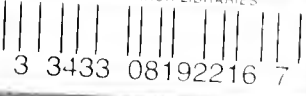


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HISTORY  
OF  
**IONIA COUNTY**  
MICHIGAN

HER PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

REV. E. E. BRANCH  
Editor-in-Chief

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

VOLUME II

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JOHN YOUNG.

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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## JOHN YOUNG.

In making up the memorial annals of Ionia county no record would be complete that did not carry fitting mention of the life and services to this community of the late John Young, who for more than forty years was one of Ionia's best-known and most enterprising merchants. John Young was born in Otsego county, New York, March 5, 1832, son of Jacob and Esther (Ward) Young, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Massachusetts, who later moved to Elmira, New York, and thence to Painted Post, in Steuben county, same state. When a boy, John Young learned the tinner's trade, although his mother was very desirous that he become a Methodist minister. His advantages in the way of schooling were limited, but he was a diligent student and possessed a marvelously retentive memory, thus becoming a very well-informed man. He memorized the entire Bible, and in his early manhood associated much with ministers and was a frequent exhorter at meetings. He engaged in the tinning business, but presently became a lumberman, sending logs down the Susquehanna river, but finding that venture unprofitable gave it up and in September, 1857, he then being twenty-five years of age, came to Michigan and settled in Ionia.

Upon locating at Ionia, John Young entered the employ of the Sloan tin-shop and was there engaged as a tinsmith for two years, at the end of which time he opened a shop of his own. The year after coming to Ionia, Mr. Young married and from the very beginning of his business venture his affairs prospered, the tin shop presently developing into a hardware store and in the latter business Mr. Young remained engaged the rest of his life, soon coming to be recognized as one of the most substantial and influential merchants in the town. Twice his store was destroyed by fire, once in 1860 and again in 1865, but, nothing daunted by these backsets, he rebuilt and went right ahead. Mr. Young was an ardent Democrat and took a warm interest in local political affairs, but never was an office seeker. He continued actively engaged in business to the time of his death, June 24, 1903, having thus been continuously engaged as a merchant in Ionia for forty-

three years, and the business which he left is now being successfully carried on by his two surviving sons, Frederick and John Young, among Ionia's best-known and most progressive merchants.

John Young was an earnest member of the Episcopal church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in that faith, the family ever being devoted to local good works. Mr. Young had been a witness to the development of Ionia from a straggling backwoods village to a pretentious, modern city, and had done well his part in promoting that development along all proper lines. When he arrived there in 1857 the Grand Trunk had just finished their line to Ionia, then the terminus of that road. There were only two brick residences in the place and two brick store buildings. A log cabin stood right across the street from the present Young store and where the library now is situated there was then an unsightly mud hole, which not long afterward was drained and converted into a potato patch. Deer frequently were seen in the neighborhood and one day, not long after Mr. Young's arrival, a bear came lumbering down into the village out of the woods on the highland now the north section of the city. For many years afterward Indians used to come into the village, riding "Indian file" on their ponies. Though such scenes long have passed, they are still vivid in the memory of Mrs. Young, whose mind is a veritable storehouse of knowledge regarding the growth and development of the city which has been her home ever since 1857.

On January 1, 1858, the year after his arrival in Ionia, that John Young was united in marriage there to Mary Jane Sheets, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, July 2, 1838, daughter of Hezekiah and Elizabeth (Glosser) Sheets, both natives of Maryland, the former born in the city of Baltimore and the latter at Frederick. Hezekiah Sheets died when his daughter, Mary Jane, was three years old and his widow moved to Knox county, Ohio, where she spent the rest of her life. When she was ten years old, Mary Jane Sheets went to live with her mother's brother and the latter's wife, who had lost three children of their own, and she grew to womanhood under their care. In 1857 she came to Ionia on a visit to a married sister who had located here, but after meeting John Young had no desire to return to Ohio and their marriage followed shortly after. To that union four children were born, namely: George Clancy Young, who married Gertrude Avers and was associated in business with his father at Ionia until his death at the age of thirty-nine years in 1898; Frederick Young, who married Theresa Jandernoa and is in the hardware business established by his father and with which he was connected for years before the latter's

death; John, who married Verona Leweyllen, and is also in the hardware business established by his father; and Esther, who married Edward R. Bailey, one of the proprietors of the Bailey House in Ionia at that time, who later operated the Pike summer tavern at Topenabee on Mullett lake, this state, and who died on December 3, 1914, survived by his widow and one son, John E., who are continuing the hotel business at Topenabee.

Edward R. Bailey was born in Ionia on March 18, 1863, son of Leman and Rachel (Klink) Bailey, the former a native of Wayne county, New York, who for a time was engaged in the hotel business at Cleveland, Ohio, and who came to Michigan in 1852, opening a grocery store and restaurant at Ionia, which he conducted until his establishment was destroyed by fire in 1861, after which he engaged in the hotel business until 1864, when he rebuilt his store room and again engaged in the grocery business, but after he was burned out there a second time in 1865 he bought the Runyan House and later bought the old Eagle hotel, changed the name of the same to the Bailey House and continued its proprietor for thirty-three years. He died in 1891 and his widow died in 1897. After the death of the elder Bailey his sons, Edward R. and Herbert Bailey, continued the business until 1896, when Edward R. Bailey took hold of the Pike summer tavern and was thus engaged the rest of his life, becoming very successful in that business. The Baileys had their origin in England, a father and three sons having emigrated to this country in colonial days, settling at Rutland, Vermont, where all save Oliver Bailey met death during the Revolutionary War. Oliver Bailey, father of Leman Bailey, later moved to Wayne county, New York, where he spent the rest of his life. He had another son, Ephraim Bailey, who came to Michigan many years ago and was cared for by a son until his death, at the age of ninety years.

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#### JUDGE FRANK D. M. DAVIS.

Judge Frank D. M. Davis, judge of the Ionia circuit court, who has held that honorable position since 1892 and who enjoys the unusual distinction of having been twice re-elected without opposition, as the nominee of both dominant parties, is a native of Buffalo, New York, having been born on April 9, 1854, son and only child of Evan M. and Ellen A. (Williams) Davis, both natives of Oneida county, New York, who died at Ionia, this county, the latter in 1855 and the former in 1865.

Evan M. Davis was the son of Matthew Davis and wife, natives of Wales, who had settled in Oneida county, New York, where the former was a miller. He learned the painter's trade and followed that all his life. He married Ellen A. Williams, daughter of Edward and Mary (Jones) Williams, also natives of Wales, who had settled in Oneida county, New York, farming people, both of whom lived to advanced ages. In 1854, Evan M. Davis and wife came West and located at Ionia, where Mrs. Davis died the following year. Mr. Davis later went to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he resided for a time, but in 1859 returned to Ionia, where he died in 1865. He had been reared as a Congregationalist, but later became an earnest adherent of the church of the Seventh-Day Adventists.

Left an orphan at the age of twelve years, Frank D. M. Davis has made his own way in the world ever since. He worked at farm labor in Montcalm and Ionia counties until he was sixteen years old, meanwhile applying himself to his studies during the winters in the schools of Ionia and Greenville, displaying such aptitude in that direction that at sixteen he received a license to teach in the public schools of this county and was engaged in teaching for several years. In the meantime he had been applying his leisure to the study of the law and in 1875, he then being twenty-one years of age, was admitted to the bar. Upon being thus qualified to practice his chosen profession, Mr. Davis opened an office at Saranac, this county, and was there engaged in practice until the time of his election to the office of prosecuting attorney for this judicial district, in 1880, in which year he moved to Ionia, where he ever since has resided. For eight years he served as prosecutor and then served one term as mayor of Ionia, and in 1892 was elected, as the nominee of the Republican party, judge of this judicial circuit. So admirably has Judge Davis discharged the duties of his official position that he has been retained on the bench of this circuit ever since. Previous to his election to the office of prosecuting attorney, Judge Davis had served as a justice of the peace in Boston township and had also served as court commissioner.

On August 6, 1874, Frank D. M. Davis was united in marriage to Ellen A. Strong, who was born at Niles, this state, October 7, 1855, daughter of Noble D. and Rozilla M. (Potter) Strong, natives of New York, the former of whom was born near Auburn and the latter near Herkimer, pioneers of Ionia county, both now dead, and who were the parents of five children, Emory F., Etta A., Ellen A., Elva R. and Carrie A. Noble D. Strong was the second in order of birth of the six children born to his par-



ents, Isaac Strong and wife, natives of New York state, who spent their lives in the Auburn neighborhood, the other children of that family having been Levi, Samuel, Norman, Isaac and Henry. His wife was the first-born of the five children of Francis and Heziah (Frost) Potter, natives of New York state, who came from the Herkimer neighborhood to be pioneers in Ionia county, the other children of that family having been Bianca, Elmira, William and Elvira.

To Frank D. M. and Ellen A. (Strong) Davis two children have been born, Elbert M. and Elva R. Elbert M. Davis was graduated from the Ionia high school, after which he entered Olivet College and later the Detroit College of Law, from which he was graduated, after which he engaged in practice at Ionia and became very successful. In 1914 he was appointed assistant general counsel of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Company and since then has made his home at Grand Rapids. He married Marian Morse, daughter of Judge Morse, of Ionia, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. Miss Elva Davis is a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing and is now operating a large green-house at Ionia. Judge and Mrs. Davis have a beautiful home at 146 Lafayette street, in Ionia, where they have lived for nearly a quarter of a century. Judge Davis is a Royal Arch Mason, a Knight Templar and a member of Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and is also an Odd Fellow and a member of the Knights of Pythias, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### MAJOR THOMAS G. STEVENSON.

Major Thomas G. Stevenson, secretary-treasurer of the Peoples Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Ionia, veteran of the Civil War, a former newspaper editor of Ionia and for years actively identified with the business and social interests of that city, is a native of Ionia and has lived there almost all his life. He was born at Ionia on July 26, 1842, son of John and Jean (Brown) Stevenson, the former a native of England and the latter of Scotland, early settlers in this county and for years influential residents of Ionia.

John Stevenson was reared in England and in 1831, crossed the Atlantic, settling in Montreal, where he married Jean Brown, who was born at Abbotsford, Scotland, within sight of the old home of Sir Walter Scott.

and who had come to America with her brother, settling in Montreal. In 1836 John Stevenson and his wife came over into Michigan and settled in the then village of Lyons, being among the earliest settlers of the Grand River valley, soon after moving to Ionia. They were earnest members of the Methodist church and from the beginning of their residence in this county were accounted as among the leaders in all good works hereabout. Mrs. Stevenson died on February 17, 1883. Mr. Stevenson survived his wife about seven years, his death occurring in 1890. Their second son, Thomas G. Stevenson, grew to manhood in Ionia, receiving his elementary education in the public schools of that city. He early took an interest in newspaper work and by the time he was eighteen years of age, by working during vacations and after school hours in the office of the *Ionia Gazette*, had earned enough money to pay his way through a course of two years of study in the Ypsilanti Seminary, in preparation for entrance to the State University, but his plans for a higher education were interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil War.

At the age of twenty years Thomas G. Stevenson enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and was immediately appointed sergeant-major of that regiment. In less than a year he had been successfully advanced in rank from second lieutenant to first lieutenant and then to captain of his company. He was with the regiment in the battles of Perryville, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Averasboro and Bentonville and in numerous minor engagements and skirmishes. When General Sherman's army cut loose from its base of supplies and started on its historic sweep through Georgia, Captain Stevenson was appointed adjutant-general of a newly organized brigade and served thus on the march to the sea and on up through the Carolinas to Washington, where he participated in the Grand Review, and upon being mustered out at the close of the war was brevetted major for meritorious service.

Upon the completion of his military service Major Stevenson returned to his home at Ionia and in May, 1866, in association with an old school-mate and army comrade, Capt. J. C. Taylor, began the publication of the *Ionia Sentinel*, a weekly journal, through the columns of which for twenty years he advocated the principles of the Republican party, during which time he became one of the best-known newspaper editors in Michigan. On July 4, 1892, Major Stevenson purchased the *Marshall Statesman*, one of the oldest Republican newspapers in Michigan, and for years published that paper, selling the same in 1896. The year previously, in 1895, at the annual

meeting of the Michigan State Press Association, held at Benton Harbor, Major Stevenson was elected vice-president of the association and accompanied his editorial brethren on the association's memorable trip down the St. Lawrence river to Montreal, thence to the White Mountains; and in the following winter accompanied the editorial party which made the trip to New Orleans, where the editors were paid special attentions by the city officials and the Mardi Gras directors, the editorial excursionists then proceeding on into Mexico, spending several days in the land of the Montezumas, receiving distinguished attentions from President Diaz and high officials of the republic of the south.

For ten years during his connection with the "fourth estate," Major Stevenson had been largely interested, in connection with others, in wool growing in Colorado and at one time he and his associates had ten thousand sheep on their ranges. Three years before buying the *Marshall Statesman*, Major Stevenson had been elected secretary-treasurer of the Peoples Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Ionia and since selling his paper in 1896 has devoted his undivided time to the affairs of that progressive and prosperous organization. When Major Stevenson took charge of the insurance company's office the company had a membership of 861 and was carrying an insured risk of \$1,154,205. The current annual report of the condition of the company shows a membership of 5,250, with insured risks of \$7,750,000. Major Stevenson has been a Republican since the day he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln on Lookout Mountain in Tennessee in 1864, and has since remained firm in the faith. In 1911 Major Stevenson was appointed by Governor Osborn a member of the board of managers of the Michigan state soldiers' home and still occupies that responsible position. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and for years has taken an interest in the affairs of that patriotic order. He also is a member of the fraternal association, the Royal Arcanum.

On June 24, 1874, Major Thomas G. Stevenson was united in marriage to Hannah C. Blanchard, who was born at Lyons, this county, daughter of John C. and Harriet A. (Brewster) Blanchard, for years numbered among the most prominent and influential residents of Ionia, further reference to whom is made elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Stevenson is a member of the Methodist church, of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and of the Home Missionary Society, in the affairs of all of which organizations she takes a warm interest, assisting the Major in such measures as they approve for the general advancement of local social and cultural condi-

tions. Major and Mrs. Stevenson reside in the old Blanchard home, a sandstone residence erected by the late John C. Blanchard in 1880, one of the handsomest and most substantial houses in Ionia, occupying broad grounds extending from Main street to Adams street.

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#### HON. FRANK C. MILLER.

Hon. Frank C. Miller, present city attorney of Ionia, is one of the best-known and most successful lawyers in Central Michigan, former member of the Legislature from this district, ex-mayor of Ionia, former assistant attorney-general of the state, ex-city treasurer and alderman, and has also served as assistant prosecuting attorney of the county. Mr. Miller in addition to looking after his extensive law practice has been largely interested in lumbering and farming, and for years has been active in the promotion of the varied interests in which he is financially interested and the public interests as well. He is essentially a "self-made" man. Though he admits he is possessed of certain ideas somewhat peculiar to himself, he thoroughly accords to every other man the right to think as he may please. He has spent the greater part of his life in the city of Ionia and the record of his career is an open book.

Frank C. Miller was born at Burlington, Iowa, November 24, 1860. His father was a native of Germany and his mother a "down east Yankee" from Connecticut. His father died while he was still a young man and his mother, whose maiden name was Rachael Steele, died on February 28, 1916. He grew up and spent his boyhood days in Kent, Clinton and Ionia counties, where he attended the country schools until he was fourteen years of age. From early childhood he became inured to hard work upon the farm and later in the lumber woods, and he looks back with pride upon the fact that when he was fifteen years of age he worked seven months upon the farm in the township of Riley, Clinton county, Michigan, receiving six dollars per month for his labor and that from his wages of seven months' service he saved and took home to his mother the sum of thirty-five dollars. Thereafter, for some years, he worked upon the farm in summer and attended the country school during winter. Although he did not neglect his studies while working upon the farm, but spent every spare moment with his books—they were his constant companions, and he cared little or nothing for the pleasures which other boys of his age usually engaged in. He recalls the fact

that he received his third reader when he was nine years old and read it from cover to cover the first night he had it in the house, and he still has this same book in his possession.

He was sixteen years old when he located in Ionia county; and after attending the country schools during winters, he took a further course in the Ionia high school, after which he began teaching school, in which profession he was thus engaged for several years; meanwhile he had made up his mind that he would study law and during the school vacations he applied himself to the study of the law in the office of Morse, Wilson & Trowbridge, of which Judge Allen B. Morse was the senior member. Mr. Miller was admitted to the bar on September 6, 1886, since which time he has been almost continually engaged in the practice of his chosen profession at Ionia, Michigan, and has taken high rank at the bar.

In addition to looking after his extensive practice, Mr. Miller has given much time to the public service. For several years he was assistant prosecuting attorney of the county; has served the city as alderman, city treasurer and mayor and is now serving his third consecutive term as city attorney. He was elected on the Republican ticket to represent the Ionia district in the lower house in the Michigan Legislature during the forty-fifth session of that body—1909-10, and declined a re-nomination. For years Mr. Miller has given his most thoughtful attention to the political affairs of the city, county and state. For many years he has been a member of the Ionia county Republican committee, serving as secretary of that organization four years, and has repeatedly been chairman of the city committee of the same party. Diligent in business, Mr. Miller has prospered, as he deserves to prosper, and he is now the owner of a fine home, several houses, farms, and a large tract of timber land. For three years he was engaged in lumbering in the Upper Peninsula and at one time was the owner of about two thousand acres of land, a part of which he subsequently lumbered off or sold.

On February 23, 1887, Frank C. Miller was united in marriage to Sarah J. Reid, daughter of John and Deborah (Rathbun) Reid. Her father was a native of Scotland and mother of New York, both of whom spent their last days at the home of their daughter in Ionia, Mrs. Miller being now the sole survivor of that family. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have no children. They are members of the Church of Christ (Disciples) of which Mr. Miller is a deacon and they take great interest in the various societies connected with the church activities. Mr. Miller is a prominent Mason, high priest of the Ionia chapter, member of the council and commandery of that order, and

is also a member of the local lodge of Elks, the Royal Arcanum, Modern Woodmen, and the Knights and Ladies of Security, with the national board of which latter organization he was connected for eight years as national trustee, and takes an active interest in the affairs of these various organizations. His has, indeed, been a busy life.

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#### HERBERT B. WEBBER.

Herbert B. Webber, president of the National Bank of Ionia, who has been connected with the banking interests of that city practically since boyhood, beginning under the direction of his father, the Hon. A. J. Webber, one of the pioneer bankers of this part of the state, and who also was largely identified with many important enterprises in and about Ionia, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born in Elmira, New York, October 31, 1862, son of Andrew Jackson and Mary C. (Abbey) Webber, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New York state, for many years prominent residents of Ionia, and the latter of whom died at the age of eighty years.

Andrew J. Webber was the sixth in order of birth of the nine children born to his parents, Andrew Jackson Webber and wife, prominent residents of Elmira, New York, the others being Lorenzo, Azro, George W., Samuel W., Oscar, Sophia, Lucinda and Jennie. He was well reared amid excellent surroundings, receiving a good education and a competent business training. In 1857, attracted by the possibilities then presented in the lumber woods of this section of Michigan, he came to this state, locating at Lyons, in this county, and for some years was successfully engaged in lumbering, his principal operations being confined to the Manistee country in Mecosta county. In the meantime he had married, but did not move his family to Ionia until 1870, by which time he had become one of the most prominent and influential men in this part of the state. In addition to his extensive lumber interests he also was identified with important manufacturing enterprises hereabout, owned a considerable stretch of farm land and was one of the early bankers of Ionia. Mr. Webber was a Republican and took an active part in local political affairs, several times being elected mayor of Ionia, and also represented this district in the Legislature several terms, during which service he became one of the best-known factors of his party in the state. In his later years the Hon. Andrew J. Webber prac-

tically retired from his numerous business connections in this county and moved to Detroit, where he died at the age of seventy-two years. His wife was born in New York state, daughter of Jonathan Abbey and wife, both natives of that same state, the latter of whom died when comparatively a young woman, leaving six children, Sarah, Carrie, Mary C., Antoinette and Charles F. In his declining years Jonathan Abbey came to Michigan and located at Ionia, where he spent the rest of his life. To the Hon. Andrew J. and Mary C. (Abbey) Webber four children were born, namely: Herbert B., the subject of this sketch; George H., also of Ionia; Charles H., of Portland, Oregon, and Marie A., who married Edward A. Fiske and lives at San Juan Bautista, California.

Herbert B. Webber was eight years old when his parents located in Ionia and he has been a resident of that city ever since. He received his elementary education in the public schools of that city, supplementing the same by a course at the Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake, after which he entered the service of the Second National Bank of Ionia, as collection clerk, and has been continuously connected with the banking interests of that city ever since. In 1881 Herbert B. Webber assisted his father in the organization of a private bank at Ionia, under the firm name of A. J. Webber & Son, which bank was engaged in business for five years, at the end of which time it was discontinued, Herbert B. Webber then being elected cashier of the Second National Bank of Ionia, of which his father and George W. Webber were the principal owners. He continued that connection until the expiration of the bank's charter, after which George W. and Andrew J. Webber organized a private bank as a successor to the Second National Bank, under the name of Webber Brothers, Bankers, which institution was continued until 1890, in which year Herbert B. Webber organized the National Bank of Ionia, capital stock, fifty thousand dollars, and was elected president of the new financial institution, a position he has ever since occupied, the other officers of the bank being W. H. Mathsin and Herbert E. Powell, vice-presidents, and J. H. Smith, cashier.

In addition to his extensive banking interests, Mr. Webber is also actively identified with numerous important enterprises in and about Ionia and is regarded as one of the most influential men of affairs in this section of the state. For twenty-five years he has acted as treasurer of the Michigan state hospital at Ionia; is president of the Ionia Gaslight and Coke Company; secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Hayes-Ionia Company; a director of the Belding-Hall Company, of Belding, this county,

manufacturers of refrigerators, one of the largest concerns of its kind in the country, and also owns a fine farm of two hundred and seventy-five acres three and one-half miles east of Ionia, in the operation of which he takes much interest. Mr. Webber is a Republican and for years has taken a good citizen's interest in the political affairs of the county, long having been regarded as one of the leaders of the party in this section, but has never been as aspirant for public office.

On March 2, 1885, Herbert B. Webber was united in marriage to Mary Ella Vander Heyden, who was born at Detroit, this state, December 17, 1866, daughter of William H. and Emily E. (Wood) Vander Heyden, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York state, who were the parents of four children, William H., Mary Ella, Dora E. and Fred H. William H. Vander Heyden died in 1912, at the age of seventy-two years, and his widow is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Webber take an earnest interest in the various social activities of their home town and have many friends in Ionia and throughout the county generally. Mr. Webber is a Mason, a member of Ionia Lodge No. 36, of that order, at Ionia; a member of the chapter and the commandery of the same order and is an active member of Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids. He also is a member of the Ionia lodges of the Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Knights of the Maccabees and in the affairs of all these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### GEORGE W. POTTER.

George W. Potter, secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company, of Saranac, this county, a well-to-do landowner in that neighborhood and one of the most enterprising and public-spirited men in the community, is a native son of Ionia county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm in Keene township, this county, July 12, 1863, son of Charles M. and Celia A. (Taylor) Potter, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Connecticut, who became pioneer residents of this county, where their last days were spent.

Charles M. Potter was born in New York state, but was reared in Hartford, Connecticut, in which city he married Celia A. Taylor, who was born there. A year after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Potter came to Michigan and settled in Ionia county. Charles M. Potter bought a farm in



Keene township and became one of the most substantial and influential residents of that community, living there the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1907. To him and his wife eight children were born, five of whom are still living, those besides George W. being as follow: William H., a grocer at Grand Rapids, this state; Edwin M., who now owns and lives on the old home farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Keene township; Emma Genia, wife of Homer Cutter, of Grand Rapids, and Mrs. Stella Kinney, a widow, of Chicago.

George W. Potter was reared on the paternal farm in Keene township, this county, receiving his elementary education in the public school in the neighborhood, supplementing the same by a course in the business college at Ionia, after which he entered seriously upon the work of farming and became the owner of an excellent farm of eighty-eight acres. In 1907 he left the farm and engaged in the hardware business at Saranac, continuing thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he sold his hardware store and engaged in the drug business. Three years later he returned to the farm and for two years took active management of his place. On September 28, 1914, he became connected with the co-operative creamery at Saranac in his present capacity as secretary-treasurer and general manager and has ever since been thus engaged, during which time he has done much to advance the general interests of that progressive and flourishing concern. Mr. Potter was one of the original stockholders of the creamery company and is one of the directors of the same. He also is a stockholder in the Saranac State Bank and for years has given his best attention to all measures designed to advance the interests of his home community. Mr. Potter is a Democrat and has twice served as treasurer of Boston township. He also served one term as highway commissioner of that township and in other ways has demonstrated his interest in public affairs. The co-operative creamery at Saranac is one of the best established and most thriving concerns of the kind in this part of the state and does a large annual business, being very popular with the many dairy farmers in that section. The president of the company is Martin K. Jepson; vice-president, George Hill, of Orleans township, and secretary-treasurer and general manager, George W. Potter.

On June 6, 1888, George W. Potter was united in marriage to Esther Ellison, who was born in Easton township, this county, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Belle, who died aged one year; Courtland M., born on August 22, 1890, a graduate of the Saranac high

school and the Michigan State Normal School at Ypsilanti, who is now engaged as a teacher in the state school at Owatonna, Minnesota; Aylmer, October 8, 1862, a graduate of the Saranac high school, who is married and now operating the home farm in Boston township, and Charles H., September 22, 1900, a student in the Saranac high school. The Potters long have taken an active interest in the general social affairs of their home community and are regarded as among the leaders in the general life of the vicinity. Mr. Potter is the present master of Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons, serving his second term as such; and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Potter also is a member of Saranac Lodge No. 168, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the local "tent" of the Knights of the Maccabees, and in the affairs of all of these organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### ADAM FENDER.

Adam Fender, a well-known and progressive farmer of Selawa township, this county, supervisor of that township and chairman of the county board of supervisors, owner of a fine farm situated on rural route No. 3, out of Lake Odessa, and for years actively identified with the affairs of that neighborhood, is a native of Ohio, but has lived here ever since he was twenty years old, having located here at the close of his service in the Union army during the Civil War. He was born in Putnam county, Ohio, October 9, 1845, son of Jacob and Rebecca (Kirkendall) Fender, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio, who in 1865 came to Michigan and settled in Barry county, where their last days were spent.

Jacob Fender was trained to the trade of a blacksmith in his native land. At the conclusion of his three years of military service, at the age of twenty-three years, he came to the United States and presently made his way into Ohio, where he married Rebecca Kirkendall, who was born in Columbiana county, that state. They made their home in Putnam county, same state, where they resided until 1865, in which year they came to Michigan with their family and settled on a farm in section 13, Woodland township, Barry county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Jacob Fender's death occurring in April, 1871. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom six are now living and the eldest of whom is

the subject of this sketch, the others being as follow: Daniel, of Lake Odessa, this county; Elias D., who continues to live in Putnam county, Ohio; Peter, of Sunfield, in the neighboring county of Eaton; Van, also a resident of Eaton county, and Louis P., a resident of Costa county, this state.

Adam Fender was reared on a farm in Putnam county, Ohio, and on February 24, 1865, enlisted for service in the Union army, during the continuance of the Civil War, in Company K, One Hundred and Eighty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, from which command he was mustered out on June 29, following, the war then being at an end. That year his parents moved to Michigan and he accompanied them, he then being twenty years of age. He assisted his father in the development of the home farm in Barry county and remained at home until after his father's death. In the spring of 1873, he then being twenty-seven years of age, Adam Fender came over into Ionia county and bought the farm on which he now lives. He erected on that place a log cabin and the next year married, and he and his wife set up housekeeping in the cabin and established their home there. Mr. Fender is an excellent farmer and his affairs presently began to prosper, it being not very long until he was able to erect a new and very much more comfortable and commodious home on his place. Mr. Fender has not only done well in his farming operations, but he has become interested in various other enterprises in and about his home neighborhood and is one of the stockholders of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Lake Odessa. He also has taken an active part in local political affairs for years and has been elected supervisor of Sebawa township for nineteen consecutive terms, now serving his second term as chairman of the county board of supervisors. For twelve years also Mr. Fender served as justice of the peace in and for Sebawa township and in other ways has done his part in local governmental affairs.

On June 9, 1874, Adam Fender was united in marriage to Louisa Switzer, who was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, and who came to Michigan with her parents in the fall of 1866, and to this union eight children have been born, four of whom are living, as follow: Warren P., Dora M., wife of Harry B. Everest; N. E., of Odessa township, and Ray, born on February 10, and is unmarried and lives at home. Mr. Fender is a member of Samuel Gurnell Post No. 283, Grand Army of the Republic, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. He also is a member of West Sebawa Lodge No. 282, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is past noble grand of that organization.

## HON. WALTER YEOMANS.

The Hon. Walter Yeomans, former state senator from this district, a well-known and substantial retired farmer of this county and a former banker, who has been successfully engaged in the real-estate and loan business in Ionia since 1893, one of the best-known and most progressive business men in this part of the state, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on a pioneer farm within a mile of where he now lives in Ionia, February 13, 1848, son of the Hon. Sanford A. and Abigail (Thompson) Yeomans, early settlers of this county, the former of whom came here with his parents, Erastus Yeomans and wife, when sixteen years old, from New York state, a member of the Dexter colony which settled in the center of the county in 1833, and thus became the nucleus around which presently gathered the settlement which gradually grew into the now flourishing city of Ionia. Erastus Yeomans was the first postmaster of the village and one of the first associate judges of the county, for many years taking a prominent part in the affairs incident to the development of this now well-established and thriving commonwealth. His son, Sanford A., became equally prominent in his day and was useful in many ways in giving proper formation to the growing community. He was an extensive landowner, served the district for two terms in the lower house of the state Legislature and was a member of the convention called to revise the Constitution of the state of Michigan.

In a biographical sketch presented elsewhere in this volume, relating to Erastus T. Yeomans, veteran druggist at Ionia, elder brother of the subject of this sketch, there is set out in full a history of this interesting family in this county, to which the attention of the reader is called. Judge Erastus Yeomans was a fifer in the company of Captain Morgan, in Major Shoemaker's Battalion, New York Militia, during the War of 1812, and nearly twenty years after locating in this county received from the government a patent assigning to him a tract of land in Easton township, this county, as a reward for such service. That patent, which was signed by Millard Fillmore, President of the United States, date of November 10, 1851, is now in the possession of Judge Yeomans' grandson, Walter Yeomans, the subject of this sketch.

Walter Yeomans was reared on the home farm in the outskirts of the growing village of Ionia, attending the district school and the Ionia high school. He married when he was twenty years of age and his father gave him a quarter of a section of unimproved land in Ronald township, this



HON. WALTER YEOMANS.



county, where he established his home and proceeded to clear and develop the farm. It was not long until Mr. Yeomans began to be recognized as one of the most progressive and enterprising farmers of his neighborhood and he prospered from the very beginning of his farming venture. He also from the very start gave his close attention to the civic affairs of the community and during his long residence in Ronald township held various township offices, having been supervisor, highway commissioner, member of the township board and justice of the peace. He was also deeply interested in the wider political affairs of the county and the state and was elected to represent this district in the upper house of the Michigan General Assembly, his service in the Senate proving so satisfactory to his constituents that he was re-elected and thus served two terms, rendering valuable service in behalf of the public. In 1893 Senator Yeomans retired from the farm, turning the same over to the direction of his eldest son, and moved to Ionia, where he ever since has been engaged in the loan and real-estate business. In addition to his extensive farming interests and political connection, Senator Yeomans also took an interest in various other forms of enterprise and for some time was a director and vice-president of the First National Bank of Ionia, of which his father was president at one time.

On July 2, 1868, Walter Yeomans was united in marriage to Jane Herrick, who was born near the town of LaGrange, in Lorain county, Ohio, December 22, 1847, daughter of Harlow and Laura Ann (Briggs) Herrick, the former a native of New York state, born near Watertown, and the latter of Massachusetts, early settlers in Ohio, who came to Michigan in 1865, settling in Ionia county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Harlow Herrick, who became one of this county's best-known citizens, died on May 31, 1891, then being nearly ninety years of age. His widow lived to the great age of ninety-three years, her death occurring on February 10, 1898. They were the parents of ten children, Helen, Rollin, Harriet, Daniel, Oscar, Ann, Byron, Henry, Eliza and Jane. Harlow Herrick was the son of Amasa and Polly (Robinson) Herrick, natives of New York state, who were the parents of ten children, Timothy, Electa, Elias, Fannie, Philo, Laura, Amanda, Harlow, Dwight and Axie. His wife, Laura Ann Briggs, was the daughter of Ezra and Polly (Jones) Briggs, natives of Massachusetts, the former of whom was a sea captain, as his father before him had been, parents of eleven children, Sallie, Malinda, Fannie, Polly, Abigail, Laura Ann, Ardelia, Andrus, Isaiah, Allen, and one who died in infancy.

To Walter and Jane (Herrick) Yeomans have been born four children, Byron A., Eugene W., LeRoy C. and Pearl A. Byron A. Yeomans was graduated from the Ionia high school and for several terms was engaged as a school teacher. Since 1893 he has been manager of the home farm in Ronald township, though he lives in town, his home lying adjacent to his father's home at 910 West Main street in Ionia, the old Thomas Cornell mansion, erected in 1855, but since largely remodeled by Senator Yeomans. Byron A. Yeomans married, December 10, 1890, Fannie McCarty, to which union three children have been born, Alfreda V., Walter J. and Roy Gene. Eugene W. Yeomans, who is now located at Boise, Idaho, where he is extensively engaged in the live-stock and real-estate business, married Alice B. Branstetter on July 11, 1905, and has three children, Walter Eugene, Mary Charlotte and Clay H. LeRoy C. Yeomans married Cecile Lenoir, a young French woman, on February 21, 1899, and is now living at Newark, New Jersey, where he is engaged as a traveling theatrical manager. Pearl A. Yeomans married Lucius Babcock, of El Reno, Oklahoma, and has five children, Sanford Walter, Lucy Ann, Mary Jane, Lucius and Herrick.

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#### ELLIS W. DORIN.

Ellis W. Dorin, justice of the peace, a well-known farmer and stockman of Sebawa township, this county, proprietor of "Brookside Farm," consisting of one hundred and three acres situated in section 24, four and one-half miles northeast of Sunfield, on rural route No. 2, out of that city, is a native son of Ionia county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm in Lyons township, November 5, 1871, son of James and Elizabeth (Johnson) Dorin, the former a native of Canada and the latter of the state of Illinois, both of whom came to Michigan with their respective parents in the days of their childhood, the two families settling on adjoining farms in Lyons township, this county.

James Dorin was born in London, Ontario, in May, 1841, and came to Michigan with his parents in 1854, he then being about thirteen years old. He grew up on the homestead farm and in 1861, when twenty years old, married his neighbor, Elizabeth Johnson, who was born in Rockford, Illinois, in 1845, and who was about six years old when her parents settled on a farm in Lyons township in 1851, where she lived until her marriage to James Dorin, she then being in her sixteenth year. James Dorin and his wife



started life together on a small farm and there they reared their family. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom nine are now living, namely: Mary, wife of Richard Clark, of Arkansas; Frank, a farmer of Lyons township, this county; Fred, who is living in California; Grace, wife of James Roberts, of Ithaca, this state; Ellis W., the subject of this sketch; Guy, a farmer of Orange township, this county; Flora, wife of Charles Morse, also of Orange township; Lavina, wife of Jesse Gurnsey, of Ionia township, this county, and Susan, wife of Donald Bradley, of North Plains township, this county. The mother of these children died in 1885.

Ellis W. Dorin was reared on the paternal farm in Lyons township and received his early schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. He was about fourteen years old when his mother died and after that he started out working for himself, a portion of his wages going to the support of the family, for his father had a large family of little children and was not too well circumstanced at that time. On November 20, 1895, Mr. Dorin was united in marriage to Gertrude Crane, who was born in Portland township, this county, in 1874, and who had grown to womanhood on a farm in the neighborhood of the Dorin farm in Lyons township. After their marriage Ellis W. Dorin and wife established a home on a farm in Portland township, where they lived until 1906, in which year they sold the farm and moved over into Sebawa township, where they bought the old Brown farm and there have made their home ever since. In addition to his general farming Mr. Dorin has given much attention to the raising of pure-bred live stock and his Holstein cattle and Percheron horses have a wide reputation in the neighborhood. His herd of Holsteins is headed by "Ypsiland Major De Kol 89700" and his Percheron sire is "Comet 99613," his stock thus being kept up to high grade. Mr. Dorin is a Democrat and for years has been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in his part of the county. He is now serving as justice of the peace in and for Sebawa township and in other ways has done his part in local governmental affairs.

To Ellis W. and Gertrude (Crane) Dorin four children have been born: Josephine, a graduate of the Sunfield high school; Kenneth, a valuable assistant to his father on the home farm; Wesley, nine years old, and Elizabeth, seven years old. Mr. and Mrs. Dorin are members of the Sebawa Methodist Episcopal church and take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same. Mr. Dorin is a member of Sebawa Lodge No. 351, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife formerly were members of the Daughters of Rebekah.

## MRS. SAMUEL E. TUCKER.

Mrs. Samuel E. Tucker, of Saranac, this county, widow of the late Samuel E. Tucker, an honored veteran of the Civil War, who died at his home in Saranac on November 20, 1914, after having been for years one of the most active and progressive citizens of that neighborhood, is a daughter of David and Eliza (Goodnow) Livermore, pioneers of this section of Michigan.

David Livermore was born in the state of Vermont and Eliza Goodnow was born in New York state. They were married in the latter state and in 1835 came to Michigan, locating at Shelby, in Macomb county, later moving onto a farm in the Mt. Clemens neighborhood in Clinton township, that same county, where David Livermore died nineteen years later. His widow then sold her farm in Macomb county and in 1865 came to Ionia county, where she spent the remainder of her life. She died in August, 1899. David Livermore and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom but two now survive, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Elias Livermore, who is a resident of Macomb county. Another brother, Leman S. Livermore, a veteran of the Civil War, died on December 30, 1915.

It was on March 30, 1869, about four years after she came to this county with her mother, that the subject of this biographical sketch was united in marriage to Samuel E. Tucker, a veteran of the Civil War, who had come to this state from the East at the close of the war. Samuel E. Tucker was a native of Vermont, but was reared in New Hampshire. In June, 1862, he enlisted for service during the Civil War in the Ninth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, and served with that command until the close of the war. Mr. Tucker became the owner of a quarter of a section of land in the southern part of Boston township, this county, and prospered in his farming operations, coming to be recognized as one of the most substantial and influential farmers in that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming he gave much attention to the growing of fruit and organized the produce business at Saranac, now operated by the Saranac Produce Company. He also was one of the organizers of the State Bank of Saranac and was one of the directors of the same, the stock he held in the bank now being owned by his widow, who also continues to hold the farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Boston township. In 1906 Mr. and Mrs. Tucker retired from the farm and moved to Saranac, where Mr. Tucker died on November 20, 1914. He was a Democrat and ever gave close atten-

tion to local political affairs, but was not an office seeker. He was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic and for many years took a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. Mrs. Tucker is a member of the Relief Corps.

To Samuel E. Tucker and wife ten children were born, of whom eight are still living, as follow: Nina, wife of William Lavander; Emma, wife of Herman Vanderhoff; George, who married Mary Rollands; John J., who married Minnie Chapman; Newell, who married Hester Jackson; Ernest, who married Mabel Jordon; Samuel E., who married Rosa Roth, and Lucinda E., wife of Herbert Courter

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#### CORTLAND SMITH.

Cortland Smith, well-known farmer and stock breeder, proprietor of the "Brookside Stock Farm" on rural route No. 1, out of Grand Ledge, in Danby township, this county, is a native of Ohio, but has been a resident of Ionia county since he was ten years old. He was born in Erie county, Ohio, December 16, 1855, son of A. M. and Eliza A. (Tingue) Smith, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York state, who were married in Erie county, where they lived until the spring of 1866, when they came to Michigan with their family and located in Danby township, this county, arriving there on April 23 of that year. Mr. Smith bought a farm in Danby township and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1882. His widow survived him ten years, her death occurring in 1892. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom but four are now living, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Isabelle, wife of James J. Pike, of Grand Ledge, Eaton county; Darwin C., of Detroit, this state, and Celestia, wife of Joseph Astley, of Lansing, this state.

Cortland Smith was about ten years old when he came to this county with his parents and his schooling was completed in the district school in the neighborhood of his new home, attending there until he was eighteen years of age, after which he entered seriously upon the life of a farmer, and at the age of twenty-one began clearing a place for himself. He married Sylvia H. Peake, a neighbor girl, who was born in Danby township in 1858, daughter of G. W. and Betsey (Macumber) Peake, early settlers of that township, and established his home on the farm of sixty acres long known as "Brookside Stock Farm," six miles west and two miles north of Grand Ledge, where

he ever since had made his home and where he has been very successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. Mr. Smith for years has given special attention to the breeding of registered stock and has made a specialty of Percheron horses, Holstein and Durham cattle and Poland China swine, all his stock being of high grade. He is the owner of the locally well-known Percheron sire, "Victor 56636," and the equally well-known Durham bull, "Corndyke," both of which animals are fine favorites among the farmers of this section. All of Mr. Smith's extensive stable of Percherons are registered and it is undoubted that he has done much toward improving the strain of horseflesh in the southeastern part of the county and throughout the adjacent sections of neighboring counties. "Brookside Stock Farm" is a well-kept place, and is admirably improved, the proprietor being an up-to-date farmer who believes in having things shipshape about him. Mr. Smith is a Democrat and gives his earnest attention to local political affairs. He has served his home district as overseer of highways and as a director of schools and in other ways has done well his part as a good citizen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith two children have been born, Frank, who died, aged three years, and a daughter, Carrie L., born on March 27, 1878, a graduate of the Portland high school and a well-known music teacher, who married Eugene Lyon, also of Danby township. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the social activities of their home neighborhood.

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#### WILLIAM FISHELL.

Farming has been both a pleasant and profitable vocation for William Fishell of Danby township, Ionia county. He was born in Genesee county, New York, June 26, 1865, and is a son of Joseph L. and Nancy (Van Buren) Fishell, both natives of the state of New York, where they grew up and married and resided there until the spring of 1874, when they came to Ionia county, Michigan, locating in Danby township, where they lived until 1903 or until the death of the father, which occurred in that year. His widow survives at an advanced age and still makes her home in Danby township. Their family consisted of four children, namely: William, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth is the wife of L. Rice; Mary is the wife of Edward Sprague; Ettie is the wife of Harvey Rice.

William Fishell was eight years old when he came to Ionia county with his parents, and here he grew to manhood on the farm, where he worked dur-

ing crop seasons, and in the winter time attended the district schools until he was twenty-one years of age when he started out for himself, hiring out one year as a farm hand. He has devoted his life to general farming and stock raising and is now owner of a good farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres, which he purchased with his own earnings, starting without a dollar. He not only cultivates his own place in an excellent manner but farms in all three hundred and twenty-seven acres, also raises considerable live stock and operates a small dairy, keeping from fifteen to twenty cows. For a number of years he was a breeder of Chester White hogs. He is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished unaided and in the face of obstacles that would have discouraged many men.

William Fishell was married, August 5, 1885, to Effie Sprague, who was born in Ionia, Michigan, where she was reared and attended school. To this union two children have been born, namely: Gertrude, who received her education in the public schools and the Portland high school, and Roy. They are both at home.

Politically, Mr. Fishell is a Democrat and is more or less active in local public affairs always interested in the betterment of his community. He has served as a member of the school board in his district and also as highway commissioner.

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#### CHARLES H. PRYER.

That Charles H. Pryer of Danby township, Ionia county, is an enthusiastic farmer is indicated by the excellent condition his place is in—everything indicating good management and thrift. He was born in the above named township and county, December 16, 1852, and is a son of Thomas and Cornelia (Phillips) Pryer. His father was born, September 23, 1820, in New York City, at the corner of Cherry and Peach streets. His mother was also a native of that city, and there they grew to maturity, attended school and were married. When a young man, Thomas Pryer learned the cabinet-maker's trade. He finally removed to Michigan, locating on a farm in Danby township. After spending two years here they returned to New York, Mrs. Pryer tiring of the lonely life of the frontier, and they remained in the metropolis for two years then returned to their farm in Ionia county, where they lived until toward the latter part of his life, when he retired and located in the town of Portland, where his death occurred, his widow surviving several years longer. Thomas Pryer started out with nothing, but he

was a hard worker and when he died owned an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He was an honest and friendly neighbor, just in his dealings with everyone. His wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a member of the Grange. Politically, he was a Republican, and he was active in the affairs of his community, serving some time as highway commissioner also treasurer of Danby township. His family consisted of seven children, five of whom survive in 1916, namely: Emily is the widow of George Van Buren; William H. is farming in Danby township; Charles H., of this sketch; Sylvester is also engaged in farming in Danby township; Frank W. is operating a farm in Danby township.

Charles H. Pryer was reared on the farm where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the district schools. He remained on the homestead until he was twenty-one years old. When young he learned the blacksmith's trade, but chose farming for a livelihood, and he has been successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and owns a well improved and productive farm in Danby township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. After his marriage he worked rented land for twelve years.

Mr. Pryer was married in 1879 to Aelia C. Barnard, a daughter of Levi Barnard, who was an early settler in Orange township, Ionia county, where Mrs. Pryer grew to womanhood and attended school. Her mother before marriage was Mary A. Page.

To Mr. and Mrs. Pryer one child has been born, Raymond H. Pryer, whose birth occurred August 6, 1889. He was graduated from the common schools of Danby township. He is unmarried and lives at home, assisting his father with the work on the farm.

Politically, Mr. Pryer is a Republican, but he has never been very active in public affairs.

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#### PROF. HARVEY H. LOWREY.

Prof. Harvey H. Lowrey, commissioner of schools for Ionia county since the year 1905, is a native son of this county, having been born on a farm in Berlin township, August 14, 1878, son of Ebenezer N. and Carrie Gertrude (Thomas) Lowrey, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Canada, pioneer residents of this county, for many years accounted among the best-known citizens of Berlin township.

Ebenezer N. Lowrey is the son of Norton Lowrey, one of the earliest and foremost pioneers of the central part of this county. Norton Lowrey was reared in Ohio on a farm and married there, he and his wife becoming



PROF. HARVEY H. LOWREY.





the parents of five children, the eldest of whom, Archibald, was killed while serving as a Union soldier in the battle of Stone's River, Tennessee; the others being John C., Ebenezer N., Serona and Jennie. The mother of these children died in Ohio and Norton Lowrey emigrated with his children to Michigan, settling in Berlin township, this county, where he married Mrs. Mary (Hawley) Thomas, to which union one son was born, Abram P., commonly known as Pratt Lowrey. Ebenezer Lowrey was a well-grown boy when he came to this county from Ohio with his father and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Berlin township. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in Company B, Sixteenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out with his regiment at the close of the war with the rank of corporal. He was in thirty-nine battles of the war, from the second battle of Bull Run to the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox, and received several wounds, though none of a serious character, the only one which permanently affected him having been a bullet wound in the right shoulder, which made a "left-handed" man of him. He also received a nasty wound in the neck.

At the close of the war Ebenezer N. Lowrey returned home and resumed his place on the farm. Not long thereafter he married Carrie Gertrude Thomas, who was born in Canada, daughter of John and Mary (Hawley) Thomas, both natives of Canada, where the former died, leaving four daughters, Carrie Gertrude, Emma, Libbie and Hattie, after which his widow came to Michigan with her daughters, settling in this county, where she married Norton Lowrey. After his marriage, Ebenezer N. Lowrey began farming on his own account, first buying a tract of eighty acres, which he cleared and largely improved. He later added to this tract by the purchase of an adjoining "forty" and as he prospered bought an additional tract of one hundred and twenty acres, being now the owner of two hundred and forty acres and considered one of the most substantial farmers in his neighborhood.

To Ebenzer N. and Carrie Gertrude (Thomas) Lowrey nine children have been born, as follow: Willard T., who is now living in the state of Washington; Carl J., of Berlin township, this county; Roy R., of Boston township; Harvey H., of Saranac, this county, the subject of this sketch; Ed. M., present sheriff of Ionia county; Earl E., of Berlin township, living on the old home farm; Hazel J., at home, and two who died in infancy.

Harvey H. Lowrey was reared on the home farm in Berlin township, this county, receiving his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, after which he entered the high school at Sara-

nae, from which he was graduated in 1896. He then began teaching school and ever since has been engaged in educational work, during which time he has become one of the best-known educators in central Michigan. In order further to equip himself for the profession of teaching, Mr. Lowrey entered Ferris Institute at Big Rapids and was a student in that popular institution for six terms. He later entered the Central State Normal at Mt. Pleasant, from which he was graduated in 1907, and in which scholastic institution he taught during five summer terms. He later took a special course of one term at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, meanwhile continuing his work as a teacher, and was superintendent of the schools at Pewamo when he was appointed, in 1905, to fill a vacancy in the office of county commissioner of schools. In April, 1907, he was formally elected to that important office and has been twice re-elected, now serving virtually his fourth term, during all of which time he has given his best and most intelligent thought to the administration of the affairs of the office.

As head of the schools of Ionia county, Professor Lowrey has greatly increased the number of rural eighth-grade graduates each year and the increased efficiency in teaching, upon which he constantly has insisted, has made it possible for these pupils to enter any high school in Michigan without examination. Professor Lowrey is a regular and interested visitor in the school rooms of the county and these visits often have been a real help to both teachers and pupils. He has assisted the school boards to maintain county uniformity of text-books; has helped to make the directors' annual reports among the best in the state; organized the system of school officers' meetings three years before the present state law made such meetings mandatory; helped organize in Ionia county the second boys' agricultural club organized in the state and is now working with the boards of education to have ten standard schools in this county, which may be increased to twice that number before the end of the year. Professor Lowrey has been economical in the administration of the affairs of his office, an instance of which fact may be cited in connection with the work of the truancy department, it costing this county but little more than one hundred and sixty dollars a year to conduct the same, whereas in other counties of the size of Ionia it has cost as high as one thousand dollars a year to look after the truants. He is held in high regard among the educators of the state and is recognized as a leader in the state teachers' meetings, this county being generally considered as one of the best from an educational standpoint in the state. He has also served on the Michigan State Teachers and Pupils Reading Circle boards.

On August 10, 1899, Harvey H. Lowrey was united in marriage to Evelyn G. Curtiss, who also was born in Berlin township, this county, daughter of Sheldon R. and Abigail N. (Barnard) Curtiss, the former a native of Ohio, born near Akron, in that state, and the latter of New York, born in Cattaraugus county, that state, for years prominent residents of Ionia county and the parents of seven children, Rosa, Lillie, Arthur, Della, Gilbert, Edith and Evelyn G.

To Harvey H. and Evelyn G. (Curtiss) Lowrey two children have been born, Maurine Margaret and Elaine Rosalyn. Mr. and Mrs. Lowrey are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Saranac, which is their place of residence, and take a proper part in all worthy movements designed to advance the best interests of their community, being held in high esteem by their many friends thereabout and throughout the county generally. Professor Lowrey is a Republican and has for years given his thoughtful and intelligent attention to the political affairs of the county, ever an earnest and consistent advocate of the principles of good government. He is a member of Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons, at Saranac, and of Saranac Lodge No. 168, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while both he and Mrs. Lowrey are members of Valley Chapter No. 175, Order of the Eastern Star, at Saranac, in the affairs of which they take a warm interest.

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### JOHN C. BUTLER.

John C. Butler, well-known farmer and live stock breeder and proprietor of "Nutwood Stock Farm," in Danby township, is one of the worthy citizens of Ionia county, deserving of recognition in this work. He was born at Portland, Michigan, May 8, 1869, and is a son of John and Nancy (Smith) Butler. The mother was born in Ohio, from which state she came to Eaton county, Michigan, when a girl, where she grew up and married.

John C. Butler was reared on the home farm and received a practical education in the district schools, and when only eleven years old he was thrown upon his own resources. He worked on the farm in the summer and attended school in the winter until he was nineteen. He taught school for five years in Ionia and Clinton counties, continuing his studies the meanwhile, and later spent a year in the Michigan Agricultural College, then took up farming on the place he now owns, starting out with only forty acres, but by good management, the exercise of sound judgment, and close application

he prospered and is now owner of a well-improved and productive farm of three hundred and seventy acres. He has a pleasant home and numerous substantial outbuildings. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. Soon after starting out he began breeding registered Poland China hogs, later Shorthorn and Jersey cattle, and is now specializing in Holstein cattle, Percheron horses and the above-named breed of hogs, in which he has been especially successful. He is an excellent judge of all kinds of live stock and no small portion of his annual income is derived from this department of his business. Everything about his place denotes good taste and good management and it is a pleasure to visit his well-kept farm. His farm is in an excellent location, three miles southeast of Portland.

Mr. Butler was married to Nellie Wilcox, who was born in Jackson county, Michigan. Her parents brought her to Ionia county when she was a young girl and here she grew to womanhood and received her education in the public schools and the Portland high school. Mr. and Mrs. Butler have two children, namely: Hammer, who is twenty-two years old; he attended the Portland public and high schools and the Michigan Agricultural College, and is now assisting with the management of the home farm; he married Flaudie Fleck, of Mecosta, Michigan, and they have two children. Doris E., the other child, is now eight years old.

Politically, Mr. Butler is a Republican, and is one of the leaders of his party in Ionia county. He was a candidate for state senator on the Progressive ticket a few years ago, but was defeated with the rest of the ticket. Fraternally, he belongs to Portland Lodge No. 76, Free and Accepted Masons, also the Modern Woodmen of America. He belongs to the Baptist church at Portland, and is one of the trustees of the same. He has always been ready to assist in all movements intended for the general improvement of his locality, and a director of the Wolverine Paveway Association.

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#### WARREN HIXSON.

Warren Hixson, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers in the southeastern part of Ionia county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and twelve acres in Danby township, situated on rural route No. 1, out of Grand Ledge, is a native of Michigan and has lived in this state most of his life. He was born in Eaton county, Michigan, August 19, 1855, son of William and Louise (Moore) Hixson, the former a native of the state of

New York and the latter of Michigan, who later became residents of Ionia county, but whose last days were spent in the state of California.

William Hixson, who was born in 1833, was but four years old when his parents came from New York state to Michigan in 1837. The family settled in Eaton county and there William Hixson grew to manhood. He married Louise Moore, who was born in Livingston county, this state, and established his home in Eaton county, becoming a prosperous farmer. In later years he went to California with his family and there he died in July, 1901. To William Hixson and wife eight children were born, of whom seven are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Emerson, of California; Fremont, of California; Jason, also of California; Willbur, who also lives in California; Mary, wife of Judson Hastings, and Mattie, wife of Benjamin Smith.

Warren Hixson was reared on the farm on which he was born in Oneida township, in the neighboring county of Eaton, and received his schooling in the schools of that vicinity. He grew up as a farmer and has been engaged in that vocation practically all his life and has done very well. After spending some time in the West he returned to his native state and on August 19, 1890, married Lottie Benton, of Clinton county, this state, who was born in that county, July 3, 1865, daughter of Hiram and Marian (Crumb) Benton, the former of whom was born on March 4, 1828, and died on September 8, 1903, and the latter, born on November 4, 1835, died December 29, 1888. Hiram Benton and wife were the parents of four children, those besides Mrs. Hixson being Julian H., a farmer, of Bancroft, Michigan; Mertie Alexine, who married Thomas J. Bigstaff, an attorney, of Mount Sterling, Kentucky, and Leland S., a retired farmer.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hixson lived for two years at Grand Ledge and then went onto a farm in Clinton county, presently returning to Grand Ledge, where they remained until they came to this county in 1896 and settled on the farm of one hundred and twelve acres in Danby township, where they ever since have made their home and where they are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Hixson gives careful attention to his live stock and is a methodical, progressive farmer who made his place pay well for the energy expended upon the same. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but is not included in the office-seeking class.

To Warren and Lottie (Benton) Hixson four children have been born, namely: Alexine, born on March 8, 1894, who married Arthur Trayer; Emerson, February 18, 1897, a capable assistant to his father on the home

farm; Alton, October 8, 1898, and Warren, Jr., February 26, 1902. Mr. Hixson and his son Emerson are members of the Modern Woodmen of America and Mrs. Hixson is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees.

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#### EUGENE L. VOHLERS.

Eugene L. Vohlers, a well-known and progressive farmer of this county, supervisor of Ionia township and for years actively identified with the best interests of Ionia county, is a native son of Michigan, having been born at Bay City, August 5, 1871, son of Henry and Mertilla (Corbett) Vohlers, the former a native of Germany and the latter of New York state, who came to Ionia county in 1884.

Henry Vohlers was born in the Prussian city of Hanover, March 11, 1832, and was reared in that city. When twenty-two years of age he came to this country and made his way into Michigan, locating near Bay City, where he became employed as a farm and timber laborer and in a short time became the owner of a farm of his own in that then sparsely settled country. On October 26, 1858, Henry Vohlers married Mertilla Corbett, who was born in New York state, October 31, 1836, daughter of David and Roxa (Curtis) Corbett, both natives of New York, who came to this state when their daughter, Mertilla, was about eight years old and located near Bay City. Through a series of unfortunate investments Henry Vohlers lost his farm and practically everything he owned in the early eighties, and in 1882 moved to Cadillac, where he lived two years, at the end of which time he came with his family to Ionia county and settled in Orleans township where on August 23, 1884, not long after coming here, he lost his life by the caving in of a ditch which he was digging. He left nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch, then twelve years old, was the eighth in order of birth. The widow bought a home in Ionia and kept her younger children with her, the older children having gone out to make their own way, thus leaving the boy, Eugene, the mainstay of the little family. While living at Cadillac he had worked as a boot-black in order to contribute his mite to the family support, and upon locating at Ionia he began working at farm labor at a wage of four dollars a month. He remained a farm laborer until his marriage, at the age of twenty-three years, in 1894, after which he rented a farm and began farming for himself. Two years later he bought a farm of seventy acres in section 10, Eastern township, and there he re-

mained for eight years, at the end of which time he sold the farm and bought a store at Dildine Corners, where he was engaged in mercantile business for three years. He then bought the farm of his father-in-law, George R. Leach, a quarter section in section 4, Easton township, the old home place where his wife was born, and there he was engaged in farming for three years, after which he became superintendent of the E. H. Stafford Manufacturing Company's interests at Bois Blanc Island. There he erected a saw-mill, built a boarding house and several other houses, quite a little hamlet presently springing up around the mill. Three years later he resigned that position and returned to Ionia county in order that his children might have better educational advantages. He bought a tract of one hundred and fifty-three and one-half acres one mile north of Ionia, on the east side of the state road, and there he has made his home since March, 1912. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Vohlers also engages to some extent in road contracting and other similar forms of construction work. Mr. Vohlers is a Democrat and for years has taken an active part in local politics. He was clerk of Easton township for five years and supervisor for five years, resigning that position when he moved to Bois Blanc Island. While living on the island he also served as supervisor and in the spring of 1915 was elected supervisor of his district in Ionia township. In the fall of 1906 he was nominated by the Democrats of Ionia county for the office of sheriff. At that time the Republicans had a normal majority of two thousand in this county and Mr. Vohlers ran almost sixteen hundred ahead of his ticket, coming within four hundred and twenty-nine votes of election in a contest in which Roosevelt led the Republican ticket by a majority of more than twenty-two hundred. Mr. Vohlers received his heaviest support in the precincts where he was best known and had not the liquor element in the county opposed his election he certainly would have carried the county, thus signaling one of the most notable political victories in the history of Ionia county.

On November 22, 1894, Eugene L. Vohlers was united in marriage to Altha M. Leach, who was born in Easton township, this county, daughter of George R. and Lucy Viola (Carpenter) Leach, well-known residents of that township. George R. Leach was born in Genesee county, New York, November 21, 1849, and while a small boy came to this county with his parents, Calvin and Maria Leach, who settled in Easton township and became active in the pioneer life of that community. George R. Leach is a carpenter, though he has lived on a farm most of his life. His wife was born in Ionia, daughter of Luther and Emily (Kellogg) Carpenter, who came to Michigan from New York state in 1850 and settled at Ionia. Luther

Carpenter was a wagon-maker and for some years followed that trade in Ionia, after which he moved to a farm in Easton township, and it was there his daughter, Lucy Viola, was living when she married Mr. Leach.

To Eugene L. and Altha M. (Leach) Vohlers four children have been born, namely: Walter, who died in infancy, and Grace, Lylia and Mildred. Mr. Vohlers is a member of the local lodges of the Odd Fellows, the Elks and the Gleaners, of which latter order Mrs. Vohlers also is a member. Mrs. Vohlers and her daughters are members of the Church of Christ at Ionia and take a warm interest in the various activities of the same.

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#### ED. N. LOWREY.

Ed. N. Lowrey, sheriff of Ionia county and one of the most popular officials in the court house at Ionia, is a native son of this county, having been born on a farm in Berlin township on August 5, 1880, son of Ebenezer N. and Carrie (Thomas) Lowrey, prominent and well-known residents of that township, both members of pioneer families, the former an honored veteran of the Civil War, and both of whom are still living, highly respected by all who know them. For further details of the history of this interesting family in this county, the attention of the reader is called to a biographical sketch relating to Prof. Harvey H. Lowrey, commissioner of schools for Ionia county, brother of Sheriff Lowrey, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Ed. N. Lowrey was reared on the paternal farm in Berlin township, receiving his elementary education in the district school at Berlin Center, after which he attended the schools at Saranac. He grew up on the farm and remained at home, a valuable assistant to his father in the work of the farm, until January 1, 1907, at which time he was appointed turnkey and deputy sheriff under Sheriff Elmer F. Cilley, in which capacity he served for four years, performing the difficult duties of his position with such effectiveness that he was retained in the position, under the incumbency of Sheriff William R. Taylor, for another four years. During these years of efficient service Mr. Lowrey was making himself extremely "solid" with the people of Ionia county and when the Republicans presented him as their candidate for sheriff in the fall of 1914, his election was a foregone conclusion. Sheriff Lowrey entered upon the duties of his important office on January 1, 1915, and has since been serving in that capacity, making a most efficient and painstaking official.





ED. N. LOWREY



On January 12, 1914, Ed. N. Lowrey was united in marriage to Harriet Frederika Dingman, who was born in Tawas City, Iosco county, this state, August 2, 1886, daughter of Thomas C. and Julia Fredericka (Steck) Dingman, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Wurtemberg, Germany, both now living in Ionia, who are the parents of four children, Allen Prescott, deceased; Mrs. Lowrey, Florence C. and Thomas C., Jr. The elder Dingman is a well-known manufacturer of cement walks at Ionia. His father, who was reared in Pennsylvania, later moving to Illinois, was a blacksmith and met his death by a kick from a horse. Grandfather Dingman was twice married, but had children only by the first marriage, as follow: Henry Herkimer, Alexander Arzeno, Cordelia Sophia, Hattie Maria, Mattie Elvira and Thomas C. Mrs. Dingman is the elder of the two children born to her parents, Jacob and Fredericka Steck, she having a brother, Jacob. The elder Jacob Steck, who spent all his life in Germany, also was twice married, by his second marriage having had one son, who is still living.

To Ed. N. and Harriet Frederika (Dingman) Lowrey one child has been born, a daughter, Florence Julia, born on May 24, 1912. The Lowreys have many friends in and about Ionia and are held in high regard by all. Sheriff Lowrey is a member of Saranac Lodge No. 168, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; of Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Ionia; of Lodge No. 998, Loyal Order of Moose at the latter place, and of Saranac Camp, Modern Woodmen of America; also of Lodge No. 76, Knights of Pythias, at Ionia, while both he and his wife are members of the Daughters of Rebekah.

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#### F. W. BRALEY, M. D.

Dr. F. W. Braley, a well-known and successful physician of Saranac, this county, was born at Lander, Warren county, Pennsylvania, August 21, 1861, son of Jesse W. and Lovina (Averill) Braley, both natives of that same county, members of old American families, the former of Welsh stock, whose family entered Pennsylvania by way of Vermont, and the latter of English descent, whose family had entered Pennsylvania by way of New Jersey. After their family had grown Jesse W. Braley and wife moved to Jamestown, New York, where Mrs. Braley died, and where Mr. Braley is still living at a ripe old age. They were the parents of five children,

of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being David F., of Jamestown, New York; Beatrice, wife of James Bohal, of that same city; Alice, wife of Bert Hart, also of Jamestown, and Guy A., of Falconer, New York.

F. W. Braley received his elementary education in the schools of his native town, continuing his schooling in the high school at Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania, and at the Collegiate Institute at Jamestown, New York, after which he taught school for about three years in Pennsylvania and then in Levant, New York, for one year. He then came to Michigan, joining at Frankfort, his uncle, who was in business at that place, and for six months was engaged in his uncle's establishment, after which he resumed teaching and for five years taught school at Arcadia and at Pierport, in Manistee county. He then was employed as superintendent of schools at Palo, this county, and after four years of such service there was engaged as superintendent of the schools at Saranac, which he served for two years, at the end of which time he entered the Detroit College of Medicine, from which he was graduated in 1897. During his junior year at medical college, Doctor Braley was vice-president of his class and in his senior year was president of the class. Upon receiving his degree, Doctor Braley returned to Saranac, where he opened an office and engaged in the practice of his profession, having been thus engaged ever since that time and has been very successful. Upon locating in practice at Saranac Doctor Braley bought the office and practice of Doctor Conley. Doctor Braley keeps fully abreast of the modern advancement in his profession and is a member of the Ionia County Medical Society, of which he was secretary for two years; a member of the Michigan State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest. He is a Republican and takes a good citizen's part in political affairs. He has been president of the local board of education since 1900 and for two terms further served the public as president of the village corporation.

On October 22, 1884, Dr. F. W. Braley was united in marriage to Anna M. Wagner, daughter of D. C. and Nicolina Wagner, of German parentage, and to this union three children have been born: Carl, who died at the age of eighteen months; Lena L., a graduate of the Saranac high school, who later took a course in the State Normal at Ypsilanti, after which she taught school for three years in this county, then married J. Howard Payne and is now living in Detroit, and Lyle W., a graduate of the Saranac high school and of McLaughlin's Business Colloge at Grand Rapids, who is now receiving

teller of the Kent State Bank at Grand Rapids. Doctor Braley is a member of Boston Lodge No. 246, Free and Accepted Masons, a member of the chapter of that order at Lyons, of the council and commandery of the order at Ionia and of Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids. He also is a member of the lodge of the Odd Fellows at Saranac, of the Elks at Ionia, of the Knights of the Maccabees and of the Court of Honor, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes an active interest.

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### HENRY GROFF TINGLEY.

Henry Groff Tingley, a well-known farmer of Easton township, this county, was born in Erie county, New York, March 1, 1850, son of Joseph and Lydia (Groff) Tingley, both natives of New Jersey. Joseph Tingley was born in Essex county, in the latter state, April 30, 1805, son of Lemuel Tingley, who was born in 1761, son of Nathaniel Tingley, born in 1733, who died in Morris county, New Jersey, in 1800. Both Nathaniel and Lemuel Tingley were soldiers in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. The Tingley family in this county is descended from Palmer Tingley, who came from Kingston-on-Thames, England, in April, 1635, and settled at Ipswich, Massachusetts. Palmer Tingley took part in the Pequod War in 1637. Joseph Tingley moved from New Jersey to New York, settling about fifteen miles east of Buffalo at a time when that town was but a village of about six hundred inhabitants. For a time he was a station agent for the New York Central Railroad in the days when locomotives used wood for fuel, and many farmers in that then comparatively new country paid for their farms by furnishing wood to the railroad. Joseph Tingley spent the rest of his life in New York state and died there in 1884.

Henry G. Tingley very early started out to make his own way in the world. When he was thirteen years old his imagination was excited by word then proceeding out of the big timber woods in this section of Michigan, and he came here alone looking for work. He first stopped in Jackson county, but two years later came to Ionia, from which point he presently went to Stanton, in the neighborhood of which place he took employment in the pine woods, and there he remained until 1876, in which year he came to Ionia county and at Palo began working in a saw-mill, running the saw and planer. The next year he married and a little more than a year later, in

March, 1879, bought a forty-acre farm in section 12, Easton township, this county, where he established his home and where he still lives. In 1884 he bought an adjoining tract of thirty acres and has developed a very fine farm, well improved and managed under up-to-date methods.

It was in 1877 that Henry G. Tingley was united in marriage to Azelia P. Shaw, who was born in Medina county, Ohio, daughter of James and Minerva (Hall) Shaw, and to this union five children have been born, as follow: Harry, who is at home; Cora, who married George Harris, of Barrytown, and has three children, Irwin, Cecil and Helen; Fannie, who married Frank Houghton and lives at Jackson, this state; Della, wife of Edward York, of Lansing, and Anna, wife of Hiram Alonzo Tucker, of Ionia. Mrs. Tingley died on February 18, 1916.

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#### DENNIS J. GUILFORD.

The long years that Dennis J. Guilford, of Danby township, Ionia county, has devoted to agricultural pursuits have not been disappointing to him, but on the contrary have been filled with both profit and pleasure. He was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, February 1, 1847, and is a son of Arvin and Caroline (Clark) Guilford, natives of Vermont and New York state, respectively. They came with their parents to Washtenaw county, Michigan, when children and there they grew to maturity and married and began life on a farm, where they remained until in 1868 when they came to Ionia county, locating in Danby township where they spent the rest of their lives. They were upright in all walks of life and respected by all who knew them. They were the parents of three sons, namely: Rufus, who died in February, 1901; Dennis J., the subject of this sketch, and Edwin, who lives in Mulligan, Michigan.

Dennis J. Guilford was twenty-two years old when he came to Danby township. He grew up on his father's farm where he worked hard when a boy, and he received his education in the district schools. He remained at home until he was married, October 27, 1875, to Clara Boughner, who was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, February 18, 1856, and is a daughter of Isaac and Lavinia (Klase) Boughner. These parents were reared in Pennsylvania where they married and settled, but in 1864 removed to Lenawee county, Michigan, where they resided until 1870, when they came to Ionia county and located in Danby township.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Guilford located on the farm they still own. The original place consisted of but fifteen acres. They now have a farm of fifty-four acres, which is under good improvement and on which is to be found a commodious residence, which Mr. Guilford built some time ago.

To the subject and wife one son has been born, Chauncey D. Guilford, whose birth occurred August 21, 1878. He grew up on his father's farm, and was educated in the public schools of his district, and in Portland he also owns a farm of eighty acres which adjoins his father's place. On August 14, 1897, he married Helen Gilden, who was born in Portland, Michigan, where she grew up and attended school. To this union two sons have been born: Howard C., who was born on July 24, 1898, is a student in the Portland high school; Harold C., born on November 14, 1900, is also a student in the Portland high school. Dennis J. Guilford is a member of the Grange.

The subject of this sketch is a Democrat, and he has been township clerk for three terms, was treasurer for two years and supervisor seven years, filling all these offices in a highly acceptable manner, the last named from 1907 to 1914. Fraternally, he belongs to Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons, and Portland Chapter No. 29, Royal Arch Masons, and the Ionia Commandery, Knights Templar. He and wife are members of the Congregational church at Portland.

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#### LOUIS NEY OLMSTED.

Louis Ney Olmsted, one of the best known and most progressive farmers of this county, now living at Ionia, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born in North Plains township, this county, January 15, 1852, son of Jay and Anstrus (Case) Olmsted, pioneers of this section of Michigan, who for many years were accounted as among the most influential residents of the community in which they settled in the days when this whole country hereabout was practically a wilderness.

Jay Olmsted was born in Onandaga county, New York, and in the early thirties of the past century came to Michigan, entering a tract of land in Washtenaw county, which he later sold to Kinsley S. Bingham, who afterwards became governor of Michigan. In 1836 he made his way to Ionia county with two or three ox-teams and on the way fell in with the Hector

Hayes family, also laboriously making their way through the big woods to this county. The party settled in North Plains township, where Jay Olmsted entered the east half of the northeast quarter of section 31, where the N. B. Hayes house now stands, being among the very earliest entrants in that part of the county. That fall Mr. Olmsted made his way back to his old home in New York and there married Cornelia A. Eaton, returning to Michigan the following spring with his bride and the two established a home on the homestead tract in North Plains township, a son presently being born to them. Mrs. Olmsted died within a year or two after settling here and Mr. Olmsted again returned to Onandaga county, New York, where he married Anstrus Case, who had been born and reared in Hill township, that county, and who had been brought up fully acquainted with the requirements of pioneer living. Returning to this county with his bride, Jay Olmsted resumed the labors of reducing his wilderness tract to a tillable state, and soon became one of the most substantial farmers in the county. He also became heavily interested in the pine timber business and as he prospered added to his holdings until at the time of his death on April 21, 1864, a month before his fifty-seventh birthday, was the owner of about seven hundred acres of fine land in the northeastern part of the county. He left a widow and four children. The son born of his first marriage died when quite young, and there were four children born to his second marriage, namely: Jay, of Muir, this county; Mrs. Cornelia DeGarmo, of Highland township, Oakland county, this state; Mary, who married N. B. Hayes, who was but a baby when his father, Hector Hayes, settled in this county with Jay Olmsted, and Louis N., the subject of this sketch.

At the time Jay Olmsted died his land holdings were divided, and to Louis N. Olmsted, then a lad of twelve, was apportioned a tract of one hundred and seventy-five acres, one hundred and forty acres of which was situated in the northeastern corner of Ionia township and the remainder in the adjoining township of North Plains and Lyons. When he was sixteen years old Louis N. Olmsted had a house erected on this farm and there he and his mother lived together until the latter's death in 1876. In 1872 Mr. Olmsted married Lizzie S. Hayes, who was born in Ionia township, this county, in October, 1855, daughter of George Jewett and Frances Jane (Stone) Hayes, prominent pioneer residents of this county, whose last days were spent at Muir.

George J. Hayes was born at South Bristol, Ontario county, New York, September 26, 1831, son of Hector and Lucinda Hayes, the pioneers with whom Jay Olmsted entered Ionia county in 1836, and was about five years



old when the perilous trip was made through the forests from Detroit, the family having reached the latter point by steamboat from Buffalo. He grew up on the pioneer farm and from boyhood was a close companion of the Indians who still inhabited this country in considerable numbers, and during the early days his services as an interpreter were called into requisition at the agency at Grand Rapids. He spent two years attending the old academy at Grand Rapids and then for some time was employed as a clerk in a drug store in that city. In 1853 George J. Hayes married Frances Stone, who was born at Orangeville, New York, in 1834, and who had come to this county with her parents, Darias and Mahala Stone, in 1846, the family settling on a farm of four hundred acres northeast of Ionia. Soon after his marriage Mr. Hayes established his home in section 11, Ionia township, where he proceeded to reclaim a farm from the wilderness, and there he and his wife lived for fifty-three years, after which they retired from the farm and moved to Muir, where George J. Hayes, after fifty-five years of married life, died on November 6, 1909. His widow survived him about four years, her death occurring on October 12, 1913. Both were earnest members of the Church of Christ and their lives were marked by good works.

After his marriage Louis N. Olmsted made his home on the farm where he had started as a boy and there he and his wife lived for forty-two years, at the end of which time they retired from the farm and are now living at Ionia, where they are comfortably situated. Mr. Olmsted has been a very successful farmer and stock breeder. In the latter line he has made a specialty of Shorthorn Durham cattle and pure-bred Oxforddown sheep, having begun the breeding of the latter in November, 1886, when there were only one thousand two hundred and thirty-two of that now celebrated breed recorded in the herd book, his first Oxforddown sire having been No. 1232. When he left the farm he had a herd of about two hundred recorded sheep.

To Louis N. and Lizzie S. (Hayes) Olmsted four children have been born, two sons and two daughters. The sons, George Ney and Ernest Pliny, both died within two weeks of each other, in 1880, the former then being six years old and the latter three years old. The first daughter, Ernanie Mary, now the wife of Foss O. Eldred, a well-known attorney-at-law, of Ionia, was born on November 27, 1889, nine years after the death of the little boys. The second daughter, Erminie Lizzie, was born on March 11, 1901, is now a student in the Ionia high school. Mr. Olmsted is a Knights Templar Mason and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Knights of the Maccabees.

## SHELDON R. CURTISS.

Sheldon R. Curtiss, a retired farmer living in Saranac, Boston township, this county, was born in Lorain county, Ohio, April 22, 1839, the son of R. J. and Lydia (Potter) Curtiss, the former of whom was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and the latter in Lorain county, Ohio.

R. J. Curtiss attended school at his home near Hartford and when a young man moved with his parents to Ohio, where they settled in Lorain county. There he was reared as a farmer, married and prospered. In 1853 R. J. Curtiss came to Ionia county, Michigan, and located in Berlin township, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was active in politics and served as justice of the peace in Berlin township. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Curtiss was a class leader for many years. He died on his farm in Berlin township, and his wife, Lydia (Potter) Curtiss, died at Saranac, this county. Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Curtiss were the parents of seven children, two of whom are living in 1916: William H., of Saranac, and Sheldon R., the subject of this sketch.

Sheldon R. Curtiss secured a good elementary education in the public schools of Lorain county, Ohio, and also in Ionia county, after which he assisted his father with the work on the farm. He was fourteen years old when the family moved to Michigan and settled in Berlin township. When Mr. Curtiss was twenty-one years old he was married and started farming for himself. Two years later the Civil War begun and Sheldon R. Curtiss enlisted in Company M, Sixth Michigan Cavalry, in which he served to the close of the war. He was captured by the Confederates in Virginia and was confined at different times in four Southern prisons for six months. In the chapter headed "Sidelights" in this volume Mr. Curtiss relates the horrors of his prison experiences with a vividness that leaves nothing to the imagination. At the close of the war Mr. Curtiss returned to his home in this county and resumed his occupation of farming, in which he was actively engaged until 1902, when he retired and removed to the village of Saranac, where he has lived ever since.

On May 10, 1860, Sheldon R. Curtiss was married to Abigail N. Barnard, who was born on January 7, 1840, in Cattaraugus county, New York. Her parents came to Michigan in 1854 and located on a farm in Berlin township, this county, where Abigail Barnard attended the district school and was reared on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon R. Curtiss are

the parents of seven children, as follow: Rosalia E., the wife of F. E. Stowell, of Lowell; Lillian A., the wife of John C. Smith, a farmer in Berlin; Arthur W. is in business at Saranac; Della, the wife of Edward E. Mains, of Valparaiso, Indiana; Edith C., the wife of Fred Mains, an attorney in Chicago, Illinois; Gilbert J., a farmer in Berlin township, this county; Evelyn G., wife of Harvey Lowery, superintendent of schools of Ionia county, and living at Saranac.

Mr. Curtiss is a Republican and is now serving as justice of the peace of Boston township. He is a member of Post No. 153, Grand Army of the Republic. Both Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss are active workers in the Methodist Episcopal church. They have many friends in this neighborhood by whom they are held in high esteem.

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#### HENRY J. HALL.

Henry J. Hall, one of the best-known retired farmers of Ionia county, a man who for many years has been actively interested in the public life of this community, and who in 1904 retired from the active labors of the farm and has since been living in a pleasant suburban home at the north edge of Ionia, where he and his good wife on April 12, 1916, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Ionia township, August 28, 1843, son of Joshua S. and Sarah A. (Haight) Hall, further details of whose history in this county are set out in a memorial sketch relating to the late Joshua S. Hall, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Henry J. Hall was reared on the parental farm in Ionia township and remained there until he was fifteen years of age. Then the family moved to Orleans township. The day after he had attained his majority he began working on his own behalf, for some time being employed on neighboring farms. In the spring of 1866 he married and established his home on a farm of ninety-eight acres he had bought in section 36 of Orleans township, this county, and there he made his home continuously until his retirement from the farm in the spring of 1904, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial and influential farmers of that part of the county. Not long after entering upon possession of that farm, Mr. Hall bought an adjoining "forty," part of which he later sold, but presently bought an adjoining tract of forty-three acres and thus became owner of a little more than one hundred and sixty acres, which he improved and tilled to such

advantage that it long was looked upon as one of the most attractive farms in the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Hall was extensively engaged in stock raising and became quite well circumstanced. In the spring of 1904 he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to their present pleasant home on the state road just north of Ionia, in Easton township, where they are very comfortably situated. Surrounding his fine, modern house there Mr. Hall has three and one-half acres of well-kept grounds and has a delightful suburban home.

Mr. Hall has been an unfaltering Republican from the very beginning of his participation in political affairs and voted the ticket just forty years in Orleans township. For eight years he served the people of that township as justice of the peace and also served one term as drainage commissioner from his district. When Banner Grange No. 640 was organized in Orleans township in 1880 Mr. Hall was one of the charter members of the same, and was elected its first master. He also served the Grange as secretary-treasurer and lecturer, and for five years was purchasing agent. He also served as master and overseer of the county grange, for years giving his active and interested attention to the affairs of the same. It is a noteworthy fact that Mr. Hall and his son, Guy A., took the sixth degree in the national body. Mrs. Hall also became a charter member of the Grange, which she served as secretary for some time, and was influential in securing many members for that organization during the height of its activities in this county. Mr. Hall, also, was one of the directors of the Ionia District Agricultural Society and for some time served as treasurer of his old home township. He and his wife have traveled quite a bit, having made trips to both coasts and from Canada to the Gulf; have attended several international expositions and have visited twenty-two states of the Union. On April 12, 1916, they celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, and despite the growing weight of years continue to take a warm interest in current affairs.

It was on April 12, 1866, that Henry J. Hall was united in marriage to Cordelia M. Higbee, who was born in Orleans township, this county, daughter of Benjamin F. and Laura M. (Goodwin) Higbee, both natives of New York state, who came to Michigan in June, 1838, settling in Orleans township, this county, where they became recognized as among the most substantial pioneers of that community. Benjamin F. Higbee was a son of Erastus Higbee and wife, who with their other sons came here at the same time, the father and the three sons entering four eighty-acre tracts of "Congress land" in Orleans township. At that time there were but two houses between Ionia and

the cabins they erected on their homesteads. Benjamin F. Higbee farmed there for years, but later in life engaged in the insurance business, though continuing to make his home in Orleans township. His wife was but fourteen years of age when she was married. Both were active members of the Baptist church and were among the leaders in all good works in their neighborhood. Both lived to ripe old ages and were separated by death but one day more than one month, Mr. Higbee dying on April 1, 1908, and Mrs. Higbee dying on May 2, following, they having lived to celebrate nearly sixty-five wedding anniversaries.

To Henry J. and Cordelia M. (Higbee) Hall two children have been born, Ray, born on April 17, 1875, died in 1882, when seven years old, and Guy A., born on November 23, 1869, is a resident of Detroit, where he is engaged in business for himself, who is married and has three children, Ethel Eldon and Ione. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are members of the Disciples church, joining same in 1861 at Woodard, Lake Ronald township, and remained members of that church until they moved to their present home, at which time they joined the church in Ionia. They take a warm interest in the various local beneficences of the same.

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#### JOHN R. HAY, M. D.

Standing high among the members of the medical profession of this county is Dr. John R. Hay, who during nineteen years of able and conscientious practice has won the confidence and respect of all who know him. John R. Hay was born on March 5, 1866, in Victoria county, Ontario, Canada, the son of John and Jessie (Tweedie) Hay, both of whom were natives of Canada. John Hay was a prosperous farmer and lived in Canada all his life, dying there in 1913. Mrs. Jesse Hay is still living in the old home in Canada. John and Jessie (Tweedie) Hay were the parents of eleven children, all of whom live in Canada except the subject of this sketch.

John R. Hay secured his elementary educational training in the public schools of his home district in Canada, and was reared on his father's farm. Later he was graduated from the Collegiate Institute at Lindsay, Ontario, after which he taught school for three years in Canada. He entered the medical department of Trinity University, where he spent three years, and was graduated from the Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery at Detroit in 1897, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Doctor Hay came

immediately to this county and located at Pewamo, where he practiced his profession from 1897 to 1909, when he moved to Saranac and has been established here ever since.

On December 27, 1900, John R. Hay was married to Emma Clark, who is a native of Canada. She was reared in Canada and is a graduate of the high school in her home district. Mrs. Hay is a member of the Congregational church and is active in all the good works of this denomination.

Doctor Hay is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in politics, but has never aspired to office. He is a member of Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons, and Lyons Chapter No. 60, Royal Arch Masons. He is also affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees. Doctor and Mrs. Hay have a large part in the social and cultural life of this community.

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#### STEPHEN M. CRAWFORD.

Stephen M. Crawford was born on January 5, 1852, at Springport, Jackson county, Michigan, the son of Stephen B. and Malinda B. (Burroughs) Crawford. Stephen B. Crawford was born in New Hampshire, and was of Scotch descent. He was reared in the Green Mountain state. When twenty-one years of age he made a trip to the West, traveling through Michigan and on to Chicago, when that place was only a small town. From Chicago he worked his way to New Orleans and a little later returned to his old home in New Hampshire. Subsequently, he made a second trip to Michigan, when he located at Adrian, and after a short stay there moved to Jackson county, where he was married and where he entered a tract of government land. Stephen B. Crawford added to his land holdings and presently was the owner of three hundred acres of land in Jackson county. About 1864 he moved to Albion, this state, where he died at the age of eighty-two years. His wife also died at Albion. She was a member of the Baptist church. Mr. Crawford was a man of high moral character and aided all his children to secure a good education.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen B. Crawford were the parents of four children, three of whom grew to maturity and two are living in 1916. Allen is a farmer on the old home farm in Jackson county, and Stephen M., the subject of this sketch.

Stephen M. Crawford attended the common schools and was reared on the farm, completing his educational training at Albion College. While he

was still a young man he went to Detroit and secured employment as a sewing machine salesman, and later was engaged in the same business in Chicago. Returning to Detroit he had charge of an agency for the Howe Sewing Machine Company, and was in this business about seven years in all. Later he went to Chicago, traveling and collecting from his headquarters in that city.

In 1875 Mr. Crawford came to Ionia county and located at Saranac, where he was engaged in the hardware business for the following twenty-five years, starting in company with a Mr. Benson, under the firm name of Benson & Crawford. Mr. Benson died in 1881 and Mr. Crawford carried on the business by himself until 1900, when he sold out and turned Mr. Benson's share of the proceeds over to his heirs.

Mr. Crawford was the leading spirit in the organization of the Saranac State Bank, which was established in 1900. He has been president since its organization. The bank has been very successful and has paid good dividends to the stockholders. Mr. Crawford has made a good record as a banker and has the confidence of the people as well as of his associates. Aside from his interest in the bank, Mr. Crawford has accumulated considerable property, being the owner of real estate in Saranac and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

On December 23, 1880, Stephen M. Crawford was married to Flora B. Cooper, who was born on November 4, 1855, in Genesee county, New York, and came with her parents to Michigan when she was a girl. The Coopers settled in Oakland county, Michigan, later moving to Pontiac and Flint, where Flora B. Cooper secured her education. She came to Saranac in 1877, three years before her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford are the parents of one child, a daughter, Lina R., who was born on September 27, 1882. She attended the common schools and was graduated from the high school at Saranac, and the high school at Ionia. She taught school for two years and later attended the Ysilitanti Normal College, in which institution she became a teacher, having classes in drawing, designing and English. She was graduated from the Pratt Institute of Applied Art, at Brooklyn, New York, after which she taught in the Cleveland, Ohio, technical high school for three years, and is now teaching in the Dickinson technical high schools at Jersey City, New Jersey, having under her supervision eight teachers.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford are not members of any certain denomination, but are liberal supporters of various churches. Mr. Crawford is a Democrat, and has served as president of the village council, also on the school board and was justice of the peace for eight years. He is a member of Boston

Lodge No. 46, Free and Accepted Masons, and is past master of the lodge, Hooker Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and Ionia Council, Royal and Select Masters, of which he is past chancellor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Crawford are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Crawford takes a prominent part in the Ladies' Literary Club of Saranac and is also an associate member of the Ladies' Literary Club of Ionia. The Crawford home is the center of much genial hospitality, and Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Crawford have made many friends during their long and useful residence in this county.

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#### PERRY H. STEBBINS.

An advocate of modern methods of agriculture is Perry H. Stebbins, one of the progressive farmers and stock raisers of Easton township, Ionia county, who was born here on October 2, 1874. He is a son of George and Eleanor (Hardenburgh) Stebbins. The father was born on March 11, 1840, in Clinton county, Michigan, and his death occurred in Ionia, January 17, 1911, at the age of seventy years. He was a son of Chauncey and Sophia (Rice) Stebbins. Chauncey Stebbins was born in Massachusetts in 1807, and was a son of Chester and Nancy Stebbins. He and Sophia Rice were married in 1827. She was born in Conway county, Massachusetts, in 1809, and was a daughter of Benjamin and Anne (Monard) Rice. Her mother's father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and her own father, Benjamin Rice, served in the War of 1812. Chauncey M. Stebbins moved to Ionia, Michigan, some time in the thirties, not long after the first settlement here. He set up a log house and log barn in a little clearing in the dense woods on land now within the city limits of Ionia, later moving to Essex township, Clinton county, but returned to Ionia county to live in 1844, when George Stebbins was four years old. He settled on the farm which is now the site of the reformatory, and here he spent his early life. At that time Indians were here in large numbers and he had Indian boys for playmates and learned their language. Bear, deer and other big game was abundant. George Stebbins was one of eight children, of whom only two now survive, Seymour M., of Ionia, and Chester H., of Lakeview. He and Eleanor Hardenburgh were married on February 26, 1862. She was born in Kent county, Michigan, near Lowell, in a log house. She is a daughter of Aaron and Cynthia Ann (Whipple) Hardenburgh. The father was born in Adrian, New York, and attended college there. He came to



Ohio in early life and was married in that state and there his wife and child died. He was a carpenter and cabinet-maker by trade, which he learned in his native state. While in Ohio he bought land in Michigan, and came first to Ionia, later located near Lowell, where he built a large house and put out an orchard and improved his land. While living in the town of Ionia, he built a number of houses, several store buildings and the first hotel. Later in life he moved to Sand Lake, near Grand Haven, where he engaged in lumbering and built and ran a shingle-mill and did a large business there. The death of Aaron Hardenburgh occurred there in 1850, when Mrs. George Stebbins was five years old, after which the widow returned to Ionia with her two daughters, Eleanor and Louise, and a son, Henry. The latter was a soldier in the Civil War and died while in the service. The widow was married again, in 1854, to Sylvester Thompson. They located on a farm in Easton township, but about 1880 removed to Belding, where she died in 1907. Eleanor Hardenburgh grew to womanhood on the farm and received a common school education. She became the mother of four children, namely: May, wife of Ed. R. Rathbun, lives in Easton township; Perry H.; Lyda E. is the wife of Albert Harris, and they live in Ionia; Hattie died in infancy. The mother of these children, although now past her three score and ten, is a remarkably well-preserved woman.

Aaron Hardenburgh's father came to America from Germany, with a brother, who became a soldier in the War of 1812, and for deeds of valor was promoted to colonel of his regiment. Cynthia Ann Whipple, wife of Aaron Hardenburgh, was a daughter of Zebulon Whipple, who was born in 1798. Phoebe Andrews, wife of Zebulon Whipple, was of an old and influential family of near Brattleboro, Vermont. William H. Whipple, who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was a relative of Zebulon Whipple, probably a great uncle. He was a Southern slave trader, and during the Revolutionary War he joined the American navy.

George Stebbins and wife settled on his farm in section 30, Easton township, Ionia county, in 1871, and continued to reside there for a period of forty years, with their children near them. They spent the first few years of their married life near his father's home place, west of Ionia. Being among the early settlers here, he and his wife belonged to the Ionia County Pioneer Society. He was a faithful member of the Methodist church all his life, and was a man of fine characteristics.

Perry H. Stebbins, the immediate subject of this sketch, grew up on the home farm. He received his education in the public schools and the high school at Ionia. He remained on the home farm until his marriage,

on December 2, 1896, to Mae E. Conner, who was born in Easton township and was a daughter of Thomas E. and Jane (Pike) Conner. The father was born near Brantford, Ontario, Canada, August 23, 1836. He came to Michigan in 1854, when eighteen years old, with his parents, Isaac B. and Sarah (Darby) Conner, the family locating in Easton township, Ionia county, and here Thomas E. spent the rest of his life, engaging in farming, owning a good farm in section 18, Easton township. His death occurred March 18, 1914, when seventy-seven years of age. Thomas E. Conner and Mary Jane Pike were married on March 25, 1860. She was born on November 9, 1838, near Brantford, Ontario, and her death occurred on November 10, 1907, the day after her sixty-ninth birthday. They were both devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mrs. Perry H. Stebbins was born and reared in Easton township, and received her education in the local public schools and the Ionia high school, after which she taught school for about five years.

After his marriage, Perry H. Stebbins bought fifty acres in section 18, Easton township, and farmed there three years, then sold out and returned to the old Stebbins homestead, where he has since resided, keeping the place under good improvements and a high state of cultivation. He purchased the place about five years ago. He has one hundred and forty acres, two good dwellings, large barns and other outbuildings. Politically, he is a Republican. He served as justice of the peace for a short time, and from 1901 to 1905 was township clerk, and in the spring of 1915 was again elected to this office. He has two sons, Elvon and Maurice. He and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a member of the Gleaners and the Modern Woodmen.

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#### WILLARD SANFORD YEOMANS.

One of the well-known and highly-respected citizens of Orleans township, Ionia county, of a past generation, who lived to good purpose was the late Willard Sanford Yeomans, a man whose name should be preserved in the history of his locality along with others who have led useful and honorable lives here.

Willard Sanford Yeomans was born on December 31, 1858, west of Ionia, in Easton township. He was a son of Sanford A. and Marietta (Stebbins) Yeomans, and a brother of Edwin S. Yeomans, whose record, appearing on another page of this volume, contains the family genealogy.



WILLARD S. YEOMANS.



Willard S. Yeomans grew to manhood on the farm where Edwin S. Yeomans now resides, and he received his education in the public schools of Ionia and remained on the homestead until his marriage, on January 28, 1880, to Clara Gott. She was born in Easton township, this county, where she grew to womanhood and was educated. She is a daughter of Steven W. and Helen (Herrick) Gott. The father was born on June 13, 1829, at Wooster, New York. He was a son of James and Electa (Clark) Gott. These parents were married in Lorain county, Ohio, February 22, 1850. Helen Herrick was born in Medina county, Ohio, September 28, 1833, and was a daughter of Harlow and Laura Ann (Briggs) Herrick. Harlow Herrick was born July 21, 1801, at Watertown, New York, and was a son of Amasa and Polly (Robinson) Herrick. Amasa Herrick was a son of Ezekiel Herrick, who was born at Tyringham, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in 1726, and he became a member of the General Assembly of that state, and was a major in the American army during the Revolutionary War. He was a descendant of Ezekiel, Sr., a son of Ephraim, son of Henry, who was born at Beau Manor, Leicester, England, in 1604. He was the first immigrant of the family to America, locating in Beverly, Massachusetts, where his son, Ephraim, was born. The family history may be traced back through the nobility to Eryryk, of Great Stretton and of Houghton county, Leicester, England (1216-1272), and he was a lineal descendant of Eric the Forester. The name was subsequently changed to Eryick, then to Heyrick, and finally to Herrick. Laura Ann Briggs, mentioned above, was born at Taunton, Bristol county, Massachusetts, June 27, 1804, and was a daughter of Ezra and Sally (Jones) Briggs. She moved to Medina county, Ohio, about 1822. Her father was a sailor and for some time was under the famous John Paul Jones. She was married to Harlow Herrick, June 21, 1828, and they moved to Michigan about 1865, locating in Easton township, Ionia county, Michigan, where her death occurred on February 10, 1898. Amasa Herrick, great-grandfather of Mrs. Yeomans, was also the great-grandfather of Myron T. Herrick, former American ambassador to France at the outbreak of the European war. Harlow Herrick died in Ronald township, Ionia county, May 31, 1891. S. W. Gott and wife moved to Michigan in May, 1855, locating in Easton township, Ionia county, where Mr. Gott purchased a farm and here spent the rest of his life, dying on December 7, 1901. His widow is still living on the old home place, being now past eighty-two years of age. She lives with her son, George Gott. Mrs. Yeomans grew up in Easton township, and she attended high school in Ionia.

After his marriage, Willard S. Yeomans spent a year on the old home place, being now past eighty-two years of age. She lives with her son, of his life, from 1881. He improved the place, erecting most of the buildings that are now to be seen on the farm, including a fine residence and substantial barns. The home is modern, equipped with steam heat, acetylene lights, etc. His home farm consisted of one hundred and sixty acres, and he owned forty acres a short distance away. He was one of the prosperous farmers of his township. His family consisted of four children, namely: Maurice W., Margery, Marietta, who died when an infant, and Florence. The living children are all with their mother on the homestead.

The death of Willard S. Yeomans occurred on November 4, 1908.

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#### FRANK W. HALL.

Frank W. Hall, one of Ionia county's best-known farmers, proprietor of a fine farm of ninety-nine acres in Easton township, just north of the city of Ionia, is a native son of this county, having been born on a pioneer farm in Orleans township, December 20, 1857, son of Joshua S. and Sarah Amanda (Haight) Hall, who for years were among the best known and most influential residents of that part of the county, further details of whose history in this county is set out in a memorial sketch relating to Joshua S. Hall, presented elsewhere in this volume, to which the attention of the reader is invited in this connection.

Frank W. Hall was about seventeen years old when the family moved from Orleans township, a mile or so south, into Easton township and on the home farm in the latter township he lived until his marriage at the age of twenty-five years, after which he moved across into Ionia township, where he bought forty acres of land and began farming for himself. He remained there for about eight years, at the end of which time he sold his place and moved to his present farm of ninety-nine acres on the west side of the state road about one mile north of Main street in Ionia, where he has ever since made his home. His farm is profitably cultivated. He has a fine, large brick house and he and his family are very comfortably situated. In addition to general farming Mr. Hall has given considerable attention to stock raising.

On his twenty-fifth birthday, December 20, 1882, Frank W. Hall was united in marriage to Emma J. Myers, who was born at Grand Rapids, this

state, daughter of William James and Anna E. (Smith) Myers, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Michigan, born at Courtland Center, near Grand Rapids. William J. Myers came to Michigan when a young man and engaged in custom shoemaking at Grand Rapids, where he married Anna E. Smith, later returning to his old home in Connecticut. In 1861 he enlisted for service during the Civil War in a Connecticut regiment and died in service when his daughter Emma was a small child. His widow returned to Grand Rapids, where she married Joseph Howard, who presently moved to this county, settling on a farm near Woods Corner, in Orleans township, where he established a permanent home, and there Emma Myers grew to womanhood, remaining there until her marriage to Mr. Hall. Her mother died on October 7, 1903.

To Frank W. and Emma J. (Myers) Hall six children have been born, as follow: Ruth A., who lives in Grand Rapids; Ada J., who married Harry Shields, of Grand Rapids and has one son, Wendell; Ella M. and Della M., twins, the former of whom lives in Grand Rapids and the latter at home; Gertrude, of Grand Rapids, and Clarence J., at home. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are members of the Church of the Disciples at Ionia and are warmly interested in all neighborhood good works.

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#### CHESTER ADGATE.

Chester Adgate, a well-known stockman and retired farmer, of Saranac, this county, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on the old Adgate homestead in Berlin township, three-fourths of a mile south of the school house, February 3, 1857, son of John and Catherine (Taft) Adgate, well-known residents of that section.

John Adgate was born near Batavia, New York, and when a boy came with his parents to Michigan, the family settling in Oakland county, where they lived for a few years before coming to Ionia county. Grandfather Adgate bought an eighty-acre tract in Ionia township, now a part of the old Kelsey farm, and there he died a few years later, after which his widow moved to Tuttle's Corners and it was there that John Adgate grew to manhood. After his marriage he bought a farm in section 33, Berlin township, this county, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on August 26, 1888. To John and Catherine

(Taft) Adgate four children were born, the eldest of whom, a son, died in infancy and the youngest of whom is the subject of this sketch, the others being Lowina, wife of Riley Harwood, of Ionia, and Adaline, who died at the age of eighteen years. The mother of these children died in 1859 and John Adgate later married Rosetta Briggs, to which union four children were born, William, who lives in Saranac; Philo, of Berlin township; Milo, who occupies the old home farm in that same township, and Sarah, who died at the age of twelve.

Chester Adgate was reared on the old home farm, receiving his education in the neighboring district school, and remained at home until he was eighteen years of age, after which he began working on neighboring farms on his own account and was thus engaged for about two years, at the end of which time his father bought a forty-acre farm in Berlin township west of his own farm and gave it to the subject, who began to develop the same. A year later, in the spring of 1876, he married and established a home on his little farm where he lived for a few years and then traded that "forty" for a similar tract in section 21 of the same township, upon which, however, he did not make his home, presently trading that for an eighty-acre tract in the same township, on which he lived until he sold that farm and moved to Ionia, where for three years he was engaged in the live stock business and also conducted a meat market. He then bought the Sessions farm in Berlin township and lived there until he sold that farm to the county for a county farm in 1906, after which he moved to Saranac where he ever since has been quite successfully engaged in the buying and selling of live stock. Mr. Adgate still owns a fine farm of one hundred and forty-four acres, the old Tibbets farm, in Berlin township, and is also the owner of a business building in Saranac. He is a Democrat, and during his residence in Berlin township was elected supervisor of that township for five successive terms, resigning that office when he moved to Saranac.

