reading. In agricultural, educational, fraternal and political circles he has made his influence widely felt and stands as a man among men, honored wherever known and most of all where best known.

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#### WINFIELD SCOTT.

Winfield Scott, who is now living retired in a comfortable and attractive residence in Kempton, was for many years identified with the agricultural interests of Ford county. He was born in Somerset township, Washington county, Pennsylvania, March 24, 1849, of the marriage of John and Lydia Scott, both of whom were also natives of Washington county, Pennsylvania, in which state they also passed away. Eight children were born of this union, four of whom still survive: Franklin P., who makes his home in Pennsylvania; William J., of Marietta, Ohio; John A., who resides in Piper City; and Winfield, of this review.

Winfield Scott was educated in the common schools and remained in the state of his nativity until 1874, when he located in Mona township, Ford county, being employed at farm labor by the month for two years. On the expiration of that period he rented a farm, which he successfully operated for five years, and in 1881 returned to Pennsylvania, remaining in that state until 1887. In that year he returned to Illinois, purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Mona township, where he carried on his agricultural interests diligently and energetically until 1903, when the competence he had acquired through his well directed labor and capable business management enabled him to put aside the active work of the farm and he is now living retired in a comfortable residence which he owns in Kempton. He is renting his land in Mona township.

On the 6th of February, 1889, Mr. Scott was united in marriage to Miss Harriet A. Wilson, a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, whose parents are both now deceased. She was one of a family of four children, and by her marriage to Mr. Scott she became the mother of one child who died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Scott is a democrat and has served for twelve years as supervisor. There were only two democrats on the board during this period but he was elected chairman, a fact which indicates his personal popularity and the trust reposed in him by his fellow members of the board. He has also served as school director for nine years, the cause of education ever finding in him a stalwart and helpful champion. Both he and his wife are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are esteemed in their home community as people of genuine personal worth, the hospitality of the best homes being freely accorded them.

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#### A. C. THOMPSON.

A. C. Thompson is the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Ford county and in addition to general farming he makes a specialty of stock-raising. He was born in Schuyler county, Illinois, August 12, 1858, his parents being Amos R. and Martha W. (Smith) Thompson, who are represented elsewhere in this volume.

A. C. Thompson remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority, when he started out in life on his own account by renting a farm in Missouri. He remained in that state for a year and then returned to Illinois, purchasing eighty acres of land in Iroquois county, which he successfully operated until 1887. In that year he came to Ford county and again rented land for five years, on the expiration of which period he returned to Iroquois county, where he farmed a tract of rented land for thirteen years. He then purchased a farm in that county but sold it in 1900 and purchased four hundred and eighty acres on section 21, Pella township, Ford county. He increased his holdings from time to time until he now has seven hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land in this county in the beautiful valley of the Pan Handle. He is one of the prosperous and enterprising agriculturists of this part of the state and in addition to his extensive farming interests he also



MR. AND MRS. A. C. THOMPSON





makes a specialty of raising stock, in which branch of his business he has met with a gratifying measure of success.

In 1888 Mr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Patterson, a native of Wyoming county, New York. Her father has passed away, but her mother still survives, making her home in Steele county, North Dakota. Mrs. Thompson is one of a family of eleven children and by her marriage she has become the mother of eight children, six of whom are living: Walter, who is a student in the high school at Piper City; Lottie; Jennie; Leslie; Benjamin; Margaret; and two who are deceased.

In 1903 Mr. Thompson removed to Freeland Park, Indiana, where he conducted an elevator until the spring of 1907, when he sold out and returned to this county in order to supervise his agricultural interests here. He has erected a handsome fifteen room residence on his farm, three miles north of Piper City, in which he expects to spend the remainder of his life. Except for the assistance he has received from his estimable wife, Mr. Thompson owes his success entirely to his own well directed labor and unfaltering diligence, combined with capable business management. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. In his political views he is a republican and a believer in high tariff. He has served as school director altogether for nineteen years in the different counties in which he has lived, the cause of education ever finding in him a warm friend. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America at Piper City and is also a member of Piper City Lodge, No. 608, A. F. & A. M. and is a Knight Templar in the commandery at Fairbury. Both he and his wife are widely and favorably known throughout the community, having won the unqualified confidence and regard of all with whom they have come in contact.

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#### JOHN A. SHAW.

John A. Shaw, a resident of Kempton, identified with both farming and carpentering, is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, born July 27, 1849. His parents were Jonathan and Martha Shaw, who were natives of England, and in 1842 came to America, crossing the Atlantic in a sailing vessel, after the slow and tedious method of marine travel of those days.

They located in Rockdale, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Mr. Shaw worked in the cotton mills for eighteen years. Thinking however, to find

better business opportunities in the middle west, he removed to Winnebago county, Illinois, in 1858, and there resided until 1865, when he took up his abode in Grundy county, this state. Three years were passed there, during which time he followed general agricultural pursuits.

He next removed to Livingston county, where he carried on farming for ten years, and on the expiration of that period he became a resident of Ford county, establishing his home in Kempton. His wife died here on the 10th of September, 1886, and surviving her for only a brief period, Jonathan Shaw passed away November 6, 1886. In their family were nine children, as follows: Wright, who died during the voyage to this country and was buried at sea; Hannah, the wife of Thomas Greenwood, a resident of Ford county; Anne, the widow of Davis Travis, and a resident of Kempton; James, deceased; Joe, who lives in Brookton, New York; Mary, the wife of Joseph Schofield, a resident of Morris, Illinois; John A., of this review; Thomas, who resides in Kempton; and Maggie, the wife of John W. Bute, of Ford county.

John A. Shaw spent the first nine years of his life in the city of his nativity and was then brought to Illinois by his parents on their westward removal. He lived with them in Winnebago, Grundy and Livingston counties, remaining at home until twenty-three years of age, when he started out in life on his own account. He had previously been a pupil in the public schools, where he acquired a fair English education and through the summer months he had worked on the farm, early becoming thoroughly acquainted with the best methods of cultivating and caring for the crops. On leaving home he settled on a rented farm, which he improved for five years, at the end of which time, with the capital he had acquired from his labors, he purchased a farm on section 6, Mona township, where he now lives. He carries on general agricultural pursuits and at the same time works at the carpenter's trade, being thus closely associated with the industrial interests of his part of the county. In both lines of his business he is practical as well as progressive and his labors are bringing him a desirable measure of success.

In 1873 Mr. Shaw was united in marriage to Miss Martha J. Bute, who was born in Pennsylvania, July 18, 1854, a daughter of John F. and Eliza (Houston) Bute. Her parents were natives of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and in 1858 arrived in Illinois, settling in Putnam county, where they lived for a year. On the expiration of that period they removed to La Salle county, where they resided for ten years and then came to Ford county, where both parents died.

Mrs. Shaw was the eldest of a family of eight children. By her marriage she has become the mother of three daughters: Lottie May, at home; Laura E.,

now the wife of H. F. Stewart; and Lula, at home. The last named is a graduate of the Kempton high school. The eldest daughter possesses considerable musical talent and has been organist in the Methodist Episcopal church from the age of twelve years. Mr. Shaw and his family are all members of the Methodist church, of which he is a local preacher. They are much interested in the work of the church and their labors have contributed in substantial measure to its growth and upbuilding.

In politics Mr. Shaw is a republican. During the period of his residence in Mona township he has been regarded as one of its leading and representative men, whose position on all questions of moment is never an equivocal one. On the contrary he stands loyally in support of what he believes to be right and as the years have passed his labors and influence have contributed to the general welfare of the community.

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#### SILAS D. HEVENER.

Silas D. Hevener owns and operates an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres, situated on section 18, Pella township. He is a native son of Illinois, his birth having occurred on a farm near Little Rock, Kendall county, on the 2d of December, 1861. His parental grandparents were Andrew H. and Betsy E. Hevener, the death of the former occurring in 1840, while the latter died in 1859. His parents were Robert and Lossie M. (Rogers) Hevener, both of whom were natives of the Empire state, the birth of the former having occurred in Oneida county, October 13, 1835.

The father spent his boyhood and early youth on a farm in his native state but at the age of seventeen years, believing that he might enjoy better business opportunities in the then "far west," he made his way to Illinois, settling in Kendall county, where he was employed at farm labor during the succeeding decade. Believing his first duty was to his country, he then responded to the call for troops to do service in the Civil war, enlisting on the 14th of August, 1862, as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry, under Colonel John H. Van Armen. The regiment was mustered in at Chicago, Illinois, from which city they at once made their way to Memphis, Tennessee. His regiment met the enemy at Chickasaw Swamp, where a hard battle ensued. Under General Grant he then partici-

pated in the siege at Vicksburg, where in the first charge the regiment lost sixty men in less than an hour. He then participated in the battles at Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain. The regiment then went into winter quarters at Larkinsville, Alabama, and on the 1st of May started for Atlanta. Being ill, Mr. Hevener was detailed to drive a team for the surgeon, and while not actively engaged in field duty, was present at the battles of Resaca, Buzzard's Roost, Allatoona Pass and others of minor importance. Continuing the march from Atlanta to the sea, Mr. Hevener met with an accident, by which he was incapacitated for service and after spending five months in the Jefferson Barracks Hospital at St. Louis, he received an honorable discharge in June, 1865. Following his service in the army he returned to Kendall county, where he resumed his farming operations, being thus engaged for three years, subsequent to which time he removed to Ford county, where he bought an unimproved tract of land of eighty acres, this being located in Pella township. He built a commodious country residence and added many outbuildings to the place and there made his home during the remainder of his life. He was a public-spirited man and was called to fill many positions of honor and trust, serving as constable, township trustee and town supervisor. His political views accorded with the principles of the republican party. It was on the 15th of February, 1859, that he was married in Kendall county, to Miss Lossie M. Rogers, and this union was blessed with a son and daughter, but the latter, Mary, died when four years of age. The death of Robert Hevener occurred in 1898 and was the occasion of deep regret to his many friends, for during the long years of his residence in Ford county he had come to be known as an upright, honorable and conscientious citizen. His widow, however, still survives and is yet making her home on the farm in Pella township.

Silas D. Hevener is the only surviving child of his father's family. He remained under the parental roof until he reached mature years, having in the meantime attended the common schools near his parents' home, while later he attended the high school at Piper City, after which he engaged in teaching for one term. Agricultural pursuits, however, proving more congenial to him, he then resumed farming, having purchased a farm adjoining the homestead, which constitutes a portion of his present home place. He has since added a forty-acre tract, so that his place now embraces one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 18, Pella township. He is engaged in raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and each year gathers rich harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields.

In 1883 Mr. Hevener was united in marriage to Miss Alice L. McLean, who was born in Henderson county, Illinois. Her parents have now reached the venerable age of eighty-one years, and make their home with their daughter, Mrs. Hevener, she being one of a family of six children. Mr. and Mrs. Hevener have one son, Floyd, and they have also adopted a daughter, Dora. The son has been afforded liberal educational advantages, having pursued a university course at Normal, Illinois. He is now engaged in teaching at Martinton, Illinois.

Following in the political footsteps of his father, Mr. Hevener gives his political support to the men and measures of the republican party and has been called by his fellow townsmen to fill some public office, having served as supervisor of Pella township for six years, while for several years he served as a school director. He and his wife are members of the Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints. Mr. Hevener is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of Ford county. He has spent his entire life here and is therefore widely and favorably known, commanding the high regard of all with whom he has been associated.

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#### PATRICK O'MARA.

Patrick O'Mara, who is successfully operating three hundred and sixty acres of fine land on section 14, Pella township, was born in Grundy county, Illinois, on the 15th of May, 1860, a son of Patrick and Nora O'Mara, mention of whom is made in the sketch of Thomas Gallahue on another page of this work.

Patrick O'Mara remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority, acquiring his education in the common schools of Grundy county. When he had reached man's estate he began farming a rented tract of land in Grundy county, being thus engaged for three years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Ford county and here again rented a farm. He now operates three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land on section 14, Pella township, the fields annually returning golden harvests in return for the care and labor he bestows upon them. He is recognized throughout the community as an enterprising and progressive agriculturist, the neat and thrifty appearance of his place giving proof of his capability and energy in its management.

In 1890 Mr. O'Mara was united in marriage to Miss Katie Gallahue, a daughter of Peter and Julia Gallahue, who are mentioned at length in the sketch of Patrick Gallahue, which appears on another page of this volume. Seven children have been born unto our subject and his wife, six of whom still survive: John Raymond, Nora Cecelia, James C., George T., Johanna M., Peter Arthur, and Leo, who has passed away.

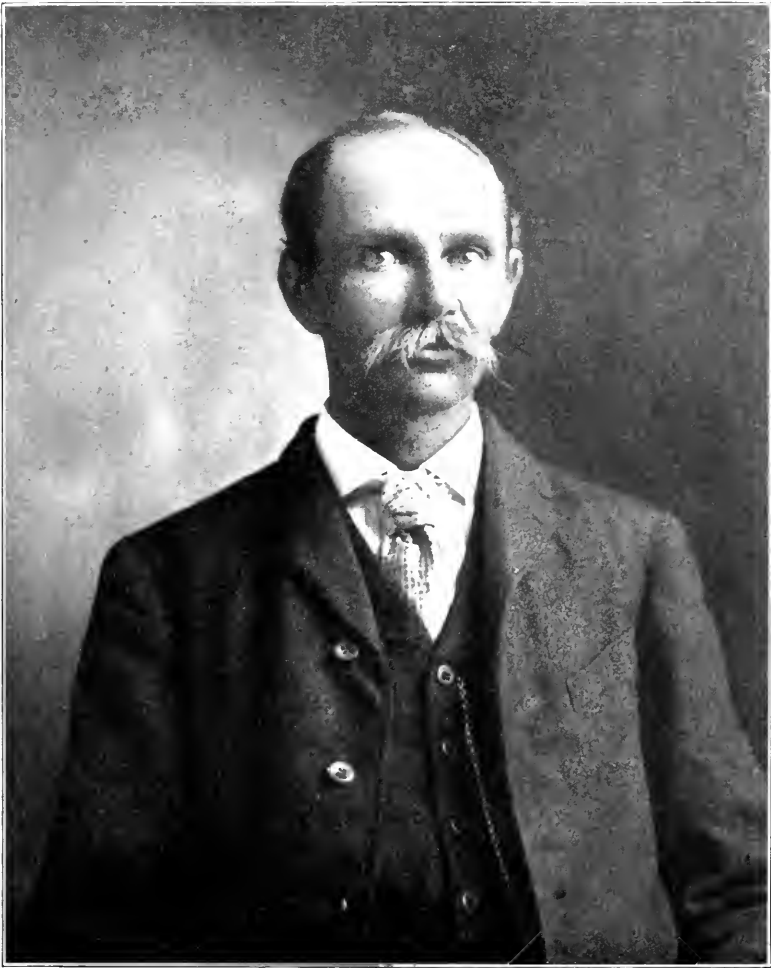
In his political views Mr. O'Mara is a democrat and has held the offices of school director and road commissioner for several years, while for two years he has acted as collector, discharging his public duties in an efficient, energetic and conscientious manner. Both he and his wife are faithful members of the Catholic church at Piper City and are widely and favorably known by reason of their sterling traits of character and genuine personal worth. For almost a quarter of a century he has been a representative of agricultural interests here and has therefore been an active factor in the development and upbuilding of Ford county.