On April 1, 1876, Chester Adgate was united in marriage to Norah Harwood, and to this union seven children have been born, namely: Mary, wife of Gilbert Curtiss, living on the old Webb Young place in Berlin township; Vinnie, wife of Charles Gates, superintendent of the county farm in Berlin township; Lydia, wife of Perry Walters, a farmer in section 20 of that same township; Phoebe, wife of Ray Smith, a farmer living at the Hartley school house in section 9 of Berlin township; Earl, a farmer living near Berlin Center; Glenn, who is in the clothing business at Saranac, and John, who is just completing the course in the Saranac high school.



## ALBERT E. GESLER, M. D.

Dr. Albert E. Gesler, well-known and successful physician of Saranac, this county, is a native son of Michigan, having been born in the village of Montville, in St. Joseph county, this state, July 17, 1850, son of the Rev. Lewis C. and Elizabeth (Snow) Gesler, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Massachusetts, who later became prominent residents of this state.

The Rev. Lewis C. Gesler was of Swiss parentage, his parents having come from Switzerland to this country, settling in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where he was born on May 1, 1820. The family later moved to Ohio, where Lewis C. Gesler grew to manhood and where he received his education. As a young man he came to Michigan, locating on a farm in St. Joseph county. He had received an excellent religious training from his pious parents and after coming to this state seriously entered upon the study of theology with a view to entering the gospel ministry and was presently ordained as a minister of the United Brethern church, in which high calling he continued until failing health compelled his retirement from the pulpit.

On September 13, 1841, not long after he came to Michigan, Lewis C. Gesler was united in marriage at Wendon, in St. Joseph county, to Elizabeth Snow, who was born at Boston, Massachusetts, October 21, 1825, and who had come to this state with her parents when a girl, and to this union ten children were born, of whom nine grew to maturity, as follow: Maria, widow of Moses Seiber, of Hastings, this state; Edward, who also lives at Hastings; Orin, of Cloverdale, this state; Sarah, widow of Howard Mosier, of Cloverdale; Albert E., the subject of this sketch; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of James Snyder; Mattie, wife of Porter Marion, of Augusta, this state; Carrie, wife of David Morthland, of Cedar Creek, this state, and Arthur, who is engaged in the furniture business in Oregon. When his failing health compelled his retirement from the ministry the Rev. Lewis C. Gesler moved to Hastings, this state, in 1880, and there he died in 1900, his widow following him in death about six years later.

Albert E. Gesler received his elementary education in the schools of Barry county and at the age of seventeen entered Loni College, at Loni, this state. After a two-years course there he began teaching school and for two years was thus engaged in Barry county. He then went to Kansas where he taught for a year, after which he entered the Kansas State Normal School at Leavenworth, with a view to further preparing himself for teaching, but before completing the course there his father's failing health

necessitated his return home. In the meanwhile he had been giving his serious thought to the study of medicine, and at the age of twenty-four entered the office of Dr. E. F. Brown, at Hastings, and after preparatory study there matriculated at the homeopathic medical department of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, where he pursued his studies for a year, at the end of which time, in order to gain the advantage of better clinical experience, he transferred his attendance to the Pulte Medical College at Cincinnati, from which institution he was graduated in 1877.

Upon receiving his degree, Doctor Gesler came to Ionia county and on June 22, 1877, opened an office for the practice of his profession at Saranac and there he has been thus engaged ever since and has been very successful. He has kept abreast in the advancement made in recent years in his noble profession, and has done post-graduate work at the Haberman Medical College and the Polyclinic Medical College at Chicago, the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College at Chicago, and the medical department of the University of Michigan. Doctor Gesler is a member of the Michigan State Homeopathic Society and of the West Michigan Homeopathic Society of which latter he was president in 1915. He is an independent Republican in his political views, and has ever given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs. For two consecutive terms he was president of the Saranac village corporation, and it was largely through his unceasing and well directed efforts while occupying that position that the present waterworks system and the boulevard lighting system were installed.

On September 10, 1879, Dr. Albert E. Gesler was united in marriage to Vesta C. A. Harris, who was born in Macomb county, this state, November 24, 1854, daughter of Fayette and Marjorie (Forbes) Harris, who moved with their family to this county in 1865, settling on a farm a short distance east of Saranac, where they lived for four years, at the end of which time they moved to St. Johns, where Vesta Harris taught school until her marriage to Doctor Gesler. The year after her marriage Mrs. Gesler entered the Herring Medical College at St. Louis, Missouri, from which she was graduated in 1881, after which she became engaged with her husband in practice at Saranac, with flattering promise of a brilliant career in medicine, until failing health compelled her retirement and her death occurred on June 10, 1901. She was a member of the Congregational church and for two years before her death had been acting as superintendent of the Sunday school of that congregation. To Albert E. and Vesta A. C. (Harris) Gesler two children were born, James Farrand, a graduate of the Saranac high school, who after a year at Ferris Institute at Big Rapids entered McLaughlin's Business

College at Grand Rapids, from which he was graduated, and is now located at Chicago, and Carl Grant, who is now located at Lansing.

On August 25, 1902, Dr. Albert E. Gesler married Mrs. Helen Burbank, of Salt Lake, Utah, who was born at Kenosha, Wisconsin. When she was a young girl her parents moved to Denver, Colorado, where she received an excellent education, her schooling there being followed by a comprehensive tour through Europe, during which time she spent considerable time at Hanover, finishing her studies in music and German, after which for some time she was engaged as a teacher in the high school at Colorado Springs, later as a teacher in the Denver high school and then in the schools of Salt Lake, where she made her home for four years. Doctor and Mrs. Gesler are members of the Congregational church, the Doctor being chairman of the board of trustees of the same. He is a Mason, a member of Boston Lodge No. 146 of that order, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

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#### ERNEST S. WOOLDRIDGE.

It is a privilege which should be fully appreciated if we are permitted to spend our lives beneath "the roof that heard our earliest cry." Ernest S. Wooldridge, of Orleans township, Ionia county, has been so favored by fortune, and still lives on the farm on which he was born on March 22, 1862. He is a son of Samuel Wooldridge and wife, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this volume.

Ernest Wooldridge grew up on the home farm, where he began working during the summer months when but a boy, and in the winter time he attended the district schools. After the death of his father, he and his brother, Edward, purchased the interests of the other heirs in the home place, which they farmed together, and were also partners in other land now owned by Ernest S. They operated both these places in partnership and they still work together a great deal, but they divided their holdings several years ago. Ernest now owns the home property in section 31, Orleans township, consisting of one hundred eighteen and one-half acres. He has kept the land under a fine state of cultivation and improvement. In 1893 he erected a commodious and attractive brick house, also has two large barns and other convenient outbuildings. He is carrying on general farming and stock raising successfully, everything about his place denoting thrift and good management.

Ernest S. Wooldridge was married in 1900 to Emma Doty, a sister of Mrs. Edward M. Wooldridge, mentioned in another part of this work. The Doty family is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Emma Doty grew up on the home farm in Berlin township, this county, and was educated in the public schools. She lived at home until her marriage. Four children have been born to Ernest S. Wooldridge and wife, three daughters and a son, namely: Anna Ethel, born in November, 1903; Lucile, who died in infancy; Harold Ernest, born on January 1, 1906; Louise, born in June, 1907, and Dorothy, born in July, 1912.

Mr. and Mrs. Wooldridge belong to the East Otisco Farmers Club and also to the Orleans Farmers Club. They are students of modern methods of husbandry, and many of these methods are in operation on their farm. They have an heirloom in the shape of a book of the Church of England, printed in the year 1787. They are hospitable and neighborly people.

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#### CHARLES M. RALSTON.

Charles M. Ralston, a well-known and progressive farmer of Sebewa township, this county, and one of the directors of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Ionia county, is a native of Ohio, but has lived in this county since he was a babe in arms and may almost lay claim, therefore, to life-long residence in his county. He was born on a farm in Seneca county, Ohio, February 25, 1867, son of Andrew M. and Catherine (Spitler) Ralston, who later became well-known residents of this county.

Andrew M. Ralston was born in Virginia and moved to Ohio when a boy with his parents. He grew up in Seneca county and later moved to Michigan, where he married Ann M. Crapo, niece of former Governor Crapo, and settled in Sebewa township, this county, after marriage. To that union two children were born, of whom one is now living, Gideon D. Ralston, of Six Lakes. Upon the death of his first wife, Andrew M. Ralston returned to his old home in Seneca county, Ohio, and there he married Catherine Spitler. He and his wife remained in Seneca county for about four years after their marriage and then came to Michigan, Mr. Ralston resuming his farming operations in Sebewa township, this county. He became one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood and served the public for some time in the capacity of supervisor and treasurer of the township. Andrew M. Ralston died on January 21, 1897, and his widow survived for a little more than fifteen years, her death occurring on Febru-



Mrs. AND MRS. CHARLES M. HAINSTON.





ary 28, 1912. They were the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Joseph G., a well-known farmer of Sebawa township, and Walter E., of Cement City, this state.

Charles M. Ralston was but one year old when his parents established their home in this county and he grew up on the home farm in Sebawa township, receiving his education in the schools in that neighborhood. He was carefully trained as a farmer and has followed that vocation all his life, now farming one hundred and seventy-five acres. On June 20, 1894, Charles M. Ralston was united in marriage to Harriet Oly, who was born on a farm adjoining that of the Ralston place, March 9, 1873, daughter of John C. and Laura Oly, and who received her education in the schools of Portland, graduating from the high school in that place. After his marriage, Mr. Ralston established his home on the farm which he now lives and ever since has made his home there. His wife died on June 25, 1914.

Mr. Ralston is a Republican and has for years taken an active part in local political affairs, having served as a delegate to county and state conventions of his party. He for years has taken a prominent part in the Grange and is past master of the grange at Sebawa and of the county grange. He is a progressive and enterprising citizen and is one of the directors of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, incorporated, the officers of which concern are as follow: President, Frederick Pitt; vice-president, George Jordan; secretary, J. L. Fowler, and directors, William H. Madison, Peter Kohn, Albert Delzell, Charles M. Ralston and Nathan Gould.

Mrs. Ralston was a member of the Grange, and for ten years was lecturer of the county grange. She was highly esteemed and her death was deplored by all who knew her. Her remains were interred in Lake Side cemetery, Lake Odessa.

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#### NATHAN WINSLOW.

One of the native sons of Ionia county who has lived to see and take part in the wondrous changes that have "come over the face of the land" here during the past half century or more, is Nathan Winslow, successful farmer of Easton township. He was born at Ionia, February 19, 1846, and is a son of William and Mary Ann (Kanouse) Winslow. The father was a young man when he came with his parents, Ezra Winslow and wife, to Ionia county in early pioneer days, very soon after the first settlement. The family located on wild land in Easton township. Here William was married to Mary Ann Kanouse, who was young when she came to Ionia county

with her parents, Abraham and Isabel (Laughery) Kanouse, from Tyrone Mills, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1836. They made the long journey in wagons drawn by oxen. Abraham Kanouse was a millwright. When he reached Ionia he observed that the Dexter mill was standing idle, because the water-wheel had not been properly constructed. He soon took the contract to make the mill run, and after rebuilding the wheel he set the mill going, and was paid one hundred dollars for his work. He settled in Easton township on eighty acres which he had previously traded for. He died about a year after coming here, and the one hundred dollars which he had received from Mr. Dexter was all he had to leave his widow, two sons and a daughter, who continued to live on the land for some time, where by hard work the family supported themselves. The Indians were very friendly and often gave them deer meat. The mother reared her children in comparative comfort and she spent the rest of her life in Easton township.

William Winslow worked at various kinds of masonry and plastering. He lived in Ionia part of the time. When Nathan was twelve years old the family moved to a farm in section 14, about 1858, the place being unimproved, and there they built a log cabin in the woods. They lived there until the prison was built, when they bought a farm in Berlin township, selling out a few years later and moving to Ionia, where they lived two years; then bought another farm in Berlin township and lived there until about 1893, when they moved to Saranac, where the father's death occurred in the fall of 1899. His wife died when Nathan was eight years old, leaving two children; Rosanna, the daughter, died in 1868; she was the wife of Nathan Boyer, of St. Louis, Michigan. A third child, a son, died before Nathan was born. After the death of the mother the father married Ann North, a daughter of John North, who was also a pioneer settler here. Five children were born of this second marriage, namely: Byron, Thomas E., Lenford L., John and Edith.

Nathan Winslow left home when fourteen years old and worked on the Simon Welch farm four years. When eighteen years old, he enlisted on February 23, 1864, in Company D, Third Michigan Cavalry of Veteran Volunteers, and remained in the service until February 12, 1866, in the western army. He was in New Orleans, Louisiana, when Lincoln was assassinated. Later his regiment was sent to Mexico to help depose Maximilian. They were located at Eagle Pass for some time, but were in Texas from August 2, 1865, to February 15, 1866. He proved to be an efficient soldier, and was honorably discharged, February 12, 1866, at San Antonio, Texas. He had an eventful voyage from Galveston across the Gulf to



New Orleans, thence up the Mississippi to Cairo, Illinois. After his career in the army he worked at farming in Ionia county until 1872, as a hired hand. Having saved his earnings he purchased the place where he now lives, in section 22, Easton township, starting with forty acres of unimproved land, which he cleared and put under cultivation, and later bought twenty acres more, adjoining, and here he has lived ever since and has a comfortable home. In 1873 he married Annie Hoover, who was born in Oakland county. She came to Danby township, Ionia county, when young, with her parents, William and Elizabeth Hoover. Two children were born to this union, namely: Herbert, who lives in Ionia, was married to Myrtle Hulam, and they have one child, Emma; Carrie is the wife of Charles Conner, they live in Easton township, and have three daughters, Josephine, Veda and Ione. Subject's first wife died on April 6, 1888. On November 21, 1889, Mr. Winslow married Eva Simington, who was born in Saranac, Ionia county, and is a daughter of George W. and Margaret Ann (Shively) Simington. The father was born in Ohio, April, 1830, and there grew to manhood and married and removed to Ionia county, Michigan, about 1852. He was a blacksmith by trade. He spent nearly all of his life after coming here in the vicinity of Ionia, and died about 1903, his widow surviving until in April, 1912. They were the parents of nine children, namely: Johnson, Lillie, Elizabeth, Margaret, one died in infancy, Louise, George W., Marion, Eva, George W., and Marion.

Mr. Winslow is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a well preserved man and is hale and hearty. Although he had to undergo great hardships in the army and saw his comrades die by the dozens, he came out uninjured.

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#### HUGH J. WELLFARE.

Hugh J. Wellfare, a farmer and stock raiser of Danby township, Ionia county, has made a success of his chosen vocation because he has worked hard, managed well and liked his line of endeavor. He was born on the farm where he now lives, June 27, 1870, and is a son of Jesse and Lydia (McCansey) Wellfare. The father was born in Linfield, Sussex county, England, south of London. His father worked on a large estate there for many years and there Jesse spent his boyhood and went to school, being twelve years old when his parents brought him to New York state, locating in Canandaigua, where the parents spent the rest of their lives, the father

engaging in gardening, also the undertaker's business. Jesse Welfare worked on the farm in the summer time and attended school during the winter months, receiving a good education for those days. He remained with his parents on the homestead until he was twenty-two years old, when he came to Calhoun county, Michigan, having traded property which he owned in the state of New York for eighty acres here, and on this he settled after his marriage to Sarah Owen. To them three children were born, namely: Mary, who is the wife of C. B. Twomley, of Lansing, Michigan; Frank is living in Lansing, and Viola is the wife of George Gunn, of Sebewa township, Ionia county. Jesse Welfare lived in Calhoun county until the winter of 1864, when he removed to Danby township, Ionia county, having traded his farm in the former county for one hundred acres here. His wife died in September, 1865, and on December 25, of that year, he married Lydia McCausey, a native of the state of New York, born on April 17, 1846, she being six years old when her parents moved to Ionia county, Michigan, in 1852, her father buying a farm in Danby township, where he lived until 1861, when he enlisted in Company D, Ninth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in which he served about a year. He did not survive very long after returning home. His family consisted of seven children, five of whom survive. His widow continued to live on the home farm in Danby township until about 1868, when she moved to Sebewa township. Her death occurred in 1883.

Jesse Welfare continued to live on the home farm here for fifty years, dying August 9, 1912. He has two children, Hugh J., the subject of this sketch, and Lee N., who lives in Sturgis, Michigan. He was a member of the Congregational church, although he was reared in the Episcopalian faith in England. He was a staunch Republican in his earlier years, but in later life was a Democrat. He was a great reader.

Hugh J. Welfare grew up on the farm and received his education in the Portland schools, graduating from the high school in 1891. He worked on the farm in the summer and taught during the winter months, attending Albion College one year; then in district schools four years. Since 1895 he has devoted his attention to farming, and owns a well-improved place of one hundred acres, his place being known as "Fieldsview." In connection with general farming he raises high-grade Durham and Jersey cattle. He was married on July 1, 1896, to Carrie A. Dorman, a daughter of David and Rosetta (Gibbons) Dorman, and to their union four children have been born: Marian M., now seventeen years old, is a student in the Portland high school; Jesse D., fifteen, is also attending high school; Doro-

thy I. is in the district school; and Catherine L. is also in the district school.

Mr. Wellfare and family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church in Danby township, in which he is a steward. Fraternally, he belongs to Mulliken Lodge No. 412, Free and Accepted Masons, also Lodge No. 39, Royal Arch Masons, and the Royal and Select Masters, of Portland. Politically, he is a Democrat, and is active in party affairs. He has served as pathmaster and has been school director for the past six years. He was township clerk in 1897 and 1898, and is at this writing filling a vacancy in this office. He was justice of the peace from 1909 to 1913.

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#### EDWIN S. YEOMANS.

The dairy business has long been an important industry in Michigan. One of the farmers of Ionia county, who has been carrying on this department in connection with general agricultural pursuits with pronounced success, is Edwin S. Yeomans, of Easton township. He was born on September 19, 1867, on the farm where he now lives. He is a son of Sanford A. and Marietta A. (Stebbins) Yeomans. A full record of the father is to be found on another page of this volume. Subject's mother was born in Franklin county, Massachusetts, March 6, 1829, and is a daughter of Chauncey and Sophia (Rice) Stebbins. Chauncey Stebbins was born in Massachusetts in 1807, and was a son of Chester and Nancy Stebbins. In 1827 he married Sophia Rice, who was born in Conway county, Massachusetts, in 1809, and was a daughter of Benjamin and Anne (Monard) Rice. Her mother's father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and her own father, Benjamin Rice, served in the War of 1812. Chauncey M. Stebbins came to Ionia county, Michigan, during the thirties, being among the earliest settlers here. He made a little clearing in the great woods and erected a small log cabin and a log barn. This land is now within the limits of the town of Ionia. Later he moved to Clinton county and lived in Essex township until 1844, when he returned to Ionia county, when his daughter, Marietta, was about fifteen years old. He settled where the reformatory is now located. Marietta A. Stebbins grew up in a frontier environment and her brothers had Indian boys for playmates and the language of the red men was familiar to them. Bear, deer and other wild animals were common in this locality then. By her marriage to Sanford A. Yeomans five sons and one daughter were born, among them being Frank H. and Edwin S., of this sketch.

Edwin S. Yeomans attended the schools of Ionia and Poucher's Business College, and he remained on the home farm until the death of his father, working with him, then took charge of the place which he managed on his own account and has continued on the homestead ever since, having made many improvements and kept the place under a fine state of cultivation. Three years ago he added dairying to his general farming and has been successful in both lines. The home place contains four hundred and ten acres. There are three tenant houses, and the family home is a large, handsome residence in the midst of pleasant surroundings. Several large barns and convenient outbuildings are also to be seen on the place. Part of the buildings were demolished by a tornado in September, 1915. Besides the home farm, Mr. Yeomans owns other farms, aggregating two hundred and fifty acres, in Easton township, and town property in Ionia, among which is the American House. He also owns Grandfather Yeoman's old homestead, same being situated on West Main street. He has been very successful in a business way and is one of the substantial men of his county.

Mr. Yeomans was married, first, to Etta R. Kitson, who died on October 28, 1901. By this union two children were born, both deceased; they were named as follow: Dorothy, who died on May 24, 1900, and Sanford K., who died on December 7, 1901. On February 16, 1904, Mr. Yeomans married Ola M. Snell, who was born in Easton township, Ionia county, and is a daughter of George A. and Catherine A. (Powilson) Snell. Mr. Snell was for many years a prosperous farmer of Easton township, but now lives in Ionia. He was born in Seneca county, New York, June 29, 1844, and is a son of Sylvanus T. and Susan (Tunison) Snell, both of German ancestry and natives of New Jersey. Sylvanus T. Snell came to Ionia county, Michigan, first, in 1836, only three years after the first settlement of this county, and here he bought three hundred and twenty acres in what is now Easton township, for which he paid six dollars per acre, but he did not begin developing this land into a farm until 1849, when he removed here with his family, and by hard work cleared it up and put it in cultivation. He erected a small log cabin that served as the family home for some time. His death occurred two years later, leaving a widow and six children. The widow survived until June 28, 1884, dying at the age of seventy-five years. These parents were both active workers in the Baptist church.

George A. Snell grew up amid pioneer scenes, and on New Year's day, 1870, married Ann Powilson, who was born in Benton county, Arkau-

sas, December 16, 1850. She is a daughter of Isaac V. and Elizabeth (Allen) Powilson. Her father was a native of New Jersey and the mother was born in the state of New York. These parents removed to Kalamazoo, Michigan, when their daughter, Anne, was young in years.

George A. Snell continued farming in Easton township on the homestead which his father had bought in the early days, and developed an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres here, remaining on the farm until March, 1906, when he moved to Ionia, where he bought his present home. Mrs. Yeomans grew up on her father's farm and was educated in the public schools.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yeomans three children have been born, namely: Russell E., who died March 25, 1911, at the age of four years; Edwin R., born on September 19, 1909, and Gerald D., born on December 25, 1911.

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#### EDWARD MAURICE WOOLDRIDGE.

Farming is the world's biggest business. It furnishes the nations with food and is the basis of all prosperity and happiness, in a material sense. One of the successful farmers of Ionia county is Edward Maurice Wooldridge, of Easton township. He was born only a short distance from where he now lives, April 11, 1867, and is a son of Samuel and Mary (Lightfoot) Wooldridge, whose records may be found elsewhere in this volume.

Edward M. Wooldridge grew up on the home farm and he received his education in the local public schools; later he formed a partnership with his brother, Ernest, and they purchased the old homestead after the death of their father and farmed in partnership many years, not only the home farm, but also bought other land. Their holdings have since been divided, Ernest keeping the home place. Edward M. purchased one hundred acres in the northern part of Easton township, on which he built a good residence in 1901, also barns and other buildings. His residence is modernly equipped, with steam heat, hot and cold water, etc. His place is well kept and well improved in every respect, and he is one of the most enterprising general farmers of his township.

Mr. Wooldridge was married, February 17, 1897, to Millie Doty, who was born in Berlin township, Ionia county, and is a daughter of Charles and Mary Elizabeth (Bailey) Doty. Her father was born in Berlin township, July 10, 1850, and died in November, 1909, in his sixtieth year. He was

the son of William and Amanda M. (Winslow) Doty. William Doty was from New York, and he came to Ionia county, Michigan, when a young man, soon after the first settlement of the county, before the Indians had been removed. He entered government land in Berlin township, about one-half mile west of where the asylum now stands, and there he developed a good farm by hard work and spent the rest of his life in that community. He also built a warehouse on Grand river and brought freight here by boat from Grand Rapids. He was married here to Amanda M. Winslow, who was born in Vermont, and came here with her parents in early life. Her father was a millwright. The history of this family is further set out in the sketch of Nathan Winslow, which occurs on another page of this volume. Charles Doty lived in Berlin township all his life on a farm, which he owned. His wife, Mary Elizabeth Bailey, was born in Brewster, New York, and was a daughter of Harvey M. and Eunice (Wright) Bailey. She came here when eleven years old with her parents, who settled near Howell, and there she lived until her marriage. She is still living on the old home farm, south of Grand river. Harvey M. Bailey lives in Flint, Michigan, at the age of eighty-seven years. He has been three times married, his first two wives being deceased.

To Edward M. Woodridge and wife two children have been born, namely: Mary Elizabeth and Margaret.

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#### FRANK L. JENKINS.

The period in which we are now living is often called the electric age, and well it may be, in view of the importance electricity is now playing in civilization, and the man who becomes skilled in the use of this inscrutable something, which has never yet been satisfactorily defined, is sure of remunerative employment.

One of the skilled electricians of Ionia county is Frank L. Jenkins, city electrician and superintendent of the electric light plant of Portland, Michigan. He was born on September 20, 1880, in Westphalia township, Clinton county, this state, and he is a son of W. S. and Fannie (Young) Jenkins. The father was born in Portland township, Ionia county, and was a son of Sylvester Jenkins, who came to this locality in pioneer days and here he was married and established his home, taking up land from the government, which he developed into a good farm and on which he continued



FRANK L. JENKINS.





to reside until late in life, but spent his last few years in the village of Portland, however, retaining his farm. He became a well-known and influential citizen here. W. S. Jenkins grew up on the home farm and was educated in the district schools and those of Portland, and when he married he purchased a farm in Danby township, where he lived until his father's death, then sold out and purchased the homestead of the other heirs, and lived there until 1900, in which year he moved to Portland and with his two sons entered the machine shop and repairing business, which he has since continued, a few years ago adding a garage to his plant. The partnership with the sons still exists, Frank L. being a member of the firm since November, 1907. He is the eldest of the children, the other two being Sylvester, who has charge of the garage, married Florence Gardner; and Grace, who is the wife of Richard Bates, cashier of the Maynard Allen Bank of Portland.

Frank L. Jenkins received his education in the public and high schools of Portland. He then entered the machine shop and learned the machinist's trade, he and his father buying the shop later and conducted it until 1907, when Frank L. took the position of superintendent of the electric light plant of the town of Portland, which position he still holds, and has discharged his duties in an able and satisfactory manner. On June 9, 1905, he married Nellie Smith, a daughter of Ralph and Ellen Smith. She was born in Otisco township, Ionia county, and when about ten years of age came to Portland with her sister, Nettie, and her grandparents and received her education in the public schools of Portland.

Politically, Mr. Jenkins is a Democrat. Fraternally, he belongs to Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons, and Lodge No. 39, Royal Arch Masons, at Portland; also belongs to Rogers Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife are members of the Order of Eastern Star. He also belongs to the Jovian Order, embracing prominent electrical men over the entire country.

In June, 1896, Portland installed its own municipal lighting plant, of which H. A. Sprague took charge and continued its management for eight years, then V. L. Derby succeeded him, remaining in charge four years, after which Mr. Jenkins took the position of manager, which he has retained to the present time. In 1896 the city also put in a dam in the Grand river, which was rebuilt in 1913 by a reinforced concrete dam. During Mr. Jenkins's administration as manager of the light plant, the plant has become free from indebtedness and today Portland is one of the best lighted towns of its size in the state.

## MARCELLUS H. GOODWIN.

It is interesting to consider the pleasure and profit of farm life as compared with other vocations. The business of farming is one of the most important known to man, as well as the oldest of human callings. One of the successful farmers and stock men of Ionia county is Marcellus H. Goodwin, of Easton township. He was born August 22, 1855, in Keene township, this county, and is a son of Levi C. and Ann (Barlow) Goodwin. The father was a native of Monroe county, New York, where he grew to manhood and married Ann Barlow, also a native of that county. They came to Michigan among the pioneers, probably in 1835, locating on the second farm east of what is now Potters Corners, Ionia county. When their son, Marcellus H., was six months old they moved to Easton township, on the place where he now resides and here they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1889 and the mother in 1887. They were the parents of four children, namely: Amanda, who died when about fifteen years old; Burdette lives in Easton township; Frances is the wife of Peter Slaybaugh and they live in Zeeland, Michigan; Marcellus H., the subject of this sketch.

Marcellus H. Goodwin grew up on the home farm and he received a common school education. He began farming on one hundred and forty acres of land, and, having prospered through good management and close application, has added to his original holdings until he now has a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, on which he has made many improvements, including the building of a modernly appointed barn, lighted with acetylene lights. His residence is a large and substantial brick, in which up-to-date plumbing has been installed, also heat and other modern fixtures. His place is known as "The Homestead." Everything about it denotes thrift, good taste and system.

Mr. Goodwin was married on October 30, 1879, to Sarah Snell, who was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and was a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Dean) Snell. The father was a native of the state of New York, and when young came to Plymouth, Michigan, and married Mary Dean, who was born near Newark, New Jersey, and was a daughter of Meekin Dean and wife. She came to Michigan with her parents, who settled near South Lyons, not far from Detroit, and there established their permanent home. After their marriage, Joseph Snell and wife moved to Grand Rapids, where they lived until about 1880, when they moved to Easton township,

Ionia county, and bought a farm on which they spent the rest of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin have one daughter—Hazel, who was graduated from the Ionia high school, and is now the wife of Noah Bishop. They live near the home of her father.

Mr. Goodwin is an extensive stock feeder, fattening large numbers of cattle and sheep annually. Fraternally, he belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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### JOHN M. BRADLEY.

Success has been well deserved by John M. Bradley, proprietor of a large general store at Sebewa, Ionia county, for he has been persistent, conscientious and honorable in all his dealings with his fellow men. He was born in Hillsdale county, Michigan, January 21, 1849, and is a son of Freeman F. and Mary (Preston) Bradley. The father was born in the state of New York, from which he came to Ohio when young and there grew to manhood and married, later removing to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where Mr. Bradley established a shoe shop, being a shoemaker by trade, and when John M. was a baby, he removed with his family to Indiana, locating in Noble county, later to Elkhart, that state, and from there to Ingham county, Michigan, later to Danby township, Ionia county, and here Freeman F. Bradley died in 1858. His family consisted of nine children, seven of whom grew to maturity and are still living, namely: Lucius F., who lives in Topeka, Kansas; Luther F., his twin brother, also lives in Topeka; John M., the subject of this sketch; Albert Alonzo lives in Wisconsin; Franklin F. lives in Missouri; George also makes his home in Missouri, and Alva lives in Michigan. The mother of these children married for her second husband Edward Cadwell at Swan, Indiana, where they lived until 1865, when they moved to Elkhart county, Indiana, where they both died. To this union two children were born, Willis, who lives in New Mexico, and Edward, Jr., deceased.

John M. Bradley was only eleven years old when he started out to make his own way in the world, working on a farm in Noble county, Indiana, for four dollars a month and board, later hiring out to an uncle for his board, clothes and two acres of ground for his labor, remaining with him two years. In the fall of 1858 his parents moved to Indiana and he accompanied them, later going to Detroit, Michigan, where he made his

home with an uncle, John Tibbetts, one year, then returned to Noble county, later going to Avilla, Indiana, working in a hotel there until he enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-second Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the Civil War. He then located in Macomb, Ohio, working in a grocery store, which was owned by the man he worked for in Avilla, Indiana. A year later he returned to Swan, Indiana, working at brick making for a season, then worked in a saw-mill for four years, then worked as a sawyer at Stoner's Crossing, Allen county, Indiana, for two years. He had previously gone to Cloud county, Kansas, and entered a homestead, and on this he lived from the fall of 1871 until July, 1873, proving up his claim and selling it, returning to Swan, Indiana, where he farmed a year, then went to Stoner's Crossing and spent two years, then made an overland trip to Kansas and Colorado, locating in Cloud county, Kansas, where he remained until August, 1879, when he came to Ionia county, Michigan, taking a position as sawyer, going to Eaton county a year later, where he worked as a sawyer from the fall of 1880 to the winter of 1882, then bought a mill of his own in Odessa township, Ionia county, which he operated until August, 1883, when he moved to Sebewa township and operated his mill until 1897, then moved to Mecosta county, Michigan. In 1888 he bought the building where he is now located in Sebewa and put in a stock of hardware, later turning it into a general store, which he has since successfully conducted ever since.

Mr. Bradley received the appointment of postmaster at Sebewa during Harrison's administration in 1888, and served four years, and again from 1896 to 1912, when the office was discontinued.

John M. Bradley was married on July 3, 1870, to Mary Alice Wells, a daughter of Jacob and Susan Wells, who lived in Dekalb county, Indiana. To this union three children have been born, namely: Albert A., who died when twenty-three years old, was a jeweler by trade and he assisted his father with his work in the mill and store; Bertella B. is the wife of John M. Benshoter, and they live in Sebewa township, Ionia county; Don died when six months old.

Politically, Mr. Bradley is a Republican. He was supervisor of his township for two years, 1895 and 1896. Fraternally, he belongs to Lodge No. 351, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is past noble grand, representing his lodge at the state encampment. He is also a member of Rebekah Lodge No. 117, to which his wife also belongs, she being a past noble grand.

## REUBEN T. GRAFT.

The subject of this sketch is among the thrifty farmers and stock raisers of Danby township, Ionia county. Mr. Graft was born in Starke county, Ohio, December 3, 1867, and is a son of George and Sarah (Smurr) Graft. The father was born near Baden, Germany, where he grew up and there his father died, after which he came with his mother to Ohio when he was thirteen years old, and grew up on a farm in Starke county. His mother was born in that county and was of English and German extraction. These parents were married in Starke county, Ohio. In 1861 George Graft enlisted, becoming a member of Company B, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Portland. In December, 1867, the family moved to Michigan, where George Graft worked two years as a farm hand, then bought forty acres, which is now owned by the subject of this sketch. On March 12, 1893, occurred the death of Mrs. Sarah Graft, and Mr. Graft has never remarried. He now makes his home with his son, Reuben T., being now past eighty years of age, but is very well preserved and active. His family consisted of four children, namely: Anna, who married James Wilcox, and they are both deceased; Reuben T., of this sketch; George, who died in infancy; Jennie is the wife of Bert Urie, and they live in Lansing, Michigan.

Reuben T. Graft was reared on the home farm and he attended the district schools. He has continued farming on the homestead, to which he has added another forty, making a good farm of eighty acres, in section 14, his place being known as "Hill Crest." He carries on general farming and stock raising. He was married on June 5, 1891, to Hattie E. Williams, a daughter of Josiah and Sarah (Downing) Williams, both born and reared on farms in Darke county, Ohio, where they grew up, married and lived until in 1864, when they removed to Michigan, purchasing forty acres in Sebewa township, Ionia county, where they resided until 1881, when they sold out and bought eighty acres in Danby township, and there the mother's death occurred on October 29, 1884, after which Mr. Williams traded his farm for a place in another portion of that township and a year later moved back to Sebewa township, where he resided until he retired from active life; then lived awhile with his daughter, later with others of his children until his death, on January 16, 1910. He and his wife were active workers in the Disciple church, as were also the parents of Reuben T. Nine children were born to Josiah Williams and wife, namely: Rebecca, who

is the widow of P. Brown, of Portland; Caroline is the wife of Alfred Coe, and they live in Roxanna township, Eaton county; Lena is the wife of Elijah Brooks, of Portland; John A. lives in Ionia; Samuel died when two years old; Alice is the wife of C. Phillips, of Danby township; Emma is the wife of William Manning, of Battle Creek, Michigan; Hattie E., wife of Reuben T., and Eva, who married Tim Babbitt, lives in Eagle township, Clinton county, Michigan.

To Reuben T. Graft and wife six children have been born, namely: Glenn H., who is at home and assists with the farm work; Estella I. lives at home; Evelyn M. is at home; Earl W. is attending the local schools; Harold T. is also in school, and Clare A.

Politically, Mr. Graft is a Democrat. He has served as justice of the peace for the past three years. He has been moderator of his school district in Danby township for the past twenty-two years, during which he has done much to encourage a better educational system. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America at Portland.

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#### C. M. HILL.

Many farmers nowadays are adding dairying, in a small way, to their general farming business, and in the most cases, find that it pays. Among this number in Ionia county is C. M. Hill, of Danby township. He was born in Livingston county, Michigan, December 28, 1872, and is a son of J. J. and Matilda (Davis) Hill. The father was also born in Livingston county, this state, a few weeks after his parents arrived there from Lincolnshire, England, he being the son of Mark and May Hill. Mark Hill was a fisherman in his native land, and upon coming to Michigan he bought a small farm on which he lived until his death, which occurred when he was about forty years of age, after which his widow moved to Stockbridge, Ingham county, Michigan, where she died.

J. J. Hill grew to manhood in Livingston county and there he and Matilda Davis were married, she being a native of that county, and a daughter of William Davis and wife, both of whom came to this state from Leicestershire, England. They were married in their native land. They spent the rest of their lives in Livingston county, Michigan. After his marriage, J. J. Hill worked on the homestead two years, then came to Clinton county, Michigan, in 1871 and bought a farm of eighty acres; he,

however, did not move to it until 1873, and there he resided until 1888, when he sold out and bought an interest in an implement business in Mulliken, in which he remained for a period of twenty-five years, then moved to a farm, later to Sunfield, where he and his wife still reside. They have two children, C. M., the subject of this sketch, and William, who lives in Mulliken.

C. M. Hill received a common-school education, and when a boy worked out by the month until his marriage to Vera Whelpley. On July 13, 1906, he married his second wife, Mrs. Addie C. (Brown) Cornell. After his marriage he located on a farm in Eaton county, this state, later engaging in the implement business in Mulliken for twelve years, then moved to his farm and in 1909, three years later, he came to his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres, Danby township, but still retains his farm of eighty acres in Eaton county. In connection with general farming he is engaging in dairying, principally keeping Jersey cattle. His last wife is the daughter of Henry M. and Ella M. (Brown) Brown. The father was born and reared on the home farm and is a son of Jonathan I. and Jane M. Brown. Jonathan Brown was born on Grand Isle, Lake Champlain, North Hero county, Vermont. He was a son of John and Sarah (Ingalls) Brown, of English and Irish descent, and early settlers in what is now Ingalls Ford. The Brown family came to Ionia county, Michigan, back in the thirties, when Jonathan was twelve years old, and located in what is now Danby township, taking up government land. Here John Brown lived many years, but died in Portland township. When twenty-three years old Jonathan Brown married Jane Reed and settled on an eighty-acre farm, which his father had entered from the government, on which land the subject of this sketch now lives. Here Jonathan lived until he was seventy years old, then moved to Sebewa township, where he died. Here Henry M. Brown grew up and married Ella M. Brown, and lived here for about fifteen years after his marriage, when he moved to a farm in Eaton county, living there eight years. He is now living in Washington, Michigan. His family consisted of three children, two of whom died in infancy, and Eddie C., who is still living.

John Brown, mentioned above, was the first settler in this section of the state. He married Sarah Ingalls, for whose family Ingalls Ford was named. Her brother, Charles Ingalls, was a preacher and he at one time represented Ionia county in the state Legislature.

C. M. Hill is a Democrat, and fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is past noble grand of Mulliken Lodge No.

171. He is also a member of the encampment, and has taken the grand lodge degree at Benton Harbor, while representing this body at the state encampment.

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### CLARENCE W. PEAKE.

The present supervisor of Danby township and proprietor of "Spring Valley Farm," Clarence W. Peake, is one of the progressive husbandmen of Ionia county. He was born in this township and county, October 24, 1859, and is a son of J. W. and Anna E. (Lyon) Peake, natives of Ohio and New York, respectively. They were married in Ohio, from which state they came direct to Danby township, Ionia county, Michigan, locating on a farm where they resided until about 1886; then moved to the town of Ionia, where they spent the rest of their lives.

J. W. Peake took an interest in public affairs and was elected treasurer of Ionia county about 1886 and served four years. He was the first Democrat elected to this office, and his second majority was larger than his first, and while still serving as supervisor he was elected treasurer. He held office most of his life, always to the satisfaction of his constituents, and he was one of the leaders of his party for many years. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was a prominent granger, being master of the Danby Grange for some time. His death occurred in December, 1900, and his wife also died that year. They were the parents of four children, three of whom survive, namely: Clarence W., the subject of this sketch; Lynn L., an electrician, lives in Grand Rapids; Russell A., who studied law, lives in Chicago.

Clarence W. Peake was reared on the home farm in Danby township, and he received his education in the district schools. He remained at home until his marriage, on October 6, 1883, to Eva J. Dutcher, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, May 3, 1865, and is a daughter of Thomas P. and Emily S. (Hudson) Dutcher, natives of New York state and Ohio, respectively. They came to Michigan in 1865, locating in Portland township, Ionia county, but not long thereafter moved to Tennessee, where they spent ten years, then returned to Ionia county and spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Peake was educated in the district schools.

After their marriage, subject and his wife moved on the farm where they have continued to reside to the present time, which place consists of eighty acres, and here they have made a comfortable living all the while



They are the parents of six children, namely: Hugh, born on January 20, 1886, was graduated from the local public schools, and lives in Portland, Ionia county; Belle A., July 5, 1891, was graduated from the common schools, and is the wife of Frank Beard; Guy, February 22, 1892, was graduated from the local public schools, is single and lives at home; Della, May 2, 1899, also graduated from the local schools, is single and at home; Nora, January 26, 1904, and Grace, November 12, 1909.

Politically, Mr. Peake is a Democrat. He was clerk of his township for ten years, and treasurer for two years, and is now filling the office of supervisor. He is a member of Portland Lodge No. 199, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is past noble grand; also belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees, also the Grange, being past master of the latter. His wife is a member and an officer in the Grange.

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### JAMES B. CURRY.

James B. Curry, treasurer of Danby township, this county, and proprietor of a farm of eighty acres three and one-half miles southwest of Portland, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on the farm on which he now lives and where he has made his home nearly all his life. He was born on June 27, 1863, son of Patrick and Betsy (Barr) Curry, the former a native of the Emerald Isle and the latter of New York, well-known residents of the southern part of this county.

Patrick Curry was born in County Sligo, Ireland, in October, 1829, and grew to manhood in his native land. When he was twenty-one years old, in 1850, he came to the United States and for two or three years made his home in New York state. In 1853 he married Betsy Barr, who was born in Genesee, New York, July 22, 1822, and the next year he and his wife came to Michigan and established their home on a small farm in Danby township, this county, where Patrick Curry is still living. His wife died in 1876. They were the parents of three children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Charles, a well-known farmer of Danby township, this county, and Rose Ward, now making her home in Ann Arbor, this state.

James B. Curry was reared on the paternal farm in Danby township and still makes his home there. Upon completing his schooling in the grade schools at Portland, he took his place on the farm and eventually

became manager and then owner of the place, where he is very comfortably situated. He married when twenty years of age and his wife has been a competent and valuable helpmate to him in all his undertakings. Mr. Curry is a Democrat and for years has given close attention to local political affairs. He has served his township as justice of the peace and is now treasurer of the township.

On October 1, 1883, James B. Curry was united in marriage to Calista Stifler, who was born at Portland, this county, January 31, 1864, daughter of William and Ellen (Smith) Stifler, the former of whom died when his daughter, Calista, was a small child, and she was reared in the family of her uncle, Jacob Stifler. To Mr. and Mrs. Curry two children have been born, Will P. and J. Lee. Will P. Curry, who was born on June 18, 1884, married Grace Coleman and lives in Portland. He and his wife have one child, a daughter, Charlotte C. J. Lee Curry, who was born on July 6, 1899, enjoys the somewhat peculiar distinction of having been the first person born in the Ionia county court house. His father was custodian of the court house at that time and made his home in a wing provided for that purpose in the public building, and it was during that period of his public service that his second son was born, the event being made much of in official circles in the county seat. Mr. Curry is a member of the Masonic lodge at Portland and both he and his wife are members of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star at that place. They also are members of the Ancient Order of Gleaners and in the affairs of both these organizations they take a warm interest.

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#### WILLIAM H. WILSON.

William H. Wilson, proprietor of "Hickory Ridge Farm" in Otisco township, this county, and one of the most progressive farmers of the county, is a native of Ionia county, having been born on a farm in Orange township, August 1, 1872, son of Edwin H. and Mary L. (Marsh) Wilson, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Michigan.

Edwin H. Wilson was born at old Stockbridge, Massachusetts, son of English parents, his father having died in England on the eve of his expected departure for this country. The mother settled at Stockbridge upon her arrival with the other members of her family in the United States and there Edwin H. was born. When he was a small boy the family came

to Michigan, settling in Jackson county, later moving to Ludington, where for a time Edwin H. Wilson operated a fishing boat. The family eventually came to Ionia county, settling in Orange township, and there Edwin H. Wilson married and established a home. He married Mary Marsh, who was born in this county, daughter of pioneer parents, and bought an eighty-acre farm in Orange township. In 1874 he sold that place and moved to Otisco township, where he eventually became the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and forty acres and there he lived until November, 1913, at which time he retired from the farm and moved to Belding, where he is now living. His wife died in 1905. They were the parents of three children, William H., the subject of this sketch; Agnes, wife of Samuel P. Abbott, of Grand Rapids, this state, and Victoria, wife of Edgar J. Cowan, of Grand Rapids.

William H. Wilson was about two years old when his parents moved from Orange to Otisco township and he has made his home in the latter township ever since. He was reared on the paternal farm, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and in due time became the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, "Hickory Ridge Farm," which was purchased of his father and is a part of the old home place, and has established a very comfortable home. He is a progressive and enterprising farmer and in addition to looking after the affairs of his own place manages his father's farm, being regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood.

On February 20, 1909, William H. Wilson was united in marriage to Carrie Tallman, who was born in Eureka township, in the neighboring county of Montcalm, daughter of John R. and Elizabeth (Slosson) Tallman, both natives of Petersburg, Rensselaer county, New York, who came to Michigan with their respective families in their youth and were married here. John R. Tallman died in 1868 and his widow is still living. They were the parents of five children, namely: Henrietta, who died in infancy; William, a farmer of Fairplain township, Montcalm county; Buell, of Eureka township, same county; Edwin, also of Eureka township, and Mrs. Wilson. The latter was graduated from the Belding high school and from the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, and for sixteen years was a teacher in the public schools of Belding, having been thus engaged at the time of her marriage to Mr. Wilson. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have an adopted daughter, Helen Hill Wilson, born on February 16, 1909. They are members of the Baptist church and Mr. Wilson is one of the deacons of that church. They are active members of the Otisco Farmers Club, Washington Club,

Good Fellowship Club, and Mrs. Wilson is a member of the Ladies' Literary Club at Belding, and they take a proper part in the community's general social activities. Mr. Wilson is an "independent" in his political views.

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#### H. A. DIBBLE.

H. A. Dibble, one of the best-known and most highly respected farmers of Otisco township, this county, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on the farm where he is still living, the old Dibble homestead, on rural route No. 15, out of Belding, October 5, 1853, son of Milo and Mary (Palmer) Dibble, natives of Ontario county, New York, both of whom grew up in that county, where they were married and where their two eldest children were born.

At an early day in the settlement of this section of the state Milo Dibble and his family came to Ionia county and homesteaded a farm of eighty acres in Otisco township, where he and his wife spent their last days, being among the best-known pioneers of that section. Mrs. Dibble died on January 23, 1872, and her husband survived her for twenty years, his death occurring on April 7, 1892. They were the parents of five children, of whom but two are now living, namely: Laura, who married Jonas Ingalls and died in 1911; Arza, who died in 1862, while serving in the Union army as a member of the Twenty-fifth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry; Sarah Ann, wife of Lemuel Skellinger, living at McBride, in the neighboring county of Montcalm; Charles A., who died at Greenville, this state, September 14, 1872, and H. A., the subject of this sketch.

H. A. Dibble was reared on the homestead farm in Otisco township and has lived there all his life. He received his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and was a valuable assistant to his father in the work of the farm. On January 25, 1877, he was united in marriage to Lerna Rich, who was also born in Otisco township, daughter of Abijah and Hannah L. (Putnam) Rich, pioneers of that township, the former of whom was a veteran of the Civil War. Abijah Rich, who was born on March 24, 1825, died at Belding, this county, December 5, 1894. His widow, who was born on January 26, 1827, survived him until February 3, 1910.

To H. A. and Lerna (Rich) Dibble two children have been born, sons both, Frank M., born on May 1, 1880, who is now operating the old home

farm, and Arza B., June 5, 1885, a graduate of the Belding high school, who married Florence Aslett, of Elk Rapids, this state, and is now a book-keeper in the office of the Refrigerator Manufacturing Company at Traverse City. Mr. Dibble is a Democrat and ever has taken an interest in local politics, but never has been an aspirant for public office. He makes a specialty of the cultivation of fine fruits on his place and is justly proud of the quality of his home products.

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### ROSWELL E. BLISS.

Roswell E. Bliss, proprietor of "Cherry Farm" in Otisco township, this county, and one of the best-known farmers of that township, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born on a farm in Livonia township, Livingston county, New York, January 8, 1841, son of Charles and Sarah (Jenkins) Bliss, the former a native of Connecticut, of old colonial stock, and the latter of Rhode Island, who were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others having been as follow: Louisa, now deceased, who was the wife of Benjamin Gordon; Charles, deceased; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of Calvin Sheppard; William, deceased; Emily, deceased, who was the wife of Edward Roush, and Harvey, of Holland, this state. In 1878 Charles Bliss and wife came to Michigan and settled in Lenawee county, their elder sons having located there some time before, and there Mrs. Bliss (subject's mother) died. Mr. Bliss then returned to his old home in New York state and there spent the rest of his life.

Roswell E. Bliss was reared on the paternal farm in Livingston county, New York, receiving his education in the excellent schools of that district. During the progress of the Civil War he enlisted in Company K, First New York Mounted Riflemen, and served with that command until the close of the war, a period of three years, during the most of which time he was attached to the Army of the Potomac and during a part of which time he served as an orderly, attached to the staff of General Grant. At the close of the war he returned to New York and in 1866 married Frances Fellows, continuing to make his home in New York until 1877, in which year he and his wife came to Michigan, where Mr. Bliss joined his brother, Charles, who had some time before settled in Lenawee county, and shortly afterward came to this county, settling in Otisco township, where he since has

made his home on his present farm of forty-eight acres, known locally as "Cherry Farm."

Mrs. Frances Fellows Bliss died at her home in this county in 1878 and in 1879 Mr. Bliss married, secondly, Ellen Heald, who was born in Temple, New Hampshire, daughter of James and Maria (Davis) Heald, both natives of that same place and whose children also were born there, and to that union one child was born, a daughter, Bertha M., widow of J. S. Peterson, of near Coopersville, this state. Mr. Peterson died on March 14, 1916. Mrs. Ellen Bliss died on April 9, 1901, and on October 12, 1905, Mr. Bliss was united in marriage to her sister, Elmina Heald, who had come to Michigan following her sister's marriage to Mr. Bliss. Mr. and Mrs. Bliss are earnest members of the Seventh-Day Adventist church. Mr. Bliss is a Republican and has served his district as a school director.

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#### SHERMAN M. TOWNSEND.

Sherman M. Townsend, Ionia county pioneer and one of the best-known farmers of Ionia township, proprietor of a well-kept place of one hundred and sixty acres, the southeast quarter of section 30 in that township, and owner of a fine home on rural route No. 2 out of Ionia, is a native son of Michigan and has lived in this county since he was ten years old. He was born on a pioneer farm in Grand Blanc, Genesee county, this state, February 19, 1846, son of Abiel and Delia (Walkley) Townsend, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Connecticut, who settled in Ionia county in 1855 and spent their last days on the farm now occupied by their grandson, J. Fred.

Abiel Townsend was but a child when his parents moved from Massachusetts over into New York state and he was reared in the latter state. While still a young man, in 1836, he came to Michigan and for a time worked in Cass county, later going into Genesee county, where he met and married Delia Walkley, whose parents had settled in that county about 1832 and had a fine farm three miles north of Flint. After marriage Abiel Townsend bought a farm in Grand Blanc township Genesee county, and remained there until the fall of 1855, when he sold out and came over into Ionia county. Here he bought a tract of nearly two hundred acres in section 30 of Ionia township, ninety acres in the river bottom and about one hundred acres on the high land, all of which was in timber but about seventeen

acres, and there he established his permanent home, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there. Mrs. Townsend died in 1877 and Mr. Townsend died ten years later, in 1887, he then being eighty-three years of age. They were the parents of five children, namely: Maria, deceased, who was the wife of Albert E. Jackson; Sherman M., the subject of this sketch; John E., now living in South Dakota; Mary L., who died at the age of seventeen, and William P., who died at the age of three years.

Sherman M. Townsend was about ten years old when his parents moved to Ionia county and he walked all the way from Genesee county, nearly ninety miles, in company with a young man, driving four cows and a merino ram through the wintry woods. He grew up on the new farm, helping to clear the land and assisting his father generally in the work of developing the place. He married in 1877 and his mother dying in that same year he and his wife established his present home. Since then Sherman M. Townsend has greatly improved the farm and has now one of the model places in that section of the county. In 1893 he built a fine residence of yellow sand brick, finished in quartered oak and hot water heated, which occupies well-kept and beautifully shaded grounds, one of the most attractive places in that neighborhood. Adjoining his place is that of his son Fred, who was married in 1911 and has a farm of one hundred acres also in section 30, the old homestead of his grandfather. Mr. Townsend is a Republican and takes an interested part in local politics and has held minor township offices.

On May 30, 1877, Sherman M. Townsend was united in marriage to Ellen J. McNeil, who was born in Grand Blanc, Genesee county, this state, on a farm adjoining that of Abiel Townsend during the latter's residence in that county and who was thus the childish playmate of her future husband. Mrs. Townsend's parents, David and Jane A. (Davison) McNeil, were both Eastern folk, the former born in Charlotte, Vermont, and the latter at Avon, New York. David McNeil came to Michigan in 1830 and bought a farm in Genesee county. In 1844 he married Jane A. Davison, who had come to this state with her parents, Norman Davison and wife, in 1832, the family settling in Atlas township, Genesee county, then a part of Lapeer county, being among the very earliest pioneers of that section of the state. Norman Davison erected a mill there, around which sprang up a village known as Davisonville, now Atlas. Another village in an adjoining township also bore his name. For years Norman Davison was county judge of Lapeer county and he was a member of Michigan's first constitutional convention.

To Sherman M. and Ella J. (McNeil) Townsend three children have been born, George W., who died at the age of six years; Neil S., mechanical engineer in the Gray motor works at Detroit, and John Fred, born on October 3, 1881, who, in 1911, married Laura Blanche Hemans, daughter of Sylvanus Hemans, the well-known druggist of Ionia, and now has a fine farm of one hundred acres adjoining that of his father. The Townsends are earnest members of the Presbyterian church and take a proper interest in all neighborhood good works. Sherman M. Townsend is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the council, royal and select masters of that order. He also is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

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#### THOMAS RUSSELL ALLEN, M. D.

The late Dr. Thomas Russell Allen was one of the best-known and most highly respected physicians of this county, where he had been a resident since 1870, continuously engaged in the practice of his noble profession, until the time of his death, which occurred December 4, 1915. He was a native of the great Empire state, having been born at Bombay Corners, in Franklin county, New York, September 13, 1843, son of John and Lucinda (Russell) Allen, the former of whom also was a native of New York and the latter of the state of Vermont.

John Allen's father was born in New York City, but after his marriage he and his wife went to Canada, where they both spent the remainder of their lives, both living to ripe old ages. John Allen had two brothers, Hugh and Stephen, and a sister, Sarah. He was reared on the paternal farm, lying just on the line between New York and Canada, and in that neighborhood married Lucinda Russell, daughter of Thomas Russell and wife, both natives of Vermont and the parents of four children, of whom Lucinda was the eldest, she having had three brothers, Charles, Harry and George. After his marriage John Allen moved to the immediate neighborhood of London, Canada, where he spent the rest of his life, becoming a well-to-do farmer and stock raiser. He died at the age of eighty-four years, the result of a stroke of apoplexy, and his widow, who survived him some years, died in Huron county, **this state, at the age of eighty-three**, her death having been hastened by a fall which resulted in a broken hip, from the shock of which injury she did not recover. John Allen and his wife were devout members of the Methodist





THOMAS RUSSELL ALLEN, M. D.



church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, as follow: Delaney, who married Nelson Tibbitts and is now living at the age of eighty-two, at St. Marys, Ontario; Azuban, deceased, who was the wife of Josiah Donaldson; Meroah, deceased, who was the wife of Aaron Steele; Huldah, deceased, who was the wife of Ephraim Bullard; Thomas R., the subject of this memorial sketch; George, deceased; Eliza Jane, wife of Mitchell Dibb, now living at Bad Ax, in Huron county, this state, and Lucetta, deceased, who was the wife of Lewis Cooper.

Thomas R. Allen was reared on the farm, growing up in Canada and in Vermont until he was nineteen years old, since which time he was a resident of Michigan. His elementary education was received in the local school in the neighborhood of his home, after which course he entered the high school at London, Ontario, from which he was graduated. He then studied medicine in the office of a physician at Branford, Ontario, for a year, at the end of which time he entered the Homeopathic Western Medical College at Cleveland, Ohio, from which he was graduated in 1866. He then studied for a time in New York City. Thus equipped for practice, Doctor Allen opened an office in Detroit, but shortly thereafter was taken ill and compelled to cease his activities for a year or more. Upon recovering his wonted health he came to this county, locating at Ionia, where he successfully engaged in the practice of his profession until his passing away. During his long residence here, Doctor Allen necessarily acquired a most extensive acquaintance throughout the county and witnessed the development of this favored region from what may be regarded even as pioneer days, in which wonderful development he had been a no inconsiderable factor, even taking his part, earnestly and effectively, in the promotion of all proper measures designed to advance the common welfare.

Doctor Allen had been twice married. By his first wife, who was Lizzie Finch, of Vienna, Canada, daughter of Thomas Finch, he had one child, a daughter, who married Lewis Tower and died at the age of twenty years, leaving no children. In March, 1888, Doctor Allen married Mrs. Henrietta E. Wilson, widow of an officer in the British navy, which union had been without issue. Mrs. Allen was born in Devonshire, England, but most of her life before coming to this country, after the death of her first husband, was spent in Glasgow, Scotland. Doctor and Mrs. Allen for many years were among the leaders in Ionia's community life and held in high esteem in that city and throughout the county generally. The Doctor was an "independent" in politics, believing in putting the best men in public office, regardless of

whatever party affiliations they might chance to be affecting at the time of their candidacy for such office. He was a member of Ionia Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the affairs of both of which orders he took a warm interest. In his relations with his fellow men he sought to follow the gentle injunction of the Golden Rule and was consequently a large influence for good in the community of which he so long was a valued and useful member.

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#### LEWIS S. SEELEY.

Lewis S. Seeley, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Otisco township, this county, owner of a fine place of two hundred and thirty-one acres in sections 25, 26 35 and 36 in that township, his pleasant home being located in section 25, on rural route No. 1, out of Belding, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a farm in Grattan township, in the neighboring county of Kent, on May 8, 1863, son of Rinaldo C. and Catherine M. (Waggoner) Seeley, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Ohio, who spent their last days in Otisco township, this county.

Rinaldo Seeley was but a boy when his parents moved from Vermont to the state of New York, where they remained until 1844, in which year the family came to Michigan and located in this county. Grandfather Seeley entered a claim to a tract of land in Otisco township, but the family remained there a short time only, presently moving over into the neighboring county of Kent, and it was there that Rinaldo C. Seeley grew up and was married. He bought a farm in Grattan township, and made his residence thereon until about 1865, when he returned to Ionia county and bought an eighty-acre tract, a part of the present farm of his son, the subject of this sketch, to which he later added an adjoining tract of twenty acres, and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. Rinaldo C. Seeley died in 1898 and his widow survived him until 1904. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Caroline, wife of Zach Choate, of Easton township, this county; Frank, who died at the age of eleven years; Nellie, who makes her home with her brother, Lewis S., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Samuel J., who lives in the neighboring county of Montcalm; Otis B., who lives on the old home place, and Charles J., a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College, now living at Kalamazoo, this state, who is superintendent of greenhouse at the asylum.

Lewis S. Seeley was about two years old when his parents moved from Kent county to this county and all his active life has been spent in Otisco township. He has prospered in his farming operations and now owns a fine farm of two hundred and thirty-one acres, one of the best cultivated places in that part of the county. On November 16, 1904, Mr. Seeley was united in marriage to Mrs. Blanche (Joslin) Davis, widow of Thomas Davis and daughter of Charles W. and Adelaide (Campbell) Joslin, the former of whom was born in Smyrna, this county, and the latter in Macomb county, this state, who were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Seeley is the eldest and all of whom are still living, the others being as follow: Cora, wife of Frank Davis, of Otisco township; George, of Eaton Rapids, this state; Frank of Smyrna, this county; Marian, wife of George Wiseman, of Otisco township; James, also of Otisco township; Elva, wife of Edward Tower, of Belding, this county, and Joyce, wife of John Ashley, of Coral, Montcalm county, this state. To Mr. and Mrs. Seeley three children have been born, Marjorie N., who died at the age of four years; R. C., born on September 10, 1912, and an infant son. Lewis Seeley is a member of the Gleaners, as is his brother, Otis, the latter having been vice-chief of that order. Both are Republicans and Lewis has been a member of the board of reviews since 1903 and a member of the school board since 1895.

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#### HARRY H. GEMUEND.

Harry H. Gemuend, an attorney-at-law at Ionia, this county, was born in that city on April 15, 1892. His early education was received in the Sts. Peter and Paul Academy, the Ionia high school and in the Ferris Institute. He is a graduate of Valparaiso University and of the Detroit College of Law and since receiving his degree from the latter institution has been practicing law in Ionia. His religion is Catholic and his politics Republican. He is a member of the following orders: Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Society, Young Mens Order, of Detroit; Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Theta Nu Epsilon fraternity.

Mr. Gemuend is the son of Leonard P. and Kathryn (Jacobs) Gemuend. He has one sister, Gertrude, wife of W. Fred Longe, of Ionia. His father, who is a cigar manufacturer, served in Company I, Thirty-fourth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, during the Spanish-American War and held the rank of sergeant.

Mr. Gemuend's paternal grandfather was Leonard F. Gemuend, whose wife was Gertrude (Sears) Gemuend, both natives of Germany, who were among the first pioneers of Ionia. He was a cabinet-maker, served in the Civil War and died at the age of ninety-three; his wife died at the age of sixty-nine. They had three sons, Matthew, Leonard and Albert.

Mr. Gemuend's maternal grandfather was Michael Jacobs, whose wife was Lena (Hoffman) Jacobs. He was a native of Germany and a farmer by vocation. They had three children, Kathryn (Jacobs) Gemuend, George Jacobs and Mary (Jacobs) Bair.

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### HENRY H. DAY.

Henry Day, well-known citizen of Portland, Ionia county, Michigan, and for the past thirty years a sexton of the Portland cemetery, is a native of Erie county, New York, born on September 11, 1850.

Henry Day is a son of DeMarquis and Julia (York) Day, the former also born in Erie county and was descended from Scotch-Irish ancestry on his paternal side, born in Parma, New York, while his mother came from Holland with her parents. In 1855, when Henry H. Day was a small lad, DeMarquis Day brought his family to Michigan and located in Livingston county. There he spent the balance of his life, doing general work, and died in 1878. His widow followed him into the Great Beyond four years later. DeMarquis Day and wife were the parents of nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity and but four of these now living. The eldest of the family is Henry H., the subject of this sketch. Rowena, deceased, was the wife of John Lonsberry; Miranda (deceased), was the wife of David Reggetts; Frank is in Howell, this state; Seward, deceased; Alfred also in Howell and Loren in Petoskey.

Henry H. Day remained under the parental roof until sixteen years of age, receiving such education as the common schools of that time afforded in this section and until he was twenty-two years of age he worked out among the farmers of Livingston county. At the age mentioned, he came to Ionia county, where he worked on a farm until 1886. At that time he secured the position of assistant to the sexton of the Portland cemetery and two years later was himself made sexton, a position which he has since retained. Politically, Henry Day gives support to the Republican party and holds fraternal affiliations with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, through Portland Lodge, No. 199.

On June 18, 1879, Henry Day was united in marriage with Mary J. Perse, a daughter of Freeman Perse, who was born in Livingston county of parents who came to this section from the state of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Day had two children born to them. Adelbert Henry died when but two years of age and Frank W. is in Portland, associated with his father.

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REV. MARTIN L. HOWE.

The Rev. Martin L. Howe, well-known pastor of the Baptist church at Smyrna, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and proprietor of "Maple Ridge Farm," a well-kept and profitably cultivated place of ninety-five acres in Otisco township, four miles southeast of Belding, on rural route No. 4, out of that city, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on the place where he now makes his home, March 19, 1848, son of William R. and Adelia (Briggs) Howe, both natives of New York state, who became pioneers of this county, where their last days were spent.

William R. Howe was born in Genesee county, New York, on December 6, 1822, and in the latter thirties came to this state and after a bit of prospecting entered a homestead claim to a forty-acre tract in Otisco township, this county. He then returned to New York and married Adelia Briggs, immediately thereafter returning to this county with his bride. The latter then entered a claim to a "forty" adjoining the claim of her husband and there the two established their home in the wilderness, becoming well-known and well-to-do pioneers of that community. An adjoining tract of fifteen acres later was added to the home farm and at the time of his death on May 30, 1887, William R. Howe was the owner of a well-cultivated farm of ninety-five acres, now owned and occupied by his son, the subject of this sketch, and the only present survivor of the six children born to William R. Howe and wife.

Martin L. Howe was reared on the pioneer farm on which he was born and there grew to manhood, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War, though then little more than a boy, he enlisted in the Thirteenth Michigan Artillery and served to the close of the war, during which service the only wound of consequence he received was a severe wound to his right knee. At the close of the war Mr. Howe returned home and resumed his place on the farm, where he remained until 1860, in which year he went to Texas,

where his wife had a small farm of ninety-five acres and there he made his home for thirty-two years. Mr. Howe married, November 11, 1884, Mrs. L. G. Reynolds, a widow, who was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and who had removed to Texas, before her first marriage, with her parents. By her first marriage Mrs. Howe was the mother of two children, Lelah and Guy, and her granddaughter, Mattie E. Anderson, now makes her home with her. From the days of his youth Mr. Howe has taken a strong interest in the church and during his residence in Texas was ordained to the ministry of the Baptist church and for years was a preacher there, in addition to operating his farm.

In 1901 the Rev. Martin L. Howe returned to the old homestead place in this county, which he later named "Maple Ridge Farm," and there he has made his home ever since, he and his family being very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. Mr. Martin continues active in the ministry and for some years past has been the pastor of the Baptist church at Smyrna. In his political belief Mr. Howe is a Socialist and is an ardent advocate of the principles of that party. He and his wife are active and influential members of Belding Grange No. 1851, at Belding, and of the East Otisco Farmers Club and take an earnest part in the various social activities of the community.

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#### LUTHER E. HALL.

Out among his orchard trees, his fields of grain and his herd of various kinds of live stock in where Luther E. Hall of Orleans township, Ionia county, finds the highest degree of contentment. He was born on a farm concerning the one on which he now lives, January 27, 1846, and is a son of Joshua S. and Sarah (Haight) Hall, whose life records are given at length on another page of this history.

When Luther E. Hall was about eight years old the family moved from Ionia township to Orleans township, locating in section 36, where he lives now and here he grew to manhood. After attending the public schools he took a commercial course at Schwenesburg & Robbins Commercial College, Grand Rapids. He continued to farm two years on the home place after he became of age, then went to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he leased a farm which he worked for six years, then returned to Ionia county and bought the old home place, or only eighty acres at first. Not one of the buildings now to be seen on the place was standing when he bought the



farm. He has made extensive improvements in many ways during his residence here of over forty-one years. Later he bought thirty acres in the northeastern corner of Easton township, which land adjoins his original farm; also owns forty-one acres in Ionia township. In 1888 he erected the substantial brick residence in which he still lives, adding an attractive stone and concrete porch in 1912. It is built of broken field stones, called ramble work. Beautiful grounds surround the home. He has a modern barn with basement. In addition to general farming he raises a good grade of Percheron horses, also grows apples on an extensive scale, having set eighty-five acres to apples exclusively, twenty-five being Baldwins and the balance Northern Spies. This part of his farm is known as "Maple Avenue Orchard." He has made a special study of horticultural themes and is an authority on apple growing, and no small portion of his annual income is derived from this source. He is a member of the State Horticultural Society, and he has done much to encourage better orcharding in this section of the state. Owing to the fine quality of his apples he finds a ready market for them while on the trees. He is a member of the executive board of the State Horticultural Society, also chairman of the finance committee, in fact, is one of the prime factors in the society, which is doing a most commendable work. He has the most approved equipment for the proper care of his orchard and looks well to spraying, pruning, etc. Everything about his place denotes good management and good taste, and each department of his business shows system.

Luther E. Hall was married in Otisco township, Ionia county, in December, 1869, to Eva Rickey, who died eighteen months later, without issue. On August 25, 1872, Mr. Hall married in Iroquois county, Illinois, Maria Allen, who was a native of Vermilion county, Indiana, and a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Aikman) Allen, both natives of Vermilion county, Indiana, where they grew up, attended school, were married and established their home and where they continued to reside until their daughter Maria was about fourteen years old, when they moved to Iroquois county, Illinois, where they spent the rest of their lives on a farm. To our subject's second marriage four children were born, namely: Alma, who was the wife of F. D. Flannigan of Orleans township, Ionia county, died in 1908, leaving a daughter, Mildred, four years old; Louis A., who lives in Orleans township, married Ida B. Beach; Frank E., who lives on the home farm with his parents, married Emma Wurster of Ionia, a daughter of Jacob and Henrietta (Newman) Wurster; Eleanor A. is the wife of H. L. Morse and they live in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Politically, Mr. Hall is a Republican and has been more or less active in party affairs since reaching his majority. He was supervisor of Orleans township two terms, also highway commissioner and a member of the board of review. He has been active in Farmers Institute work, and has traveled extensively, from coast to coast and from the Lakes to New Orleans. He is a member of the Maccabees. He is a lover of nature and the beautiful: His place is surrounded by many forest trees and shrubbery of his own planting. In 1876 he planted a row of maples along the road in front of his home and they are now fine trees, standing on the west side of the road known as Maple Avenue, for about one hundred rods.

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#### ABRAHAM DEKWAK.

No work relating to the history of Ionia county and purporting to set out the biographies of persons who have taken a prominent and useful part in the community life of this county, would be complete without fitting mention of the late "Uncle" Abraham DeKwak, who, in his day, and for many years, was one of the best-known residents of Ionia.

Abraham DeKwak was born on the island of Tholen, St. Anna Land, province of Zeeland, Holland, in 1829, and when he was twenty-four years of age emigrated to America, coming presently to Michigan, and was at Kalamazoo, Holland and Grand Rapids before finally settling at Ionia, in which latter city he spent the remainder of his life. He resided in Grand Rapids when it was but a straggling village with two brick stores, one on Monroe street and the other on Canal street. He lived there nine years, eight of which he spent in the brewing business.

From Grand Rapids Abraham DeKwak moved to Ionia with his family and there engaged in the brewing business. For two years he continued operating his brewery there and then gave up the business and engaged in the marketing business.

Speaking of his withdrawal from the brewing business, Uncle Abraham used to say: "People used to be after me all the time to go to church; so one Sunday I went to the Presbyterian church to hear Brother Pearson preach. He preached that morning on the text, 'In the wicked there is no peace.' I didn't know what peace was then. When I went home that noon a half dozen young fellows sat on the fence waiting for me to sell them some drinks, but I didn't do it. The next morning I broke in the heads of all my barrels



ABRAHAM DEKWAK.



of beer and poured out the stuff. Then I sold the brewery and bought a ten-acre farm."

From that time on Uncle Abraham DeKwak gave his life to the service of his God and to humanity. He became well versed in the Bible and could quote Scripture fluently. For years he was a licensed preacher in the Methodist church and carried with him his credentials, of which he was very proud. For many years he paid the men who worked for him every night, in order that he might live up to the scriptural injunction, "Owe no man anything."

"The Lord and I are partners," said Uncle DeKwak. "He sends the sun to warm and the rain to moisten the good black soil He gave. I plant the celery. He makes it grow, and I do the harvesting."

Ionians and the people of this county generally are so thoroughly familiar with the life history of Uncle Abraham DeKwak, his life here having been as an open book, that little more is necessary to say along that line. He died on March 16, 1915, leaving to survive him two children, a daughter, Mrs. George Danforth, and a son, John DeKwak.

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#### DAVID AUSTIN McQUAID.

David Austin McQuaid, well-known fruit grower living north of Ionia in Ionia township, this county, is a native of Canada, having been born on a farm near Toronto, in the province of Ontario, December 11, 1854, son of Robert and Mary (Bennett) McQuaid, both natives of Canada, the former of Irish descent and the latter of Scottish and English parentage.

In 1860 Robert McQuaid and his family left Canada and came to this state, settling in Albion county. David A. McQuaid then was about one year old and he spent his boyhood in that county and there received his schooling. When he was fourteen or fifteen years old his parents moved to Coral, in Montcalm county, and in that neighborhood he worked at farm work during the summers and in the lumber woods during the winters. At the age of twenty-two he married and for some years thereafter his work took him about quite a bit, especially in Montcalm and Ionia counties. He farmed quite a little, on shares, in this county, and in the spring of 1907 bought the old Nichols fruit farm north of Ionia, where he has since made his home and where he and his family are quite comfortably and pleasantly situated. Mr. McQuaid raises quite a variety of fruit and berries, a large variety of excellent apples and has five or six acres in peaches, and has done

well by his venture in the fruit line, being one of the best known fruit growers in the county.

On March 3, 1881, at Sheridan, Montcalm county, David A. McQuaid was united in marriage to Mary E. Bennett, who was born in Indiana, daughter of John and Martha (Sheppard) Bennett, who came to this county when she was a little girl and located about eight miles southwest of Ionia, where the mother died when the daughter, Mary, was nine years old, leaving also another daughter, Louisa. After her mother's death Mary E. Bennett lived with her aunt in Berlin township, this county, where she grew to womanhood. Her father married, secondly, Anna Cole, and remained in this county about fifteen years, after which he moved to near Vestaburg, in Montcalm county, where he died in 1905.

To David A. and Mary E. (Bennett) McQuaid two children have been born, a daughter, Janie, who married William Higgins, of Ronald township, this county, and has two children, Beatrice and Frances, and Herbert, who died aged six years. Mr. and Mrs. McQuaid are members of the Disciples church and Mr. McQuaid is a Mason. He is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in politics, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

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#### • CAPT. DAVID C. CRAWFORD.

Capt. David C. Crawford, surveyor of Ionia county since 1882, an honored veteran of the Civil War and an active and influential resident of this county since the year 1856, in which year he came here, a vigorous young man of eighteen, from Shiawasee county, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a pioneer farm in Shiawasee county, October 29, 1838, son of Robert and Sallie A. (Crooks) Crawford, both natives of Massachusetts, the former a soldier in the War of 1812, who came to Michigan in 1825 and settled in Oakland county, where he lived until 1836, in which year he moved to Shiawasee county, where he settled in the wilderness and made his home there until 1857, when he came to Ionia county and settled on a farm in Lyons township, where he spent the remainder of his life, living to the great age of ninety-one years. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two surviving sisters, Mrs. Martha A. Chamberlain, of Grand Rapids, and Mrs. Amelia Barnum, of Byron, this state.

David C. Crawford was reared on a pioneer farm in his native county, obtaining his schooling in a little log school house in the neighborhood of his home, his playmates being chiefly Indians, of whom there were many more than there were of white persons in that region at that time. At the age of sixteen he began clerking in a store at Jackson and was thus engaged until he came to this county with his parents in 1856. Upon his arrival here he was at once employed as a clerk in a store at Lyons and remained thus occupied until his enlistment, in April, 1861, as a private in Company E, Third Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in which command he rapidly rose in rank until he became captain in 1863. Captain Crawford's service throughout was in the Army of the Potomac. In the summer of 1864 his regiment was consolidated with the Fifth Michigan and he served under this new disposition of forces until he was mustered out at the close of the war. He was wounded at the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia, in 1862, and in December, 1863, was taken prisoner by the enemy, but managed to escape four days later, while being taken to Richmond, and rejoined his regiment.

Upon the conclusion of his military service Captain Crawford returned to Ionia county and engaged in mercantile pursuits, but later took up surveying and was engaged in this capacity in the railroad service until 1882, in which year he was elected surveyor of Ionia county and has ever since served in that important public capacity, having been elected at each successive election since then, probably a record for continuous tenure in public office in the state of Michigan. Captain Crawford is a Republican and an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his wife make their home in Ionia, but spend a good bit of their time visiting among their children. They have five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

On November 21, 1861, David C. Crawford, then a young soldier home on furlough, was united in marriage at Lyons, this county, to Florence A. Blanchard, who was born in 1842, daughter of Dr. W. Z. and Eusebia (Henry) Blanchard, the first permanent white residents of that immediate locality, and to this union five children have been born, as follow: Nellie, who died at the age of two years; Robert Z., a locomotive engineer of British Columbia; George G., a hardware merchant, of Belding, this county; Daisy B., of New York city, and Mrs. Edna M. Gardner, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Captain and Mrs. Crawford celebrated their "golden wedding" anniversary in November, 1911, and are still spared to each other and to their children in the third generation. They have been witnesses to

the wonderful development of this region since the days of their youth and have been no unimportant factors in that development; and in the genial "sunset time" of their lives enjoy the unbounded respect and esteem of this entire community.

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### RICHARD B. COWLES.

Richard B. Cowles, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Ionia county, proprietor of "Oak Lawn Farm," a well-kept and profitably cultivated tract of one hundred and twenty acres, situated three miles south of Belding on rural route No. 1, out of that city, is a native of the British dominion across the border to the north, having been born in Canada on March 20, 1842, son of Solomon and Perses (Shaw) Cowles, both natives of the United States, who later became pioneers of this county and here spent their last days.

Solomon Cowles was born in Vermont, where he grew to manhood. He married Perses Shaw, who was born in the neighboring state of New Hampshire, and immediately thereafter went to Canada, where he established his home on a farm and where he lived until 1859, in which year he and his family emigrated to Michigan and settled in Ionia county. Mr. Cowles bought a farm in Keene township and was rapidly improving the same when death stopped his labors six years after his coming to this county, his death occurring in 1865. His widow survived him some years and her last days also were spent on the home farm. Both were earnest workers in the church and were useful members of the pioneer community. They were the parents of six children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Louisa, wife of C. S. Cowles, living in the neighboring county of Montcalm.

Richard B. Cowles was about seventeen years old when he came with his parents from Canada to this county and his young manhood was spent in assisting in the work of developing the home farm. On September 26, 1864, he married Eliza P. Philbrick, who was born in the state of New York on March 10, 1845, and who had come to this county with her parents when six years of age and had been reared and educated in Ionia county. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Cowles made their home on the farm on which they now live, then occupied by Mrs. Cowles's parents, and after the death of the latter bought the interests of the other heirs in the estate and have since then been the owners of "Oak Lawn Farm," which has been well improved and brought to a high state of productivity. Mr.



Cowles has taken a good citizen's part in the civic affairs of his neighborhood and has served the public in various minor official capacities. In his political beliefs he is a Socialist and is an ardent advocate of the principles of that party. For years Mr. Cowles was the local correspondent of one of the Belding newspapers and by that means exerted an excellent influence in his community, having been particularly active in promoting the movement which led to the general custom of naming farms. He is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees.

To Richard B. and Eliza P. (Philbrick) Cowles two children have been born, daughters both, Cora B., who married Seward Blackmer. By this marriage one child, a son, Glenn C., was born. She married, secondly, Leroy Witt. By this union five children were born: Audrey E., deceased, who left one daughter, Geneva O. Sixbury; Pearl E., Ellis P., Lyle R. and Vivian S. She married, third, Ben Hawkins. Pearl L., the other daughter of Richard and Eliza Cowles, married, first, Vern E. Doris and had one child, Ina R. She later married C. B. Johnston, and they have one child, Lucile M.

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#### FREDERICK A. WASHBURN.

Success in the varied vocations of men is won practically along the same lines—by industry, persistency of effort, the exercise of sound judgment and correct ideals properly applied—as they have evidently been in the case of Frederick A. Washburn, superintendent of the Richardson Silk Company, of Belding, Michigan.

Mr. Washburn was born in South Coventry, Connecticut, March 25, 1855, and is a son of Manson and Laura (White) Washburn. The father was born at Stafford, Connecticut, December 11, 1811. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native town and there received a common school education, later attending an academy at Willimantic, Connecticut. His father's people were engaged in the iron and steel business, while his mother's family were engaged in farming. Young Frederick spent six summers on the farm of an uncle. His father was a machine builder, and at about this period was compelled to take over some silk machinery on a debt. His mother, who was of Puritan stock, decided it best that the young man should go into the silk mill, and he acceded to his mother's wishes in the matter, and was placed in charge of the mill and continued in business with his father for ten years and helped build up a good business in this line. On October 24, 1881, he secured a position with Belding Brothers &

Company at Rockville, Connecticut, and remained there five years in charge of various departments, then was sent to Belding, Michigan, to oversee the building of a silk mill there for Belding Brothers, which plant was later taken over by the Richardson Silk Company, and from that time to the present he has filled the position of general superintendent of this modernly equipped and excellent plant, having come here November 8, 1886. He thoroughly understands every department of the work and his ability, industry and close application have been very largely responsible for the pronounced success of the local firm.

Upon the organization of the Building and Loan Association, in 1888, Mr. Washburn was elected vice-president, and soon thereafter was made president, which position he has held continuously ever since. The organization which, under his able management, has been very successful, was the first of its kind in this section of the country. It has been the means of many poor people enjoying good, comfortable homes. Not one dollar has ever been misused, although many thousands of dollars have been disbursed.

Mr. Washburn was married on July 29, 1880, at South Coventry, Connecticut, to Ella M. Wood, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Mills) Wood, both natives of England, from which country they came to Connecticut and established their future home. Their family consisted of ten children. To Mr. and Mrs. Washburn four children have been born, namely: Carlton W., born on November 22, 1881, received an excellent education, including the literary course in the University of Michigan and two years in the law department, he was admitted to the bar, but is now sales assistant in a large business house in Chicago; Florence E., the second child, who was graduated from the Belding schools and the Milwaukee Downer school for girls, is now at home; Harold O., who attended the Belding schools, Ferris Institute and the University of Michigan, graduating from the engineering department of the latter, is now with the American Hoist and Derrick Company, of St. Paul, traveling for the firm out of Dallas, Texas; Frederick Sidney, who was educated in the Belding schools, Ferris Institute and the Detroit Business College, is employed in the factory of the Richardson Silk Company.

Politically, Mr. Washburn is a Republican and is active in party affairs, but has never held office, although he has been honored by being selected as one of the presidential electors from the state of Michigan in 1908. He also served six years as a trustee of the state asylum at Ionia. He has kept well informed on political matters and has given his support to all worthy measures for the general good. In 1904 he was chosen a member of the International Silk Jurors' representatives at the world's fair in St. Louis, Missouri,

and he was also selected in the same capacity at the Paris Exposition in 1900, the Richardson Silk Company receiving the Grand Prix, which was the highest honor in this line. Mr. Washburn was given special medals at the same time. Fraternally, Mr. Washburn is a member of Belding Lodge No. 355, Free and Accepted Masons. He has been connected with the Congregational church since boyhood.

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PAUL LEIK.

There are a large number of German farmers in Ionia county, who, by their industry and economy, have established good homes here. Paul Leik, of Portland township, is among this number. He was born on the River Rhine, Germany, January 17, 1868, and is a son of Martin and Margaret Leik. He grew up in his native land and received his education there. He hired out by the day for a number of years, and in 1894, when twenty-six years old, he came to the United States, with his uncle, Henry Leik, who had previously settled in America and was at that time in Germany on a visit, having first come to the new world in 1866. They sailed from Antwerp, Belgium, for New York, and then came on to Westphalia, Clinton county, Michigan, where Paul Leik worked awhile for John Drustee, then worked awhile near Grand Ledge, then with his cousin, Tony Leik, who accompanied him and their uncle from Germany. He settled on two hundred and seventy-five acres in Portland township, which they worked for five years. Then Paul Leik bought one hundred and twenty acres in Riley township, Clinton county, where he lived for five years, when he sold out and bought his present place six miles north of Portland, Ionia county, which consists of one hundred and sixty acres, and on which he is raising general crops and various kinds of live stock. He located on this farm in 1907. He has made extensive improvements here and has been successful, although starting out with practically nothing. In 1914 he erected the modern home in which he now lives.

Paul Leik was married on October 12, 1897, to Louise Martin, a daughter of Anthony and Mary Martin, both natives of the Rhine country, Germany. They came to America when children and were married in Clinton county, Michigan. To Mr. and Mrs. Leik the following children were born: Peter, seventeen years old, is assisting his father on the farm; Annie, sixteen years old, is attending the district schools; Johnnie died when two years old; Lena is in school, as are also George and Margaret.

Mr. Leik and family belong to St. Joseph's Catholic church, in Westphalia. Politically, he is a Democrat.

## W. F. SELLECK.

W. F. Selleck, well-known citizen of Portland, Ionia county, Michigan, justice of the peace and for the past thirty-eight years engaged in the insurance and collection business, also a notary public, came to this county from Oneida county, New York, where in the town of Paris he was born on May 29, 1844. He is a son of Augustus and Sophronia (Freeman) Selleck, the former born in the same place as his son, where for several generations his family had lived. They were of English origin and the first American Selleck came to this country early in the history of the land. Sophronia Freeman was also of English stock, born in the same county.

Augustus Selleck was reared on a farm and in the spring of 1836 he came to this state and in Barry county entered a tract of land from the government, a short distance from where Gull Prairie now is. In the fall of that year he returned to his native state and in 1837 was married. He remained there until 1848, when he brought his family to Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio, where he purchased a farm and remained until the fall of 1863. In the fall of that year Augustus brought his family to Hillsdale county, this state, and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He remained here but a year, however, when he returned to Ohio and started up a saw mill in Henry county. The mill was later moved to Fayette, Fulton county, that state and in 1878 was brought to Ionia county and set up in Portland. W. F. was associated with his father in this enterprise until 1896 or 1897, at which time his father retired from active life and passed away in Portland on February 6, 1912, at the advanced age of ninety-six years. His wife had preceded him in 1889. Augustus Selleck and wife were the parents of four children, W. F. being the second of the family in order of birth. Josephine, the eldest, is the wife of Alfred P. Derby, of Portland. Freeman died in Ohio in 1872 and Frederick died when but four years of age, at Norwalk, Ohio.

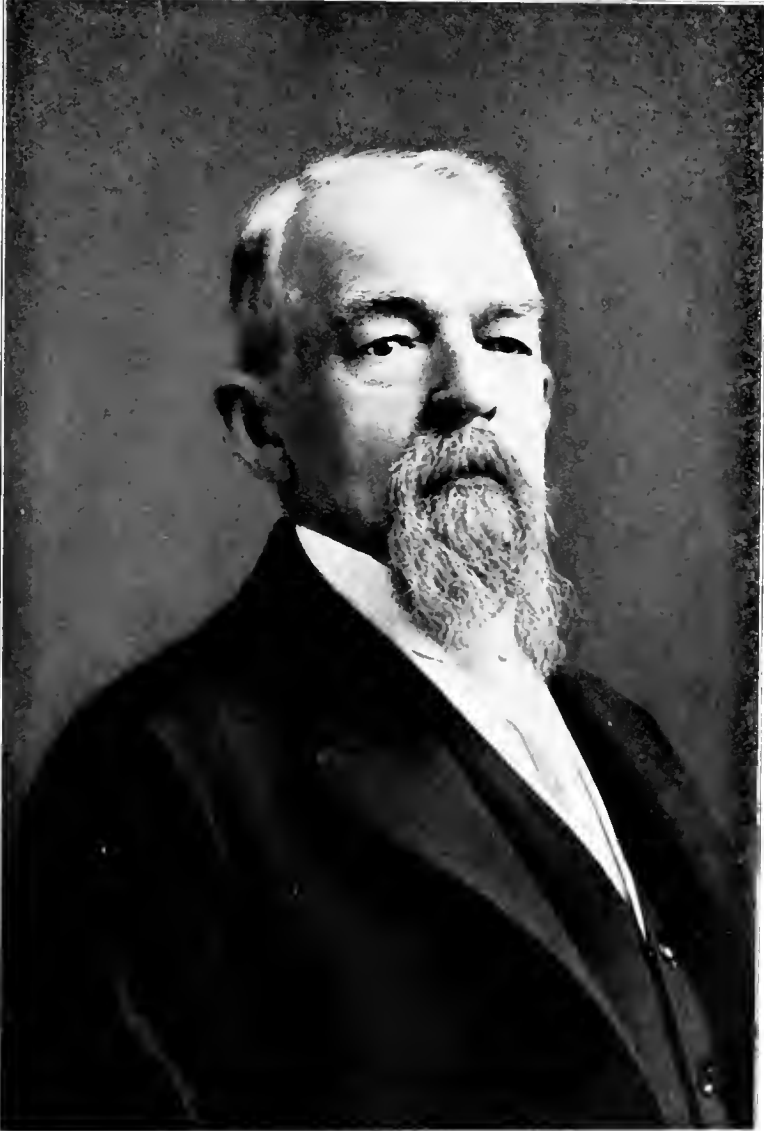
In 1896, at the time W. F. Selleck and his father disposed of the saw-mill, he became bookkeeper for the Ramsey-Alton Manufacturing Company, remaining with them for four years and in 1904 he entered exclusively into the lines to which he now gives his attention. He has traveled over this section of the country and purchased standing timber and is said to be an expert in his line of timber measuring.

W. F. Selleck was married on November 17, 1864, in Hillsdale, this state, to Alvira Way, daughter of William Way.





AUGUSTUS SELLECK



W. F. SELLECK.





There are two children in the Selleck family: Murvin A., a graduate of the Portland schools and now with the Portland Milling Company, and Charlie A., superintendent of the water company of Portland, for the past fourteen years. William F. is a member of the order of Free and Accepted Masons through Portland Lodge No. 31, and has passed through all the chairs of the blue lodge. In his Masonic work he has attained to the chapter and council degrees and is also past master of the Royal Arch degree. He is also a member of Council No. 23, Royal and Select Masters, serving as secretary of both lodges.

W. F. Selleck holds his religious membership in the Universalist church, although the society at this place has now disbanded. He is a Democrat in politics, but not radical and always more interested in the success of the best man, rather than the carrying of the ticket. He was supervisor of Portland township for the year 1885 and for one term was president of the village of Portland, also serving for eleven consecutive years as a member of the town council. For the past ten years Mr. Selleck has been justice of the peace and in his official capacity has acted as executor and administrator of many estates. In his particular line he has rendered a great service to the people of this community, by all of whom he is held in high repute. Mr. Selleck represents fourteen of the leading fire insurance companies of this and foreign countries.

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#### LEVI M. GREENWOOD.

Levi M. Greenwood, the well-known clothing merchant at Muir, this county, who has been a resident of that town probably longer than any other person now living there, is a native son of Michigan and has been a resident of Muir since the fall of 1857, having located there with his parents the year following the founding of the village. He was born in Greenbush township, Clinton county, this state, June 21, 1850, son of Marvin and Amanda (Holcomb) Greenwood, both natives of the state of New York, who became early residents of this section of Michigan.

The Greenwoods were an old colonial family in New England and the family descent is traced back in England to the thirteenth century. Marvin Greenwood was born at Lebanon, New York, July 1, 1804, a son of Paul and Betsy Greenwood, the former born on October 5, 1767, and the latter August 26, 1777. Marvin Greenwood grew to manhood in his native state

and on June 7, 1827, was united in marriage to Amanda Holcomb, who was born on June 7, 1807. About the year 1836 Marvin Greenwood and his family came to Michigan, settling in Oakland county, but shortly thereafter moved to Clinton county, where they established a home in the wilderness, being among the very first settlers in that section of the state, and there, in a cabin home in the heart of the forest the subject of this sketch was born. Mrs. Amanda Greenwood died there on September 1, 1856, leaving five children. In August, 1857, Marvin Greenwood married Catherine Cranell, to which union one child was born, a son, Adelbert, born in Muir, October 14, 1860, who died on May 16, 1915. It was in September, 1857, that Marvin Greenwood left his homestead farm in Clinton county and came over into Ionia county, locating at Muir, then a promising lumber village, founded the year previously. He established a grocery store at Muir and was thus engaged in business for several years, or until failing health compelled his retirement. He was an active man of affairs and during his residence in Clinton county had served for years as justice of the peace in and for his home township.

Levi M. Greenwood was about seven years old when his father located at Muir and he entered the schools there, completing his schooling when he was thirteen years of age, when he began working in the saw-mills. After a year of this form of employment he entered the office of the Wagar Lumber Company and was engaged there for four years, at the end of which time, in 1869, he became a clerk in the Probasco hardware store and was thus engaged for nearly twenty years. He then, about 1888, became a partner in the store and that mutually agreeable arrangement continued until he withdrew from the firm in 1895 and started his present business. It was in September, 1895, that Mr. Greenwood opened his clothing store at Muir and he ever since has been actively and successfully engaged in that business, long having been regarded as one of the most active and enterprising merchants of that town.

On April 19, 1893, Levi M. Greenwood was united in marriage to Mrs. Effie (Eilenburg) Kelland, who was born in Rochester, Michigan, daughter of Frederick Eilenburg and wife, the former of whom, a native of Strasburg, Pennsylvania, came to Michigan in 1855 and spent the rest of his life at Rochester, a successful market-gardener. To Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood two children have been born, a son, Frederick Marvin, and Naomi E. Mr. Greenwood is a member of the Church of Christ and his wife is a member of the Congregational church. He is a Mason and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

## EDGAR E. KILBORN.

Edgar E. Kilborn, a well-known farmer of Otisco township, this county, where he owns a well-kept place of fifty-five acres on rural route No. 4, out of Bekling, is a native of that same township, having been born in a little log cabin on a pioneer farm near by the place where he is now living, on August 29, 1849, son of Freeman and Cynthia (Joy) Kilborn, both natives of New York state and early settlers of this county, where they spent their last days, respected and useful residents of Otisco township.

Freeman Kilborn came to Michigan as a young man and entered a homestead claim to an eighty-acre tract in Otisco township, this county, and then returned to New York, where he married Cynthia Joy and straight-way returned to this county with his bride, arriving here in 1846. He built a log cabin on his homestead tract and established a home there, he and his wife becoming early recognized as among the most influential of the pioneer residents of that section of the county. The homestead tract presently was cleared and improved, a better dwelling erected and there Freeman Kilborn and his wife reared their family and spent the remainder of their lives. To them two children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch now is the only survivor, his sister, Harriet, who married William N. Sparks, having died on January 29, 1909, leaving three children. Freeman Kilborn died on November 26, 1909. His wife had preceded him to the grave more than six years, her death having occurred on March 29, 1903.

Edgar E. Kilborn was reared on the pioneer farm in Otisco township and his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home was followed by a course in the school at Cooks Corners, under the instruction of Prof. Asa Slayton. On August 29, 1860, he married Adaline A. Hale, who was born near Akron, Ohio, and who had come to this county with her parents, the family settling in Orleans township, later moving to southern Illinois, from which place they presently returned to this county, locating permanently in Orleans township, where she was living at the time of her marriage. Following their marriage, Edgar E. Kilborn and his wife settled on a farm where he now lives, but later moved over into Mecosta county, where they established their home on a farm and there they remained for twenty years, returning to this county in the fall of 1902 and settling on the farm where Mr. Kilborn now lives. Mrs. Kilborn died on June 7, 1910.

To Edgar E. and Adaline A. (Hale) Kilborn seven children were born, Henry, Cynthia (deceased), Cora, Almira, Freeman, Ruth and Harriet. The eldest son, the Rev. Henry Kilborn, is a local minister of the Free Methodist church in Mecosta county, Michigan; he also has a farm. He married Emma Williams, who was born in Canada. Edgar E. Kilborn is an active member of the same denomination and is a steward of the church. He is a speaker of considerable local note and formerly often occupied the pulpit of the church. He is an ardent Prohibitionist and is a widely known speaker in behalf of the principles of that party.

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### WILLIAM LUSCHER.

One of the painstaking farmers and stock raisers of Ionia county is William Luscher, of Sebewa township, who was born in Cleveland, Ohio, July 25, 1857. He is a son of Jacob and Annie (Hunsicher) Luscher, both parents natives of Switzerland, where they were reared and married. Jacob Luscher was a cabinet-maker by trade, which he learned in his native land. He became an expert on hand-made furniture. He brought his family to America in 1854, locating in Cleveland, Ohio, where he followed his trade. When William was a babe his parents brought him to Ionia county, Michigan, the father following his trade in the town of Ionia, but later moved to Sebewa township, taking up forty acres of government land, on which he built a house and continued working at his trade, but did not clear and develop the land. After living there five years he moved to another place in the same township, making his home with his son who had an eighty-acre farm there, and continued at his trade until his death in 1884, his widow surviving until February 5, 1904. Their family consisted of eight children, six of whom grew to maturity, and four are still living, namely: Rudolph, who lives in Gratiot county, Michigan, was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Company D, Ninth Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry; Lizzie is the wife of Elias Steinbaugh and they live in Danby township, Ionia county; Jacob lives in Ionia; the next child died in infancy, unnamed; Mary is deceased; Frances died in infancy; Maggie is deceased; William is the only one of the children born in the United States.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the public schools of Sebewa township, this county. He made his home with his brother, Jacob, from the age of five to twenty-two, then bought forty acres in sec-

tion 2, Sebewa township, and removed there with his mother, where he lived two or three years, then moved to the farm on which he now lives in section 2, Sebewa township, which place consists of one hundred and eighty acres, on which he has made many improvements and is successfully engaged in general farming. He is also a stockholder in the Portland Farmers Elevator Company, and is a director in the same.

William Luseher was married in 1885 to Nettie Thorpe, and to this union four children have been born, namely: George A. is an engineer on the Pere Marquette railroad and lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Carrie is deceased; Warren is at home; Kittie is the wife of Hector McIntosh, of Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Luseher was married, secondly, to Louise Sieg, on September 12, 1900. She was born in Ionia, Michigan, and is a daughter of Rudolph Sieg, a native of Germany. To this second union one son has been born—Harry W., who is attending the district schools.

Politically, Mr. Luseher, is a Democrat.

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### JOHN J. GALLOWAY.

John J. Galloway, a well-known and enterprising merchant of Palo, this county, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born in Palo, where he still makes his home and where he has spent all his life. He was born on November 24, 1855, son of Barnabas D. and Ellen L. (Pew) Galloway, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Michigan, both of whom came to this county with their respective parents about the year 1850 and here spent the remainder of their lives, for years having been prominent and influential residents of Palo.

Barnabas D. Galloway was born near Palmyra, New York, son of John Galloway and wife, who later moved to Ohio, settling in the Toledo neighborhood, thence coming to Michigan, settling in Monroe county, where they established their home and spent the rest of their lives. It was about 1850 that Barnabas D. Galloway came over into Ionia county and entered a claim to a tract of land about two miles east of Palo, the country thereabout just beginning to be settled at that time. Soon after locating there he married Ellen L. Pew, who was born near Monroe, this state, daughter of John W. and Jane Pew, who came to this county about 1850 and located on a homestead tract about one mile east of Palo, at the same time taking a claim in

Bloomer township, in the neighboring county of Montcalm. John W. Pew after some years engaged in farming, moved to Palo, Ionia county, where his last days were spent. After Barnabas D. Galloway's marriage he established a home on his farm east of Palo, but later engaged in business at Palo, in partnership with his father-in-law, Mr. Pew. In 1861, upon the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted for service in Company I, Berdan's Michigan Sharpshooters, but about a year later was discharged on a physician's certificate of disability, his health having been seriously impaired as a consequence of an attack of measles, improperly treated. Upon his return from the war he engaged in the saw-mill business at Muir, this county, later engaging in the grocery business at the same place, but presently returned to Palo, where he spent the remainder of his life. He took an active part in the general affairs of his community and was the first Democratic supervisor ever elected in Ronald township, then a Republican stronghold. Barnabas D. Galloway died in 1895. His wife had preceded him in death three years, her death having occurred in 1892.

John J. Galloway was reared at Palo and there learned the trade of painter, which he followed for seventeen years, or until 1892, in which year he began clerking in the store of C. H. Mandeville, at Palo. In 1893 he started a grocery store of his own at Palo and was presently appointed postmaster of that village by President Cleveland, which office he held for nearly five years. After conducting his grocery store for about ten years he added a stock of hardware and ever since has been quite successfully engaged in both the grocery and the hardware business, long having been regarded as one of the leading business men of Palo.