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#### HENRY ATWOOD.

Henry Atwood, well known as a prominent agriculturist of Pella township, now living retired with his son Wyllie, was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, February 6, 1832, his parents being William H. and Lenora (Atkins) Atwood. The father was born on Cape Cod and when but eight years of age went to Boston with his father, who soon afterward purchased a farm at Chelsea, Massachusetts. While still but a boy William H. Atwood began providing for his own support as clerk in a store, and throughout his entire life was connected with mercantile interests. He learned to read by poring over newspapers at every available opportunity. He was entirely self-educated, but through his efforts became a well informed man, using his leisure for reading, study and investigation. In the school of experience he learned, too, many valuable lessons, acquainting himself with the methods in vogue in the business world, and by well directed thrift and enterprise, established a large business as a wholesale and retail dealer in oysters. In this enterprise he was associated with his brother, and for a long period they enjoyed an extensive patronage.

William H. Atwood was married at Chelsea, Massachusetts, to Miss Lenora Atkins, a native of Cape Cod, who died when their son Henry was but



W. T. ATWOOD





twelve years of age. The father afterward wedded Ruth Newcome and subsequent to her death was a third time married. He served as a captain of a military company and throughout his entire life gave his political support to the democracy. He died at the old home in Chelsea in 1878, at the age of seventy-four years. His children were seven in number: Franklin, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Henry; Lenora, deceased; Cordelia, who is a widow and lives in Massachusetts; Daniel, who served in the Twenty-seventh Massachusetts regiment throughout the Civil war, and is now living in the Bay state; Thomas H., who was a member of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry in support of the Union; and Otis, who resides in Boston.

When thirteen years of age Henry Atwood secured a position in a wholesale drug store in Boston, and that he was trustworthy, reliable and diligent, is indicated by the fact that he remained there until he was twenty-one years of age. In 1857 he determined to try his fortune in the west, hoping to enjoy better business opportunities than he could secure in the east. He spent a short time in Minnesota for his health, and was in Minneapolis when the first building was erected in that city. Later in the year he came to Ford county, Illinois, and purchased eighty acres of wild land in Pella township, where he has since made his home. It was not long before he had brought his entire farm under cultivation. In its midst he erected a small house, twelve by twelve feet. Trees were planted and many other improvements made which indicated the progressive spirit and practical methods of the owner. His was the first house erected in Pella township, and indeed Mr. Atwood was one of the early settlers of the county, having now for more than a half century made his home within its borders. He has been prominently identified with its growth and progress during all these years. He served on the first jury of Ford county in Paxton and has been called upon to fill many positions of honor and trust, the duties of which he has ever discharged with promptness and fidelity. He belongs to the band of faithful and courageous pioneers of Ford county who aided in extending the frontier and in laying broad and deep the foundation for the present development and progress of the county.

On the 16th of November, 1859, Mr. Atwood was married, in Onarga, Iroquois county, to Miss Mary Wyllie, who was born in Warren, Maine, and is a daughter of William and Harriet Wyllie. Mrs. Atwood taught the first school held in Pella township in her own home. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children: Lillie A., who was born and reared on the old homestead, is now the wife of David E. Tufts of Steele county, North Dakota; Wyllie T., married Miss Loressa Wilson, who was born in Peoria

county, Illinois, and was one of a family of six children. He is now operating his father's farm and owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Iowa; Flora B. is the wife of Hazel Carr, of Rensselaer, Indiana.

Mr. Atwood is a member of the Presbyterian church and his life has been actuated by high and honorable principles and worthy motives. He cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont and has since been a republican, staunch and true. The cause of education has found in him a stalwart champion and he has done much toward the advancement of the schools of Ford county. During the long period of his residence here he has enjoyed in full measure the confidence and regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. Men know him as an energetic, progressive and reliable business man and agriculturist and as a citizen always loyal to the public good. He has aided largely in the agricultural progress of this section of the state and at the same time has cooperated in many other measures which have been of great value to the county.

In 1907 Mr. Atwood was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who was born in Warren, Maine, May 27, 1831, and passed away at Piper City, March 12, 1907, after an illness of ten days. She was one of the charter members of the First Presbyterian church and had continued in constant affiliation therewith, exemplifying in her life its teachings and its principles. Her loss was most deeply mourned by many friends as well as her immediate family. Mr. Atwood is now living retired on the homestead with his son Wyllie and his rest is well merited, having been honorably won through years of former toil and activity.

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#### WILLIAM A. HUTCHISON.

William A. Hutchison is the present coroner of Ford county and in all of his citizenship, as manifest either in office or out of it, has been found loyal to those interests which promote the welfare of the community and uphold its political and legal status. He was born in Wayne county, Ohio, December 16, 1850, his parents being Samuel I. and Mary (Rodgers) Hutchison. His family comes of Scotch ancestry, but the first representatives of the name in America located here at an early period in the development of the new world. William Hutchison, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and traveled by keelboat to Ohio, becoming a resident of

Wayne county, that state, in 1811. He had journeyed several hundred miles in a boat of that character over rivers whose banks were destitute of any settlement for miles and miles. He took up his abode in Holmes county, later removing to Wayne county, and in the new state proved a prominent and helpful citizen, whose efforts in behalf of public progress were far-reaching and beneficial. He served as probate judge of Holmes county and left the impress of his individuality upon its public interests. There he remained for some years, when he removed to Wayne county, where he died. He served as an adjutant in the Ohio Militia.

Samuel Hutchison, father of our subject, was reared in Wayne county, Ohio, and also became a representative of his district in the military service of his country, enlisting in 1864 as a member of Company I of the One Hundred and Sixty-sixth Ohio Infantry, serving until the 1st of September of that year. He continued his residence in Ohio until 1868, when he came to Ford county, Illinois, settling in Butler township, where he made his home until his death. He passed away in 1892, at the age of sixty-nine years. He is still survived by his wife, who by her marriage became the mother of four children: Elizabeth, the wife of R. W. Gorsuch, of Pekin, Illinois; William A.; John R., who is living in Butler township; and Samuel L., whose home is in Logansport, Indiana.

William A. Hutchison pursued his education in the public schools of his native state and came with his father to Ford county when a young man of about eighteen years. He devoted his attention to farming until 1876, when he removed to the village of Clarence, where he has since resided. He was the first postmaster of the town and served continuously and efficiently in that position for twelve years. He has since been connected with various business enterprises and in 1897 he was again called to public office by appointment to the position of coroner. In 1898 he was reelected and has been continued in the office by reelection to the present time, so that his service covers ten years. He has also filled the office of drainage commissioner for four years and in this connection has been active in promoting what is justly regarded as the greatest public improvement in Ford county.

In 1876 occurred the marriage of Mr. Hutchison and Miss Margaret Gormley, a daughter of Thomas Gormley, of Logan county, Illinois. Their children are: Dr. O. G. Hutchison, who is married and is engaged in the practice of his profession in Wichita, Kansas; Mary, the wife of Rev. E. A. Culter, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Effie, who is attending college at Milwaukee.

For forty years William A. Hutchison has resided in Ford county and is thoroughly identified with its interests. He has watched much of its growth and progress as the years have gone by, nor has he been alone an interested witness, for he has aided in the work of development and has made a creditable record in every official position to which he has been called.

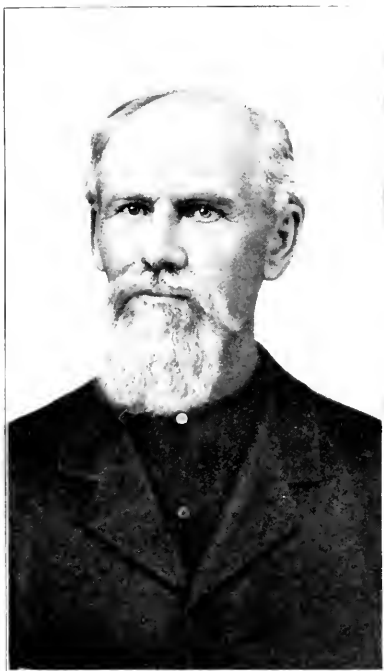
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#### JOEL EMERY FARLEY.

In a history of the agricultural development of Ford county mention should be made of Joel Emery Farley, who has now departed this life but who, when an active factor in the world's work, was closely and honorably associated with the farming interests of this part of the state. He was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1833, and was of Scotch descent.

His parents were Samuel Chandler and Jane Ann (Walker) Farley, natives of Canada and of Pennsylvania respectively. The father was a preacher of the Mormon faith but while believing in their principles of religion he did not endorse the plurality of marriages. He walked all the way from Erie county, Pennsylvania, to Salt Lake City, Utah, and on the way crossed the farm in De Kalb county that later became the property of his son Joel. On the trip he sold notions and thus met the expenses of the journey. Later he returned to Pennsylvania and then brought his family to the middle west, settling in Kendall county, Illinois, while afterward he became a resident of De Kalb county. He next removed to Rogers township, Ford county, in 1864, and upon this place he continued to make his home until called to his final rest at the age of seventy-four years. His wife survived him for about two years and was also seventy-four years of age at the time of her demise. Her mother came from Ireland with her parents when a little maiden of twelve years. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Farley were four sons and two daughters, as follows: Isaac Perry, who in early life followed farming and afterward took up the study and practice of medicine but is now deceased; James Decatur, who made farming his life work and died at the age of fifty-three years; Mrs. Hannah J. Bullock, deceased; Joel E. of this review; Dr. Benjamin F. Farley, a physician of York, Nebraska; and Mrs. Sarah Margaret Bogg, also of York, Nebraska.

Joel Emery Farley spent the first fifteen years of his life in the east and acquired his education in the public schools there. He then accompanied his



MR. AND MRS. J. E. FARLEY



parents on their removal to De Kalb county, Illinois, and remained at home up to the time of his marriage, which was celebrated on the 24th of November, 1855. He then continued to reside in De Kalb county until 1865, when he removed to Norton township, Kankakee county, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land near the Ford county line. He further developed and improved that place, which he sold in 1879, prior to purchasing eighty acres of land in Mona township. To this he afterward added one hundred and sixty acres, thus becoming the owner of a valuable farm property of two hundred and forty acres, which he successfully cultivated for many years. He brought his fields into a high state of fertility and annually gathered good harvests, continuing to improve his farm until about three years prior to his death, when he took up his abode in Kempton, living retired there until he was called to the home beyond on the 1st of January, 1897. He possessed considerable mechanical ingenuity and also worked at carpentering in addition to farming. His life was one of intense and well directed activity and the success he achieved is attributable entirely to his own labors.

Mr. Farley was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Hall, who was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, December 4, 1839, a daughter of Amasa and Mercy (Mead) Hall, likewise natives of the Keystone state. They journeyed westward in a covered wagon when their daughter, Mrs. Farley, was five years of age, their destination being Sandwich, Illinois, but their last days were spent in Virginia, where the father died when about seventy years of age, and his wife when a year younger. He was of English parentage and Mrs. Hall was of Holland descent. Their family numbered nine children, including Mrs. Farley, who from the age of five years remained a resident of De Kalb county until after her marriage, when she came with her husband to Ford county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Farley were born eight children. Emma Jane, the eldest, is the wife of C. E. Gifford, of Cabery. Frank C. is a carpenter and mechanic living with his mother and carrying on the farm. George is a resident farmer of Mona township. Cora is the wife of A. L. Love, of Los Angeles, California. William C. is a resident farmer of Livingston county. Lucy May is the wife of J. R. Stuart of Kempton. Perry is a carpenter and builder of California and Ada L. is the wife of William Watts, of Cabery. All of the boys have inherited their father's mechanical skill and ingenuity and are efficient in carpenter and like work.

Mr. Farley was a stalwart and inflexible advocate of the temperance cause and in politics a staunch prohibitionist. At the time of his death he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He believed more firmly in the

principles and doctrines of the Christian church but as there was no organization of that denomination in his neighborhood he allied himself with the Methodist people and took an active part in both temperance and church work. In fact, he did everything in his power to promote the moral development of the community. He served as clerk and assessor in his township and for several terms was justice of the peace, discharging his duties with a fairness and fidelity and in the justice court rendering decisions which were strictly fair and impartial. His life was actuated by high principles and characterized by upright conduct and to his family he left not only good farm property but also an untarnished name. Mrs. Farley and her son Frank reside together in Kempton in the fine home which was built by Frank Farley, who is a carpenter and builder, one of the reliable business men of Mona township.

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#### D. B. KEIGHIN.

D. B. Keighin, who is engaged in operating four hundred and eighty acres of land on section 11, Mona township, was born in Peoria, Illinois, July 17, 1860, his parents being David and Mary Ann (Cowley) Keighin. The father, who is now a resident of Chicago, was born in Peel, on the Isle of Man, May 18, 1825, his parents being Thomas and Betsy (Garrette) Keighin. As passenger on a sailing vessel he crossed the Atlantic to New Orleans in April, 1849, reaching his destination after a long and tedious voyage. In May of the same year he made his way to Peoria, Illinois, and was there identified with building operations for a number of years or until October, 1862. At that time he entered the army as a sutler of the Seventy-seventh Illinois Regiment and remained until the close of the war, after which he returned to his family.

Mr. Keighin had been married in May, 1851, to Miss Mary Ann Cowley, a daughter of Thomas and Kate (Teare) Cowley. She was also a native of the Isle of Man, born August 31, 1827, and on the 15th of May, 1848, she arrived in New Orleans, after which she made her home in Memphis, Tennessee, up to the time of her marriage.

For four years after the close of the war Mr. Keighin was a resident of the south, where he engaged in raising cotton. He then returned to Peoria but soon afterward removed to Ford county, establishing his home in Mona township, where he invested in four hundred and eighty acres of land on section 11. With characteristic energy he began the further development and improve-



ment of this place and converted it into a fine farm, upon which he made his home until 1883. In that year he retired from agricultural life to become identified with the business interests of Kempton, where for six years he was engaged in buying grain. His business affairs were capably managed and brought him a gratifying measure of success that now provides him with the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. At the present writing he is living retired in Chicago in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil, but in 1904 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who had for more than a half century been to him a faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey.