In 1876 John J. Galloway was united in marriage to Ellen F. Bacon, who was born in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, this state, daughter of Melvin and Diantha (Stevens) Bacon, who moved from Lenawee county to Montcalm county in the fifties. Melvin Bacon's father, James Bacon, entered a claim to a tract of government land in Bushnell township and was among the first settlers of that section. Melvin Bacon enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War and died of measles while in the service. His body is buried in the national cemetery at Nashville, Tennessee. After his death his family moved to Palo, where the mother died in 1900. To Mr. and Mrs. Galloway one child has been born, a son, M. Clare. They are members of the Baptist church.

M. Clare Galloway was born at Palo on December 19, 1882, and was graduated from the Palo high school, after which he entered Ferris Institute, which he attended for three years. He then became a bookkeeper at

Lake View and presently went to Chicago, where he was engaged in office work until 1905, in which year he returned home and took his place in his father's store, where he has been engaged ever since. In October, 1911, M. Clare Galloway was united in marriage to Louise Brown, who was born in St. Johns, Michigan, daughter of Marvin V. and HESSIE (Shafer) Brown, prominent residents of that city. Marvin V. Brown was a pioneer resident of St. Johns and a well-known merchant there, one of the leading citizens of the place. He was one of the organizers of the order of Modern Woodmen in Michigan and was a public speaker of much power, his talents in that direction being for years exerted in behalf of the Prohibition party, for which party he campaigned in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. His wife died when their daughter Louise was an infant and he died when she was eight years old. Thus left an orphan, Louise Brown was reared by kinsfolk at Maple Rapids, in Clinton county, where she lived until her marriage to Mr. Galloway. To M. Clare Galloway and wife one child has been born, a daughter, Dorothy B. They have a very pleasant home at Palo and a delightful summer home at Bay View. Mr. Galloway is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### WILLIAM A. McLAREN.

William A. McLaren, postmaster at Muir, this county, and a well-known and progressive merchant of that place, is a native of the great Empire state, but has lived in this county since he was four years old. He was born at Avon, New York, January 12, 1862, son of James and Sarah (Hocmire) McLaren, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of New York state, who later became well-known and prominent residents of Ionia county, where their last days were spent.

James McLaren was born at Duublane, Scotland, in May, 1829, and grew up there. When a young man he came to the United States and settled at Avon, New York, where he presently married Sarah Hocmire, a native of that town. In 1868 he and his family came to Michigan and located in Ionia county. James McLaren bought a farm in Ronald township and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. He was an active participant in the activities of the old Ronald "Literary," a center of community interest in an earlier day hereabout, and did much to promote a proper social life in that part of the county. James McLaren died on February 26, 1891, and his widow survived him many years, her

death occurring on December 10, 1915. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Mary, born on April 25, 1867, who died on August 7, 1868; Jay, March 11, 1870, of Grand Rapids, who is married and has a son, Russell, born on May 15, 1893, and Carrie, June 4, 1877, who married Frank Baker and lives at Ionia.

William A. McLaren was but a child when his parents came to this county and he grew up on the home farm in Ronald township. Upon completing the course in the schools at Palo he entered the Ionia high school, in the meantime assisting his father in the labors of developing the home farm, and in the spring of 1883, following his marriage in the previous December, rented a farm in the neighborhood of his old home and for two years made his home on the same. He then bought a farm of forty acres near the Grange hall, in Ronald township, where he lived until he moved to Muir, in the meantime adding to the same by the purchase of an adjoining tract of twenty-five acres. In addition to his work as a general farmer, Mr. McLaren was actively engaged in the live-stock business and made much of buying cattle and fattening the same for the butcher markets, doing quite well in that line. On March 25, 1896, he moved to Muir, though he continued to retain possession of his farm, which he did not sell until two or three years later. For six years after going to Muir, Mr. McLaren clerked in Stachen's general store and then, in 1901, embarked in business for himself and has been quite successfully engaged in the general merchandise business ever since, long having been regarded as one of the leading business men of the town.

Mr. McLaren is a Democrat and for years has been an active participant in the political affairs of the county, being one of the leaders of his party in the eastern part of the county. He has served a number of terms as a member of the county committee and frequently has been a delegate to the conventions of his party. For two or three terms he served as one of the village trustees of Muir and on January 14, 1914, received his commission as postmaster of Muir, which office he has held ever since.

On December 25, 1882, William A. McLaren was united in marriage to Amanda Eldridge, who was born in Wisconsin, daughter of Niram and Fidelia (Somers) Eldridge, who had emigrated from Dansville, New York, to Wisconsin, coming thence to Michigan and locating in Ionia county in 1870. Niram Eldridge bought a farm in Ronald township and there established his home. His wife died there on May 15, 1904, and he thereafter made his home with Mr. and Mrs. McLaren at Muir, where he died on September 13, 1910. For years Niram Eldridge was justice of the peace



in and for Ronald township and was a man of much influence in his community. Mrs. McLaren had one sister, Mabel, born on October 12, 1875, who married Emory Danner and died on September 8, 1910, five days before the death of her father. To Mr. and Mrs. McLaren one child has been born, a son, Glen, born on October 8, 1886, now living at Grand Rapids, who married Alice Connor and has a daughter, Helen. Mr. McLaren is a Mason and a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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THOMAS SPARKS.

Thomas Sparks, treasurer of Ionia county, is a native of England, having been born near the city of Hereford, in Herefordshire, June 19, 1817, eldest of the nine children born to his parents, William and Eliza (Lewis) Sparks, the former a tailor, who died in Hereford in 1885, aged sixty-seven years, and the latter of whom survived until 1905, she being upwards of eighty years old at the time of her death. They were Methodists and were the parents of nine children, of whom four came to the United States, those besides the subject of this sketch who came to this country being Mrs. Emma Lang, now living in Tacoma, Washington; James L., of Ionia, this county, and Lavina, wife of Joseph Rogers, of St. Joseph, Missouri. William Sparks was the son of James Sparks, also a tailor, who, with his wife, came to America and spent their last days here, he being upwards of ninety years old at the time of his death. Eliza (Lewis) Sparks was the daughter of David and Eliza Lewis, English farming people, who died there.

Thomas Sparks was trained in mercantile pursuits in England and spent six years in a store at Hereford and three years in a mercantile establishment in London, after which, in 1873, he came to the United States and settled in Kent county, this state, where he engaged in farming. Not long after locating there he married Lucinda Knickerbocker, who was born in Kent county, daughter of Erastus and Lucretia Knickerbocker, pioneers of that section, who had come from New York, the former a descendant of the famous Knickerbocker family which was so prominent in the settlement of New Amsterdam, now New York City. Erastus Knickerbocker and wife, who were the parents of eleven daughters, later came to Ionia county, where their last days were spent. In 1885 Mr. Sparks moved from Kent county to Ionia county and settled in Campbell township, where he bought a farm

of eighty acres, and there he lived until his appointment as deputy county treasurer under Edwin F. Cool, in 1900, after which he and his family moved to Ionia, where they have lived ever since. During his residence in Campbell township Mr. Sparks had taken an active interest in politics and for four years had served as supervisor, four years as school director and ten years as justice of the peace. His service in the treasurer's office proved so satisfactory that after two years of such service under Treasurer Cool he was reappointed as deputy under Captain Allen and after four years of that additional service was elected by the Republicans as treasurer and in the succeeding election was re-elected and is still serving as treasurer of the county.

To Thomas and Lucinda (Knickerbocker) Sparks five children have been born, as follow: Edith, who married John Neeb, of Clarksville, this county, and has five children, Beatrice, Ethel, Gertrude, Lucinda and Herbert; Ethel, who married Bert Heaven, of Campbell township, and has four children, Iena, Clarence, Josephine and Thomas; Lewis, who died at the age of nine years; Gertrude, who died at the age of six years, and Clista, who married Joseph Watkins, now living at Omaha, Nebraska, and has two children, Walwin and Gwendolyn. Mr. and Mrs. Sparks are members of the Methodist church and he is past noble grand of the Ionia lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### FRANK A. HARGRAVE, M. D.

Doctor Frank A. Hargrave, of Palo, this county, former president of the Ionia County Medical Society, secretary and general manager of the two telephone companies at Palo, one of the best-known physicians in this county and for years recognized as one of the most progressive and energetic citizens of his home community, is a native of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of Michigan since the latter seventies. He was born on a farm at Menomonee Falls, about twelve miles west of Milwaukee, in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, March 20, 1857, son of Isaac and Mary (Villrette) Hargrave, both natives of Yorkshire, England.

Isaac Hargrave was a sailor and had followed the sea for some years before his marriage. He was married on the day of Queen Victoria's coronation and two years later he and his wife and their baby came to the United States, Isaac Hargrave paying the passage of himself and family by

his service as a sailor on the way over. Mrs. Hargrave's mother previously had come to this country and had settled at Menomonee Falls and that point in Wisconsin Territory was the objective point of the sailor immigrant and his wife upon landing on this side. They came up the lakes and landed at Milwaukee, then but a mere village, and thence walked the twelve miles out to Menomonee, carrying their baby. There Isaac Hargrave entered a claim to forty acres of "Congress land" and established his home, spending his summers as a sailor on the lakes and clearing his land during the time navigation was closed for the winter. He presently became part owner of a lake sailing vessel and was engaged for some years in the lumber carrying trade between Michigan points and Chicago and Milwaukee. While thus engaged he conveyed to Chicago the lumber that entered into the construction of the frame work of the first brick house erected in that city. He finally gave up the lake trade and traded his interest in his vessel for sixty acres of land at the mouth of the Milwaukee river, but this tract seemed of so little value that he after awhile let it go rather than continue to pay taxes on the same. That tract now is in the very heart of the business section of the city of Milwaukee and is worth millions. He continued, however, to improve his Menomonee Falls farm and in 1860 sold the same to advantage and moved to Monroe county, Wisconsin, where he bought a quarter of a section of land and there spent the remainder of his life, living to be eighty-nine years of age. His wife died on September 6, 1804.

Frank A. Hargrave was three years old when his parents moved to Monroe county, Wisconsin, and he grew to manhood on the home farm there. He studied diligently to acquire an education and when about twenty years of age was licensed to teach school, thereafter for some years spending his winters as a teacher. When he had saved up a bit of money he entered the State Normal at Oshkosh and in due time was graduated. In order to receive his credits it was necessary for him to remain at the school until "commencement," by which time his funds were almost exhausted. In the meantime he had decided to locate at Ionia and upon receiving his diploma bought a railway ticket for the county seat of Ionia county, after paying for which he had left just sixty-five cents. He spent fifteen cents for a supper in Milwaukee, did without breakfast the next morning and arrived at Ionia with fifty cents in his pocket. He was not long in securing a school in this county, but before the time for the school to begin he had to provide for his daily needs and worked at various occupations, chiefly farm labor, and was thus employed, teaching school during the winters, until he had saved seven hundred dollars. Having long been privately reading medical literature,

with a view to becoming a physician, he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1881 and was graduated from that institution in 1884. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his profession, Doctor Hargrave returned to Ionia county and opened an office at Palo, where he ever since has been actively engaged in the practice of medicine, during which time he has built up an extensive practice and has come to be recognized as one of the leading physicians of this county. Doctor Hargrave has from the very beginning of his residence in this county given his most thoughtful attention to the general life of the community. For twenty-five years he served as a member of the school board, in which capacity he rendered an admirable service on behalf of the schools. When the Palo Telephone Company was organized in 1903 he took an active interest in the concern and is also actively interested in the Home Telephone Company of Palo, being secretary and manager of both companies. For several years he has been an active member of the Ionia County Medical Society and was president of the same in 1915. He also is examiner for a number of insurance companies. Doctor Hargrave is a Republican and gives his most thoughtful attention to local political affairs.

On July 16, 1885, a year after entering upon the practice of his profession at Palo, Doctor Frank A. Hargrave was united in marriage to Amelia Hamm, who was born at Omro, Wisconsin, daughter of Alfred and Elmira (Dulley) Hamm, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ohio. Alfred Hamm was a young man when his parents moved from New York to Wisconsin and in the latter state he grew to manhood and married Elmira Dully, who was about nineteen years of age when her parents moved from Ohio to Illinois, later moving to Wisconsin. Mrs. Hamm died in Wisconsin and Mr. Hamm later moved to Alabama, where he spent the rest of his life. Their daughter Amelia grew to womanhood in Wisconsin and became a teacher. While attending the State Normal School at Oshkosh she and her future husband were classmates. She went to Alabama, expecting to teach school in that state, but presently returned to Wisconsin, where she was engaged in teaching until her marriage to Doctor Hargrave. To Doctor and Mrs. Hargrave three children have been born, namely: Don V., Lucile and James M. Doctor Don V. Hargrave, now a prosperous young physician at Carson City, in the neighboring county of Montcalm, is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where he spent five years, the latter part of which time was devoted to the study of medicine. He completed his medical course in the Detroit College of Medicine, from which he was graduated in 1913 and located at Carson City. He married Florence Tarbox, of Jackson, this state. Lucile Hargrave, who is at home,

attended the college at Alma, Michigan, and spent one year at the Ferris Institute. James M. Hargrave, who also attended the Ferris Institute for two years, is now connected with an automobile manufacturing concern at Detroit.

Doctor Hargrave is a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar, a member of Palo Lodge No. 203, Free and Accepted Masons, since 1884; member of Lyons Chapter No. 37, Royal Arch Masons, and of Ionia Commandery No. 7, Knights Templar. He also is a noble of Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids, and of Palo Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of which latter organization Mrs. Hargrave also is a member. The Doctor is also a member of the local lodge of the Knights of the Maccabees and of the Gleaners and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### DARIUS HOLDEN.

Darius Holden, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Ronald township, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the pioneers of Ionia county, is a native of the state of New York, having been born in Chautauqua county, that state, June 24, 1832, son of Eben and Mary (Woodruff) Holden, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Germany. Eben Holden was a tanner and not long after the birth of his son, Darius, moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived for some years, at the end of which time he went to Erie county, Pennsylvania, where he died in 1863. After Darius Holden had established his residence in Ionia county, his widowed mother came here to make her home with him, but about 1870 returned to her old home in Erie county, where she died a year or two later.

Darius Holden was but a baby when his parents moved to Cleveland and there he spent his youth. The lake ever attracted him and one day when he was eight years of age he ran away from home and got a job as a dishwasher on a lake vessel. When he returned home at the end of the trip he got a "tanning" for his escapade, but that did not deter him from trying it over again and during his youth he spent much of his time on lake boats, becoming a very proficient sailor. He spent twenty summers on the lakes, usually as a sailor on three-masted sailing vessels plying between Chicago and Buffalo. On April 25, 1864, in response to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers to put down the Rebellion, Mr. Holden enlisted

in Company G, First Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and served under McClellan in the Army of the Potomac during the three-months service. On August 15, 1862, he re-enlisted, in Company C, Sixteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and served in the army of General Grant until the close of the war, being mustered out on June 15, 1865. He was in a number of the bloodiest battles of the war and at the battle of White House Landing was severely wounded in the leg by a bursting shell, while at Harrisburg his shoulder was broken. For a time he served as sergeant in the ordnance department, but did not seek promotion. During Mr. Holden's service one officer wrote to another regarding him as follow: "I wish to recommend him to you as orderly or to attend to any work requiring strict attention, integrity and perfect sobriety. Darius Holden is perfectly reliable and one of the most trustworthy men I ever knew."

On October 3, 1853, Darius Holden was united in marriage to Elzina E. Allen, who was born at Cherry Hill, Pennsylvania, December 2, 1832, daughter of Howard and Ruth (Harris) Allen, who had moved from the Lake George district of New York to Pennsylvania. Mr. Holden came to Michigan and settled in the woods in Ronald township, this county, arriving in Muir on September 1, 1865. He bought a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in section 24, of that township and across the road in North Plains township, and there established his home, remaining there sixteen years, at the end of which time he sold that place to advantage and bought one hundred and sixty acres in sections 35 and 36, in that same township, where he ever since has made his home. During the early years of his residence in this county Mr. Holden formed valuable acquaintances with the Indians and for some time was profitably engaged as a fur trader, covering a territory as far away as Traverse City, west to the lake, thence south fifty miles, back to Traverse and home. Mrs. Elzina E. Holden, first wife of Darius Holden, died at her home in Ronald township on November 20, 1868, leaving one son, Newel, who is living with his father on the old home place in Ronald township and looking after the management of the same. In February, 1870, Darins Holden married, secondly, Mary Warren, who was born near Sackett Harbor, New York, daughter of William and Sarah Warren, and who had come to Michigan with her father in 1853, after the death of her mother in the East, the family settling in Ronald township, this county. Mrs. Mary Holden died on December 2, 1909, leaving one daughter, Sarah Louise, wife of Henry J. Cook, assistant hall master at the state reformatory at Ionia.

Newel Holden, only son of Darius and Elzina E. (Allen) Holden,

was born in Ronald township, this county, October 13, 1866, and has lived in that township all his life. Upon completing the course in the neighborhood school he took a course in Poucher's Business College and later resumed his place on the farm, having always been an assistant to his father in the operation of the place. In addition to supervising the operations of his father's farm he is the owner of a farm of eighty-one acres adjoining the same and is regarded as one of the most substantial and energetic farmers in that neighborhood.

On March 20, 1901, Newell Holden was united in marriage to Lois Adella Reasoner, who was born near the village of Saranac, in Boston township, this county, daughter of Ezra and Adelia (Blass) Reasoner, both natives of the state of New York and pioneers of Ionia county. Ezra Reasoner was born in Shelby township, Orleans county, New York, January 15, 1835, and came to Michigan with his parents, James Reasoner and wife, the latter of whom was a Jenkins, in 1851, he then being sixteen years old, the family settling in Kalamazoo county. There, in 1856, he married Sarah Rhodes and shortly afterward moved to Missouri, where their first-born and only child died at the age of six months and the mother came near dying as a result of the insalubrious climate, after which he and his wife returned to Michigan, where his wife presently died and is buried near Charleston. On January 31, 1861, Ezra Reasoner married, secondly, Adelia Blass, who was born at Sharon, New York, May 10, 1835, daughter of Jacob and Hannah (Hall) Blass, who came to Michigan in the early forties and settled at Kalamazoo.

In the spring of 1865 Ezra Reasoner and his family came to this county from Kalamazoo and settled on a farm in the Saranac neighborhood, where they lived for twenty-four years. In January, 1889, the family moved to North Plains township, where Mr. Reasoner died on March 12, 1911. His widow survived him not quite two years, her death occurring on January 4, 1913. They were earnest members of the Episcopal church, in which Mr. Reasoner for many years was an officer. They were the parents of four children, Edwin, of Emmet county, this state; Sarah A., wife of Samuel Little, of North Plains township; Lois A., wife of Mr. Holden, and Charles, who is librarian at the state reformatory at Ionia. Mrs. Holden received her education in the Saranac high school and was for several years before her marriage engaged as a school teacher. She is a member of the Methodist church and both she and Mr. Holden take an active interest in the various social activities of the neighborhood. Mr. Holden is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

## LEVI MARSHALL.

Levi Marshall, head of the Marshall-Wright Lumber Company, of Ionia, this county, and one of the best-known and most successful lumbermen in this part of the state, is a native of Canada, having been born on a farm in Victoria county, Ontario, December 18, 1864, son of James and Sarah (Cooper) Marshall, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Canada, both now deceased.

James Marshall was the eldest of the three sons born to his parents, residents of County Fermanagh, Ireland. When little more than a boy he emigrated to Canada and in Cavan county, Ontario, began farming. He married Sarah Cooper, who was born in that neighborhood, daughter of Simon Cooper and wife, natives of Ireland, who had emigrated to Canada and who were the parents of seven children, Fanny, Joseph, Sarah, Anna, Robert, Eliza and Jane. Following his marriage James Marshall established his home on a farm in Fenelon township, Victoria county, Ontario, where he reared his family and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1880, he then being sixty-four years of age. His widow survived for many years, her death occurring in 1914, she then being eighty-five years of age. James Marshall was a man of considerable substance and was an influential figure in his community, having held various township offices and for years a member of the school board. He and his wife were active church workers, earnest members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were twelve of these children, namely: William, deceased; Ann, wife of William Brown, of Victoria county, Ontario; Robert, of Lindsay, Canada; Isabel, wife of Charles Darley, of Toronto; James Albert, of Isabella county, this state; Sarah Jane, wife of Robert Nugent, of Lindsay, Canada; John M., of Ionia, this county; Levi, the subject of this sketch; Lavina, wife of Alfred Barrilball, of Toronto; George, of Cadillac, this state; Edward, of Ionia, and Herbert, of Flint, Michigan.

Levi Marshall was reared on the paternal farm in the province of Ontario, Canada, near the town of Fenelon Falls, receiving his education in the neighborhood schools, and when eighteen years of age came to Michigan, locating in this section of the state, and was engaged in working in the lumber woods four miles east of McBrides for one and one-half years, at the end of which time, in 1885, he located in Ionia, which has been his place of residence ever since. Upon locating in Ionia he continued his connection with the lumber





LEVI MARSHALL.



industry and in 1890 formed a partnership with S. B. Gorham in the general lumber business and has ever since then been regarded as one of the leaders in the lumber trade hereabout. Since March, 1914, he has been engaged as head of the Marshall-Wright Lumber Company, of Ionia, an incorporated company, of which he is the president. Mr. Marshall ever has taken a proper part in the general public affairs of this community and for several terms served the people of the city of Ionia as an alderman.

On August 18, 1898, Levi Marshall was united in marriage to Addie Heald, who was born in this county, daughter of James Heald and wife, the latter was Sarah Jane Rowley, both natives of New York state and for years well-known residents of Ionia county, both now dead. Of the children born to James Heald and wife but two are now living, Mrs. Marshall and Claud Heald. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Marshall is a member of the official board and treasurer of the church, and both take an earnest interest in the general advancement of all good causes hereabout, being held in high esteem by their many friends. Mrs. Marshall is a member of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in the affairs of which she takes a warm interest, and Mr. Marshall is an active member of Ionia Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons and of the Elks.

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### JAMES CHUBB.

James Chubb, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Lyons township, this county, is a native son of Ionia county and has lived here all his life, having thus been a witness to the development of this region from pioneer days. He was born on the east plains in Lyons township, May 7, 1841, son of Franklin and Maria (Welch) Chubb, both natives of New York state, who were married in that state and came here in territorial times, before 1835, settling on a tract of government land north of the present site of the village of Pewamo, at that time there being only two or three families in that neighborhood. There their first daughter, Antoinette, was born, in 1835, the first white girl born in Lyons township and perhaps the first in the county. The house which Franklin Chubb built on his first farm, near Pewamo, is still standing. In 1845 he left that place, having sold it to advantage, and moved over into the Maple River valley, east of Lyons, where he established another home in the wilderness and there he spent the

rest of his life, his death occurring in 1859, he then being fifty-two years of age. His widow survived him for nearly twenty years, her death occurring in the late seventies. They were the parents of six children, three sons, James, Henry and Hector and three daughters, Antoinette, Henriette and Lorette. Hector Chubb enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War and went to the front as a member of the Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, dying at Louisville, Kentucky, from illness contracted in service.

James Chubb was about four years old when his parents moved from the homestead farm on which he was born over into the valley of Maple river and he grew to manhood there, east of Lyons village, obtaining his schooling in the village schools and proving a valuable aid to his father in the task of developing the home farm. After his marriage in 1868 he moved onto an eighty-acre tract of school land, which he received from his mother, one-fourth of which had been paid for, and there he established his home. He gradually paid off the obligation on that place and presently bought a tract of one hundred and twenty acres adjoining and still later added to his holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and fifty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated, and has long been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood.

On December 23, 1868, James Chubb was united in marriage to Agnes Trefry, who was born at Arcadia, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, December 6, 1847, daughter of Gabriel H. and Mary (Brown) Trefry, both natives of Nova Scotia, who later became pioneers of Ionia county and the former of whom is still living at Lyons, actively engaged in business in the ninety-first year of his age. Gabriel H. Trefry was born in the county of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, May 13, 1824, son of Benjamin and Deborah (Hatfield) Trefry, both natives of that same county. He grew to manhood there, becoming a shoemaker, which trade he followed for some time after coming to this state in 1853. Upon coming to Michigan he located in Ingham county near Eaton Rapids, where he worked in a shoe shop and also bought eighty acres of land. There he lived until 1868, in which year he came with his family to Ionia county and located at Lyons, where he erected a good store building and engaged in the general merchandise business and has ever since been thus engaged. The store building erected by Mr. Trefry upon locating at Lyons is now occupied by the public library. Mr. Trefry has occupied several different store rooms during the long course of his business career at Lyons, but has remained continuously in business and

though now nearly ninety-two years of age is still actively engaged in merchandising, declining to "retire," declaring that he is not yet ready to "rust out." He has done plenty of hard work, but has always taken excellent care of himself and despite his great age is still active and vigorous. Gabriel H. Trefry was married at the age of twenty-two to Mary Brown, daughter of Charles and Abigail (Churchill) Brown, and to this union eight children were born, four sons and four daughters, of whom seven are still living, those besides Mrs. Chubb being Dexter Trefry, Mrs. Deborah Hanchett, Charles Trefry, Mrs. Ellen Vance, Benjamin Trefry and Mrs. Abigail Webber. The mother of these children died twenty-five years ago.

To Mr. and Mrs. Chubb one daughter was born, Cora, who married Edward Pfeiffer, of Portland, this county, and died at the age of thirty-eight years, leaving one child, a son, Royal Ned, born in 1903.

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#### LOREN PHILIP BROCK.

Loren Philip Brock, well known shoe merchant, and former newspaper editor and county official of Ionia, this county, is a native of the Empire state, having been born at Union Springs, Cayuga county, New York, January 20, 1854, son of Benjamin H. and Christina (Oliver) Brock, who came to Michigan in 1864 and located on a farm north of Ann Arbor, later moving to Muir, in this county, thence to Ionia, where both spent the remainder of their lives, Benjamin H. Brock dying in March, 1891, at the age of eighty-four and his widow on July 5 of the same year, at the age of eighty-two, both passing away at the home of their son, L. P. Brock, on Union street.

Benjamin H. Brock was a grocer at Muir and was well known in the eastern part of the county. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife were members of the Methodist church. Henry, their eldest son, was head bookkeeper for A. T. Stewart (the old-time merchant of New York city) when Lincoln made his first call for volunteers, and immediately gave up his position and marched to the front with the Thirteenth Regiment, New York State Militia. He died at Newbern, North Carolina, and General Burnside issued a special permit for his body to be brought back to Union Springs, New York, for burial. David and George were drowned in a terrible storm on Cayuga lake in 1855, during their

Christmas holiday vacation from Poughkeepsie Academy. Of their daughters, Laura died as a child. Mary died in 1880, in Ionia. Christina, who married Richard Vosper, of Saranac, died in 1911. John and Charles, of Grand Rapids, and L. P., of Ionia, are the children now living: Benjamin H. Brock was own cousin to Renben E. Fenton, ex-governor and ex-senator of New York. His brothers were Gardiner and Fenton Brock—the last named being the father of the wife of ex-governor Horace Boies, of Iowa. The grandfather of B. H. Brock, with several sons, fought with Wolfe at Quebec, and for service was granted large tracts of land in Canada. Mrs. Brock was next to the youngest of eleven children born to Ichabod and Christiana (Cool or Kuhl) Oliver, the former born on June 15, 1756, the latter on March 17, 1770, who were married April 17, 1791.

Loren Philip Brock was ten years old when he came to Michigan with his parents and he completed his schooling at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. When the family moved to this county, locating at Muir, he was engaged as a clerk in his father's store until 1878, in which year he moved to Ionia, the county seat, and started the *Ionia National*, a newspaper which he published for several years in the interests of the Greenback party. While thus engaged, in 1884, he was elected register of deeds for Ionia county on a fusion ticket and was the first official to enter upon his duties in the new court house. He had married in 1883 and his wife was appointed deputy register and in that capacity she received for register the first document that was officially entered in the new court house and she marked it accordingly, that it might always show on the records when seen.

It was while thus engaged that Mrs. Brock became interested in the historical aspects of Ionia county, which has resulted in the preservation of much data relating to pioneer days which otherwise would inevitably have been lost. Upon the completion of his term of office, having sold his newspaper, Mr. Brock became for several years a shoe merchant of Ionia, afterward entering the employ of a Boston wholesale shoe house as a traveling salesman, and was thus engaged until the present year, when he again became a shoe merchant in Ionia. He has a fine home at 309 North Union street, Ionia, which he built in 1885, and he and his wife are living there in quiet comfort.

On April 17, 1883, Loren P. Brock was united in marriage to Bertha E. Milligan, who was born at Ionia on August 18, 1860, daughter of William and Minerva (Murray) Milligan, the former a native of New York state, the latter a native of Oakland county, Michigan, and who were the

parents of four children, of whom Mrs. Brock was the eldest, she having a sister Edith L. (now Mrs. G. L. Tunison, of Los Angeles, California) and two brothers who died as children

William Milligan was a contractor who came to Ionia county under contract to get out the ties for the Detroit & Milwaukee railroad in 1857-58. He thus met Miss Minerva Murray whom he married in 1857. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted for service in behalf of the Union cause in Company E, Michigan Engineer and Mechanics Corps, and was at the front for almost three years, being discharged by order at Washington, D. C., June 6, 1865. He died in Ionia at his home in 1910 in his eighty-second year. Mr. Milligan was one of the six children of his parents, William B. and Elizabeth (Stout) Milligan, the latter of whom died at her son's home in Ionia when past eighty years of age. His widow, who still survives him is the daughter of Eleazer and Julia (Doty) Murray, who came to Berlin, Ionia county from Oakland county in 1844, bringing with them their six children, Edward, Emily, Minerva, Julia, Susan and Vira. Mrs. Murray's father and mother had come to Berlin several years before from Oakland county. Their names were Elisha and Rachael (Allen) Doty, and Mr. Doty erected the first framed house in Berlin before 1837. They were residents of Troy, New York, in the early part of the century, as their daughter, Julia, was born in that city in 1809 and they moved to Oakland county, Michigan, in 1825, later coming to Ionia county. The father of Rachael (Allen) Doty was James Allen, a soldier in the Revolutionary War who was taken prisoner by the British in the last battle of that war and was not released for seven years.

Mr. and Mrs. William Milligan were very early members of the Church of Christ, and at their home, which is still standing, was entertained James A. Garfield, afterward President of the United States, he being here to assist Rev. Isaac Errett in evangelistic service. Mrs. L. P. Brock was born in this home. Mrs. Brock graduated from the Ionia high school in 1870, has been and is again president of its Alumni Association; has been president of the Woman's Literary Club, and was also soprano in the choir of the Presbyterian church for nearly twenty-five years, most of the time being also leader.

To Loren Philip and Bertha E. (Milligan) Brock two children have been born: Stuart Murray Brock, born on March 25, 1891, is now traveling salesman for a wholesale shoe house, and Gertrude Edith, born on May 2, 1894, is a student at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

## JOHN A. DEGARMO.

John A. DeGarmo, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Ionia county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in the northwest part of Lyons township, is a native son of Michigan, born on a farm at the edge of the town of Highland, in Oakland county, this state, November 12, 1868, son of Archibald Denniston and Emily Cornelia (Olmsted) DeGarmo, both natives of Michigan, the former having been born at Ypsilanti, in Washtena county, and the latter in North Plains township, this county, both of whom are still living on the home farm at the edge of Highland, above mentioned, where Mr. DeGarmo makes a specialty of the breeding of registered Shorthorn cattle.

Archibald D. DeGarmo was born on July 12, 1845, son and only child of Henry E. and Martha Virginia (Denniston) DeGarmo, the former of whom was born near the town of Poughkeepsie, New York, August 29, 1809, son of John D. and Sarah (Culver) DeGarmo, and the latter in Orange county, same state, January 29, 1812, daughter of Archibald Denniston and wife, the latter of whom was a Craft, and both of whom were born at Monticello, New York. Henry E. DeGarmo came to Ionia county from Ypsilanti in May, 1858, and settled at Lyons, where he engaged in the mercantile business, under the firm name of DeGarmo, Webber & Company, in the old town hall building, still standing on the south side of Main street, his partner having been the late George W. Webber and the "company," Dorin M. Fox. In May, 1861, he moved to Oakland county and settled on a farm on the outskirts of Highland, where both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring on March 1, 1873, and hers on August 24, 1893. Henry DeGarmo for many years was prominently identified with the cattle industry in this state. He brought high-grade Shorthorns into Michigan in 1846 and registered Shorthorns into the state in 1851, 1856 and 1859 and did much toward promoting the breeding of pure-bred stock, establishing a fine business in that line which his son, A. D. DeGarmo, has maintained and developed. The latter brought registered Shorthorns to Michigan in 1891, 1897 and 1901 and has been closely identified with the breeding of this stock all the active years of his life. A. D. DeGarmo has lived at his present domicile since April, 1867, and has done well in the cattle business. He is a Republican, with inclinations toward Socialism. The only public office to which he ever was elected was that of township clerk, on the Republican ticket, in 1872. Tiring of the office, he



turned the same over to a Democratic neighbor, which act served effectually to "cut off his political head." For several years, beginning in 1873, he was secretary of the local Grange and took a prominent part in the affairs of that organization. His paternal grandparents were members of the Hicksite branch of the Quaker church and his maternal grandparents were members of the Episcopal church, but his parents were materialists and he and his wife are of that latter persuasion.

It was on October 4, 1865, at North Plains, this county, that Archibald D. DeGarmo was united in marriage to Emily Cornelia Olmsted, who was born in that place, March 6, 1843, daughter of Jay and Austrus (Case) Olmsted, prominent residents of that section of Ionia county, the former of whom, born on May 21, 1807, died on April 21, 1864, and the latter, born on February 15, 1815, died in September, 1876. Jay Olmsted and wife were the parents of four children, of whom Mrs. DeGarmo was the second in order of birth, the others being Jay, Jr., Mary Adelaide and Louis Ney. T. A. D. DeGarmo and wife eight children have been born, as follow: Henry Jay, born on October 8, 1866, who married Effie Lockwood and has a son, Raymond, and a daughter, Cornelia, the former of whom married Mila Munger and has a son, John A., the subject of this sketch; Anna Mary, born on January 8, 1871, unmarried; Sarah, December 11, 1873, who married George H. McGillivray and has a son and a daughter; Dale, September 22, 1877, who married H. P. Eddy and has a son, Gerald; Elias Samuel, October 30, 1880, who married Helen Weaver and has two children, June and Nelson J.; Clara, April 29, 1883, who married D. H. Crawford and has a daughter, Wilma, and Irene, May 21, 1885, who married Henry Heptner.

John A. DeGarmo was reared on the paternal farm in the near vicinity of Highland, this state, receiving his education in the schools of that place, and remained at home until after his marriage in the spring of 1892, when he and his wife came to Ionia county and established their home on the fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in the northwest part of Lyons township, where they have lived ever since and where they are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. In the spring of 1911 Mr. DeGarmo was elected supervisor of Lyons township, but his private business affairs at that time required his undivided attention and he gave up the office. His farm is well improved and profitably cultivated and he has long been looked upon as one of the most progressive farmers of that section of the county.

On March 9, 1892, John A. DeGarmo was united in marriage to Ella J. Taylor, who was born at Highland, Michigan, daughter of James and

Eliza (Beaumont) Taylor, both natives of Oakland county, the former born at Milford and the latter at Highland, daughter of Francis and Marie Beaumont, the former born in Lincolnshire, England, and the latter in the state of New York. James Taylor is an honored veteran of the Civil War, having served for three years as a member of Company E, Third Michigan Cavalry, during which service he received a severe wound in one of his legs, which made him a permanent cripple. Upon the conclusion of his military service he returned to his home county and has followed farming there ever since. Mr. DeGarmo is a Mason and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star and of the Order of Gleaners. Mr. DeGarmo is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### FRANK TAFT.

Frank Taft, one of the best-known farmers and stockmen of Ionia county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and seventy-four acres in the southern part of Ionia township, was born on the farm on which he still resides, January 2, 1856, son of John W. and Eliza (Clark) Taft, early residents of that part of the county and prominent and influential pioneers.

John W. Taft was born near the city of Rochester, New York, April 5, 1812, and was left an orphan when a child. He was reared by an uncle until he was fifteen years of age, after which he started out to make his own way. He became a driver on the tow-path of the Erie canal and after awhile drifted into Canada, where he married Eliza Clark, who was born in Monroe county, New York, a granddaughter of Cephias Clark, a hero of the War of 1812. About two years after his marriage, John W. Clark came into Michigan alone, on a prospecting tour. That was in 1836, Michigan then still being under a territorial form of government, and the country hereabout was practically unsettled, there being but one store in Ionia at that time. Mr. Taft bought an eighty-acre tract, the nucleus of the farm now occupied by his son, the subject of this sketch, paying for the same by splitting rails. He presently returned to Canada for his wife and babies and with his family then drove through to his new home in this county, the journey back by wagon requiring six weeks of wearisome travel. He established his home on his "eighty," and while developing the same continued to work for others, his wife also helping by doing sewing for the pioneer

FRANK FAFF AND FAMILY





neighbors. For some time John W. Taft did his own farm work in the early mornings and late in the evenings, devoting his labors of the day to wage-earning occupations for neighbors, but he presently began to see his way clear and it was not long until he was on the highway to fortune and when the unaccountable tragedy which withdrew him from the scenes of worldly activity occurred he was the owner of a fine farm of about four hundred acres and was a man of means and influence in the community.

It was on November 31, 1865, that John W. Taft mysteriously and utterly disappeared. He had an important engagement to meet at Rochester, New York, and on the morning of the day above mentioned rode to Ionia on horseback, expecting to board the train there. He put his horse up at a feed barn and was never seen or heard of again in this community. Though the mystery of his strange disappearance never has been cleared, it became the belief in the community that Mr. Taft was murdered for the considerable sum of money he was known to be taking East with him, and that his body was so effectually concealed by his murderers as to escape the notice of searching parties, which left no stone uncovered in the general efforts that were made to unravel the strange mystery. Mr. Taft's widow kept the family together and continued her residence on the farm until her death on April 5, 1886. To John W. and Eliza (Clark) Taft eight children were born, as follow: Mary Ann, deceased; Clark, who died when five years old; George L., of Ionia; J. Riley, of Orange township, this county; Sophia C., of Ionia, widow of James R. Whiting; Arminda and Philanda, twins, the former of whom, widow of Doctor Gates, lives at Eastport, this state, and the latter of whom, now deceased, was the wife of Henry H. Crowell, of Muir, this county, and Frank, the subject of this sketch.

Frank Taft was about ten years old when bereft of his father so unaccountably. He grew up on the home farm and from boyhood was an able assistant to his widowed mother. Upon finishing his schooling in the Ionia high school he was given practical charge of the farm and has followed farming there ever since. For some years he gave attention to the raising of fine stock and his pure-bred Shropshire sheep, Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses ever found a ready market, but of late years he has given more attention to the buying and feeding of cattle for the market and has been quite successful; though he still keeps thoroughbred sires and raises some fine stock. Mr. Taft has a fine home, with broad stone porches, standing amid fine grounds, the house being steam heated and equipped with a modern lighting plant, his barns and other farm buildings being in keep-

ing with the same. From the days of his youth Mr. Taft has given his earnest attention to local educational matters and has rendered excellent public service as a member of the school board. He is a Republican and has served the public in various minor official capacities, including that of supervisor, in which office he served for seven years, 1889-96; while he has been called on frequently to serve as a delegate to county and district conventions.

On December 25, 1880, Frank Taft was united in marriage to Mary J. Adgate, who was born in Ionia township, this county, September 9, 1861, daughter of William and Sarah (Tuttle) Adgate, a record of which family is set out elsewhere in this volume, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Luetta, who married George Crowell, an Ionia township farmer, and has two children, Ray and Clyde; Jessie E., who married Clyde Stout, an Orange township farmer, and has two sons, Frank and Sterrey; Myrtle M., who died when twenty years old, February 18, 1908, one week after her graduation from the Ionia high school; Leolyn at home; Reva June, who married Harry Callow, of Ionia, and has one child, a daughter, June Maxine, and Marian, who is now a student at Ferris Institute, Big Rapids, where she is specializing in kindergarten work. Mr. and Mrs. Taft also reared, from the time they were six years old until they were eighteen, the twin brothers, Arthur and Mark Rice, born on January 28, 1893, who are now living at Detroit, where both are connected with the Burroughs Adding Machine Company. Mr. and Mrs. Taft are members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith, the family ever having been mindful of its community duty in the matter of local good works.

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#### THOMAS S. BARBER.

Thomas S. Barber, a prosperous retired farmer of this county, who for years has been actively and profitably engaged in the general produce business at Saranac, a member of the Saranac Produce Company, and otherwise actively interested in the business affairs of that thriving little city, is a native of Ionia county, having been born on a farm in Boston township, four miles south of Saranac, September 2, 1856, son and only child of George and Jane (Olmstead) Barber, well-known residents of that community, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Canada.

When a boy George Barber came to this state with his parents from Pennsylvania, the family settling in Monroe county, later coming to Ionia county and settling in Boston township among the very first families of that part of the county. There George Barber grew to manhood, early taking an active part in pioneer affairs. He became a lumberman and his mills prospered, that industry, in connection with his farming, bringing him considerable fortune, so that he early became recognized as one of Ionia county's most substantial citizens. He had also learned the blacksmith trade and upon retiring from the farm and moving to Saranac was for some time engaged in the blacksmith business there. His wife, who before her marriage was Jane Olinstead, had come to Michigan with her parents from Canada when she was six years old. The family settled in Ionia county and here she grew to womanhood, early becoming a teacher in the public schools and was thus engaged at the time of her marriage to George Barber. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Barber established their home on a farm in Boston township and remained there until they retired from the farm and moved to Saranac in 1871.

Thomas S. Barber was about fifteen years old when his parents moved from the farm to Saranac and his schooling was continued in the schools of that village. He presently became engaged as a clerk in a general store at Saranac and was thus employed for ten years, at the end of which time he engaged with his father and another partner in the milling business, under the firm name of Barber & Son & McFerec, and for five years was thus engaged until the business was sold. Mr. Barber then took charge of his farm of three hundred acres, and later became office man for Fitzgibbons & King, staves and heading, and for two or three years was purchasing agent for that firm until the depletion of the supply of material hereabout. During his farming operations, Mr. Barber gave considerable attention to the general produce business and in 1908 was one of the organizers of the Saranac Produce Company, with which he has been actively identified ever since, during which time he has come to be known as one of the most progressive produce men in this section of the state. Mr. Barber is a Democrat and gives thoughtful attention to local political affairs, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

Mr. Barber's first wife, who before her marriage was Hattie Goodrich, died on July 12, 1906, without issue, and on December 29, 1906, he married, secondly, Blanche E. M. Bonner, one of the best-known school teachers in this part of the state and who is now one of the directors of the Saranac board of education and secretary of that body, the first woman ever elected

to that position in that city. Mrs. Barber is now serving her second term as secretary of the board and has done much to advance the general interests of the schools since her connection therewith. She was born in Grand Rapids, this state, August 18, 1880, and was reared at Newaygo, being graduated from the high school at that place. She then took a course at the Michigan State Normal and at Ferris Institute, in preparation for a career as a teacher, specializing in English and history, and later taught in the high schools at Newaygo, Grand Rapids and Holland. Mr. Barber is a member of the Saranae lodge of the Masonic fraternity and both he and Mrs. Barber are members of the local lodge of the Order of the Eastern Star, in the affairs of which they take a warm interest.

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#### ROBERT N. TASKER.

Robert N. Tasker, a well-known farmer of Ronald township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm situated at the north edge of the pleasant village of Palo, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. He was born in the house in which he still lives and which is the first frame house built in that township, October 4, 1844, son of George D. and Catherine (VanVleck) Tasker, for many years prominent residents of that community.

George D. Tasker was a native of Scotland, born near the city of Edinburgh, who, when about eighteen years old, left home and worked his way across the Atlantic on a sailing vessel. He located in Canada and there learned the trade of carpenter and millwright. He presently came across the border into Michigan and down into Ionia county, locating in what then was known as the VanVleck settlement in Ronald township, now the Palo neighborhood, where not long afterward he was married to Catherine VanVleck, daughter of Matthew VanVleck, head of the VanVleck family, which was the third family to settle in Ronald township and which became one of the most substantial and influential families in that part of the county, further mention of which family is made elsewhere in this volume. The marriage of George D. Tasker and Catherine VanVleck was the first wedding in Ronald township and was made the occasion of much merrymaking on the part of the few scattered settlers thereabout. It was a true pioneer wedding and the dining table was graced by a huge wild turkey, shot for the occasion by the bride's brother, Peter VanVleck.



George D. Tasker was a skilled carpenter and he soon found plenty of work as the settlement began to fill up. The house he built for himself and bride was the first frame house built in Ronald township, and the substantial character of that structure is attested by the fact that it still is doing excellent service as a residence for the builder's son, the subject of this sketch, who has made his home there all his life. George D. Tasker and his wife were charter members of the Baptist church at Palo and he was the master carpenter who superintended the work of construction of the church. His wife's brother, the Rev. John Van Vleck, was the first pastor of that early congregation.

Robert N. Tasker grew to manhood on the home farm at the edge of Palo and has been a life-long farmer. For eighteen years he also operated a threshing outfit and is one of the best-known men in the northern part of the county. He well remembers pioneer conditions in his boyhood days, recalling the fact that at that time there was a small lake just south of Palo, which was a favorite fishing place for the Indians. That lake long since has been drained and is now excellent farm land. Mr. Tasker also recalls the vast flocks of wild pigeons that used to fly over that part of the country in such numbers that the sky would be darkened during their flight. Big game was still quite plentiful hereabout then and Mr. Tasker recalls that he shot a bear on Prairie creek, northeast of Palo as late as the latter sixties.

On July 4, 1869, Robert N. Tasker was united in marriage to Henriette Howorth, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. D. B. Munger. She died early in 1891, and in November, 1892, Mr. Tasker married, secondly, Mary Munger, who was born near Rochester, New York, daughter of the Rev. Daniel Boardman and Sarah (Annis) Munger, the father of the bride also performing this second ceremony.

The Rev. D. B. Munger was a native of New York, born in South Byron, that state, March 30, 1830, son of Daniel and Fannie (Bodurtha) Munger, the former of whom, a soldier of the War of 1812, serving in a Boston regiment, was born in South Brimfield (now Holland), Massachusetts, August 30, 1795, son of Deacon Samuel Munger, who was born in that same place on April 15, 1748, and died in Byron, New York, in 1835. Deacon Samuel Munger, a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, was the son of Elnathan and Deborah (Thompson) Munger, of Connecticut. Elnathan Munger and two others of his sons also were soldiers of the Revolution and participated in the battle of Bunker Hill. On November 12, 1853, at Leroy, New York, the Rev. D. B. Mun-

ger was united in marriage to Sarah M. Annin, who was born at that place on January 2, 1837. In December, 1868, Mr. Munger and his family came to Michigan and for five years Mr. Munger served as pastor of the Baptist church at Palo. He then served a year at St. Johns, later at Grass Lake, in Jackson county, and then three years in Illinois, after which he was transferred to the pulpit at Manchester, in Washtenaw county, this state, returning in 1886 to Palo. He died at the home of his son in Greenville, in the neighboring county of Montcalm, February 26, 1905, he then being at the age of seventy-five years and eleven months. He had been twice married. His first wife, the mother of Mrs. Tasker, died in 1868, in Palo, and on May 15, 1870, Mr. Munger married, secondly, Mrs. Amanda A. (Sparks) Smith, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. John Van Aleck, brother of Mr. Tasker's mother.

To Robert N. and Mary (Munger) Tasker one child has been born, a son, George Munger Tasker, born on August 13, 1893, who is an able assistant to his father on the home farm. He received his education in the Palo high school and on September 10, 1914, was united in marriage to Blanche Buffum, who was born in the state of New York, daughter of the Rev. Ira and Nellie Buffum, the former of whom is pastor of the Baptist church at Palo.

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#### CHARLES FREDERICK KIRBY.

Charles Frederick Kirby, a well-known and progressive farmer and stockman of Ionia townshp, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-one acres on rural route No. 7, out of Ionia, besides a valuable farm in North Plains township, is a native of England, having been born at Banbury, September 27, 1860, son of Charles and Ann W. (Hughes) Kirby, who came to America in 1860, proceeding directly to Michigan and settling at Palo, this county, where Charles Kirby engaged in the shoe business for a number of years, after which he bought a farm two and one-half miles northwest of Palo, in the south part of Montcalm county, where he spent the rest of his life. Charles Kirby was a musician of much ability and for many years was a teacher of music, giving particular attention to the violin. He also was called on as an instructor of brass bands and was widely known throughout this part of the state in that connection. He and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist church and took an active part in good works. Since the death of her husband,

Mrs. Kirby, now eighty-five years of age, has made her home with her other son, Morris Kirby, at Carson City, in Montcalm county, this state. Charles Kirby and wife were the parents of four children, namely: Maria, who died at the age of three years; Morris, of Carson City; Ellen, who married Orlando Smith and also lives at Carson City, and Charles F., the subject of this biographical sketch.

Charles F. Kirby was about nine years old when he came to America with his parents and he grew up at Palo. When seventeen years old he went to work in Swain's harness shop at Palo, with a view to learning the trade, but after working at that form of occupation for about three years gave it up and returned to farm work. In 1882 he married Dora Burdick, who was born on a farm in section 1, Ionia township, this county, the place now owned by Mr. Kirby, daughter of Levi and Polly (Stone) Burdick, early settlers of that part of the county. For ten years after his marriage, Mr. Kirby managed the Burdick farm. Mr. Burdick died on January 15, 1888, and his widow died four years later, March 5, 1892, after which Mr. Kirby bought the interests of the other heirs to the home place and has since been the proprietor of the same. In addition to his holdings in section 1, of Ionia township, Mr. Kirby is the owner of a tract in North Plains township and has done well as a farmer and stock raiser. He has greatly improved and added to the farm buildings on the home place and he and his family are very comfortably situated. For years Mr. Kirby has given his close attention to local political affairs and has held various township offices. He and his wife are members of the Union church in North Plains township and for the past fifteen years he has been superintendent of the Sunday school there. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby have one daughter, Polly, named for her grandmother. Polly Kirby married Frank Soper and has a daughter, Helen.

Mrs. Kirby's father, Levi Burdick, was born in the Rochester district of New York state on March 22, 1814, son of Robinson and Esther (Fox) Burdick, pioneers of Livingston or Seneca county. In 1847 Levi Burdick came to Michigan and settled in Ionia county. He bought a farm of one hundred and ninety-seven acres in section 1, of Ionia township, the farm on which Mr. and Mrs. Kirby now live, and there he spent the rest of his life. There was a log house on the place when he bought it and in 1852 he erected a comfortable frame house and in 1880 erected the present Kirby residence, a large and substantial brick dwelling, which still makes a beautiful home. For many years Levi Burdick served the people

of his home township in the capacity of justice of the peace and for more than thirty years was a deacon in the Disciples church. His wife, who was Polly Stone before her marriage, was born in Livingston county, New York, daughter of Orrin and Betsy (Cowell) Stone. Orrin Stone, who was born in 1785, was a son of Russell and Lois (Stone) Stone, the former of whom was a son of Reuben and Ann (Everts) Stone. Reuben Stone, who lived and died at Guilford, Connecticut, was a son of Caleb and Sarah (Meigs) Stone, the latter of whom was a member of the famous Meigs family, noted in colonial and Revolutionary history. Caleb Stone, who was born at Guilford, Connecticut, in 1685, was a son of Nathaniel Stone, who was a man of importance in the colony, a lieutenant in 1702 and a deputy of the general court. Lieut. Nathaniel Stone was a son of John Stone, who was born in Herefordshire, England, near Guilford, in 1610 and came to New England in the summer of 1639 in company with William Leete, who afterward became Governor Leete, and his family and that of Governor Leete were afterward intermarried. Betsy Stone lived in New York until her marriage and two of her children were born there. Levi Burdick died on January 15, 1888, and his widow survived him a little more than four years, her death occurring on March 5, 1892. Dora Burdick lived on the home farm until her marriage to Mr. Kirby and has lived there ever since.

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#### WILLIAM J. BROWNE.

One of the farmers of Danby township, Ionia county, who is making a specialty of thoroughbred live stock in connection with general farming, is William J. Browne, who was born in Milford, Oakland county, Michigan, December 26, 1853, and is a son of Dr. Robert and Mary Ann (McConnell) Browne. The father was born in Dublin, Ireland, where he grew to manhood and was educated, but studied medicine in Glasgow University, Glasgow, Scotland. For some time he served as physician on the ocean liners between Liverpool and New York. He came of an educated and intellectual family. United States Senator Borah, of Idaho, is a relative. Doctor Browne finally located in New York City, where he practiced his profession for some time and where he met and married Mary Ann McConnell, who was a native of Ireland, from which country she came to America when twelve years old. Shortly after she met Doctor Browne her parents moved to Oakland county, Michigan, where her father engaged in farming. While

MRS. AND MRS. WILLIAM T. BROWN.





living in New York, Mr. McConnell was a member of the police force. Doctor Browne and wife were married in Milford, Oakland county, and lived there from 1850 to 1853, when they moved to Danby township, Ionia county, William J. being an infant at the time, and the following year the McConnells moved here. Doctor Browne continued to practice medicine, becoming one of the leading pioneer physicians of Ionia county, practicing here for a period of about twenty years, or until his death, in 1872. His widow survived until 1880. They were the parents of four children, namely: Joseph, deceased when a boy; William, J., the subject of this sketch; Robert S. is engaged in the real-estate business in San Francisco, California; Clarence M. is engaged in the theater business in London, England.

William J. Browne received his education in the public schools. On October 3, 1879, he married Rose E. Wallington, a daughter of Cornelius D. and Mary D. (Reed) Wallington. The father of the subject's wife was a native of London, England, from which place he came to the United States when twelve years old, locating in Washtenaw county, Michigan, where he lived six years, then came to Eaton county, this state, and worked on a farm for some time, later buying a farm of his own there on which he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring in October, 1902, but she survived until August 26, 1915. They were the parents of six children, four of whom grew to maturity, namely: Ella, wife of James C. Belknap, Ptoskey, Michigan; Rose E., wife of William J. Browne; F. C. is an attorney in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan; Vernie is the wife of William Wilcox, of Grand Ledge, Michigan.

After his marriage Mr. Browne settled on a farm just across the road from the homestead and there he resided for a period of eighteen years, then moved to his present farm of one hundred and eighty-six acres in Danby township. He also owns one hundred and six acres in section 36 and forty acres in section 34. He is carrying on general farming and raising thoroughbred Jersey cattle, his fine herd being headed by the bull "Loretta's Don," No. 121134.

Politically, Mr. Browne is a Republican. He and his wife were formerly identified with the Methodist church, but are now Christian Scientists. W. J. McConnell, an uncle, was formerly governor of the state of Oregon, and for two terms governor of Idaho.

In 1903 Mr. and Mrs. Browne made an extended trip through the British Isles and the continent. They visited many places of interest in

London, Glasgow and Paris. They visited the old Browne homestead and also Stratford-on-Avon, the home of Shakespeare, and other notable places.

Dr. Robert Rayburn, noted surgeon of Washington, D. C., who attended President Garfield as physician during his last illness and also previously, was a first cousin of the subject of this sketch.

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### ARTON L. BENEDICT.

Arton L. Benedict, one of Ionia county's best-known and most substantial farmers, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred acres in section 32, Ionia township, on rural route No. 2, out of Ionia, is a native son of this county, born on a farm in Orange township, January 29, 1874, son of Ledrué R. and Mary (Taylor) Benedict, for many years well-known and influential residents of that township, a further history of whom is set out in detail in a biographical sketch relating to Ledrué R. Benedict, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Arton L. Benedict was reared on the paternal farm in Orange township, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and remained at home until his marriage in 1902, when he established his home on his present farm of one hundred acres in section 32, Ionia township, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. In addition to operating his own farm, Mr. Benedict also manages the adjoining farm of seventy acres owned by his mother-in-law, Mrs. William Adgate, who makes her home with him. Mr. Benedict has done well in his farming operations and is regarded as one of the solid, substantial citizens of that neighborhood.

It was on August 20, 1902, that Arton L. Benedict was united in marriage to Nellie Adgate, who was born in Ionia township, this county, on a farm about three miles south of Ionia, daughter of William and Sarah (Tuttle) Adgate, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Barton L., born on November 14, 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Benedict are members of the Methodist church in Orange township and take an earnest interest in the general beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works.

The place where Mrs. Benedict was born has been in the Adgate family's possession since 1846, and there has never been a death there. Her father, William Adgate, deceased, formerly and for years a prosperous and influential farmer in the southern part of Ionia township, was born in



Sullivan county, New York, November 20, 1829, and died in August, 1901. His father's father, Thomas Adgate, who was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, lived to be ninety-seven years old. His mother's father, Grandfather Porter, served from beginning to end of the Revolutionary War, and his father, Abel Adgate, was an infantryman during the War of 1812. Abel Adgate was born in Connecticut, as was his wife, who was Polly Porter, though they were married in New Jersey. For a time they lived in Orange county, New York, but later moved to the neighboring county of Sullivan, where he engaged in lumbering. About 1829 he moved to Courtland county, same state, where he lived until 1838, in which year he came to Michigan and settled in Oakland county. In the fall of that year he came over into Ionia county and bought a farm in the southern part of Ionia township, now occupied by his granddaughter, but did not take possession of the same until the fall of 1841. He died in October of the following year, 1842, and his widow survived until 1871, she being eighty-four years of age at the time of her death.

William Adgate was nine years old when his parents came to Michigan and at the age of sixteen began to farm on his own account, operating half of the homestead farm. His father had died three years before and his widowed mother kept house for him until his marriage. He did well in his farming operations and after awhile erected a fine residence on his farm, the same now being the home of his son, Lewis Adgate. Both William Adgate and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist church and for years he was a class leader and chairman of the board of trustees. He was an ardent Prohibitionist and did much to advance the cause of temperance hereabout.

It was on January 7, 1854, that William Adgate was united in marriage to Sarah Tuttle, who was born in Portage county, Ohio, May 1, 1838, daughter of Nelson and Sophia (Paughorn) Tuttle, the former of whom was born at Deerfield, Massachusetts, in 1800, and the latter in the Mohawk valley, in New York, in 1805. In the spring of 1846 Nelson Tuttle and family came to Michigan from Ohio and settled on a homestead farm in section 32, Ionia township, this county. Nelson Tuttle was a most earnest Methodist and built the first church in Ionia township outside Ionia and for many years served as class leader there. His wife died in 1865 and he later married Eunice K. Talcott, which second union was without issue. He lived many years, his death occurring on August 18, 1890, he then being ninety years of age. He and his first wife were the parents of twelve children and two of his sons served as soldiers of the Union during the

Civil War, one of them, Emory Tuttle, being killed in the battle of Gettysburg.

To William and Sarah (Tuttle) Adgate seven children were born, namely: Mrs. Fred Scheurer, who lives in Orange township, this county; Franklin, who married Lizzie Fleming, and lives in that same township; Mary Jane, who married Frank Taft and lives in the south part of Ionia township; Flora, who married Winthrop Hall and died on August 19, 1914; John W., who married Nellie Welsin and lives in Orange township; Lewis, who married Ella Hazzard and lives on the old homestead in Ionia township, and Nellie, who married the subject of this biographical sketch.

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### JAMES KENNEDY.

In making up the memorial annals of Ionia county no name should be given higher honor than that of the late James Kennedy, one of the most influential pioneer residents of this county, a man who for years marked the impress of his strong and upright character upon the life of this community and who did very much toward bringing about proper conditions of social and economic life in the formative period of this section of the state. He was a man of untiring energy and was possessed of great business acumen. His widow, who survived him for about fourteen years, also was a conspicuous figure in the pioneer life of this section and a woman of extraordinary influence upon the general social life of the community, both she and her husband ever standing firmly for those things that are true and of good report, so that in their passing they left good memories.

James Kennedy was born at Armagh, Ireland, September 9, 1832, and came to this country when he was seventeen years of age. He first located at Brampton, Canada, but presently moved to Michigan City, Indiana, coming thence, in the spring of 1854, to Ionia county. Not long after his arrival here he formed a partnership with his cousin, Henry J. Wilson, and engaged in the mercantile business at Ionia, this association continuing for several years. Something more than two years after coming here, Mr. Kennedy was united in marriage, September 24, 1856, to Eliza A. Moseman, who was born in the town of Niles, Cayuga county, New York, February 31, 1831, and who, at the age of ten years, came to Michigan with her parents, Charles M. Moseman and wife, the family settling at Ionia and at once becoming active in the pioneer life of that village. Not



MIR. AND MIRS. JAMES KENNEDY.





long after his marriage Mr. Kennedy associated himself with A. F. Carr, who at that time operated a large general store in what was known as the Union block, and was thus connected until 1860, in which year he opened a private bank at Ionia, one of the first institutions of the kind in this county, and was thus engaged, doing a successful business, until the organization of the First National Bank of Ionia in 1864, when he put in his forces with those of the new bank and was elected cashier of the same. During the time he was engaged in the private banking business, on account of certain financial conditions existing at that time, Mr. Kennedy was unable to obtain necessary small change and to overcome the difficulty issued a large number of copper coins, upon which were stamped his name, and these readily passed current in the community as cents. Some of these coins are still in circulation hereabout and all that were presented for redemption were taken up by the bank as they came in after the stringency in small change had passed.

In 1867 James Kennedy began lumbering operations on the Muskegon river near the village of Hersey, at which place he conducted a large general store. He also formed a partnership with Delos A. Blodgett and the firm of Blodgett & Kennedy conducted extensive lumbering operations at Hersey. Later, Mr. Kennedy founded what is known as the city of Ewart, this state, and all the lots and parcels of land sold there since that time bear his name as the original holder of the title. In 1875 Mr. Kennedy became interested in Texas properties and devoted his entire time to those interests until 1893. At one time he was managing a ranch upon which there were more than thirty thousand head of cattle. By reason, however, of the default of the treasurer of the company of which Mr. Kennedy was general manager, the western enterprise was closed out and Mr. Kennedy thereafter was engaged in conducting a large coal mine at Rippey, Iowa. In 1893 he accidentally fell down the shaft of the elevator at the Ozark hotel at Chicago, a distance of fifty feet, and was permanently disabled, never being able thereafter to walk without the aid of canes; yet as soon as his condition would permit he resumed his business and traveled over the country, as the demands of the business required, though ever at great personal inconvenience, by reason of his physical disabilities. Mr. Kennedy died on August 31, 1901, leaving his widow and two children, Harriet K., wife of George E. Nichols, and Henry J. Kennedy, both of Ionia.

Mrs. Eliza A. Kennedy, widow of James Kennedy, died at her home in Ionia on September 11, 1915, at the advanced age of eighty-one years, having been a continuous resident of that city for seventy-one years. She

was one of the earliest pioneers of the county and at the time of her death was the oldest resident of the city of Ionia. For fifty years she had lived in her home at the corner of Rich and Summit streets in Ionia and had been an active member of the Presbyterian church for over fifty-eight years. The following extract from one of the daily papers at the time of her death is a fitting tribute to her character: "In her home-going, Ionia has lost one of its earliest, heroic and highly esteemed pioneer residents; the Presbyterian church a valued member of over fifty-eight years, and her large circle of personal friends an associate bound to their hearts by many ties. The heart sincerity of this good woman, the spirit of laughter always contagious, will ever be recalled by those who knew her best."

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### JESSE H. SMITH.

Jesse H. Smith, cashier of the National Bank of Ionia and who has been connected with that sound old financial institution since 1902, is a native of Michigan, having been born at Riverdale, this state, November 19, 1879, son of Dr. Charles D. and Mary A. (Aselstyne) Smith, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Michigan.

Dr. Charles D. Smith came to this state as a youth with his parents, natives of New York state, who settled in Gratiot county in pioneer days and there spent the remainder of their lives, substantial farming people. He was reared in that county and early turned his attention to the practice of medicine, becoming one of the best-known physicians in this part of the state. During the Civil War, Dr. Charles D. Smith enlisted for service in the Battle Creek detachment of the Michigan Engineers and Mechanics Corps, and after the close of the war continued his military service in the Indians wars in the Bad Lands region for some time. Doctor Smith married Mary A. Aselstyne, who was born near Monroe, this state, her parents also having been New Yorkers and early settlers of this state, and not long thereafter located at Muir, this county, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1912, then being seventy-one years of age. Doctor Smith took an active part in civic affairs and for some time served as president of the village of Muir and also as a member of the school board. His widow still survives him. They were the parents of four children, Fred W., of Spokane, Washington; Jesse H., the subject of this sketch; Bessie, wife of Bernard R. Ely, of Ionia, and Neil A., of Wilbur, Washington.

Jesse H. Smith was reared at Muir, this county, and was graduated from the high school there, after which he learned telegraphy and passenger work and was in the service of the Grand Trunk railroad, being stationed variously at St. Johns, Ovid and Ionia, and was thus engaged until 1902, in which year he entered the service of the National Bank of Ionia as a bookkeeper. He afterward was promoted to the position of assistant cashier and in January, 1915, was elevated to the position of cashier of the bank and has since been serving in that responsible and important capacity. Mr. Smith is a Republican and served for some time as assistant city treasurer of Ionia, later filling out the unexpired term of the treasurer. He is secretary-treasurer of the Ionia Gas Company, of which he also is a director, and is treasurer of the Ionia Board of Trade.

On October 12, 1908, Jesse H. Smith was united in marriage to Edna Freeman, who was born in Pewamo, this county, daughter of Menzo and Flora (Worden) Freeman, natives of Michigan, who now reside in Ionia and to whom four children were born, those besides Mrs. Smith being Mrs. Pearl Phelps; Winifred, deceased, and Glenn A. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith one child has been born, a daughter, Virginia Winifred. Mrs. Smith is a member of the Presbyterian church and take an earnest interest in the general, cultural and social affairs of the community, being held in high esteem by their many friends hereabout.

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#### GEORGE N. SHAW.

George N. Shaw, veteran merchant, furniture dealer and undertaker, head of the firm of George N. Shaw & Son, of Muir, this county, of which place he has been a resident since 1867, is a native of New York, having been born in the town of Lima, that state, July 10, 1838, son of William H. and Margarete (Chew) Shaw, who came to Michigan in 1840 and located at Plymouth, from which place, a year later, they moved to Fenton, where they established their permanent home. William H. Shaw was a carriage-maker and for years successfully operated a carriage shop at Fenton, where his son, George N., became thoroughly familiar with that trade.

In 1863, at Fenton, George N. Shaw was united in marriage to Julia Catherine Wiggins, who was born in New Brunswick, Canada, a daughter of William A. and Betsy (Seacord) Wiggins, who moved to New York state about 1845 and thence, some years later, to Michigan, settling in

Detroit, where they remained for some years before finally making their home at Fenton. In 1867, three years after their marriage, George N. Shaw and his wife came to Ionia county and settled at Muir, where Mr. Shaw opened a carriage-making and blacksmith shop and became one of that then bustling lumber town's most active and useful citizens. He continued thus engaged until 1878, in which year he abandoned the shop and opened a furniture store and undertaking establishment, which business he has conducted ever since and in which he has been quite successful, the establishment now occupying three connected store rooms. In 1898 he and his son, George L. Shaw, started a furniture store and undertaking establishment in Carson City, in the neighboring county of Montcalm, and conducted the same for two years, at the end of which time they sold it to advantage and since that time have devoted their whole attention to the business at Muir, George L. Shaw long having been a partner of his father in business.

Mrs. Julia Catherine Shaw died on June 6, 1915. She and her husband had been married fifty-two years and had lived in the home which the latter still occupies at Muir for forty-five years. She was an earnest member of the Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Shaw has also been a member for more than fifty years, and both had long been looked upon as among the leaders in good works in and about Muir. Mr. Shaw is a Mason of many years standing and still takes a warm interest in the affairs of that ancient order. To him and his wife three children were born, Edith, now living at Colorado Springs, Colorado, who married David Ackley and had two sons, David and George L., the latter of whom is now dead; William A., who died at the age of twenty-six years, and George L., who was born at Muir, September 30, 1877, and who has lived there all his life, with the exception of two years spent in business at Carson City.

George L. Shaw supplemented the schooling received in the public schools at Muir by a course in a business college at Grand Rapids and in 1898, he then being twenty-one years of age, engaged in business at Muir and has ever since been thus engaged, for some years past having had general charge of the business. In 1907 he took a course in embalming at the Barnes School of Embalming at Chicago and is a licensed embalmer, under the provisions of the state law.

In 1899, while living at Carson City, George L. Shaw was united in marriage to Louise E. Strong, who was born in Chicago, daughter of Major James A. and Louise (Sweet) Strong, both of whom were born at Marshall, this state. Major Strong was an honored veteran of the Civil



War and upon the conclusion of his military service became connected with the *Chicago Times* and spent the rest of his life in that city, his death occurring in 1882. Shortly after the Major's death, his widow and her children moved to Carson City, but after the marriage of her daughter, Louise, to Mr. Shaw, Mrs. Strong returned to Chicago, where she is still making her home. To Mr. and Mrs. Shaw one child has been born, a daughter, Dorothy Louise. They are members of the Presbyterian church and take an active interest in the various social and cultural movements of their home town. Mr. Shaw is a Knight Templar Mason and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Shaw also is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### FRANK A. BURTRAW.

Frank A. Burtraw, well-known business man at Muir, this county, proprietor of the Burtraw meat market there, is a native son of Ionia county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm in North Plains township on August 4, 1873, son of Israel and Polly (Jenks) Burtraw, the former a native of Canada and the latter of this county, both of whom are now dead.

Israel Burtraw was born in Ontario in 1840 and was eight years old when his parents came to this state, locating at Detroit, where he received his schooling and lived until he was twenty years old, after which he went to Lansing, where he spent three years, at the end of which time he came to Ionia county and settled in North Plains township, where he farmed the rest of his life, his death occurring on February 19, 1897. Some time after coming to this county, Israel Burtraw married Polly Jenks, who was born here, daughter of Smith and Abigail Jenks, and who died on September 24, 1896. To that union five children were born, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Edwin and Jarv, and two sisters, Emma, who married Harry Charles, and Mealie, who married Barrett Session.

Frank A. Burtraw grew up on the home farm in North Plains township, receiving his schooling in the district school in that neighborhood, and remained at home until his marriage, in 1894, when twenty-one years of age, after which he went to Muir and was engaged there as a clerk in the general store of J. D. Strachan until 1910, in which year he bought

the Rehfuß meat market in Muir and a slaughter house one mile out of town, and has been engaged in the retail meat business ever since, doing an excellent business.

In 1894 Frank A. Burtraw was united in marriage to May Strachan, who was born in North Plains township, this county, daughter of Alexander and Emma (Newton) Strachan, the former of whom also was born in that same township, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Florence, who married Harry Howard, of Ionia, and has a little daughter. Mr. Burtraw is a member of the Masonic fraternity and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that ancient order. He is a good business man and operates his business along strictly up-to-date lines.

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### JOHN H. HAMILTON.

John H. Hamilton, well-known veteran wool buyer at Ionia, this county, one of the most extensive dealers in that line in the state of Michigan, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born on a farm in the near vicinity of Avon, Livingston county, New York, June 11, 1845, son of John and Susanna (McKinney) Hamilton, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of New York, who became residents of Ionia county in 1864 and spent the rest of their lives here, for many years prominent and highly respected citizens of this county.

John Hamilton was born in Scotland, the eldest child and only son of John and Margaret Hamilton, the former of whom also was a native of Scotland and the latter of Ireland, who, besides their one son, were the parents of four daughters, Jane, Margaret, Mary and Fanny. While these children were still small the Hamiltons came to the United States and settled on a farm in Livingston county, New York, nearby the pleasant village of Avon, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives, the elder John Hamilton living to be ninety years of age and his wife to be eighty-six. On that farm the junior John Hamilton grew to manhood, a valuable aid to his father, and became a sturdy, self-reliant man. The father was a wagon-maker and most of his time was occupied at that vocation, the larger part of the responsibility of the management of the farm thus falling upon the son.

In Livingston county the younger John Hamilton married Susannah McKinney, who was born there, daughter of Daniel and Susan McKinney, also natives of New York, whose last days were spent in Amsterdam, that

state. Daniel McKinney was a prosperous farmer and an extensive dealer in fine horses, his stables being known far and wide throughout that country. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, Henry, Patrick, Wilson, Andreas, Susannah, Betsey and Jeannette. After his marriage, John Wilson continued to make his home on the paternal farm until 1864, he then having made his home on that farm for thirty-five years, in which year he emigrated with his family to Michigan and settled in Ionia county. Upon coming here Mr. Hamilton first settled in Ronald township, but not finding the outlook there just to his liking selected what he considered to be a more advantageous location in Ionia township, where he bought a partly improved farm of two hundred acres and there he established his home, he and his wife spending the rest of their lives there, early becoming recognized as among the most influential and useful residents of that community. John Hamilton lived to be about seventy-five years of age and his widow survived him for several years. She was an earnest member of the Methodist church and her children were reared in that faith. There were four children born to John Hamilton and wife, all of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Daniel, of Grand Rapids, this state; Maggie E., who married C. C. Curtis and lives at Valley City, North Dakota, and Edward B., a well-to-do farmer of Ionia township, this county.

John H. Hamilton was the third child born to his parents and was nineteen years old when he came to this county with the family. He had been well reared and had received an academic education, and when he arrived here in 1864 was amply equipped to take a prominent place in the pioneer community. He presently bought a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Ronald township and proceeded to get the same under cultivation. Three years after coming here he married and established his home on his Ronald township place. Not long thereafter he bought an adjoining "eighty" and on that farm of two hundred acres, which he still owns, he and his family made their home until 1895, in which year they moved to Ionia, which has since been the family home. In connection with his farming operations, Mr. Hamilton was long extensively interested in sheep raising and became well acquainted with the details of the wool business. Upon moving to Ionia he gave his whole attention to wool buying and has ever since been thus engaged, long having been recognized as one of the most extensive wool buyers in the state. He has ever taken an active interest in the general affairs of Ionia and the county generally and is regarded as a very substantial man of affairs, among his connections being that of an influential stockholder in the State Savings Bank of Ionia. Mr. Hamilton

is a Republican and has for years given close personal attention to political affairs hereabout, being an earnest advocate of the principles of good government, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

On September 19, 1867, John H. Hamilton was united in marriage to Marcia Welch, who was born in what was then the village of Ionia, this county, on June 10, 1849, daughter of John B. and Sarah Ann (Morgan) Welch, natives of New York state and prominent pioneers of Ionia, further details of the history of this family in this county are set out in a biographical sketch relating to Amos M. Welch, presented elsewhere in this volume, to which the reader is referred. Mrs. Hamilton is of Revolutionary stock, her mother's paternal grandfather having served in General Washington's army when fourteen years of age as the driver of an ox-team, hauling supplies to the patriot army, for which service his widow, many years afterward, was awarded a pension by the government.

To John H. and Marcia (Welch) Hamilton one child has been born, a son, Harry H. Hamilton, who died on November 20, 1915. He was a prominent clothing manufacturer in New York City, who married Mrs. Maud (Barnum) Hart, a widow, who, by her first marriage, is the mother of one child, a daughter, Florence, who married Charles C. Hertzman. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton attend the Episcopal church at Ionia and ever have been interested in local good works, being regarded as among the leaders in all movements designed to contribute to the promotion of the common interest hereabout, and are held in high esteem by the entire community.

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#### MATHIAS PLINE.

Mathias Pline, a well-known and progressive farmer and stockman of Portland township, this county, proprietor of the well-kept "Maple Corner Farm," and for years one of the best-known auctioneers in that part of the county, is a native son of Michigan, having been born in Kent county, this state, June 24, 1856, son of Nicholas and Mary (Pitch) Pline, natives of Germany, who came to America on the same vessel, landing at New York City, where they were married, after which they went to Pennsylvania, where they remained two years, at the end of which time they came to Michigan, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Upon coming to this state Nicholas Pline settled on a small farm in the Alpine neighborhood, which he cleared, hauling the wood to Grand

Rapids. It was in 1841 that Nicholas Pline and his wife came to Michigan. After a some-time residence in Kent county the Plines came over into Ionia county and located on an eighty-acre farm in Portland township, where they established their home. In 1878 Nicholas Pline retired from this farm and then moved to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres at Maple Corners and then moved to an eighty-acre farm, west of Westphalia, Ionia county, where he and his wife spent their last days. They were members of the Catholic church and their remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Westphalia. To Nicholas Pline and wife nine children were born, of whom seven are now living, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Peter, Hubert, Anthony, Margaret, who married Ferd Smith; Elizabeth, who married Michael Smith, and Christina, who married Anton Smith.

Mathias Pline was seven years old when his parents moved from Kent county to Ionia county, and he was reared on the home farm in Portland township. He received his schooling in the parochial school at Westphalia and there was confirmed in the faith of his church. From boyhood he was an invaluable aid to his father all his life. In 1882 he married Rosa Fedwa and made his home at "Maple Corner Farm," where he ever since has lived and where he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. For more than twenty years Mr. Pline has been actively engaged in buying and shipping cattle and has done well at that business as well as in his general farming operations and is now quite well circumstanced. In 1899 he engaged in the general auction business and is one of the best-known auctioneers in this part of the state his services in that connection being in wide demand hereabout particularly during the spring and fall seasons, when many public sales of farm chattels are being cried. Mr. Pline is a Democrat, but has never taken what may be called a particularly active part in politics and has never sought public office, though he has served as a school director.

Mr. and Mrs. Pline have five children living, four sons and one daughter, Alfred E., who married Susanna Harris; Edward N., Benjamin E., Joseph and Louis, who died on March 14, 1915, aged twenty years. To subject and wife one daughter has been born, named Arulia, who married John Bedenbender, and lives at Stevens Corners. They have three children, Esther, Raymond and Louis. The Plines are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Westphalia and Mr. Pline is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of the Knights of the Maccabees and the Arbiters.

## CLYDE M. STOUT.

Clyde M. Stout, supervisor of Orange township and one of the best-known young farmers of Ionia county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acres in sections 3 and 10, six miles southeast of Ionia, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm in Sebewa township, April 16, 1884, son of Adam and Mary J. (Carter) Stout, both natives of Ohio, who later became well-known residents of this county.

Adam Stout was born in Darke county, Ohio, as was his wife, and shortly after their marriage they came to Michigan and located on a farm in Sebewa township, this county, where Mr. Stout spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1900. His widow is now making her home in Darke county, Ohio. They were the parents of eight children, of whom six are now living, those besides the subject of this sketch being M. J., a farmer in Eaton township, this county; O. N., an Orange township farmer; M. L., an elevator man at Millbrook, this state; Ruth, who married E. L. Jordan, of Muskegon, this state, and Fred, a Montana ranchman.

Clyde M. Stout was reared on the home farm in Sebewa township and ended his school days in the high school at Lake Odessa, after which for five years he was engaged in the agricultural implement business at Orange. He then engaged in farming and has been quite successful, being now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in Orange township, as noted above. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Stout gives considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and deals quite extensively in wool and hay. Mr. Stout is a Democrat and gives close attention to local governmental affairs, being regarded as one of the leaders of his party in his neighborhood. In 1914 he was elected supervisor of Orange township and is now serving in that capacity.

On June 6, 1905, Clyde M. Stout was united in marriage to Jessie Taft, who was born in Ionia township, daughter of Frank and Mary J. (Abgate) Taft, and who, after being graduated from the Ionia high school taught school for three years, being thus engaged until her marriage to Mr. Stout. To this union two children have been born, Frank T., born on September 19, 1907, and Sterrey M., July 30, 1910. Mrs. Stout is a member of the LeValley Methodist church and takes a warm interest in the beneficences of the same. Mr. Stout is a member of the Ionia lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the West Sebewa lodge

of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as well as of the Equitable Fraternal Union and takes an active interest in the affairs of these several organizations.

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MICHAEL ZAHM.

Michael Zahm, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Otisco township, this county, proprietor of a well-cultivated and well-kept place of one hundred and forty-seven acres situated four miles south of Belding, on rural route No. 4, out of that city, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Seneca county, that state, July 31, 1861, son of Michael and Elizabeth (Reiner) Zahm, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio, who later became residents of this county and spent their last days on the farm now owned and occupied by their only surviving son, the subject of this sketch.

The elder Michael Zahm was born in the village of Bevern, in the duchy of Brunswick, and when a boy came to the United States with his parents, the family settling in Seneca county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and where he married Elizabeth Reiner, a native of that county, and for about twenty years thereafter made his home in that county, becoming a well-to-do farmer. In 1878 he sold his farm in Ohio and, with his family, came to Michigan, settling in Otisco township, this county, where he bought a farm and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were earnest members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters living, Kate, who married Benjamin Strickfaden and still makes her home in Ohio; Mary, wife of John Bogner, of Decatur, Indiana, and Margaret, wife of Philip Leonard, of Allegan county, this state.

Michael Zahm's youth was spent on the home farm in Seneca county, Ohio, and he received his education in the schools of that neighborhood. He was about seventeen years old when his parents moved to Ionia county and he has lived here ever since, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of the neighborhood in which he resides. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

On July 11, 1895, Michael Zahm was united in marriage to Mary Walser, who was born in Cleveland, Ohio, daughter of Max and Mary

(Rittersdorf) Walser, who came to Ionia county, Michigan, and settled in Otisco township, where they were farmers. They are now living in Belding, Michigan. They had eight daughters, three being deceased. Those living are: Mrs. Zahm, Frances Ulrich, Lavina Hayes, Cleo Lillie, Helen Tillman. Those deceased are Margaret, Josephine and Irene.

To Michael Zahm and wife two children have been born, sons both, Joseph, who is married and is a well-known young farmer of Otisco township, this county, and Henry, who is unmarried and who remains on the home farm, a valuable assistant to his father in the operation of the same. Mr. and Mrs. Zahm are devoted members of St. Mary's Catholic church and take an earnest part in the various beneficences of that parish.

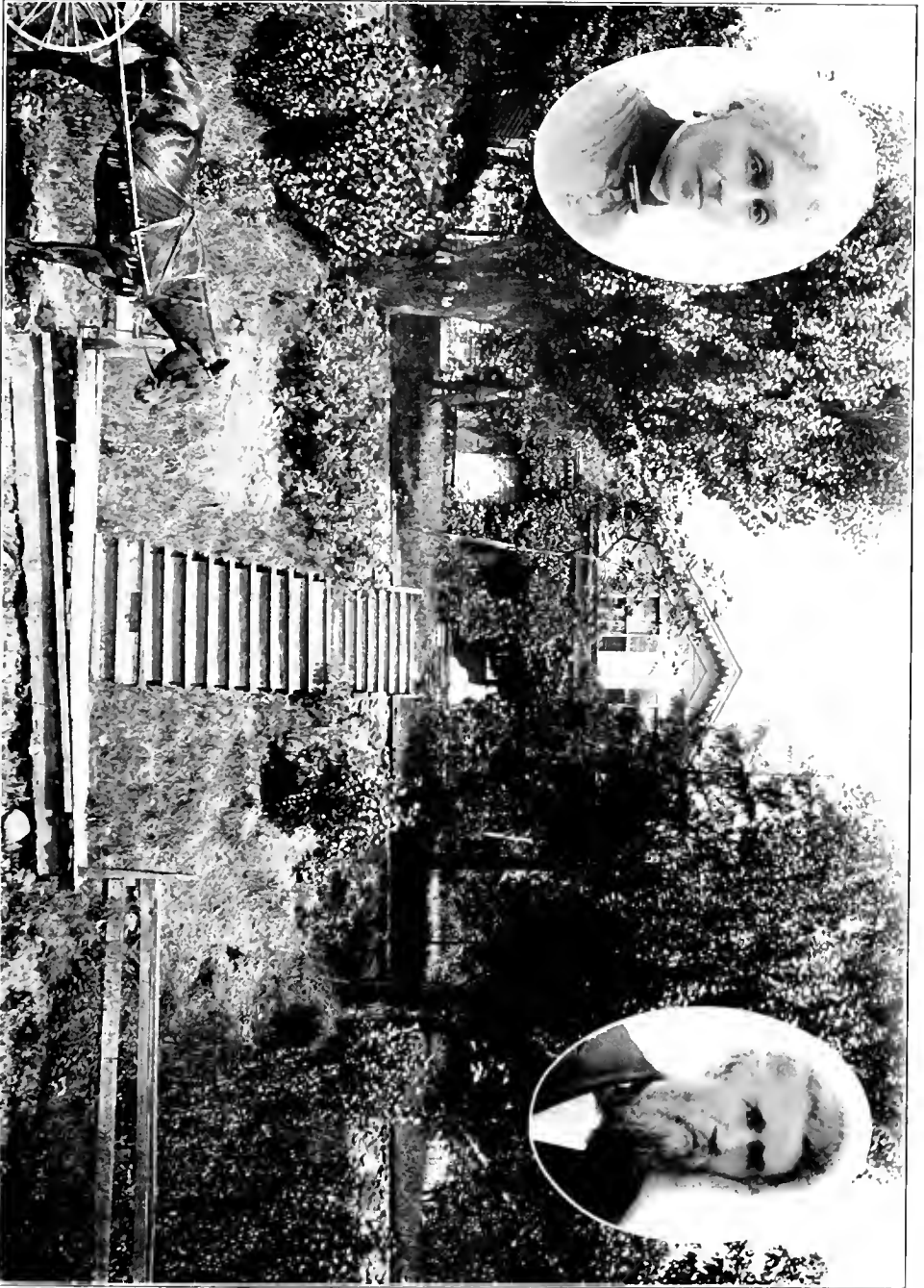
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#### OSCAR H. DEAN.

Oscar H. Dean, senior member of the firm of Dean & Eyster, general merchants, 302-4 East Main street, Ionia, one of the oldest establishments continuously in business in this section of the state, is a native son of Michigan, having been born at Detroit, August 7, 1832, son of Henry and Calista (Luce) Dean, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Michigan. The former died at Otsego, this state, and the latter at Grand Rapids.

Henry Dean, whose father was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, was the eldest of the children born to his parents. He was reared in New York state and there learned the trade of a tanner. When a young man he and one of his brothers came West and located at Detroit, where they established a tannery, which they operated for some time with much success, but presently their tannery was destroyed by fire and they lost nearly all their property. Henry Dean then engaged in carpentering and still later engaged in the undertaking business at Grand Rapids, this state, where he made his home for some years, after which he moved to Otsego, where his last days were spent. He lacked but two months of being ninety-one years old at the time of his death and was the oldest member of the Masonic fraternity in Michigan at that time. He was a member of the Methodist church, as was his wife, who had died some time before his death, she having been seventy-five years of age at the time of her death, and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, namely: Oscar H., the subject of this sketch;





MR. AND MRS. E. S. JOHNSON AND RESIDENCE.



Phoebe, who died unmarried; Martha, who was the wife of Frank Stevens, a veteran of the Civil War; Zuleka, who was the wife of Dr. S. Thompson; Effie, who was the wife of Doctor Peters, of Seattle, Washington; Maggie unmarried, who lives at Otsego, New York, and three who died in youth.

Oscar H. Dean was two years old when his parents moved from Detroit to Grand Rapids and in the latter city he spent his youth. He received his early schooling in Grand Rapids and then was sent to a select school at Dover, Ohio, and for a few years after completing the course there was engaged in the nursery business at Kelley's Island. He then returned to Grand Rapids and learned the bookbinder's trade, at which he worked for seven years, at the end of which time he began clerking in the store of Windsor, Lyman & Kendall at Grand Rapids and there laid the foundation for his long and successful mercantile career. Mr. Dean remained with that firm until 1854, in which year he was sent to Ionia as the manager of a branch store which Mr. Kendall had opened at that place and Ionia has been his home practically ever since. Some time after locating in Ionia Mr. Dean left the Kendall store and for a time was engaged as a clerk in the store of J. O. Stevens and later in the store of Carr & Dye. While he was employed in the latter store the Civil War broke out and he enlisted for service in behalf of the Union cause, going to the front with the Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, as commissary sergeant of his company, remaining with that command for two years and six months, at the end of which time he received an honorable discharge on a physician's certificate of disability, owing to a severe illness, which had so reduced his physical condition that upon returning to Ionia he weighed but eighty-one pounds. Upon the conclusion of his military service, Mr. Dean was employed in the general store of Irish, Johnson & Sherman at Ionia for a time, after which he and his brother-in-law, E. B. Miller, formed a partnership and engaged in the dry-goods and grocery business in the same city and were thus engaged for two years or more, at the end of which time Mr. Dean took employment in Meade's grocery store, where he remained until he presently went to Pentwater, in the employ of the Pentwater Lumber Company, for eight years, in the meantime having bought the company out. He sold out and became postmaster of Pentwater under Cleveland and served four years. He then entered the service of the state and was engaged as pay clerk in the office of the auditor-general at Lansing for two years, at the end of which time he returned to Ionia and formed a partnership with C. E. Eyster and opened a grocery

and general store, which has been conducted quite successfully ever since, under the firm name of Dean & Eyster, one of the oldest firms continuously engaged in business in Ionia.

On December 23, 1862, Oscar H. Dean was united in marriage to Alice Jane Johnson, who was born in Ionia, March 9, 1843, daughter of Ethan S. and Jane B. (Whipple) Johnson, the former of whom was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and the latter at Ridgeway, New York. Ethan S. Johnson, whose father was a soldier in the War of 1812, was the eldest of the considerable family of children born to his parents, both natives of Rhode Island, who later moved to Herkimer county, New York, where they spent the remainder of their lives, both living to advanced years. In 1837 Ethan S. Johnson came to Michigan with a considerable sum of money for that day and engaged in the merchant-tailor business at Ionia, in which he was successful from the very start. In 1840 he married Jane B. Whipple, daughter of Zebulon and Phoebe (Andrews) Whipple, who had come to Michigan in 1837 from New York and located in Ionia, where Mr. Whipple became successfully engaged as a carpenter in pioneer days and where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. Zebulon Whipple moved from Ridgeway, New York, to Michigan, in 1835, settled in Lansing in River street. Later settled one and one-half miles from Ionia, on the state road, where a number of New York families had settled. There he built a log house and lived on same for many years and there died. He was one of the sons of William Whipple, of New Hampshire, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, a distinguished soldier of the American Revolution and a soldier of the War of 1812. To Zebulon Whipple and wife seven children were born, Benjamin F., Almira, Jane B., Cynthia, John, Sarah and William. Ethan S. Johnson not only was successful in the management of his own business, but he rendered valuable service to the public, having for some years served as postmaster of Ionia and as register of deeds of this county, and also was for years a justice of the peace. His death occurred in Ionia on April 3, 1883, he then being seventy years of age. His widow survived him for nearly twenty years, her death occurring in Los Angeles, California, on December 8, 1902, while on a visit to her youngest daughter in that city, she then being in her eightieth year. Ethan S. Johnson and wife were the parents of seven children, William, Alice, Celia, Ethan, Harvey, Stephen and Birdie. Alice Johnson received her elementary education in the Ionia public schools and upon the completion of the course there was sent to Lockport, New York, where she took a finishing course in a private

seminary for young women, after which she returned home and her marriage to Mr. Dean took place two days before Christmas Day, 1862.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean are members of the Episcopal church, of which they became communicants at an early age, Mr. Dean having been but fifteen years of age when he became connected with the church at Grand Rapids. For years he was a singer in the choir and has been a vestryman for fifty years and has long served as senior warden. His long and faithful service in the church and his liberal support of the same all these years prompted the congregation of St. John's Episcopal church at Ionia, in special meeting, to confer upon Mr. Dean the distinguished title of senior warden emeritus. Mrs. Dean also has long been devoted to church work and both she and her husband are likewise devoted to all good works in the community, long having been regarded as among the leaders in all movements designed to advance the general welfare hereabout, the venerable couple being held in the very highest esteem throughout the entire community. Mr. Dean became a Mason when twenty-one years of age and is now an honorary member of the blue lodge of that order at Ionia. He has taken a warm interest in Masonic affairs ever since becoming affiliated with that ancient order and has attained to the thirty-second degree of Freemasonry, being attached to the consistory of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons at Lansing. He is a member of the Ionia chapter of the Royal Arch Masons and of the Ionia commandery of the Knights Templar. In his political faith he is a Democrat and has served the people of Ionia as an alderman several terms. During his residence at Pentwater he also took a proper interest in political affairs and served there as city clerk and as a justice of the peace.

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#### ARTHUR NEWEL HALL.

Arthur Newel Hall, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Ionia county, proprietor of a fine farm in Ionia township, situated on rural route No. 1, out of Ionia, is a native son of that same township, having been born on a pioneer farm there on February 22, 1848, son of Joshua Starke and Sarah J. (Haight) Hall, prominent pioneers of this county, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of New York City, further details regarding whose history in this county are set out in a biographical sketch relating to the late Joshua S. Hall, presented elsewhere in this volume. Joshua S. Hall was born in London county, Con-

necticut, in February, 1816, son of Henry and Ruth (Starke) Hall, the former of whom was a soldier in the War of 1812, and the latter was related to the family of General Starke, of Revolutionary fame. In 1836 Joshua S. Hall, then about twenty years of age, came to Michigan and settled in Ionia county, thus having been one of the very earliest settlers of this county. He bought government land and in 1842 married Sarah J. Haight, a pioneer school teacher, who had come to this county with her parents from New York City in 1840, and who was then teaching in Orleans township one of the first schools organized in the county. Joshua Hall became one of the most substantial farmers in Ionia county. For years he was a justice of the peace and did much to advance the cause of stable government. In the fall of 1896, during the height of the memorable political campaign of that year, when gold had practically disappeared from circulation, he drove up to the door of the First National Bank at Ionia in a lumber wagon, carried a heavily-weighted grain bag into the bank and handed it to the teller, with the remark, "Here is something that may help you out." The teller poured the contents of the bag onto a table and there was revealed a horde of twenty-dollar gold pieces, amounting to a sum variously reported as high as twenty thousand dollars. Joshua S. Hall died at his home in this county in 1907, at the age of ninety-one, having been a continuous resident of Ionia county for more than seventy years. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, all of whom are still living, and of whom the subject of this biographical sketch is the third in order of birth.

Arthur N. Hall was reared on the home farm in Ionia township and on February 22, 1872, his twenty-fourth birthday, was united in marriage to Tilla Martin, who was born near Welland, Ontario, daughter of Andrew and Lenora (Martin) Martin, who, though bearing the same name, were unrelated. Andrew Martin was born in Canada on August 29, 1808, son of a British soldier, who was of German birth. Lenora Martin was born in New York state on August 2, 1818, and was married in Canada in 1835. Her father was a cousin of Commodore Perry and was a soldier in the War of 1812. One of her brothers fought under General Taylor during the Mexican War and was killed in battle in Mexico. Her great-grandfather and one of his sons were soldiers in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. It was in the fall of 1864 that Andrew Martin and his family moved over the line from Canada and came to Michigan, arriving at Belding, this county, on November 8, of that year. They settled in Otisco township, but about 1870 moved over into Easton township,

where Mr. Martin spent his last days, his death occurring on May 24, 1882. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and took a warm interest in the affairs of that organization. His widow survived him many years. The last twenty years of her life were spent in Ionia and she died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hall, in 1905. She was one of the leaders in the Woman's Relief Corps and took a prominent part in the activities of the ladies auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic.

After his marriage Arthur N. Hall began farming for himself on his own farm in Orleans township and remained there until 1876, in which year he moved to his present farm in section 7, Ionia township, where he ever since has made his home. He started in there with sixty acres, but now has a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, well improved and productive. In 1884 he built a fine brick house on the place and he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Hall has given much attention to dairying, in addition to his general farming, and has done much to advance the dairy interests of this county. For sixteen years Mr. Hall served as justice of the peace in and for Ionia township and served two terms as supervisor, in all his public activities giving his most earnest thought to the general welfare. For some years during the time of the Grange's activities hereabout, Mr. Hall was one of the leading local members of that organization.

To Arthur N. and Tilla (Martin) Hall four children have been born, as follow: Cora Eugenia, born on February 6, 1873, married Dr. George P. Winchell, of Ionia, and died on March 19, 1900, leaving one daughter, Dorothy Mildred; Roy A., June 4, 1875, who owns a farm across the road from that of his father, married Margie Ladow and has two daughters, Esther and Velva; Herbert Chester, October 8, 1884, a well-known young lawyer of Ionia, now prosecuting attorney for this judicial district, and Ralph Emerson, May 27, 1894, a senior in the Ionia high school and one of the leaders in that school's famous football team. Mr. and Mrs. Hall and all their children are earnest members of the Church of Christ at Ionia and the family takes its proper part in community good works.

Herbert C. Hall, prosecuting attorney for this judicial district, entered the University of Michigan after his graduation from the Ionia high school and was graduated from the law department of that institution in 1906. In that same year he was admitted to practice in the courts of Michigan and the next year entered the United States consular service, serving until 1909 as vice-consul at the port of Calais, France. Upon his return to the United States in 1909 he opened an office for the practice of law at Chi-

cago and remained in that city for four or five years. In April, 1914, he returned to Ionia and has ever since been engaged in the practice of his profession there. In November of that same year he was elected prosecuting attorney of Ionia county and entered upon the performance of the duties of that office on January 1, 1915.

On October 15, 1913, Herbert C. Hall was united in marriage to Bertha Wurster, who was born at Ionia, daughter of Jacob and Henrietta (Neuman) Wurster, who came to this country years ago and settled at Ionia, where Mr. Wurster is engaged in the poultry business. Mrs. Hall has two sisters, Louise and Emma, she being the youngest of the family. Mr. Hall is a member of the Church of Christ and is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Ionia. His wife is a member of the German Lutheran church.

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#### CHARLES E. HOTCHKISS.

Charles E. Hotchkiss, a well-known farmer of Otisco township, this county, proprietor of "Arlington Heights Farm," a well-kept place of eighty acres, three miles south and one mile east of Belding, on rural route No. 4, in section 25, Otisco township, is a native of Illinois, having been born in that state on November 18, 1861, son of Aaron A. and Amelia R. (Rose) Hotchkiss, both natives of New York state, who came to Michigan in 1864, settled in Keene township, this county, where they lived on a rented farm until 1873, in which year they bought a farm in Otisco township, on which they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of eight children, of whom five are still living, namely: Alfred A., a farmer, living in Evergreen township, in the neighboring county of Montcalm; Charles E., the subject of this sketch; George E., a farmer living in Ionia township, this county; Nina, wife of Eli Witt, of Otisco township, this county, and Cora, wife of Leslie Monteith.

Charles E. Hotchkiss was about three years old when his parents came to this county and he was reared on the home farm, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. He went West in 1885, and for two years was engaged there as a laborer on railroads, on farms and in the timber woods, after which he returned home and resumed his place on the home farm. On February 24, 1892, he married Mary A. White, who was born in Keene township, this county, May 25, 1869, was educated in Olivet College and had been teaching school for six years before



her marriage. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hotchkiss established their home at "Arlington Heights Farm," where they since have resided and where they are very pleasantly and comfortably situated.

To Charles E. and Mary A. (White) Hotchkiss two children have been born, Lyle E., born on June 8, 1894, who attended the Belding high school, later entered the Ionia County Normal School, from which he was graduated, after which he taught school a couple of years and is now a student at Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, and Blanche M., July 30, 1896, a graduate of the common school and an attendant at the Belding high school. Mr. Hotchkiss is an "independent" Republican and has served his community as a member of the school board.

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### JOSHUA S. HALL.

Among the sturdy pioneers who cleared the forests and brought the land hereabouts to a proper state for cultivation, there were few who were more energetic than the late Joshua S. Hall, for years a well-known and prominent resident of Easton township, this county. Joshua S. Hall, one of the earliest settlers of Ionia county, was born in New London county, Connecticut, February 24, 1816, son of Henry and Ruth (Starke) Hall, the former of whom was a soldier in the War of 1812. He was reared on a farm and in the fall of 1835, he then being nineteen years of age, came to Michigan with an uncle, a brother of his mother, the two making their way by canoe and over Indian trails to Ionia county, where Mr. Starke bought one hundred and fourteen acres of government land in section 6, of Ionia township. Mr. Starke quickly became dissatisfied with pioneering and sold the tract to his nephew for one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre and returned East. Joshua S. Hall erected a log cabin on his place, where he kept "bachelor's hall," and proceeded to clear the land. He married in the fall of 1842 and settled on a new place in Orleans township, but presently returned to his old place and lived there a number of years, then returned to Orleans township and later bought a farm of eighty-two acres in section 1, Easton township, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in March, 1907.