Mr. Keighin is yet remembered as one of the prominent farmers and leading business men of Ford county and has many friends here, frequently returning on a visit. He was the first supervisor of Mona township and was honored with other offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. His political allegiance was given to the republican party on its organization and he has since remained one of its stalwart champions. His religious faith is indicated in his membership in the Congregational church and the integrity and uprightness of his life exemplifies his Christian belief. He met success not through speculation or by taking advantage of the necessities of another in a trade transaction but through close application, determined purpose and honorable effort and today he justly merits the confidence and respect which are uniformly extended to him.

D. B. Keighin, one of a family of seven children, was reared upon the old homestead farm and remained with his father until 1891. He was then married, on the 25th of March of that year, to Miss Mary Alice Benson, whose birth occurred in Rogers township, Ford county, March 9, 1870. Her parents are still living, being residents of Kankakee and their family numbered seven children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Keighin have been born four children, Clarence B., Charles W., Robert A. and Mary Alice.

Mr. Keighin has during the greater part of his life carried on agricultural pursuits although at one time he was engaged in merchandising. In 1894 he removed to Cabery, where he was interested in the hardware and lumber business for nine years, conducting the enterprise successfully during that period. In 1903 he sold a half interest in the business and returned to the home farm, upon which he has since resided. He now operates four hundred and eighty acres of land on section 11, Mona township and has the place under a high state of cultivation, the rich and well tilled fields returning him excellent harvests annually. He also has a fine herd of full blooded Jersey cattle upon his place. His business interests have been carefully conducted

and his keen insight into complex business problems has brought him a gratifying measure of success.

His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he served for six years as school director but otherwise has never held nor desired public office. Fraternally he is connected with Cabery Lodge, No. 631, A. F. & A. M. and belongs to the Odd Fellows Lodge of Kempton, and to the Woodmen Camp, of Cabery. He and his wife are connected with the Royal Neighbors at Cabery and he has filled all of the offices in the Masonic Lodge. His life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft which is based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. Almost his entire life has been passed in this locality and his fellow townsmen know that his life record has been characterized by fidelity to duty and by honor in all his relations with his fellowmen.

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#### JOHN A. SCOTT.

John A. Scott, a retired agriculturist residing in Piper City, was formerly extensively engaged in general farming and stock-raising on section 9, Mona township, where he owns a fine farm of six hundred and forty acres. A native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, he was born January 1, 1848. His father, John Scott, Sr., was a native of Pennsylvania and was of Scotch descent. He married Lydia Pees, who was also a native of the Keystone state and was of German lineage. They became the parents of eight children, as follows: Franklin, a practicing physician residing in Monongahela City, Washington county, Pennsylvania; William J., who is engaged in farming in Washington county, Ohio; Winfield, a resident farmer of Mona township; George; Mary; Lydia J., the deceased wife of Lewis Dague; Sarah E., who died in 1873; and John, of this review. The father of this family died in 1886 at the age of eighty-two years, while the mother passed away in 1888. Both were members of the Presbyterian church and highly respected people.

John A. Scott was born and reared on his father's farm and, after attending the district schools of the neighborhood for some time, completed his education in the Hoge Summit Academy, of Washington, Pennsylvania. He began the study of medicine, but in 1866 abandoned it in order to come west, making his first location in Morris, Grundy county, Illinois, where he worked at whatever he could find to do for about a year. He then began farming,

following that occupation during the summer months, while he engaged in teaching in the winter season for three years. He made his home in Grundy and Marshall counties until 1870, when he came to Ford county, locating in Mona township, where he became extensively engaged in general farming and stock-raising. His farm, comprising six hundred and forty acres, is one of the most desirable and valuable in the community, the fields annually returning golden harvests in return for the care and labor which he bestowed upon them. He also made many improvements on the place and in addition to the work of tilling the soil also raised a good grade of stock, meeting with a gratifying and creditable measure of success in both branches of his business. He is now, however, living retired in Piper City, having gained a competence that enables him to enjoy all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life without further recourse to labor.

In 1870 occurred the marriage of Mr. Scott and Miss Margaret A. Collins, daughter of Philip and Ann Collins. Their union has been blessed with five children: Marion H., Lila May, Frank R., Philip C. and Milla.

Mr. Scott is a stalwart champion of the democratic party and has always taken a great interest in political affairs. While living in Mona township he served as school director, road commissioner, school treasurer and township supervisor, discharging every duty entrusted to his care in an efficient and capable manner. He has prospered from year to year and has conducted all business matters carefully and successfully, and in all his acts displayed an aptitude for successful management. He is widely recognized as one of Ford county's substantial and enterprising citizens, and both he and his wife have gained an extensive circle of friends during their residence here.

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#### WILLIAM FREDERICK ELDER.

William Frederick Elder, the well known and genial proprietor of the Middlecoff Hotel of Paxton, is a native of Londonderry, Ireland, and a son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Duncan) Elder. He was only eight years of age when he left his native land and came with his father and one brother to America. His father dying shortly afterward, he was then adopted by James Pells, a farmer living near Paxton, Illinois, for whom he worked until he attained his majority.

At the age of twenty-one, Mr. Elder started out in life for himself and engaged in farming on his own account for several years, during which time he saved his money. He then came to Paxton, where he worked in a hotel for two years, and during that time became thoroughly familiar with the business in all its details. Going to Sheridan, Indiana, in June, 1897, he took charge of a hotel at that place, which he successfully conducted for three years, and on selling out at the end of that time he returned to Paxton and purchased the Paxton Hotel, which he ran until the 19th of May, 1906. Since that time he has been proprietor of the Middlecoff, which is a fine new hotel, supplied with all modern conveniences, and in the conduct of this establishment he has met with marked success, gaining a liberal patronage.

On the 12th of June, 1897, Mr. Elder was united in marriage with Rosie Sassin, who was born in Germany and has one son, Elmer, by a former marriage. She has been of great assistance to her husband in his business, doing her share in the management of the hotel, and not a little of his success is due to her aid and encouragement.

Mr. Elder is a self-made man for he started out in life for himself with no capital but by industry, economy and good management he has overcome the obstacles in the path to success and is now quite well-to-do. Besides his business he has a farm in Nebraska and several city lots in Paxton and is regarded as one of the wide-awake and progressive business men of the place. Politically he is identified with the republican party and socially is connected with Paxton Lodge, No. 418, I. O. O. F.; Paxton Lodge, No. 416, A. F. & A. M. He is also a member of Gibson Council, No. 72, R. & S. M.; Ford Chapter, No. 113, R. A. M.; Mt. Olivet Commandery, No. 38, K. T.; Mohammed Temple of Peoria; and Danville Lodge of Perfection.

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#### FRANK PHILLIPS.

Frank Phillips, the well known assessor of Wall township and the owner of a fine farm of ninety acres on section 18, was born at Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 17, 1837, and the first twenty-two years of his life were passed under the parental roof. His parents were Patrick and Mary (Dorsey) Phillips, natives of Ireland, in which country they were reared and married. Immediately afterward, however, about 1827, they came to the United States and lived for a time in New York, the father working on the Erie Canal. He afterward

removed to Michigan, where his remaining days were passed, his time and energies being devoted to the development and improvement of his farm. His wife died when about fifty years of age, while he passed away in 1875, at the age of seventy-five years. Frank Phillips was the fourth in order of birth in a family of twelve children, of whom three are now living. His brother, older than himself, is John Phillips, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and his sister, who is his junior, is Mrs. Maggie Connety, of Detroit, Michigan.

Reared upon the home farm near Ann Arbor, Michigan, Frank Phillips had little opportunity for attending school as his time was occupied with the labors of field and meadow. However, he learned the value of unremitting diligence and developed a spirit of self-reliance which has since been a strong element in his latter success. In 1859 he left home and went to northern Kansas and southern Nebraska and engaged in work there. Returning to Illinois, he settled at Galva, Henry county, where he worked for ten years by the month as a farm hand. In 1869 he arrived in Dix township, Ford county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, but, being unable to make the payments upon the place, he had to sell out. In 1875 he purchased his present farm, comprising ninety acres of land on section 18, Wall township. He has made all of the improvements on this place, which was largely unbroken land when it came into his possession. In fact much of the land was covered with water but he has drained it and the work of reclamation which he has carried forward has transformed it into a valuable property. He has brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and year by year has carried on the work of the farm until it has become a very desirable property, from which he annually gathers rich crops that bring to him a good financial return.

In 1861 Mr. Phillips was married to Miss Vashita French, a native of Summit county, Ohio, born November 1, 1843. At the age of nine years she became a resident of Henry county, Illinois, accompanying her parents, William A. and Amanda (Thorpe) French, who were likewise natives of the Buckeye state. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have two sons and a daughter living: Alby, of Indiana; Ida, the wife of John Worthington, of Melvin; and John, at home. They also lost two children—Frank, who died in April, 1886, at the age of twenty-two years; and Maggie, who died in 1873, when about seventeen months old.

Mr. Phillips gives his political support to the republican party and is somewhat prominent in its local ranks. Nine years ago he was elected assessor of Wall township and held the office for two terms. He was then out for one term, after which he was again elected and has since continued in this position,

the duties of which he discharges in prompt and capable manner. He belongs to that class of self-made men who are the architects and builders of their own fortunes. Starting out in life empty-handed, he has worked his way steadily upward, realizing that untiring labor is the basis of all success. Today, at the age of seventy-one years, he is in possession of a good farm property and pleasant home and his well spent life merits the confidence and respect of his fellowmen.

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#### GARRETT NUGENT.

The business affairs of Garrett Nugent are capably conducted and make him one of the leading residents of the village of Cabery. He possesses untiring energy, is quick of perception, forms his plans readily and is determined in their execution, while his close application to business and his excellent management have brought to him the high degree of prosperity which he is today enjoying.

He was born in Chatham, Ontario, Canada, August 5, 1855, and when eleven years of age accompanied his parents on their removal to Wilmington, Will county, Illinois. He is a son of Nicholas Nugent, who was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, and crossed the Atlantic to Canada when a young man. There he acted as baggagemaster on the Great Western Railroad for four years and following his marriage removed with his family to Illinois, settling in Will county, where he lived for one year. He then removed to Essex township, Kankakee county, where he owned and operated a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, his time and energies being devoted to its further development and improvement until he laid aside the more active cares of business life. In early manhood he wedded Sarah Magher, a native of County Kilkenny, Ireland, who came to Canada with two brothers, Thomas and Patrick Magher. The death of Nicholas Nugent occurred on the 19th of May, 1901, when he had reached the age of seventy-eight years, while his wife survived until the 6th of November, 1907, and was eighty-five years of age at the time of her death.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Nugent were born seven children, namely: Garrett, of this review; Michael, a retired farmer of Essex township, Kankakee county; Mrs. Bridget Hayes, of Sibley, Ford county, Illinois; Richard E., who resides on the home farm in Essex township, Kankakee county; Nicholas, who follows

agricultural pursuits in Essex township; Thomas, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; and Mrs. Margaret A. Mulligan, who also resides on the old homestead in Essex township.

Garrett Nugent may well be termed a self-made man, for he started out in the business world at the early age of twelve years and for thirty-two years was in the employ of the Shobey family as a farm hand and as a clerk in their store in Union Hill. What higher testimonial of capability and fidelity could be given than the fact that he was so long retained in that employ. Desirous to engage in business on his own account, however, he joined his brother in the grain trade at Cabery in 1898 and after a three years' partnership bought out his brother's interest and has since conducted the business under his own name, operating an elevator with a capacity of twenty thousand bushels. As a grain merchant his business is not only of value to himself but also to the community, furnishing a good market for the farmers of this locality. He likewise deals in coal and agricultural implements and his business is constantly increasing, owing to his tireless energy, keen perception and honesty of purpose.

In 1888 Mr. Nugent was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Ryan, who was born in Wilmington, Will county, Illinois, in 1866, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ryan, who were natives of Ireland but spent their last days in Wilmington. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Nugent has been blessed with two daughters, Alice and Margaret, and the family is prominent socially. They attend the services of the Catholic church and Mr. Nugent is fraternally connected with the Woodmen, while politically he is a stalwart republican. He has made a most creditable record in the business world and has contributed in substantial measure to the promotion of commercial activity in the village in which he lives.

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#### JAMES WALLACE DUNNAN.

James Wallace Duman, the only son and eldest child of Hugh and Eliza Jennings (Wallace) Duman, was born November 9, 1877, at Mount Jackson, Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, and when four years of age accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, his family being established upon a farm three and a half miles south of Elliott in Dix township, Ford county. There James W. Duman lived the life of a farm lad and attended the district schools

until 1892, when his parents removed to Paxton. He was then fifteen years of age and entered the public schools, being graduated with honor from the Paxton high school in June, 1896, at the age of eighteen years.

In the fall of the same year he entered Monmouth College, at Monmouth, Illinois, and on the completion of a three years' course there was graduated with the class of 1899. While in college he took high rank and gained special distinction in the Eeeritean Literary Society, of which he was a member, being called upon on many special occasions to deliver orations, give readings or appear in debate. In the senior year he was a member of Monmouth's team in the annual debate between Monmouth and Drake University, of Iowa. He also appeared as one of the orators of the annual commencement exercises, delivering the winning oration in the contest between the Philo and Eeeritean Literary Societies. While in college he was also local editor of the Oracle, the students paper, and was a reporter for the Monmouth Daily Gazette.

In the winter of 1899-1900 Mr. Duman was in the south and in July, 1900, he purchased and became the editor and publisher of the Eastern Illinois Register, which was founded in 1875 by Dr. J. C. Duman and was the only democratic newspaper in the county. He has edited this paper to the present time with marked ability, making it always a power to be reckoned with, not only in Paxton but throughout Ford county, where the paper has a large and growing circulation. While a staunch democrat in his political views and always supporting the party's nominees loyally in national and state affairs, Mr. Duman is ever impartial and unprejudiced in his editorial utterances regarding candidates of the opposition and in local matters it has always been his policy to support the men he considered best qualified for the office, irrespective of party affiliation. His paper, therefore, might properly be termed an independent democratic journal. In 1902 Mr. Duman was honored by his fellow citizens by election to the board of alderman of the city of Paxton, where he served on important committees and also as chairman of special committees, having charge of extensive improvements made in connection with the waterworks system. In 1904 he was honored by members of his party with the nomination for state senator in the twenty-sixth senatorial district, composed of Ford and McLean counties, and although defeated, he ran far ahead of his ticket. In 1904, and again in 1906, he attended the state conventions of his party as a delegate from Ford county.

On the 16th of June, 1903, Mr. Duman was married to Miss Mabel White, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weaver White. For many years Mr. White was circuit clerk and recorder of Ford county and was prominent in its



public life. Mrs. Dunman is a graduate of the Paxton high school of the class of 1898 and also a graduate of the Chicago Piano College, which indicates her native and acquired ability in the art of music. Two daughters have been born of this union: Katharyn Jane, born May 6, 1904; and Martha Belle, born September 22, 1906. The parents are members and prominent workers in the United Presbyterian church at Paxton, while Mr. Dunman is a welcome visitor in the lodge meetings of the societies of the Modern Woodmen and the Court of Honor, with both of which he holds membership.