On September 18, 1842, Joshua S. Hall was united in marriage to Sarah A. Haight, an Orleans township school teacher, who was born in New York City on March 6, 1822, daughter of Mrael G. and Jane (Lynch)

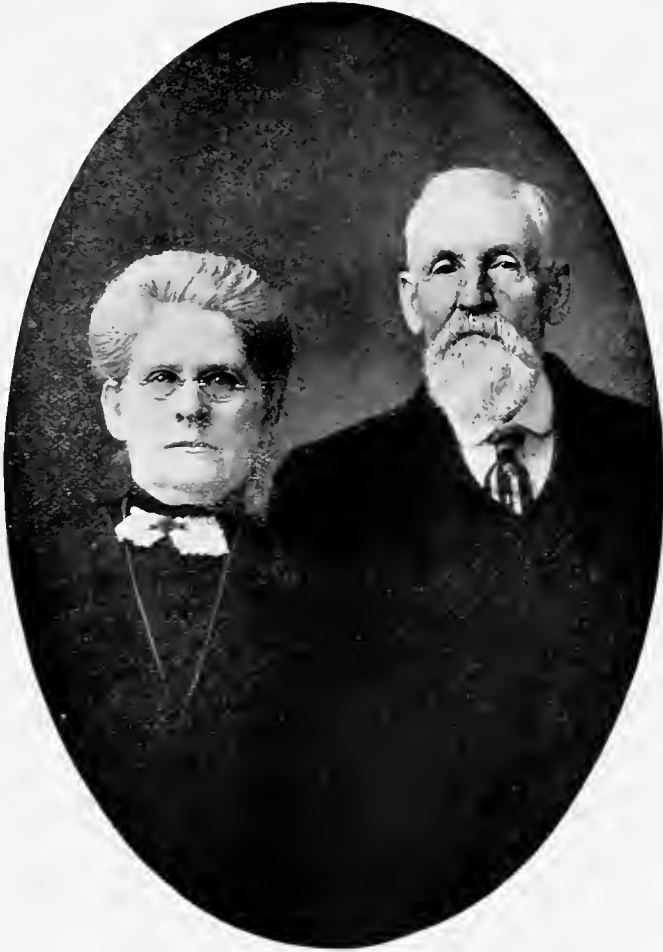
Haight, the former of whom was a captain during the War of 1812, and who were the parents of eight children. In 1834 the Haight's came to Michigan and located in Washtenaw county, where they lived until the early forties, when they came over into Ionia county, where Sarah A. Haight was engaged as a teacher in the district schools until her marriage to Mr. Hall. To Joshua S. and Sarah A. (Haight) Hall seven children were born, namely: Henry J., who lives just at the western edge of Ionia, on the state road, in Easton township; Luther E., a farmer, living in section 36, Orleans township; Arthur N., who lives northeast of Ionia; Ruth, who married Perry Freeman and lives in Boston township; Frank, who lives on the state road in Easton township; Ada, who married E. B. Higbee, of Ronald township, and John A., who now lives in Cuba, where he is engaged in raising oranges, bananas and pineapples. The mother of these children died on March 17, 1895.

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#### JAMES A. ALDRICH.

James A. Aldrich, a well-to-do retired farmer of Boston township, this county, and an honored veteran of the Civil War, now living at Saranac, in the southern part of Ionia county, is a native of Canada, but has been a resident of Michigan since he was four years old. He was born at Yarmouth, Canada, August 27, 1841, son of Robert S. and Sarah (Weed) Aldrich, both natives of New York state, who later became residents of Michigan.

Robert S. Aldrich was born in New York state in 1811 and grew to manhood in his native state. There he married Sarah Weed, who was born in 1812, and moved over the line into Canada, where he entered a tract of land from the government and engaged in farming. Three years later he returned to New York state, where he remained until 1845, in which year he and his family came to Michigan and located at Galesburg, Kalamazoo county, where Robert S. Aldrich worked at his trade, that of a painter, for about four years, after which he moved onto a farm in Augusta township, that county, where he lived until he came to Ionia county in 1863, locating on a farm near Boston Center. Ten years later, in 1873, he moved to Eldorado, Kansas, where he spent the remainder of his life. Robert S. Aldrich and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom but two now survive, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Melissa, widow of Lee Davis, who is now living in El Dorado, Kansas.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES A. ALDRICH.



James A. Aldrich was but a child when his parents came to this state and he received his schooling in Kalamazoo county. At the age of twenty-one he enlisted for service as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War and went to the front as a member of Company L, Sixth Michigan Cavalry. During the engagement at the Yellow Tavern in the battle of the Wilderness he received a severe wound in the spine. During this battle while executing left flank under General Custer, Mr. Aldrich received his wound. The Confederates were trying to cut off his division. The Union army were trying to capture a Confederate battery and when half-way toward the battery during the charge, subject was shot. He was disabled for further service. After receiving the wound he was taken to the United States hospital at Point Lookout, Maryland, and there he suffered from gangrene and was confined there until after Lee's surrender. Subject was honorably discharged in June, 1865. He saw service at the battles of Hanover, Gettysburg, Falling Waters and ten or twelve other cavalry engagements. Mr. Aldrich was long in recovering from the effect of his wound, but upon finally regaining his health and strength engaged in farming in Boston township, Ionia county. He married Mary A. Lawler, of Calhoun county, and after marriage settled on his farm of eighty acres in Boston township, which he cleared and cultivated. To that union three children were born, as follow: Willard, who was graduated from the law department of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, but later turned his talents to the service of the gospel ministry and became a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, for some years being thus engaged before his death in California; Robert, who was graduated from the Saranac high school and is now engaged in the insurance business in Portland, head of the western branch of the Health and Accident Insurance Company, of Saginaw, and Mary A., who died at the age of nine months. Upon the death of the mother of these children Mr. Aldrich married Betsy A. Gould, the first white child born in Boston township, this county, who died in 1909, without issue. On November 20, 1912, Mr. Aldrich married Nettie J. Barber. Upon retiring from the active labors of his useful career as a farmer, Mr. Aldrich sold his farm and moved to Saranac, where he and his wife are very pleasantly situated.

Mr. Aldrich is a Republican and for years has given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs. For several terms he served as justice of the peace in and for Boston township, served one term as highway commissioner and two terms as a school inspector. He is an active member of the local post of the Hiat P. Clark Post No. 153, Grand Army of the Republic, and is past commander of that patriotic organization. He also is a member of

Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest, and during the activities of the Grange hereabout was one of the most influential members of that organization, serving for six terms as master of the local grange. Mr. Aldrich sold his farm when he moved into town about eight years ago.

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#### BENJAMIN AND JAMES VOSPER.

The Vosper Brothers, Benjamin and James, well-known lawyers and lumbermen of Ionia, this county, are native sons of Ionia county, having been born on a pioneer farm in Boston township, sons of Richard and Margaret (Brandt) Vosper, the former a native of England and the latter of New York state, early settlers and honored residents of this county.

Richard Vosper was born in the town of Launceston, in Cornwall, England, son of Benjamin Vosper and wife, both natives of that same county, the former a butcher, who were the parents of six children, Benjamin, Mrs. Martha Tresise, Ann, Mrs. Mary Wise, Thomas and Richard. The latter received his early schooling in the town of his birth, and at the age of fourteen emigrated to Canada, coming thence to Michigan and after awhile settling in this region, having been one of the early settlers in Kent and Ionia counties. For a time he followed the carpenter's trade in Grand Rapids, and in 1836 came to Ionia county, purchasing a quarter section of land in Boston township, a portion of the village of Saranac being situated on part of this tract, and there he spent the remainder of his life. About the time of his coming to this county, Richard Vosper married Margaret Brandt, who was born in Wayne county, New York, her parents having been farmers living about twenty miles from the city of Rochester. She was the youngest of four children born to her parents, the others having been George, John and Mrs. Emaline Carveth. After his marriage, Mr. Vosper established his home on his Boston township homestead, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, for years being recognized as among the foremost citizens of that community.

Upon the breaking out of the Civil War, Richard Vosper volunteered his services in behalf of the Union cause and was commissioned captain of sharpshooters attached to the Twenty-seventh Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in which service he continued for a year and six months. He was severely wounded during the battle of Petersburg and received an

honorable discharge on a physician's certificate of disability. At the conclusion of his military service, Captain Vosper returned to this county and resumed his place in the community life hereabout. He was a man of much influence in that section of the county and for many years served as justice of the peace. He was a thoughtful student of the law and practiced law to some extent, but was not regularly admitted to the bar. He and his wife were members of the Episcopal church and were among the leaders in good works in their neighborhood. Mrs. Vosper died in 1881, at the age of sixty-one years, and Captain Vosper survived until 1901, he being eighty-four years of age at the time of his death. He and his wife were the parents of five children, as follows: Martha, now deceased, was the wife of W. A. Stearns, also deceased, and was the mother of three children, Isabelle and Chilton, both unmarried and living in New York City, and Richard, who died in early infancy; Benjamin, of the firm of Vosper Brothers, Ionia; Mason, a lieutenant in the Union army during the Civil War, who was killed in battle during a charge on the Weldon railroad, near Petersburg; James, of the firm of Vosper Brothers, Ionia, and Mary, widow of Aaron Clark, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who had three sons, Aaron V. and Lloyd, ranchmen of Colorado, and Arthur Clark, a resident of Ionia.

Benjamin Vosper was reared on the paternal farm in Boston township, receiving his elementary education in the district schools of that neighborhood, supplementing the same by a course in the Michigan State Normal, at the conclusion of which he entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1867, immediately afterward opening an office for the practice of his profession in Holland, this state, where he was located until 1871, in which year he moved his office to Ionia, where he has ever since been engaged in active practice and is also extensively interested in the lumber business, in partnership with his brother, James. He is also interested in the mining industry in the upper peninsula of Michigan. When the Civil War broke out, Benjamin Vosper joined his father and his junior brother in offering his services in behalf of the Union cause, enlisting in 1862 as a sergeant in the Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered into the service as second lieutenant in the Second Michigan and served for more than two years, receiving his discharge on account of disability at the end of that time, after which he pursued his studies, as set out above.

On May 7, 1873, Benjamin Vosper was united in marriage to Lucia A. Blanchard, who was born in Ionia, daughter of John C. and Harriet A.

(Brewster) Blanchard, and to this union one child was born, Blanche M., now deceased, who was the wife of Harry M. Morgan, of Buffalo, New York. Mrs. Vosper is a member of the Daughters of the Revolution and of the Mayflower Society, and both she and her husband are affiliated with the Christian or Divine Science movement. Mrs. Vosper had two sisters Mrs. Hannah C. Stevenson and Mrs. Nettie A. Todd, and one brother, John C. Blanchard, Jr., all of whom are still living, her parents being deceased.

James Vosper, younger brother and partner of Benjamin Vosper, also was reared on the paternal farm in Boston township, and has lived in this county all his life. Upon completing the course in the public school he entered the Ypsilanti Seminary, from which he was graduated in 1866, and for several years thereafter was engaged in teaching. He then married and settled on the old home farm, where he remained for five years, at the end of which time he formed a partnership with his brother, Benjamin, in the law and lumber business, and has ever since been thus engaged, in later years giving most of their time and attention to the lumber industry. James Vosper was admitted to the bar in 1877. The firm has large timber interests in northern Michigan. Both brothers are Democrats and for years have taken an active interest in the political affairs of the county and state. James Vosper served as a member of the board of aldermen of Ionia for two terms, and for twenty-six years was a member of the school board of the city of Ionia, during which time he served as president of the board for several terms.

On December 28, 1870, James Vosper was married to Livonia S. Holmes, daughter of Mirandy and Sarah A. (Seil) Holmes. Mirandy Holmes was a son of Ira Holmes, a pioneer of Chenango county, New York, from whom the village of Holmesville in said county took its name. Ira Holmes was the father of five sons and three daughters. Mirandy Holmes came to Michigan with the very early settlers, and worked as a gunsmith at Utica, Macomb county, where he married Sarah Seil, daughter of Harriet Seil, who later became by second marriage the wife of Walter Wentworth, her maiden name having been Rockwell. Mrs. Livonia Vosper has one sister, Mrs. Jetora (Holmes) Anderson, of Ovid, and three half brothers, Charles Floate, of Hartford, Ira Floate, of Owosso, and George Floate, of Maple Rapids, also one half sister, Mrs. Lizzie Sessions, of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. James Vosper are the parents of three children: Isolene V., who married J. B. Chaddock, of Detroit, and has four children, Doro-



thy W., Vosper, Paul and Esther; Zaides B., a graduate of the University of Michigan, who taught school for several years, and is now one of the force of librarians in the Detroit public library, and Richard H., unmarried, who is engaged in the lumber business in Mackinaw county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Vosper are members of the Protestant Episcopal church, Mr. Vosper having been senior warden of the church for many years.

Both families of the Vospers have long occupied a high place in the social and cultural life of the Ionia community, and are held in highest esteem by their many friends hereabout.

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#### GEORGE W. AND JOHN TEBBEL.

George W. and John Tebbel, managers of the Smyrna roller mills, formerly owned and operated by their late father, W. R. Tebbel, are native sons of Michigan. George W. was born at Shiawassee, in Shiawassee county, this state, December 2, 1869, son of W. R. and Mary (Purdy) Tebbel, the former a native of Canada and the latter of this state.

W. R. Tebbel was born on December 3, 1838, a son of John and Mary (Comer) Tebbel, natives of England, who had emigrated to Canada, where they made their home until 1865, in which year they came to Michigan, settling in St. Clair county, where the former died in 1881, his widow surviving him until 1894. W. R. Tebbel had come to this state a few years in advance of his parents, having come over the border in 1862 and located in St. Clair county. He had learned the miller's trade in Canada and upon coming to this state followed the same, being stationed at various places until in 1880, when he bought the old stone mill at Smyrna, this county, which at that time was being operated by a stock company. When Mr. Tebbel took over the old mill he practically reconstructed the same, putting in the new process for manufacturing "patent" flour, installing the Planifter roller system process of milling, and made the mill what it is today, soon becoming one of the best-known millers in this section of the state, and continued in charge of the mill until his death, on November 18, 1908. His widow, who still survives him, was born in Plymouth, this state, daughter of Louis and Charlotte (Bartlett) Purdy. To W. R. Tebbel and wife six children were born, all of whom are still living, as follow: Jessie, wife of George Northway, of Lowell, Kent county, this state; George W.,

Charlotte, wife of William E. Williams, of Lansing, this state; Nellie, who is at home; John, also at home, and Edna, wife of Fay E. Williams, of Lansing.

George W. Tebbel received his education in the common schools, completing the course in the schools at Smyrna, he having been about eleven years old when his parents settled at that place. At the age of sixteen he entered the mill with his father and became thoroughly familiar with the milling business. Since the death of his father, in 1908, he and his brother, John, have been in practical charge of the mill and have made a fine success of the same.

On August 25, 1891, George W. Tebbel was united in marriage to Eliza McNitt, daughter of D. H. McNitt and wife, and to this union two children have been born, Winnie, who died in infancy, and William Arlo, born on October 18, 1906. Mr. Tebbel is a member of Belding Lodge No. 355, Free and Accepted Masons, and of the lodge of the Maccabees at Smyrna. John also is a Mason. George W. is a Republican and director of school district No. 2, Otisco township. He was always a great home man. He built the home and made many other improvements on the place.

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#### T. J. BOUGHNER.

One of the general farmers and stock men of Danby township, Ionia county, whose efforts have been rightly directed and have brought success all along the line, is T. J. Boughner, who was born in Snyderstown, Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, October 28, 1849. He is a son of Isaac and Lavina (Klase) Boughner, both natives of the same locality in which the subject of this sketch was born. Sebastian Boughner, grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the War of 1812. He spent his entire life in the state of Pennsylvania. For many years he was foreman of a gang of section hands on a railroad. His son, Isaac, grew up in his native community and worked with the section gang until the spring of 1864 when he came to Michigan, locating in Macon township, Lenawee county, where he rented a farm which he worked for six years. He moved to Danby township, Ionia county, in 1870 and bought one hundred and one acres, where the subject of this sketch now lives. The death of Mrs. Lavina Boughner occurred in the spring of 1872. She was the mother of five children, namely: Mary Isabella is the wife of D. G. Kauder and they live in Clinton town-

ship, Lenawee county; T. J., the subject of this sketch; Henrietta, deceased, was the wife of Charles Morgan; Emma Clara is the wife of D. J. Guilford, of Ionia county, and George, deceased. Isaac Boughner was married three times. His second wife was Flora Marsh, who lived but a few years after their marriage, dying without issue. His third wife was Louise Barnes, who lived but a few years after her marriage, dying without issue, also.

T. J. Boughner grew up on the homestead and received a common school education, remaining under the parental roof-tree until his marriage on September 16, 1874, to Rose Towner, who was born August 26, 1853, and is a daughter of Alfred and Harriet (Beck) Towner, natives of Brighton and Tifton, England, respectively, and in that country they grew up, attended school and were married, shortly afterward immigrating to the United States and settling at Massillon, Ohio, their voyage across the Atlantic requiring eight weeks. After spending about two years in Ohio they removed to Danby township, Ionia county, Michigan, when Rose Towner was only six weeks old, and here they subsequently bought a farm on which Mr. Towner spent the rest of his life. Alfred Towner enlisted in 1861 in Company E, Twenty-seventh Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. He was an efficient soldier and rose to the rank of sergeant-major. He took part in many of the great engagements of the war and was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness. His family consisted of nine children, namely: William C., who lives in Portland, Ionia county; Rose, wife of T. J. Boughner; Richard lives in Danby township; Louisa R. is the wife of Oscar Roselle, and they live in Portland, Ionia county; Thomas lives in Danby township; Frederick lives in Danby township; Sarah is the wife of Sylvester Pryer and they live in the village of Portland; Alice is the wife of C. Crowley and they live near St. Johns, Michigan.

After his marriage, T. J. Boughner lived at home a year, then moved to Portland where he learned the trade of a moulder at which he worked three years, then bought a farm of one hundred and thirteen acres in section 16, Danby township, Ionia county, which land was unimproved, but he cleared and developed it into an excellent farm and has a good home. He has two children, namely: Clara is the wife of Urban Sanders, of Eagle township, Clinton county, and they have two children, Lucile Rose, born in November, 1910, and Etta Leone, born in July, 1913, and Glenn T., who married Ethel Kelly and they have three children, Bertha, born on February 8, 1908, Helen, June 1, 1909, and Jean Irene, September 13, 1912.

Politically, Mr. Boughner is a Republican. He was township clerk for

three years and township supervisor for four years. He is a member of the Danby Grange; Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons; Portland Chapter No. 39, Royal Arch Masons, and the Royal Arcanum lodge at Portland.

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### MRS. ARMINDA MILLIMAN.

One of the best-known of the survivors of the pioneers in Ionia county is Mrs. Arminda Milliman, widow of the late Uriah Milliman, of Saranac, and who at the time of her marriage to Mr. Milliman was the widow of John H. English, a well-known farmer of this county, who died in 1874. Mrs. Milliman has lived in Ionia county since the days of her young womanhood and there are few, if any, persons in the southern part of the county who have a more accurate memory regarding incidents of pioneer living thereabout than has she.

Arminda Story was born in Livingston county, state of New York on December 21, 1827, daughter of Urias and Lucretia (Smith) Story, the former a native of New Hampshire and the latter of Connecticut, who were married in New York state, where they lived until 1848, in which year they came with their family to Michigan and located in Boston, Ionia county. Urias Story bought a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, an even half section of land, in the southern part of Boston township and there he established his home, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there. Mr. Story was an excellent manager and prospered in his farming operations. He gave each of his four sons an eighty-acre farm and all did well. There also were five daughters in the family, of whom Mrs. Milliman is now the sole survivor. She was twenty-one years of age when the family located in this county and she took most ably her part in the work of creating proper conditions on the homestead, as well as doing all she could do to advance the general social and economic conditions of the pioneer community, thus proving a most active factor in the development of the social life in that section of the county.

In September, 1852, Arminda Story was united in marriage to John H. English, a native of Tunbridge county, Vermont, who had come to Michigan when a young man. They settled on a farm in Boston township and there Mr. English spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1874. John H. English was a good farmer and a man active in the general affairs of the community, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial and





JOHN H. ENGLISH.



MRS. ARMINDA MILLIMAN.





influential residents of his home township. He was the organizer of the Grange in that locality, an organization in the affairs of which his wife also took a warm and active interest, and he also served for several terms as township clerk. To Mr. and Mrs. English no children were born, but their warm interest in children moved them to rear several orphaned children, who received as considerate care as if they had been their very own.

After the death of John H. English his widow continued to make her home on the farm, where she was very comfortably situated, and in 1890 she married Uriah Milliman, who had been previously married and who had a daughter, Ethelinda, by that first marriage, who died when she was eighteen years old. Mr. Milliman died in February, 1903, aged seventy-five years, and in 1905 Mrs. Milliman retired from the farm and moved to Saranac village, where she has a very pleasant home on Vosper street, and where she enjoys many evidences of the high esteem in which she is held by the entire community.

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#### NATHAN B. SHERWOOD.

Nathan B. Sherwood, a well-known retired painter and decorator of Lyons, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, who has been a continuous resident of Lyons since the fall of 1866, is a native son of Michigan, born at Otsego, Allegan county, this state, August 21, 1838, son of Hull and Julia A. (Crittenden) Sherwood, both natives of Monroe county, New York, who came to Michigan after their marriage in the East and settled at Otsego, where Hull Sherwood was engaged in carpentering until the summer of 1848, when he moved back to his old home at West Brighton, in Monroe county, New York, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on December 23, 1854, he then being forty-eight years of age. His widow survived him for forty years, her death occurring at Lyons, this county, on February 15, 1894.

Nathan B. Sherwood was but sixteen years of age when his father died and from that time until his enlistment in the Union army for service in the Civil War he was quite unsettled, moving about a good deal from place to place, following the trade of house painter and interior decorator, but finally came back to his native state and at Adrian, in September, 1864, enlisted in Company D, Fourth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, for service during the continuance of the war. He was made a

corporal and was put on detached service; was assistant commissary sergeant and afterward post commissary sergeant at San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Sherwood was in the service until June, 1866, and after he was mustered out in September of that year came to this county and located at Lyons, where he ever since has made his home. There he engaged in general house painting, decorating and paper-hanging, having become proficient in these trades in his youth at Rochester, New York, and for many years, or until his retirement from active labors, was thus engaged. Though now practically retired, his hand has not lost its old-time skill and at the age of seventy-four he re-decorated the interior of his home and did a very fine job of it, indeed. Though decorating has been his chief vocation, Mr. Sherwood has not been continuously employed in that calling since locating at Lyons, for he was engaged in traveling for about ten years, as a general salesman for pumps, fanning-mills and agricultural implements.

In May, 1858, Nathan B. Sherwood was united in marriage, in Orleans county, New York, to Julietta Woods, who was born at Yates, in that county, a daughter of Jephtha and Eliza (Putman) Woods, and to this union three children have been born, Carrie, who married James H. Rose, of Lyons, and died in June, 1912, leaving four children, Mina, Bert, Robert and Carl; Winfield, well-known laundryman at Lyons, who married Elizabeth Smith, of Pewamo, this county, and has one child, a daughter, Beatrice, and Leon D., engaged in the automobile business at Lyons, who married Rose Ranger and has one child, a son, Leon Foster Sherwood. In 1908 Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and they are still spared to each other and to their children. Mr. Sherwood is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization.

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#### ADELPHIN MOSS.

Adelphin Moss, one of the best-known residents of Ionia county, a well-to-do retired farmer of North Plains township, now living in Muir, is an honored veteran of the Civil War, whose half century of residence in the Muir neighborhood has made him an authority on matters of local history thereabout. It was in the fall of 1866 that Mr. Moss arrived in Muir—fifty years ago—and there are hardly a half dozen men left in this town who were here at that time, N. B. Flayes being the only person living

on the road past the old Moss home who was a resident of that section in that year. At that time Muir was a busy, bustling lumber town, boasting of four saw-mills, a shingle mill and a sash, blind and door factory running at full capacity, while the river was full of logs every spring; and Mr. Moss has been a witness of great changes in the population and industries of this section since those days. His wife, who was a pioneer school teacher in that section, was born in the Muir neighborhood and is perhaps the best living authority on the local history of that part of the county, for she has witnessed the development of that region since the days when Indians and wild animals still were plentiful thereabout.

Adelphin Moss is a native of the great Empire state, born in Pompey township, Onondaga county, New York, May 10, 1845, son of James Burton and Deborah (Bush) Moss, both natives of that same state and well-to-do farming people. James B. Moss served as a Union soldier during the Civil War, a member of the Eighth New York Heavy Artillery, and as a result of exposure and privations suffered during his service was ever after an invalid, his death occurring in the seventies. Another of his sons besides the subject of this sketch was also a soldier in the Union army, James Moss now living at Port Byron, New York. In 1862, when seventeen years of age, Adelphin Moss enlisted for service in Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-second Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and served until that regiment was mustered out in July, 1865, the war then being over. His service covered a period of twenty days less than three years and he was only twenty years old at the conclusion of his arduous military experience, his regiment having taken part in the bitter campaigns pushed by the Army of the Potomac. After the battle of Antietam he suffered a severe attack of typhoid fever and after that was fit only for detached duty, doing provost or guard duty.

After he was mustered out Mr. Moss returned to the old home in New York and remained there a little more than a year, at the end of which time he came to Michigan, arriving at Muir on October 24, 1866. His uncle, William Bush, and the latter's brother-in-law owned a pinery near Sheridan and a farm in North Plains township, this county. Mr. Moss spent the first winter after coming here in his uncle's logging camp near Sheridan and in the spring of 1867 went to the farm in North Plains township, where he worked that summer. In August of that year he married and he and his wife began housekeeping in North Plains township, where for five or six years he was engaged in working at the carpenter's trade. He then bought a farm over the line in Crystal township, Montcalm county,

and there they made their home for eight or nine years, at the end of which time they sold the farm and returned to North Plains township, this county, and settled on Mrs. Moss's old home farm. Upon the death of her father the place was divided, Mrs. Moss receiving a share; Mr. Moss bought a portion of the remaining interests and his son, George, bought the remaining interests, the family thus now owning the whole of the original quarter section, comprising the old Mills homestead. When their home was burned on March 16, 1912, Mr. and Mrs. Moss retired from the farm and have since made their home in Muir, their son, George, continuing to operate the farm. George Moss, who is one of the best-known farmers in that section of the county, has been a member of the township board for several years. He married Mary Fisher and to that union five children have been born, Alta, Lora, Robert, Lois and Bessie, the latter of whom died in infancy. Alta Moss married Carl Hettler, of Muir, and has a daughter, Ardath. Another son, Charles Moss, now living at Detroit, married Minnie Troop and has two children, Duane and Glenn.

It was on August 29, 1867, that Adelphin Moss was united in marriage to Mary Jane Mills, who was born and reared on the farm where George Moss now lives, daughter of Major D. and Lucina (Strickland) Mills, who had settled there in 1833, the fourth family to locate in that township. Major D. Mills was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, but grew to manhood in New York state, where he married Lucina Strickland, who was born in Steuben county, that state, and whose parents died in Ingham county, this state. After their marriage Major D. Mills and his wife came to Michigan and settled at Jackson, where Mr. Mills built the first frame house erected in that town. He established a tannery there and remained there until 1833, when he came to Ionia county and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in North Plains township, the farm now occupied by his grandson, George Moss, and there he spent the rest of his life, a useful and influential pioneer citizen. He died on June 12, 1886, and his widow died on October 9, following. On January 19, preceding, a son, George Mills, had died and on January 20, 1887, another son, Alson Mills, a crippled veteran of the Civil War, died, thus making four deaths in the family within a year and a day. Major D. Mills and wife were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Moss is now the sole survivor, Joseph having died on August 23, 1873; Mrs. Sarah E. Helmer, May 15, 1905; William, March 19, 1907, and Joel B., June 21, 1907. George, William, Jole and Alson Mills were all veterans of the Civil War. William Mills

was the first white child born at Jackson, this state. Mr. Moss formerly was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, one of the organizers of the post of that patriotic order at Crystal, and maintained his membership in the same until it disbanded on account of failing numbers.

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### BROOKS FAMILY IN IONIA COUNTY.

The first ancestor of the Brooks family in America was Thomas Brooks, who came to America from Suffolk, England, about 1630, and settled first in Watertown, Massachusetts, then Concord. He became a furrier by trade, but held many offices by appointment of the court, one of which was to prevent drunkenness among the Indians. He seems also to have been interested in land values, for there is recorded a purchase by him of four hundred acres in Medford, a town eleven miles from Boston, but now a part of the city, for which he paid four hundred and four pounds.

The descendants of Thomas Brooks for a generation or two lived mostly in Massachusetts, but later spread to all the New England states, and from there to the West and South. They have been more or less eminent in all the walks of life, ecclesiastical, civil, commercial and industrial, specializing in ship-building and farming.

As heroes of the Colonial, Revolutionary and later wars they have rendered patriotic service. One, the Hon. Ebenezer Brooks, was a delegate to Boston in 1776 to form the Constitution of the United States, and again in 1788 to ratify the Constitution.

The name Brooks first appears in Ionia County, Michigan, 1846, when one, William Brooks, born in 1802, came by ox team with his wife and nine children from St. Lawrence county, New York, locating in Ionia township, finally taking up two hundred and twenty acres, and devoting his life to farming. His eldest child was about twenty years of age and his youngest less than a year. He died in 1869, and his wife, Caroline (Kent) Brooks, born in 1805, whom he married in 1824, died in 1887, both being buried in Ionia.

The parents of Caroline Kent were Nathaniel Kent and Hannah (Mead) Kent. Hannah Mead had first married Luther Dorwin, by whom eleven children were born. From the marriage to Nathaniel Kent one daughter, Caroline, was born. The Kents, like the Brooks, originally settled in Massachusetts and actively figured in the Colonial and Revolutionary wars, which

the time demanded, Kent's Hill, Maine, being named after one, Nathaniel Kent.

The direct descendants of William and Caroline (Kent) Brooks are, Caroline E., William, Jr., Minerva, Milton B., Nathaniel K., Curtis, Stephen, Erastus and Angelo.

The parents of William Brooks were Caleb Brooks and Hannah (Ellis) Brooks, born in the Green Mountain state, but during the latter years of their lives resided in New York.

Caleb entered the Revolution at thirteen years of age. He also fought in the War of 1812. He made a visit to his son in Michigan in 1855 and died in Antwerp, New York, at the venerable age of ninety-seven years, and his wife died there after she had passed her one hundredth birthday.

The branch of the Brooks family with which this history especially deals is Nathaniel Kent Brooks, fifth child of William and Caroline (Kent) Brooks, who was born at Gouverneur, New York, 1831, came to Ionia county about fifteen years of age, and was apprenticed as a miller by trade, but, preferring the open life, he early took up farming in Ronald township, Ionia county, where he bought and cleared one hundred and forty acres of land. He married, December 10, 1854, Emily A. Locke, whose first ancestor in America was one William Locke, who came to America from England at the age of six years in 1828. Records show that his parents died before he embarked, and he came with a family by the name of Davies. He grew, prospered, and married, December 25, 1855, Mary Clark. He left nine children, and these scattered, some going North and some West. Emily A. Locke's father was Bezaleel, who came to Ionia county, Michigan, 1847, from Jefferson county, New York, where he lived twelve years, going there from Massachusetts. His father was Reuben, and his grandfather, Ebenezer, and great-grandfather, William, and before him, William, Jr., then William, Sr.

The children of Nathaniel K. and Emily (Locke) Brooks are as follow: Marion (died young), Lillie F., Lida A. (christened Eliza) and Dwight Z.

Lillie married, November 9, 1881, James H. Tibbitts, of Berlin township, Ionia county, moved to Washington, D. C., and was for many years in employ of government, later associated with Carnegie Endowment for Peace. He died, 1915, greatly respected and beloved for his kindly and beautiful life. To Lillie and James H. Tibbitts were born Greeta Marion, 1884, and Russell D., born 1893 (unmarried). Greeta married, June 3, 1909, at Washington, D. C., W. R. Dear, surgeon in United States

Army, and their children are, R. B. Dear, born 1911, and Florence, born 1914.

Lida (christened Eliza) married, September 15, 1885, in Ronald, Ionia county, Michigan, Louis P. Miller, a noble and self-made man, whose father had been scalped by the Indians near Decatur, Texas, in 1867, while on a deed of mercy to a fellow man. Louis P. Miller, born January 17, 1855, of Berlin township, Ionia county, moved to Chicago, Illinois, and engaged in the publishing business. The husband dying in 1891, the wife carried on the business until 1908, when she retired from business.

Born to Lida (Brooks) and Louis P. Miller, two sons: Stanley Nathaniel Miller, April 24, 1888, graduated Cornell University, 1912. T. Palmer Miller, born June 29, 1890, graduated Dartmouth, 1912, both unmarried at present time.

April 18, 1912, Lida (Brooks) Miller married, at Syracuse, New York, Mr. James Taylor, of Wingate, Westhoughton, Lancashire, England, for many years philanthropic worker in India and Africa.

Dwight Z. Brooks married, August 29, 1895, at Sparta, Michigan, Adine Hutchins Hinman, a descendant of John Alden, of "Mayflower" fame. No children.

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#### FRED E. CAHOON.

Fred E. Cahoon, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Boston township, this county, proprietor of "Pleasant Hill Farm," a well-kept and profitably cultivated place of one hundred and thirteen acres in section 12, of that township, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born at Baraboo, in Salt county, that state, October 16, 1862, son of Willard and Caroline (Hicks) Cahoon, both natives of Lorain county, Ohio, who later became prominent residents of this county, where their last days were spent.

Both Willard Cahoon and his wife were reared on farms in Ohio and were there married, shortly after which they moved to Salt county, Wisconsin, where Mr. Cahoon bought a considerable tract of land and also engaged in the saw-mill business at Baraboo, where he remained until 1865, in which year the family came to Ionia county. Willard Cahoon bought an eighty-acre farm in Keene township and was also engaged in the brick business at Saranac, at the same time being interested, as a partner, in a meat market in the same village. In 1877 he bought the place where his son, the subject of this sketch, is now living, the old Vosper place, and there estab-

lished his permanent home, continuing to retain the Keene township farm, which he had increased to two hundred acres, and established an extensive hopyard. Willard Cahoon was a progressive and up-to-date farmer and prospered in his operations. His wife died in March, 1909, and his death followed something more than a year later, August 7, 1910. They were the parents of four children, namely: Jesse S., who lives in Keene township, this county; Fred E., the subject of this biographical sketch; Lewis M., of Keene township, and Kittie, wife of Dr. George M. Gould, of Valley Ford, Washington.

Fred E. Cahoon received a high-school education and at the age of twenty years engaged in partnership with his father, in the mercantile business at Bonanza and Lake Odessa, this county, and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time his father sold his interest in the business to S. A. Watt, of Saranac, and the store was merged with that of the latter at Saranac. There Mr. Cahoon continued in partnership with Mr. Watt for three years, at the end of which time the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Cahoon retaining the boot and shoe business, which he continued at Saranac for ten years. He then moved his stock to Ishpeming and was engaged in business in that city for three years and nine months, after which he moved to Ionia, where for three years he was in business. Then, on account of his father's failing health, he returned to the Saranac neighborhood and for some time was engaged in managing the elder Cahoon's affairs, in the meantime, however, continuing his boot and shoe business. Later he moved his stock to Matchwood, Ontonagon county, and was engaged in business there for four years, at the end of which time he sold the store and bought a ranch of one hundred and sixty acres at Matchwood, Ontonagon county. While operating that ranch the condition of his wife's parents' health required the removal of himself and wife to the farm of the latter's parents, the old Amasy F. Lee homestead, and he bought this place shortly after moving onto it. In addition to his extensive farming and live stock interests, Mr. Cahoon is actively identified with other interests and for some time has been the local agent for the DeLaval cream separators, for the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company and for the Indiana Silo Company. He is a Democrat and for three years served as clerk of Keene township, ever being active in general public affairs, a live "booster" for all worthy home enterprises.

On November 25, 1885, Fred E. Cahoon was united in marriage to Cora L. Lee, who was born in this county, daughter of Amasy F. and Augusta Lee, prominent residents of this county, and to this union four



children have been born, as follow: Sheldon and Maurice Amasy, who live in Matchwood and own the ranch there, each owning eighty acres; Gladys Augusta, a graduate of the Saranac high school and of the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, who is now a teacher in the public schools of Battle Creek, this state, and Arthur Edward, who is connected with the plant of the Packard Automobile Company at Detroit. Mr. Cahoon is an active member of Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons, of which lodge he was secretary for seven or eight years, and is also a member of Hooker Chapter No. 73, Royal Arch Masons, of Lowell. He also is active in the affairs of Keene Grange No. 270 and for several years was secretary of that popular organization.

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#### GEORGE W. AMSDEN.

George W. Amsden, cashier of the State Bank of Pewamo, this county, and one of the most energetic young business men of Ionia county, is a native son of Michigan, born at Alma, this state, April 2, 1888, son of Arthur D. and Agnes A. (Halstead) Amsden, now living at Saginaw, this state, where Mr. Amsden is engaged as chief musician of the Thirty-third Regiment Band, Michigan National Guard.

Arthur D. Amsden was born at Joliet, Illinois, a son of Capt. Albert and Mary Catherine (Joslin) Amsden, and was about two years old when his parents came to Michigan and settled at Lyons, in this county, where he grew to manhood and married. He early became a printer, but all the time was pursuing his musical studies and became a master of band instrumentation. At Lyons he married Agnes A. Halsted, who was born in that village, daughter of Wallace and Demeris Halstead, pioneers of that place, and some time later moved to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, thence to Youngstown, Ohio, and from there to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he was engaged as chief musician of the Second Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard, for about four years, at the end of which time he returned to Wisconsin and was further engaged in musical pursuits at Marinette until he was called to take charge of the Thirty-third Regiment Band, Michigan National Guard, then stationed at Menominee, and was there located until regimental headquarters were transferred to Saginaw, since which time he has made his home there, continuing to direct the regimental band, now known as the Thirty-third Regiment.

George W. Amsden was two years old when his parents left Alma and moved to Wisconsin, and during the further changes of their residence he maintained his place in the various schools which he attended and was graduated from the high school at Marinette, Wisconsin, in 1907, though his home was across the river in Menominee, this state. From childhood he had been carefully trained in music and while in Menominee was principal musician in the band of which his father was chief musician. After his graduation from high school he located in this county and became assistant cashier in the private bank of Webber & Ruel at Pewamo. After the death of Mr. Webber, he and Mr. Ruel bought the Webber interest in the bank and continued the same under the firm name of Ruel & Amsden, bankers, Mr. Amsden acting as cashier. On February 15, 1916, the bank was incorporated as a state bank and Mr. Amsden continues as cashier of the same and a member of the board of directors. He also is a partner in the bank at Hubbardstown, which is operated under the firm name of Cummings, Ruel & Amsden, and is recognized as one of the most energetic young bankers in this county. For some time he served as treasurer of Lyons township and has also served as clerk of the village of Pewamo. He is a member of Pewamo Lodge No. 405, Free and Accepted Masons, and takes an active interest in lodge affairs.

On November 30, 1911, George W. Amsden was united in marriage to Maude Somers, who was born in Pewamo, daughter of Charles P. and Alma H. (Bissell) Somers, both natives of the state of New York. Charles Philip Somers was born in South Dover, Dutchess county, New York, October 16, 1843, son of Frederick and Roby (Marey) Somers, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York state. During the Civil War he was employed in the Hotchkiss shot and shell factory at Sharon, Connecticut, and upon the completion of that service came to Michigan, locating at Portland, this county, where he spent the winter with an uncle. He then went over to Lyons and was engaged in the photograph business there for a year, at the end of which time he began clerking in the Webber store there and was thus engaged for several years, after which he went over to Pewamo and bought the McFarlane hardware store, which he operated for twelve or fifteen years, or until 1900, when he sold the store and engaged in farming at the north edge of the town and was thus engaged until his retirement in 1913. It was in 1860, shortly after engaging in business at Pewamo, that Charles P. Somers was united in marriage to Alma Harriet Bissell, who was born in Yates county, New York, in 1850, daughter of Nicholas and Eliza A. (Snyder) Bissell, who came to Ionia county

about 1860 an dlocated on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 12, Lyons township, where they established their home. There Nicholas Bissell died and his widow married Benjamin F. Hunt and moved into Pewamo. After the death of Mr. Hunt his widow made her home with the Somers family and with them spent the rest of her days. Ten acres of the old Bissell homestead is now a part of the corporation of Pewamo and of the original homestead Mr. Somers now owns one hundred and eighteen acres. He is a Republican and has served as clerk and treasurer of Lyons township. He is a Mason and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

To Charles P. and Alma H. (Bissell) Somers six children have been born, five of whom are still living, one, a daughter, Nellie, having died at the age of eighteen years, the others being as follow: Cora, who married George Burhams and lives at Lansing, this state; Louis C., who married Marjorie Hetz, of Muskegon, and now lives at San Bernardino, California; Bessie, who is employed in the Cummings bank at Carson City, in the neighboring county of Montcalm; Jay, who married Maggie Gee and lives on a farm one mile south of Pewamo, and Maude, who married the subject of this biographical sketch.

Mrs. Amsden graduated from the Pewamo high school, atended the Mt. Pleasant State Normal two terms, taught school in Pewamo in 1908-09, was a pupil in the New England Conservatory of Music at Boston, Massachusetts, for one year. Returning to Michigan, she took up school work at Muir, where she taught in the grammar department for one and one-half years, when she resigned to marry Mr. Amsden. She is at present actively engaged in teaching piano and voice.

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#### WILLIAM HENDERSHOT.

William Hendershot, veteran blacksmith at Lyons and one of the best-known residents of Ionia county, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of this county since he was eighteen years old. He was born in the village of Jerseyville, in Ontario county, Canada, June 19, 1843, son of Abram and Charlotte (Van Sickle) Hendershot, the former also a native of New York state and the latter of Canada. Abram Hendershot was a blacksmith and his son William literally grew up at the forge, becoming an expert smith even as a boy, also learning wagon-making.

In 1862, he then being eighteen years of age, William Hendershot

came to Michigan, with a fine determination to "grow up with the country," and located in Ionia county, where he has lived ever since. He had no difficulty in finding plenty of work and soon became recognized as a definite fixture in the community up about Muir. After he had been here about six years he married and established a shop of his own at what then was known as Prine's Corners, now Fox's Corners, in the southeast part of Ronald township, about three miles from Muir. Later he moved his shop to Wood's Corner's, in the same township, and there he did very well. That was before the days of the railroad in that section and there was much wagon travel past his shop, a constant feeder for business in his line. After awhile conditions seemed more promising at Palo and he moved his shop to that point and was located there for a time, later moving to Vickeryville, thence back to Ronald township and on April 1, 1899, to Lyons, where he set up his present shop and where he has been engaged in business ever since. During his long residence in the northeastern part of the county, Mr. Hendershot has seen much of the growth and development of this region and has taken no small part in the work of promoting that development. In his earlier days here he was acquainted with most of the pioneers and when in a reminiscent mood can narrate some very interesting stories of the old busy logging days.

Mr. Hendershot has been twice married. It was in 1868 that he was united in marriage to Julia Warren, who was born near the town of Watertown, New York, daughter of William Warren and wife, who had come to this county, settling in Ronald township, near Literary Hall. To that union four children were born, as follow: Minnie, who married Fred Brown, now living at Charlotte, this state, and has two children, Gladys and Ronald; George, who married Edith Gardner and now lives at Grand Rapids; Frank, who married Hattie Greeland and now lives at St. Johns, and Bertha, who died when about six years of age. The mother of these children died in 1879 and in 1880 Mr. Hendershot married, secondly, Ida Wilson, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio. Her father, a soldier of the Union during the Civil War, died in that service. She grew to womanhood in Ohio and then came to this county. To this union two sons have been born, Harry H., born in 1881, who is associated with his father in business at Lyons, married Cora Gardner and has one child, a daughter, Maxine, and Oscar Clyde, who married Belle Herman and is now living at St. Johns.

Mr. and Mrs. Hendershot are members of the Baptist church and take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same. Mr. Hendershot is a Mason and both he and his wife are members of the Lyons chapter of

the Order of the Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Hendershot is now worthy matron, taking a very useful part in the affairs of that organization. Mr. Hendershot also is a member of the local "tent" of the Knights of the Maccabees and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

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### JOSEPH SPITZLEY.

One of the most enterprising farmers and stock raisers of Portland township, Ionia county, is Joseph Spitzley, who was born on February 1, 1876, in the above named township and county, a son of Anthony and Catherine (Smith) Spitzley. The father was born in the Rhine country, Germany, and when nine years old his parents brought him to America, locating in Clinton county, Michigan, where he grew to manhood and attended school. His father took up eighty acres from the government, which he developed and on which he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. After his marriage Anthony Spitzley bought land in Ionia county where he spent about sixteen years, then, his parents having died, he purchased the old homestead, where he has since resided. Catherine Smith, mentioned above, was born in Westphalia, Germany, and her parents brought her to the United States when she was two years old, the family locating in Portland township, Ionia county, Michigan, just across the county line from the Spitzley family, and there Catherine grew up and attended school. To Anthony Spitzley and wife eleven children were born, eight of whom grew to maturity, and seven are now living, namely: William resides in Portland township; John lives in Ionia; Theresa is the wife of Peter Thelen and they live near Lowell; Joseph is the subject of this sketch; Frank is with his parents on the homestead; Clara is the wife of John Hufnagel and they live in Clinton county; Susan is the wife of Anthony Goodman and they live in Danby township, Ionia county.

Joseph Spitzley grew up on the home farm and attended the district schools, remaining at home until he was married on October 17, 1899, to Catherine Hufnagel, a daughter of Anthony and Helena (Hanses) Hufnagel. Her mother was the daughter of John Hanses, who was one of the first settlers of Westphalia township, Clinton county, and he named both the township and the village. Helena was born in that township, reared and educated there. Anthony Hufnagel came here from Westphalia, Germany, when a poor boy, making the trip alone, and he met and married

Helena Hanses in Westphalia township, Clinton county. After his marriage he moved to the Lake Superior region, in the northern part of Michigan, but later returned to Clinton county.

At the time of his marriage Joseph Spitzley moved to an eighty-acre farm in section 24, Portland township, Ionia county, where he remained thirteen years, finally adding a forty-acre tract to his original farm, which he still owns, then bought a farm of one hundred and six acres in 1913 where he now lives in section 27. He has kept his land well improved and has a good home and numerous substantial outbuildings. He carries on general farming and stock raising extensively, making a specialty of Ohio Improved Chester hogs. His family consists of six children, namely: Anthony J. is attending high school; Mary K. is attending school; Leona S., Elizabeth and Katherine are all in the local graded schools, and Helen T. is at home.

Politically, Mr. Spitzley is a Democrat. He made the race several times for township supervisor and once for township treasurer. He is at present vice-president and manager of the Portland Telephone Company and is a stockholder in the same, also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Portland. He and his family belong to the Catholic church in Portland.

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#### AUGUSTUS FREDERICK KLOTZ.

Many German born citizens have come to Ionia county, Michigan, and by good management have become owners of valuable farms. One of this number is Augustus Frederick Klotz, of Orange township, who has been very successful both as a general farmer and raiser of blooded live stock. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, December 1, 1838, and is a son of John C. and Frederica (Treiber) Klotz. Augustus F. Klotz spent his boyhood in his native land and there received his primary education. He was fourteen years old when his parents brought him to the United States, locating near Plymouth, Michigan, where his father worked out by the month for two years, then, in the fall of 1855 bought forty acres in section 23, Orange township, Ionia county, which land is now owned by the subject of this sketch, and the father located on this land in the autumn of 1855, over sixty years ago, and here the father spent the balance of his life, dying in 1894, his wife following him to the grave three days later. They were the parents of six children, three of whom survive, namely: John W. lives

in the town of Portland; Rosina is the wife of Alexander Gibbs, of Orange township, Ionia county, and Augustus F., who is the eldest of the three. He grew up on the farm where he worked when a boy, and received his English education in the district schools here. His brother, John, served awhile as a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. In the spring of 1866 Augustus F. Klotz settled on his forty acres and began farming for himself, a few years later buying the adjoining forty acres of his brother, John, and he has continued to reside here ever since, or for a half century, during which he has cleared, improved and developed his land into as fine a farm as may be found in the township. After the death of his father he bought the homestead of forty acres, which he later gave to his son, when he started in life for himself. He and his son own land consisting of two hundred and twenty acres, all in section 23, Orange township. In connection with general farming he raises large numbers of live stock, specializing on Durham cattle and Poland China hogs, his place being known as the "Orange Dale Farm," in which his son, Fred Klotz, has an interest.

August F. Klotz was married on February 25, 1866, to Sarah A. Nicholson, a daughter of Hiram and Susan (Moore) Nicholson, who came to Ionia county from New York state, but were married in Oakland county, Michigan. They were of English and German descent. He was born in Batavia county and his wife in Herkimer county, New York. They came to this state when young. He was a surveyor and met her while on a trip through Michigan, she having previously moved to Oakland county with her parents. He subsequently became county surveyor. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Klotz. Nellie R., born on January 9, 1867, died on October 12, 1900; she was the wife of Andrew B. Goodwin, an attorney of Carson City, Michigan. Alta F., born on February 3, 1875, died on June 2, 1882. A. Fred, born on May 23, 1879, married Ruby Davids, lives on the home farm, which he operates for his father. He was supervisor of Orange township during 1912 and 1913, and was township clerk for two years previous. He has one child, Mildred Margaret, born on June 5, 1905, and she is now attending school.

Mr. and Mrs. Augustus F. Klotz are members of the Methodist church of Orange, and he has always taken a very active interest in church work, and has been a member of the board of trustees for a number of years and is now a steward, while his son, Fred, is a trustee. The son is also a member of the Grange, Portland Lodge No. 174. Augustus F. Klotz has been a member of the Orange Grange for a number of years. Politically he is a

Republican, and he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. He has never sought public office, but was elected highway commissioner in 1881 and served one term.

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REV. ELAM EDGAR BRANCH.

The Rev. Elam E. Branch, pastor of the First Baptist church of Ionia and editor-in-chief of this volume, is a native son of Michigan, having been born at Alamo, in Kalamazoo county, this state, March 3, 1871, son of the Rev. Elam and Helen E. (Nelson) Branch, the former also a native of Michigan and the latter of the state of New York, both now deceased.

The Rev. Elam Branch was born on a farm in Van Buren county, this state, January 31, 1842, son of Eaton and Wealthy (Clark) Branch, natives of New York state and pioneers of Van Buren county, this state, who were the parents of six sons, Ira, Elam, Francis, Luther, William and Eaton. The elder Eaton Branch became a well-to-do farmer and a man of large influence in his community. He lived to be upwards of eighty years of age. His wife, who preceded him to the grave, died at the age of fifty-four. Elam Branch, the second in order of birth of the six sons above enumerated, was reared on the home farm and early turned his attention to the ministry of the Congregational church, becoming one of the best-known missionary preachers in the Michigan home field. He married Helen E. Nelson, who was born at Gaines, New York, daughter of Moses and Nancy Jane (Beckwith) Nelson, also natives of New York state, who came to Michigan at an early day and became pioneers of Jackson county, later moving to Van Buren county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, well-to-do and influential farming people. Moses Nelson lived to be eighty-four years of age. His widow lived to the great age of ninety-one. They were the parents of six children, Valeria L., Marcus S., who was killed in battle while serving as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War; Dayton and Edgar, who died in early infancy; Delos, who died in childhood, and Helen E.

To the Rev. Elam and Helen E. (Nelson) Branch three children were born, Jesse M., who died in 1890; Amanda, widow of Frank H. Lawton and now residing at Ellsworth, this state, and the Rev. Elam E., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. Rev. Elam Branch, who was an officer in the Union army during the Civil War, died in 1874 and his widow married, secondly, Lyman Cooper, to which union one child was born, a daughter, Iva M., who married Charles Thomas, of Ellsworth, this state.





*E. E. Branch*



Mrs. Cooper died at the home of her son, the Rev. Elam E. Branch, at Ionia, March 20, 1912, she being sixty-six years of age. During the lifetime of her first husband she was a member of the Congregational church, but after his death she united with the Baptist church and was an active and earnest member of the same the rest of her life.

Elam E. Branch was three years old when his father died and he was reared in the home of his maternal grandparents, the Nelsons, in Van Buren county. He grew up on the farm and attended the public schools at Lawrence, being graduated from the high school there. He early had determined upon the Gospel ministry as his calling in life and upon leaving the high school diligently pursued his studies with that end in view. Three years later he was ordained a minister of the Baptist church and was installed as pastor of the Baptist church at Jacksonville, Iowa, at which place he took his ordination vows. Not long afterward a call was extended to him by the congregation of the Baptist church at Hartford, this state. He accepted the call and for two years was stationed at Hartford as pastor of the church at that place. He then was called to Nashville, this state, where he remained for nearly six years and from which place he went to Kalamazoo, where he was stationed for about five years, at the end of which time he accepted the call extended by the congregation of the First Baptist church at Ionia and in 1905 entered upon the duties of pastor of that congregation. During his ministry in Ionia, Mr. Branch has strengthened the church in many ways and has rendered an admirable service, not only in behalf of the people of his church, but in behalf of the community at large. A fluent speaker, a man of scholarly attainments, and deeply interested in all things which pertain to the deeper and more permanent life of the people, he commands the respect and esteem of the entire community. Mr. Branch is a member of one of the oldest families in the country, the founder of the name in this country having been a Branch who came from the north of England in 1629 and established his family in Massachusetts, nine years after the landing of the "Mayflower" pilgrims.

On January 21, 1891, Rev. Elam E. Branch was united in marriage to Jennie M. Gorham, who was born in Van Buren county, this state, daughter of Bradford C. Gorham and wife, the latter of whom was a Shaw, both natives of this state, and the parents of four children, Charles, William, Adelbert and Jennie. The mother of these children died when her daughter was a child and Mr. Gorham married again, having two children by his second marriage, one of whom, Mrs. Nellie Devine, is now living in

Illinois. Bradford C. Gorham was a veteran of the Civil War and a well-known and substantial citizen of Van Buren county. Mrs. Branch is an admirable helpmeet to her husband in the exacting duties of his pastorate. Both she and Mr. Branch take a warm interest in the social and cultural activities of their home town and are held in high regard throughout the entire county. Mr. Branch is a member of Ionia Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons; of Ionia Chapter No. 14, Royal Arch Masons; of Ionia Council No. 14, Royal and Select Masters, and of Ionia Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar. He is also a member of Ionia Lodge No. 175, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in the affairs of both the Masons and of the Odd Fellows takes a warm interest.

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#### ORSON V. FROST.

Among the painstaking tillers of the soil and stock raisers of Portland township, Ionia county, is Orson V. Frost, who was born in Wayne county, New York, August 22, 1849. He is a son of S. C. and Miriam (Van Auken) Frost. The father was born in Wayne county, New York, and was of English descent, three brothers having come to America from England many generations back, and settled in the state of Connecticut, later removing to the state of New York. S. C. Frost was reared on a farm in his native county and there received his education and married. Miriam Van Auken was a native of Orange county, New York, where her parents lived on a farm, and she was descended from the earliest Dutch settlers, her ancestors having come to this country at the time Hendrick Hudson located a colony along the great river that bears his name. S. C. and Miriam Frost spent their married life on a farm in Wayne county, New York, and died there. To their union six children were born, namely: Alanson died when two years old; Orson V., the subject of this sketch; Charles lives in Portland township, Ionia county; Levi died in 1861, when eight years old; William lives in Portland township, Ionia county, and a son that died in infancy.

Orson V. Frost's father died when he was six years old and four years later he left home and began life for himself, working out as a farm hand during the summer months and attending school in the winter time. When twelve years old he went to Cayuga county, in his native state, where he continued working on farms during the crop seasons and attending school in the winter until he was seventeen years old, when, in the spring of 1867, he came alone to Ionia county, Michigan, arriving in Portland township with

very little money, and here he worked out as a farm hand until his marriage on December 22, 1875, to Calista H. Maynard, a daughter of James F. and Martha (Andrews) Maynard. He purchased the eighty-acre farm where he now lives in 1877, in section 16, Portland township. Here he has resided continuously and has made a comfortable living as a general farmer. His wife was called to her rest, after a lingering illness, on April 11, 1913. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Frost, namely: Franklin S. died when four years of age; George E. died in infancy, and Harry V., who was educated in the local schools, is at home assisting his father on the farm.

Politically, Mr. Frost is a Republican. He served as justice of the peace for seven years consecutively, and gave eminent satisfaction. He has been a director in school district No. 2 for the past thirty years, also a moderator, but is not active at the present time. He has done much to improve the local schools. He and his son are both members of Portland Grange No. 174, the father having been master of the same from 1909 to 1912, inclusive. He has always manifested a lively interest in all movements for the general good of his community.

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#### ERNEST A. LASELLE.

Another enterprising farmer of Ionia county who is making a specialty of raising blooded live stock in connection with his general farming is Ernest A. LaSelle, of Orange township. He was born in Ronald township, this county, April 22, 1868, and is a son of Thaddens and Francis (Bernard) LaSelle. The father was born in Steuben county, New York. The ancestry may be traced back to Elder Brewster, of French-English blood, who came to America in the historic "Mayflower," in 1620. Thaddens LaSelle lived in his native state until he was eighteen years old, then came with his parents to Michigan, the family locating in Ronald township, Ionia county, where his father, Aylmer LaSelle, purchased two hundred and forty-six acres on which he spent the rest of his life. Thaddens LaSelle first married Emma Warner, who was born near Pewamo, but she survived only a year after their marriage. His second marriage was to Frances Bernard, who was born in Ionia township, this county. Her death occurred in 1874. Three children were born to the second union, namely: Ernest A., the subject of this sketch; Vernelia is the wife of Peter Grieve, of Port-

land, this county, and Nantie, who died when fourteen years old. Thaddeus LaSelle married Emma Brown for his third wife, and she still survives. His death occurred on December 4, 1915, after a long, honorable and successful life.

Ernest A. LaSelle received his education in the district schools of Ronald township. He remained at home until he was eighteen years old, then started out in life for himself. He went to Grand Rapids where he secured employment with the street railway company, breaking horses, remaining with the company one year, then returned to Portland and hired out by the month on his uncle's farm where he remained a year, then hired to D. O. Miner one year. On April 22, 1891, he married Bertha Miner, daughter of D. O. and Annis (DeLap) Miner. John Miner, grandfather of Mrs. LaSelle brought his family from the state of New York to Ionia county, Michigan, in 1837, and entered land from the government in what is now Portland township. His son, D. O. Miner, was born a week after the family arrived in this county. Annis DeLap, mother of Mrs. LaSelle, was born in Portland township, this county, and was a daughter of Dean and Phoebe DeLap. Soon after their marriage, D. O. and Annis (DeLap) Miner settled on the farm in Portland township, which his father took up from the government and there lived until 1870. To their union five children were born, namely: Fred lives in Portland; Clara is the wife of Frank Whitcomb, and they live on a farm in Danby township; Lucy died when fourteen months old; Bertha, wife of the subject of this sketch; Grace is the wife of Herbert Tybbs, of Portland, Michigan.

Mrs. LaSelle grew to womanhood on a farm and received her education in the public schools and the Portland high school, graduating from the latter in 1887, after which she taught in the district schools of Orange and Portland townships for three years.

Ernest A. LaSelle rented a farm north of Portland for a year after their marriage, then for two years he was employed in a lumber yard in Portland, after which he moved on the Griffin farm in Portland township where he remained eleven years, and in the spring of 1909 bought his present farm of ninety-two and one-half acres in section 23. Orange township, and in connection with general farming he is making a specialty of raising purebred Holstein cattle, his fine herd being headed by "Long Beach Petereja Beets," No. 116102. He keeps good live stock of all kinds except sheep. He is also a stockholder in the Portland Elevator Company.

To Mr. and Mrs. LaSelle three children have been born, namely: Bernard J. died when nine years old; Annis Frances is attending high school

in Portland: Ruth is also a student in the Portland high school. Fraternaly, Mr. LaSelle is a member of Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons. He is a Republican, and has been a member of the board of review of Orange township two full terms. He and his family belong to the First Baptist church in Portland, of which he is a trustee and he has long been active in church work.

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### WILLIAM SPITZLEY.

An advocate of twentieth-century methods of general agriculture and stock raising is William Spitzley, of Portland township, Ionia county, and therefore he has been highly successful in his vocation. He was born in Westphalia township, Clinton county, Michigan, December 4, 1864, and is a son of Anthony and Catherine (Smith) Spitzley. The father was born in Germany and when nine years old he came with his parents to the United States, the family locating in Westphalia township, Clinton county, Michigan, near the Ionia county line. They had very little capital, but went to work with a will and established a comfortable home and here the parents spent the rest of their lives. On that farm Anthony Spitzler grew to manhood, met and married Catherine Smith, who was born in Germany, from which country her parents brought her to America when she was three years old, the father buying a farm in Ionia county, Michigan, near the Clinton county line, and there she grew to womanhood. After his marriage Anthony Spitzley engaged in the saw-mill business with his brother-in-law, William Smith, for a year or two, then bought eighty acres where his son, William Spitzley, now lives, and here resided about sixteen years. He also bought forty acres in section 13. He and wife make their home with their son, Frank Spitzley, in Clinton county. To these parents seven children have been born, named as follow: William, the subject of this sketch; John lives in Ionia; Theresa is the wife of Peter Thelen, of Lowell, Michigan; Clara is the wife of John Hufnagel and they live in Clinton county; Joseph lives in Portland township, this county; Frank lives on his farm in Westphalia township, Clinton county, and Susan who is the wife of Anthony Goodman, of Danby township.

William Spitzley grew to manhood on the home farm and received a common-school education. On October 30, 1888, he married Mary Thelen, a daughter of Peter and Annie (Pung) Thelen, both natives of Germany,

from which country their parents brought them to the United States when young and here they grew up and married, and are still living in Westphalia township, Clinton county, Michigan.

To William Spitzley and wife twelve children have been born, namely: Theresa, Catherine, Anthony, Anna, Arnold, Louie, Henry, Ida, Amelia, Rosella, Lorina and Genevieve. These children have been given educational advantages either in the public or parochial schools.

Mr. Spitzley is a Democrat in politics. He and his family belong to the Catholic church in Westphalia. He has been school director in district No. 6, Portland township, for the past three years. He is a stockholder in the Portland Elevator Company.

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#### LAMBERT B. STRUBLE.

Lambert B. Struble, a well-known and well-to-do pioneer farmer of Lyons township, this county, is a native son of Ionia county and has lived here all his life, having thus been a witness to all the wonderful development that has marked this region during the past generation. He was born on a pioneer farm in Portland township, December 27, 1847, son of Sidney and Harriet (Adams) Struble, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania, who became pioneers of Ionia county and spent their last days here.

Sidney Struble was born in Yates county, New York, in 1816, son of Adam Struble, who was of German parentage, and grew to manhood there. He married Harriet Adams, a young school teacher, who was teaching in the neighborhood of his home. She was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1817, daughter of Gaius and Cynthia (Kent) Adams. In 1843 Sidney Struble and wife came to Michigan and became numbered among the earliest settlers on what then was known as the East Plains, in Lyons township, this county. At that time there was but one house on the site of the present town of Muir, the house of Doctor Blanchard, which stood at a point near where the depot at Muir now stands, and the country in that part of the county was just beginning to be settled. Thus the Strubles became numbered among the very earliest settlers in that neighborhood and took a prominent and useful part in the work of developing proper social and economic conditions thereabout. Mrs. Struble taught the first school opened in the vicinity of East Plains, conducting the school in the log cabin



in which she and her husband began housekeeping. Later they moved to the township of Portland, where they bought a farm and made their home until the spring of 1856, when they moved to a farm near Muir, where they spent the rest of their lives, her death occurring in 1903 and his in 1906. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Cynthia Mary, now deceased, who married Harland Edwards; Emma Julia, the widow of Burgess N. Hall; Edward S. and Phoebe Jeannette, deceased, who was the wife of George Bennett.

Lambert B. Struble grew up on the home farm and on July 2, 1874, was united in marriage to Corinthia Williams, who was born in Branch county, near Coldwater, this state, who had come to this county when seventeen years of age with an aunt, with whom she had made her home since she was orphaned at the age of six, locating at Muir. After his marriage Mr. Struble bought a farm of eighty acres in section 8 of Lyons township, two miles northeast of Muir, and there has made his home ever since. His farm is well improved and profitably cultivated and he built a fine house in the fall of 1907. His farm now comprises ninety acres and his only son, Harry, owns a farm of fifty acres adjoining. Mrs. Struble died on May 12, 1908, just four months after the family had got settled in the new home. She was an earnest member of the Disciples church and was ever active in local good works. Mr. Struble is an elder in the church of that denomination at Muir, of which he has been a member for forty-nine years.

Harry Struble, only son of Lambert B. and Corinthia (Adams) Struble, was born on April 12, 1876. He was graduated from the Muir high school and with the exception of seven years spent as a rural mail carrier from Muir, has devoted his whole life to farming, being recognized as one of the most substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He makes his home with his father in the house on the old home place. Harry Struble was united in marriage to Daisy Mills, daughter of William and Emma Mills, who died on May 12, 1913, leaving a daughter, Ruth, born on March 10, 1902. On June 16, 1915, Harry Struble married Nellie Settle, who was born at Muir, daughter of William and Ellen (Sullivan) Settle, the former of whom was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, son of John and Elizabeth Settle, the former a native of England, who died in Ohio, after which his widow, who was born in Cincinnati, came to Michigan with her children and settled at Muir in 1867. There William Settle grew to manhood and married Ellen Sullivan, who was born at Muir, daughter of Patrick and Bridget (Wing) Sullivan, both natives of Dublin, Ireland, who were mar-

ried after their arrival in this country. They came to Michigan during the fifties and settled at Muir, where Mrs. Sullivan kept a boarding house for the construction crew while the railroad was being built through that part of the county. William Settle and wife still make their home in Muir. To them twelve children were born, James, Elizabeth, Otien, Una, Mabel, William, Jennie, Nellie, Louva, Patrick, Don and Chester.

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#### S. A. WATT.

S. A. Watt, veteran merchant at Saranac, who has been actively identified with the business interests of that place since just after the close of the Civil War, during which time he has been prominently concerned in all movements looking to the advancement of the general interests of that thriving little city, is a native of Ohio, having been born in the village of Carrollton, Carroll county, that state, December 13, 1845, son of David A. and Julia A. (Gallaher) Watt, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former of Scottish descent and the latter of Irish descent. The branch of the Watt family with which S. A. Watt is connected was founded in this country by three brothers of that name who came from Scotland many generations ago and settled in Philadelphia.

Not long after their marriage in Pennsylvania David A. Watt and wife moved to Carroll county, Ohio, where Mr. Watt shortly afterward received from the governor of that state the appointment of sheriff of the county in which he lived, that having been in the days when the shrievalty was controlled by executive appointment. He was holding that position when the law making the sheriff an elective officer was enacted and he was elected first sheriff of the county, to which office he was re-elected for three or four successive terms. He then engaged in newspaper work at Mt. Gilead, Ohio, and was there thus engaged for five years, at the end of which time he moved to Mansfield, same state, where he engaged in the agricultural implement business with Hall & Allen and was with them for three years. He then moved to Findlay, Ohio, where he established a hardware store and there he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1861. His widow survived him many years, she living to the great age of eighty-eight years. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch is now the sole survivor. The others were James,



S. A. WATT.



John F., Mary Jane, Esther and Scott. James and John F. Watts, brothers of subject, served in the Civil War. James served first in the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under the one hundred days enlistment scheme and he then enlisted in the Forty-ninth Ohio and served until the end of the war. John F. enlisted in the Twenty-first Ohio for three years service, and served to the end of the war. Both are now dead.

During the progress of the Civil War, he then being fifteen years of age, S. A. Watt went to Indianapolis, Indiana, to visit his brother-in-law, who was quartermaster of the Fifth Veteran Reserve Corps in camp in that city, and while there became acquainted with D. F. Frazell, a former Saranac merchant, who was serving as sutler of the camp, and he was employed by Frazell to help in the latter's store there and for two years was thus engaged, during which time he made arrangements with Frazell to enter the latter's employ at Saranac at the close of the war. Returning to Findlay he spent the following winter in school there and in the spring came to Ionia county, entering Frazell's employ, being engaged as timekeeper and bookkeeper in Frazell's stave and heading factory and grist-mill at Saranac, where he was engaged for two years, during which time he learned the telegraph business and became a competent operator. When Lee & Goodell opened their bank at Saranac, the first bank established in that village, Mr. Watt was employed as bookkeeper and opened the first set of books in that bank. After a year of this service he was employed by G. A. Cotton and in the latter's store also performed the duties of express agent for the Merchant and Union Express, a forwarding company of that day, later absorbed by the American Express Company. He remained with Mr. Cotton until his appointment in 1873 as mail agent over the Pere Marquette, which position he held for ten years. In the meantime he had married a daughter of Mr. Cotton and when that old merchant died the subject of this sketch bought the store. Three years later he resigned his position in the mail service and took active charge of the store and has been thus engaged ever since, being now the oldest merchant in continuous business in Saranac. Mr. Watt has also been local manager for the Western Union Telegraph Company at Saranac since 1867 and local agent for the American Express Company from 1877 to 1912. He is a Republican and has ever taken a warm interest in local civic affairs, having been president of the village for two terms and township clerk back in the seventies; always ready to assist in any movement designed to advance the interests of his home town.

On September 6, 1870, S. A. Watt was united in marriage to Alice A. Cotton, daughter of G. A. Cotton and wife, early residents and prominent pioneers of the Saranac neighborhood, the former of whom for years was one of the leading merchants of the village, and to that union three children were born, as follow: Dr. C. Laverne Watt, a well-known dentist at Grand Rapids, a graduate of the Saranac high school, of the Columbia College at Washington, D. C., and of the Detroit Dental College, and, in former days, was an expert telegraph operator; the Hon. J. Clyde Watt, a graduate of the Saranac high school and of the law department of the University of Michigan, a prominent lawyer of this county, who for two or three terms served as a member of the Michigan state Legislature and as clerk of the state Senate for one term, and Stella May, wife of N. J. Oglevie, a well-known dealer in hardware at Saranac, Ionia. The mother of these children died on March 3, 1906. She was prominent in the work of the Episcopal church at Saranac and for years served the congregation of that church as organist. She also took an active part in the affairs of the local lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah, Mr. Watt formerly having been one of the leaders in the local lodge of the Odd Fellows. On October 12, 1914, Mr. Watt married Mrs. Cora Henri, of Grand Rapids, and he and his wife are very comfortably situated in their pleasant home at Saranac. Mr. Watt has the largest store in Saranac and keeps a general line of merchandise. He was the first merchant here who established the practice of paying cash for produce.

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#### FRED CUTLER.

Fred Cutler, a well-known and progressive farmer of Lyons township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, situated about two miles northeast of Muir, is a native son of Ionia county, born at Smyrna, in Otisco township, February 1, 1865, son of William and Evaline (Severcool) Cutler, both natives of this state and both of whom spent their last days in this county.

William Cutler was a son of English parents who came to Michigan at an early day and settled in the southern part of Calhoun county. At an early age William Cutler was left an orphan, and he grew to manhood on his own resources, becoming a farmer. He was twice married. His first wife left four children, one son and three daughters, at her death. By his

marriage to Evaline Severcool, who had grown up in Ionia county, daughter of Henry and Ruth Severcool, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of this state. William Cutler was the father of four children, three sons and one daughter. In the latter sixties he moved from Smyrna to Orleans township, this county, where he bought a farm three miles east of Belding, and there he died in 1872. His widow remained on that farm the rest of her life.

Fred Cutler was seven years old when his father died and when he was ten years old he left home and began working "for his keep," until such a time as his services on a farm should be regarded as worthy of a definite wage. His first wage was at the rate of four dollars a month, and he gradually progressed in value to his employers until he was receiving seventeen dollars a month. When nineteen years old he rented a farm and began working on his own account, doing so well in that line that after his marriage in the fall of 1888 he was able to buy an eighty-acre farm in Orleans township, where he established his home and where he remained for ten years, at the end of which time he sold that place to advantage and bought a farm of one hundred acres in Clinton county. Not quite a year later he accepted a good offer for that farm and then bought a farm of eighty-seven acres in Gratiot county. Three years later he sold that place, returned to Ionia county and bought the farm on which he is now living in the Muir neighborhood and where he and his family are very well situated, their hospitable home being one of the most comfortable thereabout.

On November 14, 1888, in Orleans township, this county, Fred Cutler was united in marriage to Nellie Smith, who was born at Homer, in Calhoun county, this state, daughter of Marcus and Sarah A. (Carmichael) Smith, early settlers of that county, who came from New Jersey. In 1852 the Smiths came from Calhoun county to Ionia county and settled in Mather-ton, where they lived until 1869, when they moved onto a farm in Orleans township, where Marcus Smith died in 1880. His widow survived him eight years, her death occurring in 1888. Marcus Smith was a blacksmith during his early life, but during his residence in Mather-ton kept a hotel and was thus engaged until he moved to the farm in 1869.

To Fred and Nellie (Smith) Cutler one child has been born, a son, Elmer D., born on September 15, 1893, who is an able assistant to his father in the work of operating the home farm. On his twenty-first birthday, September 15, 1914, Elmer D. Cutler was united in marriage to Myrtle Bacon and to that union one child has been born, a son, Raymond Cecil,

born on January 24, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Cutler and their son are members of the Methodist church and the latter's wife is a member of the Presbyterian church, all taking an earnest interest in neighborhood good works. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cutler are members of the Gleaners and take a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### CHARLES F. DURKEE.

Charles F. Durkee, prosperous farmer and stockman, proprietor of the "Lythewood Farm" located about five miles north of Lake Odessa in Berlin township, Ionia county, Michigan, was born in the township where he has passed his entire life, on December 21, 1856. He is a son of Charles M. and Jane E. (Hubbard) Durkee, the former a native of New York state who came with his parents to Ohio and in his young manhood located in this county.

Charles F. Durkee is one of a family of seven children, five of whom are living. L. H. Durkee, a brother, is a farmer in Odessa township, this county; L. M. farms near Sebawa; D. D. is in Odessa township and E. W. farms in Berlin township. Charles F. received such education as was obtainable in the district schools of this section when he was a boy and remained with his father on the farm until after he had attained his majority. He united in marriage with Lizzie Lodisa Brown and their daughter, Wava Arlene, was born February 19, 1906. Mrs. Charles F. Durkee is a daughter of the Rev. Henry A. Brown and Lois Ellen Hubbard, his first wife, and the sole surviving child of their family of three. Chloe Viola died in infancy and Charles Henry died at Sandpoint, Idaho, September 18, 1913. The Rev. Henry Almon Brown was the youngest child of the family of thirteen children of Hosea and Chloe Brown and was born at Concord, Lake county, Ohio, November 6, 1833, where his early life was spent. He was his mother's favorite child and she was his first teacher, using the Bible as a text book from which he learned to spell and read. He attended the public schools and later the preparatory school at Hiram, Ohio, after which he engaged in teaching and other educational work for several years. While first a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, he later united with the Baptist church and began preparing himself for the ministry. In 1869 he accepted a pastorate at Toledo, Iowa, where he was ordained into the ministry and then followed many years of active work in teaching and



preaching as well as other helpful service. The Rev. Henry A. Brown was a professor of language at Des Moines, Iowa, and was one of the founders of the University of Des Moines. He was of Puritan stock and was a descendant of one of General Washington's guards. His first wife died March 31, 1804, and in November of 1806 he was united in marriage with Mrs. Emily Waugh of Albia, Iowa, who died on July 31, 1909. The Rev. Henry A. Brown died April 2, 1914, having filled his years with helpful work for all mankind.

Charles F. Durkee is one of the prosperous farmers of his section, owning three hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, all of which he has earned himself. His entire life has been spent in the one locality and he stands high in the estimation of those among whom his life has been spent. Politically, he is a Democrat, although giving no special attention to this phase of citizenship. Mrs. Durkee is a member of the Baptist church.

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### JOHN WRIGHT FORTUNE.

John Wright Fortune, one of the best-known retired farmers of this county, now living comfortably retired at his pleasant home in Muir, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born in Yates township, Orleans county, New York, November 9, 1847, son of George and Susan (Wright) Fortune, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of the state of New York, who later became pioneer residents of Ionia county, where their last days were spent.

George Fortune was born near the city of Glasgow, Scotland, in 1809, and was but seven years old when he came to this country with his parents, John and Susan Fortune, in 1816. The family settled in St. Lawrence county, New York, and there George Fortune lived until he was twenty-four years of age. There he became engaged to marry Susan Wright, who was born in Herkimer county, New York, daughter of Timothy and Sarah (Brown) Wright, and in 1833 decided to come West and take a homestead in the Territory of Michigan, preparatory to marrying and setting up a home of his own. With that end in view he came to Ionia county and joined his uncle, George Younger, who had settled here some little time previously, and who is said to have been the first white man to settle in Ionia county, he having located on a homestead in the south part of Ronald township, where the county infirmary was later located. George Fortune walked all

the way from Detroit to Ionia county, following Indian trails and camping with Indians on the way. Upon arriving here he found employment in a saw-mill, which was located on the site of the present Nickel Plate mill, and presently entered a claim to a quarter of a section of Congress land, the northeast quarter of section 28, North Plains township. On this pioneer tract he built a log house, cleared twenty acres, planted the same to wheat, established his residence and then went back home to claim his bride. Though he had never written to her during the three years he was absent, she remained true to her troth and kept other suitors at a distance. They were married immediately after his arrival at the old home, but in the meantime word of the Glass tragedy—the burning to death of the Glass family in their cabin home in the northeastern part of this county, presumably by Indians, had reached the East and the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, interposed such strenuous objections to their daughter's departure for the home that had been prepared for her in the wilderness, that Mr. Fortune remained in New York and set up his first home there instead of on the homestead farm he had prepared in this county. His father, who remained in New York, became the owner of four hundred acres of land there. He reared a family of nine children and lived to be ninety-five years of age, the last twenty-five years of which time he was compelled to use crutches.

Upon settling down in New York, George Fortune sold his Ionia county homestead, but in 1854, when the subject of this sketch was not quite seven years old, he returned to this county, bringing his family with him, and located near the Nickel Plate mill, presently buying a home in section 3, Ionia township, where he lived until the death of his wife in March, 1868, after which he made his home with his son, John W., the remainder of his days, his death occurring on December 31, 1887.

John W. Fortune grew up on the home place at the north edge of Ionia township and farmed there until his recent retirement from the farm and removal to Muir. At the age of eighteen he began to work for himself, his first earnings being applied to the payment of a mortgage on his father's place. For seven years he worked at farm labor, "by the month," and then bargained for a farm, incurring an indebtedness of two thousand three hundred dollars. This he paid off in due time and presently became the owner of fifty-six acres in Ionia township, where he made his home, and eighty acres across the line in Ronald township. At the time of his marriage in 1870 he began keeping house in a log cabin, but in 1884 erected on his place a fine brick house and five years later a barn that was regarded as one of the finest in the county. In 1906 Mr. Fortune sold that farm to advantage

and bought eighty acres in section 7, Lyons township, the place where Lester Ross now lives, and there he made his home until 1910, in which year he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Muir, where he now resides and where he is very comfortably situated. For twelve years Mr. Fortune was director of his school district and upon moving to Lyons township was elected road overseer, a position he has held ever since.

Mr. Fortune has been married twice. On December 5, 1870, he was united in marriage to Corlie E. Pike, who was born in Hartland township, Niagara county, New York, daughter of Emory and Elvira (Wright) Pike. She taught school five terms in her native state. To this union eight children were born, as follow: One who died in infancy, unnamed; Augustus E., unmarried, who is living with his sister, Mrs. Sarah Eckley, in Ronald township, this county; Susan Elvira, who married Bernard Dutzell, a farmer living in the northwest part of Lyons township, and has one son, Stoughton J.; Victor Frederick, of Jackson, a railway mail clerk, who married Adelaide Rothermel, who died in August, 1913; George, of Medina, New York, who married Ada Ives and has two children, Claire and Dorris; Sarah Adelaide, who married Herbert Eckley, a farmer of Ronald township, and has three children, Howard Eugene, John Henry and Donald Herbert; Earl, who died at the age of six months, and an infant that died unnamed. The mother of these children died on February 11, 1900, and on August 6, 1901, Mr. Fortune married Mrs. Mary A. (Raymond) Eckley, widow of William Henry Eckley, a farmer of Grand Blanc, this state, who died on September 22, 1892. Mrs. Fortune is also a native of the Empire state, born at Johnsbury, Warren county, New York, daughter of James Madison and Rachel (Hewitt) Raymond. She was given an academic education and began teaching school, having been thus engaged in her home state for one term before her marriage to Mr. Eckley, who was born near Grand Blanc, this state, and lived there all his life. To that union eight children were born, namely: Charles, who died at the age of twenty-two months; Amy, who married Theodore Ridgeway, of Flint, this state, and died on March 17, 1911, leaving six children, Mary, Bessie, Cora, Myrtle, Harold and Letha; Lulu, who married Levi Cline, who died leaving two children, Lois and LaVerne, after which she married Bert Hill, to which second union three children have been born, John, Ethel and Ruth; Delbert H., a member of the Flint fire department, who married Ella Ross and has one daughter, Grace, who married Ray Larrabee, of Flint, and has a son, Frank Delbert; Frank Raymond, of Penn Yan, New York, who married Maud Moon and has a daughter, Irene Mary; Herbert, a farmer of Ronald township, who

married Sarah Adelaide Fortune, daughter of John W. Fortune, as noted above; Mark, who died in infancy, and Goldie May, who died when about two years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Fortune are earnest members of the Presbyterian church and take a warm interest in the general beneficences of the same, as well as in all neighborhood good works.

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### JAMES RENWICK.

An honored veteran of the Civil War and a successful farmer of Keene township, Ionia county, is James Renwick of near the village of Saranac. He was born in Scotland, June 30, 1842, and is a son of John and Jennette (Henderson) Renwick, who were born, reared, educated and married in Scotland and lived there until 1854, when they came to the United States, locating in Ontario county, New York, remaining there two years, removing to Michigan in 1856, locating in Keene township, Ionia county, developing a good farm. The father was active in bettering the conditions of his community. He and his wife belonged to the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of seven children, two of whom are deceased. Agnes is the widow of Charles Dickinson of Illinois; James, the subject of this sketch; Archibald lives in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan; Moses is a lumber man at Green Bay, Wisconsin; George lives in Keene township, Ionia county.

James Renwick was past ten years of age when he came to the United States. He had attended the public schools in Scotland. He remained on his father's farm until he was nineteen years old, when he enlisted in Company D, Third Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in February, 1862, and was sent to the Army of the Potomac under Gen. George B. McClellan. He was wounded at the battle of Groveton, which permanently disabled him, and remained in the hospital until 1864, and was honorably discharged in the same year. As soon as he was able he returned home and has since devoted his attention to general farming, and owns a good place of one hundred acres.

Mr. Renwick was married to Ellen J. Renwick (no relation). She was born in Canada, April 11, 1852, and her parents brought her to Michigan when she was two and one-half years old, and here she grew to womanhood and was educated in the public schools. Her parents, John T. and Mary (Laing) Renwick, were both natives of the state of New York, but her grandparents were natives of Scotland, from which country they came



MR. AND MRS. JAMES RENWICK.



to the United States on their wedding trip. Mr. and Mrs. Renwick have adopted one daughter—Olive M. Arnold, born March 16, 1884, a graduate of the Saranac high school, who is single and lives at home.

Mr. Renwick is a member of the Hiat P. Clark Post No. 153, Grand Army of the Republic, being the present commander, while his wife is a member of the Relief Corps, of which she was formerly treasurer and secretary. He is a member of Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons, having been made a Mason March 27, 1865; and a demitted member of Hooker Chapter. Both he and his wife are charter members of Valley Chapter No. 276, Order of Eastern Star, of which their daughter is a member, and she has held many of the offices in the same.

Politically, he is a Republican, and he has served as justice of the peace in his township.

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#### JOHN G. CHAPPLE.

Chief among the older and highly esteemed citizens of Berlin township, Ionia county, Michigan, is John G. Chapple, who was born in England in 1831 and is, therefore, in his eighty-fifth year. He was thirteen years of age when he came with his parents to the United States and had previously received excellent schooling. The family located in New York state, where young John also attended school for a time. When he reached young manhood, the call of the West came to him and he followed it, remaining however but a short time, when he turned his face eastward and stopped in Michigan on his return. He was in this state at the beginning of the Civil War, when he enlisted as a private in Company I, Twenty-first Michigan Volunteer Infantry, serving faithfully to the close of that conflict.

After the close of the war, John G. Chapple returned to Michigan and took up farming in Ionia county, meeting with success commensurate with his efforts. He owns a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Berlin township a short distance from Berlin Center. Mr. Chapple was married in 1872 to Lydia M. Aldrich, a daughter of Rufus and Hannah (Spear) Aldrich. Mr. Aldrich was in the same regiment as Mr. Chapple during the war. To Mr. and Mrs. Chapple four children were born: Alice, who married Walter Lee, lives on subject's place; William W., deceased; Orman J., deceased; and Franklin W., deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapple both aim for success in life, but of the highest kind, dollars being a secondary consideration. Mrs. Chapple is a woman of rare and pleasing traits, who has throughout the years been a helpful companion. Both are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church and for a number of years he was superintendent of the Sunday school at Berlin Center, a member also on the official board, serving now in like capacity in the South Berlin township Sunday school, and despite the handicaps which age must impose on him, is always prompt in attendance, rarely missing a Sunday. Politically Mr. Chapple is a strong adherent of such principles of Republicanism as were advocated by Lincoln, Grant, Garfield and Taft, and has always been more or less active in political affairs as relates, especially, to local matters. He holds no fraternal affiliation other than with the Grand Army of the Republic and has served as commander of his post. He receives a pension in return for services rendered the nation at the crisis of its existence.

For the past few years Mr. Chapple has practically retired from the active affairs of life, living quietly on the fruits of his early years of rigorous labor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Chapple look on the bright side of life, spreading their happy optimism to all with whom they come in contact. They are generous in their sympathy and no one in need passes from their door empty-handed or hungry-hearted.

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#### CLINTON J. RUDD.

One of the most worthy citizens of Ionia county, Michigan, is Clinton J. Rudd, a farmer and stock raiser, living in section 21, Berlin township, on his farm of forty acres, on rural route No. 9, out of Saranac. Mr. Rudd is a native of Ohio, born on August 7, 1855, in Medina county, that state, about twenty-four miles south of the city of Cleveland. Clinton J. Rudd was the eldest child of John and wife, and the only one of the family to be born in Medina county. John Rudd, the father, was an Englishman by birth, born in Hampshire and grew to young manhood on a farm in his native land. When twenty-two years of age he emigrated to America and settled in Jefferson county, Ohio, where he was employed at farm labor and where he also married. When Clinton J. Rudd was six years of age (in 1861) his mother died and the father kept the young family together. When Clinton was twelve years of age he was hired out to farmers in the home



neighborhood and was employed in that manner until he was twenty-three years of age, during which time he contributed very largely to the support of a younger sister and also his father, who was in poor health.

Realizing that the West offered better opportunities to an ambitious young man, Clinton J. Rudd came to Michigan when twenty-three years old, found a location in Berlin township, Ionia county, hiring out by the month for work in the timber and on farms of the township. He reached this state absolutely without funds and then began his struggle to win a competence for himself. He early married and found in the woman of his choice an excellent helpmate. Mrs. Rudd before her marriage was Eliza Liverton, daughter of William and Jane (Chapple) Liverton, both natives of England, who were married in that country and became pioneer citizens of this county. The Rudds were married on July 4, 1880, and for two years thereafter Clinton J. continued to work out. In 1884 he rented a farm of eighty acres, where he started farming for himself, and continued on that land for thirteen years. The first land he purchased was a forty-acre tract directly across the road from where he now resides, buying this in 1896 and moving on it the following year, when he also bought the forty where he now lives. In fairly quick succession, he then bought another tract of forty acres, one of twenty, another of forty and a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, altogether making his holdings considerable. Much credit is due Mr. Rudd for the manner in which he has succeeded, and not alone has material success come to him, but he also holds an enviable position in the estimation of friends and neighbors, to which his excellent characteristics fully entitle him. On account of being unable to personally care for his entire holdings, he has disposed of all his land but the forty acres where he now lives, which he cares for in a most business-like manner.

Mr. Rudd is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Berlin Center and has in the past served that society as trustee at different times. Politically, he gives ardent support to the Republican party, served as highway commissioner for one term and was treasurer of his school district for two years. Altogether, he is one of the representative men of the county, and as such is eminently entitled to representation in a work of the character of the present one.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudd have two children, the elder being their son, George, a graduate of the eighth grade of Saranac schools. George married Julia Nash and has one child living and one dead. The elder, George Liverton, dying at fourteen months, the remaining child being Clarence Nash Rudd. Cassie J., younger child of the Rudd family, is the wife of Leroy Stewart.

and the mother of one child, Mary Lucille. Cassie J. is a graduate of the Saranac common and high schools and also of the Ferris Institute. She taught music four years and taught school for five years in the public schools. She taught in Ionia county for five years previous to her marriage to Mr. Stewart. Leroy Stewart is a graduate of Albion College, where he received his Master of Arts degree. He was first superintendent of the schools at Pewamo, later went to Lake Odessa and is now at Gwinn in the Upper Peninsula, where he has charge of six schools.

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### ELBRIDGE E. SLYE.

Elbridge E. Slye was born in Wellington, Prince Edward county, Ontario, Canada, on June 22, 1875. He is the son of Philander and Catherine (De Grono) Slye, both natives of Canada. They were the parents of the following children: William, who lives at Ionia; Herbert, who lives at Ventura, California; Alice, who is the wife of Bert Decatur, of Hudsonville, Michigan; Frankie, who is the widow of T. H. Adams, of Oakland, California; Elbridge E., who is the subject of this sketch, and Bertha, who is the wife of Conrad Soderestrem, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Philander Slye was raised in Canada, and was a contractor and builder. He died in Kingston, Canada, in 1900, at the age of sixty-five years. His wife is still living and resides with her son Elbridge E. in Ionia, Michigan. They were both members of the Methodist church. The father of Philander Slye was Loren Slye, who was a native of Canada. He was a preacher in the Methodist church and was one of the old circuit riders who traveled on horseback with the saddle bags. He and his wife died at a ripe age. Among their children were, Philander, the father of the subject of this sketch; Chester; Fred; Henry and Lester.

Elbridge E. Slye, the subject of this sketch, was raised in Wellington, Canada, and attended the district schools there. He afterwards worked on a farm by the month, and came to the United States in 1892, at the age of eighteen and located in Ionia county, and did farm work. On March 27, 1895, he married Lillie Minier, who is a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Schmidt) Minier. Elbridge and Lillie (Minier) Slye are the parents of the following children: Bertha Elizabeth, Henry, who died in infancy; Ronald Stanley, Lyle E., and Catherine Ione. Mr. and Mrs. Slye are members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Slye belongs to Ionia Lodge

No. 175, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and to the encampment. He is also a member of the Ionia Lodge No. 76, Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen, and the Knights of Maccabees. He is a Republican in politics. He was chairman of the city committee for two terms, and has been on the county committee eight years. Mrs. Slye was born in Ronald township, Ionia county, Michigan. Her father was a native of Ohio, and her mother was born in Indiana. They now reside at Palo. He is a retired farmer. They are the parents of the following children: Lillie M., and Louis Stanley. The father of Henry Minier was John G. Minier.

After his marriage, Mr. Slye lived on a farm for six years and then moved to Ionia, where he went into the real-estate and auction business, which he has followed ever since. He is a high-class auctioneer, and makes a specialty of selling farms at auction. He has established a reputation for getting good prices and has conducted many large sales. On one occasion he sold thirty thousand acres of land in Wyoming at auction in one day. He frequently has calls from long distances to make sales and has answered many of these calls. He has made a thorough study of his business and is extremely proficient.

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#### HIRAM MASON BROWN.

Hiram Mason Brown, well-known and well-to-do pioneer farmer of North Plains township, this county, has been a witness to the development of that part of Ionia county since the very beginning of a social order thereabout. He is a son of the first permanent settler in North Plains township and has lived there all his life, taking an active and useful part in the development of that region. He was born on the farm where he now lives, in section 31, North Plains township, January 24, 1839, son of Judge Hiram and Mary (Wilder) Brown, who occupied the first permanent home erected in that township and were for years prominent and influential residents of this county.

Judge Hiram Brown was the first county judge elected in Ionia county and had previously served the pioneer community as sheriff of the county. He was the first postmaster of North Plains, for many years was justice of the peace in and for his home township and was, in one capacity or another, busy in the public service almost continuously during the long period of his residence here. As leaders in the work of the church in early days here he

and his wife exerted a wonderful influence for good upon the life of the community during the formative period here and their memories long will be cherished.

Hiram Brown was born at Bristol, New York, December 30, 1802, son of Warren and Betsy (Allen) Brown, natives of Connecticut, the former of whom was born on September 1, 1778, son of Thomas and Catherine (Cooper) Brown. Thomas Brown was born in Connecticut on April 28, 1754, fifth in direct descent from John Brown, who, with two brothers, came over in the "Mayflower." He married Catherine Cooper, born on December 27, 1757, who was a first cousin of John Hancock, whose name leads the list of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. From Connecticut Thomas Brown moved to Herkimer county, New York, where his children, including Warren Brown, were reared. He served throughout the Revolutionary War as a soldier of the patriot army and was a man of unusual vigor. His wife died on March 31, 1846, and he died a little less than three years later, at the home of his daughter in Hudson, Michigan, in February, 1849, he then being ninety-four years and ten months of age. Warren Brown left the family home in Herkimer county at the age of twenty-one and went to Bristol, New York, where he married Betsy Allen, daughter of Titus and Thankful (Goodwin) Allen, natives of Connecticut, who later settled in Erie county, Pennsylvania, and of this parentage Hiram Brown was born. Warren Brown died on July 8, 1867.

Hiram Brown grew up at Bristol, where he was born, and in 1826 married Mary Wilder, who was born at Wilder's Point (now Seneca), New York, April 12, 1803, daughter of Daniel and Polly (Mower) Wilder. The Wilder family in America originated with a widow, Martha Wilder, who with her two sons landed at Higham, Massachusetts, in 1637. Daniel Wilder was a son of Gamaliel Wilder, who was a son of Jonas Wilder, who moved from Lynn to Hartford, Connecticut, when that region was still called "the wilderness." At the age of ninety-seven Jonas Wilder still was a sturdy, industrious man, seldom losing a day from his customary vocation by reason of infirmities incident to old age. Gamaliel Wilder was the original purchaser of the township of Bristol, Ontario county, New York, at six cents an acre, and was the first white settler in that township. He built a grist-mill, a saw-mill and a distillery about 1775 and was long the dominant force in that then rapidly developing community. Previous to and after his marriage, Hiram Brown was a blacksmith, a school teacher and a singing teacher at South Bristol and was a man of influence in his community. In 1835 he decided to put in his lot with that of the pioneers who then were pushing

up into this part of the territory of Michigan and he came to Ionia county, where he bought four eighties on the line between Ronald and North Plains townships, comprising portions of sections 25 and 36 in the former township and in sections 31 and 32 in the latter. He employed Elijah Pinkney to build a cabin on the place, returned to New York for his family and in the fall of 1836 he and Hector Hays brought their families out here. The families came together by lakes as far as Detroit, where they separated, the Hays family going around by water to the mouth of Grand River and thence up to a point near their future home; while the Browns came overland through the forest by ox-teams, arriving at their destination on October 4, 1836, several days before the arrival of the Hays family, Hiram Brown thus having been the first white man to make a permanent residence in that part of Ionia county. The site of his cabin was in an old Indian clearing, near a stream, in section 31, North Plains township. He found that Pickney had not completed the cabin and the family was compelled to camp for nine days while the finishing touches were being put on the same.

From the very beginning of his residence in this county Judge Brown took an active part in civic affairs. He was elected sheriff of the county, his term of office ending in 1846, and in that same fall was elected first judge of Ionia county, the court having just been established by the Legislature in that year. He took office on January 1, 1847, and performed a notable public service in organizing the court. In 1846 he procured the establishment of the North Plains postoffice and was appointed postmaster on March 31 of that year, holding the office many years. Judge Brown also was a township official in one capacity or another nearly all the time and for years was justice of the peace. He and his wife were earnest Methodists and their cordial hospitality toward missionaries and the Indian followers of the latter earned for their home the name of "Methodist Tavern" in pioneer days. Mrs. Brown died on February 14, 1870, after fifty-two years of wedded life, and Judge Brown survived her a little more than four years, his death occurring on April 1, 1883. They were the parents of four children, their first-born, a daughter, dying when two days old. Caroline, the second born, married W. W. Mitchell, former county prosecutor, and died on February 2, 1866. George M. Brown, the first son, now deceased, born on January 13, 1831, grew to manhood in this county, married and reared his family on a farm in section 36, Ronald township, and Hiram Mason.

Hiram Mason Brown, second son of Judge Hiram Brown and his wife and the only one of their children born in this county, was reared on the pioneer farm in North Plains township and has lived there all his life. He

entered Olivet College in 1856 and attended there two terms, after which he entered the Michigan State Agricultural College at Lansing. He still has in his possession a program of the junior "exhibition" of that college, given on November 1, 1860, in which he read a paper on "The College One Hundred Years Hence." When the Civil War broke out the students were fired with patriotic zeal and the entire class enlisted in the Engineers and Mechanics Corps. Governor Blair hastened to the college and informed the boys that he could not permit them to leave college and would not receive them into the service. This, however, proved no deterrent and the boys dropped out one or two at a time until practically the whole class were enlisted in the service. H. M. Brown and his boon friend, W. D. Castle, procured commissions to enlist men for the navy and secured seven recruits whom they took to the naval recruiting station at Chicago, where they finally were sworn in as landsmen and assigned to the Lower Mississippi squadron. While in Chicago Mr. Brown was offered eighteen hundred dollars to go as a substitute for a drafted man, but his patriotism would not permit him to accept the offer. He was in the service until honorably discharged on August 5, 1865.

Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Brown returned to the old home and settled down on the farm, where he ever since has made his home. On December 25, 1869, he married Helen May Burdick, who was born in Ionia township, this county, November 11, 1847, daughter of Levi and Polly S. Burdick, who came here from New York state in 1846 and settled in Ionia township. She was educated in the Ionia high school and in the Female College at Lansing, was a member of the Church of Christ and during her long life in this community exerted a fine influence for good. She died on December 11, 1903. To Mr. and Mrs. Brown but one child was born, a son, William Mason Brown, born on December 7, 1870, who has always remained on the old home place and is associated with his father in the operation of the same. Hiram M. Brown is a life-long Republican and has always been active in local political affairs. For four terms he served as justice of the peace in and for his home township. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Order of Gleaners and has been a Mason since 1864, in which year he became affiliated with Lyons Lodge No. 37, Free and Accepted Masons, of which his father, Judge Brown, was the first master. Mr. Brown has the first bank note ever issued in Ionia county, the same being note No. 1, issued by W. Honeywell, date of March 19, 1838, of the denomination of twelve and one-half cents. He also has

a fine collection of Indian relics, chiefly stone implements of war and the chase and unique designs of pottery. Mr. Brown was one of the leaders in the work of organizing the Union church and was chairman of the building committee which had that work in hand. He has ever stood for good government and progress and has long been regarded as one of the most substantial factors in his community.

William Mason Brown, only son of Hiram M. and Helen May (Burdick) Brown, was united in marriage, August 16, 1893, to Floy Heydlauff, who was born in Ronald township, this county, daughter of Charles M. and Ida A. (Hicks) Heydlauff, the former a native of California and the latter of the state of New York. Charles M. Heydlauff, a well-known farmer of Ronald township, is a son of George J. and Mary (Rounds) Heydlauff, natives of New York, who came to Ionia county in an early day and went from here to California in the days of the rush to the gold fields, but later returned to this county. To W. M. Brown and wife six children have been born, Judge C. M., Mary Mar, Merle (who died at the age of two years), Ada May, Clee F. and Myron F. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are members of the Disciples church and he is a member of the Order of Gleaners.

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#### JOHN C. SMITH.

John C. Smith, proprietor of the "Berlin Center Progressive Farm," in Berlin township, Ionia county, Michigan, successful farmer and stock raiser and also well known as local minister of the Free Methodist church, is a native of Kansas, born in Lynn county, that state, while it was still a territory, on August 18, 1866. He is the eldest son of Francis M. and Nancy M. (Anderson) Smith, both of whom were born in Kalamazoo county, this state, in the vicinity of the city of Kalamazoo.

Francis M. Smith, father of John C., was the seventh son of Allen Howard and Elizabeth (Yates) Smith, who came from their native state of Ohio and located in Kalamazoo county while this state was still a territory. They farmed there until 1867, when they moved to Saranac, this county, owning what was known as the "Guide Board" farm, and there after a few years her death occurred and he soon followed. Elizabeth Yates was of German extraction, while Allen Howard Smith was of Irish parentage. Nancy M. Anderson, subject's mother, was a daughter of Archibald and

Nancy (Woodworth) Anderson, both of whom were born in the state of New York, of Scotch ancestry, the fourth generation back having come from that land. Archibald and Nancy (Woodworth) Anderson were married in their native state and came to Kalamazoo county, this state, in the early days. They prospered and became fairly well-to-do and after his death at his home in Kalamazoo county, she travelled considerably, death overtaking her at Vicksburg, Michigan.

Francis M. Smith and wife, parents of John C., shortly after their marriage went to Kansas, locating in Lynn county, where he had homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land two years previously, and became a prominent citizen of his community. He was a member of the Kansas Home Guard and in 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted as a private in Company N, Twelfth Kansas Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. He was one of four sons of his parents to enlist in that conflict and was the only one who came through uninjured, the others either losing their lives or being badly maimed. Mrs. Smith kept her family as best she could in the absence of husband and father, but in 1863 she brought her children back to Kalamazoo county. Here she remained and here the father rejoined them at the close of the war. They remained in Kansas but two years longer, when they sold out and came to this state, locating in Ionia county, where he bought a farm in Boston township, near Saranac and remained until the death of his wife in 1884, when Francis M. returned to Kansas. There, in company with his youngest son, he lived until 1896, when they returned to this state and located in Isabelle county, where Francis M. spent the remainder of his life. He died on February 12, 1896.

John C. Smith was one of a family of six children, five of whom grew to maturity and but two of whom are now living. The other remaining member is a brother, Archie F., a farmer at Blanchard, Isabelle county, this state. Nettie D., deceased, was the wife of Allen E. Hinkley, of Lansing; Ernest A. died in childhood; Luella died when a girl, and Edith A., deceased, was the wife of Otto Townsend. John C. Smith received his earlier education in the district schools of Boston township and took more advanced studies in the high school of Saranac. He continued to reside under the parental roof and from the time he left high school until the time of his marriage, he engaged in teaching school, following this vocation in the district schools of Ionia county.

On August 5, 1882, John C. Smith was united in marriage with Lilly A.



Curtis, a daughter of Sheldon R. and Nancy A. (Barnard) Curtis, a detailed account of whose family will be found elsewhere within this book. For two years after marriage, John C. Smith rented the Curtis farm and then in 1884, upon the death of his mother, he bought from his father the family homestead in Boston township, this county. There he resided until the fall of 1892, when he disposed of that farm and bought forty acres in Berlin township, adding another thirty acres later on, and here the family has since resided. Mr. Smith has made great improvements in this farm since obtaining possession of it. The residence was erected in 1915 and all buildings are new since 1910, the entire place having an air of prosperity.

Mr. Smith is a man who finds time for activity along other lines than his farming interests. In 1913 he was one of the prime factors in the organization of the Farmers Co-operative Creamery at Saranac and in appreciation of his services, he was made secretary-treasurer and general manager, retaining that position for two years. During that time he placed the business on a firm basis and paved the way for its subsequent growth. He is still a director of the company and takes great pride and interest in its achievements. Politically, Mr. Smith gives staunch support to the Democrat party, has in the past served for four years as school inspector; from 1896 to 1900 he was clerk of Berlin township, and is at present a school director for his home district. For several years he has been government agricultural reporter for this section, and has in many other ways evinced his keen interest in the development of the various phases of community life.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have three children. Ray A., the eldest, is a graduate of high school and taught two terms. He has since taken up farming as his life vocation and resides on an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he owns in Berlin township. Beulah D., the wife of Earl Adgate, is a graduate of the Saranac high school and also the Mount Pleasant State Normal. She spent three years in teaching, two years in her home district and the other year in the Pewamo high school. Leon S., the youngest of the family, is also a graduate of the Saranac high school and spent three years in successful teaching in the Ionia county schools after which he matriculated at Albion College, where he studied four years, obtaining his Bachelor of Arts degree in June, 1915. He now has an excellent position as a teacher of science in the high school of Biwabik, Minnesota. John C. Smith has always been a temperance worker. He never aspired to political office.

## WILLIAM F. BRICKLEY.

Another well-known farmer of Orange township, Ionia county, who is making a success by specializing in raising thoroughbred live stock, is William F. Brickley. He was born in Niagara county, New York, near the city of Lockport, February 18, 1850, and is a son of Jacob and Rebecca (Zacharius) Brickley, both natives of Seneca county, New York, and when young in years they came to Niagara county, that state, with their parents, and there they were married. Both families were Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, the progenitors of each coming to America a number of generations back. In 1866 Jacob Brickley and wife came to Michigan, locating in Orange township, Ionia, where he bought eighty acres in section 29, where they spent the rest of their lives, her death occurring in October, 1866, not long after they came here. Jacob Brickley died in July, 1885. They were the parents of three children, namely: William F. of this sketch; Maryetta is the wife of C. P. Smith and they live in Danby township; Warren lives in Berlin township.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the public schools, and he remained at home with his parents until on March 1, 1875, when he was united in marriage to Ada Miriam Wilson, a daughter of William A. and Eliza (Pound) Wilson, he a native of England, from which country he came to America with his parents. William A. Wilson was six years old when he was brought to Livingston county, Michigan, but later the family removed to Chatham, Ontario, then to Essex county, that province, where he grew to manhood. Eliza Pound was born while her parents were en route to America. The family located at Hamilton, Ontario, where Eliza grew to womanhood and was educated. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were married in Canada, coming to Michigan in 1868. Mrs. Brickley was born in Essex county, Ontario, where her parents settled upon their marriage. Mr. Wilson bought one hundred acres in Orange township, Ionia county, and here he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring in March, 1895, and she died in April, 1908. They were the parents of six children, four of whom grew to maturity, three now living, namely: Ada M., wife of our subject; Ted W. lives in Portland, Ionia county; Culmer died in 1895; and Nellie, who is the wife of John Adgate of Orange township.

Mr. Brickley purchased eighty acres in 1876 in section 18, Orange township where he resided until 1896, when he bought one hundred acres in

section 20, Orange township where he has since resided and to which he has added from time to time until he now has a fine farm of two hundred and fifty-four acres, which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, his place being known as Maple Dale Farm. He is carrying on general farming and stock raising successfully, making a specialty of thoroughbred Durham cattle and Poland China hogs.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brickley two children have been born, namely: Minnie Eliza, who is the wife of Cornelius Friedly, and they live in Boyne City, Michigan; Fred W., who has a half interest in his father's business. He married Dorothy Sammain, of Sebewa township, and they reside across the way from the home of his father and to them two children have been born, William and Adabelle.

Mr. Brickley and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a trustee. He is a Prohibitionist in his views, but usually votes the Republican ticket. He was supervisor of his township in 1910, and he was treasurer of the township in 1890. His son, Fred W., was township treasurer in 1913 and 1914, and township clerk in 1908-09.

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#### HON. GEORGE E. NICHOLS.

Hon. George E. Nichols, for years one of the leaders of the bar at Ionia, this county, one of the best-known and most prominent lawyers in Michigan, former state senator from this district and for years one of the most active promoters of the best interests of this section of the state, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a pioneer farm in Oneida township, in the neighboring county of Eaton, August 8, 1861, son of George W. and Sarah L. (Preston) Nichols, both natives of New York state, who had accompanied their respective parents to this section of Michigan in the days of their youth and here had spent the remainder of their days, for many years having been accounted among the most influential and useful residents of their neighborhood.

George W. Nichols was the son of Truman Walker Nichols and wife, the former a native of Vermont, who, with their children, left New York state at an early day in the settlement of this section of Michigan and came here, locating in Eaton county, where, in Oneida township, Truman W. Nichols entered about a section of land from the government and there established his home, he and his wife spending the rest of their lives there,

the latter dying in her seventieth year and the former living to the great age of ninety-seven. Truman W. Nichols was a man of extraordinary strength and vigor, both he and his wife having been of the true pioneer breed, and they were influential factors in the development of the community in which they settled. The ninetieth anniversary of the birth of the old pioneer was celebrated by his family and friends in fitting fashion at the old homestead and, in order to show that he was just as vigorous as anyone present, the hale old gentleman mounted a horse and galloped down the highway as fast as he could make the horse go. Until his last illness came upon him Mr. Nichols had never known an ill day and never had employed a doctor in his own behalf. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, Holbert, Martin, Jason, George W., Hiram, J. Wesley, Sophronia, Pharazina, Maria, Olive and Melinda. The homestead farm is still in the ownership of the family after all these years and has the added distinction of never having had a mortgage on a single acre of it.

George W. Nichols was fifteen years of age when he came to Michigan with his parents in 1834 and he immediately began to make his influence felt as a definite factor in the life of what then was known as the "Canada settlement" in Oneida township, over the line in Eaton county, where his father had entered his homestead. He did his part well in the work of developing the homestead tract and presently married Sarah L. Preston, a neighbor girl, daughter of Samuel S. and Rebecca (Sprague) Preston, also natives of New York state and early settlers of the "Canada settlement" in Eaton county, who were the parents of five children, Jasper C., Horace, Charles, Sarah L. and Samantha. After his marriage Mr. Nichols continued to make his home on the homestead place, farming a portion of the same, and there both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, the latter dying in 1908, at the age of seventy-nine, and the former living to the age of eighty-one. George W. Nichols was for years one of the most influential citizen of his community and rendered valuable service in various public capacities. He early became an ordained minister in the Methodist church and his labors in that connection proved a powerful influence for good throughout the whole countryside. During the Civil War, Mr. Nichols acted as a recruiting officer and his services in that behalf were of great aid to the Union cause in that section. In all the relations of life he ever was faithful and true and his memory and that of his good wife long will be cherished throughout this region.

To George W. and Sarah L. (Preston) Nichols nine children were born, as follow: Lucy, wife of Uriah H. Lazelle, of Lansing, this state;

Mattie, wife of A. A. Ellis, of Grand Rapids; Truman P., who makes his home on the old homestead in Eaton county; Emma, deceased, who was the wife of Frank A. Foreman, of Grand Ledge, this state; Zina, unmarried, who is still living on the old homestead; George E., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Martin A., deceased; Albert Newton, still making his home on the old farm, and Charles W., a prominent attorney of Lansing.

George E. Nichols was reared on the old homestead in Eaton county, receiving his elementary education in the district school in that neighborhood, supplementing the same by a course in a private college at Grand Ledge, from which he was graduated. He then began the study of law in the law office of his brother-in-law, A. A. Ellis, at Muir, this county, and was admitted to the bar in April, 1883, immediately thereafter entering upon the practice of his profession at Ionia, where he ever since has been continuously engaged, during which time he has become recognized as one of the leading lawyers of the state. Mr. Nichols has been engaged as counsel in many cases of state-wide importance and during the hearing of the famous copper country strike cases performed a signal service in behalf of the state, acting as a special prosecutor, representing the state of Michigan, under the direction of the attorney-general. Mr. Nichols is a Republican and for years has given his most thoughtful and intelligent attention to the political affairs of the state, with particular reference to local politics, and long has been regarded as one of the leaders of his party in this section. In 1900 he was elected to represent this senatorial district in the upper house of the Michigan General Assembly and his service in the Senate during the ensuing term was of large value to his constituents and to the state at large. Senator Nichols was the originator of the movement for the promotion of good roads, fathered by the Michigan Owners Automobile Association, and is one of the directors of that association and its general counsel. He is prominently connected with several important enterprises throughout the county and is looked upon as one of the leading men of affairs hereabout, being a director of the Belding-Hall Refrigerator Company, of Belding; a director of the National Bank of Ionia; a director of the Ramsey-Alton Furniture Company, of Portland, and of the Western Woodenware Company at the latter place.

On October 10, 1888, George E. Nichols was united in marriage to Harriet Kennedy, who was born in Ionia, daughter of James and Eliza A. (Moseman) Kennedy. To George E. and Harriet (Kennedy) Nichols one child has been born, a son, James K., a graduate of Olivet College, who

now (1916) is a member of the senior class of the law department of the University of Michigan. Senator and Mrs. Nichols ever have been earnest and helpful participants in the social and cultural activities of their home town and are held in the highest esteem by all thereabout. Mrs. Nichols is a member of the Presbyterian church and for years has been actively identified with the various beneficences of that locally influential organization. Senator Nichols is a member of the Lonia lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of the Knights of Pythias, of the Knights of Maccabees, of the Modern Woodmen and of the Royal Arcanum, in the affairs of which several organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### HENRY B. DARNELL.

Henry B. Darnell, a farmer in section 34, Berlin township, Lonia county, Michigan, having more than a local reputation as a breeder of Holstein cattle, was born in this same township on April 21, 1866, on what is now known as the Ellis Durkee farm, in an old log school house into which his parents had moved immediately upon coming to this county, there being no house on their farm. Henry B. is a son of Francis and Elizabeth Ann (Wallace) Darnell, the former of whom was born in Northamptonshire, England. The father of Francis died when he was two years of age and, when he was twenty-one years of age, in company with the mother and a brother, he came to America, locating in New York state, where Francis hired out to a Captain Root, with whom he remained nine years. It was there he married Elizabeth Ann Wallace, who was also in the service of the captain. She was an Irish girl, born at Rathfryland, County Down, coming to New York state alone when twenty-three years of age and for eleven years she was in the service of Captain Root. Francis and Elizabeth Ann were married in 1862 and reached Berlin township, this county, in the spring of 1866, shortly after which Henry B., the subject of this sketch, was born. Francis, in partnership with his brother, Thomas, owned one hundred and seventeen acres of land, on which both families settled and lived for a number of years. Francis eventually bought out Thomas's interest and the latter then moved close to Berlin Center, where he died. Francis remained on the one farm until his death, November 16, 1893, his widow following him on April 19, 1903. They were the parents of two children, of which Henry B. is the younger. The elder son is William J., engaged in farming in California.



Mrs. AND MRS. HENRY H. DARNELL.







Henry B. received his education in the early township schools near his home and remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage on September 26, 1896, to Ella Whitter, a daughter of Alexander and Emily (Woon) Whitter, both of whom were born in Canada. Alexander Whitter's father was originally from Massachusetts and went into Canada where he married the mother of Alexander, while the parents of Emily Woon came from England and settled in Canada, where she was born. Shortly after marriage, Alexander Whitter and wife came to this state and county, locating in Odessa township, where they lived about a year and on that farm Ella (Mrs. Henry B. Darnell) was born. They eventually returned to Canada where he is still living, although she passed from this life in 1893. There were eleven children in the Whitter family, Ella being the eldest. John is in Seattle, Washington; Jeff, Ida (wife of Edward Till) and Cuyler, all in Canada; Arthur in Ionia, this state; Violet, wife of Marion Jacobson, residing in Detroit; Bertha (Mrs. Victor Pollard) living in Canada, as does also Edith. Clara, the eighth child of the family, is the wife of Arthur Barnhardt and lives in Three Rivers, this state, while George, the youngest of the family, died in young manhood, in 1914.

Henry B. Darnell and wife continued to make their home on the family homestead after marriage and in due time, purchased the interests of the other heirs. He has added eighty acres to his farm, making him the owner now of one hundred and ninety-seven. This farm is on rural route No. 39, out of Lake Odessa and appearances indicate good management and prosperity. Mr. Darnell conducts general farming and stock raising, dividing his attention between his thoroughbred cattle and hogs, which he feeds for the market. The family has always stood for the highest and best in community life and the present representatives are in every way worthy of the highest esteem. Mr. Darnell is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, through local lodge No. 422 at Sebawa. Mrs. Darnell is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church at South Berlin, in the work of which he is also interested. A Republican in politics, Henry B. Darnell has evinced his interest in local affairs in many ways. He has been township highway commissioner for two years, and had much to do with the road-tax law and previous to that, served for one year as township treasurer. He is at present, and has been for the past fifteen years, a member of the school board.

There are six children in the Darnell family: Frank A., born September 7, 1897, is a graduate of the Odessa high school and is engaged

with his father on the farm; Arthur, February 4, 1900, is attending the district school, as is also William J., April 8, 1903; Myrtle E., June 14, 1905; Floyd E., December 12, 1907, and Violet M., March 29, 1914. This promising young family is being well educated and raised so as to fill places of usefulness in the community in years to come.

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### JAMES LEE FOWLE.

James Lee Fowle, secretary and treasurer of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Ionia county, a veteran of the Civil War and one of the best-known citizens of this section of Michigan, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a farm in Moscow township, Hillsdale county, this state, November 11, 1842, son of Charles and Statira (Kies) Fowle, both natives of New York state and early settlers of Hillsdale county, where their last days were spent.

Charles Fowle was born in western New York, son of Benjamin Fowle and wife, the latter of whom was Elizabeth Lea, and was reared on a farm there. His father was a native of Yorkshire, England, who had come to America and located on a farm in western New York, where he made his home until about 1832, at which time he emigrated with his family to Michigan and located in Hillsdale county, where he became a large landowner and took an influential part in the development of that part of the state. About 1851 or 1852 Benjamin Fowler, who was now a widower, went to Wisconsin and settled on Rock Prairie, Rock county, Bradford township, where he spent the rest of his life. Benjamin Fowle was upwards of eighty years old at the time of his death in 1860. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, Jacob, Susan, Benjamin, James, Elizabeth, Charles and Martha. Charles Fowle remained in Michigan and became the owner of several hundred acres of fine land in Moscow township, Hillsdale county, where he reared his family in comfort. He was married three times. To his first union two children were born, Mrs. Susan M. Stevens, now of Moscow, Hillsdale county, and Hanford Fowle, deceased. His second wife, Statira Kies, was the daughter of John and Betsy Kies, pioneers of Michigan, who died in Moscow township, Hillsdale county, where they had made their home for many years. John Kies was a graduate of Harvard College, an excellent farmer and a man of large influence in his neighborhood in

pioneer days. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, Statira, Harvey, James, George, Julia, Charlotte, Allen and Esther.

To Charles and Statira (Kies) Fowle nine children were born, namely: Ann Eliza, widow of Horace Baker, of Moscow township, Hillsdale county, this state; James L., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Benjamin, deceased; Francis, deceased; Emma, who died in infancy; Otto, of Sault Sainte Marie, this state; Cordelia, wife of George W. Knight, of Battle Creek, Michigan; Ida, deceased, and Elizabeth, wife of William E. Foster, of Cleveland, Ohio. The mother of these children died in 1858, aged about forty years. Charles Fowle later married Mrs. Isabelle Griswold, to which union one child was born, who died in infancy. Charles Fowle spent his last days on his old home farm in Hillsdale county and was past seventy-eight years of age when he died in 1889.

James L. Fowle was reared on the paternal farm in Hillsdale county and was about fifteen years old when his mother died. He attended the old log-cabin school house in the neighborhood of his home in the days of his early youth and later entered Hillsdale College. In the fall of 1858 he quit college and went to Wisconsin and for two years attended school there. He then began clerking in a store and was thus engaged when the Civil War broke out. In September, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company F, Thirteenth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and when the company was organized he was elected third duty sergeant. He served with the Thirteenth Wisconsin until that regiment was mustered out at San Antonio, Texas, on December 24, 1865, seeing much active service, and was mustered out as first lieutenant of his company and acting adjutant of his regiment. During his service in the army Mr. Fowle had secured a furlough, in the spring of 1864, to marry a Michigan girl and in April, 1866, four months after the conclusion of his military service, returned to this state and located on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 33, Ronald township, this county, where he remained until his appointment in 1887 as secretary and treasurer of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Ionia county, after which he moved to Ionia, which has been his place of residence ever since. During all these intervening years Mr. Fowle has given his most thoughtful and intelligent attention to the duties of his position with the substantial insurance company which he so worthily represents and there are few men in this part of the state who have a wider acquaintance than he, or who are held in higher regard. Mr. Fowle is a Republican and ever has given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. During his residence in Ronald township he served the people of

that community as township clerk, treasurer and supervisor and since he has been living in Ionia has served as a member of the board of public works for three years and as a member of the school board for nine years, also as one of the county superintendents of the poor for a like period.

On March 9, 1864, James L. Fowle was united in marriage to Katharine E. Hammond, who was born at Ypsilanti, this state, September 23, 1843, daughter and only child of Dennis and Sarah (Opdyke) Hammond, natives of New York state and early residents of Ypsilanti, where for years Mr. Hammond was engaged as a private tutor, later becoming a farmer. To this union four children have been born, Louise, James J., Margaret and Otto. Louise Fowle, who died in 1910, married John Sessions and to that union ten children were born, William L., Marion, Donald, Harold, Clarence, Elsie, Louise, Ruth and two who died in infancy. James J. Fowle married Mary Fox, of Ionia, to whom was born one daughter, Florence L., now Mrs. Glenn P. Burkhart, of Fowlerville, Michigan. Margaret Fowle married Dr. Lorne G. McAloney, of Portland, Oregon. Otto Fowle, the youngest of the four children, met a tragic death on Thanksgiving Day, 1887.

Mr. Fowle is an active member of William H. Borden Post No. 211, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Michigan, and for eight years served as commander of that patriotic organization. He also is a member of Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and in the affairs of both of these organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### ROSCOE A. HEARSEY.

Roscoe A. Hearsey, well-known proprietor of Hearsey's planing-mill at Ionia, this county, for many years one of the most active and progressive manufacturers and business men of that city, widely known and highly-regarded throughout the country, is a native son of Ionia county, and one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, continuous residents of this county, having been born on a farm, then in the wilderness, three miles west of where the city of Ionia now stands, July 16, 1858, son of Mason and Caroline (Cornell) Hearsey, the former a native of Maine and the latter of the state of New York, who were among the very earliest pioneers of this section of Michigan, and for many years honored residents of this community, whose large part in the development of the social and material growth

of the community gave them a prominent place in the pioneer life of this region.

Mason Hearsey was reared on a farm in Maine and acquired a good education in the well-organized schools of his home neighborhood. He was one of the three children born to his parents, he having had a brother, Amos, and a sister, the latter of whom married a Mr. Woodard. His father was a soldier in the War of 1812 and his grandfather was a "minute man" during the War of the Revolution. Mason Hearsey grew to manhood on the paternal farm in the East and then came West, settling in the wilderness in the woods at a point three miles west of the present city of Ionia, and there bought forty acres of timber land, a part of the farm now owned by Burton Babcock. Shortly after coming here he married Caroline Cornell, whose parents, Alfred and Nancy (Colwell) Cornell, were among the earliest settlers of this section of what was then the territory of Michigan. Both were natives of Rhode Island, who after their marriage had gone to New York, settling in the Utica neighborhood, where their children were born. Later they emigrated to this region, becoming pioneers of Ionia county, settling on a wilderness tract one mile west of where the city of Ionia later sprang up, and there established their home. Both Alfred Cornell and his wife took an active part in the early affairs of their community and were highly respected residents of that section. Both lived to be past eighty years of age. They were the parents of nine children, Thomas, Daniel, Manson, Nancy, Mary, Delia, Lydia, Caroline and Sarah.

After clearing a part of his woodland tract in what is now Easton township, Mason Hearsey, who was an excellent carpenter, having learned the trade in his Maine home, recognized a field of wider usefulness to the pioneer community and left the farm, moving into the then promising hamlet of Ionia, where he became a building contractor and where he spent the remainder of his life. It was in 1842 that Mason Hearsey settled in Ionia. At that time there were only five houses on the north side of Main street and but one dwelling house and three or four barns within two miles of the hamlet south of Main street. Mr. Hearsey built a carpenter shop on Main street and also erected his dwelling house on the same street, making his home there until 1866, in which year he bought a lot in the west part of the town and built a new house. Not only was Mason Hearsey one of the most active building contractors in the thriving city of his home, but he was also recognized as one of the most influential factors in the civic life of the developing community. For nineteen years he served as justice of the peace at Ionia and also served as county clerk and as county treasurer

at different times, in all his public service giving his most thoughtful and intelligent attention to the common good. He died at the age of seventy-three years and his widow survived him about fifteen years, she having been seventy-nine years of age, lacking one month, at the time of her death. Mason Hearsey and his wife were earnest members of the Baptist church and for many years were regarded as among the leaders in good works hereabout, being held in high esteem throughout the entire county. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch is the eldest, and of whom he and his sister, Mrs. Gertrude Daniels, widow of L. Mortimer Daniels, are now the only survivors, their brothers, Herbert and Mason, being deceased, the former having died in infancy.

Roscoe A. Hearsey, eldest of the four children of the pioneer couple above mentioned, was four years of age when his parents moved from the farm where he was born to the little hamlet of Ionia in 1842 and he has lived there ever since, having thus been a witness of the growth of the city almost from its very beginning, there having been, as noted above, scarcely half a dozen houses in the place when he became a resident. He grew up in the village, acquiring his education in the early subscription schools there, and became an expert carpenter and cabinet-maker under the skillful direction of his father. He married in 1860, and in 1872 built a planing-mill on Main street, near Dexter street, doing a thriving business there from the very start of the enterprise and continuing at that location for ten years, at the end of which time, in 1882, he built his present milling plant on Dexter street and has there conducted his business ever since, during that time having furnished the greater part of the building material entering into the construction of the buildings in Ionia. As his business prospered, Mr. Hearsey gradually enlarged and extended his planing-mill plant. He has ever been locally noted for the straightforward manner in which he conducts his business affairs and for many years has been recognized as one of the leading men of affairs in this county, the general business community holding him in the very highest regard.

On May 3, 1860, Roscoe A. Hearsey was united in marriage to Melvina Daniels, who was born in New York state on December 16, 1839, daughter of Philander Daniels and wife, both natives of that same state, who later came to Michigan, locating at Jackson, this state, where their last days were spent, both living to good old age. Philander Daniels and wife were the parents of nine children, Miriam, Helen, Melvina, Mortimer, Eugene, Emergene, Jennie, Lucina and Emaline. To Roscoe A. and Melvina (Daniels) Hearsey three children have been born, Wallace, who is actively asso-

ciated with his father in the management of the planing-mill, married Mary McGamon; Winifred, a well-known milliner at Ionia, and Jessie, who died when she was about seven years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Hearsey are members of the Baptist church, in the various beneficences of which they for years have been warmly interested, and ever have been active in good works. They have lived together for more than fifty-five years and have hosts of friends throughout the county, all of whom hold them in the highest esteem. Mr. Hearsey is a Democrat and served two terms in the Ionia city council and two terms as a member of the board of public works, in both of which capacities he rendered good service in behalf of the public. He is a member of the local "tent" of the Knights of Maccabees, in which order he has passed all the chairs.

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#### FERMAN G. WILSON.

Ferman G. Wilson, a farmer, living out of Saranac, Ionia county, Michigan, was born in Keene township, where he has passed his entire life, on October 25, 1862, the only child of George B. and Nancy (Follet) Wilson. George B. Wilson is a native of New York state and Nancy Follet was born in Nova Scotia. For many years they were among the leading farmers of Keene township and were well-known people. Her death occurred in 1909 and George B. Wilson now resides in Saranac.

Ferman G. Wilson was reared in Keene township and as a boy attended the district schools near his home, supplementing that training with more advanced study in the schools of Saranac. He remained with his parents until twenty-two years of age, when for a time he worked out among neighboring farmers. He was married on October 7, 1885, to Samantha A. Jepson, born at Pownal, Bennington county, Vermont, on March 13, 1865. She is a daughter of Charles and Caroline A. (Babcock) Jepson, who came to Michigan in May, 1865, and located on the farm where Mr. and Mrs. Wilson now reside. There she died on August 23, 1892, and he survived until February 27, 1901. There were originally four children in the Jepson family, three of whom are now living. Andra C., the eldest of the family, is the wife of Albert Wells; Mrs. Ferman Wilson is the next in order of birth, and Avis A. is Mrs. Albert F. Haskin.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have two daughters. Ferne E. was born on April 9, 1887, and is a graduate of the Saranac high school in the class of 1906. She is now the wife of Lynn A. Kosht. Hazel C., born on Decem-

ber 27, 1892, graduated from Saranac high school with the class of 1911, and is Mrs. Frank J. Fisher. Both these young women for a time taught in the public schools of Ionia county.

Mr. Wilson is a Knight of the Maccabees, while his wife is a member of the woman's auxiliary, and he also holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Wilson is a woman in other fields than the domestic circle and besides being a member of the Ladies' Literary Society is active in Woman's Christian Temperance Union work. She has acted as president of the local organization, having filled all other offices within the gift of her society, has been a member of the county board and for two years was vice-president-at-large. Interested in club work in general, she was member of the federated board of Ionia county for four years. While not actively interested in politics, Mr. Wilson gives support to the Republican party. He is financially interested in the Co-operative Creamery Company at Saranac, being a stockholder in that organization. The Wilson family is one of the most highly esteemed of the community, each individual member standing for whatever is the best good of the community in all lines of development.

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#### BURT W. ARNOLD.

Burt W. Arnold supervisor of Easton township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty-one acres and a pleasant home situated on rural route No. 2, out of Saranac, and who has long been regarded as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers of his neighborhood, is a native son of Ionia county, a member of one of the oldest families in this section of Michigan, his grandfather, Dexter Arnold, who was a kinsman of Erastus Yeomans and Oliver Arnold, members of the colony which founded Ionia, having come here in 1835, two years after the original settlement, and established his home in the then wilderness.

The Arnold family is of old New England stock, of English ancestry, and was well established in this country in early colonial days. Dexter Arnold, the Ionia pioneer, was born on March 1, 1795, son of Job and Hannah (Dexter) Arnold, the former of whom, a soldier in the patriot army during the War of the Revolution, died in 1834, in his seventy-fourth year, his widow surviving him five years, her death occurring at Ionia on July 11, 1839, she then being seventy-eight years of age. Job Arnold, the patriot soldier, was a son of Job and Freelove Arnold, the former of whom,





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM D. ARNOLD AND SONS, BURT W. AND FRED.



born in 1707, died on July 20, 1776, and the latter, born in 1721, died on March 23, 1811, in the ninetieth year of her age, after having been a widow thirty-four years. Dexter Arnold married Olive Kimball, also a member of an old colonial family, of English descent, and to that union four sons were born, Anson R., William D. and Walter Damon (twins) and Irving E. When the family came to this county in the fall of 1835, two years after the original settlement at Ionia, the village consisted of four log houses and one frame house. Dexter Arnold cleared a space in the woods and erected a log cabin in the settlement, but after a time moved one mile farther north, where he established his permanent residence and where he spent the remainder of his days, his death occurring on June 9, 1879. His wife, Olive (Kimball) Arnold, had long predeceased him and was the first person buried in Oak Hill cemetery.

William D. Arnold, one of the twin sons of Dexter Arnold and the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Herkimer county, New York, May 25, 1827, and was a little more than eight years old when he came to the wilds of Ionia county with his parents in 1835. He grew to manhood on the pioneer farm north of Ionia and on December 24, 1854, married Isabel Kimball, who was born in Bennington county, Vermont, October 23, 1836, daughter of Martin and Lucena (Smith) Kimball, the former a native of Rhode Island and the latter of Vermont. Martin Kimball was born on December 25, 1804, son of Noah and Azuba (Salisbury) Kimball, the former born on August 8, 1764, and the latter, January 24, 1764. In 1849 Martin Kimball and family came to this county and became early settlers in Easton township. Mrs. Kimball died in October, 1855, and Mr. Kimball died on March 12, 1875. They were members of the Wesleyan Methodist church.

In 1855, the year after their marriage, William D. Arnold and his wife settled on a farm out on the river road in the woods about five miles west of Ionia, in the southwest part of Easton township, and there erected a log cabin and proceeded to establish their home. Ten years later they built a frame house and in 1860 erected the present commodious residence occupied by Burt W. Arnold. William D. Arnold was a good farmer and an active, energetic citizen, who early became regarded as one of the leaders in the community life of his neighborhood. He took an active part in public affairs and for six years was township supervisor. He and his wife were members of the Wesleyan Methodist church and took a prominent part in all good works in the vicinity of their home. Mr. Arnold for years was one of the stewards of his church and Mrs. Arnold was one of the leaders of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of which she was treasurer. Mr.

Arnold was a Prohibitionist and both he and his wife were in full sympathy with all movements designed to advance the general welfare of their community. About 1879 they retired from the farm and moved to Saranac, where they spent the remainder of their lives, William D. Arnold dying on January 10, 1909, and his wife on January 9, 1914. She was the third in order of birth of the five daughters born to her parents, Martin Kimball and wife, and her death, at the age of seventy-seven, was the first break in that devoted group of sisters. William D. Arnold was eighty-two years of age at the time of his death and his twin brother died about the same time. Their elder brother, Anson R. Arnold, lived to be past eighty, and their younger brother, Irving E., is still living, a hale and hearty octogenarian. To William D. Arnold and wife two sons were born, Burt W., the subject of this sketch, and Fred, of Ionia.

Burt W. Arnold was born in the original log-cabin home of his parents, on the farm on which he still makes his home, on May 7, 1863, and grew to manhood on the home place. He married in the fall of 1886 and for two years thereafter lived in a rented house north of his home, employing himself at various occupations. He then returned to the old home place to take direction of the same and has ever since made his home there, he and his family being very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. In addition to being an excellent general farmer, Mr. Arnold is a competent carpenter and has worked at that trade quite a bit. He also for fifteen years operated a threshing outfit in his neighborhood and has long been looked upon as one of the most energetic and substantial citizens of that community. He is a Democrat and for years has given close attention to local political affairs. He was highway commissioner for two years and township treasurer for two years. In the spring of 1914 he was elected township supervisor and is now serving the public in that capacity.

On September 18, 1886, Burt W. Arnold was united in marriage to Mary Taylor, who was born on a farm near Charles City, Iowa, daughter of George and Catherine (Rote) Taylor, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania, who were married in Floyd county, Iowa. In 1882 George Taylor and his family came to this state and located on a farm in section 19, Easton township, this county, where they lived about twelve years, at the end of which time Mr. Taylor moved to Ionia, where he engaged in the livery business. He died in 1867 and his widow is still living at Ionia. To Mr. and Mrs. Arnold two children have been born, Martin K. and Stella M., both of whom are still at home. Mr. Arnold is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of the Maccabees.

## CHARLES COOK EYSTER.

Charles Cook Eyster, of the firm of Dean & Eyster, general merchandise, at Ionia, one of the best-known and most successful business men of that city, is a native son of the Old Dominion, having been born at Prantytown, in Tyler county, Virginia, December 31, 1845, son of Dr. William Danner and Mary (Hupp) Eyster, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Virginia, both of whom spent all their lives in the East.

Dr. William D. Eyster was a physician of note in his community, and the most of his active life was spent at Fairmont, Virginia, in which city he was engaged in practice for years. He was a graduate of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and at one time was the editor of a newspaper at Fairmont and was also director of a bank there, but his heart was in his profession and his activities chiefly were confined to his extensive practice. The founder of the Eyster family in this country was John Jacob Eyster, who came to America from Wurtemberg, Germany, some time between the years 1712 and 1720 and settled in Berks county, Pennsylvania; and a Daniel Eyster was a captain in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. Doctor Eyster's wife was a member of an old and prominent family in Virginia, one of the Happs having been a distinguished judge of the court and others of the name having held high stations in life. Doctor Eyster died in the latter part of the year 1865, he then being sixty-five years of age. His wife had preceded him to the grave many years, her death having occurred in 1849. In their religious persuasion they were Baptists and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom six are still living, namely: Clara, widow of Newton S. Barnes, of Fairmont, West Virginia; Margaret, widow of Dr. W. W. Granger, also of Fairmont; Virginia, widow of J. E. Sands, of Fairmont; Dr. George Hupp Eyster, now living retired at "Bellemont Farm," in Augusta county, Virginia; Charles C., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Anna, who married Charles H. Senseney, and is now living at Chicago with her youngest son.

Charles C. Eyster spent his boyhood in Fairmont, Virginia (now in West Virginia) his education being directed by a competent tutor, and was living there when the Civil War broke out. His father and all his family were ardent supporters of the Union cause and he enlisted for service in that behalf in the Sixth Regiment, West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, and upon the expiration of his original term of enlistment re-enlisted, serving

altogether three years, nine months and eighteen days, entering as a private and being mustered out with the rank of regimental hospital steward, in which useful capacity he had served during the latter part of his service. At the close of his military experience, Mr. Eyster returned to Fairmont and resumed his occupation as a drug clerk, remaining there until 1868, in which year he went to California, where for a time he was engaged in the drug business. He later followed mining in Nevada and Idaho and then went on down into Arizona, where for eighteen years he was engaged in the cattle business, during which time, in 1885, he made a trip to Michigan, and at Ionia married Nellie Irish, taking her back with him to his cattle ranch on the Rio Verde. At the beginning of the Harrison administration, Mr. Eyster was appointed internal revenue collector for the district comprising a portion of Arizona and a portion of New Mexico, during which term of service he had his headquarters at Tucson. While thus engaged Mr. Eyster disposed of his cattle business and upon the completion of his term of official service, in 1893, returned to Michigan and settled in Ionia, his wife's girlhood home.

Mrs. Eyster was born at Lyons, this county, daughter of David and Leonora (Lyon) Irish, natives of Vermont and early settlers of this county, who had come here in 1836. The town of Lyons was named for Truman Lyon, who also was prominent in the early affairs of Grand Rapids. David Irish was in the clothing business in Ionia at an early day and was also for some years postmaster of the town and the proprietor of the old Eagle hotel. Both he and his wife lived to advanced ages, both spending their last days in Ionia. They were the parents of six children, Emily, Delia, Laura, Henry, Edward and Nellie.

Not long after returning to Ionia, Mr. Eyster, in October, 1895, formed a partnership with O. H. Dean, a veteran of the Civil War and a well-known merchant of Ionia, and established the present firm of Dean & Eyster, which ever since has been very successfully engaged in the general mercantile business at Ionia, long having been regarded as one of the leading firms engaged in that line in this part of the state. Both members of the firm have a wide acquaintance hereabout and are held in high regard in commercial circles generally. They are kindly and dignified in their relations to the general public and belong to that type of manhood generally classed under the head of "gentlemen of the old school." Mr. Eyster is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county, though never having been included in the office-seek-

ing class. He is an active member of the William H. Boardman Post No. 211, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Michigan, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest. Mrs. Eyster is a member of the Presbyterian church and both she and Mr. Eyster for years have been active in good works in and about Ionia, being held in the highest esteem by the entire community.

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#### ORIN STONE.

Orin Stone, of the firm of Winchell & Stone, undertakers and dealers in furniture at Ionia, this county, and one of the best-known and most progressive business men in that city, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on a farm near Muir, in Ionia township, September 23, 1872, son of Silas N. and Lorana E. (Beverly) Stone, the former of whom was born in Livingston county, New York, and the latter in the city of Jackson, this state, long well-known residents of this county, whose last days were spent in the city of Ionia.

Silas N. Stone was born in the year 1838, son of Darius and Mahala (Norton) Stone, both natives of New York, the former of whom was born in Green county and the latter in Genesee county, farming people, who came to Michigan in 1846 and located in the vicinity of Muir, in Ionia township, this county, where they established a permanent home and where they spent the remainder of their lives. Upon coming to this county Darius Stone bought six eighty-acre tracts of timber land, from the timber on which he profited handsomely and all of which he eventually improved, leaving to each of his children at his death a nice inheritance. There were seven of these children, Frances J., Orin, Silas N., Charles Wesley, Mahala E. and Darius A. (twins), and Clarissa E. The mother of these children, who was born on November 13, 1811, died on May 14, 1865. Darius Stone survived his wife more than twenty years, his death occurring on March 14, 1888. He was born on September 30, 1812.

Silas N. Stone was eight years old when he came with his parents to this county and he grew to manhood on the paternal farm in Ionia township. He early became interested in the threshing business and for many years operated a threshing-machine outfit throughout the county. He was the owner of a farm of eighty acres in Ionia township, and there he established his home. He married Lorana E. Beverly, who was born near Jackson, this state, daughter of Francis and Amy (Page) Beverly, natives of

Steuben county, New York, who became early settlers of the Jackson neighborhood, where they spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Beverly died in middle life, but Mr. Beverly lived to be past eighty-four. They were the parents of five children, Margaret, Lucinda, Marietta, Jesse and Lorana. In 1889 Silas N. Stone and wife retired from the farm and moved to Ionia, where the rest of their lives was spent, Mr. Stone, however, continuing to direct the affairs of his farm and to manage his threshing outfit during the threshing seasons for years thereafter. He died on September 8, 1910, at the age of seventy-two years, and his widow survived him for nearly five years, her death occurring on June 3, 1915, she also being seventy-two years of age at the time of her death. Both were earnest members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. There were four of these children, namely: Linna, wife of Eugene Knapp, of Ionia; Francis E., who was accidentally killed when seven years old; Orin, the immediate subject of this sketch, and Jessie, deceased, who was the wife of W. C. Peer.

Orin Stone spent his early youth on the home farm in Ionia township, receiving his elementary education in the district school in that neighborhood. He later attended the high school at Muir and when the family moved to Ionia in 1889 he entered the high school in that city and was graduated therefrom in 1892. He then began clerking in a dry-goods store in Ionia, becoming thoroughly familiar with the details of that business, and in 1901 he and his brother-in-law, W. C. Peer, formed a partnership and engaged in the dry-goods business at Ionia, being thus engaged for four years, at the end of which time they sold the store to advantage. Two months later, in 1905, Mr. Stone became associated with Mr. Winchell as a partner in the furniture and undertaking business at Ionia and has ever since been thus engaged, the firm being regarded as one of the leaders in its line in this part of the state, both departments of the business being conducted along modern and up-to-date lines.

On August 20, 1903, Orin Stone was united in marriage to Blanche M. Hoy, who was born at Johnsonburg, in Wyoming county, New York, daughter of George and Lucy (Stone) Hoy, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter in Johnsonburg, New York, both of whom are now deceased. George Hoy and his wife were the parents of ten children, Edwin C., Ella M., Wilson R., Elizabeth J., George A., Lucy E., Blanche M. and three who died in youth. To Mr. and Mrs. Stone one child has been born, a daughter, Lucy Lois. They are members of the Church of



Christ, of which Mr. Stone is a deacon, and both take a warm interest in the general welfare of the community, being held in high esteem by their many friends. Mr. Stone is a Democrat, as was his father before him, and takes a good citizen's interest in local politics. He is a member of Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and takes an active interest in the affairs of that popular organization.

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### JOSEPH MORSE.

As a farmer and stock raiser, Joseph Morse, of Portland township, ranks with the most painstaking in Ionia county, and is therefore succeeding in his chosen vocation. He was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, July 14, 1851, and is a son of Thomas J. and Christena (Saybins) Morse. The father was born on July 17, 1806, and the mother on February 12, 1824. She was a native of Germany, where she grew to womanhood and was educated, and when twenty-two years of age came to the United States, direct to Washtenaw county, Michigan, where she met and married Thomas J. Morse. They came to Ionia county in 1854, locating in Portland township and spent the rest of their lives on a farm here. Their family consisted of seven children, two of whom are deceased; the others are, Joseph, the subject of this sketch; Agnes is the wife of Jacob J. Hatinger, and they live in Edmore, Michigan; Mary is the widow of Birotte A. Allehin, and they live in McBride, Michigan; William H. is farming in Portland township; Charles C. is farming in Sebewa township.

Joseph Morse was reared on the home farm and received a common-school education. He was married to Mrs. Mary L. (Guernsey) Fox, April 13, 1882. She was born in Oswego, New York, April 17, 1858, and is a daughter of Albert Guernsey and wife. To Joseph Morse and wife four sons have been born, namely: Nelson C. lives in Detroit; Gilbert J., married Mha Sanborn and they live in Lansing, Michigan; Stanley, born on October 4, 1893, was educated in the schools of Portland, and Robert T., born on August 6, 1897, are single and live at home.

Mr. Morse is a Democrat and has held several township offices. He and his wife belong to Portland Chapter No. 258, Order of the Eastern Star, and he is a prominent Mason, being past master of Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons, and past high priest of the chapter, and past thrice illustrious master in the council, and is also past master of the

Portland Grange, of which his wife is also a member and in which she has held offices. He has conferred the master mason degree on two of his sons, Stanley M. and Nelson C., who are members of the lodge at Portland.

Mr. Morse has a good farm of one hundred and four and one-half acres, and in connection with general farming is making a specialty of raising a fine grade of Ohio Improved Chester hogs.

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### CLINTON GATES.

Clinton Gates, a farmer of Berlin township, Ionia county, Michigan, living on rural route No. 4, out of Saranac, was born in Springfield township, Erie county, Pennsylvania, on December 18, 1840, being a son of Henry P. and Sally (Stephens) Gates, the former of whom was born in Madison county, New York, on May 25, 1813, and the latter in New Hampshire on November 4, 1816.

Henry P. Gates and wife were married in Pennsylvania in 1834 and after a short time came into Indiana, where they located near Muncie in Delaware county. In 1845 they moved to the state of Michigan and secured a location in section 5, Berlin township, Ionia county, where they passed their remaining days. She died on September 28, 1899, and within a few months, on April 9, 1900, he followed her into the Great Beyond. They were both active members of the Baptist church at Saranac, in which he was a deacon for many years. He was a Democrat in politics and was regarded as a careful farmer, giving excellent attention to his homestead of eighty acres. There were four children in the Gates family, three of whom are still living. Lydia is the wife of W. H. Disbrow, of Marion, this state; Zaphaniah is dead; Clinton, the subject of this sketch, is the third child, and David A. is a farmer living near Saranac. Clinton was four years old when brought to this township and made the most of the meager advantages offered by the district schools of that day. His schooling was confined to about three months of the year and when still a youth, he closed his books and became his father's helper on the home place, remaining thereon until twenty-seven years of age. On January 4, 1864, he was united in marriage to Martha J. Andrews, of Kalamazoo county, this state. She was born in New York state on June 8, 1843, and there passed her girlhood, being grown when she came to make her home in Kalamazoo county, this state. There are seven children in the Clinton Gates family. Elva is the



MR. AND MRS. CLINTON GATES.





wife of Harvey Gafney; Ruth married Otis Butler; Blanche is Mrs. Gardner Eddy; Thomas P. married Belle Howell; Mark C. married Jennie Hartwell and lives in Berlin township; Grace is the wife of Martin Baker, and Ray I. married Mattie White.

Clinton Gates is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife belongs to the Baptist. He is a Democrat in politics and has served one term as justice of the peace for his township. He is a quiet, unassuming man, who attends carefully to the farming of his ninety-acre tract, all of which is the result of his own effort. He is well thought of by those who know him best and is considered a representative citizen of Ionia county.

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### RUFUS LEE PAGE.

Rufus Lee Page, well-known and extensive dealer in coal and building material at Ionia and one of the most active men of affairs in this community, is a native son of Ionia, having been born there on February 2, 1866, son of Wellington Cass and Amarilla O. (Heath) Page, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Ohio, prominent early residents of this community and the parents of two children, the subject of this biographical sketch having had a sister, Mamie A., now deceased.

Wellington C. Page, for many years one of the most influential figures in the financial and commercial life of Ionia, was born at Whitestown, in Oneida county, New York, where he was well reared and well educated, eldest of the three children of his parents, he having had a brother, Stephen F., and a sister, Amanda. When he was still a young man his parents emigrated from New York to Michigan, settling in this county, where they entered a tract of government land, established their home and here spent the remainder of their lives, highly respected pioneer residents of this community. Upon coming to this county, Wellington C. Page and his brother, Stephen Page, entered a considerable tract of "Congress land" and cleared and improved a farm of seven hundred acres northeast of Ionia, to which they added considerably by later purchases, and early became recognized as among the leaders in affairs hereabout.

In 1862 Wellington C. Page moved into Ionia and there engaged in the banking business, also establishing a grain elevator and an extensive coal yard and was thus actively engaged the rest of his life. He was for

years president of the old Second National Bank at Ionia, later succeeded by the National Bank of the same city, and upon retiring from the position of directing head of that financial concern started a private bank which he operated in connection with his other enterprises and for years was regarded as one of the leading business men of the town. His death occurred in 1891, he then being seventy-one years of age.

Wellington C. Page was twice married. To the first union four children were born, of whom two grew to maturity, George W. and Mina, both now deceased, the latter of whom was the wife of George A. Thayer, of Carson City, in the neighboring county of Montcalm. Upon the death of his first wife, Wellington C. Page married, secondly, Amarilla O. Heath, daughter of Daniel Heath and wife, natives of Ohio and early settlers in Ionia county, prominent residents of Ronald township, where both died at advanced ages. Daniel Heath and wife were the parents of five children, Nathan T., William, Mary, Amarilla O. and Frank. To this second union two children were born, as noted above.

Rufus L. Page was reared in Ionia, the city of his birth, receiving his elementary education in the public schools of that city, which he supplemented by a course in Detroit University, from which institution he was graduated in 1884. Following his graduation from the university, Mr. Page was admitted to partnership with his father in the latter's extensive enterprises and at the death of the elder Page became his successor in business, all of which, save the coal and building-material business, he gradually closed out, and since 1907 has devoted his attention exclusively to the latter line, in which he has been very successful.

On June 1, 1905, Rufus L. Page was united in marriage to Gertrude A. Pennell, who was born at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, daughter of A. D. Pennell and Sallie T. (Long) Pennell natives of Pennsylvania, both of whom are now deceased, and to this union two children have been born, as follow: Sallie Louise, who died in infancy, and Rufus, born in 1906.

Mr. Page is a Republican and has ever given his thoughtful attention to local governmental affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class. He is a member of the Ionia lodges of the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of the Maccabees and of the Royal Arcamm, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

By a former marriage, Mr. Page became the father of two children, as follow: Marian, a graduate of National Park Seminary at Washington, D. C., who took post-graduate work in Paris and Vienna, and married

Charles A. Ross, of the United States army, now stationed at Ft. William, Seward, Alaska, and has two children, daughters, Marian Frances and Margery, and Wellington C., who died at the age of sixteen years.

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FRED G. LAUSTER.

Fred G. Lauster, junior member of the Cutler-Lauster Drug Company, of Ionia, and one of the best-known and most enterprising business men of that city, is a native son of Ionia, having been born there on August 2, 1875, son of George F. and Wilhelmina (Fiebling) Lauster, to whom were born two children, Fred G., the subject of this sketch, and Edward Lauster, of Flint, this state.

George F. Lauster, who is still in business in Ionia, a well-known shoe dealer, is one of the oldest business men in that city. He is the son of Gottlieb and Barbara Lauster, natives of Germany, the former of whom was a clerk in the court house in his native town in the Fatherland, who came to America shortly after their marriage, presently locating in Ionia, where they spent the remainder of their lives, both living to good old ages. They were the parents of five children, George F., Fred G., William (deceased), Mrs. Sophia Mergenthaler and Charles. George F. Lauster learned the shoemaking trade when a youth and was a competent craftsman. He later engaged in the shoe business at Ionia and has ever since been thus engaged. His wife's parents, the Fieblings, also natives of Germany, were early settlers in Ionia county, where Grandfather Fiebing was employed by the Pere Marquette railroad. He met with a railway accident by which he suffered the loss of one of his legs, the shock proving fatal. At his death he left a widow and two children, Wilhelmina and Rudolph. Grandmother Fiebing lived to an old age, she having been eighty-four years of age at the time of her death.

Fred G. Lauster was reared in Ionia, the city of his birth, and has lived there all his life. He was diligent in his studies in the public schools and early began his mercantile career. At the age of eighteen he was engaged as a clerk in the drug store of W. R. Cutler in Ionia and from the first gave his studious attention to the task of mustering the details of the difficult business. Presently he passed his pharmaceutical examination and was admitted to register by the state board of pharmacy. In 1905 Mr. Lauster bought an interest in the store with which he had been so long con-

nected, the firm name becoming Cutler & Lauster, and thus continued until 1915, in which year a company was formed and incorporated, with a capital stock of eight thousand five hundred dollars, under the name of the Cutler-Lauster Drug Company, which has since been operating the store, Mr. Lauster being the practical manager of the same.

On October 31, 1900, Fred G. Lauster was united in marriage to Bessie Beck, who was born near Charlotte, in Eaton county, this state, daughter of John and Sarah (Edson) Beck, both now deceased, who were the parents of six children, Sarah, John, Jacob, Fred, Walter and Bessie, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Grace Wilhelmina. Mr. and Mrs. Lauster are members of the Presbyterian church and take an active interest in the various movements designed to better local conditions, being held in high regard by their many friends hereabout. Mr. Lauster is a Republican. He is a charter member of the Elks lodge at Ionia and a member of the Masonic lodge at the same place, taking a warm interest in the affairs of both bodies.

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#### CHARLIE C. RICE.

Charlie C. Rice, for the past two years engaged in the real-estate, insurance and loan business in Portland, Ionia county, Michigan, is a native of that place, born on April 1, 1860, at a time when the now thriving town was nothing but a small village and trading post.

Charlie C. Rice is a son of N. B. and Mary E. (Newman) Rice, and the former was born in Orleans, Ontario county, New York, in 1828, a son of Caleb Rice. N. B. Rice received such education as the schools of his section at that time afforded and was early trained in the work of the farm home. When N. B. Rice was about nineteen years of age, his father, Caleb, journeyed to this section of the country and near Roxana, in Eaton county, this state, he took up a section of land, which was at that time nothing but a wilderness. After being here about a year, Caleb Rice returned to his home in New York state for his family, N. B. Rice being twenty years of age when the family finally settled here. He, himself, took up a claim for one hundred and sixty acres and lived thereon for a couple of years, or until such time as he entered Ypsilanti University, being a member of the first class graduated from that institution. He then engaged in teaching school throughout this section during the winter season, devoting his energies to improving his farm in the summer and it was when he came



to Portland to take up educational work that he met and married Mary E. Newman in 1854-1855. They remained in Portland until 1860, when they took up their residence on the farm where they stayed for forty-five years, at which time they had sixty acres under cultivation. In the spring of 1865 they returned to Portland, but he continued in the farming interests until 1875, when he bought an interest in the flour-mill, known thereafter as the Newman & Rice mill, and for the next eighteen years gave it his undivided attention. He helped to build the new mill and then disposed of his interest to Fred Knox, who still operates the business. The flour-mill was N. B. Rice's last business venture, for he retired from the active affairs of life with the sale of the mill and lived until May 1, 1913, dying in Portland.

Mary E. (Newman) Rice was the daughter of James E. Newman and Rebecca Hixson, his wife, and was born on November 7 or 9, 1837, the first white child born in the village of Portland and the second white child in the township. James Newman (born in 1812) came to this section of the state in 1834 in company with his father, Elisha Newman, and another son, Almeron. The three pre-empted land from the government in sections 27, 28, 33 and 34, of Portland township, at the junction of the Looking Glass and Grand rivers and where the town of Portland now lays. There was, of course, no trace of a town at that time, and being among the first white settlers, the Newmans helped to plat the town. James E. Newman, together with a brother of his wife, Abraham Hixson, and a man by the name of Peter Kent, built the first dam in this section and started the first mill. This mill he continued to operate until his death, in 1878, buying out the interests of Hixson and Kent shortly after the enterprise was started.

Charlie C. Rice is the second child in a family of three, the eldest being Effie (wife of Asa Newman), who died in 1880, and the youngest of the family is Hiram Elwin. Charlie C. grew to manhood in Portland, receiving the best education the schools at that time afforded and then went to work on the family homestead. It was while thus employed that he was married to Jennie C. Jenkins on November 27, 1879. She was the daughter of Sylvester and Mary (Densmore) Jenkins, the Densmores having come to this section about the same time as the Newmans. Charlie C. Rice continued to make his home on the farm, working part of the time in the mill and in 1901 and 1902 was township supervisor until 1903, at which time he moved into Portland and was elected to the office of county drain commissioner for 1904-1905. He conscientiously discharged the duties of that office and entered the retail grocery business in 1906. He gave that enter-

prise his attention for the following eight years, and in 1914 disposed of that business and entered the field of real estate, insurance and loans.

Mr. Rice is a popular man, well liked by a host of friends. His religious membership is with the Universalist church of Portland and his fraternal affiliation in the Free and Accepted Masons, through Portland Lodge No. 31. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Portland Lodge No. 199, and the Royal Arcanum of Portland. Politically, he gives staunch support to the Republican party and has filled various local offices. He was elected supervisor of Portland township in 1901, holding that office for three consecutive terms, and resigned to take the place of county drain commissioner in 1904. For the past eight years he has been village assessor of Portland, discharging the duties of the various offices in a manner highly satisfactory. There are two children in the Charlie C. Rice family, Oscar S., employed in Portland, and Floyd C., a printer, living in Lansing, this state. Mrs. Rice belongs to the Eastern Star and also the Rebekahs. Mr. and Mrs. Rice are members of the Universalist church (there is no church of this denomination in Portland), but subject and wife attend church out of town occasionally. Mrs. Mary E. Rice, mother of Charlie C. Rice, is still living and makes her home with her son. She is now seventy-nine years of age.

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#### JUDGE MONTGOMERY WEBSTER.

Montgomery Webster, judge of the probate court of Ionia county, who was appointed to that responsible position in December, 1904, succeeded his father, the late Judge William O. Webster. He is a native son of Ionia, having been born in that city, September 13, 1876, son of William O. and Susan (Montgomery) Webster, for years prominent residents of Ionia, the latter of whom is still living there.

The late William O. Webster was born in Cayuga county, New York, eldest of the five children born to his parents, William and Flora (Long) Webster, well-to-do farming people of that section, the other children of the family having been Goodwin, Hanson, Hezekiah, Flora E. and F. Emerson. He was given excellent educational advantages and was graduated from Hamilton College in 1895. He then entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and upon the completion of the course located at Ionia, where he engaged in the practice of his profession

during the remainder of his life. He married Susan Montgomery, who was born at Chautauqua, New York, daughter of the Rev. Alexander and Laura A. (Bliss) Montgomery, both natives of that state, who later moved to Chicago and thence to Beloit, Wisconsin, Mr. Montgomery dying at the age of fifty and his widow later at the age of sixty-three. The Rev. Alexander Montgomery was a minister of the Presbyterian church and he and his wife were the parents of five children, Susan, Ethan T., Emma, Alexander and William S.

William O. Webster, from the very beginning of his practice in Ionia, took a prominent position at the bar and was a successful attorney. He was one of the elders of the Presbyterian church at Ionia and both he and his wife took an earnest interest in good works hereabout. About four years before his death, in 1904, he was elected to the office of judge of the Ionia county probate court and was serving in that position at the time of his death, at the age of sixty-two years. Judge William O. Webster and wife were the parents of four children, namely: William, who died when about fifteen years of age; Montgomery, the subject of this sketch; Anna P., of Ionia, and Ruth B., a teacher in Detroit.

Montgomery Webster was reared and educated in Ionia and was graduated from the high school in 1895. Entering the University of Michigan, he was graduated from the literary department of that institution in 1904. He then took a year in the law department of the university and in December, of that year, following the death of his father, was appointed by Governor Bliss judge of probate for Ionia county and has since served in that capacity, having been re-elected at the polls. Previous to his appointment he had acquired a thorough working knowledge of the details of the probate court, while register of probate under his father.

On August 9, 1913, Montgomery Webster was united in marriage to Jessie Lee, who was born in Keene township, this county, daughter of A. Judson and Marian (Thompson) Lee, natives of this state; the former died in February, 1913, and the latter is still living. A. Judson Lee was the son of Hiram Lee and wife, natives of Cayuga county, New York, early settlers of Ionia county and for years prominent residents of Keene township. Mrs. Webster is the second in order of birth of three daughters, her sisters being Mrs. Maud Sparks and Hazel Lee. Judge and Mrs. Webster have one son, Montgomery Lee. They are members of the Presbyterian church, of which Judge Webster is an elder. He is also a member of the local lodges of the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Elks, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

## CHARLES H. BRADLEY.

Charles H. Bradley, well-known undertaker and dealer in furniture at Ionia, who has been in that business since 1891, is a native of the British dominion across the border to the north, having been born at Brampton, the seat of Peel county, Ontario, about twenty miles west of Toronto, Canada, April 1, 1863, son of George and Margaret (Smith) Bradley, both natives of the city of Scarborough, in Yorkshire, England, who came to this side some time after their marriage and settled in Canada, later moving to Chicago and thence to Detroit, where their last days were spent.

George Bradley was the son of Jack Bradley and wife, natives of England, who spent all their lives in that country. His wife was the son of an English sea captain and both her father and mother also spent all their lives in England. George Bradley grew to manhood in Scarborough, on the east coast of England, and was trained to the trade of house and sign painter, which he followed all his life. He married in his native town and several of his children were born there. He and his family emigrated to Canada and located at Brampton, where they lived until 1866, in which year they came to the United States and located at Chicago, where Mr. Bradley was for some time engaged at his trade. While living there the Bradleys made a trip back to England, returning to Chicago by way of Canada, and some time later moved to Detroit, this state, where both Mr. and Mrs. Bradley spent their last days, her death occurring in 1885, she then being sixty-eight years of age, and his in 1887, he then being seventy years of age. In England the Bradleys were adherents of the established church, but upon coming to this country united with the Methodists and their children were reared in the latter faith. There were ten of these children, namely: Mary Ann, wife of William Coleman, of Owen Sound, Ontario; George, who died in August, 1914; William B., of Los Angeles, California; Emily, deceased, who was the wife of A. G. Husband; Mrs. Sarah Hopkins, a widow of Grosse Isle, this state; Frances H., deceased, who was the wife of James W. Ailes, of Detroit, this state; Charles H., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and three who died in youth.

Charles H. Bradley was about five years old when his parents moved from Brampton to Chicago and he received his education in the schools of the latter city. He lived with his parents until grown and learned the painter's trade under the competent direction of his father and his brothers.

George and William, becoming a skilled artisan in that line. He later was engaged for a time in the patent-medicine house of his brother-in-law, Charles Emmert, at Chicago, and when nineteen years old became a commercial traveler, in the service of another brother-in-law, James W. Ailes, of the firm of C. D. Widman & Company, Detroit, and was thus engaged for eleven years. In the meantime Mr. Bradley had married an Ionia county girl and in 1891 moved here, locating at Ionia, where he engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in partnership with O. J. Bretz, which association was maintained for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Bradley bought his partner's interest in the concern and has since conducted the business alone, long having been regarded as one of the leading business men of the town. He carries a fine stock of goods and has built up an extensive trade in the furniture line. In the undertaking department of his business, Mr. Bradley carries a complete and up-to-date equipment and is considered one of the best funeral directors in this part of the state.

On July 3, 1888, Charles H. Bradley was united in marriage to Mary L. Brown, who was born in Keene township, this county, in 1870, daughter of Matthew and Melinda (Babeock) Brown, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter near Pontiac, this state, both now dead, to whom two children were born, Mrs. Bradley having a brother, Glenn L. Brown. Matthew Brown had been previously married and to his first union five children had been born, Albert, of Saranac, this county; Harvey, of Keene township; Jerome, of Maxwood, this state; Jennie, of Elsie, this state, and Joseph, of Keene township.

To Charles H. and Mary L. (Brown) Bradley five children have been born, Matthew G., Harold S., Ethel L., Russell A. and Glenn A. Matthew G. Bradley, who is actively employed in his father's furniture establishment, married Almira Higgins, and has three children, Marian A., Leora Brown and Floy Eloise. Harold S. Bradley, the second son, is in the employ of the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Company, of Ionia, and the other children are still at home. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in all movements having to do with the advancement of the community's general welfare, being held in high regard throughout the county. Mr. Bradley is a thirty-second degree Mason and takes much interest in Masonic affairs. He is a member of Ionia Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons; Ionia Chapter No. 14, Royal Arch Masons; Ionia Council, Royal and Select Masters; Ionia Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar, of which he has been the captain-

general since 1903; DeWitt Clinton Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, at Grand Rapids, and Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids. He is a charter member of Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is also a member of Ionia Lodge No. 175, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest. In his political affiliations, Mr. Bradley is a Republican and ever has given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

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### CHARLES GATES.

Charles Gates, superintendent of the Ionia county infirmary, was formerly a farmer in section 5, of Berlin township, where he still owns a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, on which farm he first saw the light of day on February 2, 1880. He is a son of David and Charlotte (Andrews) Gates, the former of whom was also born on the farm in Berlin township, a son of Harry P. Gates, who came to this section at an early date from the state of New York. After marriage, Harry P. Gates came westward, locating for a time in Indiana and later coming to this county, where he purchased the farm in section 5, of Berlin township. There he lived the remainder of his days, being of great assistance in the early organization of this county. He was also a devoted churchman, a member of the Baptist church at Saranac and a deacon in that society for a number of years. He was considered fairly well-to-do in his day and was one of the leading spirits of this section at that time. David, son of Harry P. and father of Charles Gates, purchased the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead and remained there until 1910, when he disposed of it to Claude Branson and took up his residence at Saranac.

Charlotte Andrews was born in Rhode Island and came with her parents to Van Buren county, this state, where she grew to womanhood. She is the mother of three children, the eldest being Bertha, wife of Ellis Durkee, a farmer of Berlin township; Charles, the second child, is the immediate subject of this sketch, and the youngest is Lottie, wife of James Lyons, of Detroit.

Charles Gates received his education in the district schools near his home, remaining with his parents until the time of his marriage, on April 2, 1902, to Vennie Adgate, a daughter of Chester and Nora Adgate. The

present county infirmary is the old Adgate homestead, sold by the heirs to the county in 1906. After marriage, Charles Gates and wife settled on their own farm of ninety acres adjoining his father on the north, to which they later added forty acres, remaining thereon until March of 1914.

Charles Gates and wife are the parents of three children: Hazel, the eldest, died when but three years of age; Alfred and Glenn are both attending the district schools at present. Mr. Gates is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows through local lodge No. 168, at Saranac, and politically, he gives support to the Democratic party, being one of the most active members of that party in local affairs.

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#### GEORGE W. MOULTON.

George W. Moulton county clerk of Ionia county, former postmaster of Belding, in which latter city he was for years engaged in the real-estate business, is a native son of Michigan, having been born in the town of Plymouth, in Wayne county, this state, July 12, 1866, son of Enoch S. and Electa (Sperry) Moulton, the former a native of New Hampshire and the latter of Pennsylvania, who later became well-known residents of Belding, in this county.

Enoch S. Moulton was one of a considerable family of children born to Daniel Moulton and wife, the latter of whom was a Gilman, both natives of New Hampshire, who spent all their lives in that state, both living to ripe old ages. He was reared in his native state and became an expert carpenter and joiner. He married Electa Sperry, whose parents both died in middle age in their home in Pennsylvania, and in 1858 came to Michigan, locating at Plymouth, in Wayne county, where he followed his trade and where he was living when the Civil War broke out. Responding to the call to arms, Enoch S. Moulton enlisted for service and was made a sergeant of Company D, First Regiment, Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, with which he served for three years.

At the conclusion of his military experience, Enoch S. Moulton returned home and about 1871 moved to Belding, this county, to take charge, as superintendent, of a sash, door and blind factory, and there he spent the rest of his life, the last twenty years of his life being clouded by ill health, his death occurring on March 11, 1902, he then being seventy years of age. His widow is still living at Belding, in her eightieth year.

Enoch S. Moulton was a man of considerable prominence in his community during the active years of his life and had served the public in the capacity of township clerk and as a justice of the peace. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. These children, five in number, are as follow: Eugene D., Emma, widow of Edward Lamb, residing in Belding; Elmer E., also of Belding; George W., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Clara S., a stenographer at Belding.

George W. Moulton was six years of age when his parents moved to Belding and he grew to manhood in that city. Following his graduation from the high school in 1885 he went to Lansing, where he was engaged as a clerk in a clothing store for a year, at the end of which time he returned home and soon afterward engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, in which he became quite successful, soon becoming one of the best-known men in the county, his activities in his business taking him to all parts of this and adjoining counties. Mr. Moulton is a Republican and he early began to take an interest in politics, giving his earnest attention to civic affairs. He was supervisor from Belding in 1893-94; was city clerk of Belding from 1898 to 1903, a part of which time he also served as justice of the peace; from 1904 to 1908 he was connected with the state land office at Lansing, and in 1910 he received his commission as postmaster at Belding, serving in that capacity until 1914, in November of which latter year he was elected county clerk, shortly thereafter moving to Ionia, the county seat, and on January 1, 1915, entered upon the duties of that important office and is now serving the public very satisfactorily in that capacity. Mr. Moulton still retains his business interests in Belding and is besides the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres in Otisco township, which he rents out to advantage, and is accounted quite a substantial citizen.

On March 13, 1892, George W. Moulton was united in marriage to Jennie French, who was born on a farm near Morley, in the neighboring county of Mecosta, February 10, 1860, daughter of Henry and Charlotte (Crowfoot) French, both natives of this state, still living in Mecosta county, to whom eleven children have been born, of whom seven are still living, Warren, Albert, Charles, Ira, Elsie, Sarah and Jennie, the deceased being Anna, Dora, Alta and a son who died in infancy.

To George W. and Jennie (French) Moulton three children have been born: Howard R., a student in Ferris Institute; Bruce S., a graduate of the Belding high school, now acting as deputy county clerk, in the office



of his father, and Gilman, a student in the Ionia schools. The Moultons have many friends throughout the county and are held in high esteem by all. Mr. Moulton is a member of the Masonic and the Pythian lodges at Belding and of the lodge of the Elks at Ionia and takes a warm interest in the affairs of those popular orders.

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#### GEORGE PRAY WINCHELL, M. D.

Dr. George Pray Winchell, former mayor of Ionia and a well-known and successful physician of that city, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on a farm in Ronald township, November 1, 1873, son of Monroe B. and Caroline (Moffett) Winchell, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Ohio, who came to this section of Michigan in the days of their youth and became prominent and influential residents of Ionia county.

Monroe B. Winchell was the sixth in order of birth of the seven children born to Lorenzo and Mary (Castle) Winchell, the others having been Theodore, Lemuel, Addison, Mary L., Phoebe and Mary. Lorenzo Winchell was born at Egremont, Massachusetts, and his wife was born in the village of Canaan, Columbia county, New York. At an early day in the settlement of this section of Michigan they emigrated with their family from New York state and settled in Ionia county, where they established their home in Ronald township and there they spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Winchell died at the age of sixty-five and her husband survived her many years, he being eighty-six years of age at the time of his death.

It was about the year 1870 that Monroe Winchell moved over from Kent county into Ionia county and in 1880 Monroe Winchell bought a forty-acre fruit farm a mile and one-half northeast of Ionia and there established his home. He married Caroline Moffett, of Kent county, daughter of James and Mary Moffett, who had driven through from Ohio to that county, with their family, by ox-team, and become permanent residents of Kent county. James Moffett had been the owner of a large woolen-mill and an extensive farm in Ohio, but through the financial misfortunes of his business partner had lost pretty much everything he possessed and decided to come to the new country hereabout and start over again. Both he and his wife spent their last days in Kent county, he being seventy-nine years of age at the time of his death and she sixty-five. They were the

parents of twelve children, of whom nine grew to maturity: Excine, Helen, Clarissa, Abigail, Emma, Caroline, Lottie, Robert and Albert.

Monroe B. Winchell became a well-to-do farmer and fruit raiser and remained on the farm adjacent to Ionia until about the year 1902, when he and his wife retired from the farm and moved into the city of Ionia, where Mrs. Winchell died in 1903, at the age of fifty-seven years. He is still living there, a highly respected citizen of Ionia. Mr. Winchell is a member of the Methodist church, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, all of whom are still living, namely: Walter L., of Ionia; Mildred Belle, unmarried, who also lives at Ionia; Dr. George P., the subject of this biographical sketch; Laura M., wife of J. E. Dodds, of Detroit, this state; Dr. Clarence G., a dentist, of Ionia, and Mary, wife of Edward Conroy, of Ionia township, this county.

George P. Winchell was reared on the home farm near Ionia and was graduated from the Ionia high school in 1896, after which he taught school for four years, at the end of which time, in 1900, he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan from which he was graduated in 1904, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his chosen profession, Doctor Winchell established an office in Ionia and has ever since been engaged in practice in that city, being one of the best-known Homeopathic physicians in this part of the state. Doctor Winchell is a close student and keeps fully abreast of the constant advance in the practice of medicine, taking an active interest in the deliberations of the Ionia County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, of which organization he is a member. He occupies a high position in the estimation of his professional colleagues hereabout and an equally high position in the esteem of the general public. Doctor Winchell is a Republican and has ever given his thoughtful attention to the political affairs of the county. He was honored by the people of Ionia by his election to the office of mayor of that city and served a term as chief executive of the city very creditably. During his incumbency the city hall, armory, new fire barn and State street sewer were constructed.

On November 17, 1897, George P. Winchell was united in marriage to Cora Hall, who was born in Ionia, daughter of Arthur N. and Matilda (Martin) Hall, the former of whom was born in this county and the latter in Canada, and both of whom are still living. Arthur N. Hall is one of the six children born to Joshua Hall and wife, the latter of whom was a Haight, who were among the earliest settlers of this county, the other chil-

dren of that family having been Henry, Luther, Frank, John and Ada. Three of the children born to Arthur N. Hall and wife are still living, Roy, Herbert C. and Ralph. Mrs. Cora Winchell died on March 19, 1899, at the age of twenty-six years, leaving a daughter, Dorothy.

On June 28, 1904, George P. Winchell was married, secondly, to Martha L. Norton, who was born at Hudson, this state, daughter of Henry W. and Lovisa (Holmes) Norton. Henry W. Norton, who is still living, is a native of New York state, being the eldest of the two children born to his parents, Henry Norton and wife, natives of that same state. His wife died in Ionia in 1908, at the age of seventy-three years. They were the parents of seven children: Henry P., Mary, Lucy, Charles, Helen, Martha and Arthur. Mrs. Norton was one of a family of fourteen children born to her parents, among those who grew to maturity being Hiram, Alfred, Lucy, Durinda, Amanda and Sarah.

To Dr. George P. and Martha L. (Norton) Winchell four children have been born, Katherine, Pauline, Jessie and Norton Moffett. Doctor and Mrs. Winchell are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, the doctor being one of the trustees of that church, and take a warm interest in the general social and cultural affairs of the community, being held in high regard by their many friends in Ionia and throughout the county.

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#### CORAL A. STILLWELL.

Coral A. Stillwell, a well-known merchant of Ionia, this county, doing business in the general second-hand house furnishings line, at the same time maintaining a well-equipped cabinet shop, making a specialty of expert repairs to furniture, is a native son of Michigan, having been born at Galesburg, this state, February 6, 1877, son of Charles and Mary (Palmer) Stillwell, both natives of this state, as were their respective parents before them.

Charles Stillwell was reared on a farm two miles from Galesburg and became a carpenter by trade. His father and mother both lived to ripe old ages, the former having been ninety-nine years of age at the time of his death. They were the parents of four children, George, Charles, Susan and Irvin. Mrs. Stillwell's father was a blacksmith and both he and his wife lived to old age, the latter being past ninety at the time of her death. Grandfather Palmer was a veteran of the Civil War and during the latter years of his life his physical condition was much affected by the results of his army

service. He and his wife were the parents of six children, Mary, Calista, Ella, Issie, Milo and Merrett. Charles Stillwell and wife are both still living.

Coral A. Stillwell was reared at Galesburg and at Hamilton, this state, receiving his education in the public schools, and at the age of fifteen started out for himself and has made his own way in the world ever since. His first work was as clerk in a store and he then followed various pursuits, until he took up cabinet-making, in which he became quite proficient and which he has followed ever since. He worked in various factories, also becoming an expert upholsterer, and has had a wide experience in furniture making. He presently engaged in business for himself and after being located temporarily in Sheridan, Sparta, Belding, Greenville and Bowen City, settled in Ionia in 1912 and has since then been located in that city, doing an extensive business in the second-hand house furnishings line and general furniture repair.

In 1899 Coral A. Stillwell was united in marriage to Della Jones, also a native of Michigan, daughter of Horace and Louisa Jones, of Sheridan, this state, the former of whom is a veteran of the Civil War. Mrs. Stillwell has two brothers and two sisters, Fred, Arthur, Jennie and Nettie. To Coral A. and Della (Jones) Stillwell five children have been born, Milton, Dorothy, Charles, Harold and Laverne. Mr. and Mrs. Stillwell are members of the Methodist church. They have made many friends during the time they have been located in Ionia and are held in high regard by all. Mr. Stillwell is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in the political affairs of the county and state.

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#### ANTHONY M. KOHN.

One of the farmers of Keene township, Ionia county, who believes in adopting modern methods of tilling the soil is Anthony M. Kohn, who was born on the farm where he now lives, in section 16, November 17, 1860. He is a son of Anton and Johanna (Schmidt) Kohn. The father was born in Trieves, Prussia, in 1820, and the mother was a native of Luxemburg, Germany. For two years he was one of the body guard for Emperor William. When young they came to the United States and were married in Albany, New York, later taking up their residence in Erie county, that state, where they bought a farm, which they sold in a few years and came



ANTHONY M. KOHN AND FAMILY.



ANTON AND JOHANNA KOHN.



by boat to Detroit in 1848, on first steamer to cross Lake Erie, and from there drove a one-horse wagon to Cook's Corners, Otisco township, Ionia county, Michigan, where he worked as a laborer for some time, then bought a farm there, but owing to the fever and ague prevailing there, sold out and bought a farm one-half mile north of the Catholic church, and he resided there until the spring of 1858, when he located in Keen township on a farm which is now owned by Anthony M. It consisted of forty acres, and he went in debt for most of it, assuming a mortgage of eighty dollars, which was considered by his neighbors as about the worth of the place. He was a man of thrift, and he made a success, and later added to his holdings until he had a farm of one hundred acres, and also bought eighty in another part of Otisco township. He was a member of the Catholic church and was a liberal supporter of the same. Politically, he was a Republican. His death occurred in February, 1908, his wife having died in February, 1907. She was born January 10, 1832. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on April 22, 1901, their marriage having taken place on April 21, 1851. They became parents of six children, three of whom survive, namely: John F., who is farming in Otisco township; Lydia, who is the wife of John M. Laux, and they live in Keen township, and Anthony M., the subject of this sketch. Subject's father was a man of six feet and weighed two hundred pounds. He was a vigorous, powerful man in his prime.

Anthony M. was reared on the home farm and he was educated in the district schools of Keene township. He has always lived on the homestead and took care of his parents in their old age. He has kept the place under good improvements and a high state of cultivation. He owns two hundred and forty acres, all in Keene township, and he carries on general farming and raises good live stock of all kinds.

Mr. Kohn was married on September 13, 1898, to Minnie Gork, of Comstock Park, Michigan. She was born in Germany. Two sons have been born to this union, namely: York, whose birth occurred on December 21, 1899, is engaged in farming with his father, and Paul, who was born on December 16, 1902, is attending school.

Politically, Mr. Kohn is a Republican. He has served as highway commissioner, also as treasurer and supervisor of his township, holding the office of supervisor four years. He has also been school director. He is one of the influential and honored men of Keene township, where he has spent his life and has always enjoyed a good reputation.

## AMOS M. WELCH.

Amos M. Welch, head of the firm of A. M. Welch & Sons, of the Michigan Land Company, of Ionia, this county, one of the most extensive landowners in this section of the state and for years recognized as one of the most active and influential men of affairs hereabout is a native son of Ionia county having been born on a homestead farm in Ionia township, January 17, 1857, son of Col. John B. and Sarah Ann (Morgan) Welch, natives of New York state and early settlers of this county, for many years leaders in the pioneer life of this section.

Col. John B. Welch was the son of Vine and Ruth (Squires) Welch, both natives of New York state, the former a blacksmith, who became pioneers of Ionia county, having settled here in a very early day in the settlement of this region, and here they spent their last days, both living to ripe old ages, long active in the pioneer life of the community. Vine Welch and wife were the parents of seven children, Levi, Simon, Eliza, Ezekiel, Polly, John B. and Vine. John B. Welch was reared in New York state and became a butcher by trade. There he married Marcia Keziah Wilson, who died, leaving two children, Eliza and Ruth. He then came West, seeking a new home and was attracted by the possibilities presented in this section of Michigan. He walked all the way from Detroit carrying a gun on his shoulder, and settled in Ionia township, this county, where he bought eighty acres of land, which he proceeded to clear. Shortly after his arrival here he married, secondly, Mrs. Sarah Ann Roberts, widow of Amos Roberts, and the mother of three children, James B., Statira and George R. Mrs. Roberts was born in the state of New York, daughter of Captain Selden and Lucena (Palmer) Morgan, both natives of that same state, who spent all their lives there. Captain Morgan, who was the son of a Revolutionary soldier, was a captain of the company of state militia at Ilion, New York, and was a prosperous shipper and grain buyer, who owned a fleet of canal boats plying on the waters of the old Erie canal. He died on January 30, 1837, at the age of fifty-three years. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, Selden E., Abel G., Samuel, Sarah Ann, George P., David, Anson, James, Alzena and Walter G. When Mrs. Roberts came to Ionia county she rode in a rude wagon from Grand Rapids to Ada, and thence by canoe, the same paddled by two Indians, up the Grand river to a point one mile west of Ionia, landing at a log cabin which stood until 1913 on the site now owned by the state reformatory.



After his second marriage John B. Welch established his home on his pioneer tract in Ionia township and there reared his family, he and his wife quickly taking a lead in the pioneer life of the community. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War he raised the Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and was commissioned colonel of that regiment. At the conclusion of his military experience, Colonel Welch resumed his activities in an agricultural way and speedily prospered. As he prospered, he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of seven hundred acres of land and was accounted one of the most substantial farmers in the county. In their declining years he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Ionia, where Colonel Welch died in 1895, at the age of eighty years. His widow survived him nine years, she being eighty-six years of age at the time of her death. Both were earnest members of the Christian church and firmly believed in the gospel as taught by the primitive or first disciples of Christ. Four children were born to Colonel Welch's second marriage, namely: Marcia, who married John H. Hamilton, a prominent resident of Ionia; Mary, wife of K. R. Smith, also of Ionia; John D., of Portland, Oregon, and Amos M., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch.

Amos M. Welch was reared on the homestead farm in Ionia township, receiving his elementary education in the district school in that neighborhood, after which he entered the high school at Ionia. After completing the course there he continued making his home on the farm and there resided until he had reached manhood's estate, for a time acting as manager of the same. In 1879, then being twenty-two years of age, he went to Kansas, arriving in that state on December 1 of that year, and there made his home for five years, residing in Elk county. On May 1, 1884, he returned to Ionia county and upon his father's retirement from the farm about that time he bought the old home place, which he still owns, and there he lived until 1910, in which year he turned the place, now comprising a well-cultivated tract of four hundred and forty-five acres, over to his son, John B., and moved to Ionia, where he has made his home ever since. Upon locating in Ionia, Mr. Welch organized the Michigan Land Company, operated under the direction of the firm of A. M. Welch & Sons, and has done a large business in realty, besides taking part in other enterprises. Besides the home farm he is the owner of other land in this county and five thousand acres in Iosco and Ogemaw counties and is one of the directors of the State Savings Bank of Ionia.

In Kansas City, Missouri, Amos M. Welch was united in marriage to

Emma Tremayne, daughter of Dr. Henry and Jane (Johnson) Tremayne, natives of Canada, the former of whom for many years was a prominent physician at Tremayne's Corners, having walked to that place at the time of his location there, his practice covering the period when doctors were wont to visit their patients on horseback, dispensing their medicines from saddlebags. Doctor Tremayne died in 1906 and his widow is still living. They were the parents of but two children, Emma and Henry.

To Amos M. and Emma (Tremayne) Welch four children have been born, sons all, as follow: John B., a farmer of Ronald township, who married Leah Rogers and has one child, a son, Amos; Henry T., in charge of the old homestead, who married Blanche Reynolds and has two children, Douglas R. and Emma J.; Amos Palmer, living at home, a graduate of Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, who is now shipping clerk for the Ypsilanti Reed Company, and George Douglas, who died at the age of eighteen months. Mrs. Welch is a member of the Episcopal church. Both she and her husband are warmly concerned in all movements having to do with the advancement of the common good hereabout and are held in high regard by their many friends throughout the county. Mr. Welch is a Democrat and takes an active interest in local politics, but has never been included in the office-seeking class. He is a member of the local lodges of the Elks, the Woodmen and of the Knights of the Maccabees.

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#### EDWIN FOREST BECKWITH, M. D.

Dr. Edwin Forrest Beckwith, who for more than a quarter of a century has been one of the leading medical practitioners in this part of the state and who has been located at Ionia, this county, since the year 1887, is a native of Ohio, having been born in the city of Marietta, that state, May 18, 1857, son of Dr. Ephraim Craig and Frances Knight (Forrest) Beckwith, both natives of Ohio, whose last days were spent in Columbus, the capital of that state.

Ephraim Craig Beckwith was born at Norwalk, in the Western Reserve, Ohio. His father and mother, the latter of whom was a Herrick, were Eastern people and both lived to ripe old ages, the former dying at the age of seventy and the latter at the great age of ninety-four. They were the parents of five children, four sons and one daughter, all of whom became

connected with the medical profession, those besides the son above mentioned being David H., a prominent physician; Ezra, who was a prosperous druggist; Seth, who also became a physician, and Marian, who married Dr. T. P. Wilson, who for years was professor of materia medica in the University of Michigan. Though reared on a farm, Ephraim C. Beckwith's youth was surrounded by home influences which directed his thoughts toward study and he early decided to become a physician. Following his graduation from Geneva Medical College, Geneva, New York, he located for the practice of his profession at Marietta, Ohio, where he was thus quite successfully engaged for two or three years, during which time he married Frances Knight Forrest, only child and daughter of the Rev. Josiah and Lydia (Kunkel) Forrest, the former a minister of the Methodist church, born in Maryland, whose last days were spent in Zanesville, Ohio.

About the year 1864 Dr. Ephraim C. Beckwith moved to Zanesville, Ohio, where he was engaged in practice for several years, at the end of which time he sold his practice and went to Cincinnati as medical superintendent of the Cincinnati sanitarium. About two years later he moved to Columbus, same state, where he re-engaged in the regular practice and was there located the rest of his life, his death occurring when he was fifty-four years of age. His widow survived him a number of years. Dr. E. C. Beckwith was a physician of wide renown throughout Ohio, having long been regarded as one of the leaders of his profession in that state. He and his wife were earnest members of the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of three children, sons all, the subject of this biographical sketch having two brothers, Whitney Craig, now deceased, and Charles Potwin Beckwith, an analytical chemist in the laboratories of the Parke-Davis Company at Detroit.

Edwin Forrest Beckwith was reared in Ohio, receiving his elementary education in the grade schools of Zanesville, Cincinnati and Columbus and was graduated from the high school in the latter city, after which he took a course at Farmer's College in the suburbs of Cincinnati. From early childhood he had displayed a decided artistic talent, and this talent was further cultivated by a course in art, and many of his early paintings were exhibited in Columbus and attracted favorable attention among friends and in the art circles of that section. Previously he had been engaged as a traveling salesman by a wholesale shoe house, and during all this time was sedulously employing his leisure in the reading of medical books, under the careful direction of his father. Subsequently he entered Starling Medical

College at Columbus, from which he was graduated in 1885, since which time he has been continuously engaged in the practice of his profession.

Following his graduation from medical college, Dr. Edwin F. Beckwith left Columbus and located at Urbana, Ohio, where he opened an office and was engaged in the practice of his profession for about six months, at the end of which time, attracted by the glowing reports that then were emanating from this favored section of Michigan, he came to Ionia county and located at Muir, at once taking a high place among the medical practitioners of this section. After a practice of about three years at Muir, Doctor Beckwith was appointed medical superintendent of the state reformatory and house of correction at Ionia and held that important position during the incumbency of the Republican administration, at the end of which he resigned, but was afterward reappointed and altogether served in that capacity for a period of ten years, meantime maintaining an office in the city of Ionia, where he has been established as a successful and widely known practitioner ever since 1887, thus being one of the best-known physicians in this part of the state.

On December 23, 1880, Dr. Edwin F. Beckwith was united in marriage to Kate Burr, who was born in Delaware, Ohio, one of the nine children of Col. Raymond and Eliza (Ruuyon) Burr, and to this union four children have been born, as follow: Alice F., who married Prof. F. B. Stiven, of Oberlin College, and has three children, Elizabeth, Robert and Mary Jean; Bertha B., who married Prof. E. H. Johnson, of Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, and has one child, a son, Raymond; Raymond B., professor of biology in the Tempe Normal School at Tempe, Arizona, who married Erma Jones and has two children, a daughter, Janice, and a son, Edwin Forrest, and Mary Louise, who married the Rev. Franklin D. Butchart, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Doctor and Mrs. Beckwith are earnest members of the Presbyterian church at Ionia, the doctor having been a ruling elder in that congregation for many years, and both are among the leaders in the social and cultural activities of the city, being held in the very highest esteem throughout this whole region. Doctor Beckwith is a thirty-second degree Mason, affiliated with the blue lodge, the chapter and the council of that order at Ionia and with the consistory at Grand Rapids, having been a Scottish Rite Mason since February 20, 1896, and is also a member of Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids, in all of which departments of Masonry he takes a warm interest.

## WINSLOW PAGE BURHANS.

In the memorial annals of Ionia county no name stands out more prominently than that of the late Winslow Page Burhans, one of the early bankers of Ionia and a man whose part in the development of the material interests of that city and of the county at large was of incalculable value to the community. His widow is still living at Ionia, where she enjoys many evidences of the high esteem in which she is held by all.

Winslow P. Burhans was born in Albany county, New York, one of the five children born to Cornelius and Hannah (Legg) Burhans, well-to-do farming people, who spent all their lives in that county. He was given an excellent education and was early trained to a mercantile life, which he followed for a time and later engaged in tanning in northern New York, in the Adirondacks. While there, in 1857, he married and two years later, in 1859, he and his wife came to Michigan and located at Ionia, where Mr. Burhans spent the rest of his life and where Mrs. Burhans is still living. Upon his arrival in Ionia Mr. Burhans engaged in the banking business and was thus engaged quite successfully until failing health compelled his retirement from active business, his death occurring in 1885. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, as is his widow, and was an active member of the Masonic fraternity.

On July 29, 1857, Winslow P. Burhans was united in marriage to Rachel A. Dorman, who was born at Albany, New York, July 15, 1831, youngest of the six children of Daniel and Cornelia (Witbeck) Dorman, the other children of that family having been Sarah, Jacob, Harriet, Gertrude and Nancy. Daniel Dorman was for years a well-known merchant in Albany. In their later years he and his wife removed to Ionia, where they spent a couple of years, later going to Illinois, where Mr. Dorman died. His widow died in Albany, while making a visit to her old home there, at the age of seventy-three. Daniel Dorman was the second in order of birth of the four children born to his parents, Aaron Dorman and wife, natives of Albany county, and farming people. His wife, Cornelia, was the fourth in order of birth of the five children born to her parents, the others having been William, Stephen, Gertrude and Sarah. Her mother, Elizabeth (Feneyek) Witbeck, was the third wife of her father, Grandfather Witbeck, having been married three times, having two children by his first wife and one by his second. Grandmother Witbeck was the daughter of old Major Feneyek, who built a mansion on the Hudson river, which remained a landmark in

that vicinity for many years, being finally destroyed by fire but a few years ago.

To Winslow P. and Rachel A. (Dorman) Burhans three children were born, Hannah, lovingly known to her friends as "Dolly"; Winslow, who died at the age of three years and six months, and Winslow, second, who died unmarried at the age of twenty-five years. On October 10, 1883, Hannah Burhans married Willis VanDevanter, of Marion, Indiana, who later moved to Wyoming, where he became chief justice of the supreme court of that state; later United States circuit judge for the eighth judicial circuit and who on December 16, 1910, was appointed associate justice of the United States supreme court, now living in Washington, D. C., to which union two sons have been born, Isaac Page and Winslow Page Burhans.

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#### THOMAS A. CARTEN.

Thomas A. Carten, the owner of "The Big Daylight Store," one of the large department stores of Ionia, Michigan, was born in Ontario, Canada, on October 6, 1860. He is the son of John and Katherine (Stone) Carten, he a native of Dublin, Ireland, and she of Lampkin county, Ontario. They were the parents of the following children: Thomas A., the subject of this sketch; Richard, who lives in Ionia; Mary, who is the wife of Charles Krup, of Otisco, Ionia county; Charles, who lives in Grand Rapids; Annie, who is the wife of Arthur Cain, of Ionia; Katherine, who is the wife of Joseph Watcha, of Orleans, Ionia county; John, of Chicago, Illinois; Frank, of Ionia, superintendent of the Carten store; Ella, who lives at Detroit, Michigan, and John and Robert, who died when young.

John Carten, father of the subject of this sketch, came to Canada when a boy and then to the United States in 1873. He located in Cannonsburg, Kent county, where he ran a carriage, wagon and blacksmith shop for a number of years. The last ten years of his life were spent in Ionia, where he died in 1914 at the age of eighty-five. He belonged to the Catholic church. His wife survives him, and is now past seventy-seven years of age. She is a Baptist. The father of John Carten was Patrick Carten, and his wife was Mary (Swift) Carten. They were both natives of Ireland. He was a merchant in Dublin. He died in Ireland at about thirty-eight years of age, but his wife came to Canada, and died at Cannonsburg, Michigan, at the age of ninety-two years. They had four children: John,



THOMAS A. CARTEN.





father of the subject of this sketch: Michael, Mary and Thomas. The father of Katherine (Stone) Carten, the mother of the subject of this sketch, was Charles Stone, whose wife was Jane (Wortman) Stone. The Wortmans were natives of England. Charles Stone was a native of Vermont. He was a pioneer in this county and cleared up five farms. They both died at an advanced age. Their family consisted of the following children: Minerva, Katherine, George, Charles, Anna, John and Richard.

Thomas A. Carten, the subject of this sketch, lived in Canada until he was twelve years of age, and attended the public schools there. He then came to the United States and lived in Cannonsburg until the age of seventeen, at which time he came to Ionia. He began clerking for Stone Brothers in their drygoods store and remained there for six years. He then went with Marshall Field, of Chicago, for two years and lived there; then went to Newton, Kansas, where he spent a few months, but returned to Chicago to accept a position as the head of the department for James H. Walker & Company. This position he held for two years. He came to Ionia in 1887 and became a member of the firm of Stone & Carten, and remained in this position for three years. This partnership was then dissolved, and Mr. Carten took over the business, and the firm name was changed to Thomas A. Carten. Business has increased and Mr. Carten now employs about forty-five clerks.

On May 3, 1892, Thomas A. Carten was married to Etta McDonald, who is a daughter of Patrick and Helen (Murphy) McDonald. Subject and wife had but one child, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Carten are members of the Catholic church. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus, and also to the Hibernians. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Foresters, and of the Royal Arcanum. He is also a member of the Moose lodge, and of the Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is a Democrat in politics, and was state deputy oil inspector under governor Winans. He was an alderman for several years, and was also a supervisor.

Etta McDonald was born in Holly, New York, the daughter of Patrick and Ellen (Murphy) McDonald, natives of Ireland, both of whom are now deceased. They were the parents of two children, Etta and Mary. Patrick McDonald served in Company 13, Tenth Michigan Cavalry, and saw active service during the Civil War. After his honorable discharge from the army he continued to reside in Michigan. Patrick McDonald was the son of Francis and Bridget (Bindley) McDonald, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Francis McDonald died in his native land and his

widow brought their children to this country and settled in New York. They were the parents of the following children: Nancy, Mary, Patrick, Rose, Bridget and Frank. Mrs. Ellen (Murphy) McDonald was the daughter of James and Mary (Howard) Murphy.

Mr. Carter has had exceptional training in his chosen field of endeavor. From his earliest youth he has been engaged in, and has constantly studied, merchandising. After entering the Marshall Field establishment in Chicago, his advancement was very rapid. He started in the dress-goods department and by successive promotions soon was in the imported-goods department, one of the most important departments in the Field establishment. While in this latter department Mr. Carten had the valued opportunity of co-operating with Mr. Wallace, noted as one of the most competent judges of laces in the world, and there he absorbed a thorough knowledge of foreign merchandise and especially of the finer laces. While in the Field employ Mr. Carten became intimately associated with Mr. John Shedd, now the head of the great Field stores.

Needless to say, the Carten store in Ionia reflects the value of Mr. Carten's comprehensive training in his business. Mr. Carten has made his store deservedly popular and this bespeaks itself in the splendid patronage enjoyed.

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#### ALFRED RUSSELL LOCKE.

Alfred Russell Locke, former prosecuting attorney of Ionia county and member of the board of control of the Michigan state reformatory at Ionia, is a native son of this county, having been born on a farm in Easton township, August 28, 1868, son of Wilbur H. and Harriet L. (Parker) Locke, the former of whom also is a native of this county and the latter of Orleans county, New York, for years well-to-do farmers of Otisco township, this county, now living in comfortable retirement in the city of Ionia.

Wilbur H. Locke is the son of Jonathan Russell and Mary (Goodwin) Locke, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of New York, who, in 1837, came to Michigan, settling in Ionia county and taking a claim in Ionia township, being thus among the very earliest settlers of this region, and here they spent the remainder of their lives, well-respected and highly useful citizens of the community. Mary Goodwin Locke died on the homestead farm in Ionia township in 1855. Jonathan Russell Locke survived her many years, his death occurring at the home of his son in Otisco township in 1895. He and his wife were the parents of six children, Cynthia,

Ruth, Wilbur, Electa, Manirsa and Mary. Wilbur H. Locke was reared on the homestead farm in Ionia township and grew up to the life of a farmer. Being the only son he was an aid to his father in the labors of developing the homestead. In September, 1861, he enlisted for service during the Civil War in Company D, Third Michigan Cavalry, with which he served until the close of the war, being mustered out as a non-commissioned officer in September, 1865.

At the close of the war Wilbur H. Locke returned to the farm and shortly thereafter married Harriet L. Parker, a neighbor, daughter of Edward Z. and Clarissa D. (Gregory) Parker, natives of New York state, who came to Ionia county in 1865, settling on a farm in Easton township, later moving into Otisco township, where Mr. Parker died. His widow retired to Ionia in 1911 and died there the year following, at the age of eighty-nine years. They were the parents of two children, daughters both, Harriet L., who married Mr. Locke, and Sarah. To Wilbur H. Locke and wife but two children were born, sons both, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch alone survives, his brother, Charles Parker Locke, having died in 1904.

Alfred Russell Locke was reared on the paternal farm, receiving his early education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and in the high school at Belding, from which latter school he was graduated in 1886, after which he began teaching school, continuing his work on the farm during the summers. In the fall of 1888 he entered the Agricultural College at Lansing and was graduated from that institution in 1891, and in the fall of that year was married, after which he again entered the ranks of Ionia county teachers and was thus engaged for one year, at the end of which time he was appointed clerk of the law library at the capitol at Lansing and served in that important capacity for two years, during which time his inclination to embrace the law as a profession was greatly strengthened, his previous studies along that line having been advanced amid the excellent setting for a law student he found in the state law library. Mr. Locke then received the appointment as deputy United States consul at Glasgow, Scotland, and spent two years abroad in the consular service of the country. He then returned to Ionia county and, having been admitted to the bar in 1893, began the practice of his profession at Belding, where he remained until the spring of 1898, at which time he moved to Ionia, where he has been located ever since.

Upon locating at Ionia Mr. Locke formed a partnership for the practice of the law with Judge Allan B. Morse, former judge of the state supreme

court, which mutually agreeable partnership continued for nine years, at the end of which time, in 1907, Mr. Locke formed a partnership with Dwight C. Sheldon, under the firm name of Locke & Sheldon, which partnership was continued until the death of Mr. Sheldon in May, 1912, since which time Mr. Locke has been practicing alone. Mr. Sheldon was prosecuting attorney of Ionia county at the time of his death and his partner, Mr. Locke, was appointed to fill the unexpired term. In the fall of 1912 he was elected to that office, as the nominee of the Democratic party in this county, and served until January 1, 1915, the date of the expiration of his term of office. Since retiring from public office Mr. Locke has been engaged in private practice, and has an extensive and constantly growing practice. In 1901 Mr. Locke was appointed as a member of the board of control of the state reformatory at Ionia and has been twice re-appointed to that position, his present term of service in that capacity running to February, 1918. For three terms Mr. Locke served as city attorney of the city of Ionia and for three years has been a member of the Ionia school board, of which he is now president.

On October 20, 1891, Alfred R. Locke was united in marriage to Ona B. Morse, who was born in Otisco township, this county, September 30, 1869, daughter of Joseph D. and Emily (Fiske) Morse, both natives of this county, the former of whom died in 1913, at the age of seventy years and the latter of whom is still living, who were the parents of three children, Ona B., John L. and Rufus R. Joseph D. Morse, who was an honored veteran of the Civil War, member of the First Regiment, Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, and a prominent farmer of this county, was the son of Judge John L. Morse, a pioneer of this county, one of the early judges of the probate court of Ionia county, and one of the modern Argonauts who made the long and perilous trip to California after gold in 1849. Both Judge Morse and his wife were natives of New York state and upon coming to Michigan first settled in Oakland county, later coming to this county, and then moved to Ionia where they passed the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of seven children, Alla B., Joseph D., Willard, Rufus, Perry, Rhoda and Cadelia. Emily (Fiske) Morse's father, Joseph Fiske, a native of New York state and a pioneer of Ionia county, was twice married, by his first wife having had one child, a son, Frank. By his second wife, who was a Kimberly, he had three children, Ambert, Walter and Emily. Mr. Locke is a member of Ionia Lodge No. 175, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

## ERASTUS T. YEOMANS.

Erastus T. Yeomans, veteran druggist at Ionia and for many years one of the most prominent and progressive men of affairs in that city, is a native son of this county, having been born on a homestead farm in Easton township, June 11, 1842, son of Sanford A. and Abigail (Thompson) Yeomans, pioneers of that section, the former of whom for many years was one of the leading men in this county, a member of the state constitutional convention, for several years a member of the state Legislature and in all ways actively interested in the best development of this region.