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#### WILLIAM DANCER.

William Dancer is one of the prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of Mona township, deriving an excellent annual income from a farm of four hundred acres, while through the raising and feeding of stock he yearly augments his capital. His life record began in Will county, Illinois, on the 12th of November, 1844, his parents being Benjamin and Emily Dancer. The father was a native of Rochester, New York, and became a resident of Illinois when it was a frontier district. The early settlers had to endure many hardships and privations incident to the settlement of the frontier and at times the Indians, who were still hunting and trapping over this district, were hostile, resenting the encroachment of the white race upon their hunting grounds. In the family of Benjamin and Emily Dancer were seven children, of whom three are still living. William and John were twins and always remained together, associated in their social, business and other interests until the death of the latter. Marie, the next in order of birth, is still a resident of Will county. Mary is deceased. Emily is the wife of George Haley of Will county and the others have passed away.

William Dancer, whose name introduces this review, remained upon the old home farm, assisting in its development until the death of his father, which occurred when the son was nineteen years of age. He afterward engaged in herding cattle, being thus employed for four years, and in 1868 he and his brother John came to Ford county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, situated on section 14, Mona township. Three years later in 1871, they began to improve and cultivate this tract and upon the farm William Dancer has since remained. The brothers were associated in the development of the fields and in feeding cattle until the death of John Dancer,

at which time they were the owners of six hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land in Mona township. Their interests were then divided, the brother's widow receiving three hundred and twenty acres, while a similar amount came into the individual possession of William Dancer. He has since purchased an additional tract of eighty acres, so that he now owns a large and valuable farm of four hundred acres in Mona township. He is today the most extensive feeder of Ford county and a man of splendid business ability, executive force and keen discernment. In his business affairs he so ably directs his interests that splendid success has attended him, making him one of the wealthy representatives of agricultural life in Mona township and this part of the state. He had no special advantages at the outset of his career but depended upon his own labors and his diligence has been the foundation of his success. He still operates his home farm.

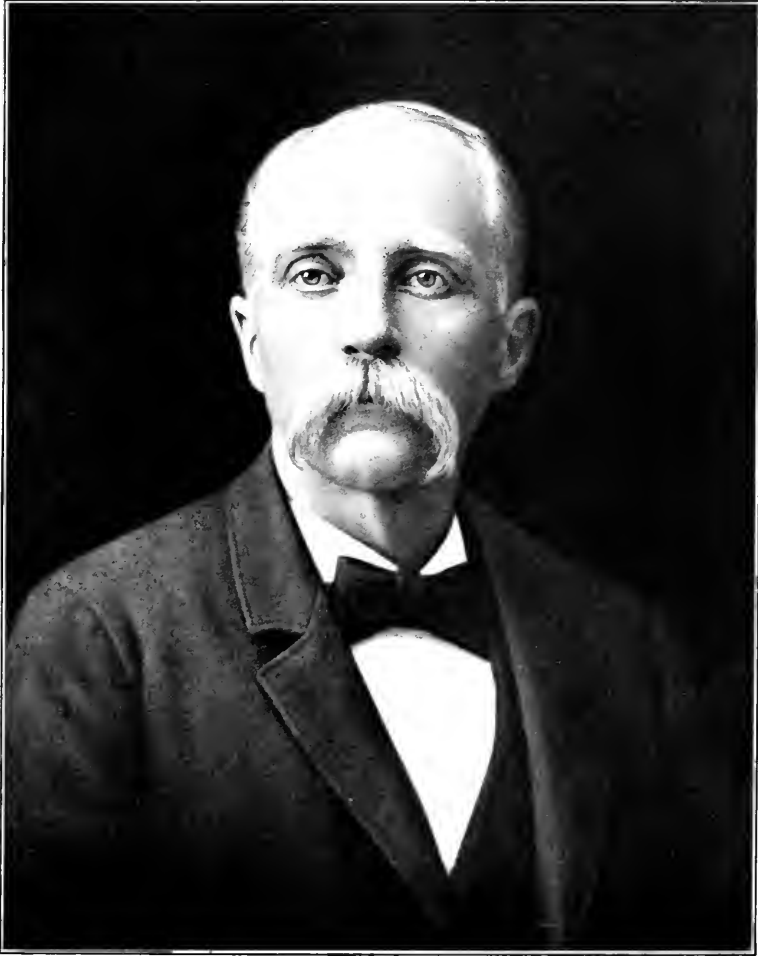
In his political views Mr. Dancer is a stalwart republican and recognized as one of the leaders in the local ranks of the party, doing all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. For three years he filled the office of school director and is the present drainage commissioner, having acted in this capacity for twelve years. He is justly accounted one of the most successful business men of this part of the state and is widely known as a stock-feeder.

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#### DAVID REEP.

David Reep, deceased, was for a long period connected with the farming interests of Patton township, Ford county, and his well directed energy and diligence brought him a gratifying measure of success. He was born in Pennsylvania, December 3, 1845, his parents being Isaac and Hannah (Barnhart) Reep. The father was of German descent and spent his entire life in the Keystone state. The son pursued his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania and was there reared and married. It was in the year 1867 that he wedded Miss Nannie J. Kinkaid, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Moore) Kinkaid, who were likewise representatives of old families of Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Reep began their domestic life in the east and remained residents of their native state until 1879, when they sought a home in Illinois. They spent one year in Kankakee county and in 1880 came to Ford county,



DAVID REEP



settling upon a farm near the place upon which Mrs. Reep now makes her home. A little later Mr. Reep purchased the present farm and became the owner of two hundred and ninety-seven acres of rich and productive land. With characteristic energy he began the development of his fields, which he brought under a high state of cultivation and to his place he added many modern improvements and equipments, making it one of the fine farms of the county. His life was one of untiring industry and in all of his business affairs he was honorable and straightforward.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Reep were born eight children who are still living and they lost two who died in infancy. Those who still survive are: John F., a resident of Oregon; Minnie, the wife of Orval Phebus, who is living near Sheridan, Indiana; Elizabeth, the wife of William Martin, also a resident of Indiana; Alexander, at home; James C., also at home; Albert, who is superintendent of schools at Fortville, Indiana; Iva M., the wife of Charles Coulter, who makes his home near Paxton; and Charles E., who completes the family.

In his political views Mr. Reep was a prohibitionist—a fact which indicates his position on the temperance question. He served as school director and commissioner of highways and he held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, his life being in harmony with its principles. His family are also identified with the Methodist church at Paxton. In manner Mr. Reep was quiet and unostentatious but his many good qualities of heart and mind made him well loved in the community as well as in his own household. As the years passed the careful conduct of his business affairs brought him a comfortable competence and he was thus enabled to leave his family in good financial circumstances when on the 16th of December, 1906, he was called from this life. Mrs. Reep still resides upon the farm and, like her husband, has many friends in the community, where she has now lived for twenty-eight years.

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#### J. F. DONAHUE.

J. F. Donahue, who owns and operates two hundred and forty acres of rich farming land on section 31, Mona township, was born in Preble county, Ohio, on the 29th of August, 1854, his parents being Peter and Elizabeth (Laughlin) Donahue, both natives of Ireland. They emigrated to the United States in 1850, taking up their abode in Ohio, where the father worked by the

month for four years at a salary of seven dollars per month. He then operated a rented farm for three years and in 1858 removed to La Salle county, Illinois, also renting a farm there for several years. On the expiration of that period he purchased a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres in La Salle county, whereon he made his home until the time of his demise. He was one of the early settlers of this state and largely aided in the work of pioneer development and upbuilding. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Donahue were seven children, namely: J. F., of this review; James, who lives in Oklahoma; Thomas, who also resides in that state; and four who have passed away.

J. F. Donahue acquired his education in the common schools and remained under the parental roof until he had reached maturity, when he rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres located on section 31, Mona township, Ford county. At the end of four years he purchased the place and has continuously resided thereon to the present time, bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation by reason of the practical, progressive methods which he follows in the conduct of his farming interests. He has also added to his original purchase until his property now comprises two hundred and forty acres and is widely recognized as one of the substantial and enterprising agriculturists of Ford county.

In 1887 Mr. Donahue was joined in wedlock to Miss Maggie Gardner, a native of La Salle county, whose parents were born in Ireland, emigrating to America at an early day. The father is deceased but the mother still survives him, now making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Donahue. The latter is one of a family of seven children, is a graduate of the Paxton high school and was engaged in teaching for ten years. By her marriage she has become the mother of seven children: William J., who is a student in the State University; John F., deceased; Elizabeth, who is now attending the Cullom high school; Elmer J., who is also pursuing his studies in the Cullom high school; and Margaret C., Lester P. and Marie H., at home.

In his political views Mr. Donahue is a staunch democrat and is quite prominent in local political circles, having served for several years as drainage ditch commissioner, while for twenty years he has acted as school director. Fraternally he is connected with Woodmen lodge, No. 1886, at Cullom, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Catholic church, of which his wife is also a communicant. Almost a third of a century has passed since our subject came to Ford county. This state was then largely a wild district, its lands unclaimed, its resources undeveloped. In the years which

have since passed, Mr. Donahue has not only witnessed a most wonderful transformation but has also aided in the labors which have transformed the wild tract into a splendid commonwealth. Both he and his wife are widely and favorably known throughout the entire community, having gained many friends during the long period of their residence here.

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#### MYRON LEWIS SHERMAN.

An excellent farm of two hundred and eighty acres on section 30, Pella township, well developed and well improved, is the property of Myron Lewis Sherman, who since 1868, with the exception of a period of fifteen years has resided in Ford county. He was born at Watertown, New York, June 6, 1863, a son of Nicholas and Electa J. (Lewis) Sherman, who were natives of the state of New York and came to Illinois in 1855, settling in Kendall county, where the father followed farming until 1868. He then removed with his family to Ford county, purchasing land in Pella township, whereon he lived for five years and then returned to Kendall county. Another period of five years was there passed, after which he came again to Ford county, settling once more on their farm, which remained the place of residence of the father and mother until 1893, when they retired to Piper City, where their last days were passed.

Myron L. Sherman remained with his father during the period of his minority and acquired a public-school education. He rented land from his father when he had reached adult age and thus carried on farming on his own account for five years, after which he bought eighty acres on section 30, Pella township. This was the nucleus of his present farm, the boundaries of which have been extended from time to time until he now owns two hundred and eighty acres on section 30, Pella township. It is a valuable farm, neat and thrifty in appearance and well improved with good buildings and modern equipments.

In 1881 Mr. Sherman was married to Miss Ella Keller, who was born in Pulaski, New York. Her parents are now living in Estherville, Iowa, and in their family were nine children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sherman have been born four children but Cora, the eldest, is now deceased. The others are: Jennie E., the wife of Hugo Trunk, of Livingston county; George E., at home; and Jessie, the wife of John K. Reed, of Piper City.

In his political views Mr. Sherman is a stalwart republican and has served as highway commissioner for fourteen years, also filling the office of school director for nine years. He belongs to the Masonic lodge, No. 608, at Piper City, to Fairbury Chapter, No. 99, R. A. M., at Fairbury, and St. Paul Commandery, No. 34, K. T., of Fairbury. He is a supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church. In the Masonic lodge he has filled all of the chairs and is most loyal to the teachings of the craft. His interest in the community, its substantial development and its improvement along social, intellectual and moral lines, has led to his endorsement of many movements that have been of material benefit in accomplishing desired results. His business record is commendable in that his industry, unflinching diligence and keen business discernment constitute the basis of the success which he is now enjoying.

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#### THOMAS J. LIDDLE.

Thomas J. Liddle, one of the most prominent farmers of Ford county, was born in Knox county, Illinois, March 9, 1859, his parents being James and Elizabeth (Brown) Liddle, who were natives of England and came to America in 1858. The father was born in Northumberland county, England, and was a ship carpenter by trade. He traveled extensively, having worked in all of the large ship-building yards of England, and when he determined to come to America he crossed the continent from New York until the interior of the country was reached, settling in Knox county, Illinois, where he rented land and thus engaged in farming. For about fourteen years he continued in that county and in 1872 removed to Livingston county, where he purchased a farm upon which he made his home until 1881. In that year he became a resident of Ford county, purchasing three hundred and twenty acres of land, upon which but slight improvements had been made. In his farm work he was always progressive and energetic and was the first man in the county to do any tiling but foresaw the possibilities in this direction and by his progressive efforts converted uncultivable land into a tract of rich fertility. The farm for which he paid thirty dollars per acre is today worth two hundred dollars per acre, owing in great measure to the labor and improvements which he placed upon it. He reached a ripe old age, passing away August 5, 1905, in his eighty-seventh year. His widow still survives and resides at Cropsey. In their family were four children: Susanna M.; Margaret E., the widow of James



Hill, of Francisville, Indiana; T. J., of this review; and William R., a resident of Ford county.

Thomas J. Liddle was educated in the district schools of Livingston and Knox counties and from early boyhood assisted in the work of the home farm, becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. At the age of twenty-one years he began working on his own account but continued to make his home with his father and attended to the business of the farm. His early practical experience well qualified him for the work which he undertook after he had reached adult age and as the years have passed his experience and sound judgment have been manifest in the excellent results which have followed his perseverance and well directed labor.

On the 8th of February, 1905, Mr. Liddle was married to Mrs. Marie Luther, nee Walker, of Fairfield, Iowa, an accomplished young woman of rare attainments, who has filled many positions of honor in the lodges and Methodist Episcopal church of that place, a faithful and successful worker in all social and charitable undertakings of her community. Mrs. Liddle is a daughter of Jonathan and Anne (Molden) Walker, who were natives of Newcastle, England. Emigrating to America in 1850, they settled in Fairfield, Iowa, where they procured land at once and prospered as industrious and energetic farmers. Mr. Walker is now living retired at the age of eighty-nine years, and has lived to see his children well settled in life, all residing near the old home place. Mrs. Walker was educated in the Duchess school of Abwick, England, and was a woman of unusual energy and of high intellectual ability. She passed away June 28, 1901. Both were active members and staunch supporters of the Methodist Episcopal church and the cause of temperance. Mr. Walker has always been a prominent republican and was a gifted public speaker. Their good work and prayers will live for years and years in the hearts of many. In their family were nine children, namely: Mary, the wife of E. R. Best, of Jefferson county, Iowa; Michael, who is deceased, his widow and three children residing in Iowa; William, who has also passed away; Elizabeth, the wife of B. N. DeGood; Mrs. Liddle; Susan, the wife of James Campbell; Thomas L.; Byron; and David.

Mrs. Liddle owns property at Guthrie, Oklahoma, where she was post-mistress several years, and she also has property at Piney Ridge, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Liddle have one son, Thomas J., who was born September 27, 1906, and completes the happiness of their pleasant home.

Fraternally Mr. Liddle is a member of Burr Oaks Lodge, No. 621, K. P., and has filled every chair in the order, also representing his lodge in the Grand Lodge of the state for the past five years. His wife is a member of

the Rebekah lodge. In politics he is a republican and has served in several local offices, being elected township assessor in the fall of 1907. A social, genial manner, kindly spirit and deference for the opinions of others have made him popular and he is practically prominent in the Knights of Pythias order, being most loyal to the teachings of the society. His entire life has been passed in Illinois and most of it in this section of the state, and he stands as a splendid representative of the progressive agricultural element in our citizenship.

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#### JOHN J. RUSSELL.

John J. Russell, who is now living retired in Roberts, was formerly actively and successfully connected with the agricultural interests of Ford county. He was born in this county on the 20th of December, 1863, his parents being Patrick and Mary Russell, further mention of whom is made in the sketch of Patrick Gallahue on another page of this work.

John J. Russell acquired his education in the district schools of Ford county and remained under the parental roof until he had attained the age of twenty-six years. He then started out in life on his own account as an agriculturist and the success which attended him in his farming operations enabled him to retire from active business life in 1904, and he now lives in Roberts in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He is still the owner of eighty acres of rich and productive land on section 23, Lyman township, being recognized throughout the community as a substantial and enterprising citizen.

In 1886 Mr. Russell was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary T. Dingnan, a native of Iroquois county, Illinois, and a daughter of Michael and Mary Dingnan, natives of Ireland, who emigrated to America at an early day. Their family numbered six children, as follows: Mrs. Russell; Esther M., deceased; Lawrence F., who makes his home in Montana; Michael M. and Anna A., both at home; and Katherine H., who has also passed away. Mr. Dingnan departed this life in 1881 but the mother still survives him and resides on the old homestead in Iroquois county, Illinois.

In his political views Mr. Russell is a democrat and has served as assessor of Lyman township. Fraternally he is connected with Woodmen lodge, No. 2039, at Roberts, Illinois, and both he and his wife are communicants of the

Catholic church. A native son of the county, he has witnessed its development from a pioneer region into a rich agricultural district and has, moreover, taken an active part in the arduous toil which was necessary to bring about this wonderful transformation.

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#### JOSEPH P. RUSSELL.

Joseph P. Russell, who cultivates his father's old homestead property, which comprises three hundred and twenty acres of good land, and who also owns one hundred and sixty acres of farm land on section 26, Lyman township, is a native son of Ford county, his birth having occurred on the 19th of March, 1865, a son of Patrick and Mary Russell, natives of Ireland. They emigrated to America in 1852, settling first in Chicago, Illinois, where the father worked as porter in a hotel for four years. He then came to Ford county in the spring of 1859, and has since resided within its borders, now making his home with his daughter, Mrs. Patrick Gallahue, his wife having passed away in 1893. Their family numbered seven children, namely: James, deceased; Maggie, who has also passed away; Ella, the wife of Patrick Gallahue; John, a farmer of Lyman township; Joseph P., of this review; and William and Katie, who are deceased.

Joseph Russell was reared under the parental roof and acquired his education in the common schools. He assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until he had attained the age of twenty-four years, when he rented land from his father and started out upon an independent business career. After he had cultivated that land for four years he established a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Nora Riordan. Mrs. Russell was born in Livingston county, Illinois, in 1872, a daughter of Michael and Katherine Riordan, and one of a family of six children. She is a well educated lady, having graduated from State Normal at Bloomington, Illinois, after which she engaged in teaching for two years prior to her marriage. Her mother passed away in 1901 but the father still survives, now making his home in Minnesota, where the other members of the family reside.

Following his marriage, Mr. Russell purchased eighty acres of land in Lyman township, to which he removed. After cultivating this for two years he returned to the old homestead farm of three hundred and twenty acres and has since cultivated this property, in which he is meeting with gratifying

success. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres of land situated on section 26, Lyman township, which is a valuable property. In his farm work he follows the most progressive ideas and each year adds to his financial income.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Russell has been blessed with nine children, John P., Mary E., Francis M., Katherine M., Joseph W., Lucy N., Ellen L., Richard Leo and Eugene. The latter, however, is deceased. In politics Mr. Russell is a democrat and for the past ten years has served as highway commissioner, while for a similar period he has filled the office of school director. Both he and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church. Having spent his entire life in Ford county, Mr. Russell has a wide and favorable acquaintance. He is energetic and enterprising in his work, and as a result of his labors he has met with a gratifying measure of prosperity, thus being classed with the substantial agriculturists of Ford county.

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#### JOHN CRAWFORD.

John Crawford, who for many years was actively identified with farming interests in Ford county, is now living retired in a comfortable home in Thawville, Iroquois county. He is a native of New York, his birth having occurred in Albany county, January 2, 1840. He is one of a family of four sons and four daughters, whose parents were John and Hannah (Foucks) Crawford, likewise natives of the Empire state. The father died when our subject was a youth of fourteen years.

John Crawford, whose name introduces this record, was reared under the parental roof and remained in his native state until he had reached the age of twenty-four years, when, hoping to find better advantages in the then "far west," he made his way to Illinois, arriving in McLean county in December, 1864, there remaining for a period of two years, after which he spent five years in La Salle county. In 1871 he took up his abode in Ford county, locating on a farm in Lyman township, and there for many years he followed general agricultural pursuits, in which he met with gratifying success. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Crawford was engaged in stock-raising, making a specialty of Norman Percheron horses, this branch of his business proving a profitable source of income to him. He still owns his farm property in Ford county, comprising one hundred and ten acres, situated on section 2, Lyman township, and also owns sixty acres on section 10, Ridgland township, Iroquois county.



MRS. AND MRS. JOHN CRAWFORD





About three years ago Mr. Crawford retired from agricultural pursuits and with his family removed to Thawville, where he erected a modern and commodious residence, containing ten rooms. It was prior to his removal to the west that Mr. Crawford was married in 1861, in Westerlo, Albany county, New York, to Miss Harriett Burch, their marriage being celebrated on the 20th of November of that year. She was born in Westerlo, March 28, 1845, a daughter of Moses and Maria (Petrie) Burch, who were natives of New York and whose family numbered ten children, five sons and five daughters.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford has been blessed with four children: Sidney, who resides on his father's farm in Lyman township, situated a mile and a half west of Thawville, is married and has one child, Clyde; Frank, who is station agent at Onarga, Illinois; Carrie, the wife of Henry C. Smith, by whom she has two daughters, Katherine and Harriett; and Julia, the wife of William Havens, of Thawville, by whom she has one daughter, Edna.

In his political views and affiliations Mr. Crawford is a republican but while giving staunch support to the party has never been active as an office seeker. Thirty-six years have come and gone since Mr. Crawford located in this section of Illinois and he has not only been an interested witness of the growth and development that has here been made but has been an active participant therein. In former years he worked hard to acquire a competence which might enable him to spend his last years in retirement and now at the age of sixty-eight years he has seen his wish fulfilled, for he is now living in a nice home in Thawville, where he is surrounded by many friends and acquaintances.

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#### GUSTAVE W. RUDOLPHI, M. D.

Dr. Gustave W. Rudolphi, who is successfully engaged in the general practice of medicine at Elliott, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, on the 23rd of September, 1875, his parents being G. T. and Wilhelmina (Rust) Rudolphi, also natives of Mecklenburg. The father followed merchandising in the land of his birth, and in 1885 sailed with his family for the new world. After reaching the shores of America he made his way into the interior of the country, taking up his abode at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

After completing his literary education in the common and high schools, Dr. Rudolphi began preparation for his chosen profession by matriculation in the Illinois Medical College, pursuing a four years' course, after which he was graduated with the class of 1905. For two terms during his college days he acted as assistant instructor in anatomy and following his graduation he assisted Dr. Boshell, of Melvin, for a year. On the expiration of that period he opened his office in Elliott, where he is now engaged in general practice. He makes a specialty of surgery and children's diseases, and has already gained more than local distinction by reason of his skill and ability in the field of his chosen endeavor.

In 1906 Dr. Rudolphi was married to Miss Fannie Brooks, a daughter of Edward Brooks, of Vermont, and a descendant of Governor Bradford, who came to America with the historic band of pilgrims in the Mayflower, and was chosen the chief executive of the Plymouth colony. Dr. Rudolphi is a member of the Presbyterian church of Gibson City, and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. Fraternally he is connected with Melvin Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and Elliott Lodge, I. O. O. F. In the line of his profession he is connected with the Iroquois-Ford Medical Society, with the State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and thus keeps in touch with the advanced thought of his profession through the interchange of ideas and experiences among the members of the medical fraternity. He performs his professional services with a sense of conscientious obligation and strict adherence to a high standard of professional ethics.

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#### JOHN A. MONTELIUS, JR.

Among the native sons of Piper City who have made for themselves a creditable name and position in business circles is numbered John A. Montelius, Jr., who was born on the 10th of November, 1874. After mastering the elementary branches of English learning in the public schools he continued his studies for four years under a private tutor and from 1891 until 1893 attended Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake, Michigan. In September of the same year he entered the Armour Institute of Chicago, where he spent two years as a student, returning then to Piper City to become a factor in its business life. Here he entered the implement business as a member of the firm of Montelius Brothers, which connection was continued



until 1902, when John A. Montelius, Jr., bought his brother's interest and has since continued the business alone under his own name. He carries a large and excellent stock and has built up an excellent trade in this direction. In addition to his mercantile interests he is a stockholder of the Piper City Telephone & Telegraph Company, which he assisted in organizing in 1903. He had been manager for the Paxton Electric Company prior to its reorganization, and continued as manager for two years of the new company. For the past three years he has been secretary of the Illinois State Implement & Vehicle Dealers Association, and is widely known in trade circles as a representative, energetic and enterprising business man.

On the 20th of May, 1900, John A. Montelius, Jr., was married to Miss Emilie F. McKinney, a native of Piper City, and a daughter of John McKinney. They are prominent socially and their own home is very attractive by reason of its warm-hearted hospitality. Mr. Montelius is a member of the Presbyterian church, and in politics is an independent republican. Fraternally he is connected with Piper City Lodge, No. 608, A. F. & A. M., and the chapter and commandery at Fairbury. He also belongs to Mohammed Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Peoria, to the Eastern Star, to the Odd Fellows society at Piper City and to the Modern Woodmen camp. His ready adaptability, his laudable ambition and strong purpose have made him a force in commercial circles, nor is he unknown in business lines outside of his native city.

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#### THOMAS GALLAHUE.

Thomas Gallahue owns and cultivates a tract of land of two hundred acres on section 23, Pella township. Nowhere throughout the entire country can richer farm land be found than in Ford county and the tract which is in possession of our subject returns rich harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, November 11, 1861, his parents being Peter and Julia (A'Hern) Gallahue, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume in connection with the history of Peter Gallahue. As a farm boy Thomas Gallahue worked in the fields, assisting in plowing, planting and harvesting up to the time when he was twenty-six years of age. He then started out upon an independent business career, cultivating a tract of rented land for a year. He made further arrangements for having a home of his own through his marriage in

1887 to Miss Minnie O'Mara, who was born in Livingston county, Illinois, and was one of a family of eleven children. The parents were natives of the south of Ireland and came to America in early life, settling first in New York city, while subsequently they removed to Grundy county, Illinois, where Mr. O'Mara followed farming. The mother still survives and resides in Thawville, Iroquois county, but the father is now deceased. Her brothers and sisters are also living.

Following his marriage Mr. Gallahue located upon a part of the old farm homestead, of which he now owns two hundred acres, situated on section 23, Pella township. He likewise has one hundred and sixty acres in Minnesota. As a farmer he is enterprising, alert and energetic, and his unwearied diligence has brought him a very gratifying measure of prosperity. His work is conducted along modern and systematic lines and he accomplishes good results in the production of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Gallahue has been blessed with six children: William P., Thomas P., Neil, Dora Agnes, Herbert J. and Francis. The parents are communicants of the Catholic church and are widely and favorably known in this locality. Mr. Gallahue is a democrat in his political views, and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to public office. He filled the position of highway commissioner for seven years, was collector for eight years and was also school director for nineteen years, in which connection he labored earnestly for the welfare of the public schools. In fact he stands as a stalwart champion of all that pertains to progressive citizenship and throughout this community in which he has so long made his home, he is held in highest esteem.

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#### CHRIST WALTERS.

Christ Walters owns and occupies a beautiful residence which stands in the midst of a fine farm on section 30, Dix township, and the property is the visible evidence of a life well spent in earnest, persistent and honorable labor. He was born in Germany, February 24, 1852, his parents being Henry and Sophie Walters, who came to America in 1864. They made their way to Peoria, Illinois, and thence to Elm Grove, about seven miles east of Pekin, this state, where they had friends living. There they established their home and spent their remaining days. They had hardly a dollar when they arrived

in this country but they possessed the thrift, energy and determination so characteristic of the German people and as the years passed gained prosperity. The father purchased timber land, which his son Christ assisted him in clearing, and eventually the home place comprised eighty-four acres, constituting one of the valuable farms of the county.

Christ Walters was a lad of twelve years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world. He remained at home until he had attained his majority and the period of his youth was one of earnest and unremitting toil. His education was acquired entirely in the schools of the old country before he came to the new world. Before reaching adult age he earned at farm labor in the neighborhood from one hundred and fifty dollars to two hundred dollars each year, which he gave to his parents.

At length he resolved to engage in business on his own account, and with a single horse as his own possession, started out. He rented land for eight years, living for five years upon a part of the Sullivant property. In the year 1881 he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of this land, for which he paid twenty-five dollars per acre, and after cultivating it for three years he sold part of it for thirty-four dollars per acre, retaining one hundred and sixty acres five years longer, after which he sold that tract for fifty dollars per acre. He next purchased the place upon which he now resides, first securing one hundred and forty-four acres, for which he paid thirty-seven and a half dollars per acre. To this he later added eighty acres, and by subsequent purchase has raised his landed possessions to three hundred and eight acres. He bought eighty-four acres—the old home place at Elm Grove, Illinois, for which he paid eighty-one dollars per acre, and he is now the owner of a very valuable and productive property. He has put all of the improvements upon his home farm, laying seventy thousand tile there and thus draining a wet district and converting it into arable and valuable land. In the early days he has seen the time when he could not get out to the road, so wet was the tract lying between his house and the highway. All this has been changed through the enterprising and unfaltering efforts of Mr. Walters, who is one of the most progressive and energetic farmers of the district. In 1905 he erected the largest house in the township at a cost of eight thousand dollars, equipping it with all modern conveniences and accessories. There are also good barns and outbuildings upon the place, and in fact everything about the farm is indicative of the progressive spirit of the twentieth century.