The Hon. Sanford A. Yeomans was one of the earliest settlers in Ionia county. He was born in German Flats, Herkimer county, New York, son of Erastus and Phoebe (Arnold) Yeomans, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Rhode Island. Erastus Yeomans was a fife major in Captain Morgan's company, Major Shoemaker's Battalion, during the War of 1812, and after his service in that war resumed his place on the farm of his parents, Daniel and Esther Yeomans, in Connecticut, and became a skillful farmer. He married Phoebe Arnold and in 1833 he and his family joined the colony, headed by Samuel Dexter, which settled in Ionia county in 1833, thus becoming among the very earliest residents of this section of Michigan. Samuel Dexter had entered a large tract of land in the central part of this county and this land was apportioned among the colonists who accompanied him from the East, Erastus Yeomans' tract being located at a point a quarter of a mile west of the present site of the armory in the city of Ionia.

Upon arriving here the Dexter colonists made a friendly compact with the Indians, who then had a village at that point, and bought the corn and the wigwams of the Indians, the settlers living in the Indian wigwams until they could erect log cabins in the wilderness. They straightaway began to clear the land and improve their farms and it was not long until a flourishing village was under way, the beginning of the present thriving city of Ionia. Erastus Yeomans, from the very start, was one of the leaders of the colony. He was an unusually skillful scribe, writing a hand of such beautiful regularity that it might easily be mistaken for copper-plate script, and naturally became the first village clerk. When the postoffice was established he was made postmaster, receiving his commission from President Jackson, and upon the formal organization of the county was elected one of the two associate judges, a position of honor and responsibility which he

held for two terms, eight years, and in which he was able to exert a profound influence for good in the formative period of this now well-established and prosperous community. Erastus Yeomans held various other offices of public trust and to the end of his days was regarded as a leader in the community life hereabout. He lived to the great age of ninety-two years, a faithful counsellor to the end. His wife had died in her sixty-fifth year. They were the parents of nine children, Sanford A., Amanda, Maria, Alan-son, Hiram, Emily, Mary, Harriet and one who died in early youth.

Sanford A. Yeomans, eldest son of the pioneer, Erastus Yeomans, was sixteen years old when he came to this county with his parents and the other Dexter colonists and he spent the remainder of his life here, in his turn becoming a substantial and useful member of the community. One of the great tasks upon which he engaged was that of helping cut the road through the forest from Jackson to Ionia. His father gave him a "forty" about a mile northwest of the homestead, which he proceeded to clear and upon his marriage established his home there. Sanford A. Yeomans married Abigail Thompson, who was born in Bennington county, Vermont, daughter of Levi and Miriam (Kimball) Thompson, both natives of that state, the former of Scottish descent and the latter of Irish descent, farming people, who spent their lives in Vermont, Levi Thompson dying at the age of eighty and his wife at the age of forty. Abigail Thompson was one of the five children of her parents who grew to maturity, the others having been Nelson, Sylvester, Francina and Olive. To Sanford A. and Abigail (Thompson) Yeomans three children were born, Olive M., now deceased, who was the wife of William J. Just; Walter, of Ionia, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and Erastus T., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. The mother of these children died when she was twenty-five years of age and Sanford A. Yeomans married, secondly, Marietta A. Stebbins, a native of New England, and to this second union there were born a number of children, three of whom, Willard, Frank and Edwin S., grew to maturity.

After his marriage Sanford A. Yeomans continued diligently to improve his farm and as he prospered added to the same until he became the owner of four hundred and thirty acres in that section and was generally recognized as one of the most substantial farmers and men of affairs in the county. He early took an active part in civic affairs, as had his father before him, and was early elected to the position of township clerk. He later was township supervisor and for about fifteen years was superintendent of the poor. He was one of the prime movers in the opening up of the road known as the

lonia, Houghton and Mackinaw highway. In the larger political affairs of the county he also was active and served very efficiently for two terms as a member of the lower house of the Michigan General Assembly. He also was elected a delegate from this district to the convention charged with the duty of revising the early Constitution of the state and in that capacity performed excellent service in behalf of the state. The Hon. Sanford A. Yeomans died in 1895, in the eightieth year of his age. His widow survived him for several years.

Erastus T. Yeomans was reared on the pioneer farm of his father in Ionia township and received his early education in the little school house in the neighborhood of his home. To the rudiments of an education he there received he has constantly and consistently added by close observation and intelligent reading throughout a long and useful life and is regarded as one of the best-informed men in the county, his knowledge of general affairs being comprehensive and exact. Naturally Mr. Yeomans is a veritable mine of information on matters relating to the early history of this county and this information invariably is found to be correct and precise. When the Civil War broke out Erastus T. Yeomans enlisted in the new Third Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front with the rank of sergeant-major. He presently was promoted to second lieutenant and was honorably discharged with that rank after a service of nine months, during which time he had participated in several important engagements, the broken condition of his health at that time necessitating his resignation of his commission in the army. Upon returning home at the conclusion of his military experience, Mr. Yeomans formed a partnership with G. H. McMullen in the drug business at Ionia, under the firm name of G. H. McMullen & Company, which mutually agreeable partnership continued until the death of the senior member of the firm on January 29, 1901, since which time Mr. Yeomans has continued the business alone, his thus being the oldest drug store continuously in business in the city of Ionia, its proprietor being one of the oldest and best-known merchants in the county.

On October 8, 1867, Erastus T. Yeomans was united in marriage to Abbie Northrop, who was born in Lavonia, Livingston county, New York, daughter of Anderson and Abigail (Blake) Northrop, natives of New York state, who spent all their lives there. Abigail Blake was the daughter of Judge Blake, of the Livingston county court, for many years one of the most prominent men in that section of the state.

To Erastus T. and Abbie (Northrop) Yeomans two children have been born, Mary, who married Dr. W. C. Marsh, of Albion, this state, and has

two children, Frances and Josephine; and Phoebe, who married Fred W. Peck, of Troy, New York, now residing at Orange, New Jersey, and has one child, a son, Yeoman A. Mrs. Yeomans is an earnest member of the Presbyterian church and she and her husband for years have been regarded as among the leaders in local good works, ever being interested in such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare hereabout. Mr. Yeomans is a Republican and served as a member of the city board of education for about eight years. He is a member of William Borden Post, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Michigan, in the affairs of which he has for years taken a warm interest. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and his wife is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Yeomans have a magnificent home at 322 West Washington street, on an eminence overlooking the city of Ionia and commanding a wonderfully fine view of the whole city and the country thereabout. Much attention has been paid to the work of beautifying the grounds surrounding the Yeoman home and the place is one of the most attractive in this part of the state.

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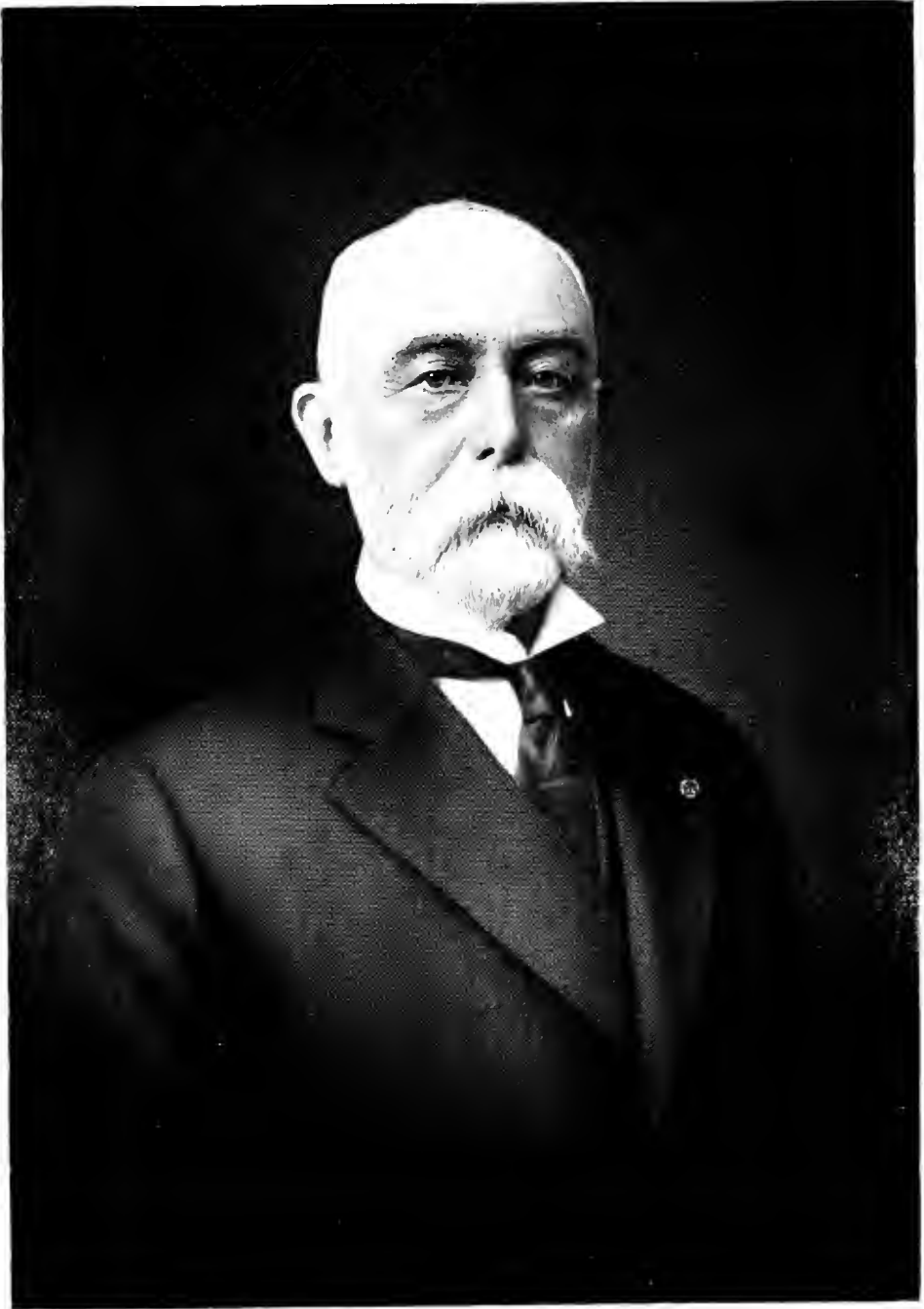
#### CAPT. JACOB O. PROBASCO.

Capt. Jacob O. Probasco, a well-known retired merchant of Muir, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and for many years one of the most prominent and influential residents of that town, is a native of Ohio, but has lived in this county ever since he was twelve years old, with the exception of the period spent in the service of his country during the Civil War. He was born in Sherman township, Huron county, Ohio, August 20, 1844, son of Henry R. and Mary C. (Raymond) Probasco, she of New York, he of New Jersey. Henry R. Probasco was but a child when his parents moved from New Jersey to Ohio and he grew up in Huron county, in the latter state, where he married Mary C. Raymond, who was born in New York City, daughter of Alanson Raymond, an extensive manufacturer of hats, who had stores in several cities over the country. Alanson Raymond, in company with the father of Gen. William T. Sherman, went from New York to Ohio and formed a colony in Huron county, that state; Sherman township, of that county, being named in honor of Mr. Sherman.

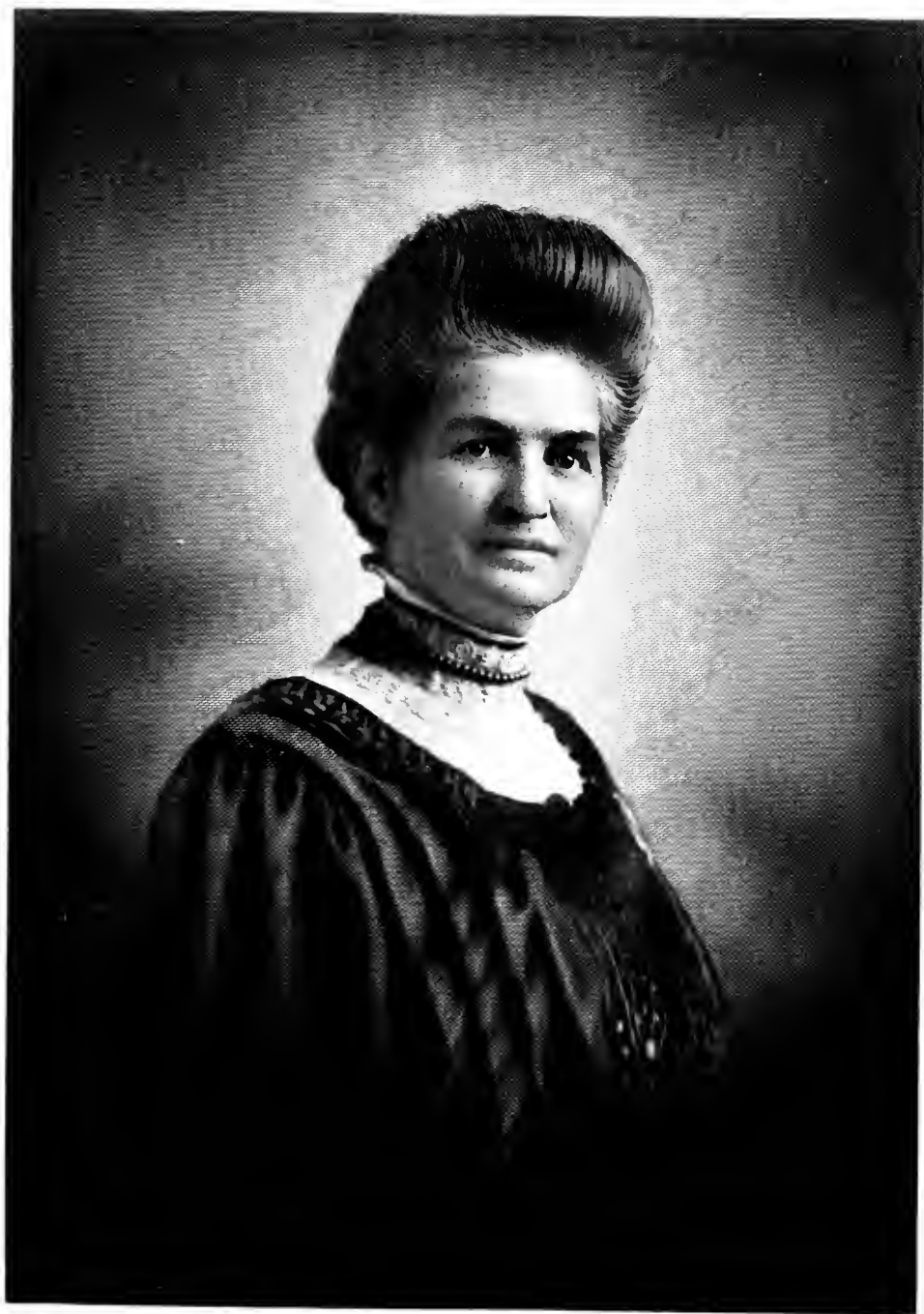
Henry R. Probasco became well-to-do in Ohio as a meat packer, but during the panic times of the early fifties lost practically all he had. He then determined to start all over again in a new country and in 1856, with



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CIVIL ASSOCIATIONS



*J. O. Probasco.*



Mrs. W. B. Putnam



his family, drove through to this section of Michigan, settling for a time in Sebawa township, this county, later moving up into Lyons township, where he engaged in the cooperage business. About 1859 he opened a meat market at Muir, and in that town spent the rest of his life, his death occurring not long thereafter. During the earlier period of his residence in this county Henry R. Probasco was engaged in hauling between local points and Detroit going to Detroit with his wagon laden with saleratus and returning laden with merchandise, the hauling rate for which was one dollar the hundred pounds. He died in the home now occupied by his son, Captain Probasco, in Muir, on November 12, 1862. At that time his son, the subject of this biographical sketch, was at Grand Rapids, where his regiment was rendezvoused, he having but shortly before enlisted for service during the Civil War. Just as the regiment started for the front he received a telegram notifying him of his father's serious illness and, securing a furlough, as the troop train passed through Muir he stopped off and was with his father at the latter's death, then rejoined his regiment at Washington, D. C. The widowed mother survived until in August, 1874.

Captain Probasco served through the entire period of the Civil War and for some months thereafter was engaged in service on the Western frontier. He was next to the eldest son of the family of seven children born to his parents and was but seventeen years old when he responded to President Lincoln's call for troops following the bombardment of Ft. Sumter. At the close of the three-months service, on September 8, 1862, he enlisted as a sergeant in Company E, Sixth Michigan Cavalry, and on November 12, 1863, was promoted to second lieutenant, the youngest commissioned officer in the regiment. On May 19, 1864, he was advanced to first lieutenant, and on December 10, 1864, was promoted to a captaincy, he then being but twenty years of age. On November 17, 1865, Captain Probasco was transferred to the First Michigan Veteran Cavalry, with the rank of captain, and was mustered out with that rank on March 25, 1866.

During the greater part of his service Captain Probasco was attached to the Army of the Potomac and participated in all the great battles that army took part in from Gettysburg to Lee's surrender. His regiment was in the very thick of some of the most desperate engagements of the war and was second in point of casualties sustained of any cavalry regiment in the Union army. For some time the regiment was under the command of General Custer. After Lee's surrender the Sixth Michigan Cavalry was sent out to Wyoming and the Dakotas and was mustered out in October, 1865,

a new regiment then being formed, composed of the recruits of the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Cavalry and the veterans of the First Michigan Cavalry, under the name of the First Michigan Veteran Cavalry. Captain Probasco had served on the staff of General Staggs, in the Army of the Potomac, and that general persuaded him to enter his command in the new regiment. The Veteran Cavalry was sent to Utah, where it saw much hard fighting and endured many arduous marches, the campaign against the Indians sometimes entailing forced marches of as much as five hundred miles in bitter winter weather. When he was mustered out in March, 1866, Captain Probasco was more than twelve hundred miles from home and eighteen days and nights by stage, from a railroad.

Upon his return from his frontier service in 1866, Captain Probasco engaged in the hardware business at Muir, establishing the first hardware store opened in that then promising village. He early took a leading part in the commercial life of the growing town and continued in business for forty years, or until his retirement from business in 1906, in which year he sold his store and has since lived quietly retired at his old home in Muir, honored and respected by all thereabout. Captain Probasco has always given his thoughtful attention to local affairs and has done much to advance the general interest of his home town. He is a Republican and has held village and township offices, as well as having served on numerous occasions as a delegate to county, district and state conventions of his party. He is an ardent member of the Loyal Legion and of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of both of which patriotic organizations he takes a warm interest. He also is a Mason and takes an active interest in Masonic affairs.

On July 21, 1869, Capt. Jacob O. Probasco was united in marriage to Mary O. Spire, who was born in Brewertown, New York, daughter of Daniel and Eveann (Dominick) Spire, who came to this county in 1867. Daniel Spire bought a farm at the edge of the village of Muir and was engaged in farming for some years, after which he moved into the village, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1908, at the age of ninety-two years. His widow is still living at Muir. To Captain and Mrs. Probasco two children have been born, Delia O. and Henry O., the former of whom married Arthur A. Stoddard and lives at Muir, and the latter, a prominent attorney, a graduate of the University of Michigan, has been attorney for the Michigan Trust Company, at Grand Rapids, since 1904. He married Claudine Vosberg and makes his home at Grand Rapids. Captain and Mrs. Probasco and their daughter are earnest members of the Disciples church and are active in all neighborhood good works.

## REV. HENRY W. POWELL.

The Rev. Henry W. Powell is a native of Ionia county, having been born on a pioneer farm in Ronald township, July 30, 1852, son of Joseph P. and Ruth (Goodwin) Powell, early settlers in that township. Joseph Priestly Powell, one of the pioneers of Ronald township, was born in Oneida county, New York, February 28, 1821, son of John L. and Margaret (Hulburt) Powell.

John L. Powell was born at Lanesboro, Massachusetts, January 1, 1780. He was given excellent educational advantages and after finishing his schooling at Williams College married, in 1800, Nancy Ann Peck and moved over into New York state, settling in Oneida county, being among the early pioneers of that county. In December, 1804, Mrs. Nancy Ann Powell died, leaving three small children. In 1806 John L. Powell married, secondly, Margaret Hulburt, daughter of Hezekiah Hulburt, one of the four original landlords of the village of Holland Patent, Oneida county, New York, and established his home on a farm about one mile east of that village, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring sixty-five years later, June 25, 1871, at the age of ninety-one. At this extreme age he had his natural teeth good and sound and a short time before his death was able to work in his garden, saw wood and read without spectacles. He quit the use of tobacco when sixty years of age. His widow survived him but a few days, her death occurring on July 7 of that same year. John L. Powell served as a soldier during the War of 1812, an office of the regiment to which he was attached. His father was one of the "minute men" of 1775 and served in the War of the Revolution.

Joseph P. Powell was given an academic education and at the age of sixteen years began teaching school winters, working summers on the home farm. When he reached his majority he came to Michigan, his sister having preceded him to this state, settling in Marengo township, Calhoun county, and there he taught school for a year, making his home with his sister. He then returned to New York and a year later went to Illinois, where he remained a year, buying cattle and selling beef to the men employed in digging the Illinois canal, after which he returned to Michigan and settled in Ionia county, though at that time he could have bought, for one yoke of oxen, forty acres of land now comprised in the city of Chicago, but which then was but a worthless swamp. He purchased a quarter of a section of unimproved land in Ronald township, this county, and there established his

home, spending the rest of his life there, his death occurring on January 6, 1904. He was a Republican and both he and his wife were members of the Baptist church at Palo, having been baptized in 1858. Mrs. Powell is now living in Ionia. She was born, Ruth Goodwin, in Steuben township, Oneida county, New York, September 14, 1831, daughter of Chauncey and Sarah (Hubbard) Goodwin, both natives of Connecticut. The Goodwins moved to Michigan from New York in 1840 and settled in Ronald township, this county, and there, on November 11, 1846, Ruth Goodwin and Joseph P. Powell were united in marriage. Mrs. Powell's mother died on August 11, 1847, and her father died on April 3, 1864.

Regarding the pioneer days of his parents and particularly with reference to the manifold household duties of his mother in those days, the Rev. H. W. Powell says: "Of the hardships of a pioneer life she had her full share. Besides doing the house work most of the time for a large family and the farm hands and wood-choppers, she made our clothes and spun the yarn for our socks and mittens. For an hour in the evening, after the supper things were put away, she used to spin by the light of a single tallow candle in the window of the kitchen. Father, in the meantime, was on the other side of the window, sawing wood by the light of the same candle, thus making double use of its radiance, while the swish of the saw without answered to the buzz and whirr of the wheel within, as both busy workers bravely toiled to supply the needs of the home they loved.

"Butter-making was one of the chief industries on the Powell farm. It was not then sold as now, each week, but was packed in wooden tubs and kept till fall and then sold at one time. I remember distinctly the long row of butter firkins on a plank on the cellar bottom. Sometimes by fall there would be a wagon load ready for market. Few of us can realize what it meant to keep house under the conditions that confronted the early pioneer. Matches were unknown. When they lighted a candle they put a shaving in the fire and then held it to the wick. Every night fire was buried to keep it for the next day. If by chance it was lost some one went to a neighbor to borrow some live coals. On Sunday afternoon mother read to us or questioned us on what we had learned from the Bible. When we went to Palo to church we studied our Sabbath-school lesson on the way and on the way back we ate our lunch and talked over what we had heard. Rev. D. B. Minger once said to mother in my hearing, 'Your sermon is longer than mine. You preach a sermon all the way to Palo, seven miles,' meaning the example of going so far to church. With all this work, mother was not



too busy nor too tired to help a neighbor in case of sickness or in any time of need.

"As I remember father, he was always busy. To him not working six days in the week was breaking the command as much as working on the seventh. This meant fifty-two weeks in the year. Farm work occupied the summer and in the winter, when not teaching school, he cut logs for lumber and on stormy days made ox-yokes and bob-sleds in the shop where tools and timber were always ready. Twelve hours was then considered a day's work. He often worked sixteen or eighteen hours and sometimes twenty. This was the more remarkable, as he had the reputation for being able to do as much in one hour as most men did in two. After his marriage he taught school three winters—one in the log school house near the saw-mill, now Nickel Plate; one on Long Plains and one in what was then the new school house in Ionia. This building was afterward used as a city hall and station for the fire department and stood on the site of the present city hall. While teaching the first of the above-mentioned schools, father is said to have cut a load of logs, loaded them, driven to mill, unloaded, sent the oxen home alone for the man to use and got to his school in time for the opening hour. At another time when they were making rails, the hired man worked during the day. Father came home after school and worked in the evening by moonlight, not stopping until he had made as many rails as the man had made during the day. Father's first dollar was made while acting as janitor for the school house in Holland Patent, New York, for which service he received the ashes from the school-house stove. These were used in making 'black salts,' then an article of commerce. Before the Detroit & Milwaukee (now the Grand Trunk) railroad was built he walked to Grand Haven on business. With his first pair of horses he drew his first crop of wheat to Detroit to market and brought back a load of goods for the merchants in Ionia. When he went back to New York to visit his parents he made the first stage of the journey on foot; that is, from his home in Ronald township to Detroit, more than one hundred and twenty-five miles, in two days. I do not recall that I ever heard father say, 'I am tired.' Little was said about 'efficiency' in those days, but he practiced it daily. He cut, split, delivered and piled in the school yard of district No. 4, Ronald township, ten cords of four-foot wood for five dollars. This was about 1855 and the instance is cited to show how much work then was done for a little money.

"Father had a tenacious and wonderfully exact memory; was a beautiful penman and spelled correctly. He was a man of few words, but when he had spoken none of us ever thought of asking for a change of program.

He was strongly and compactly built, five feet seven inches in height, and weighed one hundred and fifty pounds. He wore a No. 6 shoe on a shapely foot, with a high instep and a short heel. He walked rapidly, with a light, elastic tread, not throwing his weight, stiff-legged, on the heel, as many do, but lifting his feet like a thorough-bred horse and bringing them down lightly, showing the soles of his shoes behind him, but never to those in front. Walking in snow, he did not make a path, but only foot prints. By reason of this manner of walking, he almost never stumbled in going over rough places in the woods. Such a foot as his never breaks down in the arch and a pair of them are worth ten thousand dollars to the happy possessor. He was a small eater and did not use intoxicants nor tobacco.

"On account of his tender heart and sympathetic nature, father was often imposed upon by men who borrowed and never intended to pay, but hundreds of men in Ionia and Montcalm counties gratefully acknowledge the timely help of 'Uncle Joe' in getting started on a farm or in building a home. He was a director of the Webber bank, now the National Bank of Ionia; a bondsman for the builder of the present court house and one of those who raised the bounty money during the Civil War, every volunteer receiving two hundred dollars from the township, thus sparing Ronald township the odium of a draft. Father began his business career when sixteen years old and continued until nearly eighty-three. In all this long and varied career he was never known to pick a quarrel, nor to oppress the poor nor to sue anyone for debt. His paper was counted as good as gold and his word as good as his note."

To Joseph P. and Ruth (Goodwin) Powell seven children were born, all of whom are still living, as follow: Frances, born on August 8, 1849, now Mrs. William Normington, of Ionia; the Rev. Henry W., also of Ionia; Mary, born on November 29, 1854, who is living with her mother at 356 Lafayette street, Ionia; Ella M., May 16, 1857, now Mrs. W. G. Barnes, of Middleville, this state; Horace H., March 24, 1859, of Carson City, this state; Herman Joseph, January 30, 1864, of Upland, California, and Herbert E., April 27, 1866, who resides at the old home place in Ronald township.

Henry W. Powell received his elementary education in the district school and in the high school at Ionia, from which latter he was graduated in 1876, the valedictorian of his class. The next year he was elected township superintendent of schools, a position he held for a year, after which he went to Kalamazoo to attend college, from the classical course of which he was graduated four years later, in 1881. Having consecrated his life to the

gospel ministry upon leaving college, he entered the Morgan Park Theological Seminary (Baptist), from which he was graduated in 1884. His first pastorate was at Wahoo, Nebraska, where he was ordained and where he remained for a year. His first pastorate in Michigan was at Lowell, where he remained five years. From Lowell he went to Traverse City and after a pastorate of two years accepted a call to the church at Mason, where he led the church successfully from in May, 1893, to February, 1898. Then, suffering from nervous prostration, Mr. Powell sought recuperation on the farm. He bought two hundred and forty acres adjoining the old Powell home place near Nickel Plate, built a comfortable house, settled down to improve his farm and was engaged in general farming and stock raising for nine years, at the end of which time he deeded his farm to his son, Nelson, and moved to Lyons and became pastor of the Baptist church. After serving that church two years and six months he moved to Ionia, where he now resides at 360 Lafayette street. Mr. Powell has been called to a great variety of service for his denomination in this state. The records show that he has been a member of the board of foreign missions, Kalamazoo College and Christian education, as well as associational director and chairman of the missionary committee of the association. For six years he was the clerk of the Grand River Baptist Association and is now one of the directors of the Michigan Baptist State Convention and a member of the state mission committee. He is one of the trustees of the Baptist church at Ionia and is actively interested in all its work. While he was pastor at Traverse City Mr. Powell had extra meetings in neighboring villages. While pastor at Mason he preached two hundred and seventy-one sermons outside his own pulpit. It was this excessive work in school houses and in the country round that caused the break in his health, from which he has only partially recovered. Mr. Powell was reared a Republican, but later became an advocate of the cause of the Prohibition party. In 1910 he was the nominee of the Prohibitionists of this congressional district for a seat in Congress and made a fine race, leading a forlorn hope. Two years before that, as a candidate for state senator, Mr. Powell received a very flattering vote. For seven years he served as clerk of the Ionia county Prohibition committee and in three campaigns, 1906-08-10, edited the *Ionia County Prohibitionist*, which was sent to the voters of the county.

On June 25, 1885, at Yorkville, Illinois, the Rev. Henry W. Powell was united in marriage to Mary Austin, who was born in that town, daughter of Joshua N. and Sarah Austin. Their son, Nelson Powell, born on Decem-

ber 17, 1886, married Bernice Gould and has two children. Nelson Powell is a well-known young merchant of Ionia, member of the firm of Spaulding & Powell, dealers in hardware, agricultural implements and kindred supplies.

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#### EDWIN SHELLHORN.

Edwin Shellhorn, postmaster at Lake Odessa, this county, and a well-known and progressive merchant of that city, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Bloomville, Seneca county, that state, February 12, 1875, son of Benjamin and Caroline (Zutavern) Shellhorn, also natives of Ohio, both of German descent, the former of whom was the son of Gottlieb Shellhorn, a soldier in the Napoleonic wars, who came to the United States in 1803. Benjamin Shellhorn and his family came from Ohio to Michigan in 1881, settling in Woodland township, Berry county, where he remained until 1906, in which year he retired from the farm and moved to Lake Odessa. To him and his wife five children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch is the third in order of birth.

Edwin Shellhorn was about five years of age when his parents settled in Berry county and he received his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, having to walk two miles to school. During the summers he assisted his father on the farm and was thus engaged until in April, 1901, at which time he entered a general store at Woodbury, as a clerk. In September of that same year he came to Ionia county and started to work as a clerk in the clothing store of Elliott & Russ. In 1905 he bought Mr. Russ's interest in the business and in March, 1912, bought the interest of his partner, Mr. Elliott, and since then has been conducting the business alone, his store being the only store in Lake Odessa devoted exclusively to men's wear, clothing, general men's furnishings and shoes. Mr. Shellhorn is a Democrat and since coming to this county has given his thoughtful attention to the political affairs of the county. On March 1, 1914, he received his commission as postmaster of Lake Odessa, having been appointed to that office by President Wilson, and is now serving the people of that town and vicinity in that capacity. The office at Lake Odessa being a third-class postoffice, Mr. Shellhorn is enabled to continue the management of his store coincidental with managing the affairs of the postoffice.

On July 28, 1908, at Portland, this county, Edwin Shellhorn was united in marriage to Nettie B. Vanfouten, who was born at Charlotte, this state,

October 10, 1881, daughter of Fred E. and Sarah J. (Dilly) VanHouten, natives, respectively, of England and France, the former of whom was sixteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents and the latter seven years old when she came to America with her parents. The VanHoutens came to Ionia county from New York in 1850. To Edwin Shellhorn and wife two children have been born, Edwin Van, born on March 4, 1911, and Margaret Caroline, November 30, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Shellhorn are members of the Congregational church and both are teachers in the Sunday school and leaders in all good works in their community. Mr. Shellhorn was a member of the town council and has served as president of the village. He is an active "booster" in all movements having to do with the advancement of the interests of his home town and is regarded as one of the leaders in the general business life of the town. He is a member of the local Masonic lodge and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, in the affairs of which organizations they take a warm interest.

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#### CYRUS F. BRADEN.

Cyrus F. Braden, well-known insurance agent at Lake Odessa, this county, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm five miles from Ashland, in Ashland county, that state, August 2, 1851, son of Jacob and Elizabeth (McCormick) Braden, natives, respectively, of Ohio and of Pennsylvania, the former of whom was born on the same farm on which the subject of this sketch was born, the farm cleared by his father, Thomas Braden, more than a century ago.

Jacob Braden was a farmer and in 1805 he left Ohio with his family, he and his wife having six children, and drove through to Michigan, the family driving their live stock with them, and settled in Sebawa township, this county, arriving there on April 21 of that year, having previously bought a farm in Sebawa township, and there established the family.

Cyrus F. Braden was about fourteen years old when he came to this county with his parents and after finishing the course in the rural school in the neighborhood of his new home attended a select school, in which he prepared himself for teaching. For twelve years he taught school, his summers being occupied by working at the carpenter's trade. After his marriage in the fall of 1876 he began farming, continuing, however, to spend his winters in the school room, and was thus engaged for three or

four more winters, after which he devoted himself wholly to the farm until 1884, in which year he took a course at the Grand Rapids Business College in preparation to taking up a mercantile career. He then bought Doctor Kirtland's drug store at Lakeview and operated the same with considerable success until it was destroyed in the fire which swept that village on August 3, 1894. Mr. Braden's stock was not heavily insured and he consequently suffered a heavy loss. He then gave up the drug business and moved to Lake Odessa, where his brother was engaged in the lumber business. There was another lumber yard in the village and he bought the same and consolidated it with that of his brother in the fall of 1894, the two brothers continuing this partnership for seven years. During that time Cyrus F. Braden had been doing quite a business in writing insurance and in 1901 gave up his lumber business and has since then been devoting his entire attention to the insurance business, in which he has been quite successful. In 1906 he bought his wife's father's farm and has since been managing it.

On October 17, 1875, Cyrus F. Braden was united in marriage to Almira C. Cramer, who was born in Odessa township, this county, on February 28, 1855, daughter of Emanuel and Mary Ann (Meyers) Cramer, natives of Pennsylvania. He came alone to this county and she with her parents, the former in 1851 and the latter in 1850 and were married shortly after locating here. Emanuel Cramer was a carpenter and many of the buildings erected in the southern part of the county in pioneer days were built by him. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served with that regiment until it was mustered out in June, 1865, he being mustered out with the rank of corporal. His wife was one of the nine children of John and Catherine Meyers, who settled in this county in early days. John Meyers, who was the son of Valentine Meyers, a native of Germany, upon coming to Ionia county, entered a quarter section homestead for himself and one for each of his children, the family thus presently becoming one of the most substantial in the southern part of the county.

To Cyrus F. and Almira C. (Cramer) Braden two children have been born, Guy H., born on September 6, 1876, who is manager of the electric light and gas plant at Cheboygan, this state, married Iva Willcox and has one child, a daughter, Aileen, and Cora B., born February 27, 1880, who married R. A. Colwell, a well-known attorney-at-law at Ionia, and has two children, Margaret and Frances. Mr. and Mrs. Braden and their children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active part in

church work, Mr. Braden being one of the trustees of the church, an office he has held since 1894. He is a Prohibitionist in political principles, but reserves the right to vote for such candidates for office as he believes best fitted for the duties of public service.

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#### CLAUDE E. HATHAWAY, D. D. S.

Dr. Claude E. Hathaway, well-known dentist at Ionia, this county, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born in Ionia, December 2, 1876, son of Dr. Joseph M. and Sarah A. (Phillips) Hathaway, both natives of Michigan, the former of whom was born in Oakland county and the latter in Ionia county.

Joseph M. Hathaway, who was born in 1839, grew to manhood on a pioneer farm in Oakland county, this state. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the First Michigan Cavalry and served for three years with that command. At the conclusion of his military service he came to this county and at Ionia took up the study of dentistry under the direction of his brother, Dr. Andrew Hathaway, who had been practicing in that city for some time, and presently opened an office in Ionia and was there engaged in practicing his profession until his retirement in 1903. Soon after settling in Ionia, Dr. Joseph M. Hathaway was united in marriage to Sarah A. Phillips, who was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families of this section of the state, and to this union two children were born, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Nellie, who married R. L. Taylor, of Grand Rapids, this state. Dr. J. M. Hathaway died in 1900 and his widow still survives him, continuing to make her home at Ionia.

Claude E. Hathaway was reared in Ionia and upon completing the course in the excellent schools of that city entered the dental department of the University of Michigan, having determined to embrace the profession in which his father had been for so many years successfully engaged, and after a three-years course was graduated from that institution in 1899, with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his profession, Doctor Hathaway entered the office of his father and the two practiced together until the elder doctor's retirement, since which time Dr. C. E. Hathaway has been conducting the office alone and has been very successful.

In 1906 Dr. Claude E. Hathaway was united in marriage to Lois M.

Harvey, a Vermont school teacher, who was visiting her married sister in Ionia, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Jeane. Mrs. Hathaway was born at St. Albans, Vermont, daughter of Charles H. and Flora E. (Downing) Harvey, the former a native of Canada, who, as a young man, went to St. Albans, where he married and spent the rest of his life, having been engaged in the furniture and undertaking business there until his death in 1904. Mrs. Hathaway's mother was born at Williamstown, Vermont, where her venerable mother, Mrs. Caroline (White) Downing, born in 1829, of Revolutionary ancestry, is still living. Doctor and Mrs. Hathaway take a proper part in the various social and cultural activities of Ionia and the Doctor is a Mason and an Elk, in the affairs of both of which popular organizations he takes a warm interest, having attained to the chapter and the council degrees in the former.

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#### JOHN CELSUS BLANCHARD.

In the memorial annals of Ionia county no name stands out more conspicuously than that of the late John Celsus Blanchard, for many years the acknowledged leader of the bar of the Ionia circuit court and who, during the period of his greatest activity, was without a superior as a criminal lawyer in Michigan. He was a pioneer of Ionia county, whose energy and force of character quickly brought him to the front in the calling to which he had devoted his great native talents and his memory long will be cherished hereabout.

John C. Blanchard was born at Metz, Cayuga county, New York, September 19, 1822, son of a physician at that place, who later came to Michigan and became a well-known physician of Lyons, this county. His mother, Hannah (Jeffries) Blanchard, was a lineal descendant of the English Judge Jeffries, whose name is inscribed so definitely upon the pages of his nation's history. John C. Blanchard began very early to look out for himself in the race of life, and when a mere boy began working at a mill in his home town in New York. When he had earned ten dollars he set out for the West and presently reached Detroit, then but a small village. There he secured employment to work on a farm at a wage of six dollars a month, but because of his zeal he was paid eight dollars instead. In the fall of 1836, he then being fourteen years old, he went over into Shiawassee county, where he worked that winter, in the meantime accumulating fifty dollars, the



savings of his boyish wages. With this money in his pocket he trudged through the woods to the land office at Ionia, a distance of sixty miles, paid over his fifty dollars for forty acres of government land and trudged back to Shiawassee county. In the spring of 1838 he came back to Ionia county and engaged to break land for a farmer in the Lyons neighborhood for twelve dollars a month. So faithfully did he perform his part of the contract that his employer voluntarily paid him twenty dollars a month for his service instead of the stipulated sum of twelve dollars. In the fall of that year young Blanchard became a clerk in the store of Giles A. Isham at Lyons and was thus engaged for a year, in the meantime devoting his nights to study. He then, in pursuance of the design to which he had devoted his talents, secured a place in the law office of Roof & Bell at Lyons, where he gave himself up completely to the mastery of the law. He was a natural student and under the direction of his conscientious preceptors made rapid progress in his studies, to which he habitually devoted seventeen hours a day. Three years later, in 1842, he then being but twenty years of age, John C. Blanchard was admitted to practice in the courts of Michigan and thus his career as a lawyer began. He was taken in as a partner by Mr. Roof, a partnership which continued for three years, or until his marriage in 1845, after which he opened an office for himself at Lyons, continuing in practice there until his election in 1850, on the Democratic ticket, to the office of prosecuting attorney for the judicial district, after which he moved to Ionia, the county seat, where he ever after made his home. Upon the completion of his term as prosecutor Mr. Blanchard formed a partnership with the Hon. A. F. Bell, which firm in time became one of the most prominent law firms in this section of the state, Mr. Blanchard's fame as a criminal lawyer reaching to all parts of the state.

During the presidency of James Buchanan, John C. Blanchard was appointed registrar of the United States land office at Ionia and held that position for four years. He was active in local civic affairs and served as village president of Ionia for two terms and as school director for nine years. He was prosecutor for five years and in 1872 was the Democratic nominee for the office of lieutenant-governor of the state of Michigan. As an orator Mr. Blanchard had few equals in this section of the state and his services were ever in great demand in the political campaigns of his party. For years he was a member of the board of trustees of Albion College, to the endowment fund of which he was a liberal contributor, and he also was a liberal contributor to the cause of schools and churches generally, besides which he annually, from the time he became financially able to do so, along

in the fifties, gave no less than one thousand dollars for charitable and benevolent purposes.

In 1845 John C. Blanchard was united in marriage to Harriet A. Brewster, daughter of Frederick Brewster, of Burlington, Vermont, a lineal descendant of Elder Brewster, who came over in the "Mayflower." Mrs. Blanchard, a woman of deep piety and of many graces of mind and heart, was an able and competent helpmeet to her brilliant husband and was, with him, a leader in the social and cultural activities of this community. In 1880 the Blanchards erected a fine sandstone house in Ionia, the same now being occupied by Major and Mrs. Thomas G. Stevenson, the latter of whom is their daughter. Mrs. Blanchard died in 1895. Mr. Blanchard survived his wife ten years, his death occurring in 1905.

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#### MARCELLUS J. ALLEN.

Marcellus J. Allen, a well-to-do retired farmer of Ronald township, this county, who has been making his home in Ionia since his retirement from the farm in 1907, a director of the National Bank of Ionia, and one of the best-known residents of this county, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on a pioneer farm in Ronald township, October 26, 1845, son of Melvin B. and Eliza (Wood) Allen, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of the state of New York, early settlers in this county, whose last days were spent in comfortable retirement in the city of Ionia.

Melvin B. Allen was born in the Granite state, one of fifteen children born to his parents, Timothy and Eliza (Bond) Allen, both natives of Vermont, who later moved to Malone, New York, where their last days were spent. Timothy Allen was a soldier in the War of 1812 and for many years successfully followed lumbering in his native state. Melvin B. Allen was reared near Burlington, Vermont, and grew up familiar with every phase of successful lumbering. He married Eliza Wood, who was reared in New York state, and in 1838 came to Michigan, entering the deep woods of this section of the state. For a year he stopped in Berlin township and then moved up into Ronald township, where he bought one hundred and thirty-two and one-half acres of timber land, to which he later added an adjoining "forty," and there he established his home and reared his family. When past sixty-five years of age he retired from the farm and he and his wife moved to Ionia, where they spent their declining years, his death occurring

in 1890, at the age of seventy-seven years. His widow survived him and was also seventy-seven years of age at the time of her death. Both were members of the Methodist church and he had held various township offices. They were the parents of six children, Clara, who died unmarried; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of W. S. Cowan, of Easton township, this county; Marcellus J., the subject of this sketch; Edgar M., who died in 1874; Herbert L., who still makes his home on the old homestead in Ronald township, and one who died in infancy.

Marcellus J. Allen was reared on the paternal farm, which he helped to clear, and supplemented his schooling in the subscription school in the neighborhood of his home by a year in the public school at Ypsilanti. Upon reaching manhood's estate he bought a quarter of a section of timber land, which he proceeded to clear and develop into a fine farm. He married in 1873 and established his home on that quarter section, to which he later added an adjoining tract of forty-four acres, and there he and his wife remained until 1907, in which year they retired from the farm and moved to Ionia, where they are now living, having a very comfortable home at 874 West Main street. Mr. Allen is a Republican and held various township offices during his long residence in Ronald township. He is one of the directors of the National Bank of Ionia.

On October 15, 1873, Marcellus J. Allen was united in marriage to Susan S. Morrison, who was born on a farm in what is now South Ionia, March 14, 1844, daughter of John E. and Eliza (McKelvey) Morrison, both natives of New York state and pioneers of this county, who spent their last days here, the former dying at the age of eighty and the latter at the age of seventy-six. John E. Morrison was the youngest of five children of Joseph Morrison, a soldier of the American Revolution, and wife, the others having been Joseph, Anna, Susanna and Edward. Joseph Morrison was a prominent resident of Elmira, New York, where he and his wife spent their last days. Grandfather McKelvey and wife were among the earliest residents of Ionia county, having settled here about six months after the coming of the Dexter colony, the first recorded settlers. Among their children who grew to maturity here were John, Eliza, Catherine and Elizabeth. John E. Morrison and wife were the parents of eight children, George, who died during his service as a Union soldier in the Civil War; Joseph, Myra, John, Susan S., Mary, Anna and Charles. Susan S. Morrison received her education in the Ionia schools and was a public school teacher at the time of her marriage to Mr. Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen are members of the Methodist Episcopal church,

of which he is one of the trustees. For thirty-five years Mr. Allen was a member of the Masonic lodge at Palo, this county, but is now affiliated with the lodge of that order at Ionia. Both he and his wife take a warm interest in general community affairs and enjoy the high esteem of many friends throughout the county.

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ANDREW B. SPINNEY, M. D.

The name of Dr. Andrew B. Spinney, homeopathic physician of Smyrna, Otisco township, Ionia county, has long been a household word in this locality. He was born on October 6, 1835, in Stanstead county, Quebec, Canada. His ancestors lived in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The family removed to Panama, New York, in 1850. The early life of Andrew B. Spinney was spent on the farm. He had little opportunity to obtain an education, but attended the district schools awhile in New York state, working on his father's eighty-acre farm there during the crop seasons. While chopping wood with an axe he was severely cut and part of one foot had to be amputated. When nineteen years old he began reading medicine with Doctor Ormes, of Panama, New York. He worked on the farm during the day and read medicine until late at night, also taught school during the winter months. His preceptor was a graduate of the medical school at Castleton, Vermont, and he remained with him three years.

Young Spinney entered the Western Homeopathic College, in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1857, and remained there two years. He was graduated on March 19, 1859, after which he came with Doctor Farnsworth to Saginaw, Michigan, where they began practicing their profession. Later Doctor Spinney went to Pontiac where he remained a few months, then located in Laporte, Indiana, with Doctor Carr, but he was seized with typhoid fever and after his recovery went to northeastern Pennsylvania, where he spent a year, then went to Clymer, New York, spending a year there, then returned to Saginaw, Michigan, entering again into partnership with Doctor Farnsworth, in the spring of 1861. This partnership continued six years, when Doctor Spinney began practicing alone there until 1871, in which year he sold out and accepted the chair of physiology and anatomy in the Detroit Homeopathic Medical College, remaining there two years, then practiced in Detroit for some time, building up an extensive practice, but owing to failing health he gave up his practice and traveled over the state lecturing for a period of fifteen years, on physiology and hygiene, but he retained



ANDREW B. SPINNEY, M. D.



an office in Detroit, where he saw his patients on certain days. He had charge of the Alma Sanatorium, at Alma, Michigan, for a year and one-half, then had charge of a sanatorium in Ypsilanti. Later he spent a short time in Detroit, then went to Reed City and took up sanatorium and hospital work, conducting his own hospital. He was burned out, then opened a sanatorium near Belding, Ionia county, which was destroyed by fire on February 7, 1906. Soon thereafter he opened his present place of business, at Smyrna, Michigan, and this he has since conducted with success. He maintains, also, an office in Detroit.

Dr. Spinney married Fannie Davis, of Panama, New York. She bore him three children: John B., an attorney of Alma, Michigan; Mrs. Hattie Soveern, of Ewart, Michigan, and Ernest Spinney, M. D., who died at the age of thirty years. Doctor Spinney married, secondly, Tessora Wade, of Hesperia, Michigan, and she bore him one child, a daughter, Tessa Allan. His third wife was Jennie M. Jackson, of Ionia.

Politically, Doctor Spinney is a Republican. Religiously, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### EMORY F. STRONG.

Emory F. Strong, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Ionia county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and fifty acres in Easton township, situated on rural route No. 5, out of Ionia, has a handsome and substantial farm house on his well-kept place in Easton township, and also a tenant house, is a native son of Ionia county and has lived here all his life with the exception of about four years during his youth, which he spent in Cass county. He was born on a pioneer farm in the northern part of Keene township, this county, September 1, 1845, son of Noble D. and Rozilla (Potter) Strong, natives of New York state, who came to Michigan in the early forties and settled on a homestead farm in the northern part of Keene township, this county, thus having been among the very earliest settlers of that section. They took a prominent part in the social and material development of that neighborhood and became substantial and influential pioneers. In the latter fifties the Strongs moved to Cass county, where Noble D. Strong developed another farm, but after a residence of four years there returned to Ionia county and settled on a farm in section

19, Easton township. Noble D. Strong spent his last days in Lowell, where he died on February 21, 1880.

Emory F. Strong grew up amid pioneer conditions in Ionia and Cass counties and became a strong and sturdy farmer and an excellent manager. Upon leaving the district schools at the age of fifteen he entered Kalamazoo College, but was compelled to leave there shortly on account of illness. He afterward studied in a select school at Ionia and also took a course in the Detroit Business College. For several years during his young manhood Mr. Strong was engaged as a teacher in the neighboring schools during the winters and also was widely known hereabout as a singing-school teacher. In the meantime he was busy developing his farm in section 21, Easton township. As he cleared off his original tract he added to the same until he became the owner of two hundred acres of land. Part of this he later sold and now owns one hundred and fifty acres, a well-kept and profitably cultivated farm, one of the best improved in his neighborhood. He has a substantial farm house, surrounded by handsome grounds, and his barns and other farm buildings are in keeping with the same. Mr. Strong has given considerable attention to the raising of fine live stock and his herd of Holstein cattle includes five registered animals. His Chester White hogs also are of a high grade. Mr. Strong is a Republican and served as registrar of deeds of Ionia county in 1897 and 1898, and has been township supervisor for several terms, also having held other township offices, and has done well his part in public affairs. For some time he was a director of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company and is now a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company at Saranac, of which he formerly was a director and vice-president. For three years, while their daughters were attending college at Des Moines, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Strong made their home in that city, and since 1900 they have maintained a comfortable home at 626 West Washington street, Ionia, where they spend their winters, returning to the farm in the spring.

It was on March 6, 1867, that Emory F. Strong was united in marriage to Polly L. Welch, who has ever since been a competent and valuable helpmeet to him in all his undertakings. She also is a native of Ionia county and was born on a pioneer farm in Easton township, November 23, 1844, daughter of Simon and Nancy (Sprague) Welch, early and prominent residents of that community. She grew up in Easton township and, like Mr. Strong, became a teacher in the public schools of the county. Her father, Simon Welch, who for years was one of the most vigorous and influential figures in Ionia county, was killed by a fall when she was sixteen



years old, but so ably had he managed affairs that his family was left well provided for.

Simon Welch was born near Utica, New York, eldest son of Vine and Ruth (Squires) Welch, the former a blacksmith, who broke up in business when his eldest son was a young man and the latter thereupon took charge of affairs and moved the family from New York to Michigan, settling in Ionia county in 1836, in territorial days, but three years after the founding of the town of Ionia. He bought a tract of "Congress land" five miles west of Ionia and there established his home. Simon Welch became at once engaged in the lumber business in this region and his business prospered from the very start. As he prospered he bought other farms in this county, besides property in Ionia, and became one of the most extensive landowners in the county. He was a Democrat and took an active part in local political affairs, but was too busy to hold office, his influence in governmental affairs being more advantageously exerted in an advisory capacity. As a road builder Simon Welch was clearly ahead of his time and this region owes much to the energy and push which he exerted in behalf of good roads hereabout in early days. He also was actively interested in advancing the cause of education and built three school houses in that part of the county over which his operations extended. He was a firm friend of the Indians and old Chief John Wabesis was a frequent and welcome visitor at the Welch home while Indians generally camped about his home, making their baskets beneath the shelter of his roof. Simon Welch's brother, Ezekiel Welch, conducted the first hotel built in Ionia, a log structure, but rich in pioneer hospitality. At that time the frame house of Judge Yeoman, at Ionia, seemed like a mansion to the settlers. Simon Welch also had a substantial frame house, erected on a firm foundation of boulders, and early settlers were known to drive miles out of their way to get a look at it. Simon Welch's accidental death occurred in January, 1862, and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring on August 20, 1915, she then being past ninety-six years of age. She outlived all but three of her eleven children, nine of whom lived to good ages, and but three of whom are now living, those besides Mrs. Strong being John L. and Vine P. Welch.

To Emory F. and Polly L. (Welch) Strong five children have been born, Frank Noble, Cassie B., Bessie Ethel, Mary Beatrice and Myrtle Grace, the latter of whom was born on December 11, 1882, died on June 20, 1900. Frank N. Strong, a well-known farmer of Easton township, married Nora Howell and has five children, Emory F., Maurice Leroy, Norman Howell, Gladys Lucille and Eldon Welch. Cassie B. Strong married William J.

Robinson, of Detroit, and has four daughters, Elva Marian, wife of Alonzo Watson, of Ionia; Margaret Madaline, Isabel Frances and Ruth Naomi. Dr. Bessie E. Strong is an osteopathic physician, practicing at Ionia. Both she and her sister, Mary B., were graduated from the Des Moines Still College in 1913 and opened an office for the practice of their profession in Ionia, where Dr. Mary B. Strong died on December 22, 1915. Both these sisters were former teachers in the public schools of this county. Formerly the Strong children all were connected with a large orchestra, which for about two years held its practice meetings in the hospitable home of the Strongs. Mr. Strong is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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#### JAMES DWIGHT SCOTT.

James Dwight Scott, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of North Plains township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of eighty acres in the southwest part of that township, is a native son of Ionia county, born on the farm where he now lives and where he has lived all his life. He was born on November 7, 1867, son of James Brown and Huldah Alpha (Taft) Scott, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio, whose last days were spent in this county.

James B. Scott, son of John and Mary Scott, though born in Pennsylvania, was reared in Ohio and was nearly forty years old when he came to Michigan, locating in Ionia county, homesteading the southeast quarter section 29, in North Plains township where his son, James, is now living on the west half of that quarter. When the Civil War broke out James B. Scott enlisted in Company I, Berdan's Sharpshooters, and served until he was honorably discharged on account of illness. He was promoted to the rank of corporal, and took part in the following battles: Mechanicsville, Cold Harbor, Fair Oaks, Savage Station, Frazier's Farm, Seven Days Battles, Malvern Hill, Williamsburg, Yorktown and Gaines' Mill. After the war he married Hulda A. Taft, who was born in Ohio and who was about fourteen years old when she came to this county with her parents, Matthew D. and Susan (Stevens) Taft, who settled in Portland township, later moving to Pewamo, where their last days were spent. James B. Scott and his wife spent the rest of their lives on their homestead farm, his death occurring in the fall of 1895, she surviving until November 7, 1902. They were

the parents of three children, the subject of this biographical sketch having two sisters, Susan, who married William Sherman and lives in Muir, and Minnie, wife of Edwin Reasoner, who lives on a farm east of Petosky.

James Dwight Scott was reared on the paternal farm in North Plains township. On October 14, 1890, he married Della Sherman, who was born in West Winfield, Herkimer county, New York, daughter of Adelbert and Celestia (Sponburg) Sherman, both natives of that same county. Adelbert Sherman was born on March 31, 1846, and at the age of fifteen years enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War as a member of Company E. One Hundred and Fifty-second Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for about three years, or until the close of the war. He later married in his home county and some time later came to Michigan, locating at Muir, where he followed blacksmithing the rest of his life, his death occurring in July, 1913. His widow is still living at Muir. To Mr. and Mrs. Scott one child has been born, a daughter, Laura. Mr. Scott is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

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#### ASA NEWMAN.

Asa Newman, for many years one of the leading business men of Portland, Ionia county, Michigan, was born in Portland township, where the town of Portland now is, youngest child of the family of nine children of Almeron and Laura (Berry) Newman.

Almeron Newman was born in Ontario county, New York, on February 25, 1804, and was a son of Elisha, who was born on September 4, 1774, this being as far back as the family history can be traced. Elisha Newman's wife died when his children were small and Almeron was reared in Canandaigua, Ontario county, New York, at the home of an uncle and remained there until the time of his marriage on January 11, 1827, to Laura Berry, who was also a native of Ontario county.

In 1833 Elisha Newman, in company with his two sons, Almeron and James, came to Ionia county, and together entered a half section of land between the forks of the Looking Glass and Grand rivers, being parts of sections 27, 28, 33 and 34. They then returned to Niagara county, New York, where they had gone from Ontario county and where Almeron, who was a cloth dresser by trade, had a factory at Eighteen Mile creek, north

of Lockport, New York. In 1836 Elisha, James and Almeron Newman returned to Ionia county with their families and set up a saw-mill about eighty rods from where the town of Portland was later platted and that mill was operated at intervals until in the eighties. Almeron set up a carding mill, a weaving and dressing plant and operated it himself until 1864 or 1865, when it was sold and then made into quite a factory. Almeron was for many years justice of the peace for his township and a very prominent man in his day. After the sale of his mill, he gave his time to his farm, being an extensive landowner, and to his office as justice.

Almeron and Laura (Berry) Newman were the parents of the following children, nine in number: Newton, born on October 21, 1828, died in 1848; Jane B., deceased, born on May 3, 1830, married Oscar Hamlin; Franklin, deceased, born in 1832; Edgar, born in 1835 and died during the Civil War; Frederick, born in 1838 and died in 1895; W. H. Harrison, born in 1840 and died in 1864; Elmina E., died in infancy; John Gardner, born in 1844 and now residing in New York City, and the youngest of the family is Asa, the immediate subject of this sketch. Almeron, father of the above named family, did much to encourage the growth and development of this section along the highest lines and left the impress of his character upon many enterprises. In politics, he was a Whig and later a Republican and served Portland township in all the offices within its bestowal. He also represented Ionia county in the state Legislature of 1858 and 1859. He was a member of the Universalist church and a firm adherent to the tenets of that church. His death occurred on November 13, 1876, his wife having died on August 5 of the preceding year. He was largely instrumental in building the first railroad through Portland. He was a member of the first board of trustees of the Ionia & Lansing railroad which, together with the other branches first built, was consolidated into the Detroit, Lansing & Northern and later into the Detroit, Grand Rapids & Western and now is a branch of the Pere Marquette system. His brother, James, and himself donated the ground for the cemetery still being used in Portland. Almeron also gave the ground for the present high school in Portland.

Asa Newman attended the schools of Portland when a boy and later took a business course at Grand Rapids. He remained with his parents until the time of his marriage on November 17, 1875, to Effie A. Rice, who bore him two children: Anna Laura, who is the wife of E. L. Dixon, of Lansing, and Effie May, who married M. R. Gamble, of Otsego, this state. Effie (Rice) Newman departed this life on September 17, 1881, and on December 23, 1885, Mr. Newman was again married, his bride being Hattie

C. Gale, a daughter of Paul and Malissa (Colby) Gale, the former born in Orange county, New York, on July 19, 1829. Paul Gale came to this county in 1856 when a young man and after working here a while, returned to New York. He eventually came back to Ionia county and lived the balance of his life in Portland, where he died on February 6, 1904, his wife having died when Hattie (Mrs. Newman) was but a little girl. Mrs. Newman is one of a family of three children, Della, her older sister, is the wife of L. L. Smith, of Portland, and the youngest child of the family died in infancy.

In 1883 Asa Newman went into the hardware business in Portland, remaining in that business until 1895 when he and a man by the name of Ormond Brown started what is known as the Wolverine Soap Factory, selling out their business two years later. Mr. Newman then engaged in the coal and wood business, also the sale of building materials, such as cement, lime, brick, etc., and has given his entire time to this enterprise for the past eighteen years. Mr. Newman is a member of the order of Freemasonry through Portland Lodge No. 31, and is also a Royal Arch Mason, through Portland Chapter No. 39, as well as holding membership in Portland Council, Royal Select Masters No. 23. He has been through the chairs in all of these lodges, serving at the present time as secretary of his blue lodge, which position he has filled for the past eight years. He is also a member of the Royal Arcanum, having filled all the offices within the bestowal of that order. Both Mr. and Mrs. Newman are members of the Eastern Star and both have filled the offices possible to them within that order. Both are also members of the Universalist church and in politics he gives his support to the Republican party. He is now serving his second term as justice of the peace, has been a member of the town council for seven or eight years and a member of the school board for the same length of time. He has also served as president of the village and all these offices have been filled by him in a manner to justify his constituents' faith in him. Mrs. Newman is a woman of many excellent traits and much capability and is at present president of Ionia county's federation of women's clubs and has served on the board of managers of that organization.

Mr. and Mrs. Newman have three children. Gale A. was born on January 4, 1887, and is engaged in business in Otsego, this state. Ada Belle, born on August 3, 1889, is at home now after having taken a complete course in Flint. Ada Belle is also a member of the Eastern Star. Robert Edgar, born on August 22, 1891, is in business in Portland and is, with his father, a member of the Masons. Asa Newman and his family are among the leading citizens of the community and each has done his share to raising higher the standard of refined civilization.

## HON. ALBERT K. ROOF.

The Hon. Albert K. Roof, well-known attorney-at-law at Lyons, this county, former state senator from this district and for many years actively identified with the civic life of Ionia county, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. He was one of the first white children born in the village of Lyons and is now the oldest resident, in years of continuous residence, in that town. He was born on April 6, 1841, son of Judge Adam L. and Clarissa B. (Knox) Roof, pioneers of Lyons and for many years numbered among the most prominent and influential residents of Ionia county, the former of whom served the public as judge and as legislator, was the first lawyer in Ionia county and held until his death a prominent place at the bar of this section of the state.

Judge Adam L. Roof came of good old Dutch colonial stock. His grandfather, Johannes Roof, was a captain under General Herkimer during the Revolutionary War, and his uncle, John Roof, was a colonel under the same command, both having been participants in the battle of Oriskany, where General Herkimer was slain. Judge Roof's maternal grandfather, Philip VanAlstine, also was an ardent patriot in Revolutionary times. His father erected Ft. VanRensselaer, on the east bank of Canajoharie creek, in New York, and was a member of the New York Legislature in 1798. Canajoharie, New York, was the birthplace of Judge Roof, he having been born there on February 22, 1810. When eighteen years old he entered Williams College and after an attendance of two years there entered Hamilton College, from which institution he was graduated in 1832, his studies having been directed with particular reference to the law. In 1833 he was appointed, by Gov. William L. Marcy, of New York, division quartermaster, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, on Major Schermerhorn's staff. In August, 1836, he was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of New York and in that same month he and his friend, A. F. Bell, came West, with the view of finding fame and fortune in the then rapidly developing territory of Michigan. On the 28th of August they reached Jackson, then an inviting shanty town of about fifty inhabitants. Upon landing at Monroe, their first objective point in Michigan, they had been advised to push on to Ionia, where a government land office had shortly before been established, and at Jackson they completed their preparations for pushing on through the wilderness. Much of their journey was made by river and when they reached the Indian village of Cooost, now the town of Lyons, in this



ALBERT K. ROOFE.



ADAM L. ROOFE.





county, they found the Indians in the midst of their corn dance, rejoicing over their harvest. Cooost was an Indian settlement, covering a tract of about eleven hundred acres which the Indians had cleared in the forest. Roof and Bell set up a shanty on the hill west of the river, overlooking the Indian Village, and there established themselves in bachelor quarters. Finding no opportunity to practice law they took to surveying, especially the laying out of town sites, and thus projected several cities thereabout, but the only one of these ambitious projects to bear fruit was the village of Lyons, which they platted to cover the clearing made long before by the redskins. It will thus be seen that from the very first the name of Judge Roof is inseparably connected with this region, particularly with the Lyons neighborhood and with the progressive history of Ionia county.

Adam L. Roof was the first lawyer in Ionia county and for some years the only one. The year after his arrival here Michigan was admitted as a state and a great impetus was given to the business at the Ionia land office. Having given particular attention to the study of land-office law at college, Judge Roof's services were of conspicuous value to the settlers hereabout and many a knotty question of law with relation to entries and co-related points was satisfactorily settled by him. Two years after coming here he married and in 1842 was appointed prosecuting attorney. He also held nearly all the township and village offices at one time and another and was elected probate judge and register of deeds, in which capacity he was enabled to render a valuable service to the pioneers hereabout. During the sessions of 1845, 1849 and 1850 Judge Roof represented this district in the lower house of the Michigan General Assembly and during this session of 1850 and 1852 occupied a seat in the state Senate from this district.

It was in October, 1838, that Adam L. Roof was united in marriage to Clarissa Knox, who at that time was teaching school at Portland, this county, she having been the first school teacher in that village. She was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, daughter of John and Sally (Moore) Knox, the former of whom was a distant kinsman of Gen. Henry Knox, of Revolutionary fame, and a direct descendant of John Knox, the great Scotch reformer. The Knox family came to this county in 1836, first settling at the west edge of the present village of Lyons, but which then was the Indian village of Cooost, but later moved to the southwest corner of Portland township, where they established their home. Judge Roof was a man of much strength of character and was a powerful influence for good hereabout in an early day, the causes of good government, education, temperance, morality and religion ever receiving his earnest support. He died

on January 26, 1885, and his widow survived until July 25, 1902, she being eighty-three years of age at the time of her death.

Albert K. Roof grew to manhood in the village of Lyons and to a remarkable degree his life paralleled that of his father. He early displayed a preference for the law and his father encouraged him by sending him to the Michigan State University, at Ann Arbor, from the law department of which institution he was graduated in 1865 and succeeded his father in the practice of his chosen profession, continuing in active practice in this and neighboring counties until his practical retirement some years ago, since which time he has devoted his whole attention to the interests connected with his property and that of his sisters. Mr. Roof's life has been one of singular activity in the public service. He was elected successively to all the village and township offices; was elected register of deeds for Ionia county, and in 1878 and again in 1886 was chairman of the county board of supervisors. During the sessions of the General Assembly in 1871-72 he represented this district in the lower house of the Legislature and in 1887 and 1888 occupied a seat in the Senate. He was a member of the House when the appropriation was made for the erection of the present state capitol. In 1889 Mr. Roof was united in marriage to Mrs. Lou (Bingay) Rudgers, who died two years later without issue. Mr. Roof is a Royal Arch Mason and takes an active interest in the affairs of that ancient order.

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#### CLARENCE GARFIELD WINCHELL, D. D. S.

Dr. Clarence Garfield Winchell, well-known and popular dentist of Ionia, this county, is a native son of Ionia and has lived here all his life. He was born on February 25, 1880, son of Monroe B. and Caroline M. (Moffitt) Winchell, well-known and prominent residents of Ionia, further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and was reared amid conditions favorable to the cultivation of a true taste and an accurate estimate of social values. Upon completing the course in the Ionia public schools he determined to devote his life to the practice of dental surgery and with that end in view entered the Chicago Dental College in 1900, being graduated from that excellent institution in 1903, with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his chosen profession, Doctor Winchell returned to his home in Ionia and opened an office in that city, where he ever since has been engaged

in practice. The Doctor is regarded as one of Ionia's most progressive citizens and is devotedly attached to his home town, promoting in all proper ways such movements as are calculated to advance the best interests of the city. He is a member of the city school board and acting in that capacity has done a good work in behalf of the public schools.

In 1905 Dr. Clarence G. Winchell was united in marriage to Helen Louise Eddy, who was born in Berlin township, this county, daughter of James P. and Elleda (Dodge) Eddy, prominent residents of this county, now and for years past residents of Ionia, and to this union four children have been born, Fleda Caroline, Horace Lorenzo, Leah Helen and Esther Louise. Doctor and Mrs. Winchell have proved themselves helpful and useful members of society in and about Ionia and give due attention to the various social and cultural activities of the community. Doctor Winchell is a Mason and a Knight Templar and is a member of the Ionia lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

Mrs. Winchell's father, James P. Eddy, was born in Berlin township, this county, in 1857, son of Andrew Jackson and Frances Louise (Austin) Eddy, the former of whom came to this section of Michigan when a boy with his parents, Abraham and Cynthia (Phillips) Eddy, who emigrated from New York state and drove into the then wilds of Ionia county with an ox-team, locating in Berlin township and establishing their home at the point where the Eddy school house is now located, where they spent the remainder of their lives, being numbered among the foremost pioneers of that neighborhood. On that pioneer farm in the woods Andrew J. Eddy grew to manhood. He traded a yoke of steers for an eighty-acre tract of land in the neighborhood of his father's home and a colt for an adjoining "forty," and thus prepared for the creation of a home married Frances Louise Austin, daughter of Daniel Austin and wife, pioneers of that section of the county, and set up an establishment for himself, becoming in due time one of the well-to-do farmers of that community. He and his wife reared their family and spent the rest of their lives on their home farm in Berlin township. Their son, James P. Eddy, began to shift for himself at the age of twelve and at the age of fifteen was doing a man's task, cutting timber in the big woods. At the age of twenty-two he married and began farming for himself in Berlin township, presently becoming the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres. His wife, Elleda Dodge, was born in Laingsburg, Shiawassee county, this state, in 1863, daughter of Horace P.

and Helen L. (Phelps) Dodge, the former of whom, a harness-maker at Laingsburg, had come to Michigan from Lorain county, Ohio, and the latter was the first white girl born in Shiawassee county. After living on his farm for about ten years James P. Eddy moved with his family to Ionia, where he ever since has been quite successfully engaged in the live-stock business.

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#### WILLIAM H. MATTISON.

Former Sheriff William H. Mattison, vice-president of the National Bank of Ionia, and one of the best-known retired farmers in this county, who has been living comfortably retired at his pleasant home, 304 Rich street, Ionia, since 1903, is a native of New York, having been born on a farm in Rensselaer county, near the city of Troy, that state, September 20, 1836, son of Allen J. and Lucy P. (Thomas) Mattison, natives of New York, who later became honored residents of Ionia county, where their last days were spent.

Allen J. Mattison was born in Rensselaer county, New York, in 1798, son of Allen and Jemima (Johnson), Rhode Island Island Quakers, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of England. The elder Allen Mattison was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, a member of General Greene's command, and was a participant in the battle of Bunker Hill. His family in Scotland spelled the name Mathewson, but upon coming to America he altered the spelling to the form which ever since has been followed by his descendants. Upon coming to this country he and his wife first settled in Providence, Rhode Island, but about the year 1818 established their home in Rensselaer county, New York, where the remainder of their lives were spent, his death occurring in 1854. They were the parents of four sons, David, Job, Ebenezer and Allen J., the latter of whom was born and reared in Rensselaer county, where he married Lucy P. Thomas, daughter of Dr. Samuel and Dorcas Thomas, also natives of New York state, four of whose children, Samuel, Rowland, Towner and Lucy, grew to maturity.

Following his marriage, Allen J. Mattison settled on a farm in the neighborhood of his old home in the vicinity of Troy and there he reared his family. In 1867, influenced by the good word his son, William H., the subject of this biographical sketch, who had come to this section of Michigan several years before, sent back regarding the possibilities of this region,

the elder Mattison and his family came to Ionia county, settling in Ronald township, where Mr. Mattison bought a farm of three hundred acres in partnership with his son, Daniel, who still owns the old homestead, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, long being regarded as among the foremost residents of that community. Allen J. Mattison held several public offices and was a man of much influence for good in that section of the county. He and his wife were earnest members of the Christian church and active in the various beneficences of the same. They lived to celebrate their "golden wedding," the death of Mr. Mattison occurring in 1882, he then being eighty-four years of age. His widow survived him for some years, she being ninety-one years of age at the time of her death, having been born on December 17, 1800. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Jeffrey T., who died in California, where he went in 1849 and prospered in gold mining, and there died suddenly; Sarah J., deceased; Hamilton A.; Lucy P., who married Daniel J. Green, of Ionia; Marilla P., deceased, who was the wife of J. S. Tibbetts; William H., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Daniel J., who now owns the old homestead farm in Ronald township and is one of the best-known and most substantial farmers in that part of the county.

Hamilton A. Mattison was a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in the Twelfth Regiment, New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. He was promoted from second lieutenant to first lieutenant, captain and major, and during the latter part of his service was inspector-general on the staff of Gen. Nelson A. Miles. After the war Hamilton A. Mattison settled at Evansville, Indiana, where he became a prominent lawyer and served as city attorney, prosecuting attorney and district judge of the circuit court. He has recently moved to Ionia where he is making his home with his brother, the subject of this sketch.

William H. Mattison was well reared on the home farm in Rensselaer county, New York, receiving an excellent education and for four years taught school in New York and also in Michigan. Upon the three-months call in 1861 for volunteers to serve in the Union army during the Civil War he enlisted and was drilled with his company for four or five days, at the end of which time he received an honorable discharge on account of defective hearing. In 1862 Mr. Mattison came to Michigan, locating in the Palo neighborhood in Ronald township, this county, where he went to work as a farm hand, for which service he received fifteen dollars a month. During the winters he taught school in the district schools of that township, and was thus engaged, working on farms during the summers, for three years.

at the end of which time he bought a farm of two hundred acres in Ronald township. He married in the fall of 1866 and established his home on that farm and there resided for about forty years. As he cleared and improved his place, prospering in a material way, Mr. Mattison added to his holdings by the purchase of an adjoining "forty" and it was not long until he was recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood.

From the very beginning of his residence in this county, Mr. Mattison has taken an active part in civic affairs. He is a Republican and early began to be recognized as one of the leaders of the party in his district. For eleven years he served the public very efficiently as township supervisor and also served with equal efficiency as school inspector, highway commissioner and township treasurer, thus holding office in Ronald township for many years. In the fall of 1876 Mr. Mattison was elected sheriff of Ionia county and so capably did he perform the duties of that office that he was re-elected and thus served two terms, during which time he made his home in Ionia, the county seat. At the close of his term of service in the sheriff's office, in 1881, Mr. Mattison moved back to the farm and remained there until 1903, in which year he sold the place and moved back to Ionia, where he has lived ever since and where he and his wife have a very pleasant and comfortable home. For years Mr. Mattison has taken an active interest in affairs hereabout, in addition to looking after his extensive farming interests and upon retiring from the farm continued his connection with some of the enterprises with which he was connected. He is vice-president of the National Bank of Ionia and is chairman of the board of directors of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Ionia, in which well-established concern he has been a director for nearly a quarter of a century, and he is held in high regard in financial and commercial circles hereabout.

On November 14, 1866, William H. Mattison was united in marriage to Zilpha Van Wormer, who was born in Steuben county, New York, August 10, 1840, daughter of Valentine and Anna (Cleveland) Van Wormer, both natives of New York state and both of whom spent all their lives in that state, the former, born on October 22, 1812, dying on June 19, 1879, at the age of eighty-five. They were the parents of seven children, Zilpha, Mary, Fayette, Emery and Emily (twins) and Eugene and Eugenia (twins). Valentine Van Wormer was the son of Lawrence and Anna (Staley) Van Wormer, natives of Mohawk county, New York, both of whom lived to ripe old ages, and who were the parents of fifteen children, seven of whom, John, Henry, Mary, Janet, Anna, Betsy and Susan, lived to maturity. Mrs. Anna Van Wormer was the daughter of Ephraim and

Hanna (Watkins) Cleveland, the former a native of New York and the latter of Connecticut, farming people, both of whom lived past middle age, and who were the parents of ten children, Andrew, Anna, Eunice, Cynthia, Mary, Myron, Ephraim, Elvira, Jennie and Abigail.

Mr. and Mrs. Mattison are devoted members of the Methodist church, in the affairs of which they ever have taken a warm interest, and they are held in high esteem by their many friends throughout the county. Mr. Mattison is a Mason of high degree and takes much interest in the affairs of that order. He is a member of the blue lodge of the order at Palo; a member of the Ionia Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Ionia Council, Royal and Select Masters; Ionia Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar, and of Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids.

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#### ISAAC P. HOAG.

Isaac P. Hoag, head of the firm of Mansfield, Hoag & Company, proprietors of the Prairie Creek mills at Ionia, this county, and one of the best-known business men in that city, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a pioneer farm in Parma township, Jackson county, this state, May 22, 1856, son of David and Mary (Peckham) Hoag, prominent members of the prosperous Quaker settlement in that county, whose last days were spent there.

David Hoag was a native of Rensselaer county, New York, and was reared on a farm in Pittstown township, that county. His parents, Asa and Elizabeth (Norton) Hoag, were earnest members of the Friends church and he was reared in that faith. He married Mary Peckham, of Troy, New York, daughter of Samuel Peckham and wife, also earnest Quakers, the former of whom was a plowmaker and helped to develop the first cast-iron plow manufactured by the Starbuck company, of Troy, New York. Samuel Peckham's wife, who was an Osborne, also was of Quaker stock. In 1844 David Hoag and wife came to Michigan and joined the John Mott Quaker colony in Jackson county. David Hoag bought a tract of land in Parma township, that county, three acres of which had been cleared, and there he and his wife established their home, spending the balance of their lives there, becoming substantial and influential residents of that community. Mr. Hoag cleared and improved his place and at his death left a substantial

inheritance of two hundred acres of well-improved land, now owned by his son, the subject of this biographical sketch.

Isaac P. Hoag grew to manhood on the farm on which he was born and when twenty-one years old came to Ionia county and entered the employ of the Prairie Creek mill at Ionia, where he learned the details of the milling business. He spent ten years in the service of that old mill and then, in 1887, went to California, where he spent nine years, at the end of which time he returned to Ionia and resumed his place in the Prairie Creek mill, with which he ever since has been connected and of which he long has been the general manager. In 1880, three years after entering the mill, he became financially interested in the same, and upon going to California disposed of that interest. Upon his return from the West in 1897 he resumed his interest in the mill, the firm thereafter being known as Mansfield & Hoag. Mr. Hoag then assumed the general management of the mill and ice business.

In 1909, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Hoag's partner, died and the firm of Mansfield, Hoag & Company is now composed of Mr. Hoag and Joseph VanSycle, who have since acquired the Highland Park cemetery, together with about one hundred and fifty acres of adjoining farming lands.

In 1880 Isaac P. Hoag was united in marriage to Nellie A. Simmons, who was born at Buffalo, New York, daughter of William Simmons and wife. Her mother died when she was an infant and in 1869 her father came to Michigan, settling in Ionia county, where he farmed the rest of his life. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoag one child has been born, a daughter, Hazel M. Mr. Hoag was made a Mason in 1870 and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that ancient order.

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#### JOHN R. DOUGHERTY.

The late John R. Dougherty, for years a well-known and influential farmer and banker of the Lyons neighborhood, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and an active participant in the civic affairs of Ionia county, was a native of the great Empire state, born in Cayuga, county, New York, December 17, 1842, son of James and Sarah (Loomis) Dougherty, both natives of that same state, who came to Michigan in 1854, settling in Lyons neighborhood, where their last days were spent. James Dougherty's father was a native of Ireland who came to this country when





JOHN R. DOUGHERTY.



a lad of fourteen and his mother was a native of Scotland, who died when James was a child.

James Dougherty died shortly after coming to this country and upon John R. Dougherty, who was twelve years old when he came here with his parents, fell the task of helping to support his widowed mother, who lived until July 19, 1876. This he did by working on farms in the neighborhood of his home at Lyons, in the meantime completing his schooling by attending school in the winters, and remained at home until his enlistment, in August, 1862, when not yet twenty years old, in the Eighth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, being mustered out as a first lieutenant, to which rank he was raised in May, 1865. He was with Burnside in all the campaigns of that general and took part in the siege of Knoxville, the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Blue Springs, Petersburg and numerous other important engagements. He had married the year he entered the army and upon the conclusion of military service returned home and for a year thereafter was engaged in farming in the Lyons neighborhood, after which he and Frank Gleason conducted a general store at Lyons and was for some years engaged in that business in that village. In 1868 he bought an unimproved farm just south of Lyons and in 1876 erected a house on that farm and moved to the same, at the same time selling his interest in the store to Mr. Gleason and on that farm, to which he gave the name "Sunmyside Farm," he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on June 1, 1910.

Not long after selling his interest in the store Mr. Dougherty started the John R. Dougherty Bank at Lyons and remained at the head of that institution until he sold it to S. W. Webber & Company. In the meantime he continued to make his home at "Sunmyside Farm," a fine place of two hundred and forty acres, one and one-fourth miles south of Lyons, and gradually improved the same until it was regarded as one of the best farms in the county. Mr. Dougherty gave much attention to the raising of pure-bred live stock, particularly Polled Durham cattle and became one of the best-known cattlemen in this county. He was active in all public enterprises, ever promoting such movements as were designed to advance the common good. Although not a church member he was one of the most liberal contributors to the work of erecting the Methodist church. He was a Republican and for years looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in this county, though never an office seeker. On one occasion, however, very much against his wishes, he was nominated as representative in the Legislature

from this district and though he opposed the nomination and spent no time in making a canvass, he came within ten votes of election.

John R. Dougherty was twice married. In 1862 he was united in marriage to Melissa J. Truesdell, who was born in Brown county, New York, daughter of Samuel and Parthena Truesdell, early settlers of this county. She died in 1864, and on March 6, 1895, Mr. Dougherty married, secondly, Mrs. Lois J. (McNeil) Dunn, widow of William H. Dunn, who was prominently connected with the railway shops at Ionia until his death in 1893. William H. Dunn had been a resident of Ionia since 1873 and was one of the best known citizens of that place. He was a staunch Republican and a member of the Masonic fraternity, as well as of the Grand Army of the Republic. Responding to Lincoln's first call for volunteers, he went to the front with the First Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, for the three-months service and upon the completion of that term of service re-enlisted and served to the close of the war as a member of the Eighth Michigan Cavalry. In 1873 he located at Ionia and spent the rest of his life in that city. After his death his widow made her home with her parents most of the time until her marriage to Mr. Dougherty.

Mrs. Lois J. Dougherty is a native of this state, having been born at Lawton, Van Buren county, daughter of George P. and Amanda J. (Harper) McNeil, the former of whom was born at Owega, Tioga county, New York, in 1828, and the latter at Milan, Erie county, Ohio, in September, 1834. George P. McNeil was about eighteen years of age when he came to Michigan with his parents, Francis McNeil and wife, the family settling at Lawton, in VanBuren county. There, in December, 1851, he was married to Amanda J. Harper, who was but eight years of age when her parents, Samuel and Nancy (Spears) Harper, came to Michigan from Ohio and settled in the Lawton neighborhood. George P. McNeil was a carpenter and for some time after his marriage followed that trade at Lawton, but later became a conductor on the Michigan Central railroad and for twenty-five years was thus engaged, making his home meanwhile at Jackson and at Battle Creek. Upon retiring from the railway service he for a time made his home at Chicago, but later returned to Lawton, the home of his youth, where his death occurred five or six years later, February 16, 1898. His widow is now making her home with Mrs. Dougherty in the latter's beautiful home at Lyons.

Mrs. Dougherty is a member of the Church of Christ (Scientist) and takes an active interest in the services of the same. Years ago she became a

member of the Order of the Eastern Star and upon moving to Lyons after her marriage to Mr. Dougherty transferred her membership to the chapter at that place and continues to take a warm interest in the affairs of that order. She also has been for years very active in the work of the Woman's Relief Corps and is past vice-president of that organization for the department of Michigan, as well as a former instituting and installing officer of the same.

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#### WALTER L. WINCHELL.

Walter L. Winchell, of the firm of Winchell & Stone, furniture and undertaking, Ionia, Michigan, was born in Ionia on November 11, 1866. He is the son of Monroe B. and Caroline (Moffett) Winchell. Monroe B. Winchell was a native of Ballston township, Saratoga county, New York. Mrs. Winchell was a native of Cuyahoga county, Ohio. They were the parents of the following children: Walter L., who is the subject of this sketch; Mildred, who is at home; George, who is a physician in Ionia; Laura, who is the wife of J. Ernest Dodds, of Detroit, Michigan; Clarence, who lives in Ionia, and Mary, who is the wife of Edward Conroy, of Ionia township.

Monroe B. Winchell grew up a farmer boy in Saratoga county, New York, and attended the district schools there. When he was twenty years of age he came west with his brother, Addison E., and located in Ionia township and worked out for a few years. He then bought a farm of forty acres on which he placed improvements and planted a fine orchard and engaged in the fruit and nursery business for about thirty-seven years. He sold twenty acres of his farm to his son, Walter, and they worked together for a few years. He still owns twenty acres. His wife died in 1903, at the age of fifty-seven years. She and her husband were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The father of Caroline (Moffett) Winchell was James Moffett. His wife was a Miss Neal. He was born in Ohio and she in Maryland. He was a millwright by trade and ran a machine shop in Cuyahoga county, Ohio. He moved into Kent county, Michigan, in 1850, coming overland from Ohio with an ox-team. The country there was a wilderness then. He engaged in farming in Kent county the rest of his life. He died at the age of eighty years, and she, at the age of seventy years. They had a large family, consisting of the following children: Albert, Theron, Arabel,

Abigail, Helen, Exine, Clarissa, Caroline, Charlotte, Emma, Diantha, and one that met death by accident.

The father of Monroe B. Winchell was Leorango Winchell. His wife was Mary (Castle) Winchell. They were both natives of Massachusetts. In young manhood he was a clothier, but after moving to New York he engaged in farming, which he followed for the remainder of his life. He was born in 1800 and died in 1886. His wife died at the age of sixty-six years. They were the parents of the following children: Theodore, Lemmel, Addison, Phoebe, Mary Louisa, who died in infancy; Monroe B., who was the father of the subject of this sketch, and Mary. The paternal great-grandparents were of Holland-Dutch descent. They died in Massachusetts. They had a good-sized family: Lorenzo, Solomon, Erastus, Timothy, Betsy and other daughters.

Walter L. Winchell was raised in Ionia. He attended the public schools here. He also worked on his father's fruit farm. At the age of twenty he went to Dakota and spent three years. While there he took a claim and proved up on it. He afterward sold his farm and returned to Ionia and went back on the farm with his father, and bought twenty acres of the old home place and went into the fruit business, which he continued for about twelve years. He was appointed to a position at the state reformatory and worked there as an officer for five years. After this he formed a partnership with Orin Stone and embarked in the furniture business, and a year later they added the undertaking business, which they have continued up to the present time, under the firm name of Winchell & Stone.

On March 16, 1894, Walter L. Winchell was married to Ada E. Townsend, of Ypsilanti. She was a daughter of James Townsend. She died in December, 1896, at the age of twenty-six years. She was a member of the Christian church (Disciples). On June 3, 1903, Mr. Winchell was married to Eliza A. Phillips, the daughter of Eli and Mary (Fenstermaker) Phillips. To this marriage the following children have been born: Ruth, Monroe and Florence.

Eliza A. (Phillips) Winchell was born in Easton township, Ionia county, on May 24, 1875. Her parents came from Ohio to Michigan at an early date, and both are now dead. They were the parents of the following children: John, James, Levi, George, Ensign, Herman, Joshua, Jason, Chetro, Sarah, Eliza, and a daughter who died when young. Mr. and Mrs. Winchell are members of the church of Christ (Disciples). He has been an elder in the church for more than fifteen years. He has been a member for more than twenty-five years, and his wife has been a member for many

years. Mr. Winchell belongs to Ionia Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons, and to Ionia Lodge No. 175, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, also to Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Winchell is a Republican in politics.

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### GEORGE A. BUCK.

George A. Buck, of Portland, Ionia county, Michigan, one of the largest landowners of the county, owning seven hundred and six acres in Portland and Danby townships in partnership with his brother, Bart Buck, was born in the town of Avon, Lorain county, Ohio, on July 8, 1858, being a son of Hart and Elizabeth Duffell. For a detailed history of the Buck family, the reader will please refer to the sketch of Edwin A. Buck, brother of George A., presented elsewhere within this volume.

George A. Buck grew up on the family homestead in Portland township and received his elementary education in the district schools near his home, later attending the Portland schools. After finishing his studies he engaged in school teaching, laboring in this manner for eight years and passing the summers in work on the farm. When a young man, he and his brother, Edwin A., formed a partnership for the buying and selling of live stock and also farming. Edwin withdrew from the farming interests in 1896, but George continued with the other brothers to farm the place and he and Edwin continued together in the stock business.

On August 4, 1897, George A. Buck was united in marriage with Mary White and to their union have been born two children. Harold W. will graduate from the Portland high school with the 1916 class and Evelyn Elizabeth is in the first year of high school work. Immediately after marriage, George A. Buck and his bride made their home in Portland, living on the same street with Edwin A. Buck until 1908 when George A. removed to the place which has since been his home.

Mary White Buck, wife of George A. Buck, is the daughter of Edwin and Emily (Morehouse) White, the former born in Genesee county, New York state, on August 11, 1832, and was in his turn a son of James and Jane White, both of whom were born in the state of New Jersey. James White's parents came from Ireland to New Jersey, one child being born on the water while they were en route to this country, while Jane, his wife, was the child of Scotch parents. When Edwin White, father of Mrs. George Buck, was

ten years of age (in 1842) he was brought to Portland township by his parents. Here his father bought a farm, worked at that and was also a painter and chair maker, and died at that home. Edwin remained at home until the time of his marriage, when he and his wife settled on a farm close to his father's, remaining there until 1907, when they moved to Portland, where they still reside. Emily Morehouse, to whom Edwin White was married on February 4, 1863, was born on August 18, 1827, and was the daughter of Oliver and Susan B. (Farrand) Morehouse, the former born in Albany, New York, of Welch ancestry and the latter in Newark, New Jersey, of "Jersey" stock, claiming descent from the French Huguenots on one side and from early English ancestry on the other. In 1835 Emily Morehouse was brought by her parents to Wayne county, this state, where the mother died, and the father died in later years at the home of his daughter here in Portland. Edwin and Emily (Morehouse) White became the parents of four children, Mrs. George A. Buck being the sole surviving member of the family. Susie died at sixteen years of age and the other two died in early infancy. Mr. White has been a life-long Republican, but never a seeker after office.

Mrs. George A. Buck and her children are members of the Congregational church and while Mr. Buck does not hold membership therein he is a trustee. In politics he is a Republican, although taking no especial interest in that question.

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#### DUNCAN G. KENNEDY.

One of the most enterprising business men of Portland and one of the representative citizens of Ionia county is Duncan G. Kennedy, well-known hardware merchant. He was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, June 9, 1846, and is a son of James and Jane (McEdeard) Kennedy, both natives of Scotland, from which country they came to Canada with their parents when young and there grew up and were married. The father was a stone-mason by trade, but after his marriage he engaged in farming. His death occurred in the city of Toronto, and his wife died on the home farm. He took up two hundred acres of land from the government, which he improved into a good farm and was prosperous. He and his wife belonged to the Presbyterian church, of which he was an elder. Their family consisted of five children, four sons and one daughter, of whom three are living in 1916, namely: James, who is engaged in the grocery



business in Toronto, Ontario; William lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Duncan G., the subject of this sketch.

Duncan G. Kennedy was reared on the home farm and educated in the public schools in Canada. He started out in life for himself at the age of fourteen years, first learned the blacksmith's trade which he followed successfully for a period of twenty-five years or until 1855. He established a shop in Portland, Michigan, in 1872, which he operated until 1885, when he sold out and soon engaged in the hardware business which he has continued to the present time, enjoying a large trade with the town and surrounding country, carrying a full and well-selected stock of hardware and farming implements.

Politically, Mr. Kennedy is a Democrat, and he has long been active in party affairs. He was president of the village of Portland in 1875 and 1876, and for sixteen years consecutively was a member of the village council, and later was president of the village again for four years. He has also served as highway commissioner several times. Fraternally, he belongs to Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is a past master; also belongs to Portland Chapter No. 36, Royal Arch Masons, and Portland Council No. 39, Royal and Select Masters, and Ionia Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar.

Duncan G. Kennedy was married on August 11, 1870, to Edith E. Megarah, who was born in West Unity, Ohio, April 26, 1848. Her mother died when she was a babe, and soon thereafter the father moved with his children to Toledo. In 1864 they came to Portland, Michigan. The father, William S. Megarah, was a millwright and worked at his trade in Portland and nearby towns until 1865, when he bought a farm near Collins and the family settled there. Edith E. Megarah received a good education in the public schools of Ohio, graduating from the high school at Toledo. She taught for some time in the high school at Portland, also taught for some time at Crystal prior to her marriage. Early in life she showed much talent as a singer and almost from the first year of her residence in Portland she was active in the Methodist church. Besides leading the choir she was often called upon to assist in the singing at funerals and was ever ready to lend her aid in the time of sorrow. She received a musical education. Though much attached to her home and family she found time to become a worker in various organizations. She was president of the Portland Woman's Relief Corps for many years and her efforts are reflected in a large membership and in the charitable work which has been carried on. She also occupied a prominent position in the state organization and would doubtless

have been at the head of this in the course of time. She was also active in educational work and for two years she was president of the Ladies Literary Club. The work of the club was much to her liking and she was one of its most enthusiastic members. She was president of the Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist church for many years or until failing health compelled her to give up this work as it did in many other lines. This splendid woman was summoned to her eternal rest on January 2, 1913. Of a most cheerful and charitable nature, she will long be remembered by those who have been cheered by her presence in time of distress. She was for some forty years one of the most useful and prominent women of Portland, highly esteemed by all who knew her. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy had one adopted daughter, Edith, wife of Lewis Slowinski.

Mr. Kennedy sold his store stock on February 22, 1916, and will devote his time to looking after his interests in Portland and Ionia county.

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#### REV. DAVID E. MILLARD.

Sixty-two years of life in the pulpit and following the life of a true disciple of the Man of Galilee, is the record of Rev. David E. Millard of Portland, Ionia county. He is in his eighty-seventh year, and although he retired from active church work twenty-seven years ago, he has by no means been idle, but has frequently acted as supply preacher and spent much time in writing for secular and religious magazines, ministering to the sick, performing marriage ceremonies and saying the last rites of friends who passed to the Silent Land. He is the dean of ministers in central Michigan, indeed, there are perhaps few in the entire state with such a record as his.

David E. Millard was born in Ontario county, New York, March 16, 1829, and is a son of Rev. David Millard, who was for many years a prominent pioneer minister of the Christian church in western New York. David E. Millard spent his early life in the city of Rochester, where he attended select schools, also at Lima, New York, until he was fifteen years old, then spent two years in school at Starkey, Yates county, that state, after which he entered the Theological Seminary at Meadville, Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated in 1852, and soon thereafter was ordained to the ministry of the Christian church. He began his career as minister at Fall River Massachusetts, in 1852, later was pastor of a church at New Bedford, that state, then at West Bloomfield, New York. He came

to Michigan in 1857 and preached at Marshall for fourteen years, Jackson seven years, at Belding from 1874 to 1878, and built the church there. In January, 1865, Governor Crapo appointed Reverend Millard and wife military agents at Washington City from Michigan, to look after the wants of private soldiers there from this state, and they discharged their duties there in a very acceptable manner until 1866. His splendid patriotic sermon at the outbreak of the war, on the firing on Ft. Sumter, was widely published and no doubt sent many recruits into the Union lines. Upon returning to Michigan from Washington, D. C., he resumed his work as pastor at Jackson; this was in 1866. He was there six years and then went to Marshall, where he preached two years. His last active pastorate was at Belding, this county, retiring from the work there in 1888. He removed from there to Portland and established his home and he has since resided here. It was in Portland that he married Esther Andrews, April 22, 1854. She was a woman of many splendid attributes, and after a long and happy married life, which was without issue, she was called to her eternal rest on June 15, 1902. He is now making his home with his niece and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Wescott, at Portland.

During his long career, Reverend Millard has officiated at over six hundred weddings, and has preached over one thousand funeral sermons. In addition to his work in the pulpit he has done considerable literary work, notably when he wrote the history of his father, and compiled the writings, prose and poetry, of the elder Millard, who was a native of the state of New York and for many years an editor. In 1840 he lectured on Biblical theology in the Theological school at Meadville, Pennsylvania, in which he was professor for more than twenty years. He made a trip to the Holy Land in 1842, later writing a book on that country and his experiences there. The work of Reverend Millard on his father's life and character has had a large circulation among religious societies.

Politically, Rev. David E. Millard is a Republican, and has always been a great admirer of Lincoln, believing him to be one of the grandest characters America has ever produced. Fraternally, he was formerly a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is passing the closing years of his life with the keenness of his intellect unimpaired. He is active and unusually well preserved for one of his years and he takes an active interest in all that is going on about him, preferring to live in the present, rather than the past. "I have had a good day. I am ready to go," he says with great calm and the peace that can only come from a long life devoted to Christian living, a "good day" that has been well spent.

## ALFRED S. BUNNELL.

It will always be a mark of distinction to have served the Union during the great Civil War. The old soldier will receive attention no matter where he goes if he will but make himself known. And when he passes away, as so many of them are now doing, friends will pay him a suitable eulogy for the sacrifices he made a half century ago on the sanguinary fields of battle in the Southland, or in the no less dreaded prison, fever camp or hospital. Among the veterans of Ionia county, the name of Alfred S. Bunnell, of Lyons, should be mentioned.

Alfred S. Bunnell was born on February 8, 1840, about three miles up Grand river from the town of Lyons, on a farm where his father settled in early pioneer days. He is a son of Asa and Lovini A. (Olmstead) Bunnell. The father was born in the state of New York and was reared in Onondaga county. The mother was a native of Livingston county, New York, and they were married in their native state, from which they removed to Ionia county, Michigan, about the year 1834, Mr. Bunnell entering land from the government, just east of the river in sections 20 and 21, Lyons township. The country roundabout was a wilderness and his nearest neighbor was two miles away. He and his wife remained at the home of a Mr. Hunt for awhile, until a place could be cleared and a log hut erected on their own land. They worked hard and developed a good farm on which they resided until late in life. Their family consisted of seven children, two of whom died in infancy; Sarah Jane died when about eighteen years old; Cecelia Ann married Rev. J. R. Bowen, a Methodist minister and a great temperance worker, and her death occurred on March 15, 1915; Alfred S. is the subject of this sketch; Ruth Rosina, who married Abner T. Phelps, died about 1895; Asa Sumner died when about seven years old. The parents of the above named children removed from their farm to the village of Lyons, in the spring of 1861, where they spent the rest of their lives. The father took an interest in public affairs and held some kind of local office most of his life, such as supervisor, justice of the peace and others. His death occurred in the spring of 1866, his widow surviving him.

Alfred S. Bunnell grew to manhood on the home farm where he worked when a boy and he attended the district schools. On September 5, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Ninth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served with his regiment in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. Most of the time he was on guard duty at headquarters of Gen. George H.

Thomas, remaining with him until the close of the war, performing his duties most faithfully. After serving his first enlistment he re-enlisted. He was made corporal and for meritorious service was promoted to duty sergeant, orderly sergeant, then commissary sergeant, finally was commissioned second lieutenant of Company C, Ninth Regiment, later became first lieutenant of Company E, the same regiment, which position he held until he was mustered out. From the time he received his last commission until he was discharged he was in command of his company. After his career in the army he returned to Lyons and followed teaming, then for about fifteen years worked at bridge construction work for the Grand Trunk railroad. He owns property in Lyons where he makes his home. He does some gardening, but is taking it easy in his old age, enjoying the fruits of his earlier years of toil. He has never married.

Mr. Bunnell has been a Republican ever since attaining his majority. He has served as highway commissioner of Lyons township. He belongs to the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. He has been a regular attendant and supporter of the Methodist church since early life, but did not become a member of the same until recent years.

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#### RICHARD BATES.

The modern methods of banking seem to be well understood by Richard Bates, cashier of the Maynard-Allen State Bank at Portland, Michigan, and therefore he is gradually increasing the prestige of that popular institution. He was born in the above named town, October 25, 1882, and is a son of William and Mary (McClinson) Bates; the father was born near Akron, New York, and the mother at Lyons, Iowa. They were young in years when they came to Ionia county, Michigan, where they were married, and here William Bates started a foundry which he operated successfully, spending the rest of his life here. He was a successful man of affairs and well known.

Richard Bates grew to manhood in his native community and received his education in the Portland schools, graduating from the high school in 1899, then went to work in his father's foundry, learning the moulder's trade at which he worked until 1910. After his father's death the foundry was run under the name of Bates Brothers. Richard Bates sold his share in the business in 1910 to his brother and mother and took a position as

clerk in the Maynard-Allen State Bank, and in March, 1913, he was made assistant cashier, and elected cashier in January, 1914, which position he is still holding, to the eminent satisfaction of the stockholders and patrons of the bank, of which he is also a director.

Richard Bates married Grace Jenkins, June 22, 1914. She was born in Clinton county, Michigan, and she received her education in the public schools.

Mr. Bates is a Democrat, and he has been active in political affairs for some time. He was township treasurer for two terms, and prior to that deputy for one term. He was city clerk for six years, and is a member of the town council, although the town of Portland is strongly Republican. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church.

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#### LEWIS A. CARPENTER.

They are fortunate who have had the opportunity of spending their lives under their native roof-tree, the old home having a distinctive charm which cannot be found elsewhere. Such has been the fortune of Lewis A. Carpenter of Portland township, Ionia county, who was born on the farm on which he now resides, August 10, 1866. He is a son of Benjamin and Eliza (Baldwin) Carpenter. The father was born in the state of New York, in June, 1833, and the mother was a native of Ionia county, Michigan. When young in years Benjamin Carpenter came to Ionia county with his parents, the family locating near the town of Ionia, which, however was not much of a town then, for there was but one log residence in the midst of the wilderness. He is still living, being now nearly eighty-three years old, and he makes his home in the town of Portland. He has lived to see this locality undergo wondrous changes, and has played well his part in the transformation. His family consisted of four children, one of whom died in infancy. Those living are May, who is the wife of Emery Swank, lives in the town of Portland; Cora is the wife of Lewis Phelps and they live in Colorado, and Lewis A., the subject of this sketch.

Lewis A. Carpenter was reared on the home farm and educated in the local public schools in his district and Portland. He has spent his life on the homestead, which he has kept well improved and under a high state of cultivation, which place consists of sixty acres in section 9, Portland township, four miles northwest of the town of Portland.

On September 26, 1886, Lewis A. Carpenter was married to Mezela Dilley, who was born in England, February 9, 1869. She came with her parents to the United States when twelve years of age, in 1881, the family locating in Michigan, where she received most of her education. Her death occurred on June 6, 1912. She was a woman of many fine characteristics, and was the mother of two children, Flossie, born on May 22, 1890, was educated in the district schools, is single and lives at home; B. Franklin, born on June 1, 1906, is attending school.

Politically, Mr. Carpenter is a Republican, and he has been a member of the school board of his district. He is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, in which he carries life insurance.

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#### A. A. MACK

No more proficient pharmacist could be found in Ionia county, Michigan, than A. A. Mack, proprietor of the Crane Drug Company, of Portland. He was born in Wellman's Corner, Ontario, Canada, May 6, 1879, and is a son of H. W. and Anna (Sine) Mack, natives of the province of Ontario and Prince Edward Island, respectively. The father took the course in McMaster's Baptist College, Toronto, Canada, and entered the ministry in which he spent a number of years, but before his marriage he located on a farm in Ontario. He retired from active life in 1900 and moved to Michigan, preached for ten years and retired. His family consisted of six children, namely: A. A., the subject of this sketch; Ina is the wife of K. W. Ivery, a pharmacist of Lansing, Michigan; Dr. C. W., who was graduated from the medical department of the University of Michigan, is now engaged in the practice of medicine at Livermore, California; P. W., who was graduated in pharmacy from the University of Michigan, is engaged in his profession at Kalamazoo, Michigan; Dr. H. W. is practicing dentistry at Grand Lodge, Michigan; Vivian is a student in the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, Michigan.

A. A. Mack received his early education in the public schools of his native community in Canada, later attending Ontario College of Pharmacy, Toronto, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of Pharmaceutical Chemist. He came to Portland, Michigan, in 1909, where he has since been successfully engaged in the drug business, and is the able and industrious manager of the Crane Drug Company.

A. A. Mack was married in March, 1901, to Mabel L. Hodgson, at Hadley, Michigan. To this union a son and a daughter have been born, Thelma, whose birth occurred on July 12, 1903, and Kenneth, who was born on February 20, 1913.

Mr. Mack is a member of Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is the present master. He also belongs to Chapter No. 39, Royal Arch Masons, in which he is master of the third veil.

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### DINSMORE BROTHERS.

The Dinsmore brothers, Adelbert S. and Albert, twins, are well and favorably known in Ionia county. As proprietors of "Pine Grove Farm" in Portland township, they have proven themselves to be up-to-date farmers in every respect. They were born on June 18, 1868, in Portland, Michigan, and are the sons of George and Helen (Scott) Dinsmore. This is one of the old pioneer families of Ionia county. The father was born at Portland, April 15, 1838, but the mother was born in the state of New York, November 16, 1839. She came to Michigan in 1854, and to Ionia county the following year. She was educated in the schools of her native state, and in Michigan and Missouri. George Dinsmore grew up in his native community, where he attended school and here has always resided. When a young man he learned the shoemaker's trade. He located on a farm on February 18, 1894, and resided here until his death March 10, 1912. He was married on December 29, 1858. He was a member of Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons, and Chapter No. 39, Royal Arch Masons, and also belonged to the Ionia Commandery. He was supervisor of Portland township for eight years, and was one of the county poor commissioners for some time. His family consisted of three children, two sons and a daughter, the latter dying when nine months old.

Adelbert S. Dinsmore was reared in his native community and received his education in the public schools and the high school. When a young man he began life as a farmer, which he has continued ever since. He married Blanche A. Sandborn, March 28, 1894. She was born in Portland township, and was educated in the public schools of Baldwin, Michigan, also in Portland, to which place her parents moved when she was sixteen years of age. To Adelbert S. Dinsmore and wife a daughter has been born, Dana M., whose birth occurred on February 19, 1896; she attended the high school



in Portland and is now a student in the State Normal at Ypsilanti, taking a musical course, both voice and instrumental. Adelbert S. Dinsmore is a member of the Universalist church, and Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons.

Albert W. Dinsmore grew up in his native community and received his education in the public schools. On July 26, 1905, he was married to Eva R. Sandborn, a sister of his brother's wife. They are the parents of two children, namely: Ruth B., born on February 22, 1909, and Mildred S., born May 12, 1913. Albert W. Dinsmore is a member of the same lodges and the same church as his brother, and they are both Republicans. The farm is situated two miles east of Portland and contains one hundred and eighty-five acres of well improved and productive land. In connection with general farming they raise an excellent grade of live stock.

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#### DELMER A. PACKARD.

One of the enterprising merchants and public-spirited citizens of Portland Ionia county is Delmer A. Packard, who was born in Hillsdale, Michigan, July 26, 1859, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Atkinson) Packard. At the age of thirteen years he was left an orphan and compelled to make his own way in the world, and so the success he has achieved has been solely by his own indomitable efforts. His opportunities to acquire an education were limited, but he has educated himself by wide home reading and close observation. He first worked in the lumber camps, later on farms, and thus he had it "up and down" until he was twenty-one years old when he found himself square with the world. He rented a farm for awhile, then went to Grand Rapids where he secured employment in a lumber yard, and later he became superintendent of parks in that city. For seven years he was a traveling salesman and moved to Portland in 1905. He entered the implement business which he has carried on to the present time with ever-increasing success, enjoying an excellent trade throughout the county, and carrying at all seasons a large and well-selected stock of farming machinery and vehicles. He also buys and ships live stock in large numbers.

Delmer A. Packard was married to Libbie M. Branker, of Union township, Branch county, Michigan, in 1882, and to their union one daughter has been born, Lulu M. Packard, whose birth occurred in March, 1892. She received her education in the Portland public and high school, graduating

from the latter, then took the course at the State Normal, Ypsilanti, Michigan, from which institution she received a life certificate to teach, and is now one of the teachers in the grade schools of Portland.

Politically, Mr. Packard is a Republican, and is active in the party. He was elected supervisor of Portland township in 1914 and is the present incumbent of that office. He is a member of Doric Lodge No. 342, Free and Accepted Masons, at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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#### WILLIAM R. GRANT, M. D.

Dr. William R. Grant, veteran physician and surgeon of Lyons, this county, and one of the best-known and most influential citizens of Ionia county, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born in the town of Lyons, New York, November 22, 1854, son of John and Elizabeth (Rogers) Grant, both natives of England, who later became residents of Michigan, in which state their last days were spent. The Grants are an old and well-established family in England, ancestors of the line from which Doctor Grant is sprung having received armorial honors from Queen Elizabeth, while others were accorded like distinctions at the hands of Queen Anne.

John Grant was born at St. Charles, England, in 1824, and when eighteen years old, in 1842, came to the United States, locating at Warsaw, New York, where he began working at his trade, he having become a proficient carpenter and wagon-maker in his home country. Several years after locating at Warsaw John Grant married Elizabeth Rogers, who was born in Canterbury, England, in 1826, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Rogers, and who came to this country with her father after the death of her mother. In 1855 John Grant and family came to Michigan from New York and settled at Watson, in Allegan county, where Mr. Grant became actively engaged at his trade and became a useful citizen of that town. His wife died there in 1898 and about 1913 he went to West Branch, where he died on March 29, 1915, at the advanced age of ninety-one years.

William R. Grant was but a babe in arms when his parents came to Michigan, in 1855, and he grew to manhood at Watson, this state. He was trained to the carpenter trade by his father and became a proficient builder, but his heart was in educational work and he early became a teacher in the public schools, organizing at Watson, in 1878, the first graded



MIR AND MRS. WILLIAM R. GRANT.





district school in the state of Michigan, his school enrolling seventy-five pupils. So successful did his experiment there prove that in 1882 he was called to take charge of the schools at Mancelona, in Antrim county, this state, at that time enrolling two hundred pupils, and remained there for seven years, during which time he reorganized the schools and created the high school, graduating three classes from the latter, the schools of Mancelona having four hundred and fifty pupils and eight teachers when he finally gave up his educational labors to enter the medical profession. Doctor Grant never had an opportunity in his youth to attend a graded school, but from early childhood was a diligent student and assiduously applied himself to his studies, becoming an excellent scholar, well grounded in the branches taught in high schools and academies, and is even yet pursuing his studies, being at present engaged in a self-mastery of certain foreign languages. While at Mancelona he was elected superintendent of schools of Antrim county, in which office he served for six years, and also established a normal review course for teachers there. He was elected county clerk and register of deeds of Antrim county, overcoming a normal majority of six hundred against him, being the only candidate on his party ticket to be elected, but the margin was so close that when his opponent entered a contest he gracefully withdrew rather than to create a possible friction.

During the period of his educational labors, Doctor Grant gave considerable attention to medical literature and early determined to become a physician. With that end in view he entered the Michigan School of Medicine and Surgery in September, 1880, and was graduated from the same on March 14, 1891. At the beginning of the vacation period of his junior year in college, April 1, 1890, Doctor Grant opened an office for the practice of his profession at Lyons, this county, and upon receiving his diploma returned there and has been practicing in that thriving village ever since. In 1908 failing health compelled him to retire for a while from practice and he and his wife spent the winter in Cuba and the Isle of Pines. They have traveled extensively elsewhere, both East and West. Though for some years past Doctor Grant's health has not been up to its former vigorous standard he continues actively engaged in his practice and performs surgical operations with as firm a hand as ever. Doctor Grant was the first surgeon in Ionia county to perform the operation for appendicitis. He keeps fully abreast of the latest advances in his profession and in October, 1902, was graduated from the Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital at Chicago. The doctor has ever been a hard worker and at one time

drove for sixty-three hours, making medical calls, without stopping for sleep or rest. From 1893 to 1899 he was a member of the local pension board. He is a Knights Templar Mason and a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and for years has taken a warm interest in the affairs of those organizations.

Doctor Grant has been twice married. In September, 1877, while still living at Watson, he was united in marriage to Belle McDougall, who was born in Fowlerville, New York, daughter of Alexander and Margaret McDougall, natives of the Highlands of Scotland, who had located at Watson about 1866, and to that union four children were born, of whom but one now survives, Dr. William A. Grant, well-known and progressive physician of Lyons, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. One daughter and one son died in infancy and another daughter, Nellie, died when twenty-three years of age. The mother of these children died on March 13, 1893, and in October, 1894, Doctor Grant married, secondly, Lillian Daskam, who was born in North Plains township, this county, August 12, 1870, daughter of Hiram S. and Julianna (Truesdell) Daskam, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania, whose last days were spent in this county. Mrs. Grant graduated from the Muir high school, and, becoming a teacher, she taught school until her marriage.

Hiram S. Daskam was born in Chemung county, New York, in 1837, and in 1846 went with his parents to Henry county, Illinois, where he remained until 1853, in which year he went to Iowa, locating in Winneshiek county, where he was living when the Civil War broke out. In 1861 he enlisted in the Third Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, being mustered out as a sergeant. During his military service, Mr. Daskam underwent a series of remarkable adventures, which are graphically set out in a book of absorbing interest, published some years ago under the title of "The Adventures of an Escaped Andersonville Prisoner." In July, 1864, he was taken prisoner at Atlanta and was confined in Andersonville prison. While being transferred later to the military prison at Florence, North Carolina, he escaped by leaping from the train, but after numerous thrilling experiences, hiding out in the swamps and bushes, dodging the enemy, was re-captured and sent to the military prison at Wilmington and thence to Florence, where he again made his escape by cutting through the floor of his prison, but was presently again retaken. He once more, however, made his escape, but soon was recaptured. His resourcefulness presently opened up for him another

means of escape, however, and this time he was able, by traveling nights and hiding out during the days, to rejoin his regiment. At the close of his military service, Mr. Daskam returned to Iowa, where, on December 25, 1865, he was united in marriage to Julianna Truesdell, a school teacher, who was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1844, daughter of John and Chestina (Pope) Truesdell, who had located at Fremont, Iowa, in 1865. In 1867 Hiram S. Daskam and his wife and the latter's parents and the other members of their family came to Michigan from Iowa by "prairie schooners" and located in North Plains township, this county, where Hiram S. Daskam died in May, 1873. His widow remained on the farm until 1882, when she moved to Muir, where she remained until 1897, and then moved to the village of Lyons, where she is now living.

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#### FRANK S. WILKINS.

Many of the farmers of Ionia county, while engaging in general agricultural pursuits, have found it advantageous to specialize in some line. The specialty of Frank S. Wilkins, of Portland township, is in raising a fine grade of hogs. Mr. Wilkins was born in Danby township, this county, July 8, 1868, and is a son of S. B. and Marietta (Peters) Wilkins. The father was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, and he grew to manhood on a farm in that state, but when a young man he came to Ionia county, Michigan, and bought a farm in Danby township of eighty acres on which he lived from about 1865 until in 1878 when he sold out and purchased one hundred and twenty acres west of the town of Portland, and lived there four years, then sold out and bought eighty acres on which the subject of this sketch now resides, and here he made his home until about 1903 when he moved to the Lockwood place nearby, which he bought and there his wife died. In 1910 he sold the eighty-acre farm to his son, Frank S., who moved here in 1910. Later he bought property in Portland where he still resides. His family consists of two children, Frank S. and Carrie E., born on January 27, 1871, wife of O. C. Allen, of Detroit.

Frank S. Wilkins grew up on the home farm where he worked in summer and he received his education in the district schools and the high school at Portland. He remained under his parental roof-tree until he was twenty-three years of age, then went to the state of Mississippi, in 1891, and worked for the Champion Lumber Company as shipping clerk for a year, then

returned home and clerked in the town of Portland for George W. Allen in his clothing store, at intervals for three years, also worked on the farm some. In the fall of 1895 he went to Indianapolis and worked with Kingan & Company, Limited, for a year and one-half, then returned to Ionia county and bought out one of the heirs of the old Emery farm, the other heir being his wife, she and her brother having inherited this farm from their father. Mr. Wilkins lived there until in 1910 when he sold out and bought the place he now owns, two miles east of Portland, which place consists of eighty acres. He makes a specialty of raising Ohio Improved Chester hogs, and is doing well in this line as well as in general farming.

Frank S. Wilkins was married on January 9, 1894, to Kittie Emery, daughter of John B. and Kate (Baker) Emery, the former born in New York state, and the latter of Indianapolis. Their children were Herbert T. and Kittie. Mrs. John B. Emery is still living. John Emery died about thirty-four years ago. To Frank S. Wilkins and wife have been born one child, Katherine, a student at the Portland high school, and will finish this year. Mrs. Wilkins is a member of the Portland Literary Society.

Politically, Mr. Wilkins is a Democrat. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America at Portland.

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#### ELMAR N. GREEN.

An enterprising merchant of Portland, Ionia county, who has won success in life by his own persistent and well-directed efforts is Elmar N. Green, manager and part owner of the Portland Hardware Company. He was born on a farm in Portland township, this county, December 25, 1877, and is a son of Norton and Louise (Randall) Green. The father was also a native of the above named township and county where his parents settled in early pioneer days, and there he grew to manhood, married and established his home, becoming a successful farmer and useful citizen. He was the father of three children, namely: Lillian is the widow of Frank J. Rapp and they live in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Elmar N., the subject of this sketch; Matie, the wife of W. W. Lung, of Kalamazoo, has four children, Lawrence, Reva, Christine and Ronald.

Elmar N. Green grew up on the home farm and received his education in the district schools and those of Portland, later taking a business course in the commercial college at Ionia, after which he went to Rochester, New



York, where he worked eight years as conductor on an interurban line, then returned to Portland and in partnership with W. W. Lung, in 1905, engaged in the hardware business under the firm name of Green & Lung, the firm being changed the following year to that of Green & Fineis. They sold an interest in 1910 to C. L. Crane, when the name was changed to the Portland Hardware Company, by which it has since been known. They carry a large and carefully-selected stock of all kinds of hardware and do plumbing and heating business and carry on an extensive trade with the surrounding country.

Elmar N. Green was married on August 8, 1906, to Louise Brooks, a daughter of Stephen Brooks, who was born in Caledonia, Michigan, from which place she came to Portland with her parents when young. To this union two children have been born, Fannie Elnora is attending the Portland schools, and Walter Brooks, who is in the kindergarten school.

Politically, Mr. Green is a Republican, but is not active in politics. He has been village clerk for the past two years. Fraternally, he belongs to Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons, the chapter and council in Portland and the Knights Templar at Ionia. He is one of the prominent Masons in this section of the state.

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#### BENEVOLENT H. STEVENS.

It is just that the old soldier be accorded special mention during his declining years and after he passes away his descendants should take pride in recounting his services to his country in her hour of peril and revere his memory. One of the eligibles for specific mention in this history is Capt. Benevolent H. Stevens, a retired farmer of Lyons, Ionia county, partly because he is one of the veterans of the "grand army" that saved the nation, and partly because he has led an honorable life of more than three score and ten in this locality.

Benevolent H. Stevens was born in section 25, Lyons township, Ionia county, April 26, 1841, and is a son of Preston and Theda L. (Hopkins) Stevens. The father was born in Tompkins county, New York, September 5, 1805, and was a son of Benevolent and Susan (Hunter) Stevens. Preston Stevens grew up in his native community and in 1837 came to Michigan, locating in Lyons township, Ionia county, where he bought a farm from an uncle, who had entered it from the government, when the country

roundabout was a wilderness. Here he developed a good place and made his home, and here he married Theda L. Hopkins, April 2, 1840. She was born on March 20, 1807, in Washington county, New York, and was a daughter of Robert Hopkins, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War from New York, for a period of seven years, two of which were spent in a military prison at Montreal. Theda L. Hopkins moved to Oakland county, Michigan, where her cousin, Rev. Chauncey Reynolds, lived, coming with his family in 1836 and settling in Lyons. After his marriage, Preston Stevens continued improving his farm, later buying another farm about two miles away, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1858, his widow surviving until 1885.

Benevolent H. Stevens grew up on his father's farm amid a pioneer environment. He has lived to see great changes in this county and talks most interestingly of the past. On September 5, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Ninth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and was soon in the Army of the Cumberland, serving under Generals Thomas, Rosecrans and Sherman, and was in the campaigns in Kentucky and Tennessee, in all of Rosecrans's battles, ending with the great conflict of Chickamauga, September 19 and 20, 1863; also served in the Atlanta campaign, and after the fall of that city returned with General Thomas to Chattanooga, and on to Nashville in April, 1865, where he remained until the following September. Although in many of the great battles of the war, he escaped with only a slight wound. He proved to be a very efficient and gallant soldier and was promoted from private through every rank to and including that of captain, serving the last five months of his enlistment as captain. He was in the service four years and ten days, and during all that time was not in the hospital more than ten days in all. B. H. Stevens and J. O. Probasco, of Muir, Ionia county, who were schoolmates, went out as privates and were advanced to the rank of captain.

After the war, Captain Stevens returned home and in 1866 began farming for himself on the old home place on which he spent five years, then moved to Tennessee where he farmed five years, then operated a portable steam saw-mill in that state for a period of fourteen years. He returned to Lyons, Michigan, October 1, 1888, and engaged in farming in this vicinity until 1904 when he retired from active life and moved into the village of Lyons, where he has since lived.

Capt. B. H. Stevens was first married on January 30, 1864, to Ver-  
nette L. Bennett, who was born in Niagara county, New York. She came to Ionia county when ten years old with her parents, who located in Lyons

township. By his first marriage one son was born, Frank B. Stevens, who died in Tennessee when twenty years old. He was well educated and a very promising young man and of fine physical makeup. The Captain's first wife died on March 16, 1913. She was a member of the Episcopal church, the Woman's Relief Corps and the Order of the Eastern Star. On December 19, 1914, Captain Stevens was married to Mrs. Helen (Way) Mans, who was born in Portland township, Ionia county, and is a daughter of Alanson and Magdalene Way. Mrs. Stevens grew up in her native community and received a common-school education. She married Dorman Mans in her youth. He was a native of Canada, from which country he came to Ionia county and engaged in farming. By her first marriage three children were born, Samuel Alanson, who lives in Ionia township; Harrison, who lives in the village of Lyons, and Frederick Miller, also of Lyons.

Mrs. Stevens belongs to the Woman's Relief Corps. Captain Stevens has been a Mason fifty-two years, joining this order in 1864, and he was made a life member in 1912. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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#### WILLIAM A. GRANT, M. D.

Success in the medical profession comes as a result of merit and painstaking effort. In the industrial world one may by the proverbial "lucky stroke" win great results or may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance, but professional advancement, especially as a physician, is to be depended on solely by critical study and consecutive research long continued. Realizing this at the outset, Dr. William A. Grant, an energetic practicing physician at Lyons, Ionia county, worked hard and conscientiously to advance himself and is today reaping just rewards. He was born on August 26, 1878, at Watson, Allegan county, Michigan. He is a son of William R. and Mary Belle (McDongal) Grant. The father was born in Lyons, New York, in November, 1853, and his parents brought him to Michigan when he was less than two years old. His parents, John and Elizabeth Grant, located on a farm near Watson, where he grew to manhood and married Mary Belle McDougall, who was born at Watson, and was a daughter of Alexander McDougall and wife, who came to this country from Scotland. William R. Grant attended school at Otsego after which he engaged in teaching for seven years at Mancelona, where he was principal of the schools, and he organized the high school there, after which

he went to Detroit and took a course in medicine in Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery, from which he was graduated in 1891, then came to Lyons where he has successfully practiced medicine ever since. He has served as president of the village of Lyons, and for about eight years served on the board of pension examiners. He has also been a member of the school board for some years. He has long been influential in local public affairs. His family consisted of four children, two of whom died in childhood; Nellie died when twenty-one years old; thus Dr. William A. is the only survivor.

William A. Grant received his early education in the local public schools, then entered Saginaw Valley Medical College, at Saginaw, Michigan, from which institution he was graduated in 1902, after which he began practicing his profession in Lyons where he has continued successfully for nearly fourteen years with marked success along general lines. Like his father, he takes an active interest in public affairs, and has been a member of the local school board, also has filled the position of health officer and others within the gift of the people.

William A. Grant was married in 1902 to Anna Marshall, who was born in Ontario, Canada. She is a daughter of William R. and Mary (Clark) Marshall, natives of Canada. They removed to Saginaw when Mrs. Grant was about three years old, and there they established their permanent home, the father's death occurring there in January, 1916. Two children have been born to Doctor and Mrs. Grant, Marshall and Lionel.

Doctor Grant is a member of the Masonic order and his wife is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### FRED D. KEISTER.

One of the best newspapers of its type in central Michigan is the *Pewamo News*, the editor and proprietor of which is Fred D. Keister, who keeps well informed on current events and is a tactful and versatile newspaper man. He was born in Pewamo, Ionia county, October 23, 1877, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Stretsbury) Keister. The father was born in Mercer county, Ohio, near Coldwater, and there he grew up and married. In the early seventies he and his wife removed to Paris, Michigan, and about four years later came to Pewamo where he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1905. His widow is now making her home at Sparta, Michigan.

David Keister was a soldier in the Civil War for three and one-half years, serving in Company K, Fortieth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, taking part in many engagements, including the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga and the siege of Atlanta. Although he had many narrow escapes he was never wounded nor seriously ill. Several times he saw his comrades next to him in the line killed. After the war he returned home and devoted most of his time to farming the rest of his life. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His family consisted of eight children, an equal number of sons and daughters, namely: John W. died in 1894; Estella is the wife of H. H. Trask; Bruce M. is a banker at Sparta, Michigan; Alice<sup>o</sup> died in 1901; Addie is the wife of George Miller, of Pewamo; Fred D. is the subject of this sketch; Della E. is the wife of Phil Bradstrum and they live in Sparta; David P. is the western representative of the Huron Cement Company, with headquarters at Grand Rapids.

Fred D. Keister received his education in the public schools of Pewamo and was graduated from the high school in 1894, there being but one other graduate at that time—Eugene Sunderlin, who recently built an automobile road up Pike's Peak.

On August 1, 1898, Fred D. Keister married Nora O. Henry, who was born near Fowler, Michigan, daughter of Michael and Anna E. (Curry) Henry, both of Irish ancestry. They resided many years near Fowler where Michael Henry engaged in farming and was also a lumber inspector. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Keister, namely: Thelma, Fred and Clemence.

In 1898 Mr. Keister started the *Pewamo News* which he conducted until 1903 when he sold out to E. S. Fuller, of Lyons, who discontinued its publication some three years later. In June, 1903, while a member of the professional baseball team of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, Mr. Keister was appointed postmaster at Pewamo, succeeding Eugene Randolph, deceased, and he continued as postmaster until 1906. He also ran a store two years, then sold out. From 1906 until October, 1910, he was employed as traveling salesman, then he revived the *Pewamo News*, which he has since been conducting. He has succeeded in building up a good property. Being a writer of humor of an exceptional order he has attracted state-wide attention, and his spicy, timely and witty articles are copied weekly in many newspapers throughout Michigan and other states. Much of his stuff is in the form of prose but has the rhyme and rhythm of verse. He has done some truly meritorious work. The noted humorists of many of the metropolitan papers

often copy his squibs and oddities in their columns. His "Single Top Trail" column is rapidly making him famous. "Single top" refers to a small one-tent circus that makes the smallest towns of the country. He was at one time advance agent for such a show. In his earlier career he was known as "the boy orator" and did a great deal of public speaking. His paper has a large circulation, is all that could be desired from a mechanical standpoint and is a valuable advertising medium. He is a booster for his community.

Politically, Mr. Keister is a Republican, and has long been active in the party. He is village clerk and has also been justice of the peace for four years.

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### JOHN ASHLEY, JR.

Having spent several decades of hard work as a mason, John Ashley, Jr., now living in retirement in Lyons, Ionia county, feels that he is justly entitled to an old age of quiet, and none will gainsay him. He was born on March 3, 1842, at Greenbush, across the Hudson river from Albany, New York. He is a son of John and Ann (Gollins) Ashley, both natives of Lincolnshire, England, where they were reared and married. When their eldest son was eighteen months old they immigrated to America, five months before John, Jr., was born. The father was an overseer in his native land, and he continued farming after locating in the new world. He removed from Greenbush, New York, to Albany, and later to Utica, then to Syracuse, and in 1851 came West with his family to Racine, Wisconsin, but a year later returned to Syracuse. In 1855 he moved to Byron, Shiawassee county, Michigan, and in the spring of 1856 came to Lyons, Ionia county, buying property in the village. He engaged in farming near here and also followed masonry for some time at intervals. He was a great reader and was a well-informed man, was an excellent mathematician and a man of much natural ability. In England he was foreman over workmen on a farm of fourteen hundred acres, owned by Esquire Birch. He was born in April, 1799, and died in October, 1888, in his ninetieth year. His wife preceded him to the grave in 1882. Their family consisted of four sons, namely: James, who died at Ft. Scott, Kansas; John, Jr., the subject of this review, who has spent most of his life at Lyons since the year 1855; William's whereabouts have been unknown for many years; George died in Nebraska some time ago.

On August 6, 1862, John Ashley, Jr., enlisted in Company D, Twenty-

first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. He was promoted for meritorious conduct from private to first sergeant. He was in the Army of the Cumberland and was with Sherman on his march to the sea and was in all the fighting which continued on up through the Carolinas. He went on with the troops to Washington and was in the Grand Review at the close of the war, commanding a body of troops there. After the war he returned to Lyons, Michigan, and in 1867 was married to Mary L. Johnson, a daughter of Washington and Emeline Johnson, natives of New York, who lived in Illinois for a time previous to coming to Lyons, Michigan, which was about the year 1858. Mr. Johnson bought eighty acres three miles south of Lyons, where Mrs. Johnson died, but his death occurred in Lyons. Mrs. Ashley's death occurred in May, 1873, leaving three little children: Herbert J., the eldest; Arthur J., who died when nine years old; and Mary L., wife of Jesse Berry, lives at Six Lakes and they have two children, Lyle and Marjory. Herbert J. Ashley, who lives in Lyons, married Alice Steinhauer, and they have three daughters, Ethelyn, who is now attending the State Normal at Ypsilanti; Beatrice is in school at Lyons; Mildred is also in the local public schools.

After the war John Ashley, Jr., followed the mason's trade, in which he became highly skilled. He built some of the finest houses in Lyons, including residences and business blocks as well as public buildings, including the stone point building in which the bank is located. He continued to follow his trade until his retirement, often taking contracts for the erection of buildings. In 1876 he went to Union county, Dakota territory, locating near the Black Hills. He was some time in making the trip, having to go by steamer from Yankton, which consumed seven days to Ft. Pierce, then two hundred and twenty miles overland. He was with a party of ninety-one people, which was conveyed by thirty-seven rigs. They were compelled to make a detour to avoid the Indians who were still hostile, this being about the time that Custer's army was massacred. Mr. Ashley went to visit a brother and while in that country married Martha McMillan, who was a native of Iowa. He returned with his wife to Lyons soon thereafter. About 1890 he took up land in the Upper Peninsula and was a contractor at Trout Creek. The buildings he erected there would make a good-sized town. After remaining there two years he returned to Lyons and has lived here continuously ever since. He was very successful as a contractor and has a comfortable competency for his declining years. His second wife died January 11, 1908, leaving two children, Myrtie M., wife of Chester Randall, a rural mail carrier living at Lyons, and they have one son, Floyd. Leon

Mr., the second child, lives at Sioux City, Iowa, where he has been connected with the First National Bank for about fourteen years. He married Mabel Isham, of Lyons, and they have two children, Annie and Dorothy.

Mr. Ashley belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his son Herbert were the first two bricklayers who worked on the Commonwealth dam. He did the masonry on the Methodist church in 1881; the beautiful sandstone house of Dr. Kelley in 1882; the Webber home, now the residence of Mr. Ruel, in 1879; the Webber block in 1902, and others of the best in Lyons.

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### FRED BENTON.

Fred Benton, a well-known farmer of Otisco township, this county, is a native of Ionia county, having been born on the farm on which he still makes his home in section 25, Otisco township, on June 2, 1870, son of Daniel and Ellen (Hanks) Benton.

Daniel Benton, who is a veteran of the Civil War, was born in Madison county, New York, February 16, 1840, son of Malington Benton and wife, natives of New York state, of old "Yankee" stock, and was ten years old when his parents moved to Michigan and settled in this county. Malington Benton entered eighty acres of "Congress" land in Otisco township and there established his home, both he and his wife spending the rest of their lives there. They were the parents of five sons, all of whom enlisted for service in the Union army at the outbreak of the Civil War. Daniel Benton enlisted on April 27, 1861, in Company D, Third Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front. At the second battle of Bull Run, August 29, 1862, he was severely wounded and was later honorably discharged on account of disability incurred by reason of his wound. Later in the war he tried to re-enlist, but was rejected, the effects of his wound being of such a character as practically to incapacitate him from service. Upon returning from the front, Mr. Benton remained at the old home for a year and then established a home on the farm where he now lives. To him and his wife were born two sons, Ernest, who is also an Otisco township farmer, and Fred, the subject of this sketch. Daniel Benton is a member of the Belding post of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of which patriotic organization he takes a warm interest.

Fred Benton was reared on the home farm, where he still makes his home, and received his education in the district school in the neighborhood



of his home. On November 20, 1805, he was united in marriage to Minnie Donner, who was born in Ohio, daughter of William and Christina (Geiger) Donner, both natives of Germany, who were married in Ohio and in 1879 came to Michigan, settling on a farm in Otisco township, this county, where they established their permanent home. For a year after their marriage Fred Benton and wife made their home on a rented farm, but later settled on the old Benton place and ever since have lived there. To them four children have been born, as follow: Eva, who took a business course at Ferris Institute, and is now engaged in office work at Belding; Christina, at Grand Rapids, and Lulu and Arthur. Fred Benton is a Republican and has served as highway overseer for his district. He is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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#### DAYTON DOUGLASS.

Dayton Douglass, well-known blacksmith and wagon-maker and dealer in wagons, buggies and general harness supplies, at Muir, this county, is one of the numerous residents of this county who claim nativity in the great Empire state. He was born in Otsego county, New York, on April 29, 1850, son of William and Eliza (Monk) Douglass, and grew up on a farm there. In 1870, when twenty years old, he married and he and his bride straightway made their way to the woods of Michigan, from which region excellent reports then were being received back East. They came to Ionia county and located at Muir, which then was at the height of its prosperity, during the days of greatest activity in the lumber industry hereabout.

For two years after settling at Muir, Mr. Douglass worked in the lumber mills, incidentally learning the blacksmith trade, and in 1873 started a blacksmith shop of his own, buying out one of the five smithies that then were doing a good business at Muir, and has been engaged in that business ever since, his shop long having been the only blacksmith shop in the town. When he settled there, Muir had a population of at least one thousand and five lumber mills were running day and night. Though Mr. Douglass's shop, of the five that then were in business, now alone remains, it is a busy place and the proprietor is also busily engaged in other kindred lines. He early took up wagon-making, in connection with the work of his smithy, and still builds and repairs wagons, at the same time carrying on quite an extensive business in the sale of wagons, buggies and general harness sup-

plies. For ten years Mr. Douglass conducted a livery barn at Muir, but about 1909 gave up that business, though he still owns the barns, the business being carried on by another. He also owns a valuable farm about five miles north of Muir and gives much attention to the management of the same. Mr. Douglass is an enthusiastic sportsman and in earlier days hereabout, when there were still bears and deer in Ionia and neighboring counties, he was a great hunter. He still retains his interest in the sport and several mounted deer heads in his shop serve as souvenirs of hunting trips to the north in more recent years.

In 1870 Dayton Douglass was united in marriage to Rosetta Sherman, who was born in Otsego county, New York, daughter of Manson Sherman and wife, and to that union two children were born, Claude, who married Hattie Aekley and died at the age of twenty-one years, leaving a daughter, Bernice, and Howard, who died at the age of six months. The mother of these children died in 1881, and in 1882 Mr. Douglass married, secondly, Harriet Amelia Sherman, sister of his deceased wife, which union has been without issue. Mr. and Mrs. Douglass are members of the Disciples church and Mr. Douglass is a Knight Templar Masons and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

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#### NEWELL, HOTCHKISS.

Having spent his long life close to Nature, Newell Hotchkiss, a farmer near Lowell, Michigan, has come down to old age healthy and happy and can look back over his career with satisfaction. He was born in Oswego county, New York, March 23, 1836, and is a son of Gilbert and Mariah (Houghton) Hotchkiss, also natives of that county and state, where they grew up and were married. In pioneer days they removed to Ohio, locating in Lorain county in 1837, where they made their home for a period of thirteen years, coming on to Michigan in 1849, locating at Woodland, Barry county. After living there about three years they returned to Ohio, and there the death of the mother occurred. The father died in Barry county, Michigan. He devoted his life to general farming and owned a good farm in the last named county and state. His family consisted of six children, two of whom survive, Newell, the subject of this sketch, and Edwin, retired, lives in Council Grove, Kansas.

Newell Hotchkiss was reared on the home farm where he worked

when a boy, and he received his education in the district schools. When eighteen years old he gave his father one hundred dollars for his time, after which he worked out at farm labor and also learned the carpenter's trade in Barry county, Michigan. On July 17, 1859, he married Betsey Houghton, who was born in Steuben county, New York, November 3, 1836, and when ten years old her parents brought her to Woodland, Barry county, Michigan, and there she received a common-school education. At the time of his marriage, Mr. Hotchkiss purchased forty acres of land, on which he located and farmed there until the second year of the Civil War, when he enlisted, on August 6, 1862, in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He was soon sent South and fought in the Army of the Cumberland and later was with Sherman on his march to the sea, serving gallantly until the end of the war, taking part in many engagements. He was honorably discharged and returned home in June, 1865. The following autumn he sold his farm and came to Boston township, Ionia county, purchasing eighty acres on which he has since resided and on which he has made many improvements.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hotchkiss namely: Cora is the wife of Joseph Talent and they live in Boston township; Alma is the wife of Walter Blakesley; Edwin married Cassie Woods and they live on the home farm. Arvilla died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Hotchkiss is a Democrat. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Lowell, Michigan.

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#### ALEXANDER ROBERTSON.

Alexander Robertson, well-known banker and elevator man at Orleans, this county, and one of the most progressive and enterprising business men in that township, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born in the village of Pewamo, July 19, 1876, son of James and Eutencia C. (Henderson) Robertson, the former a native of Canada and the latter of this county, for many years prominent residents of the eastern part of Ionia county.

Alexander Robertson was reared at Pewamo and at the age of fourteen became a clerk in the private bank there, remaining with that institution for twelve years, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the State Savings Bank of Ionia and presently was made assistant cashier of the same and installed as manager of the branch bank of that institution

at Ionia, which position he held until August of 1914. In the summer of 1915 he purchased the elevator business at Orleans, Michigan, and in October of the same year opened a bank at the same place; he has a partner in the elevator business, Robert C. Wardup, but is sole owner and manager of the bank, giving his personal attention to all details. Mr. Robertson is a Republican.

On December 9, 1896, Alexander Robertson was united in marriage to Maud Wyman, who was born in Clinton county, this state, and to this union two daughters have been born, Janet, deceased, and Margaret, born in April, 1900, now a student in the Ionia high school. The Robertsons make their home at Ionia. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson attend the Presbyterian church there. Mr. Robertson is a member of Ionia Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons, at Ionia, and of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at the same place.

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#### RECTOR H. VAN VLECK.

Rector H. Van Vleck, a well-known and progressive farmer of Ronald township, for many years one of the most substantial residents of the Palo neighborhood, was born on a pioneer farm within sight of his present home just north of the village of Palo, February 8, 1854, and has lived in that vicinity all his life. His grandfather, Matthew Van Vleck, was the founder of what for many years was known as the Van Vleck settlement in Ronald township, and the Van Vleck influence in that community has been a power for good since pioneer days.

Matthew Van Vleck was born in Ulster county, New York, May 18, 1794, second in order of birth of the eight children born to his parents, John and Sarah Van Vleck, natives of that state, the former of whom was a farmer and tanner. At the age of twenty-two he married Deborah North, who was born in that same county and state, January 15, 1797, and a few years later he and his wife moved to Delaware county, New York, where they remained until 1838, in which year they came to Michigan, which had just been admitted to statehood, and located in Ionia county, settling on a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, one-half of section 2, in Ronald township, where they established their home, theirs being the third family to settle in that township. The family came by way of Detroit, three ox-teams being used to haul the household goods and other belongings through

PETER AND MARYE A YOUNG ALDRIN AND SON, FEBRUARY 11





the woods to this section. Much of the way was through unbroken forest and Matthew Van Vleck and his sons were compelled to cut a road as they proceeded, the toilsome journey from Detroit requiring fourteen days. The road cut through the woods from Ionia to his new home by Matthew Van Vleck was the first definite road northeast from Ionia and was long the highway to what presently came to be known as the Van Vleck settlement, in the vicinity of the present thriving village of Palo.

Matthew Van Vleck and his wife were the parents of five children, John, Catherine, Sarah, Peter and Albert, and all the youngsters took an active and able part in the development of the homestead in the wilderness, in due time establishing homes of their own thereabout. Mr. and Mrs. Van Vleck were devout Baptists and it was their wont, until they were able to secure the organization of a church of their faith in the vicinity of their home, to arise at two o'clock of a Sabbath morning and drive by ox-team to Ionia in time for meeting there. Upon the organization of a Baptist church in the Van Vleck settlement, Mr. and Mrs. Van Vleck were among the charter members of the same and their eldest son, John, who in the meantime had developed strong powers as a Baptist minister, was one of the chief contributors to the church as well as its first pastor, while their son-in-law, George D. Tasker, was the carpenter in charge of the erection of the church. Matthew Van Vleck was one of the early supervisors of Ronald township and held at various times other local offices, his strong personal influence ever being exerted in behalf of the cause of good government in the formative period of that now well-established and prosperous farming community. He retired from the active labors of the farm in 1854, when sixty years of age, but continued to make his home in the settlement so dear to his heart and lived to the great age of eighty-six years, his death occurring on April 24, 1880. His eldest son, the Rev. John Van Vleck, died in that same year. George D. Tasker, the carpenter mentioned above, married Catherine, the eldest daughter of Matthew Van Vleck and wife, their marriage being the first solemnized in Ronald township, and Peter Van Vleck shot a fine, big wild turkey to grace the wedding dinner.

Peter Van Vleck, father of the subject of this biographical sketch, was born near Middleton, Delaware county, New York, October 22, 1821, and was in his fourteenth year when the family came to this county, and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Ronald township. When he was twenty-one he bought the farm where his son, Rector, now lives, and began to develop the same. Four years later he married and established

his home on his farm and there spent the rest of his life, becoming one of the most influential and substantial residents of that community. He died on January 13, 1901, and his widow survived until January 3, 1913, she being eighty-one years of age at the time of her death. Marie A. Reddington was born near Amherst, Ohio, April 22, 1832, and came to Michigan when twelve years old with her parents, Nathaniel and Caroline (Salmon) Reddington, natives of Massachusetts, who came to this county from Lorain county, Ohio. Nathaniel Reddington died at his home in this county on January 20, 1854, and his widow survived until September 12, 1888, she being eighty-two years of age at the time of her death. Peter and Marie (Reddington) Van Vleck were earnest members of the Baptist church and long were looked upon as among the leaders in good works in their community. They were the parents of three children, Mary, who died in infancy; Rector H., the subject of this sketch, and Cassius, born on September 5, 1860, a well-known farmer, living northwest of Palo.

Rector H. Van Vleck was born on February 8, 1854, and grew to manhood on the paternal farm. He supplemented his schooling in the local schools by a course in the Michigan State Agricultural College. In 1876 he married and shortly afterward went to farming for himself on a portion of his father's farm and built a house on the north side of the farm, where he made his home until after the death of his parents, when he moved into the old farm house and there has resided ever since. He has remodeled the old house and made many improvements, having installed a steam-heating plant and a gas plant for lighting and in other ways adjusted the place to modern requirements and ways of living. The house is beautifully situated in a wide lawn, with a fine cedar hedge bordering the highway and is a very attractive and comfortable place. Mr. Van Vleck has given his thoughtful attention to public affairs and for six years served as supervisor of Ronald township. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church and taken earnest part in all movements looking to the promotion of the common interest in their home neighborhood.

On January 30, 1876, Rector H. Van Vleck was united in marriage to Betsy Swarthout, who was born at Wayne, Steuben county, New York, daughter of Charles and Lavina (Wortman) Swarthout, both of whom were born at Barrington, Yates county, New York, and who came to Michigan in April, 1865, and located at Palo, this county. Charles Swarthout bought a farm at the west edge of the village, his line being the main street of the town and when the place later was platted, the town took in a portion of his farm. He not only was a farmer but was an excellent car-



penter, and for a time was engaged in building threshing machines. He also conducted a hotel at Palo for some time and was otherwise active in the affairs of the village. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church. They were the parents of four children, Louisa, Sarah, William and Betsy. The two first named are dead and William Swarthout makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Van Vleck.

To Rector H. and Betsy (Swarthout) Van Vleck three children have been born: Earl, born in 1877, who is at home with his parents; Laverne C., born in April, 1879, married Alice Longwell and died on January 6, 1914, leaving one child, a son, Rector, and Leo R., born in 1881, who married Mildred Evans and is farming on his father's farm. He and his wife have two children, Marie K. and Charles D.

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#### EDWARD N. PARKER.

That the very best methods of modern farming have not been overlooked by Edward N. Parker, proprietor of "Fairview Fruit and Grain Farm" in Keene township, Ionia county, is evident to the observer, for everything seems to be in shipshape. He was born in Newark, Wayne county, New York, February 28, 1853, and is a son of Dr. E. B. and Sarah N. (Tyler) Parker, both born near Lake Champlain. Their parents were from the New England states. His father was a general merchant. Uriah Parker, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a blacksmith. He was a fine tenor singer, and led the choir in the Presbyterian church, of which he was a member. He moved to Michigan in early pioneer days, locating near Detroit, but after a short time went back to New York state, where he spent the rest of his life, in Wayne county. E. B. Parker was a physician. After attending the public schools he took a medical course, graduating with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He practiced his profession in Monroe county, New York, for a number of years, or until his health failed, when he retired and lived quietly in Newark until his death. He was an active member of the Presbyterian church. His family consisted of six children, three of whom are deceased; the two survivors besides Edward N. are Addie M., who is the wife of A. Duston, and Ferdinand J., of Rockford, Michigan.

Edward N. Parker was reared in Wayne county, New York, and there he attended the public schools, later the State Normal. When fifteen

years of age he was thrown upon his own resources, and he worked at whatever he could get to do to make an honest dollar. He went to Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1873. He had but five dollars and a little furniture. He went to work for the southern division of the street railway company, taking care of horses at a dollar and seventy-five cents a day. The following spring he went to work in the Crescent mills, at Grand Rapids, where he remained two and one-half years, at fair wages, then went to work at the Phoenix Furniture Company's plant, and about this time he bought a small house and lot, on the installment plan, finally trading his property for a farm southwest of Lowell, Kent county, and he lived there for a period of twenty-five years, selling his farm in 1910, and moved to Keene township, where he has a finely improved farm of one hundred and forty acres, on which he carries on general farming and fruit growing. His place is very desirably located, five miles northwest of Saranac.

Edward N. Parker was married on May 19, 1872, to Lucy E. Pollock, who was born in Wayne county, New York, October 14, 1852. She was reared on a farm and educated in the public schools. To this union two sons have been born, namely: J. E. Parker is single and lives at home, assisting his father with the farm work; Ray M. Parker married Mary Geher and they have three children.

Politically, Mr. Parker is a Republican. Fraternally, he belongs to Lowell Lodge No. 90, Free and Accepted Masons, and to the Hooker Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons. He and his wife belong to the Presbyterian church at Grand Rapids.

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#### VICTOR F. UPTON.

Believing with Longfellow that "within ourselves is triumph or defeat," Victor F. Upton, well-known banker at Lyons, Ionia county, determined at the outset of his career to so shape his course that when life's goal was reached he could look backward along the winding highway without compunction or regret, and so far he has left no stone unturned whereby he might honorably advance himself.

Victor F. Upton was born on April 5, 1877, at Utica, Macomb county, Michigan. He is a son of William and Jeanette (Aldrich) Upton. The father was born in Leicestershire, England, January 3, 1835. When nine years of age he came to America with his parents, John and Elizabeth

(Mitchell) Upton, the family stopping in Detroit, later moving to Utica, where William Upton grew to manhood and was married. His wife was a native of that place and was a daughter of Whipple and Polly (Frink) Aldrich, both natives of England. After his marriage, William Upton followed farming in Macomb county until about 1890 when he retired from active life. About ten years ago he removed to Rochester, Oakland county, where he and his wife still reside.

Victor F. Upton grew up on the home farm in Macomb county and there attended the public schools, graduating from the high school at Utica in 1893, then entered the Detroit Business University, from which he was graduated in 1894. After only two-weeks vacation he took a position in the bank at Rochester, owned by Webber, Hale & Company, and remained there eight months, then came to Lyons in 1895 and took a position in the local bank which was then owned by Samuel W. Webber, Sr., and his son, Samuel W. Webber, Jr. In 1913 Mr. Upton and Mr. Ruel bought out the Webber interests and have since operated the bank under the firm name of Ruel & Upton. It has gained steadily in prestige and importance and is one of the sound and popular banks of this section of the state. A general banking business is carried on. Mr. Upton also is a director in the State Savings Bank of Pewamo, which was organized on February 15, 1916, and he is also a stockholder in the First State Bank of Newaygo; also a stockholder in the Lyons Handle & Furniture Company. He has been very successful in a business way and is one of the leading business men of the younger generation in Ionia county. He is enterprising, energetic, a man of sound judgment and honorable impulses, enjoying the confidence and good will of all who know him.

Mr. Upton is a Democrat and is more or less active and influential in local party affairs. He has been clerk of Lyons township for the past sixteen years, most of the time, and the rest of the time—three or four years—deputy clerk. He has also been village treasurer, and he has been a member of the village council nearly all the time since taking up his residence here.

Victor F. Upton was married in 1903, to Pearl Herrick, who was born at Belding. She is a daughter of Charles and Ella D. (Clock) Herrick. The father was born near Detroit, and the mother was born and reared in Montcalm county, Michigan. When about twenty-two years old Mr. Herrick came to Ionia county, locating near Belding, where he engaged in farming and dairying, and later he was interested in the manufacture of

caskets for many years at Belding and Lyons, but he is again living on his farm.

Mr. Upton and wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order, being past high priest of the Royal Arch Masons at Lyons, and he and his wife belong to the Order of the Eastern Star.

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#### HIRAM N. LEE.

A man who has made a success of his chosen vocation and at the same time served his fellow citizens well in public office is Hiram N. Lee, farmer and ex-sheriff of Keene township, Ionia county. He was born in Odessa township, this county, June 14, 1848, and is a son of Hiram S. and Elvira (Marse) Lee, both natives of the state of New York, and they were reared in the same county, attended school and were married there. They came to Ionia county, Michigan, in 1837, among the early pioneers, craving a home from the wilderness, but later located in Keene township, near Potter's Corners, where they spent many years, finally moving to Saranac, where they died. They had devoted their active lives to general farming, and were the parents of three children, two of whom still survive, Henry Lee, who is engaged in farming in Keene township, and Hiram N. Lee, the subject of this sketch.

Hiram N. Lee was three years old when his parents located in Keene township, and here he grew to manhood and received his education in the old-time district schools, and at high school. He began farming when a boy and has never done anything else, with the exception of the time he spent in the sheriff's office. He owns a well improved and productive farm, and he pays considerable attention to raising and breeding Durham cattle. He is a stockholder in the Saranac State Bank and is a director in the same. He is one of the substantial men of his township and has long been active in the general welfare of his community. He was a stockholder in the creamery at Saranac, of which he was organizer and at one time owner.

Hiram N. Lee was married on September 27, 1868, to Christena Converse, a native of Canada. To this union one son has been born—Adelbert B. Lee, whose birth occurred on March 7, 1880. Adelbert attended the district schools, married Nancy Frost, and they have two children, Hiram N., Jr., and Elva Dell.

Mr. Lee is a Democrat in politics and has long been active in party

affairs. He was for some time clerk and supervisor of Keene township, and was elected sheriff of Ionia county for two terms of two years each, and during this period he made his residence in Ionia, the county seat. As a public servant he discharged his duties in an able and faithful manner, to the satisfaction of his constituents and all concerned. Adelbert B. Lee is a member of Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons, is a past master, and a member of Hooker Chapter No. 73, Royal Arch Masons, and he and his wife belong to Valley Chapter No. 276, Order of the Eastern Star, of which he is past worthy patron.

Hiram N. Lee is a member of Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons, also a member of Hooker Chapter No. 73, Royal Arch Masons, and Ionia Council No. 76, Royal and Select Masters, and the Ionia Commandery.

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#### GEORGE L. WEST.

Success has come to George L. West, of Muir, Ionia county, because he has worked consistently for it along legitimate lines. He was born in February, 1861, in North Plains township, this county, and is a son of Isaac and Sophia (Seymour) West. The father was born in the state of New York in 1833, and was a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth West. Isaac West came to Ionia county, Michigan, with his parents about 1856, the family locating in North Plains township when the country was wild and sparsely settled. A few years later they located at Muir, where Benjamin West conducted a grocery store and meat market for several years. Isaac West was married in New York state before the family came to Michigan. He engaged in teaming at Muir for some time, later buying a small farm near that place, on which he spent the rest of his life. He was highway commissioner for over twenty years, and although he was reared a Democrat he became a staunch Republican. Sophia Seymour was born in New York, probably in Steuben county, and was a daughter of Louis Seymour and wife, the father being of French stock. Benjamin West's parents were German, and the name was formerly spelled Weist. The Seymour family located in Ionia county some years after the Wests came, and they lived at Lyons awhile, then moved to Muir. The mother of the subject of this sketch died on January 25, 1910, her husband following her to the grave about a week thereafter, dying on February 4, of that year. They were the parents of four children, namely: Charles B., of Pontiac; George L.,

the subject of this review; Byron is deceased, and Olive, who is the wife of Henry Conner, and they live at Muir.

George L. West received his education in the public schools at Muir. When he was about twenty-three years old he began working in the elevator at that place, and was thus employed for six years, then bought an interest in the same, his partner being W. C. Hawley, and although having but little capital he made a success of the business, and when the railroad spur was built into Lyons, about 1902, he and Mr. Hawley took in a third partner, John U. Stott, and the firm built an elevator at Lyons, and these three men run the two elevators successfully until four years ago, when Mr. West retired from business. He had been very successful in a financial way, and has a comfortable home on the bluff overlooking Grand river.

Mr. West was first married in 1883 to Ida M. Greenhoe, a native of Ionia county, and a daughter of Michael and Magdalena (Orth) Greenhoe. Her father was an early settler in North Plains township, where he engaged in farming the rest of his life. Two children were born to this union, George G. and Ethel I. The former is a partner of G. W. Palmer in a store in Muir; he married Velma Weston. Mr. Palmer is the husband of Ethel I. The first wife of George L. West died in 1897, and in 1899 he married Carrie M. Conner, a daughter of Frank and Mary (Greenhoe) Conner. She was born in North Plains township, Ionia county, but her parents now reside in Muir.

Frank Conner was born on October 6, 1846, at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and is a son of Robert and Harriet (Hall) Conner, who came from Auburn, New York, in 1838, locating at Kalamazoo. Robert Conner was a carpenter and joiner, finally becoming a contractor and builder. He bought a farm in Lyons township in 1867 and here his death occurred two years later. His first wife, mother of Frank, died when Frank was five years old. He had two sons by his first marriage, Frank and Albert. He was three times married. His second wife bore him one son, Dyfay. Frank Conner started in life for himself when about fifteen years old, working as a carpenter, also in the lumber woods and the mills at Muir. During the early eighties he began farming for himself, buying a farm in North Plains township, later moved to another farm and finally to one he bought north of Ionia, and two years later bought a farm in section 4, Lyons township, where he farmed until 1911, when he retired, moving to Muir, where he still lives. On December 7, 1870, he married Mary Greenhoe, who was born in Ohio in 1852, and was two years old when her parents brought her to Ionia county. Her father, Michael Greenhoe, was born on July 8, 1821,

and his wife, Magdalena Orth, was born on April 3, 1833. They were married on April 3, 1851. Magdalena Orth was a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Vassias Orth and wife, who later moved to Ionia county, Michigan, buying a farm in Ronald township. Michael Greenhoe located in North Plains township, where he spent the rest of his life on a farm, dying there during the seventies. Mr. and Mrs. Conner have six daughters and one son, namely: Harry is the eldest; Jeannette is the wife of George McGlenchie; Carrie, wife of the subject of this sketch; Mary Matilda is the wife of Fred Evans, of Milford; Myrtle is the wife of William Dennis and they live near Muir; Fern is the wife of Glen Sayers and they live on a farm in Lyons township; Alice is the wife of Glen McLaren and they live in Grand Rapids.

Mrs. West is active in social life at Muir and vicinity, and she was one of the leaders in establishing and maintaining the public library at Muir.

Mr. West belongs to the Masonic order, including the chapter and council; also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. His wife is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

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### FRED CUTLER, JR.

Fred Cutler, Jr., manager of the "Quality Store" at Ionia and president of the Ionia Pottery Company, one of the best-known business men in this county, a former city clerk and alderman of the city and for years a prominent factor in the development of Ionia's best interests, is a native son of that city, having been born there on October 2, 1862, son of George and Katherine (Gastler) Cutler, natives of the kingdom of Wurttemberg and pioneer and prominent residents of Ionia, the former having been for many years one of the city's leading merchants.

George Cutler was reared and educated in Germany. He learned the trade of shoemaking after coming as a young man to the United States with a party including a brother and some other kinsfolk and located in Michigan. Upon coming to this section he first located in the neighboring county of Gratiot, but about 1857 moved over into Ionia and for about two years was engaged in construction work on the Grand Trunk railroad. The company then offered him the position of station master at Ionia, but he declined that offer to enter the shoe store of his brother, Fred, who meanwhile had engaged in business at Ionia. That was in 1862 and for

years George Cutler continued that connection, becoming known as the best bootmaker in the city, his family meanwhile growing up and taking their respective parts in the general life of the community. There were four children born to George Cutler and wife, namely: Fred, the subject of this biographical sketch; Sophia, who married Archie Anderson, of Ionia; George J., now a resident of Chicago, and Louise, who married Leslie James, of Zanesville, Ohio.

In 1880 the elder George Cutler formed a partnership with his cousin, George Lauster, under the firm name of Cutler & Lauster, and the two were engaged in the shoe business together for over twenty years, at the end of which time Mr. Cutler took his son, George J., into the business with him, the firm then becoming George Cutler & Son, and thus continued until the father's death, in 1911, he then being seventy-eight years of age and having been continuously engaged in the boot and shoe business in Ionia for a period of fifty years. His widow survived him several years, her death occurring in February, 1915, at the age of eighty-five. They were for many years earnest members of the German Evangelical church and Mr. Cutler not infrequently occupied the pulpit of that church, being a speaker of considerable power. He not only was diligent in his own business, always attentive to the needs of his store, regular in his habits as a clock, but gave considerable attention to the civic affairs of the community, and for two terms served as an alderman of the city. George Cutler's father died in Wurtemberg and his mother, Sophia, afterward came to this country and spent more than thirty years in Ionia, for years being lovingly known there as "Grandma" Cutler. She lived to the great age of eighty-seven years and was ever active in good works hereabout. She had four children, all of whom became identified with this community: Barbara, who married Gottlieb Lauster; George, the veteran shoe merchant; Regina, who married George Schaufele, and Frederick, for many years also a shoe merchant of Ionia.

Fred Cutler, Jr., eldest son of his parents, has lived all his life in Ionia. Upon completing the course in the public schools of the city he took a course in a business college, after which he began clerking in the dry-goods store of Allen S. Wright at Ionia and was thus engaged for six years, at the end of which time he opened a dry-goods store of his own, which he conducted quite profitably for ten years. He then sold the store, and for two years was engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, after which he became associated with T. A. Carten in the dry-goods business and was thus engaged for twelve years. After his father's death he became



associated with his brother, George, J., in the shoe business, but after two years of this connection was taken ill and for two years was incapacitated for business. Upon recovering he helped to organize a company which opened the popular "Quality Store" in the spring of 1914, and was elected secretary-treasurer and general manager of the concern. The "Quality Store" is one of the best-known and most progressive mercantile establishments in Ionia and makes a specialty of women's ready-to-wear goods, carpets, rugs and draperies. In addition to his extensive mercantile interests, Mr. Cutler is also prominently connected with the Ionia Pottery Company, of which company he is the president. He is a Republican and has found time to devote a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. For three terms he served as city clerk of Ionia, was an alderman one term and served as a member of the board of the Hall-Fowler memorial library for eight years, giving to all these important public duties his best and most thoughtful attention.

On June 2, 1887, Fred Cutler, Jr., was united in marriage to Alice M. Ryerson, who was born in Hastings, this state, daughter of Abraham and Harriet (Sartwell) Ryerson, who came to Michigan in the seventies. For many years Abraham Ryerson and wife made their home in Ionia and then moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where the former died, after which his widow returned to Ionia. Her death occurred in Montana while she was making a visit to that state, she then being well advanced in years. To Fred and Alice M. (Ryerson) Cutler one child has been born, a daughter, Alta Ione, who, after her graduation from the Ionia high school, attended the McLaughlin Business College at Grand Rapids and was bookkeeper and stenographer in the "Quality Store" at Ionia for two years, but at present is devoting her time principally to her music.

Mr. and Mrs. Cutler are members of the Presbyterian church at Ionia, Mr. Cutler being one of the trustees of the same, and have long been active in good works hereabout, being held in high regard by their many friends. Mr. Cutler is a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the state of Michigan. He is a member of Ionia Lodge No. 175, of that order at Ionia, and since 1907 has been grand treasurer of the grand lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Michigan. He also is a member of Ionia Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons, at Ionia; a member of Lucullus Lodge No. 76, Knights of Pythias, at the same place, and of Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest. The Maccabees and Royal Arcanum also claim him as an active member.

## E. J. GIFFORD.

F. J. Gifford, cashier of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Saranac, this county, village and township treasurer and a vital factor in the general civic and commercial life of that thriving little city, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a farm in Wells township, Tuscola county, this state, February 17, 1862, son of Joseph and Ann (Couch) Gifford, both natives of England, who had come to the United States by way of Canada, settling at Chagrin Falls, Ohio, from which place, in 1859, they came to Michigan, settling in Tuscola county. There Joseph Gifford homesteaded a tract of government land, bought some more and became the owner of four hundred acres, which he proceeded to clear and was in a way to do very well in the timber business. In 1869 his wife died, she then being thirty-five years of age, and not long afterward he was killed in a railway accident near Caro, this state. They were the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are still living. Upon the death of their parents these children were scattered, the subject of this sketch being given a home in the family of a farmer at Tuscola village, he then being ten years of age, and there he grew up, even from boyhood doing a man's work on the place, his schooling being limited to three months a year. At the age of nineteen, being desirous of extending his education, he worked diligently through the harvest season and with the money thus earned bought a cheap horse and wagon and started huckstering. It was not long before he had made two hundred dollars in this enterprise and he then got a place to work for Colonel Richardson for his board while attending the village school and thus worked his way through the tenth grade of the public school.

At twenty-one years of age Mr. Gifford began teaching school in Tuscola county and was thus engaged when he received the appointment as assistant supervisor of the state school for the deaf at Flint. After a year of that form of public service he went to Kingston village, where he engaged in the mercantile business and there he remained for twelve years, not only having a good trade, but acquiring one hundred and twenty acres of fine land in that neighborhood on which he did a good business in timber. He was from the beginning of his residence in Kingston one of the most active promoters of the interests of that village and was one of the most active leaders in the incorporation of the village, being elected first president of the same. For nine years he did public service as a member of the school board and was also village and township treasurer. Mr. Gifford is a Repub-

lian and has for years taken an active interest in state politics. In 1898 he was elected county clerk of Tuscola county, after which he sold his business at Kingston and on January 1, 1899, entered upon his official duties at the county seat. He was re-elected two years later and left office in 1903, after which he engaged in the clothing and footwear business at Caro, where he remained until 1907, in which year he bought a stock of goods at Wah-jamega, nearby, where he was located until 1910. In November of that year he became connected with the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Saranac, owner of one-third of the stock in the same, in association with Gunn & Proctor, and was made cashier of the bank, which position he still occupies and during which time he has gained a high place in banking and commercial circles in Ionia county. Mr. Gifford has taken an earnest interest in public affairs since coming to this county and is treasurer of Boston township and treasurer of Saranac village.

On August 8, 1888, F. J. Gifford was united in marriage to Belle Saddelson, daughter of Albertus Saddelson and wife, and to this union two daughters have been born, Ilah B., a graduate of the Saranac high school and of the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, who is now teaching in the second grade of the high school at Boyne City, this state, and Ivah M., also a graduate of the Saranac high school, who is assisting her father in the bank. Mr. Gifford is a member of Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

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#### WILLIAM H. SOMERS.

William H. Somers, a building contractor at Palo, this county, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on a pioneer farm in the southwest part of Ronald township, August 12, 1869, son of James H. and Caroline Phoebe (Johnson) Somers, both natives of New York state, for many years well-known and influential residents of this community, whose last days were spent in comfortable retirement in the pleasant village of Palo, where their son, the subject of this sketch, now lives.

James H. Somers was born in Steuben county, New York, May 30, 1839, son of Nicholas and Alvira (Yerton) Somers, the former of whom was born in Herkimer county, New York, March 4, 1812, son of John and Mary Catherine Somers, who came to this country from Germany. Alvira Yerton was a daughter of Henry and Kate (Madole) Yerton, the latter a

daughter of Thomas Madole, or MacDole, of Mohawk. Nicholas Somers died at his home in Ronald township, this county, in 1874. On February 21, 1861, in Stenben county, New York, James H. Somers was united in marriage to Caroline Phoebe Johnson, who was born at South Dansville, in that county, December 8, 1842, daughter of Lewis and Patience Calista (Louns) Johnson, the former of whom, born on April 29, 1812, son of Jesse and Mary (Hallock) Johnson, died in Montcalm county in 1896. Jesse Johnson was born on August 10, 1776, and died on May 23, 1845. It was in 1869, eight years after his marriage, that James H. Somers and his family came to Michigan and located in this county, settling on a farm in the southwest part of Ronald township, where he established his home and there remained for twenty-four years, at the end of which time he moved to California, but after a residence of a year there returned to Michigan, locating at Vickeryville, in Montcalm county. In 1906 Mr. Somers and his wife returned to the scenes of their old home in this county and located at Palo, where they spent the rest of their days. James H. Somers died on March 23, 1913, and his widow survived him but a year, her death occurring on March 2, 1914, she then being at the age of seventy-one years and two months.

James H. Somers was an excellent carpenter and for many years was a prominent contractor and builder. During his long and active career he never was a party to a law suit, either as plaintiff or defendant, and ever observed the most scrupulous regard for the faithful fulfilment of his contracts. He and his wife were spared to live together for more than fifty-two years in happy wedlock. Their golden wedding anniversary was celebrated by a large family gathering at their pleasant home at Palo, on February 22, 1911. Their son, Fred, brought fruits from his ranch in California to grace the table and among the gifts appropriate to the occasion was a plate of gold coins, presented by their children and other relatives. James H. Somers and wife were the parents of five children, namely: Florence V., wife of Carl Graves, of Ronald township, this county; Fred, who lives at Pomona, California; Lillian, wife of Frank W. Young, living near Vickeryville, Montcalm county; William H., the subject of this biographical sketch, and Minnie E., wife of C. C. Ross, living at "Romona Acres," near San Gabriel, California.

Under the careful direction of his father, William H. Somers became a very competent carpenter even as a boy, and has been engaged in the building trades all his life. He worked with his father until he was eighteen years old, when he started out as a journeyman carpenter with a view to seeing something of the country, and when he finally came back to his home county,

at the age of thirty, and "settled down," he had covered the country from coast to coast and had traveled more than thirty-seven thousand miles. During that time Mr. Somers spent more than four years in California and more than three years in New York City and along the Atlantic coast, while he had worked in nearly every important city in the country. He was in the United States army during the Spanish-American war, attached to Battery L, of the Fifth Artillery. During his travels Mr. Somers kept a faithful diary, the pages of which present an interesting history of his comprehensive itinerary and the incidents of a busy life. When thirty years of age he returned home and located at Ionia. In 1900 he married and for ten years thereafter made his home in Ionia. He then went to Detroit, where for three years he was associated with one of the largest contracting firms in that city, Schmied, Sisman Company, making rapid advancement with that firm. During that connection Mr. Somers superintended the construction of some of the finest residences and club buildings at Grosse Pointe. In January, 1913, he returned to Palo in order to be with his widowed mother during the last months of her life and after her death in the following March continued to make his home, in the parental home, where he ever since has lived and where he and his wife are very pleasantly situated. Since locating definitely in Palo Mr. Somers has been actively engaged as a building contractor and his wide experience and thorough knowledge of architecture and architectural construction gives him a most excellent equipment for his business. Mr. Somers's brother, Fred Somers, now of California, also was formerly a well-known Michigan contractor and erected three of the large buildings of the state hospital at Ionia; large factories at Flint and Grand Haven, the Masonic temple at Muskegon and numerous other buildings of importance throughout this part of the state.

In 1900 William H. Somers was united in marriage to Ida Wilder, who was born on a farm near Palo, daughter of Thomas R. and Mary A. (Stevens) Wilder, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Michigan. Thomas R. Wilder, who was born near Canandaigua, New York, July 28, 1848, was about nine years old when he came to Michigan with his parents, David and Sarah (Rutherford) Wilder, who came here in pioneer days. David Wilder entered claims to two or three tracts of "Congress land" hereabout, besides buying a considerable tract on which he established his home and became one of the most substantial farmers in his community. His wife, Sarah Rutherford, was born in Yorkshire, England, December 7, 1813, and was four years old when her parents came to the United States, locating

at Bath, New York, where she grew to womanhood and where she married David Wilder. She died at Palo, this county, on September 28, 1892.

Thomas R. Wilder grew to manhood on the homestead farm one mile east of Palo and on January 6, 1870, was united in marriage to Mary A. Stevens, who was born at Salem, in Washtenaw county, this state, daughter of George and Lucinda (McCormick) Stevens, the former of whom was born in New Canaan, Fairfield county, Connecticut, February 12, 1824, and who at the age of eleven came to Michigan, settling in Washtenaw county, where he grew to manhood and where, in 1850, he married Lucinda McCormick, three years later establishing a home in Bushnell township, over the line in Montcalm county, being among the first settlers in that community. Later he engaged in business at Palo and still later conducted a store at Muir, but after awhile resumed farming near Palo and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on February 13, 1891. His widow survived him less than eight months, her death occurring on October 9, following. Thomas R. Wilder was a life-long farmer and lived on the old home place east of Palo until his retirement from the farm, when he moved to Palo, where he died on August 23, 1915. His widow still is making her home at Palo.

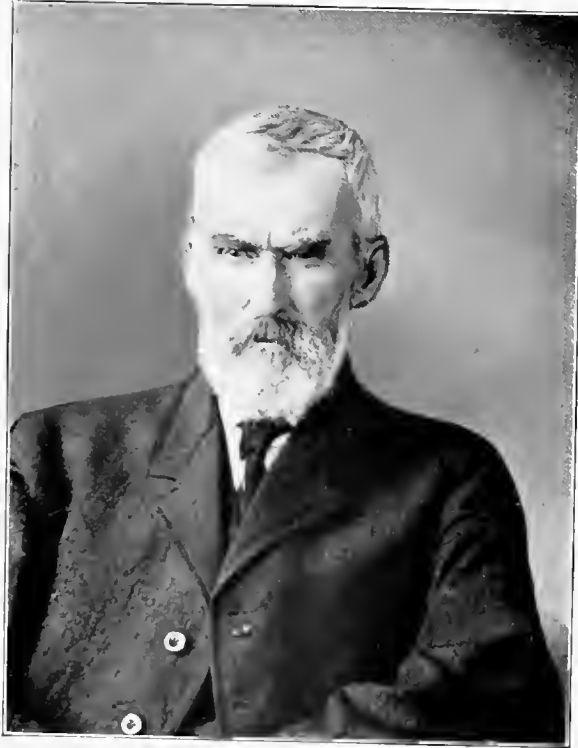
William H. Somers is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Palo and of the chapter at Stanton, and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Somers was made a Mason when he was twenty-one years of age and has visited lodges of that ancient order in many of the principal cities.

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### LORIN P. TOWNSEND.

In the memorial annals of the Clarksville neighborhood in this county there are few names held in better remembrance than that of the late Lorin P. Townsend, who died at his home in Clarksville in 1910 and whose widow is still making her home there, being the owner of one of the finest residences in that pleasant village.

Lorin P. Townsend was a native of Michigan, son of one of the earliest settlers in this state, and lived here all his life. He was born on a farm in Superior township, Washtenaw county, July 10, 1838, son of George W. and Sarah A. (Andreas) Townsend, both natives of this state, whose respective parents had been among the earliest settlers in the territory of Michigan, having located in the Washtenaw district as early as the



LORIN P. TOWNSEND.





year 1800 or shortly thereafter. There were three of the Townsend brothers who came to this region from New York and all established homes and reared families in Michigan, the connection now being widely scattered throughout the state. George W. Townsend was a son of one of these brothers and he grew up in Washtenaw county and there became a well-to-do farmer. He and his family later moved to Kalamazoo county, where they settled on a farm and it was on this latter farm that the subject of this memorial sketch grew to manhood.

As a boy, Lorin P. Townsend received but a limited education, but he was trained to thoughtful reading and being a natural student and a great reader he acquired a wide store of knowledge and became a very well-informed man. In the fall of 1862 Mr. Townsend married in Kalamazoo county and there established a home on a farm, on which he remained until 1870, in which year he and his family came to Ionia county and here he spent the remainder of his life. Upon locating in this county, Mr. Townsend bought an eighty-acre farm in Campbell township and entered upon the task of improving the same. He was an excellent farmer, progressive in his methods, and prospered from the very start, gradually increasing his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. In May, 1900, he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Clarksville, where they bought the residence property where Mrs. Townsend now lives and there Mr. Townsend spent his last days in quiet comfort, his death occurring on April 18, 1910, he then being at the age of seventy years, eight months and twenty-nine days.

Lorin P. Townsend was a Republican from the time that party was organized and ever took a good citizen's part in the campaigns of his party, but was not what is generally regarded as an active politician and had never sought public office, although he had been elected from time to time to minor local offices. In his earlier life he was an active and enthusiastic Mason, but upon moving to this county was compelled to relax his interest in that ancient order, owing to the distance from his home to the nearest lodge room. As a man and as a citizen, the character of Lorin P. Townsend was above reproach. He was a good neighbor, walking honorably in the sight of all men, and his death was the occasion for sincere mourning throughout the community in which he had lived for so many years. He took a great interest in his farm and home and his wife was an able and competent helpmeet to him in all his undertakings.

It was on November 15, 1862, in Kalamazoo county, this state, that Lorin P. Townsend was united in marriage to Emily J. Arrowsmith, who survives him. She was born near the city of Rochester, New York, November 15, 1842, daughter of William and Lucy E. (Lettsen) Arrowsmith, both natives of that same state and both of English descent. In the early forties, during the infancy of their daughter Emily, the Arrowsmiths moved from New York state to Ohio, where they remained until 1852, in which year the family came to Michigan and settled in Kalamazoo county. There William Arrowsmith worked as a mechanic and became one of the substantial men of that community. It was on that farm that Emily Arrowsmith grew to womanhood and it was there that she married Lorin P. Townsend on her twentieth birthday. To that union four children were born: Inez, born in 1863, now deceased; Mary Ida, born on August 7, 1864; Frank Lorin, March 16, 1867, who is married and is now making his home in the West, and Anna Grace, February 6, 1871, who married Robert Simpkins and has two daughters, Dorothy and Frances, the former of whom married Ernest Paulson and has twin daughters, Gretchen and Marguerite.

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EMERY S. DANNER.

Emery S. Danner, well-known and successful business man of Muir, needs no introduction to the people of Ionia county. He was born on December 19, 1871, in Ronald township, this county. He is a son of Simon and Christenia (Heydlauff) Danner. The father was born in 1836 at Block House, now a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was a son of Frederick Danner and wife, natives of Germany. When he was but a child his father died and his mother married C. F. Capp, and soon thereafter they moved to Washtenaw county, Michigan, where they spent the rest of their lives. Simon Danner grew to manhood in that county, and about 1860 he came to Ionia county and worked out as a farm hand. In 1861 he enlisted in Berdan's Sharpshooters, under Captain Willett. He was wounded in the left side by a piece of bursting shell, and was discharged for disability after nine months of service, after which he returned to Ionia county and engaged in farming in Ronald township. On February 12, 1862, he married Christenia C. Heydlauff, and bought a farm of eighty acres, where his widow now lives, in the southern part of Ronald township. It was all woods. He cleared and put the land under cultivation, and built a cabin thereon. In

the fall of 1864 he again enlisted, this time in Company I, Ninth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, but he was not fit for service because of his old wound. However, in the spring of 1865 he became clerk to the colonel of his old regiment, and he served until in September of that year, when he was honorably discharged, after which he returned home and engaged in farming the rest of his life. He added forty acres to his original purchase, which he cleared and put under cultivation, and he built a comfortable home. His death occurred on December 16, 1896. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in which he took an active interest. His wife, Christenia C. Heydlauff, was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, July 24, 1843, and was a daughter of C. Frank and Anna Mary (Wagner) Heydlauff, natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, where they grew up and were married. The latter was the daughter of John and Maria (Cook) Wagner. In 1833 the Heydlauff family came to America, and after spending a short time in Detroit, settled in Washtenaw county, when the country was still a wilderness. In the spring of 1845 they moved to Ionia county and bought a farm in section 36, Ronald township, where he built a log house and cleared and developed a farm and lived the rest of his life, dying in 1875. His widow survived until 1893, reaching the age of eighty-three years. To Simon Danner and wife five children were born, namely: Frederick W. lives in Pend d'Orville, Idaho; Elizabeth W. is the wife of Alvin S. Curtis, and they live on the old Danner homestead in Ronald township; John H. lives in Jordan Valley, Oregon; Nellie F. is unmarried and lives at home; Emery S. is the subject of this sketch.

Emery S. Danner grew to manhood on the farm and received his education in the public schools, later attending Poucher's Business College. When nineteen years old he began carpentering, which he continued for about four years. In 1896 he married and began farming for himself, renting land for two years, then bought the Eldridge farm, about two miles from the farm on which he was reared. He started out with fifty-five acres. Prospering, he added to this until he now has a finely improved farm of one hundred and seventy acres. In 1903 he came to Muir and began working at carpenter work again, then in 1904 and 1905 worked in a store there, later continuing carpenter work most of the time until 1913, when he bought an interest in the elevator at Muir in partnership with John U. Stott, and continued in the business after Mr. Stott's death, actively managing the elevator until December 18, 1915, when he sold his interest to Mrs. Stott.

On January 1, 1896, Emery S. Danner married Mabel Eldridge, of

Ronald township, a daughter of Hiram and Fidelia Eldridge. Her death occurred on September 10, 1910. On August 28, 1912, he married Etta E. Storey, who was born at Wyman, Michigan, a daughter of James D. and Eliza (McKinley) Storey, both natives of Canada, where they grew up and married. Mr. Storey came to Michigan and worked in the lumber camps near Wyman, continuing working in the timber about five years, then returned to Canada and married, later returning to Michigan and spent five years more in the lumber camps, working as foreman. He came to Ionia county in 1889, where he followed carpentering for a number of years, and he is now engaged at the Sorosis Garment Company's plant at Ionia, where he has been employed for the past twenty years. Mrs. Danner was an infant when she was brought to Ionia county. She received her education in the public schools, graduating from the Ionia high school and later attended Valparaiso University. To Mr. and Mrs. Danner one child has been born, John Storey Danner, whose birth occurred on May 14, 1914.

In 1906 Mr. Danner built a handsome, modern residence in Muir, and is very comfortably fixed. He belongs to the Masonic order, and his wife to the Eastern Star. Her mother was a relative of President McKinley.

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#### HOWARD A. RANGER.

When but a boy, Howard A. Ranger, farmer and retired merchant of Lyons, Ionia county, learned to rely upon himself, and this fact has had much to do in shaping his subsequent career, yet indefatigable industry has perhaps been the basis of his success.

Mr. Ranger was born on September 6, 1851, in Litchfield, Medina county, Ohio. He is a son of Henry and Mary (Tanner) Ranger, both parents born and reared at Timbridge Wells, England, where they were married. They came to America about 1847 and settled at Litchfield, Ohio. Henry Ranger was a man of means and engaged in various business enterprises. He came to Ionia county, Michigan, about 1857, when his son, Howard A., was six years old. He engaged in shoemaking, when shoes were all made to order. He spent the rest of his life here, dying about 1905 at Lyons, having survived his first wife forty years, her death having occurred about 1865. His second wife was Elizabeth Mitchell. Four children were born of his first marriage, namely: Thomas, deceased; Mary is

the widow of Charles S. Marsh; Howard A., the subject of this sketch, and Charles F. Of the second marriage one son, Leo, was born.

Howard A. Ranger received his education in the public schools of Lyons. He learned the iron moulder's trade in Lyons and Grand Rapids. He was janitor at the court house at Ionia for one year, and about 1879 he bought out the general store at Lyons, which his deceased brother, Thomas, had owned. He continued to conduct the business for a period of seventeen years, enjoying a large trade, in the meantime buying two farms, one of eighty acres inside the city limits of Lyons, and the other of eighty acres, just west of Lyons. He has a modern home in Lyons and combines the conveniences of town with the pleasures of the farm. He has been very successful in a business way. Politically, he is a Republican and active in the party.

Howard A. Ranger was married on November 11, 1874, to Marian McCloud, who was born at Ionia, and is a daughter of George and Maria (Pressey) McCloud. George McCloud was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he was reared, educated and married. His first wife died, leaving two children, both long since deceased. He came to Lyons, Michigan, about 1835, when Ionia county was just settling up. He was a tailor by trade, which he followed here, although this was but a pioneer settlement. In 1850 he married Maria Pressey, who was a daughter of David and Ann Jane (Hill) Pressey, who came to Lyons from Montreal, Canada, about 1837, being one of the first families to settle at Lyons. David Pressey was a carpenter by trade. Blindness overtook him soon after he came to Ionia county, and for many years he was deprived of his sight. His family consisted of four daughters and one son, Richard, who died in early childhood. Mr. McCloud died about 1866, his wife preceding him to the grave by about ten months. They left three daughters and one son, namely: Norman, Marian, Mary and Isabelle. The father was a Presbyterian and the mother a Methodist. They lived at Lyons but a short time, spending their later years at Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Ranger have two sons and a daughter. Walter, who is farming on the home place, married Belle Dilly and they have one son, Howard; Jessie is the wife of Fred Shorts, they live in Kent county, Michigan, and have one daughter, Marion; Carl is practicing dentistry at Ithaca, Michigan, and married Vera Hawley. These children were all given good training and every advantage. Walter has a good practical knowledge of merchandising, having assisted his father a great deal in the store, and he

also attended business college at Lansing. Jessie, who was graduated from the Normal School at Mt. Pleasant, taught school in Lyons about four years. Carl entered the dental department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated in 1909.

Mr. Ranger is a member of Lyons Lodge No. 37, Free and Accepted Masons, and also of Lyons Chapter, Royal Arch Masons.

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### WILLIAM C. HAWLEY.

In examining the records of self-made men, it will invariably be found that indefatigable industry has constituted the basis of their success. True, there are other elements which enter in and conserve the advancement of personal interests, such as perseverance, discrimination and mastering of expedients; but the foundation of all achievement is earnest, persistent labor. Realizing this fact when starting out in his career, William C. Hawley, grain dealer of Lyons, Ionia county, has made it his guiding principle.

Mr. Hawley was born on March 8, 1855, at Avon, Livingston county, New York. He is a son of William C., Sr., and Harriet (Nowland) Hawley, both natives of New York state. The mother died when William C. was a baby. The father came to Lyons, Michigan, about 1858 and engaged in the mercantile business here for several years, and while here married his second wife, Verona Coon. About 1870 he started a warehouse at Muir on the Grand Trunk railway, and began dealing in grain, which business he continued until about 1885, when he retired. He was postmaster at Lyons under Cleveland's first administration, retaining the office four years. He was a staunch Democrat, and an active worker in the party. His death occurred in 1880. He was the father of two children by his first wife, William C., Jr., and George, deceased. Four children were born of his second marriage, one of whom died in infancy; those living are Walter M., Mrs. Corinn Abney and Jessie.

William C. Hawley was brought to Lyons about 1860 and here he grew to manhood and received a common-school education. He began assisting his father in the grain business when but a boy, and became a partner of the business conducted by the elder Hawley when twenty years old, the firm name becoming W. C. Hawley & Son. After the father's death, John Stevens was in partnership with Mr. Hawley for about four years, and was succeeded by Charles French, who hired George West to work in his place.

and about a year later West bought Mr. French's interest in the business, and the firm was Hawley & West. When the railroad built a spur track into Lyons, about 1900, the firm of Hawley & West built another elevator here and took in John U. Scott as a partner. About four years ago Mr. West withdrew from the firm, and the name was Hawley & Scott until about 1913, when the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Hawley retaining the elevator at Lyons and Arthur Johnson being admitted as a partner, since which time the name has been Hawley & Johnson. They do a large and successful business buying and shipping grain. Mr. Hawley also owns one hundred and fifty acres of land on the prairie near Lyons, which is a valuable farm.

William C. Hawley was married in 1875 to Dora Warner, a daughter of Orlando Warner and wife. The mother died when Dora was a little girl. Mr. Warner was a farmer in North Plains township, Ionia county, where he located about 1860, coming from Livingston county, New York. He left his farm and removed to Lyons about 1872, where he spent the rest of his life, dying about 1880. To Mr. and Mrs. Hawley one daughter has been born, Theo, now the wife of Dr. F. M. Marsh, of Ionia.

Mr. Hawley is a member of the Masonic order. He is a Democrat, and is active in local public affairs, and has held a number of local offices.

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#### HERBERT ERNEST POWELL.

Herbert Ernest, youngest son of Joseph P. and Ruth Powell, was born on the farm he now owns in Ronald township, Ionia county, April 27, 1866. After attending district school and one year at Poucher's Business College he entered the Ionia high school and graduated as valedictorian of his class in 1886. He taught school one winter and then took charge of the old homestead, which he worked on shares until his father's death, in 1904. During this time he improved the place by building three barns, a tenant house and other improvements.

In 1888 Mr. Powell built the new house across the road and after the house was finished and furnished, on November 26, 1888, he brought there as a bride, Miss May, a classmate in the Ionia high school, and daughter of O. Waterbury, of Ionia. They have three children, namely: Ralph Waterbury, born on October 4, 1889; Alice, August 7, 1893; Stanley Maurice, July 7, 1898. Ralph, after graduating from Ionia high school, took civil

engineering at Michigan Agricultural College, then taught a year at Cornell University, New York; then two years at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, and is under contract to go next year as professor in the new "Yale in China." He has the record of passing the grades, on his markings without examination. He was married to Maud Nason, of Grand Rapids, September 10, 1914. Alice, after graduating at Ionia, is taking a course in domestic science at Lansing. Stanley is a senior in Ionia high school and a member of the debating team of 1916. The entire family are members of the Baptist church.

Besides general farming, H. E. Powell was for several years a partner of John Rowe in the Nickle Plate flouring-mill, and later president of the Ionia Hardware Company and at present is vice-president and director of the First National Bank of Ionia. He is a member of the Ronald Grange and has several times been master. He has made a specialty of breeding Shropshire sheep and has been awarded a long list of premiums at state and district fairs. He is now a director of the American Shropshire Association and president of the Michigan Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association. At one time he was a director of the Michigan State Fair but resigned as a protest against having the gates open on Sunday and having intoxicants for sale on the grounds. He is now vice-president and a director of the West Michigan State Fair.

In politics H. E. Powell is a Republican and has represented his district in the state Legislature two terms, 1901-2 and 1903-4, and was one of the leaders in the fight for the primary election. He was state senator from the eighteenth district two terms, 1913-14 and 1915-16. During the first term in the Senate he served on five committees, namely: Agricultural interests, school for the deaf, state prison at Marquette, banks and corporations, finance and appropriations. During the second term he was chairman of the committee on agricultural college and the committee on supplies and expenditures; and a member of the committee on state affairs, finance and appropriations; election, college of miners, constitutional amendment. In 1907-08 he was a member of the Constitutional convention and a member of the committee that drafted a rule under which the convention did its work.

The above is a meager outline of a busy life of public service, faithfully performed. It tells a little of one whom the people have delighted to honor, a man honest and faithful and courageous, quick to think and not slow to act. He was not a slirker and politicians knew on which side of



the fence he stood and that he could head them off if they started to go cross-lots. This some learned to their sorrow in parliamentary tactics in legislative halls. In early manhood he walked the plate of an uncovered barn frame without a tremor; and later with the same steadiness of nerve trod the path of duty in the high places of public office and did not lose his head. Neither performance was for show; but to do what needed to be done. Both were alike characteristic and a part of the work in hand.

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#### GLENN H. SCOVILLE, D. V. S.

Dr. Glenn H. Scoville, of Clarksville, this county, one of the best-known veterinary surgeons in this section of the state, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on a farm in Campbell township, just north of the village of Clarksville, September 29, 1881, son of Leroy A. and Martha J. (Hogle) Scoville, both natives of Ohio, the former of whom is still living at Clarksville and the latter of whom died in 1912. In a biographical sketch relating to Leroy A. Scoville, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in detail further particulars of this family in Ionia county and the reader is respectfully referred to those pages for additional information in this connection.

Glenn H. Scoville received his early education in the Clarksville graded schools and in the academy at that place. His father was largely engaged in the cattle business and from his early youth Glenn H. Scoville took a deep interest in that phase of the business of the farm, even at fifteen years of age traveling about over the country hereabout buying, selling and trading live stock. He followed the live-stock business until 1904, in which year he entered the Grand Rapids Veterinary College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1906, that being the first class in veterinary surgery recognized by the state. Upon receiving his degree of Doctor of Veterinary Surgery, Doctor Scoville went to Minnesota and opened an office for the practice of his profession at Villard, in Pope county, that state, where he was engaged in practice until the fall of 1909, when he returned to Michigan and opened an office at Clarksville, where he ever since has been very successfully engaged as a veterinary practitioner, his practice extending widely throughout this county and in the neighboring counties of Berry and Kent. Doctor Scoville makes a specialty of veterinary dentistry and surgery and his services in those lines are in wide demand. Upon locating at Clarks-

ville he opened a veterinary hospital in the chief business block of the town, but owing to the increased demands made upon the same was compelled to enlarge his hospital and moved the same to the Howard property, just north of the business quarter, where he has an admirably equipped hospital for the treatment of live stock. The doctor also erected a handsome residence in that quarter of the town and is quite pleasantly situated.

On September 6, 1905, during his residence in Villard, Minnesota, Dr. Glenn H. Scoville was united in marriage to Ethel M. Smith, who was born near Kenyon, in Dodge county, Minnesota, daughter of George H. and Mabel E. (Foster) Smith, natives, respectively, of Illinois and Minnesota, the former of whom is a large ranch owner in Minnesota. Doctor Scoville has never been particularly active in political affairs, though he has held the office of deputy sheriff of Ionia county. He is a Mason and a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Clarksville and both he and Mrs. Scoville are members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

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#### GEORGE W. WOOLDRIDGE.

George W. Wooldridge, justice of the peace in and for Orleans township, a well-to-do farmer of that township, is a native of Ohio, but has lived in this county ever since he was five or six years old and is therefore properly regarded as one of the pioneers of this section, a witness of the wonderful development of this region within the past generation. He was born in Portage county, Ohio, September 13, 1853, son of Samuel Wooldridge and wife, who became pioneers of Ionia county in the latter fifties. In a biographical sketch relating to Samuel Wooldridge, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in detail a further history of this interesting family and the attention of the reader is invited to that sketch for additional information in this connection.

George W. Wooldridge was but a child when his parents located in Ionia county and he grew to manhood on the home farm, where he made his home, helping in the development of the place, until his marriage in 1881, after which he bought a farm of forty acres in section 32, Orleans township, where he established his home. Only about half of the place was cleared when he took possession and there was but a poor shack of a house on it and no barn. He improved the farm, cleared the remaining portion of woodland and made his home there until about 1890, when he

bought an adjoining "forty" from his father-in-law, Oren H. York, and then made his home on the York farm until 1912, when he bought his present home place in section 30, of the same township, where he and his son-in-law, Charles Doty, own and operate a fine farm of one hundred and forty acres, which is well improved and profitably cultivated, and where the family is very comfortably situated. Mr. and Mrs. Wooldridge are well circumstanced and their home is one of quiet comfort. In the fall of 1915 they made a tour of the West, visiting Washington, Oregon, California and other states on the farther side of the Rockies. Mr. Wooldridge for years has taken an active interest in local civic affairs, having served the public as township treasurer and in other capacities and is now justice of the peace in and for Orleans township.

It was in the year 1881 that George W. Wooldridge was united in marriage to Alice York, who was born in the town of Ionia, this county, daughter of Oren H. and Frances L. (Calkins) York, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Canada. Oren H. York was born in Yates county, New York, November 5, 1832, and was about fifteen years old when he came with his parents to Michigan, the family settling on a farm in Easton township, near the then village of Ionia, in 1847. On January 1, 1854, Oren H. York was united in marriage to Frances L. Calkins, who was born in Canada, daughter of George and Louisa Calkins, who came to this county from New York state in 1852, becoming influential pioneers of the Ionia neighborhood. One of their sons is C. K. Calkins, a well-known attorney at Ionia. Oren H. York was one of the active residents of Ionia in its village days, but later moved to a farm in Easton township and most of his life has been spent as a farmer. In September, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and went to the front. He participated in the battle of Perryville, but after about three months of service was discharged on a physician's certificate of disability. He ever has taken an active part in local civic affairs and has served as justice of the peace in Orleans township and as highway commissioner. His first wife died on the old home farm in Orleans township on January 17, 1892, and in 1894 he married, secondly, Sarah Woodworth, of Adrian, this state, and made his home in that city until 1910, when he returned to Ionia county and has since been living comfortably retired in the town of Orleans. To Oren H. and Frances L. (Calkins) York three children were born, Mrs. Wooldridge having two brothers, William T. York, of Medford, Oregon, and John M. York, of Orleans, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Wooldridge have one daughter, Carrie E., born on June 12, 1885, who was married in January, 1907, to Charles H. Doty, who was born in Berlin township, this county, March 10, 1878, son of Charles and Mary Elizabeth (Bailey) Doty, further information regarding which family is set out in a biographical sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume, of E. M. Wooldridge, who married a sister of Charles H. Doty. Mr. and Mrs. Doty have three children, George H., Alice E. and Earl Willis.

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### MAJOR T. LAMONTE.

Major T. LaMonte, one of the best-known and most progressive merchants of Clarksville, this county, head of the firm of LaMonte & Company, dealers in clothing and men's furnishing goods, is a native of Michigan and has lived in this state all his life. He was born at Charlotte, in Eaton county, August 5, 1875, son of Archibald G. and Margeara (Huff) LaMonte, natives of Orleans county, New York, the former of French descent and the latter of German stock. Archibald G. LaMonte came to Michigan about the year 1870, settling in Eaton county, where he bought a farm and there he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch is the youngest.

Upon completing the course in the Charlotte high school Major T. LaMonte secured a position in a hardware store in that town and was thus engaged for four years, at the end of which time he went to Gaylord, where he clerked in a general store for a year, after which he went to Pontiac, where he lived for about two years. In September, 1899, he went to Clarksville, where his sister, Mrs. Estella Nash, was living, and there he cast about for a location for a store. He had been contemplating the establishment of a hardware store in Clarksville, but the conditions seemed more favorable to the establishment of a clothing and men's furnishing store and he consequently opened the first store of its kind in the town of Clarksville and has done very well. His brother-in-law, Ernest Nash, is associated with him in business, under the firm name of LaMonte & Company, and the firm is doing an extensive business. Starting with a stock valued at about two thousand dollars, the firm has gradually increased stock, with the growing demands of the trade, until now the well-appointed store represents an investment of several times that amount.

On May 20, 1901, Major T. LaMonte was united in marriage to Ora

Stuart, who was born in Odessa township, this county, daughter of George and Sarah (Clark) Stuart, well-known residents of that township. George Stuart was born in Scotland and came across the Atlantic with his parents when a child, the family settling in St. Thomas, Canada, later coming to Michigan and settling in this county, being thus among the earliest residents of the southern part of the county. To Mr. and Mrs. LaMonte two children have been born, Estella, born on April 4, 1904, and Ida, June 11, 1912. Mr. LaMonte is a Republican and has held the office of township treasurer for four years. He is a Mason and a member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### M. P. LENHARD.

M. P. Lenhard, well-known and progressive merchant at Clarksville, this county, proprietor of a large general store at that place, former town clerk and for years actively interested in the public life of that prosperous community, is a native son of Michigan and has lived in this state most all his life. He was born in Kent county, this state, May 4, 1877, son of John and Christina (Livingston) Lenhard, natives, respectively, of Canada and Pennsylvania, the former of German descent and the latter of Quaker stock, who afterward became well-known residents of Ionia county, but are now living in Kent county.

John Lenhard in his earlier life followed the calling of a millwright and it was this that brought him into Michigan. For some years he was engaged installing mills throughout the timber country hereabout and in 1881 came over into Ionia county, where he built a mill and was for years actively engaged in milling, but later took up farming and is now living on a fine farm he owns in Kent county. He also is the owner of a fine farm in the Clarksville neighborhood in this county, which latter farm is operated by his only other son, Harley L. Lenhard.

M. P. Lenhard was about four years old when his parents moved to this county and he grew up here. Upon completing the course in the Clarksville Academy he entered the general store of Leonard Shrock at Clarksville and after a little more than a year of service there went to Grand Rapids, where he entered a wholesale boot and shoe house. About six months later he was sent "on the road" by that concern and for three years was a travel-

ing salesman in that employ, covering central and southern Michigan. He then transferred his services to a wholesale grocery and coffee house in Grand Rapids and about six months later was engaged as city salesman by a big concern at Chicago. After living in Chicago a year he came home on a visit and was persuaded by his parents to remain at home and take charge of the farm. He consented to this arrangement and remained on the farm until October, 1914, when he bought the general merchandise establishment of Naber Brothers at Clarksville and has ever since been successfully engaged in the mercantile business, carrying the largest stock in Clarksville and doing a large business. Mr. Lenhard is a Republican and for the past four years has been serving as township clerk. He is an ardent advocate of local good government and ever works to that end.

On February 28, 1907, M. P. Lenhard was united in marriage to Glenna C. Huggins, who was born at Carson City, in the neighboring county of Montcalm, February 7, 1884, daughter of Jefferson and Melvina (Meyers) Huggins, natives, respectively, of New York and Ohio, early settlers in Montcalm county. Jefferson Huggins was a millwright and died before his daughter Glenna was two years old. Mr. and Mrs. Lenhard take an earnest part in the various social and cultural activities of their home town and are interested in all local good works. Mr. Lenhard is a member of the Ionia lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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#### REUBEN H. WHITE.

Reuben H. White, well-known building contractor and stone and brick mason, of Clarksville, this county, is a native son of Ionia county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Campbell township on February 4, 1858, son of Amasa S. and Pruella (Lyon) White, pioneer residents of this county, the former of whom was a native of New York state and the latter of Ohio. The Whites are of Welsh origin, Amasa S. White's grandfather having come to this country in colonial days, not long before the War of the Revolution. His son, Stephen White, was a soldier in the War of 1812, for which service he received a land warrant from the government. Stephen White was born and reared in Wayne county, New York, and there he married and reared his family. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, three sons and seven daughters. Amasa S.,

Sanford, William, Edna, Roxie, Hannah, Fannie, Relief, Anna and Marguerite, the latter of whom died in girlhood. When Sanford White was grown to manhood his father sent him to Michigan with the government's land warrant for the purpose of entering a claim on the same and he located a tract in Campbell township, this county. About 1850 Stephen White and his wife and their other sons and one daughter, Edna, came to Michigan and established their home on the homestead which Sanford White had entered, the other daughters having married and remained in New York. Of these children all lived to ripe old ages, save Amasa, who died at the age of fifty-seven years.