In 1879 Mr. Walters was united in marriage to Miss Mary Bastian and unto them were born six children, three of whom are now deceased. Those still living are Rose, wife of Emil Borchard, of Ford county; Bertha, wife of

William Struve, of Gibson City; and Mary, wife of Isaac Petrie, of Knoxville, Tennessee. Having lost his first wife, Mr. Walters was married in 1890 to Catherine Shaffer, and they have become the parents of eight children: Lilly, Myrtle, Christ, Charles, Homer, Harry, Wilhelmina and Irene.

Mr. Walters is a member of the German Lutheran church at Sibley. He formerly gave his political allegiance to the republican party but is now an advocate of democratic principles. Starting out in life for himself empty-handed, he has made steady progress and as the years have gone by he has achieved a measure of success which is most gratifying. Moreover, his business methods have ever been honorable and reliable, winning for him the respect and good will of his fellowmen.

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#### JACOB EHRESMAN.

Jacob Ehresman is the owner of the Hickory Grove Stock Farm on section 31, Brenton township, and is one of the best known stock-dealers of this part of the state, being extensively engaged in the raising of Aberdeen Angus cattle and Shropshire sheep. He owns and cultivates three hundred and twenty acres of land and also has good pasturage upon his place, while modern equipments facilitate the work of the fields and substantial buildings provide ample shelter for grain and stock.

Mr. Ehresman is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Montgomery township, Woodford county, on the 16th of October, 1862. His parents were Christian and Fannie (Barnard) Ehresman, the former a native of Baden, Germany, while the latter was born in the Rhine country of Switzerland. They were married in Illinois and both died in Woodford county, the former at the age of seventy-five years and the latter when seventy-two years of age. By a former marriage the father had seven children, and unto Christian and Fannie Ehresman there were born eight children.

Upon the old homestead farm Jacob Ehresman spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and as age and strength increased he aided more and more largely in the work of the fields. His education was acquired in the common schools and through experience and observation he has added largely to his knowledge, becoming one of the well informed men of the community. He has always followed farming and stock-raising, remaining upon the old homestead farm with his parents until twenty-three years of age, when he

was married and removed to McLean county, there purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in which his wife had an interest, and a few years later he bought one hundred and seventy acres more. Upon that place he resided until he sold the property and removed to Ford county, purchasing his present farm in March, 1897. He has made many improvements here, adding all modern equipments and accessories. The place is well named the Hickory Grove Stock Farm because of the fine grove of hickory trees, covering sixteen acres. The north fork of the Vermilion river runs through his land, which is well drained and well watered, and altogether the farm presents a most attractive appearance. It comprises three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land, the soil responding readily to the care and cultivation which he bestows upon it. Mr. Ehresman is engaged in the raising of Aberdeen Angus cattle, having about forty head, a part of which are registered. He is the owner of a fine registered male, Colenso of the Wells, No. 75759. He also has upon his place fifty head of Shropshire sheep and is one of the leading stock-dealers of this locality.

In 1885 Mr. Ehresman was married to Miss Elizabeth Anna Strubhar, of Danvers township, McLean county, Illinois, born May 6, 1867. Upon the farm where her birth occurred she continued to live until she came to Ford county ten years ago. Her parents were Valentine and Barbara (Guingrich) Strubhar, natives of France. The mother was born March 19, 1828, and was a year and a half old when brought to the United States by her parents. She is now living with Mr. and Mrs. Ehresman and has reached the advanced age of eighty years. The birth of Mr. Strubhar occurred September 26, 1817, and at the age of seventeen years he came to America, residing in Ohio for about three years. He made the voyage with his widowed mother, and on leaving the Buckeye state he removed to McLean county, Illinois, where he took up his abode in a log cabin, while the experiences and hardships of pioneer life fell to his lot. As the years passed he carried on the work of the farm and made it his home up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was sixty-four years of age. His daughter, Mrs. Ehresman, was born and reared upon that farm, where she lived until her removal with her husband to Ford county. She was one of a family of eight children and by her marriage has become the mother of six children: William Roy, Elsie Pearl, Ocie Marie, Virdie Aldene, Angie May and Delbert Donald.

Mr. Ehresman exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He belongs to the South Brenton Presbyterian church, in which he is serving as an elder, while in the work of the church he takes a most active and helpful part. His life is actuated by high

and honorable principles, and in his relations with his fellowmen he displays substantial qualities and a kindly and just spirit, which have gained for him the warm regard of those with whom he has been associated.

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#### JERRY HICKEY.

Jerry Hickey, the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable farming land on section 7, Lyman township, was born in Ireland in November, 1839, a son of John and Mary (Welsh) Hickey, who emigrated to America in 1854. The family first located in Massachusetts, where the father worked as a laborer for four years, on the expiration of which period he removed to Bloomington, McLean county, Illinois, where he was also employed as a laborer for eight years. He then rented a farm in McLean county, which he successfully operated up to the time of his demise in 1887, his wife having passed away in 1885. Unto Mr. and Mrs. John Hickey were born nine children, namely: Johanna, the widow of Luke Dalton, who makes her home in McLean county, Illinois; David, deceased; Jerry, of this review; James, living in Champaign county, Illinois; Margaret, who is the widow of William Ryan and resides in Chicago; Ellen, deceased; Katherine, the wife of Patrick Murphy, of McLean county, Illinois; Michael, deceased; and Mary, who departed this life in Ireland.

Jerry Hickey never had the advantage of school training but has nevertheless acquired a practical education through experience, reading and observation. He remained under the parental roof, assisting his father in his farming operations, until he was thirty-six years of age, when he rented a farm and was successfully engaged in its operation for ten years. On the expiration of that period he bought a tract of land of eighty acres in McLean county, upon which he made his home until 1895. In that year he sold his original purchase and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 7, Lyman township, where he has since resided, having brought the fields under a high state of cultivation and development. Although he has almost reached the psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten he is still actively engaged in the work of his farm and, by reason of the success which he has achieved, is numbered among the prosperous and enterprising agriculturists of Ford county.

In 1879 Mr. Hickey was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Donovan, a native of Ireland, in which country her parents passed away. She was one of a family of seven children and made the voyage to the new world when but twelve years



MR. AND MRS. JERRY HIGGINS





of age. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hickey have been born eleven children, as follows: John J. and Thomas D., both at home; Margaret E., who is a dressmaker residing in Bloomington; Mary G., now teaching school in McLean county; Julia E., also at home; Josie F., who is a school teacher of Ford county; Alice G. and Rachel A., who are also under the parental roof; and three who are deceased.

In his political views Mr. Hickey is a democrat, while both he and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church at Roberts, Illinois. For almost a third of a century he has been identified with agricultural interests in this part of the state and has not only witnessed a most wonderful transformation but has largely aided in the labors which have transformed the wild tract into a splendid commonwealth. He has gained the warm esteem of all with whom he has come in contact because of his upright and honorable life and also by reason of the straightforward methods he has ever followed in his business career.

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#### JAMES R. SHAMBROOK.

James R. Shambrook, who owns and operates eighty acres of rich and productive land on section 6, Lyman township, was born in that township on the 1st of May, 1878, a son of John and Mary (Parkin) Shambrook, who were both natives of Devonshire, England. The father, whose birth occurred in 1827, emigrated to the new world in 1854, first locating in Tazewell county, Illinois, whence he came to Ford county in 1866. In the year 1857 he was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Parkin, of Woodford county, Illinois, who departed this life in 1874. John Shambrook passed away on the 30th of December, 1900, in his seventy-third year, his death being occasioned by heart failure. He was one of the first settlers in this section of the state and took a prominent part in many of the events which constitute its early history. He lived to see this region transformed from swamp land into the most fertile district of this great commonwealth, and in the work of reclamation he bore his full share. When his remains were laid to rest in the Roberts cemetery the county mourned the loss of one of its honored pioneer settlers and influential citizens. One of the eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Shambrook died in infancy, the others being: Fred, of Ford county; Mrs. V. Montz; James R., of this review; Harrison, who resides in this vicinity; Mrs. Ida

Toon, of Pontiac, Illinois; Mrs. S. Moller, who makes her home at Forrest, Illinois; and Susie, living in Washburn, Illinois.

James R. Shambrook acquired his education in the common schools of his native county, and remained with his father until he had attained to mature years. He then purchased eighty acres of land on section 6, Lyman township, where he still resides and has brought the fields under a high state of cultivation and improvement through the utilization of modern and progressive methods of agriculture. Though still a young man he has already gained a gratifying measure of success in his farming operations, and is widely and favorably known throughout the community.

In 1899 Mr. Shambrook was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Taylor, who was born in Brenton township, Ford county, Illinois, in 1883, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Prather) Taylor, the former a native of England and the latter of Ohio. The parents of Mrs. Shambrook had a family of six children and are still living in Brenton township, Ford county. Unto our subject and his wife were born three children, namely: Marion Eugene, Faye Elizabeth and Glenn John.

In his political views Mr. Shambrook has always been a republican, believing that the principles of this party are most conducive to good government. Both he and his wife support the Presbyterian church and are highly esteemed throughout this locality as people of genuine personal worth and sterling traits of character, having gained the confidence and regard of all with whom they have come in contact.

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#### THOMAS NUGENT.

Thomas Nugent, proprietor of the Cabery House and a merchant of the village of Cabery, is well known as a man of energy and determination, who has placed his dependence upon the substantial qualities of diligence and perseverance for the acquirement of success. He was born in Chatham, Ontario, Canada, January 28, 1868, but when about a year and a half old was brought to the United States by his parents. He is a son of Nicholas Nugent, who was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, and crossed the Atlantic to Canada when a young man. There he acted as baggage-master on the Great Western Railroad for four years and following his marriage removed with his family to Illinois, settling in Will county, where he lived for one year. He then

removed to Essex township, Kankakee county, where he owned and operated a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, his time and energies being devoted to its further development and improvement until he laid aside the more active cares of business life. In early manhood he wedded Sarah Magher, a native of County Kilkenny, Ireland, who came to Canada with two brothers, Thomas and Patrick Magher. The death of Nicholas Nugent occurred on the 19th of May, 1901, when he had reached the age of seventy-eight years, while his wife survived until the 6th of November, 1907, and was eighty-five years of age at the time of her death.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Nugent were born seven children, of whom Garrett, the eldest, is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. The others are: Michael, a retired farmer of Essex township, Kankakee county; Mrs. Bridget Hayes, of Sibley, Ford county, Illinois; Richard E., who resides on the home farm in Essex township, Kankakee county; Nicholas, who follows agricultural pursuits in Essex township; Thomas, of this review; and Mrs. Margaret A. Mulligan, who also resides on the old homestead in Essex township.

Thomas Nugent was reared to farm life, his boyhood days being devoted to the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the home farm. His father trained him to the work of the fields and lessons of industry and honesty were early instilled into his mind. He remained with his parents until June 1896, when he came to Cabery and here engaged in the grain business with George Carson under the firm name of Carson & Nugent. Two and a half years later Mr. Carson sold his interest in the business to Garrett Nugent, and the enterprise was then conducted under the firm name of Nugent Brothers for about three years, when Thomas Nugent sold out to his brother and removed to Sannemin, Illinois. There he conducted a livery stable for a year, after which he sold out and returned to Cabery, where he opened his present restaurant and hotel business, conducted under the name of the Cabery house. In connection with the hotel he conducts a confectionery and ice cream parlor, and likewise sells cigars and tobacco. He does a good business as a merchant and also as hotel proprietor, and is one of the leading, representative and progressive business men of Cabery.

On the 16th of February, 1898, Mr. Nugent was married to Miss Nellie M. Carey, whose birth occurred at Sullivan Center, Livingston county, Illinois, on the 14th of March, 1876, a daughter of Frank and Mary (Clark) Carey, the former a native of the state of New York, and the latter of Livingston county. They are now residents of Kempton, this state. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Nugent have been born two daughters and a son, Mary Frances, James

Ambrose and Genevieve Katherine. The family is prominent in this locality, Mr. and Mrs. Nugent occupying an enviable position in social circles. His political allegiance is given to the democracy, and he is now serving as deputy sheriff of the county, in which position he discharges his duties with promptness and fidelity. Almost his entire life has been passed in this part of the state, and he is a typical Illinoisan, alert and enterprising, who recognizes the fact that upon individual effort depends success and is therefore laboring earnestly to advance to the goal of prosperity.

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#### OSCAR DONLEY.

Oscar Donley, who successfully operates one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 11, Mona township, is a native of this county, his birth having occurred on the 14th day of March, 1887. He is a son of Richard and Adelaide Donley, the father, a native of Ireland, having been brought to the United States by his parents when but six months old, while the mother was born in New Jersey. She is now deceased but the father still survives, making his home in Livingston county, Illinois. They became the parents of six children, as follows: Charles, who resides in Livingston county; Edward, who also makes his home in that county; George, of Ford county; Elsie, the wife of George Watson, of Bureau county; Jesse, living in Ford county; and one who has passed away.

Oscar Donley acquired his education in the common schools and when he had attained the age of seventeen years began working for Mr. Dancer, of this county. He remained in that gentleman's employ for ten years and was then engaged in the butchering business at Kempton for a year. On the expiration of that period he began farming on section 11, Mona township, where he now operates one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land, which responds in bountiful harvests to the care and labor he bestows upon it. Although still a young man he has already become recognized as one of the representative and enterprising agriculturalists of his community, and is meeting with a well merited measure of success in his farming interests.

In 1901 Mr. Donley was united in marriage to Miss Cora Essington, a native of Ford county, and a daughter of George and Celia Essington, also of this county. In his political views Mr. Donley is a stalwart republican and

is at present serving as assessor of Mona township. He was also justice of the peace for three years, his decisions being strictly fair and impartial and in accordance with the law. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 406, and the Woodmen Camp, both of Kempton, and both he and his wife support the Methodist Episcopal church. He has always lived in this county and that his life has ever been an upright and honorable one is indicated by the fact that his staunchest friends are numbered among those who have known him from his boyhood.

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#### HENRY ALLEN.

Henry Allen is a well known citizen of Thawville and of Ford county, having throughout a long period been engaged in general agricultural pursuits in Brenton township, but for the past twelve years he has lived retired in Thawville, where he owns a comfortable home. Mr. Allen is a native of England, his birth having occurred at Cold Ash Common, near Newbury, Berkshire, November 6, 1836. His parents were John and Hannah (Willis) Allen, whose family numbered nine children, of which our subject is the third in order of birth. The father died in England when our subject was a lad of thirteen years, while the mother survived for a long period, passing away in Utah, when she had reached the advanced age of eighty years.

Henry Allen acquired his education in the schools of his native land, his advantages in this direction, however, being somewhat limited, for he abandoned his studies at the early age of twelve years. At the age of thirteen he was apprenticed to the blacksmith's trade, to which his father devoted his time and energies. The son, however, never completed his trade. In 1857 he emigrated to the United States in company with his brother John, who now resides in California. Mr. Allen at once made his way to Morris, Grundy county, Illinois, where he was employed at farm labor during the three succeeding years. In 1860 he made a trip to California from New York, across the Isthmus of Panama to San Francisco, working in the mines there for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Grundy county by the overland route, and was employed there for a time, but in 1870 he came to Ford county and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, lying on section 35, Brenton township, paying for the land twenty dollars per acre. This land was but partially broken and Mr. Allen at once set to work to

develop and improve the property until he had it in a good state of cultivation. He likewise erected a good house and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, and made his home thereon for many years, each year adding to his income through the sale of his excellent crops. About twelve years ago he retired from farm labor and removed to Thawville, where he has since made his home. In addition to the house and lot which he here owns he likewise owns a house in Zion City, Illinois.

Mr. Allen was married to Mrs. Elizabeth (Snelling) Blakely, a widow. She was born in Ohio and by her former marriage had one daughter, Emma, who died and was buried at Thawville. Mr. and Mrs. Allen have one son, Charles C., who resides on his father's farm one mile west of Thawville. They lost their only daughter, Lottie, who was drowned at the age of seven years.

In recent years Mr. Allen has been a follower of the teachings of Alexander Dowie, founder of the Zion movement. Hearing what appealed to him as remarkable cases of healing he began investigating the subject, was healed of rheumatism and catarrhal troubles and has since been a stalwart advocate of the founder of the Zion church and its teachings. He gives his political support to the republican party but has never held public office. He and his estimable wife are now enjoying in retirement the accumulations of profitable, successful and honorable careers, and they are surrounded by many warm friends.

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#### WILLIAM OPPERMANN.

William Oppermann is a living example of the thrift and industry of the German race. He is now engaged in agricultural pursuits on a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 27, Brenton township, while in addition to this property he also owns one hundred and thirteen acres in Lyman township, thus having two hundred and seventy-three acres of rich farming land. Mr. Oppermann was born in Germany on the 11th of April, 1854, a son of David and Fredericka Oppermann, who emigrated to the new world in 1868, locating first in Livingston county, Illinois, where the father took up his abode on a tract of rented land, which he operated for five years, subsequent to which time he removed with his family to Ford county, continuing to operate rented land during the succeeding two years. Being at the end of that time possessed of capital sufficient to invest in a farm he

purchased one hundred and sixty acres and was there engaged in agricultural pursuits until the time of his death, which occurred in 1888. The mother, however, is still living and makes her home in Piper City.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. David Oppermann were born seven children, as follows: Fredericka, the wife of F. Boek, of Piper City; William, of this review; Charles and August, both of whom make their home in Piper City; Emma, the wife of Andrew Hecht, also of this city; Lizzie, the wife of William Brauman, a resident of Ford county; and Ernest, of Piper City.

William Oppermann was a youth of fourteen years when he accompanied the parents on their emigration to the new world and he can therefore recall many incidents connected with the trip across the ocean. His education began in the schools of his native land and was continued in the common schools of Livingston county. He was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the various duties incident to agricultural pursuits. He assisted his father in the operation of the home place until he had reached the age of twenty-four years, when he started out upon an independent business venture by operating rented land for four years, in which he met with excellent success.

Desirous of having a home of his own, Mr. Oppermann was then united in marriage to Miss Ellen Rehm, who was born in Livingston county, and is one of a family of seven children, born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Rehm. Following his marriage Mr. Oppermann took his bride to a farm which he had rented, and where they continued to make their home for four years. At the end of that time, through their united efforts they had saved a sum sufficient to purchase property, and Mr. Oppermann then bought one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 27, Brenton township, to which they removed and this has continued to be their home to the present time. Mr. Oppermann has improved his place with good bulidings and in the cultivation of his fields uses only the latest improved machinery so that excellent results attend his labors. He likewise owns a good tract of one hundred and thirteen acres situated in Lyman township, so that his possessions now comprise two hundred and seventy-three acres of good farming property.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Oppermann has been blessed with two sons and one daughter: Albert, at home; Ida, who is now a high-school student at Piper City; and Walter, at home. Mr. Oppermann supports the men and measures of the democratic party, and at the present writing is serving as highway commissioner, while for nine years he filled the office of school director. He and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church. The family are well and favorably known in Brenton township, and the success

which Mr. Oppermann is now enjoying is well merited for it has been won only through the most honorable business methods, while in the discharge of his official obligations he has commanded the praise of all.

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#### CLAUS HENRY SWANSON.

Among Paxton's prominent and popular citizens is Claus Henry Swanson, now serving as a member of the city council, and well known as a traveling salesman, whose business ability has gained for him a liberal patronage in the territory which he covers. He was born in the province of Smoland, Sweden, December 5, 1861, his parents being Swan and Johanna (Johnson) Anderson. In the year 1869 they came to America and established their home in Paxton. His death occurred on Christmas day of 1870, and his wife, surviving him for many years, passed away March 5, 1881. They were the parents of five children, only two of whom survive, the younger brother being August Swanson, a resident of California.

C. H. Swanson pursued his education in the public schools of Clarence, this county. He was only nine years of age at the time of his father's death, after which he made his home with his uncle, John Swanfett, now deceased, but then a resident of Button township, continuing with him until he reached his majority. At that time he started out in life on his own account as a farm hand and was so employed until the twenty-third anniversary of his birth, when he rented land and began farming on his own account. In 1888 he removed to Champaign county, Illinois, where he again rented a farm, on which he resided for three years. Returning to Ford county, he settled in Button township, where he followed general agricultural pursuits for a year, and in 1894 he purchased a half section of land in Patton township, which was a portion of the Henderson estate. The farm is most pleasantly and conveniently located about a mile southwest of Perdueville, and is regarded as one of the model farm properties of the locality—a fact which is due to the enterprising efforts and progressive spirit of the owner.

Retiring from agricultural life, Mr. Swanson in 1899 removed to Paxton and accepted a position with the Port Huron Engine & Thresher Company of Port Huron, Michigan. He continued in that employ until the 1st of February, 1903, when he accepted a position with Reeves & Company of Columbus, Indiana, and still represents that house upon the road. He has traveled for



these two firms through seven different states but now confines his attention to Illinois, where he has secured a liberal patronage, building up a good trade for the firm which he represents.

On the 6th of March, 1888, Mr. Swanson was married to Miss Tilda Person, the daughter of Lars Person, of Sweden. She came to America when sixteen years of age with a sister and settled in Ottawa, Illinois, but was living in Paxton at the time of her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson now have six children, namely: Frances L., Florence M., Ebba O., Herbert W., Irvin H. and Evaline E.

The parents are both members of the Swedish Lutheran church, in which Mr. Swanson is serving as a trustee, while in the work of the church they take an active interest, and to its support contribute liberally. Mr. Swanson is a member of Paxton Lodge, I. O. O. F., and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He was elected a member of the board of aldermen for the fourth ward in 1905, and discharged the duties of the position so acceptably that he was reelected in 1907 and is now serving for the second term. He exercises his official prerogatives in support of progressive public measures and Paxton has benefited by his labors. His unfailing courtesy, deference for the opinions of others, his geniality and good nature render him popular not only with his fellow townsmen, but with his patrons in the territory over which he travels. Starting out in life empty-handed, he has made a most creditable record as one who has fully utilized his opportunities in a business way, having now a good income-paying property in addition to his income as a traveling salesman.

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#### WILLIAM R. WATTS.

One of the alert and enterprising young men of Ford county is William R. Watts, editor of the *Cabery Enquirer*. He was born in Odell, Livingston county, Illinois, February 5, 1878. His father, William T. Watts, was a native of Indiana, born in Brazil, July 4, 1851, and in his youthful days he accompanied his parents on their removal to Marshall county, Illinois. He was a son of Thomas and Harriet (Seybrooks) Watts, natives of England, who came to the United States in youth and are now living in Saunemin, Livingston county, Illinois. In early days he drove a stage coach between Lafayette and Indianapolis, prior to the era of railroad building, and also drove a stage out

of New Orleans, during the yellow fever plague. In his family were twelve children, six sons and six daughters, eleven of whom are living, have married and have children of their own. One son died in infancy. William T., was the second in order of birth and as stated, his youth was largely passed in Marshall county, Illinois. Later he became a resident of Livingston county, where he now resides, but from 1892 until 1901 he was a resident of Ford county. A farmer by occupation, he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Rogers township and a tract of the same size near Remington, Indiana. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and for many years he has been a faithful member of the Christian church. He wedded Frances Kelley, who was born near Warren, in Trumbull county, Ohio, July 10, 1857, and went to Livingston county, Illinois, with her parents, Timothy and Nancy (Mills) Kelley, who were natives of New England but died in Saunemin township, Livingston county, Illinois, both being past eighty years of age at their demise. The father had been previously married. By his second union he had four sons and five daughters, of whom Frances Watts was the eighth in order of birth. Three of the sons were soldiers of the Civil war and one was killed at the battle of Shiloh. Unto Mr. and Mrs. William T. Watts were born five children: Norman Arthur, who is owner and manager of the Cabery Telephone Exchange and lives at Cabery, Illinois; William Raymond, of this review; Dr. Harry Francis Watts, a practicing dentist at Avon, Illinois; Dr. Ernest Dana Watts, a dentist of Mazon, Illinois; and Edith Reba.

William R. Watts was only a young lad when his parents removed to Saunemin, Livingston county, where they resided until 1892, when they became residents of Rogers township, Ford county. He continued at home through the period of his minority up to the time of his marriage. His early education, acquired in the district schools, was supplemented by study in the public school of Kempton, in the Northern Illinois Normal School at Dixon, and in Dixon Business College. Before completing his education he engaged in teaching in the district schools for about three years. He was also a teacher in the Cabery schools for two years but resigned that position to enter the field of journalism, purchasing his present paper, the Cabery Enquirer, which he has edited and published since the first of March, 1902. He is a republican and a hearty supporter of the principles and candidates of the party. On several occasions he has been called to public office, filling the position of township clerk for four years, of village clerk since 1903, and for two terms was a member of the school board. He is at present the republican member of the county board of review of assessments of Ford county. Everything that

pertains to the welfare of the community receives his stalwart endorsement, and is championed by the Enquirer.

On the 22d of November, 1901, Mr. Watts was married to Miss Eda Lucinda Farley, who was born near Kempton, January 6, 1879, a daughter of Joel E. and Lucinda (Hall) Farley, natives of Pennsylvania and of Illinois respectively. Her father died in Kempton, while her mother still resides there. Mr. and Mrs. Watts have two sons and one daughter, Richard, aged seven; Frances, aged two; and Kerwin Norwood, whose birthday is June 9, 1908. They also lost one son, Willard, who died November 6, 1905, at the age of two years and eight months.

The parents hold membership in the Cabery Presbyterian church and are greatly esteemed socially. In his fraternal relations Mr. Watts is connected with Cabery Lodge, No. 206, I. O. O. F., and with Norton Lodge, No. 631, A. F. & A. M., at Cabery.

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#### JOHN TALBOT.

John Talbot, who resides on section 29, Lyman township, was born in Lancashire, England, June 28, 1851, his parents being William and Mary Talbot, both of whom passed away in that country. They had but two children; the brother of our subject being Thomas, a resident of Harvey, Illinois.

John Talbot acquired a common-school education and after the death of his parents emigrated to America in company with his aunt, a location being first made in Henry, Marshall county, Illinois. As his aunt was in limited financial circumstances he was hired out as a farm hand, being thus employed for fourteen years. On the expiration of that period he rented a farm on section 29, Lyman township, where he still resides and which he has rented for the past thirty-one years. He is also the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land on section 4, Lyman township, and is recognized as one of the prosperous and enterprising agriculturists of the county.

In January, 1877, Mr. Talbot was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Heart, of Bureau county, Illinois, whose birth occurred in 1857 and whose parents were Joseph and Harriet (Harvey) Heart, the former a native of England and the latter of Ohio. Joseph Heart emigrated to America in 1847, first locating in New Jersey, where he remained for two years, when he removed to Bureau

county, Illinois, being there employed by the month at farm labor. Subsequently he was engaged in the operation of rented land in that county for two years, on the expiration of which period he came to Ford county, purchasing land from the Illinois Central Railroad Company. When he arrived here the county was nothing but swamp land, over which roamed deer and other wild game in great abundance. He now makes his home at Harvey, Illinois, having attained the age of seventy-three years, while his wife passed away in 1879. He made his home in Ford county until the year 1889, and is numbered among its honored pioneers, who aided in reclaiming a wild and uncultivated region for the purposes of civilization. His family numbers ten children, as follows: Mrs. Talbot; Fred, who resides in Iowa; Adeline, the wife of Walter Wickland, of Roberts, Illinois; Isabelle, who became the wife of Isaac Healer and makes her home in Kansas City, Missouri; Warren, of South Dakota; Joe, who lives in Alabama; Harvey, residing in New Mexico; George, also of South Dakota; Hattie, the wife of Harry Dillon, living in Iowa; and Helen, who makes her home with Mr. Talbot. Unto our subject and his wife have been born the following children: Thomas, living in Roberts; Joseph, at home; Warren, who is attending school at Urbana, Illinois; Walter J. and Elmer, both at home.

Mr. Talbot is a republican in his political views and is at present serving as school director, which office he has held for twenty years. He is also ditch commissioner and takes an active and helpful interest in all measures tending to promote the general welfare. Fraternally he is connected with the Woodmen lodge at Roberts and also with the Court of Honor, while both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. During the long period of their residence in this county they have gained an extensive circle of friends, and have, moreover, been active participants in the arduous toil which transformed the region from a barren and trackless waste into one of the richest agricultural districts of this great commonwealth.

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#### ALBERT C. LANGE.

Albert C. Lange, who carries on general farming in Sullivant township, was born in La Salle, Illinois, December 15, 1875. His parents were Theodore and Minnie Lange, who were natives of Germany and on coming to America

made their way direct to La Salle county, Illinois, where they were married. Theodore Lange was a blacksmith and farmer and was closely associated with business interests in La Salle county until 1879, when he removed to McLean county. He was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, however, for his death occurred shortly after his arrival there. Unto him and his wife were born five children: Edward and Ernest, who are living in Fairbury, Illinois; Albert C., of this review; Paul, whose home is in Cropsey; and Annie, the wife of John Brucker, of Cropsey. Following the death of her first husband Mrs. Lange became the wife of August Seifert, also a native of Germany, and they have three children: Joseph, living in Cropsey; and Minnie and Arthur, who are at home with their parents, the family residence being in McLean county.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Albert C. Lange in his boyhood and youth. He was educated in the public schools and gained a knowledge of farming through the assistance which he rendered in carrying on the work of the home place. When he had arrived at years of maturity he made arrangements to establish a home of his own by his marriage, in February, 1901, to Miss Minnie Brucker, of McLean county, a daughter of Adam and Pauline (Stahl) Brucker, who were natives of America and were residents of Illinois when Ford and McLean counties constituted a most sparsely settled section of the state. The Bruckers are one of the most influential and prominent German families of McLean county.

Following his marriage Mr. Lange rented a tract of land, where he lived for five years and there successfully carried on farming, the sale of his crops bringing him sufficient capital to enable him after three years to purchase land. He invested in one hundred and twenty acres near the town of Milford in Troquois county. This was improved and for it he paid one hundred and five dollars per acre. It is today worth one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. Mr. Lange has for sometime also rented land from his father-in-law in Ford county and is thus carrying on farming on an extensive scale. He is regarded as one of the most successful, enterprising and progressive agriculturists in the northeastern part of the county. In addition to tilling the soil he is also interested in other business ventures. He owns a large interest in a threshing outfit, is a stockholder in the grain elevator at Cropsey and a director of the Cropsey Telephone Company.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lange have been born four children: Earl, Ray, Fern and Cecil. The parents worship in the Methodist Episcopal church and in the community are widely and favorably known. Mr. Lange is practically a self-made man, having received only a small legacy from his father's estate,

and with this beginning he has gradually worked his way upward, finding that indefatigable industry constitutes the key that will unlock the portals of success. He is yet a young man but has attained a position in the financial world that many another twice his years might well envy.

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#### FREDERICK T. SHAMBROOK.

Frederick T. Shambrook, the owner of two hundred and eighty-seven acres of valuable farming land, is a self-made man who has gained his present prosperity entirely through his own well directed energy and enterprise. He was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, September 15, 1858, a son of John and Mary (Parkin) Shambrook, who are mentioned at length in the sketch of James R. Shambrook on another page of this volume.

Frederick T. Shambrook pursued his education in the district schools of Ford county, remaining under the parental roof until he had attained adult age. He then purchased eighty acres of land on section 6, Lyman township, and improved same by the erection of a fine residence and all other necessary accessories of a model farming property. Moreover, as the years passed he bought more and more land from time to time until his holdings now comprise two hundred and eighty-seven acres situated in the beautiful valley of the Pan Handle, in Ford county. In addition to his general agricultural pursuits he has also made a specialty of raising and feeding stock, and both branches of his business are bringing to him a gratifying financial return annually, so that he is widely recognized as a substantial and enterprising citizen of the county. There is no more productive land in all Lyman township than is comprised within his farm, and his success is all the more creditable by reason of the fact that he started out in life empty-handed, dependent entirely upon his own resources.

In 1885 Mr. Shambrook was united in marriage to Miss Polly Hammett, a native of England, who came to America with her parents when still very young. The father is deceased, but the mother still survives him, making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Shambrook. The latter was one of a family of three children, and by her marriage has also become the mother of three children, namely: Walter W., who is married and operates eighty acres of his father's farm; and Elmer J. and Etta, both at home.

Politically Mr. Shambrook is a republican and is quite prominent in the local ranks of his party, having served as school director and road commissioner for several years. He is also a member of the Court of Honor at Roberts, Illinois, while his wife and daughter hold membership in the Presbyterian church. For almost thirty years he has been an important factor in agricultural circles of Ford county, and his prosperity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabating energy and industry that never flags. He is public spirited, giving his cooperation to every movement which tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of the community. The hospitality of the best homes of the locality is freely extended to him, as well as to the members of his household, the circle of his friends being almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

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#### LEANDER BRITT.

Leander Britt, born in Medina, New York, in 1828, was the son of Oren Britt, who was identified with the building of the Erie canal, and the son Leander after reaching manhood was engaged in his father's warehouse and grocery until the railroad through Medina was built. The pioneer work which was thus commenced at his old home had much to do in prompting his removal to new pioneer work in Illinois.

He came to what is now Paxton, first in 1855, at which time in connection with R. R. Murdoch, the two selected and contracted for the land on the east side of the Illinois Central Railroad, and in 1856 the partnership of Pells, Britt & Murdoch was formed, the land purchased and the town site laid out.

In the early fall of 1856, Mr. Britt built the second house in the present town of Paxton, excepting three then located on what was the old Ottawa road at the lower railroad crossing; being a bachelor this was built with the intention of giving a home to a widowed sister, Mrs. Jane B. Taft, her two children and himself, to which they came in December, 1856.

The next four years were probably the most important in the history of the town, as it was during this time that it became a post office, a railroad station and a county seat of the then new county of Ford, set off from part of old Vermilion county. Perhaps the most important service Mr. Britt rendered

was accomplished by him at Springfield, during the legislature of 1859, which authorized against strong opposition the new county.

He was not a man of strong constitution, nor at this time of good health; he was a man whose good judgment brought to him the high regard of his associates and one whose temperament made many warm and steadfast friends; his loss was at the time felt to be a serious one to the young community for his death occurred June 25, 1860. He was buried in the family lot at Medina, New York.



# Historical Index.

---

	Page
Aborigines .....	11
Early Discoveries .....	12
Indians .....	16
The Illinois .....	21
Pottawattamies .....	23
Kickapoos .....	25
Northwest Territory .....	27
The State of Illinois.....	31
Governors of Illinois .....	32
General Description of Illinois .....	32
History of Illinois .....	34
Explanation of Government Surveys .....	36
Economic Resources of Illinois .....	36
Ford County .....	45
Ford County Organized .....	48
County Government .....	54
Board of Supervisors .....	56
Monuments to the Soldiers Dead .....	64
Battles for County Seat .....	64
County Government.....	67
County Clerk .....	68
County Treasurer .....	69
County Recorder .....	70
Clerk of Courts .....	70
Sheriff .....	71
County Superintendent .....	72
State's Attorney .....	73
Probate Judge .....	74
County Surveyor .....	74
County Coroner .....	75
Other County Offices .....	75
County Board.....	75
Township Government .....	76
Paxton .....	78
Patton Township .....	107

## INDEX

	Page
Drummer Township .....	117
Gibson City .....	121
Button Township .....	127
Clarence .....	128
Reminiscences by Mrs. Jane Patton .....	134
Dix Township .....	161
Elliott .....	162
Pella Township .....	166
Wall Township .....	168
Lyman Township .....	170
Roberts .....	173
Mona Township .....	178
Kempton .....	181
Rogers Township .....	183
Cabery .....	184
Peach Orchard Township .....	186
Melvin .....	189
Sullivant Township .....	194
Sibley .....	194
Brenton Township .....	197
Piper City .....	198
Reminiscences .....	204
Swedes in Ford County .....	217
Statistics .....	223
Farm Drainage of Ford County .....	224
Ford County Fairs .....	226
Farmers' Clubs .....	228
Schools of Ford County .....	229
Church History .....	243
Ford County Newspapers .....	267
Physicians of Ford County .....	273
Ford County Bar .....	274
Ford Circuit Court .....	288
County Officials .....	297
First Courthouse .....	299
Sheriff's Residence and Jail .....	300
Newport House .....	303
Almshouse and Poor Farm .....	306
Lafayette, Bloomington and Mississippi Railroad Bonds .....	306
War of the Rebellion .....	309
G. A. R. Posts .....	310
Piper City Guards .....	312
Reminiscences by R. R. Murdock .....	312

# Biographical Index.

---

	Page		Page
Absher, Dr. A. A. ....	641	Decker, J. H. ....	711
Allen, Henry ....	861	Dixon, Jane E. ....	736
Anderson, Christopher ....	521	Donahue, J. F. ....	837
Anderson, Swen ....	668	Donley, Osear ....	860
Arends, Onno ....	653	Doran, Thomas ....	773
Atwood, Henry ....	814	Drendel, George ....	389
Ayresman, W. H. ....	631	Drendel, H. A. ....	485
Barrow, A. A. ....	531	Duckworth, E. F. ....	411
Barrow, A. W. ....	374	Dunn, Richard ....	698
Bayler, A. P. ....	741	Dumman, Hugh ....	589
Beach, H. P. ....	445	Dunman, J. W. ....	833
Beck, August ....	615	Eckert, F. M. ....	571
Bevington, H. H. ....	692	Ehresman, Jacob ....	852
Bogardus, Charles ....	323	Elder, W. F. ....	827
Bogardus, Mrs. Charles ....	331	Emminger, J. H. ....	360
Bonnen, George ....	650	Falter, J. L. ....	781
Bonnen, Harry ....	478	Farley, D. P. ....	726
Boshell, O. K. ....	648	Farley, Joel E. ....	820
Bradbury, R. E. ....	744	Farris, Henry ....	512
Britt, Leander ....	871	Fricke, Ferdinand ....	404
Brotherton, C. G. ....	428	Gallahue, Patrick ....	562
Browning, A. B. ....	623	Gallahue, Thomas ....	849
Brucker, August ....	489	Gash, W. T. ....	550
Buehholz, Albert ....	376	George, E. H. ....	556
Burger, Joseph ....	569	Gilkeson, J. W. ....	676
Burns, William W. ....	798	Gilmore, Albert ....	384
Carpenter, H. S. ....	434	Glass, James P. ....	606
Carson, J. B. ....	529	Gleason, M. M. ....	667
Chamberlin, T. W. ....	510	Goodman, William ....	760
Chambers, R. B. ....	748	Gourley, W. T. ....	756
Cherry, A. L. ....	370	Gullett, W. H. ....	532
Clark, Samuel ....	375	Hahn, Gottlieb ....	506
Coddington, R. B. ....	643	Hall, H. C. ....	492
Cook, Charles A. ....	629	Hand, Ira W. ....	601
Cooper, Elizabeth ....	618	Helman, C. F. ....	366
Crawford, James ....	716	Henderson, W. B. ....	431
Crawford, John ....	844	Henrichs, Harm ....	381
Damon, O. H. ....	348	Herron, J. W. ....	712
Dancer, William ....	835	Hevener, S. D. ....	811
Day, Isaac C. ....	700		

INDEX

	Page		Page
Hickey, Jerry	854	McBride, James	368
Hiddleson, G. H.	586	McClure, J. T.	614
Hiddleson, J. M.	450	McCraeken, R. A.	347
Higgins, N. M.	420	McCraeken, Robert	424
Hills, Elbert E.	543	McDermott, Edward	500
Holderman, L. S.	682	McDermott, T. J.	352
Hunt, E. S.	596	McKeever, Caleb	401
Hunt, John S.	473	McKinney, John	362
Hunt, P. E.	497	McKinney, W. O.	542
Hunt, W. J.	666	McTier, Elizabeth	768
Hussong, Louis	518	Mattinson, Evan	704
Huston, John	515	Maxwell, J. A.	554
Huston, W. S.	755	Meikle, John	406
Hutchison, W. A.	818	Meyer, John C.	477
		Middlecott, J. P.	340
Iehl, John	358	Miller, Dr. W. M.	461
Ier, B. F.	753	Moffett, J. H.	750
		Montelius, G. D.	395
Jack, William	674	Montelius, J. A.	337
Jackson, L. D.	410	Montelius, J. A., Jr.	848
Johannsen, Claus	614	Montelius, J. K.	750
Johnson, Caroline A.	675	Moudy, Daniel	656
Johnson, J. M.	688	Mueller, Louis	610
Johnson, L. H.	797	Munro, A. C.	390
Jordan, Andrew	414	Murdock, R. R.	491
Jordan, C. A.	426		
Jordan, J. A.	605	Nelson, J. H.	592
Jordan, J. H.	568	Nordgren, C. A.	680
		Nugent, Garrett	832
Karsten, John	499	Nugent, Thomas	858
Keeffe, James	788		
Keeffe, John	433	O'Mara, Patrick	813
Keighin, L. B.	824	Onken, August	460
Kewley, Daniel	475	Onken, George	585
Kewley, Thomas	354	Oppermann, William	862
Koerner, Mathew	598		
Koestner, Fannie A.	790	Pearson, J. T.	580
Kreitzer, J. L.	456	Pells, W. H.	321
Kuntz, A. M.	766	Peters, P. J.	505
		Phillips, Frank	828
Lange, A. C.	868	Phillips, L. H.	538
Larson, C. A.	482	Poplett, W. J.	591
Larson, T. J.	482	Porter, W. W.	635
Le Fevre, S. J.	519	Proctor, W. E.	662
Lemma, I. C.	608	Purdum, R. E.	464
Lesch, Stephen	706		
Liddle, T. J.	810	Raab, Henry	398
Ludlow, Samuel	747	Read, Arby D.	470
Ludgren, Dr. S. A.	735	Read, Charles M.	632

## INDEX

	Page		Page
Read, Thomas .....	583	Stadler, Frank .....	544
Reep, David .....	836	Stadler, John A. ....	503
Reising, F. L. ....	774	Stedman, Earl .....	655
Reitz, C. H. ....	548	Stedman, Henry .....	469
Remsburg, C. L. ....	776	Stockdale, George .....	778
Reynolds, Thomas .....	448	Sullivan, J. O. ....	724
Richardson, John .....	396	Sutton, J. R. ....	694
Rudolph, H. M. ....	783	Swanson, C. H. ....	864
Rudolph, Dr. G. W. ....	847	Swanson, D. C. ....	609
Russell, J. J. ....	842		
Russell, J. P. ....	843	Talbot, John .....	867
Ryerson, C. G. ....	524	Thompson, A. C. ....	806
		Thompson, A. R. ....	732
Sanders, W. O. ....	555	Thompson, B. S. ....	738
Schumacher, J. F. ....	353	Thompson, J. A. ....	617
Schutte, Harry .....	392	Thompson, J. M. ....	467
Scott, John A. ....	826	Trigger, Richard .....	718
Scott, Winfield .....	805		
Shambrook, F. T. ....	870	Vogelbacher, August .....	486
Shambrook, J. R. ....	857		
Shamel, Dr. J. Y. ....	561	Wagner, Peter .....	412
Shaw, John A. ....	809	Wallrichs, W. A. ....	462
Sheldon, James .....	572	Walters, Christ .....	850
Sberman, M. L. ....	839	Watson, James .....	626
Shilts, John .....	697	Watts, William R. ....	865
Short, John .....	709	Way, V. G. ....	801
Smith, C. P. ....	517	Weakman, John .....	367
Smith, J. P. ....	579	Weber, Baltz .....	762
Snelling, J. H. ....	382	Wilcox, L. B. ....	564
Soncic, Nelson .....	536	Wilson, R. C. ....	638
Speedie, David .....	624	Wylie, Dr. S. M. ....	771
Spindler, John .....	784	Zimmerman, John .....	661













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