Amasa S. White was well grown when he came to Michigan with his parents and he took an active part in the work of developing the homestead farm. About 1855 or 1856 he married Prudella Lyon, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Fisk) Lyon, both of whom were born in 1803, and who had come to Michigan from New York, settling in this county about the time the Whites arrived here. Amasa S. White later came into possession of eighty acres of his father's homestead farm in section 2, Campbell township, and there he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the eldest, the others being Mrs. Roxie Stockford, Mrs. Mary Kimball, deceased, and Mrs. Martha Hess.

Reuben H. White was reared on the homestead farm and received his schooling in the district school in that neighborhood. He early took up the work of brick and stone masonry and plastering and became a very competent workman in that line, presently engaging in general contracting along that line, from the very start making a success of his business. After his father's death he bought the home farm and there established his home, supervising the work of the farm while carrying on his building operations, and there he remained until 1904, in which year he retired from the farm, bought a good residence property in Clarksville and moved to town, where he ever since has made his home. Mr. White has been a very successful mason and has erected all the brick business houses in Clarksville except one, besides which he has built twelve brick residences throughout the county. He also has built business houses at Saranac, Lake Odessa, Freeport and other places and is widely known as a contractor hereabout. Mr. White is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He is a stockholder in the Co-operative Creamery Company of Clarksville, which concern he

helped to organize, and in other ways has done his part in promoting the general interests of his home community.

On December 29, 1880, Reuben H. White was united in marriage to Ida Champlain, who was born on a farm in Keene township, this county, February 10, 1860, daughter of John Norman and Sarah (Demaree) Champlain, prominent residents of that part of the county, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Ray E., born on January 15, 1882, who married Mamie Gunderson and has one child, Vernice; Cora Alice, November 14, 1883, who married Seymour Haven and has one child, a son, Richard S., and Neva Blanche, February 19, 1887, who married Lewis Cool and has two children, Glennie L. and Ida M. The Whites take a proper part in the various social activities of their home neighborhood and have done much toward promoting the common welfare thereabout. Mr. White is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Knights of the Maccabees, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest, and both he and his wife are members of the Daughters of Rebekah.

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#### EMERY TOWNSEND.

Emery Townsend, one of Ionia county's best-known farmers and stockmen, proprietor of "The Evergreens," a fine farm of four hundred and seventy acres in Ionia township, admirably situated on rural route No. 7, out of Ionia, is a native son of Ionia county and has lived here all his life. He was born in a log cabin on a pioneer farm in section 32, Ionia township, November 19, 1863, son of Steward and Eliza (Tuttle) Townsend, well-known and prominent figures among the earliest settlers of that part of the county, further and detailed reference to whose part in the development of the neighborhood in which they established their home is made in a biographical sketch relating to their youngest son, Ed S. Townsend, brother of the subject of this sketch, set out elsewhere in this volume, to which the attention of the reader is respectfully directed in this connection.

Emery Townsend was reared on the old home farm in the southern part of Ionia township, remaining at home until he was grown. For seven years he was in partnership with his brother Ed, managing the farm of three hundred and thirty-seven acres, while his brother handled the live-stock end of the enterprise. When thirty years of age Mr. Townsend mar-



RESIDENCE OF EMERY TOWNSEND.





ried Lucy Mattison Greene, daughter of Daniel J. and Lucy (Mattison) Greene, who were owners of "The Evergreens," one of the best farms in this county, and after his marriage sold his farm and assumed the management of "The Evergreens," Mr. and Mrs. Greene having retired and were living in Ionia. In 1905 Mr. Townsend bought the old Hubbell farm of eighty acres in section 1, Ionia township, just across the road from "The Evergreens," and later bought forty acres north of his present farm and in the fall of 1909 bought seventy acres just south of the old Greene home, locally known as the Cyrus N. Stone farm, on which were two houses, a barn and a tool house. On the Hubbell place there also was a residence and a full set of farm buildings. Early in 1910 Mr. Townsend further added to his holdings by the purchase of the two hundred acres comprising "The Evergreens," the old Greene farm, on which he had made his home ever since his marriage, and is now the proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred and seventy acres surrounding his beautiful home in section 2, Ionia township. On the old Greene homestead there are three tenant houses, three sets of barns, with tool houses and outbuildings to match and three huge silos, twenty feet in diameter. From 1894 to 1908 Mr. Townsend and his father-in-law were partners in the management of "The Evergreens." It was during this period that many improvements were made, including the remodeling of the barns. Both Mr. Greene and Mr. Townsend possessed ability in a marked degree and this was made manifest in the extension of facilities and general improvement during their partnership. The house is piped for hot and cold water, operated by a compressed-air system and is lighted with gas, gas also being used for cooking, the gas being made in a private plant.

Mr. Townsend has long made a specialty of feeding live stock, paying particular attention to sheep, and annually fattens about four thousand sheep, buying his lambs in the West and feeding them for the market, handling more than twenty carloads of corn, part of which he sells. He also feeds and ships considerable quantities of cattle and hogs during the course of a year and has made a decided success of his operations in that connection. His fine home, "The Evergreens," is a large brick house, surrounded by spacious grounds, beautifully shaded, there being seventeen varieties of trees on the lawn. Mr. Townsend is an ardent Prohibitionist and for years has been one of the most active workers in that cause in his neighborhood. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife are earnest members of the Methodist church, actively interested in all good works in their community.

Mrs. Townsend's parents, Daniel J. Greene and wife, now living comfortably retired in a very pleasant home at 428 Union street, Ionia, founded "The Evergreens" and lived there until seven years prior to their daughter's marriage to Mr. Townsend, when they moved to Ionia, leaving the management of the farm to Mr. Townsend who later bought it, as noted above. Daniel J. Greene was born in Stephentown, Rensselaer county, New York, October 16, 1834, son of Joseph and Urana (Hall) Greene, and was reared on a farm. When twenty-five years of age he came to Michigan, arriving in Ionia the night of the bombardment of Ft. Sumter. He bought an eighty-acre tract in section 2, Ionia township, and there established his home, gradually adding to the same until he had developed one of the best farms in the county, "The Evergreens." Before coming here Mr. Greene had married, August 20, 1860, Lucy P. Mattison, who was born in Berlin township, Rensselaer county, New York, daughter of Allen J. and Lucy (Thomas) Mattison, who later also came to Ionia county. Allen J. Mattison and his son, Daniel J., buying a farm of three hundred acres in Ronald township, now the home of Daniel J. Mattison. To Mr. and Mrs. Greene but one child was born, a daughter, Lucy M., who married Emery Townsend.

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#### ANSELM VETTER.

Anselm Vetter, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of this county, now living comfortably retired in the pleasant village of Clarksville, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of the United States since 1871. He was born in Baden on February 16, 1844, son of George and Frances (Seeberman) Vetter, farming people, who spent all their lives in their native province and who were the parents of eight children, three sons and five daughters.

Anselm Vetter was reared on a farm in Baden and worked there as a farmer until he was twenty-seven years old, when, in 1871, he came to the United States with a view to establishing himself in a somewhat better condition in the New World than he reasonably could hope to attain in the old country. He had saved up quite a little sum of money with which to make a start over here, but his purse was stolen from his berth on the vessel on the way over and he landed at the port of New York with just five cents in his pocket. On the night following his landing he slept on the beach, not having money with which to pay for a bed, and for several days was com-

pelled to get along on very short rations. Presently he secured work on a Massachusetts farm and there he remained for seven months, receiving eighteen dollars a month for his labor. He then went to Erie county, New York, where he secured a position on a farm near Buffalo and he remained with that farmer for three years, at the end of which time he secured employment with another farmer, with whom he remained for seven years. In the meantime he had been saving his wages and in 1882 came to Michigan for the purpose of buying a farm and establishing a home of his own, he having taken unto himself a wife the year before. He settled in Kent county and there bought a tract of land which he improved and presently sold at a profitable advance, buying another and better place, which he also later sold at an advance and then repeated the operation with another farm, each time realizing several hundreds of dollars on his investment. Along in the nineties he came over into Ionia county and bought a farm of eighty acres in Campbell township, where he lived and was quite profitably engaged in farming until 1914, in which year he sold the farm, bought his present pleasant home in Clarksville and retired from the active labors of life, since then making his home in Clarksville, where he and his wife are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Vetter is a quiet, unassuming citizen and has never taken an active part in political affairs. He has voted the Republican ticket ever since becoming a citizen of the United States, but has never desired or sought public office.

In 1881 Anselm Vetter was united in marriage to Lydia E. Wells, who was born in Minnesota and whose great-grandfather, a native of Scotland, was a general in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, serving under General Washington. To this union one child was born, a son, who died when three months old. Mrs. Lydia Vetter died in 1895 and in March, 1897, Mr. Vetter married, secondly, Mrs. Hannah (Johnson) Barker, widow of Francis Barker, to whose first marriage one child had been born, a daughter, Maud, who married Clarence Shopbell, and died on November 10, 1903, leaving one child, a daughter, Goldie. Mrs. Vetter was born, Hannah Johnson, in Berlin, Canada, November 13, 1851, daughter of Enos and Sarah (Stauffer) Johnson, natives, respectively, of Pennsylvania and Canada. Enos Johnson moved from Pennsylvania to Canada when a boy with his parents and there he grew to manhood and married Sarah Stauffer. In 1853 he and his family came over the border into Michigan and established their home in Kent county, where Mr. and Mrs. Johnson spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of ten children, three sons and seven daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Vetter take a

quiet interest in community affairs in the Clarksville neighborhood and perform their part in promoting the common good. Mrs. Vetter is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church and takes an active interest in the good works of the same. Mr. Vetter is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with which he became connected more than thirty years ago, and has ever taken a warm interest in the affairs of that popular fraternal organization.

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#### FRANK E. RICHARDS.

Frank E. Richards, a former well-known merchant of Clarksville, this county, and who since 1897 has been postmaster of that town, is a native son of Michigan, having been born in Kent county, this state, August 7, 1863, son of the Rev. David A. and Eliza (Finch) Richards, natives of New York state, who came to Michigan about 1850. The Rev. David A. Richards was a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist church and for more than fifty years was active in the pulpit. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted as a private in the Michigan Light Artillery and later was detailed as a nurse at Fortress Monroe, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. Upon returning to Michigan at the conclusion of his military service, Mr. Richards settled at Clarksville, this county, where he established his home and where he spent his last days. The Rev. David A. Richards was a man of great activity in the cause of the church and established several churches throughout this county, including the church at Clarksville, Saranac and West Berlin, in addition to labors on behalf of the church in neighboring counties. In 1887 he was sent by the conference of his church to California as missionary to that district and performed a great service there. He and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born.

Frank E. Richards received his education in the schools of Clarksville and Saranac and early began teaching school. For five years he was thus engaged and then he began working in the stores of Clarksville, Brighton and Green Oak, acquiring an excellent mercantile training. For eighteen months he was engaged as a bookkeeper in a newspaper office at Manistee and while thus engaged was stricken down with a serious illness. He returned to his home at Clarksville and for some time his recovery was in doubt, but he presently recovered and in the fall of 1893 engaged in the mercantile business at Clarksville, where he established a general store. In

1897 he received the appointment as postmaster of Clarksville, and has ever since held that office. In 1905 he sold his store in order to devote his whole attention to his official duties. During a considerable portion of this time he also performed the duties of town clerk, to which office he was elected in 1894 and was continuously re-elected thereafter until he had held the office for fifteen years. He also has served for several years as a member of the school board, and in all his public service has ever been mindful of the common good. For ten years, or until the disbanding of the organization in 1914, Mr. Richards was secretary of the Postmasters League of Michigan and thus became one of the best-known postmasters in the state.

On April 20, 1886, in Livingston county, this state, Frank E. Richards was united in marriage to Mary Tanner, who was born at Marshfield, in Athens county, Ohio, April 10, 1866, and to this union two children have been born, Mand, who married Frank Sewall, of Grand Rapids, and has two children, Elizabeth and Gordon, and Lucile, a former teacher in the Clarksville schools, who is now qualifying for the profession of a trained nurse. Mr. and Mrs. Richards are members of the Congregational church, of which Mr. Richards is a trustee, and take an active part in local good works. Mr. Richards is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Knights of the Maccabees and takes a warm interest in the affairs of those organizations.

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#### LEROY A. SCOVILLE.

Leroy A. Scoville, one of Ionia county's best-known and most influential citizens, for many years an extensive farmer and stock dealer in Campbell township, now living retired in the pleasant town of Clarksville, this county, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Marion county, that state, March 20, 1843, son of Ashel A. and Mary (Lancaster) Scoville, both natives of that same state, the Scovilles in this country being of English and Welsh descent and the Lancasters of Scottish origin, both families represented in the parentage of the subject of this sketch dating back to Puritan days in New England.

Ashel A. Scoville was a farmer in Ohio and in 1853 he came with his family from Erie county, Ohio, to Michigan, settling in Campbell township, this county. The family drove through on the old Clinton trail, Mr. Scoville driving a team attached to the big wagon, his wife and young

daughter riding in a single buggy, the son, Leroy, then a lad of about ten years of age, walking all the way, driving the cattle. The horses driven by the Scovilles were the first horses brought into Campbell township and were among the first brought to Ionia county, the earlier settlers having been getting along with oxen, as better adapted to the rough hauling of the deep timber. Ashel A. Scoville bought eighty acres of land one-half mile north of where the village of Clarksville later sprang up and there he established his home. From the very beginning of his residence in this county he took an active part in the simple public life of that time and at once became a man of large local influence. His wife died in the fall of 1860 and he died the following spring, leaving two children, survivors of the four which had been born to them and of whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest.

Leroy A. Scoville was eighteen years of age at the time of his father's death and he thereafter took care of his younger sister until her marriage. After his father's death he took his sister back to Ohio and he then went to Missouri, where he had an uncle living, and in October of that year, 1861, he enlisted for service against the guerillas in Company F, First Missouri Cavalry. The following February this company of cavalry was mustered into the regular service of the United States and Mr. Scoville served until the close of the war, being mustered out in April, 1865, with the rank of orderly sergeant, the highest rank of the non-commissioned officers. His service was confined to points west of the Mississippi river and during a part of this time was in the army of General Fremont. During his residence in Missouri, Mr. Scoville was a neighbor of the James family, afterward so notorious in the criminal annals of the West, and was quite a good friend of one of the James girls; he often recalling in after life how the later notorious Jesse James was wont to act as intermediary in carrying letters from his sister to the young Northerner. Upon the conclusion of his military service, Mr. Scoville returned to Michigan, but in 1860 went to California, where he bought and leased a considerable tract of land in the Sacramento valley and there he remained for four years. While there his sister, Jennie, married Charles Clark, a native of New Hampshire.

In 1873 Mr. Scoville returned to Michigan and took charge of the old Scoville homestead in Campbell township, this county, farming the same with such success that he presently began to enlarge his holdings, eventually becoming the owner of a fine farm of five hundred acres. He also engaged extensively in the live-stock business and it was not long until he was generally recognized as one of the most substantial farmers and



business men in Ionia county. From the very beginning his interest in his home neighborhood proved a powerful incentive to Mr. Scoville's course in relation to all movements affecting the general welfare of the people of that part of the county, and it is conceded that his influence in local affairs and his activity in behalf of the common good thereabout did very much toward the development of that community. Mr. Scoville has always voted the Republican ticket and for many years has taken an active and influential part in local politics. He has been justice of the peace for twenty-five or thirty years and in 1896 was his party's candidate for representative from this district in the state Legislature, but was defeated with the rest of the ticket.

In February, 1867, in this county, Leroy A. Scoville was united in marriage to Martha J. Hogle, who was born in Ohio and who came to Michigan with her parents, Hiram Hogle and wife, in 1866, the family settling in this county. To this union five children were born, as follow: James L., Eugene, Claud E., who married Lillian Blough; Dr. Glenn H., a veterinary surgeon, of Clarksville, who married Ethel Smith, and Fred R., who died when fourteen years of age. The mother of these children died in November, 1912, and on February 24, 1915, Mr. Scoville married, secondly, in Alpena county, this state, Mrs. Johanna E. (Deadman) Johnson, widow of Eugene S. Johnson, to whom she was married on June 26, 1902, and who died on June 12, 1907, without issue. Mrs. Scoville was a school teacher for more than twenty years and holds a teacher's life certificate in Michigan and high credits in the state of Wisconsin, her special work in pedagogy having been in the department of nature studies, in which she had a high standing during the years of her active work in the school room.

Mrs. Johnson was born, Johanna Deadman, in the city of London, Ontario, daughter of William H. and Christina (McKay) Deadman, natives, respectively, of Oxford, England, and Inverness, Scotland, both of whom had gone to Canada in their youth with their parents and were married there in 1852. William H. Deadman was the son of Jacob Deadman, who was the founder of the famous Deadman Veterinary Remedy Company, of England, and was associated with his father in that business. Of his eight sons, seven became veterinary surgeons and the eighth also studied along the same lines, but did not become a practitioner. It is notable that the sons of these seven surgeons are now following in the same line that has made the name Deadman famous in veterinary lore for generations, the company bearing that name having the reputation of being the best of its kind in the world. Mr. Scoville is a Mason and was one of the organ-

izers of the lodge of that order at Clarksville. He has been a Mason for more than fifty years and now enjoys the distinction of having been created a life member of that ancient order.

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FRED H. VANDERHEYDEN.

Fred H. VanderHeyden, one of the prominent men of Ionia, Michigan, is the son of William H. and Emily E. (Wood) VanderHeyden, and was born in Ionia.

William H. VanderHeyden was a native of New York state, and his wife was born in Detroit, Michigan. They were the parents of the following children: William H., who is deceased; Ella M., who is the wife of H. B. Webber, of Ionia; Dora E., who is the wife of Dr. A. H. Holiday, of Long Beach, California, and Fred H., who is the subject of this sketch.

William H. VanderHeyden, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born and raised in Herkimer county, New York, and always followed the manufacturing of bricks after he was of age. He was an early settler in Ionia, where he established a brick-yard and later bought the old Thomas Cornell brick-yard, which he sold to his son, Fred, in 1892. He then ran a branch yard at Big Rapids for several years, and had other interests. He died in Ionia on August 16, 1910, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife still survives him. His father and mother were both natives of New York state. They both died in New York, she in middle life, and he about the age of ninety years. They had a good-sized family: William H., George, Daniel, Lavencia, and others. The father of Emily E. (Wood) VanderHeyden was John Wood. He lived near Detroit for many years. He was also a brick manufacturer.

Fred H. VanderHeyden, the subject of this sketch, was born in Ionia and has always lived there. He attended the public schools and later took a course in a business college. He learned the brick manufacturing business under his father, and at the age of twenty-one he bought the brick-yard of his father and has conducted the business himself ever since. The annual output from his yards is from three to four million bricks, and many of the houses of Ionia are built from the brick manufactured by him. On January 23, 1895, he was married to Eleanor M. Clark. She was born in Muskegon, but her parents were natives of Indiana and her mother is now living at Muskegon. There were four children in the family: Margaret, who is

the wife of A. G. Dearborn, of Muskegon; Eleanor, who is the wife of the subject of this sketch; Jessie, who is the wife of R. E. Moon, of Muskegon, and Robert C. Mrs. VanderHeyden's maternal grandfather was Wellington C. Clark, of Crown Point, Indiana, and his wife was Mary C. (Hackley) Clark. They both died at the age of one hundred years. Mr. Clark was the historian for his part of the country. He was a pioneer there and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. They had a small family.

Mr. VanderHeyden is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and also a member of the Maccabees. He is a Democrat in politics.

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### ARTHUR L. FRANCIS.

The name of Arthur L. Francis, postmaster at Portland, and publisher of the *Observer*, needs no introduction to the people of Ionia county, for he has for some time been a conspicuous local figure, although yet quite a young man. He was born in Portland, Michigan, March 8, 1891, and is a son of Fred L. and Dora (Sterling) Francis, both now living at Greenville, Michigan. To these parents two children were born, Arthur L., the subject of this review, and Marguerite, who is a graduate of the Portland high school and lives in Greenville.

The gentleman whose name forms the caption of this article was educated in the public schools of Portland, and when fourteen years old he entered the office of the *Portland Review* for the purpose of learning the printer's trade. From "devil" he worked his way up to a responsible position, and when eighteen years old went to Chicago, where he was connected with the City Press Association for three months and also being employed by the Kenfield-Leach Publishing Company, of that city. He remained with this firm until he returned to Portland, in the fall of 1910, on September 26 of which year he purchased the *Observer*, which he has since edited and published with success, greatly improving its appearance from a mechanical standpoint, increasing its circulation and rendering it one of the best country newspapers in the state.

Arthur L. Francis was married on May 21, 1912, in Portland, to Ruth I. Lockwood, a native of that place, where she grew up and was educated in the public schools, graduating from the local high school. To this marriage one child has been born, Maxine June Francis, whose birth occurred on June 6, 1914.

Politically, Mr. Francis is a Democrat and he is active personally as such. He has been chairman of the township committee, and on March 5, 1915, he was appointed postmaster at Portland, a position he is holding with eminent satisfaction to the people and the department. Fraternally, he belongs to Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons; Portland Chapter No. 39, Royal Arch Masons, and Lodge No. 199, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His wife belongs to the Order of the Eastern Star.

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### JEFFERSON ROBINSON.

It is a pleasure to look over a farm that is well kept and scientifically managed—everything in ship-shape and showing system and good taste—like that owned by Jefferson Robinson on rural route No. 42, Clarksville, Ionia county, Michigan. He was born in Kent county, Michigan, one mile north of Lowell, April 4, 1844, and is a son of Lucas and Delilah (Shaw) Robinson, both natives of the same county in New York state, where they grew up and were married, later coming to Michigan and locating in Ottawa county, but they soon removed to a farm one mile north of the town of Lowell, where they spent the rest of their lives. Their farm there consisted of one hundred and sixty acres and was one of the best in the county. The father was a Democrat, and he was for some time supervisor of his township and served as justice of the peace a number of times. His family consisted of six children, only two of whom survive, namely: Jefferson, the subject of this sketch; Allen makes his home at Lowell, Michigan; John T., who spent his life as a farmer, is now deceased; Seth L., who was also a farmer, is deceased; Horace owned the farm, on which Jefferson lives, at the time of his death; Eunice, deceased, was the wife of E. R. Crow, of Lowell, Michigan.

Jefferson Robinson was reared on the farm in Kent county, Michigan, and educated in the public schools, after which he turned his attention to general farming, which he has carried on to the present time, with the exception of five years spent in the lumber business at Sand lake, and also five years spent in the lumber business in Crawford county, Ohio; also went to Texas and engaged in the real-estate business two years. Returning to Ionia county, Michigan, he engaged in farming there for a period of thirty-one years, then returned to Texas, where he spent six years, then came back to Ionia county and purchased his present place, "Maple Grove

farm," consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, located seven miles southeast of Lowell. This place was left to him by Mrs. Isabelle Robinson, wife of his brother, Horace Robinson, at the time of her death. She was born in the state of Vermont and was a daughter of Worster and Polly English. She came to Ionia county, Michigan, with her parents, the family locating on the above named farm. She spent the rest of her life on this farm, dying without issue, at the advanced age of eighty-two years, having lived here eighty years.

Jefferson Robinson married Ellen J. Cook in 1867, who was born in the state of New York, April 5, 1843, and is a daughter of William and Sarah (Bennette) Cook. Her father was a well-to-do farmer in New York. She was only a year old when, in 1844, her uncle brought her to Michigan, locating at Lodi. She received a good education in the public schools and the seminary at Ypsilanti, from which institution she was graduated, after which she taught for several years, including the schools of Grand Rapids and Lowell.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, namely: L. D., who was educated in the public schools of Ionia, including a business course, is now living at Valasco, Texas, where he is engaged in farming and truck growing; William H., who was married, died in 1898, leaving a daughter, Ellen M., a graduate of the high school at Los Angeles, California, also of a normal school, who is the wife of Edward Roberts, a manufacturer of women's apparel at Los Angeles; Charles, the third child, died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Robinson is a Democrat, but he has never been active in public affairs or held office.

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#### PERRY C. FREEMAN.

One of the painstaking farmers of Boston township, Ionia county, is Perry C. Freeman, who was born in Orleans township, near Long lake, Ionia county, September 9, 1847. He is a son of C. J. and Lucetta M. (Thompson) Freeman, both natives of Alexander, New York, where they grew up, attended school and were married. They came to Michigan about 1846, the father entering eighty acres from the government in Orleans township, Ionia county, on which he lived three years, then sold out. He became owner of several farms here, purchasing them in a wild state and

improving them, then selling out at a good price. He finally moved to Grand Rapids, but later came back to this county. He owned the farm where the state hospital at Ionia is located. After selling that place to the state he retired to the city of Ionia, where he spent the rest of his life. He was a money maker and a well-known and highly-respected citizen. He belonged to the Presbyterian church. The birth of C. J. Freeman occurred on October 10, 1826, and he died on December 29, 1890; his wife was born on March 4, 1826, and died on November 6, 1898. They were the parents of nine children, five of whom survive, namely: Alonzo O. lives in Ionia and is a traveling salesman; Effie A. is the wife of L. C. Wardon, of Ionia; William J., a painter and decorator, lives in Portland, Oregon; Nettie was the wife of John F. Whitmyer; and Perry C., the subject of this sketch.

Perry C. Freeman was reared on the home farm where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools and the Ionia high school. He taught school for a while, then turned his attention to farming, which he has continued to the present time.

On October 6, 1872, Perry C. Freeman married Ruth A. Hall, daughter of Joshua S. and Sarah A. Hall, a native of Ionia township, this county, born on the farm which her father entered from the government. She was born on February 13, 1853. Later her parents located in Orleans township, where she attended the district and high schools, and she taught one term of school. Mr. and Mrs. Freeman began housekeeping on the farm of his father, where they remained three years, then moved to Boston township on his ninety-acre farm, where they spent twenty years, and in 1897 moved to Mrs. Freeman's present farm of one hundred and forty acres. In connection with general farming he is a breeder of Rambouillet sheep, and he keeps an excellent grade of live stock of all kinds. He is a stockholder in the Lowell State Bank, also a stockholder in the Automatic National Music Company.

To Mr. and Mrs. Freeman eleven children have been born, eight of whom survive, namely: Mae is the wife of Rev. W. A. Minty, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he is pastor of the First Congregational church; Belle R. is the wife of E. D. Collar, an auctioneer, and they live in the city of Ionia; Nemma J. is single and formerly engaged in teaching; John P. is farming in Boston township; Frank S. is farming on the old home place; Carrie E., who was graduated from the district schools, is the wife of R. A. Kyser and they live in Boston township; Verne A., who was graduated from the schools of Big Rapids and the Michigan Agricultural College,

formerly taught school in Bad Axe, is now farming in Boston township; Emery W., who was graduated from the Saranac high school, is unmarried.

Mr. Freeman and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which both are active workers and liberal supporters. They also belong to the Grange. He was formerly a member of the county committee. Politically, he is a Republican.

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### ALBERT P. BURR.

An advocate of advanced methods of farming is A. P. Burr, of Boston township, Ionia county, and he is therefore succeeding at his chosen vocation. He was born in Livingston county, Michigan, near Howell, July 11, 1848, and is a son of John W. and Elvira (Plato) Burr. The father was a native of Connecticut. The Burr history has been traced back through many generations to English stock. John W. Burr removed with his parents to New York state when seventeen years of age, and in a short time went on to Livingston county, Michigan, where his parents spent the rest of their lives. After their death, John Winton Burr removed from the homestead on which he had been reared to a place of his own near Northville, Wayne county, Michigan. He was married there to a Miss Shay and two children were born to them, James, who died while a soldier in the Civil War, and Jane, who is the wife of W. Cushing, of Alta Loma, Texas. After the death of the wife and mother at an early age, Mr. Burr went back to Livingston county, but retained his farm in Wayne county. While in Livingston county he met and married Elvira Plato, and they went to live on his farm in Wayne county about 1850, and lived there until their son, A. P. Burr, was about fifteen years old, when they sold out and bought eighty acres in Ionia county. It was wild land, but he improved it and added to it until he had a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1882, his widow surviving until 1884. Besides the subject of this sketch they were the parents of Alma L., who married E. J. Marsh, an attorney of Big Rapids, Michigan; she became a highly educated woman.

A. P. Burr grew up on his father's farm, helping clear the first eighty, on which land he settled after his marriage, and here he has since resided. The place contains one hundred and ten acres, which he has kept well improved and well tilled. Mr. Burr has always been a great lover of fine

horses and he was one of the first to introduce Duroc-Jersey and Mule Foot hogs in this section.

In November, 1869, A. P. Burr was married to Anna Remington, a daughter of William and Ann Jeanette (Hood) Remington, and to this union ten children were born, namely: Arthur, a traveling salesman, lives in Grand Rapids; Jeanette, deceased, was the wife of Dr. Fred Joslin, of Big Rapids, Michigan; Mae is the wife of Lewis Pratt and they live in Nashville, Michigan; Charlie makes his home in Pontiac, Michigan; Alma is the wife of Dell Gronlx, who runs an art and music store in Green Bay, Wisconsin; Silas died in infancy; Letha is the wife of Frank Hakes, of Lowell, Michigan; John died when eight months old; June is the wife of Floyd Behler, a government inspector, living at Nashville, Michigan; Bess, who was graduated from the normal at Big Rapids, is teaching school in Nashville. The mother of the above named children died in 1906, and on June 24, 1909, Mr. Burr was united in marriage with Mrs. Hannah (Remington) Hobbs, widow of W. F. Hobbs. She was the mother of two children by her first husband, namely: Nellie Hobbs, born in 1874, became the wife of Bert Morgan, of Pennsylvania, and is now deceased; Harold K. Hobbs, born in 1881, lives in New Castle. For several years Mr. and Mrs. Hobbs had an undertaking and furniture business at Bellaire, Michigan, and they lived in Fitzgerald, Georgia, when W. F. Hobbs died.

Politically, Mr. Burr is a Democrat. He has long been a school director in his district, and has filled all the school offices. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge No. 125, at Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. Burr are members of the Congregational church and he is a trustee.

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#### JOSEPH F. PINKHAM, M. D.

Dr. Joseph F. Pinkham, one of the best-known physicians of this county, who has been engaged in the practice of his profession at Belding since 1892, is a native of the English dominion across the border to the north, having been born on a farm in the neighborhood of Richwood, in Oxford county, Ontario, January 2, 1860, son of William and Esther (Muma) Pinkham, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Ontario.

The Pinkham family of which Doctor Pinkham is a member is descended from Richard Pinkham, who landed at Plymouth Rock from the "Mayflower" in 1620, one of the most active members of that valiant band



of Pilgrims, and the successive generations of his descendants ever since have done well their parts in the widely separated communities in which they are now represented. William Pinkham was the son of a ship carpenter who moved with his family from Massachusetts to St. Johns, New Brunswick, where he plied his trade until his children were well grown, after which he emigrated with his family to western Ontario, where he entered a tract of government land in Oxford county and there established his home, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there. William Pinkham was but a child when he moved to St. Johns and was well grown when the family settled in western Ontario. There he assisted in clearing the homestead farm and there, upon his marriage, he established his home. His wife, Esther Muma, was born in Brant county, Ontario, her parents having emigrated to that county from Pennsylvania, their native state, both having been born there, of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent.

To William and Esther (Muma) Pinkham eight children were born, six of whom grew to maturity and four of whom are still living, namely: E. F., of Los Angeles, California; George H., of Hillside, this state; William, who died in California, at the age of thirty-three years; Fred, who died in California, at the age of twenty years; Joseph F., the subject of this biographical sketch; Frank, who lives in California; William, who died in infancy, and Eliza, who died at the age of ten years. The mother of these children died in 1872 and William Pinkham married, secondly, Sarah Key, to which union three children were born, Burley, who died in Ontario at the age of thirty years; Gordon, who is living in California, and Winifred, who died in September, 1914. William Pinkham remained on the old homestead farm in Ontario until he was eighty-five years of age, after which he moved to California, where his death occurred in December, 1911.

Joseph F. Pinkham received his elementary education in the schools in the neighborhood of his home, supplementing the same by a course in the Collegiate Institute at Brimford, Ontario, after which for three years he was engaged in teaching school in Brant county. During this time he had determined upon a medical career and after careful preparatory study entered the medical department of Toronto University, from which he was graduated, after a four-years course, on June 1, 1892, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his noble profession, Doctor Pinkham came to Michigan, opened an office at Belding, in this county, and has ever since been very successfully engaged in practice in that city.

On October 16, 1895, Dr. Joseph E. Pinkham was united in marriage to Lydia L. Carnahan, daughter of Daniel Carnahan and wife, of South Haven, this state, and to this union five children have been born, as follow: Esther, who was graduated from the Belding high school with the class of 1916; Frank, a student in the same school; William, also in school; Ruth, who died at the age of three years, and Joseph E. Doctor and Mrs. Pinkham are members of the Baptist church and take an earnest interest in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. The Doctor is a Democrat, ever taking a good citizen's interest in political affairs, and is a member of Belding Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

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#### NATHAN BRADLEY HAYES.

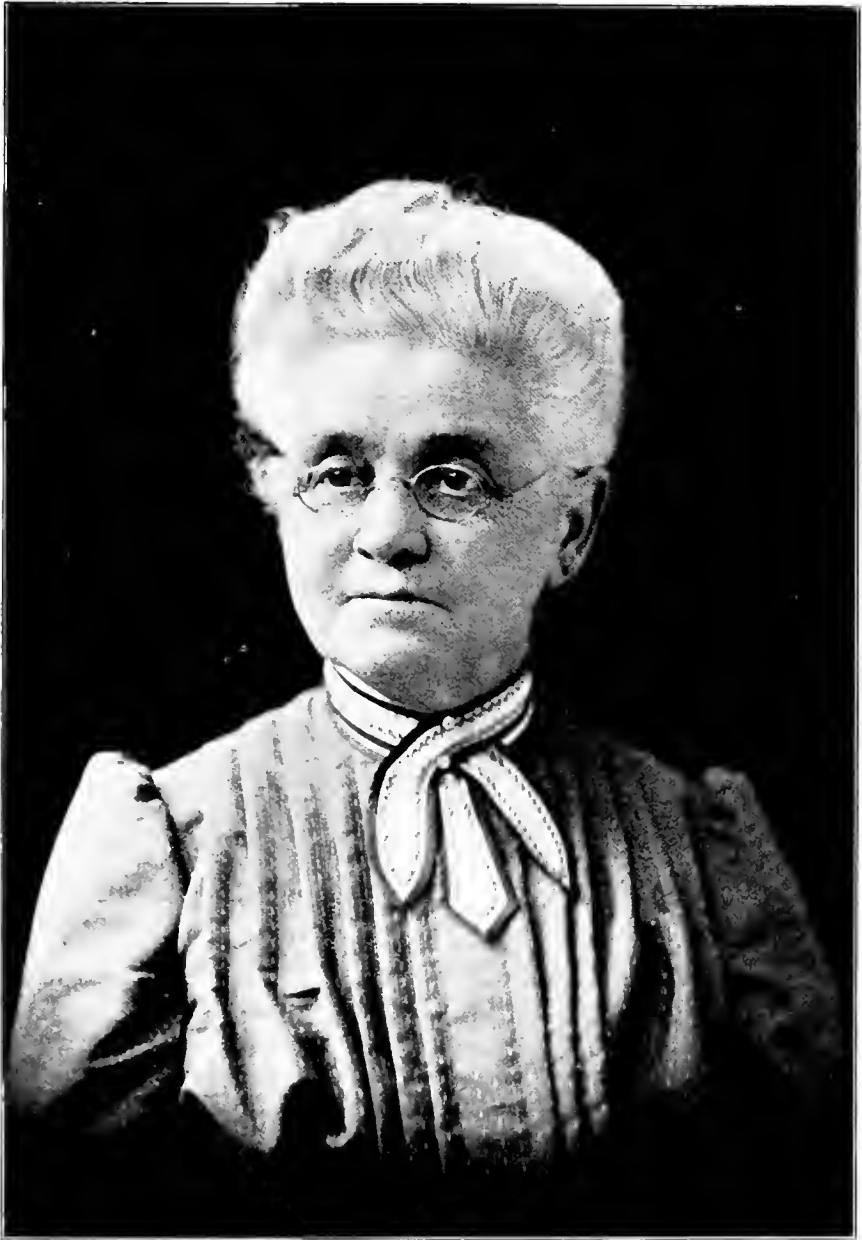
The history of Ionia county is replete with stories of achievement of men who came into this rugged wilderness wresting fame and fortune and contributing to the permanency of its institutions and progress. The Hayes family has ever been one of the dominant factors in all that has tended to make Ionia county what it is today. Nathan Bradley Hayes, one of the worthy members of this family, hardly needs introduction to the citizens of this county. Ever in the forefront of all popular movements and always abreast of the best things in the business and social life of Ionia county he has indeed earned his niche in Ionia's "Hall of Fame."

Mr. Hayes is a descendant of sturdy old New York stock, from which state so many of the early settlers of Ionia county came. Hector Hayes, his father, was a prominent farmer, who was born in 1804 near Prattsburg, New York. His mother, Lucinda (Warren) Hayes was of good old colonial stock, born in Connecticut in 1806, having married in Ontario county, New York. Hector Hayes and wife and two sons, George and Bradley, came to Michigan, settling in North Plains, Ionia county, that section then being a dense wilderness, with burr oak in abundance. At that time there was but one other family in that township. They underwent the hardships of the early pioneers, and endured many privations, the elder Hayes carrying his grain to the grist mill at Marshall, Calhoun county, the nearest mill in that day. They were indeed pioneers who builded well the foundation for the comforts enjoyed by the present generation. Nathan B. Hayes grew up amid these pioneer surroundings, schooled in the hardihood of the times





NATHAN B. HAYES



MRS. MARY HAYES.



and acquired the ruggedness of strength and character that has stood him so well in life's battle. He began attending Olivet Institution at the age of twenty, remaining there for two years, subsequently renting his father's farm two years and in the meantime teaching school during the winter. At twenty-four years of age he acquired eighty acres of land and immediately began improving it. At the age of twenty-nine he married Mary Olmsted, of North Plains, daughter of Jay and Anstus (Case) Olmsted, who came from Onondaga county, New York, and had settled here at an early day.

Mr. Hayes early began to take a prominent part in shaping the commercial destinies of Ionia county and he was chosen president of the First National Bank of Muir at its organization, filling that office two years, also being elected as president of the Ionia Co-operative Mutual Benefit Association. When the Grand Rapids and Muir Log-Running Association, formed during the early lumber days, was organized he was elected president and director, serving during its existence. In the educational life of the county he has contributed much that has been of lasting benefit, from the time he was twenty-one years of age, when he was elected school trustee to the present time, always in the forefront in the promotion of the best educational advantages. As early as 1876 Mr. Hayes was a leader in the political destinies of the county, in that year being elected to the Legislature on the Republican ticket, running far ahead of his ticket. His service in the Legislature was notable and while there he was a member of the committee which investigated the noted Rose-Douglas university case.

A history of Ionia county is closely intertwined with that of the lumber industry and in the early lumbering days Hayes was a name to be reckoned with in all that concerned lumber. It might be said that no other man in the history of this county was more prominently identified with that industry than the subject of this sketch. Before the Civil War he was heavily interested in timber lands and as early as 1880 was manufacturing from one to six million feet of lumber annually. With the extinction of the lumber industry Mr. Hayes turned his natural talent to other avenues of endeavor meeting with the same marked success that has been his portion in all his life's work. When the vast wilderness gave way to blossoming farms Mr. Hayes was in the forefront of the agriculture life of this county and has contributed in time and money to make Ionia county as prosperous a farming region as it was a lumber region in the early days. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers' Institutes and has ever been prominent in that

work, and has materially encouraged corn growing, offering prizes on his own initiative as an incentive for better corn crops. It is notable how versatile Mr. Hayes has been in his agriculture activity, his success as an apple grower being well known not only in Ionia county but outside the confines of Michigan as well.

In the evening of life Mr. Hayes in retrospection can look back over his life's work with no small degree of pride. His has indeed been a life of fruitful endeavor and he now enjoys in travel his well earned years of leisure and at the same time keeping up his interests in the good works of Ionia county, which has ever been dear to his heart and which has been the scene of his life's chronicle.

To Mr. Hayes and wife were born the following children: George B., Hector and Jerry C., all of Detroit, and Austin C., manager of the home place. Mr. Hayes was a member of the board of control of the reformatories for eight years and served as president of joint board for a period of five years. These bodies had charge of the Jackson, Marquette and Ionia reformatories. It is noteworthy that Mr. Hayes had a Bell telephone before there was an exchange in the state of Michigan, and the first telephone in Ionia county was placed in his home and connected him with Muir. Also he had installed on his farm the first windmill north of what is now the Grand Trunk railroad, which passes through Ionia county.

Mr. Hayes is president of the Ionia County Pioneer Society, an office which he has held for many years, and at this writing (1916), there are only three living that were here in 1836.

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#### RICHARD CANNON.

Richard Cannon, a well-known retired farmer of the neighboring county of Montcalm, now living in Belding, this county, is a native of Canada, having been born on a farm near Mt. Pleasant, in Brant county, Ontario, August 11, 1859, son of William and Mary (Hartley) Cannon, the former a native of London, England, and the latter of Ontario, whose last days were spent on a farm in Keene township, this county, they having been pioneers of that section.

William Cannon was born in London in 1819, only son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Beckett) Cannon, the former a native of the town of Amersham, in the county of Bucks, Buckinghamshire, England, and the





RESIDENCE OF NATHAN D. HAYES.



latter of London, and was twenty years of age when he accompanied his parents across the water, the family settling on September 8, 1839, on a farm in Brant county, Ontario, where the elder Cannons spent the remainder of their lives. William Cannon married not long after arriving on this side and continued to make his home on the parental farm until after the death of his parents. Early in the year 1864 he traded the paternal acres in Ontario for one hundred and twenty acres in Keene township, this county, and arrived at the latter place with his family on February 8, 1864, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there. They were the parents of twelve children, namely: Thomas, who died in Belding; Jane, wife of Elijah Swan, of Ada, in Kent county, this state; Mary E., wife of John Hastings, of Wellsville, New York; William, who died in infancy; William, second, who also died in infancy; Samuel, a resident of Greenville, this state; William, who died in Douglass township, in the neighboring county of Montcalm; Sarah, deceased, who was the wife of Edwin Tasker, of Keene township, this county; Richard, the subject of this biographical sketch; Elizabeth, wife of Irvin Brown, of Easton township, this county; Isaac, a resident of Pine township, Montcalm county, and Victoria, wife of Ellsworth Spence, of Mecosta county, this state.

Richard Cannon was about five years old when his parents came to this county from Canada and he lived on the home farm in Keene township until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time, in 1880, he went up into the pine timber country in Pine township, Montcalm county, where he bought a tract of forty acres, which he proceeded to clear and improve. He presently bought an adjoining tract of twenty acres and it was not many years before he had a fine farm there. Two years after moving to Montcalm county he married and he continued to make his home there until 1912, in which year he disposed of his place and moved to Belding, where he has made his home ever since. Upon moving to Belding he bought the old homestead farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Keene township, but two years later sold the same. He is now the owner of eighty acres near his old home in Montcalm county and eighty acres in Osceola county, this state.

On February 6, 1882, Richard Cannon was united in marriage to Nettie M. Sparks, one of the ten children of William and Mary (Covert) Sparks, pioneers of Keene township, this county, and to this union one child has been born, a son, William R., who is engaged in the automobile business at Grand Rapids, this state. Mr. Cannon is a Democrat and during his residence in Montcalm county he held some minor offices.

## ALBERT MEADE.

As a farmer and stock raiser Albert Meade, of Orleans township, Ionia county, ranks with the most enterprising in this locality. He was born in Greene county, New York, fifty miles from Albany, June 17, 1849, and is a son of William and Sarah (Post) Meade, both natives of the state of New York, the father of English descent and the mother of Dutch extraction. These parents grew up in their native state, were educated and married there. In 1857 they removed with their family to Ionia county, Michigan, buying the farm on which Albert Meade now resides, consisting of one hundred and ten acres, and on this they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1890 and the mother passed away in March, 1910. Ten children were born to them, five surviving at this writing, namely: William is deceased; Albert, the subject of this review; Elizabeth, widow of George Abby, lives in Ionia county; Mary, the wife of Hans Johnson, lives in Greenville, Michigan; Alice is the wife of John Sherman, lives in Fremont county, Michigan; Edward is deceased; Wealthy is the wife of E. Johnson, and lives in Orleans township, Ionia county; the other three children died in early life.

Albert Meade grew up on the home farm and received his education in the district schools. He bought a small farm in Orleans township when starting out in life for himself. He worked in the lumber camps from 1872 to 1882, then settled on his forty-acre farm, where he lived until 1888, when he moved on the old home place, which he subsequently bought, and since that time has added eighty acres and now has a finely improved farm of one hundred and eighty acres, on which he carries on general farming and stock raising, handling all lines of stock, but making a specialty of Durham cattle and Rambouillet sheep, his fine live stock being greatly admired by all who see them. He has made many improvements on the place, including the erection of two large barns in 1913 and remodeling the old barns and other outbuildings.

Albert Meade has been twice married, first, in June, 1872, to Wealthy Palmer, a daughter of Jewell Palmer. Her death occurred in 1873. To this union one son was born, John Meade, who owns a good farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Orleans township, Ionia county. Mr. Meade was married, secondly, on January 14, 1882, to Sarah J. Parker, a daughter of William and Jane (Evermington) Parker, natives of England, where they grew up and were married, later emigrating to Canada, where they

spent five years, then moved to Fremont, Michigan, and there the death of Mr. Parker occurred in 1896; his widow still survives. The second union was without issue. Politically, Mr. Meade is a Democrat.

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### CHARLES E. BRINK.

Charles E. Brink, a well-known farmer of Otisco township, this county, living on his well-kept farm of fifty-nine acres, known as "Fairfield Farm," two miles south and one and one-half miles east of Belding, and who has served as supervisor of Otisco township since 1903, is a native of the Empire state, having been born in New York on July 12, 1854, son of Lorenzo and Mary J. (Robbins) Brink, the former also a native of New York state and the latter of New Jersey.

Lorenzo Brink, who was trained to follow the carpenter's trade in his youth, was married in New York state and in 1865 came with his family to Michigan, locating in Otisco township, this county, arriving there on April 17, of that year. At that time the whole nation was in a turmoil over the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and, as an indication of the popular feeling, the train the Brinks were riding on was stopped at Suspension Bridge, and Mr. Brink was seriously questioned by highway guards, who were on the lookout for the assassin of the President. For one year after coming to this county, Lorenzo Brink and his family lived on a farm in the upper part of Otisco township, but later moved to Smyrna, where Mr. Brink engaged in the building trade and so continued the rest of his life. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom four are still living, namely: Charles E., the subject of this sketch; Jesse, a farmer of Montcalm county, this state; Kate, who is a resident of Battle Creek, this state, and William T., a farmer living near Rodney.

Charles E. Brink was about eleven years old when his parents came from New York to this county, and he completed his schooling in the schools at Smyrna, after which for seven years he was employed on a farm of Levi Bross. He married Carrie E. Gooding in 1877, and for four years thereafter made his home on a farm in Eureka township in the neighboring county of Montcalm. He then returned to Belding and for three years thereafter was employed as a driver on the old horse-car line between Belding and Kiddville. He then worked in the grist-mill at Belding for four

years, at the end of which time he removed to "Fairfield Farm," and has made his home there ever since, being very comfortably situated there.

To Mr. Brink's marriage with Carrie E. Gooding one child was born, a son, Albert G., who died at the age of twenty-one years. Mrs. Carrie Brink died on January 12, 1894, and in 1912 Mr. Brink married Etta B. Hanks, who was born in Otisco township, this county, daughter of James M. and Emily (Witt) Hanks. Mr. and Mrs. Brink are rearing a little girl, Olive Curtis, a niece of Mrs. Brink. They are members of the Grange and Mr. Brink is a Republican. He has given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs for years and has been supervisor of his home township for twelve years in all.

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#### WILLIAM B. REED.

William B. Reed, office manager for the Belding Brothers Company at Belding, this county, a prominent member of the board of commerce of that city and for years an active figure in the civic affairs of Belding, is a native of Connecticut, having been born at Rockville, in that state, January 23, 1871, son of George Strong and Helen E. (Benedict) Reed, the former of whom was born near Rockville, Connecticut, and the latter in the western part of the same state, the Reeds being of English descent and the Benedicts of French descent. George S. Reed was a railroad man, whose death occurred in 1909. His widow is still living in Connecticut. To them were born two children, sons both, the subject of this biographical sketch, and Winthrop H., who died at the age of five years.

William B. Reed's youth was spent in Rockville and South Manchester. Upon completing the course in the high school he became employed as a bookkeeper in the Rockville National Bank, of Rockville, Connecticut, and was thus engaged for about two years, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the office of the Belding Brothers Company, at Rockville, where he served as a bookkeeper for a year, during which time he acquired a fine knowledge of the business relating to the silk trade. His services then were secured by the Richardson Silk Company and in October, 1891, he was sent to the office of that company at Belding, this county, in the capacity of assistant secretary, remaining in that office until in August, 1902, at which time he was installed as office manager in the great plant of the Belding Brothers Company, at Belding, and has been thus engaged ever since, during which time he has taken his place as one of the most

active business men in Belding. He is a Republican and for years has served as city auditor and as a member of the board of park commissioners, in which dual capacity he is still serving. He is a former member of the Belding school board and was treasurer of that board at the time the fine Belding high school was erected. He is an active and influential member of the Belding Chamber of Commerce and takes an earnest interest in all movements having to do with the general advancement of the city's material interests.

On January 1, 1894, William B. Reed was united in marriage to Susie A. Yost, a school teacher, who was born and reared at Ypsilanti, this state, daughter of William Lee and Sarah E. (Yost) Yost, both natives of Cayuga county, New York, and to this union three children have been born, George Y., who is a teller in the Highland Park State Bank at Detroit; William Lee, who died in his third years, and one who died in infancy. Mr. Reed is a member of the Belding Lodge No. 355, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Fortuna Lodge No. 120, Knights of Pythias, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

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#### HARVEY A. TURNER.

One of the busy and successful citizens of Boston township, Ionia county, Michigan, is Harvey A. Turner, whose pleasant residence may be found on rural route No. 9. He was born in the above named township and county in January, 1863, and is a son of Jonah and Hester A. (Nichols) Turner, natives of Michigan and Canada, respectively. The father was one of the early settlers in Boston township, where he cleared and developed a good farm. He was a hard-working man and made all he had by his individual efforts. He and his wife were members of the Congregational church, and politically he was a Democrat. His family consisted of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the only survivor, the others having died in infancy.

Harvey A. Turner was reared on the home farm where he worked hard when a boy, and he received his education in the district schools and the Saranac schools. He remained with his parents on the homestead until he was twenty-one years of age. On November 26, 1891, he married Ina Hawn, who was born in Boston township, Ionia county, July 31, 1868, a daughter of Hugh and Emily (Kilborn) Hawn, natives of Medina, Ohio.

After his marriage, Mr. Turner lived in Saranac, Michigan, for four years, then moved on the farm on which he was reared and which he now owns, his place consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, which is well improved and productive, and on which he carries on general farming and stock raising.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Turner, namely: Carl J., born on September 8, 1892, was graduated from the Saranac high school, is living at home; Hester M., born on May 8, 1906, is attending school, now in the fifth grade (1916).

Mr. Turner is an advocate of good schools and has assisted in bettering the work of the grades in his district. Politically, he is a Democrat. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### FREDERIC W. HOWARD.

Frederic W. Howard, manager of the great plant of the Belding Brothers Company, at Belding, this county, a position he has held since the year 1890, is a native of Massachusetts, having been born at Windsor, in Berkshire county, that state, November 26, 1852, son of Joseph F. and Minerva N. (Pelton) Howard, both natives of that same state, substantial farming people who spent all their lives in their native state, the latter dying in 1884 and the former surviving until 1896. Joseph F. Howard and wife were the parents of seven children, of whom but two are now living, namely: Stanley Joseph, a veteran of the Civil War, now deceased, who served as a member of Company G, Twenty-seventh Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry; Henry W., who served in Company D, Tenth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and who died in the service; Charles A., also of Company G, Twenty-seventh Massachusetts, who also died in service; Edward W., now deceased, who served in the United States navy during the Civil War and received his honorable discharge at the close of that great struggle; Ella M., who died unmarried, at the age of twenty-two years; Frederic W., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and William S., a well-to-do farmer of Northampton county, Massachusetts.

When nine years of age Frederic W. Howard left the place of his birth with his parents, who settled on a farm in the neighborhood of Leeds, in Northampton county, Massachusetts, and there he grew up. He presently



began working in the factory of the Nonotuck Silk Company. After several years of service with that concern he went to the Mill River Butter Company as foreman and was thus engaged for about ten years, at the end of which time he entered the employ of the Belding Brothers Company as an overseer in that company's great plant at Northampton and was engaged in that capacity there until he was transferred to the same company's plant at Belding, in this county, of which he has been the manager since March, 1890. Mr. Howard ever has given his thoughtful attention to the general affairs at Belding, and has been one of the most active figures in the development of the interests of that thriving town. He is a prominent member of the Belding Chamber of Commerce and is chairman of the city water-works board, on which he is now serving his fourth three-years term. Mr. Howard is a Republican and takes a good citizen's part in local political affairs. He is treasurer of the Belding Coal and Ice Company.

On November 11, 1875, at Amherst, Massachusetts, Frederic W. Howard was united in marriage to Alice S. Hubbard, who was born and reared in that city, and to this union two children have been born, Stanley E. and Mabel A. Mr. and Mrs. Howard are members of the Unitarian church at Northampton and Mr. Howard is a member of Belding Lodge No. 553, Free and Accepted Masons, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

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#### CHARLES H. MAYNARD.

Charles H. Maynard, president of the Maynard-Allen State Bank, of Portland, this county, one of the few survivors of the real pioneer period in this part of the state and who for many years has been one of the most active figures in the financial and general business life of the eastern part of Ionia county, is a native of the state of New York, but has lived in this county since 1839 and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development of this region since that time. He was born in Wayne county, New York, May 27, 1831, son of Gardner and Parnelle (Dean) Maynard, both natives of that same state, the former born in 1801 and the latter in 1805.

Gardner Maynard grew up at Hartford, New York, and there was married, after which he settled on a farm near Rochester, that same state, where he lived until 1837, in which year he and his family came to Michigan, settling in Wayne county, where they remained two years, at the end of which time, in 1839, they came to Ionia county and settled in Portland township, being among the earliest settlers of that part of the county. Gardner May-

nard bought a homestead there and early became one of the most substantial and influential pioneers of that section. As he prospered he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of four hundred acres, which he brought to a high state of cultivation. He and his wife were devout Methodists and from the very start were looked upon as among the leaders in good works in that neighborhood. They were the parents of eight children of whom two are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, E. A. Maynard, a prosperous ranchman in Montana.

Charles H. Maynard was but six years old when he came with his parents to Michigan back in territorial days and he thus has been a resident of this state ever since it became a state. He was eight years old when the family settled in this county and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Portland township, taking an active part in the development of that place. He supplemented the schooling received in the pioneer schools by a course in a business college and early took a prominent part in the general affairs of his community, becoming a progressive farmer and a man of affairs. He married in 1856 and in 1874 organized a private bank at Portland and operated the same alone until he presently reorganized the institution as a state bank, under the name of the Maynard-Allen State Bank of Portland, at which time he was elected president of the bank and has ever since held that position, long having been recognized as one of the leading figures in banking circles in this county. The present officary of the Maynard-Allen State Bank is as follows: President, C. H. Maynard; vice-president, U. J. Maynard and Fred H. Knox; cashier, Richard Bates; assistant cashier, Carl Derby; directors, C. H. Maynard, U. J. Maynard, F. H. Knox, George Allen, W. H. McBride, John A. McClelland, and Richard Bates. Besides his holdings in the bank, Mr. Maynard is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in Portland township. He is a Republican, and has for many years taken an interested part in local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

It was in September, 1856, that Charles H. Maynard was united in marriage to Frances U. Churchill, who was born in the state of New York and who had come to Michigan with her parents at an early day. To that union three children were born, two sons, both of whom died in youth, and a daughter, Helen A., born on September 10, 1857, who married E. D. Woodbury and lives at Portland, this county. Mrs. Maynard died in 1903. She was an active member of the Methodist church, as is Mr. Maynard, and was ever interested in good works. Mr. Maynard is a Knight Templar Mason and for many years has taken a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

## WILLIAM L. CUSSER.

William L. Cusser, cashier of the Peoples Savings Bank of Belding and one of the most enterprising and energetic citizens of that city, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on a farm in Orleans township, March 13, 1873, son of William A. and Emma J. (Wheeler) Cusser, well-known residents of that community, the former of whom was born in Grattan township, Kent county, this state, February 6, 1849.

The youth of William L. Cusser was spent on the home farm in Orleans township and he was graduated from the Belding high school with the class of 1891, immediately thereafter entering the employ of the Belding Savings Bank as collections clerk. Upon the organization of the Peoples Savings Bank of Belding, in May, 1893, he transferred his services to that institution and was employed there as bookkeeper until the time of his promotion to the position of assistant cashier in 1898, and he served the bank in the latter capacity until his further promotion to the position of cashier in 1908, which position he since has held, being now also one of the directors of the bank.

Upon the organization of the Peoples Savings Bank of Belding, in 1893, the officers of that institution were E. R. Spencer, president; Frank R. Chase, vice-president, and M. A. Reed, cashier, who, with John Greenot, Loren C. Fales, George Hoppough, Charles Eddy, A. A. Palmer, L. L. Holmes, G. M. Spencer and Brinton F. Hall, were the directors. The present officary of the bank is as follow: President, Brinton F. Hall; vice-president, F. R. Chase, and cashier, William Cusser, who, with George Hoppough, Charles Eddy, George W. Moulton, F. E. Underwood, H. L. Page and John G. Hessler, are directors.

William L. Cusser married Dot M. Wright, of Greenville, this state, who died on May 15, 1900, leaving one child, a daughter, Margaret E., born on April 30, 1898, and later Mr. Cusser married, secondly, Elsie B. Evans, who was born at Carson City, in the neighboring county of Montcalm, January 21, 1884, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Marian L., born on August 13, 1907.

Mr. Cusser's business interests are not confined wholly to the bank, and he is actively identified with several important enterprises in and about Belding. He is a stockholder in the great Belding-Hall Company and is one of the directors and the treasurer of the Belding Building and Loan Association. He owns a valuable farm in Kent county and is accounted

one of the substantial citizens of Ionia county. Mr. Cusser is a Republican and ever has given his thoughtful attention to local politics. He served three terms as city treasurer of Belding and in other ways has contributed of his time and his services to the public welfare. He is a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and is also a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, being a past chancellor of that organization.

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WILLIAM A. WILDER.

William A. Wilder, former register of deeds of Ionia county and for some years past cashier in the private bank of William F. Sandell at Belding, this county, is a native of Illinois, having been born in the town of Sublette, that state, January 8, 1856, son of A. L. and Elvira (Benton) Wilder, both natives of the state of Massachusetts, who came West in the early fifties of the past century and located in Sublette, Illinois, where Mr. Wilder engaged in the mercantile business and became a successful merchant, remaining there until his retirement from business, after which he and his wife moved to Belding, this county, where their last days were spent. A. L. Wilder was a man of prominence in the commercial and civic life of Sublette and had served the people of that town as township clerk. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom three are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Nellie, who is the widow of T. Frank Ireland, and who is now making her home in New York City, and a brother, R. A. Wilder, deputy county treasurer of Boone county, Iowa.

William A. Wilder was reared at Sublette, Illinois, receiving his elementary education in the public schools of that place, which he supplemented by study in the high school course of the Illinois State Normal, at Normal, Illinois, after which he was taken into his father's store and made a partner in the business, under the firm name of A. L. Wilder & Son, continuing thus engaged for ten years, at the end of which time the store was closed and the family came to Michigan, locating at Belding, this county. Upon his arrival in Belding, Mr. Wilder entered the office of the Miller Casket Company and was thus engaged for five years, after which he engaged in the retail book and stationery business and was engaged in the latter business in Belding until his election as register of deeds of Ionia county in

1906. Mr. Wilder served a four-years term in that important office, during which time he made his home at Ionia, the county seat. Upon the completion of his official term, on January 1, 1911, Mr. Wilder returned to Belding and entered the service of the Sandell Bank as cashier, a position which he has since been filling.

On July 31, 1879, William A. Wilder was united in marriage to Jessie A. Dexter, who was born in Sublette, Illinois, and who was graduated from the Illinois State Normal. To this union two children have been born, sons both, Edwin L., who is married and is now living at Freeport, Illinois, and Vann D., a graduate of the Belding high school, who is married and is now living at Corpus Christi, Texas, where he is engaged as the city passenger and freight agent of the "Frisco" railroad system.

Mr. Wilder is a Republican and ever since locating at Belding has taken a fairly active part in the political affairs of the county. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Belding; a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge of the same place, being past chancellor of the latter lodge and a representative in the grand lodge, and is also a member of the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Knights of the Maccabees, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### ALVIN S. DIMMICK.

Alvin S. Dimmick, manager of the Belding Lumber Company at Belding, this county, of which company he is one of the chief stockholders, and who is accounted as among the leading business men of that city, is a native son of Michigan, having been born in Grattan township, in the neighboring county of Kent, March 9, 1857, son of Leander B. and Eleanor (Stocking) Dimmick, both natives of the state of New York, and both of whom had been married before they met after coming to this state. To their union but two children were born and of these the subject of this sketch now alone survives.

Practically thrown upon his own resources at the age of fifteen years, Alvin S. Dimmick has made his own way in the world and his present state of gratifying prosperity is due to his own unremitting efforts. He worked on farms until he was twenty-one, meanwhile gaining a practical knowledge of the carpenter trade, and then engaged in the general building and contracting business and was thus engaged until 1893, in which year he formed a partnership which gave him an influential position in the lumber trade at

Belding and he since has been acting as manager of the plant of the Belding Lumber Company, of which he is one of the principal stockholders and which does an extensive business throughout the northern part of this county and in the lower part of the neighborhood county of Montcalm.

Alvin S. Dimmick married Nettie B. Watkins, of Kent county, and to this union two children have been born, Edith, who married B. J. Story and lives at Cooks Corners, this county, and Harry W., who is associated with his father in the lumber business at Belding. Mr. Dimmick is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to political affairs, but is not included in the office-seeking class. He is a member of Belding Lodge No. 355, Free and Accepted Masons, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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#### W. ANDREW DUTT, M. D.

Dr. W. Andrew Dutt, well-known physician and surgeon of Belding, this county, is a native son of Michigan, having been born in Kent county, this state, January 9, 1860, son of Philip and Catherine (Keefer) Dutt, well-known residents of that county. Reared at Grandville, he received his elementary education in the schools of that village and was graduated from the high school at Lowell, after which he entered the Bennett Eclectic Medical College at Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in 1885, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Thus equipped for the practice of his profession, Doctor Dutt located at Whiteheath, Illinois, where he was engaged in practice for awhile, after which he went to Chicago, where he was engaged in the drug business for about ten years. In 1895 Doctor Dutt came to Michigan and located at Belding, in this county, where he opened a drug store, which he conducted for some time, at the same time practicing his profession, but presently gave up the drug store business and has since then devoted his whole attention to his general practice, in which he has been quite successful. In addition to his general practice he acts as local medical examiner for the Bankers Life Insurance Company and for the local lodge of the Knights of the Maccabees, of which order he is a member.

On June 16, 1886, Dr. W. Andrew Dutt was united in marriage to Florence A. Hawley, who was born in Keene township, this county, August 25, 1865, daughter of Willard Hawley and wife, prominent residents of that township, the former of whom was a member of the Michigan state Legisla-

ture at the time of his death, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Hazel K. born on April 23, 1888, who is a graduate of the Belding high school, of the Michigan State Normal at Ypsilanti and of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, from which latter institution she was graduated with the degree of Master of Arts, and is now teacher of English in the high school at Big Rapids, this state. Mrs. Dutt is a former teacher, having been so engaged for some years in the schools of Ionia and Kent counties. Doctor and Mrs. Dutt are members of the Methodist church and the Doctor is a Democrat.

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#### GUY D. WETER.

Guy D. Weter, secretary of the Belding-Hall Company, manufacturers of refrigerators, at Belding, this county, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on the old Weter farm three miles of Belding, son of Albert E. and Sarah J. (Slawson) Weter, the former of whom was the only son of M. R. and Emeline R. (Gibbs) Weter, who came to this county in 1845 and located on the above mentioned farm, becoming early recognized as among the most substantial and influential pioneers of that part of the county. M. R. Weter retired from the farm in his later years and moved to Belding, where he died in June, 1891. His widow, who will be ninety on June 19, 1916, still owns and manages the farm. To M. R. Weter and wife two children were born, Albert E. and Mrs. Charles M. Wise, the latter of whom died at her home in Belding, December 14, 1888.

Albert E. Weter was reared on the old homestead farm west of Belding, receiving his elementary education in the district school in that neighborhood, which he supplemented by a course in Albion College at Albion, this state, from which he graduated, after which he began clerking in a store at Grand Rapids and later at Grand Ledge, during which period of service he acquired an excellent business training. Thus equipped for a mercantile career he cast about for a location and was impressed by the opportunities which seemed to await all who were bold enough to put in their lot with the settlers in a new town, and in 1871 opened a general store at Belding, this county, thus being one of the nine founders of that now thriving city. Mr. Weter's venture succeeded from the very start and he became a very successful merchant. Albert E. Weter married Sarah J. Slawson and to that union two children were born, a son and a daughter, the subject of this sketch having a sister,

Maude, a graduate of the Belding high school, who married A. L. Pond, general manager of the Milwaukee branch of the General Electric Company.

Guy D. Weter quit school when he was fifteen years old and began clerking in a hardware store at Belding, being thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the H. J. Leonard dry-goods store, where he was engaged as a clerk for two years, after which, on October 1, 1890, he was employed as office manager of the Belding-Hall Company at Belding. On January 1, 1908, he was elected secretary of the company, having in the meantime become an important stockholder in that concern, and has since then served in the latter capacity.

Guy D. Weter married Laura Scovill, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and has one son, Elwood, a graduate of the Belding high school, who is now employed in the offices of the Richardson Silk Company at Chicago. Mr Weter is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local politics. He is one of the leading stockholders in the Weter-Wise Company of Belding, and is secretary of that concern. He has been a Mason since 1894 and has been secretary of Belding Lodge No. 355. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, with which he became connected in 1891, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both orders.

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#### EBENEZER N. LOWREY.

Ebenezer N. Lowrey, well-known citizen of Berlin township, Ionia county, Michigan, and proprietor of "Lowtanlee Farm" of two hundred and forty acres, in sections 27 and 28, of that township, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, on January 7, 1842, being a son of Norton and Jane (McMullen) Lowrey. She was a native of Ohio, her people moving in later years to Trumbull county, where she and Norton Lowrey were married. He was born in Ohio.

Norton Lowrey was a prosperous farmer in Ohio, but desiring to go into the west, he moved to Wells county, Indiana, near the town of Ossian where the family lived for two years. They then disposed of that farm and came to Ionia county, Michigan, arriving here in the year 1858. In this county Norton Lowrey and his wife passed their remaining days. There were originally six children in the family, four of them still surviving. John, who lives in Lake Odessa, served for a short time in the Civil War; Ebenezer N.; Sirona is the widow of James Mustgove; Jennie is the wife



of Nate Hubbell, of Saranac; Archibald died at the front during the Civil War, and another child died in infancy. Norton Lowrey became one of the leading citizens of Ionia county, for, being a man of liberal education and broad views, he contributed in no small degree to the general development of his section. Politically, he was a staunch supporter of the Republican party.

Ebenezer N. Lowrey was sixteen years of age when his parents came to Ionia county. He had attended school in his native county of Trumbull, Ohio, later at Ossian, Indiana, and for a short time in the Ionia county schools. He was engaged in farming at the outbreak of the Civil War and promptly enlisted as a private in Company B, Sixteenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, serving throughout the conflict. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and he saw much active service. He was wounded at Cold Harbor and during the battle of Gettysburg was struck seven times and hit thirteen times in all, still carrying in his body the bullet he received at Cold Harbor. However, none of his injuries were extremely severe and he was able to serve until the close of the war, receiving his honorable discharge on July 8, 1865. He was a veteran, was first discharged on December 23, 1863, and was mustered out as a corporal.

After peace was declared, Ebenezer N. Lowrey returned to Ionia county, where during the war he had purchased eighty acres of land, and gave himself to clearing this land and improving it. He has since made this place his home, bringing here his bride, Carrie G. Thomas, with whom he was united in marriage on July 3, 1867. Carrie G. Thomas was born in Canada on January 18, 1850, and was brought to this state by her parents when a child. Her parents, John and Mary (Hawley) Thomas, were born in Canada, and settled in Keene township. After living here a few years, they returned to Canada, where John Thomas died. When a young woman, Carrie Thomas returned to this state and was shortly afterward married. Mr. and Mrs. Ebenezer N. Lowrey are the parents of nine children, namely: Fra, died when one month old; Willard, who is located in British Columbia, is a civil engineer; John C., a farmer of Berlin township; Richard R., a graduate of Michigan Agricultural College and a farmer of Boston township; Cecil C., deceased; Harvey H., a graduate of the Saranac high school and also of the State Normal, from which latter institution he has a teacher's life certificate, lives in Saranac and is at present commissioner of the Ionia county schools; Ed N., educated in the Saranac schools and the present

sheriff of Ionia county; Earl E., educated in the schools of Saranac and now residing at home; Hazel J., the youngest of the family, is a graduate of the Saranac high school, the Ionia County Normal and the State Normal at Mount Pleasant.

Mr. Lowrey is a stockholder in the Saranac Co-operative Creamery Company and, politically, gives his support to the Republican party. He has served as a member of the school board, being always especially interested in the cause of education. He is a member of Hiatt P. Clark Post No. 153, Grand Army of the Republic, and Mrs. Lowrey is president of the Woman's Relief Corps. She is also president of the Campfire Association and serves in the same capacity to the Ladies' Aid Society of Berlin Center. She holds her religious membership with the Methodist Episcopal church and while Mr. Lowrey is not a member, yet he is interested in the work of that society and contributes of his means towards its support. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lowrey are active in the various affairs of their home community, upright and intelligent people, who always exert a virile influence for the best good of all. Mr. Lowrey built a beautiful brick home in 1892. When he first located he put up a log cabin and all of the children were born in this cabin.

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#### EUGENE E. HUDSON.

Eugene E. Hudson, a well-known and well-to-do grocer of Belding, this county is a native son of Michigan, having been born in the town of Hudsonville, in Ottawa county, this state, that town having been named in honor of his father, Homer E. Hudson, a pioneer of that section of the state, who had come to Michigan from Cleveland, Ohio, and had homesteaded a quarter of a section of land where Hudsonville is now situated; and when the railroad was built through his farm had given to the railroad company five acres, on which the company established a station and laid out a town, which was named Hudsonville, in honor of the donor of the site. Homer E. Hudson was a man of much energy and enterprise and became a prosperous farmer. He was active in local politics and influential in the work of the Grange during the height of that organization's power in this state, having been for some time master of his local grange. He was one of the leading members of the lodge of the Odd Fellows in his neighborhood and he and his wife were active and influential in the Disciples church work. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this

sketch having a brother, F. H. Hudson, a well-known grocer and baker, of Belding, and a sister, Belle M., who married Doctor Pompe and now lives at Vancouver, Washington.

Eugene E. Hudson was born on June 7, 1867, and was reared on the paternal farm, receiving his education in the Hudsonville schools, and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, after which he went to Grand Rapids and was for some time employed there as a collector on the old horse-line street cars. In 1891 he moved to Belding, where his brother was engaged in business and was employed in the latters store for two years, at the end of which time, in 1893, he engaged in business for himself, opening a small grocery store across the river on Bridge street, and from the very beginning of his business venture has prospered, gradually enlarging his store until he now has a very well-stocked and quite up-to-date establishment.

On December 25, 1888, Eugene E. Hudson was united in marriage to Kate Pierce, who was born in Olive, in Ottawa county, this state, and to this union two children have been born, Lester, in July, 1897, and Helen, September 28, 1901. Mr. Hudson is a member of Belding Lodge No. 355, Free and Accepted Masons, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest. He is a Republican and for years has taken an active interest in local politics, having been a member of the board of aldermen of the city of Belding for fourteen consecutive years.

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#### POST BROTHERS.

The well-known, enterprising and energetic firm of Post Brothers, owners of a great stock farm situated midway between Belding and Orleans, in this county, operators of an extensive string of elevators and leaders in the produce business, owners of the Belding Implement Company and stockholders in the Peoples Savings Bank at Belding, and who are regarded as among the most progressive and "hustling" citizens of Ionia county, are native sons of this county, both having been born in Orleans township, sons of Henry and Ida (Hale) Post, early settlers in that township and earnest and honorable pioneer citizens of this county, the memory of whose useful lives in the community in which they so long resided long will be cherished thereabout. Henry Post was a good farmer and a substantial and influential citizen and he and his wife did well their parts in the earlier days of the neighborhood in which they lived.

Bert Post, senior member of the progressive firm of Post Brothers,

was born in 1877 and Lee Post, junior member of the firm, was born in 1884. Both were reared on the home farm and in the district school in that neighborhood received an excellent common-school education. Their energetic natures early began to be manifested in their works and they have pushed steadily forward in the advancement of their varied and extensive interests until now they are the owners of a fine stock farm of three hundred acres in Orleans township, where they maintain their permanent home, besides which they are extensively engaged in the grain business, being the owners of a thriving string of elevators, the chief of which is the Post Brothers elevator at Hammond, Indiana, and the elevator operated under the same owners at Detroit, this state. Post Brothers also are actively and prominently identified with various other enterprises in and about Belding. They have been very successful in the operation of their various enterprises and occupy a high position in financial and commercial circles throughout this part of the state.

Lee Post, the younger member of the firm, is married, his wife, who was Ruth Wilson, of Greenville, in the neighboring county of Montcalm, being an accomplished and gracious young woman, who, with her husband, takes a proper part in the various social and cultural activities of the community. Lee Post is a member of the Belding lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization. Both of the Post brothers are Democrats and take an earnest interest in the general political affairs of the county and state, but neither has ever been included in the office-holding class, both having been too busily occupied in directing the extensive affairs of the firm to give much personal attention to civic affairs.

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#### JAMES H. RUEL.

James H. Ruel, well-known banker at Lyons, this county, for years prominently identified with the financial and civic interests of this region and one of the best-known and most influential men in Ionia county, is a native son of Michigan, born at Ann Arbor, this state, June 22, 1862, son of George W. and Helen (Bigger) Ruel, both natives of Scotland, who were married in Canada and came to Michigan in 1855.

George W. Ruel was born on a farm near the city of Edinburgh, June 16, 1827, and was trained to the trade of a tailor in that city. When twenty years old he crossed the Atlantic and settled at Galt, Ontario, where

he remained six years, during three years of which he filled an important government position. There he married Helen Bigger, who also was born in Scotland, and to that union six children were born. In 1855 George W. Ruel came to Michigan and established a clothing store at Ann Arbor, where he remained in business for fourteen years, after which he moved to Chelsea, where he conducted a clothing store for about four years, at the end of which time he moved to Fowlerville, where he remained in business for thirteen years. He then went to South Dakota, established a merchant-tailoring establishment at Aberdeen, in that state, and at the same time entered a claim to three hundred and twenty acres of government land. Mr. Ruel was a veteran of the Civil War, having enlisted at the first call to arms, and during his service received a wound in the left leg that troubled him the rest of his life. He was an active member of the Methodist church and for years was an office bearer in that church. His death occurred on August 25, 1885.

James H. Ruel was but a lad when his parents moved from Ann Arbor to Chelsea and later to Fowlerville, and his schooling was completed in the high school in the latter town. He also took a course in a business college. For a time he was employed in a newspaper office at Fowlerville and later, for about a year, in a general store at that place, after which he entered the employ of the Pere Marquette railroad as a telegraph operator and presently was employed at Brighton, being sent thence to Plymouth and to other stations along the line, as a general relief agent. In 1882 the company sent him to Lyons, this county, and he continued as station agent at that place for about five years, at the end of which time, in 1887, he entered the banking business and has ever since been thus engaged, during which time he has become one of the best-known bankers and one of the most prominent figures in the financial life of this section of the state. Mr. Ruel's first venture in the banking business was at Pewamo, this county, where he bought a half interest in the banking establishment of Samuel W. Webber, which connection continued until Mr. Webber's death, in 1902. In the meantime Webber & Ruel had established a bank at Mt. Pleasant (now the Isabelle County State Bank) and a bank at Rochester, the firm at the latter place including Frank H. Hale, under the firm name of Webber, Hale & Company. When Samuel W. Webber died, in 1902, he was succeeded in business by his son, Samuel W. Webber, Jr., and the business continued as before until the latter's death in 1913. Previous to that time Mr. Webber had owned the bank at Muir and Mr. Ruel bought an interest in that institution, and in 1913, following Mr. Webber's death, he and

Victor F. Upton bought the Webber bank at Lyons; he and Mr. Lobdell bought the Webber interests at Muir and he and Mr. Amsden bought the Webber interests at Pewamo. Mr. Ruel still retains his connection with the banks at Lyons, Pewamo and Muir., as above noted, but is no longer connected with the banks at Mt. Pleasant and Rochester.

In 1914 Mr. Ruel, Mr. Amsden and E. C. Cunningham and the latter's son, Ira Cunningham, established a bank at Hubbardston, bought the building and fixtures formerly owned by O. C. Townsend & Company, bankers there, and that bank since has been conducted as the Bank of Hubbardston, owned by Cummings, Ruel & Amsden, bankers. About 1907 Mr. Ruel, F. L. Keeler and W. B. Shumway established a bank at Waldron, but after operating the same for about four years sold it. Mr. Ruel is a Democrat and ever since locating in this county has taken an active interest in civic affairs. For a number of years he was president of the village of Pewamo and was also village treasurer for some time. He also has served as treasurer of Lyons township and for twenty years was a member of the local school board, while in other ways he has exerted his influence in behalf of the common welfare hereabout, and has long been looked upon as one of the most substantial and influential residents of Ionia county.

It was in 1885, about three years after locating at Lyons, that James H. Ruel was united in marriage at that place to Alice J. Amsden, who was born near Lockport, Illinois, about ten miles from the city of Joliet, daughter of Capt. Albert and Sarah Catherine (Joslin) Amsden, the former of whom for many years was one of the most prominent residents of Lyons, where he spent his last days. Capt. Albert Amsden was an honored veteran of the Civil War and headed a company in an Illinois regiment during that struggle. He was born in New England and, bereft of his parents by death in his youth, he was reared by kinsfolk. When a young man he came to Michigan and secured work in the woolen mills at Ypsilanti, where he became thoroughly familiar with the details of the woolen-mill industry. There he married Sarah Catherine Joslin, who was born near the village of Mendon, fourteen miles from the city of Rochester, in Monroe county, New York, daughter of Henry and Catherine (Eadie) Joslin, and who was making her home at Ypsilanti with her sister, Jane, who had married Roswell Strong and had become a resident of that city. Some time after his marriage, Captain Amsden moved to Joliet, Illinois, where he engaged in the hotel business, but later moved to a farm in that vicinity and was living on the farm when the Civil War broke out. In 1862 he enlisted in

Company D, One Hundredth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front as captain of that company. During this service he was badly injured when the train which was conveying a carload of soldiers to a hospital under his direction was wrecked and he was presently discharged, on a physician's certificate of disability. He later endeavored to re-enlist, but could not successfully pass the physical examination. Upon the completion of his military service Captain Amsden took charge of the work of fencing the railway right-of-way from Chicago to Joliet and survey and fix the boundaries of the same. About 1872 he sold his farm in Illinois and went to Waukesha, Wisconsin, where he built a large woolen-mill, which he operated for two years, at the end of which time he sold it and came to Ionia county, locating at Lyons, where his brother was operating a woolen-mill in partnership with Mr. Waterman. The Captain bought the Waterman interest and he and his brother continued operating the mill until it was destroyed by fire. Captain Amsden and his son, Oscar A. Amsden, then established another mill at Lyons and the Captain was thus engaged until his death in the fall of 1882.

Captain Amsden was married twice. His first wife died shortly after the close of the Civil War and in June, 1868, he married her sister, Mrs. Jane Strong, whose husband had died in 1861, after which she and her only son, Frank A. Strong, made their home with the Amsdens. Upon the death of Mrs. Amsden, Mrs. Strong remained in the household, taking care of the three small children left by her sister and in the summer of 1868 married Captain Amsden. Mrs. Amsden is still living at Lyons in the ninety-second year of her age. She has a wonderfully retentive memory and is a veritable mine of information regarding early days in this part of Michigan. Captain Amsden for many years was president of the village of Lyons and also served for years as a justice of the peace. He was prominent in local Masonic circles and ever was an ardent advocate of the cause of temperance hereabout.

Mrs. Ruel was given excellent educational advantages in her youth and became an accomplished musician and a talented elocutionist, to which arts she continued her devotion after her marriage, and she and Mr. Ruel long have been regarded as among the leaders in the social and cultural activities of the community. They have an adopted daughter, Elizabeth June. Mr. Ruel is a Mason and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was a member of the Knights of Maccabees until the local "tent" of that order was disbanded.

## WARREN SHEPARD.

Warren Shepard, a well-known resident of Belding, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, who has been a resident of that city since 1892, is a native of the Empire state, having been born in Greig township, Lewis county, New York, in June, 1840, son of Nathaniel and Leah (Ostrander) Shepard, both natives of Schoharie county, that same state, well-to-do farming people who spent all their lives in New York state, and who were the parents of ten children, nine sons and one daughter, four of whom are still living. Of these nine sons, five gave their services to the country as soldiers in the Union army during the Civil War, Warren, Elias, Norton, Seymour and Jeremiah, the latter of whom laid down his life for his country, he having been killed during the seven-days battle before Richmond.

Warren Shepard was reared on a farm and received but a limited education. In September, 1862, at West Camden, in Oneida county, New York, he enlisted in the Ninety-third Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War and was with that command until the close of the war, among the numerous battles in which he participated having been the battle of Antietam. In 1866 Mr. Shepard left his native state and came West, locating in Minnesota, where in 1870 he married Melissa Burns, who was born in Clinton county, Michigan, January 30, 1854, daughter of William Burns, a veteran of the Civil War, who had settled in Minnesota after the war, but who later returned to Michigan, and spent his last days at Six Lakes, in the neighboring county of Montcalm. After their marriage Warren Shepard and his wife moved about quite a bit, making their home variously in Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York and Michigan. In 1892 they located at Belding, in this county, and have made their home there ever since. To them six children have been born, five of whom are living, Clarence Melvin, William, Blanche, Maud and Bessie. Both Clarence M. Shepard and William Shepard are ministers of the gospel, attached to the local conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, the later being stationed at Bowens Falls, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Shepard are members of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints. Mr. Shepard is a Republican.

Mr. Shepard has been a great hunter in his day and has a record of having brought down much big game. His recollection carries back to the days of his youth when he successfully repulsed the attacks of a panther, in defense of the younger children of the family, and from the days of his boyhood he was accustomed to ranging the wild woods of his native state in quest of big



game. In Minnesota he found much opportunity for the exercise of his prowess in this direction and he ranged the forest wilds there, bagging much big game, ever maintaining the most amicable and friendly relations with the Indians, who not infrequently were his companions on the hunt. In Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan, he also has hunted much and perhaps no man in this section of the state has a higher record for big game than he. At one time Mr. Shepard had a farm at Six Lakes, Michigan.

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#### EDGAR L. BERRY.

Edgar L. Berry, a well-known retired farmer now living in a pleasant home at the corner of Pearl and Isabelle streets in Belding, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a useful citizen of this community, is a native of the great Keystone state, having been born on a farm in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, November 28, 1843, son of Luther M. and Electa (Curtis) Berry, both natives of New York state, who were married in the latter state and later moved to Bradford county, Pennsylvania, where they lived until 1846, in which year they came to Michigan, settling in Ionia county, where they made their home until their retirement from the farm during their declining years, after which they moved to Reed City, Michigan, where their last days were spent. They were the parents of ten children, of whom three are still living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers living, Leander Berry, a veteran of the Civil War, who served for three years in the Union army as a member of Company B, Twenty-fifth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and who is now living at Orleans, this county, and Arthur Berry, of Hartford, this state.

Edgar L. Berry was about three years old when his parents moved to Michigan and he was reared on the home farm in this county, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. On August 5, 1862, he enlisted for service in the Union army, in Company B, Twenty-fifth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Twenty-third Army Corps, under General Sherman, and served until the close of the war. Mr. Berry participated in the battle of Nashville, was through the whole of Sherman's great campaign to Atlanta and when mustered out with his regiment at the close of the war enjoyed the unique distinction of having been the only man in his company who had never missed a roll-call, always having been present and ready for duty.

At the conclusion of his military experience, Mr. Berry returned to Michigan and for six or seven years thereafter was engaged working in the lumber woods in the vicinity of Coral, in the neighboring county of Montcalm. He then returned to the old home farm near Reed City and for eighteen years directed operations there. He and his sister, Dora, cared for their parents during the declining years of the latter and inherited the homestead farm. In the meantime, Mr. Berry had bought a farm in Muskegon county and after selling the same, in the spring of 1908, moved to Belding, where he ever since has lived retired, though continuing to take an active interest in the general affairs of the community.

Mr. Berry is an earnest member of the Church of Christ, one of the trustees of the same, and is the teacher of the Bible class in the Sunday school of that church. He is a member of Dan S. Root Post No. 126, Grand Army of the Republic, at Belding, and is quartermaster of the same. Mr. Berry formerly was an ardent Republican, but in later years has thrown the weight of his influence in behalf of the Prohibition party, being an earnest advocate of the principles enunciated by that party and an active worker in the cause of state-wide prohibition of the liquor traffic.

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#### FRANK W. PRYER.

An advocate of modern methods of agriculture is Frank W. Pryer, proprietor of "Sunny View Farm" in Danby township, Ionia county, and he is therefore succeeding at his chosen life work and is also setting a good example before his neighbors and the community. He was born in the above named township and county, August 1, 1862, and is a son of Thomas and Cornelia (Phillips) Pryer, who were married on November 16, 1843. The father was born in New York City at the corner of Cheery and Pearl streets, September 25, 1820, and in that city also occurred the birth of the mother, in 1824. There they grew to maturity, attended school and were married and lived there until 1845 when they came to Michigan, locating on a farm, but two years later returned to New York City and spent two years, then returned to Michigan. They purchased a farm when they first came West, but did not find life on the frontier entirely to their liking. Mr. Pryer was a cabinet-maker by trade at which he worked in connection with farming. He and his wife experienced the usual hardships and privations of early settlers. He was a man of excellent character, honorable and

helpful. He died in Portland. His family consisted of seven children, five of whom survive, namely: Emily married George Van Buren, who lives in Detroit; William H. is farming in Danby township, Ionia county; Charles H. is also farming in Danby township; Sylvester is farming in Danby township; Frank W. is the subject of this sketch.

Frank W. Pryer was reared on the home farm and received his education in the common schools. After his parents moved to the town of Portland he remained on the home farm which he operated for four years. On November 20, 1897, he married Stella Baldwin, who was born in Sebawa township, and educated in the Portland high school. To their union two daughters have been born, namely: Marian, born on March 17, 1900, is a student in the Portland high school; Margaret, born on November 2, 1903, is attending graded school in Portland. The wife and mother passed away in 1909.

Politically, Mr. Pryer is a Republican. Fraternally, he belongs to Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons, and the Portland Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and has a good farm of two hundred and thirty acres, a mile and one-half southeast of Portland. He has made all he has by his own efforts and in the face of obstacles, but he has been a hard worker and persistent in his efforts, which have always been along legitimate lines.

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#### SAMUEL WOOLDRIDGE.

That period of the nineteenth century embracing the decades between 1830 and the Civil War was characterized by the immigration of the pioneer element which made the great state of Michigan what it is today. The immigrants were sturdy, heroic and, in the main, upright people, such as constitute the strength of the commonwealth. It is scarcely probable that in the future of the world another such period can occur, or, indeed any period when such a solid phalanx of strong-minded men and noble, self-sacrificing women will take possession of a new country. Among the pioneers of Ionia county were Samuel Wooldridge and wife, the first of the numerous family of this name now living here.

Mr. Wooldridge, long since deceased, was born in Falkingham, Lincolnshire, England, in 1821, and there he grew to manhood, and on June 15, 1846, married Mary Lightfoot, also a native of Lincolnshire, her birth

having occurred on February 13, 1824. She was a daughter of William and Mary Lightfoot. Her death occurred on February 9, 1908, when lacking but a few days of her eighty-fourth birthday. For a time Samuel Wooldridge served on the police force of Hull, England. In 1853 he brought his wife and three children to America, making the trip in a sailing vessel and was seven weeks on the ocean. He located in Ohio, where a brother had preceded him. He had only seventy-five cents left when he reached his brother's place, but he was a man of courage and a hard worker and he soon had a start in the new world, and later moved to near Grass Lake and finally to Ionia county, Michigan, renting land for a time in Keene township, and in April, 1859, moved to Orleans township where he bought eighty acres in section 31, on which his son, Ernest S., now lives. Only five acres of this place had been cleared. On this he built a small log shanty, on the site of the present residence, and proceeded to clear the rest of the land and put out a crop of wheat, later building a substantial log house, which became his permanent home. He then bought forty acres of swamp land adjoining his original purchase, the forty being state land. This he drained, cleaned up and put under cultivation.

In 1862 Samuel Wooldridge proved his loyalty to his adopted country by enlisting in Company I, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and in September of that year was sent with the regiment into Kentucky, later into Tennessee, where he participated in the great battle of Stone's River, where he was captured after being wounded, but his captors being compelled to retreat hastily on the last day of the battle he was left behind and was recovered by the Union troops. He spent some time at Louisville and later was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps and sent to Washington, D. C. He proved to be a gallant and efficient soldier and was promoted to second lieutenant, his commission being signed by President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton, and this document is now in possession of his son, Ernest. On the night of Lincoln's assassination, April 14, 1865, Mr. Wooldridge was called out and put on extra guard duty in the city of Washington. After the war he returned to Michigan and resumed farming. He prospered with advancing years, and became the owner of one hundred and forty-four acres in his home place and two hundred and sixty acres near Whitehall, also owned a valuable house and lot in the town of Whitehall.

Mr. Wooldridge took considerable interest in local public affairs. He was a member of the Congregational church until late in life, but living far from any church of that denomination he and his wife joined the Free

Methodist church. He was a well informed man on current events, purchased large numbers of books and magazines, being a great reader all his life, and he gave his children proper educational advantages. His family consisted of nine children, most of whom are mentioned elsewhere in this work. Charles W., who died in 1908, was a well educated man, a college graduate, holding the degree of Bachelor of Science. He also studied medicine, and engaged successfully in the practice of his profession near Helena, Montana. He was a writer of ability on social, philosophical and spiritual subjects. Anna is the wife of S. D. Chickering, of Orleans township, Ionia county. George lives in Orleans township. Eva is the wife of George W. Pitton. Amelia is the wife of R. S. Noddins. Ernest S. lives in Orleans township. Edward M. lives in Easton township. Alfred died when twenty-one years old. Adelbert died at the age of four years. The death of Samuel Woodridge occurred in the year 1891.

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#### MARCUS R. HARTMAN.

As a general farmer and stock raiser, Marcus R. Hartman, of Ronald township, ranks with any of his contemporaries in Ionia county, not on so extensive a scale as some, but in the spirit in which he carries on his operations. He was born in Lyons township, this county, August 19, 1868. He is a son of Benjamin and Emily P. (Fisk) Hartman. The father was born in Monroe county, New York, in 1824, and there grew to manhood, coming to Ionia county during the Civil War, and locating in Lyons township, buying a farm three miles southeast of the village of Lyons, his place of eighty acres being heavily timbered, which he cleared, developing his place from the wilderness into a good farm. His father, David Hartman, came from near Lyons, New York, and located ten miles from Rochester, that state, having to cut a road through the woods to his land, to which the city of Rochester now extends. There Benjamin Hartman grew to manhood, amid pioneer conditions, his parents making most of the articles of apparel for their family.

Benjamin Hartman later came to Ionia county, Michigan, and spent the rest of his life on his farm here, adding fifty-five acres to his original eighty. Here he married Emily P. Fisk, who was born at Sommerset Corners, New York. In her girlhood she went to Illinois with her parents, Marcus and Mary (Perrine) Fisk, who were natives of New York. The

family moved from Illinois to Iowa, and during the Civil War removed to Ionia county, Michigan, locating a mile from the old Hartman farm, later moving to the village of Lyons where Mr. Fisk spent his last years, dying at an advanced age. The death of Benjamin Hartman occurred on July 18, 1911. His widow now lives in Tulare county, California, with her son, David.

Marcus R. Hartman lived with his parents until his marriage, then rented a farm north of Muir, where he spent five years, then moved to Ronald township, and about 1902 bought his present farm of two hundred and fifteen acres, which is well improved and well cultivated and on which he carried on general farming and stock raising.

In 1807 Marcus R. Hartman was married to Anna Kimball, who was born in Lyons township, Ionia county, and is the daughter of Stephen H. and Mary (Wright) Kimball. The father was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1828, and when a boy came to Marshall, Michigan, with his parents, Stephen Kimball, Sr., and wife. There the death of the mother occurred, and Mr. Kimball, and his sons, Stephen, Jr., and Oliver, came to Ionia county prior to the year 1849 and settled on a farm in Lyons township. Stephen Kimball, Sr., was born in New Hampshire in 1785 and his death occurred in 1872. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. He moved with his family to Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1831. Mary Styles was born in Massachusetts in 1784, and her death occurred when Stephen Kimball, Jr., was thirteen years old. A year later he began working by the month. In the fall of 1852 he went to California with the gold hunters, remaining there two years, working in the mines, and was fairly successful, getting a good start in life thereby. Before going to the Pacific coast he had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land in Lyons township, Ionia county, and upon his return bought one hundred acres more. When he was about thirty years old he married Mary Jane Wright, of Lyons, a daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Wright, who lived in Marshall, the family being among the early settlers there. Mr. and Mrs. Kimball were parents of eight children, namely: Henry L., deceased; the next child died in infancy, unnamed; Flora D., Minnie C., Emma Ann, Annie, Frankie is deceased, and Hector M. Mr. Kimball's death occurred in 1903, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1888. They were excellent people, honest and kind.

Five children have been born to Marcus R. Hartman and wife, namely: Stephen, Benjamin, Oliver, Orville and Weston. The following children

were born to Benjamin and Emily P. (Fisk) Hartman: Marcus R., David F., who lives in California, and Benjamin, who lives on a farm near the village of Lyons, Ionia county. Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Hartman both belong to the Grange.

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### GEORGE CONKEY.

Life has been pleasant to George Conkey, a farmer of Ronald township, Ionia county, because he has not permitted little things to worry him and has been able to see beauty in Nature. He was born on August 9, 1872, on the farm where he still resides, south of Woodard lake. He is a son of Eli and Amanda (Phillips) Conkey. The father was born on July 28, 1836, in the state of New York, and was a son of Chauncey and Sarah (Charles) Conkey. When he was four years old the family came to Ionia county, Michigan, and settled three miles west of where Hubbardstown is now located, moving on land that Chauncey's brother, Amos, had entered from the government. Only two or three acres of this place had been cleared when Chauncey Conkey bought it, and for a residence there was only a crude log cabin. In 1852 they moved to Ronald township, settling just southeast of Woodard lake, in section 18, and here these parents spent the rest of their lives. There Eli T. Conkey grew to manhood. He and Amanda Phillips were married on December 3, 1868. She was born in Williams county, Ohio, May 11, 1848, and is a daughter of Andrew L. and Sabina (Mathmer) Phillips, both natives of southern Ohio. They moved to Montcalm county, when that section of the state was still a wilderness, in 1852. Many miles separated them from their nearest neighbors. They took up land from the government. The trip from Ohio to Michigan was made in covered wagons drawn by oxen. The family cleared the land and lived there many years, and there the mother died on March 2, 1897, at the age of sixty-nine years. The father died at Mayflower, twenty miles north of Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1880, at the age of sixty-two years. He had purchased eighty acres of land there and was building a residence on it, intending to remove his family there, but was suddenly stricken with heart failure.

After his marriage Eli T. Conkey made his home on the farm where his widow and son still live, the place being part of that which his father first settled. Here he farmed all his life. When he was a young man, he and his brother, Ira, and their father worked together until Eli's marriage.

After buying the one hundred and ten acres southeast of the lake, they purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 17, and later bought eighty acres in section 19, owning altogether about four hundred acres. About the time of Eli's marriage they divided up their holdings, and to Eli fell one hundred and sixty acres in section 17. Later, Eli bought the place where George Conkey now lives. About 1878 he bought the Brown place, consisting of one hundred and sixteen acres, then owning in his own right about four hundred acres. He was a member of the Masonic order. His death occurred on August 22, 1908. His family consisted of three children. Albert and Lucy, twins, were born on July 6, 1870. The former lives near Rumney, New Hampshire, where he is engaged in farming. He married Olive Heth, and they have three daughters, Florida May, Emeline Amanda and Elma. Lucy Conkey died in January, 1905. George, the youngest of the children and the immediate subject of this sketch, has lived on the homestead all his life, and has kept the place well improved and under a fine state of cultivation. He received his education in the district schools, and when twenty-one years old bought the Brown farm of one hundred and sixteen acres from his father and has farmed on his own account ever since. About ten years later he bought out his brother's expectancy in the home place, reserving a life lease to his parents, and he has farmed on the home place ever since. In 1912 he purchased sixty acres in section 19, and he is now owner of two hundred and ninety-seven acres. His mother still lives with him on the homestead. He has never married.

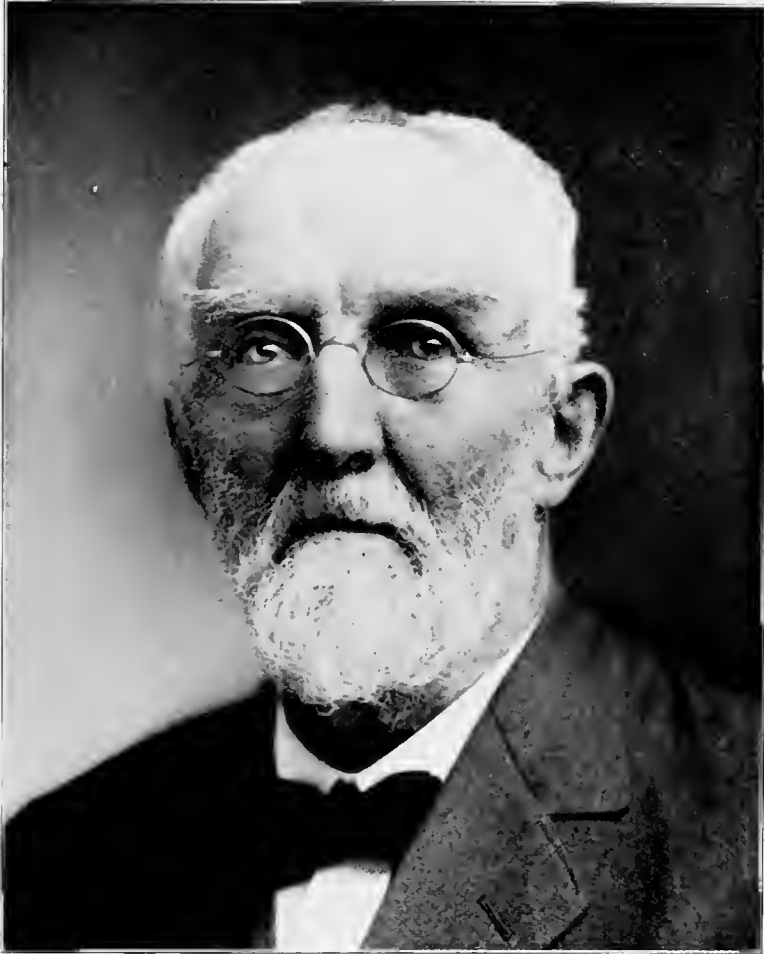
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#### DAVID E. WILSON.

David E. Wilson, a pioneer of this county, who probably knows his home town, Belding, better than any other man living there, having made that place his home since 1871, the year in which the town was founded, and having started the second industrial enterprise in that now important manufacturing center, in addition to which he rechristened the then struggling hamlet, giving to it the name that now is known from one end of the country to the other; and who for twelve years served the people of that town as their postmaster, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born in Ontario county, New York, September 20, 1836, son of Samuel and Jane F. (McClellan) Wilson, both natives of Massachusetts, the former of whom was born in the year 1800 and the latter in 1804.

Samuel Wilson and Jane F. McClellan were born and reared in the





DAVID E. WILSON.



same neighborhood in Massachusetts and there they were married in 1827. Later they sold their farm in Massachusetts and moved to Ontario county, New York, where Samuel Wilson died in 1851, leaving a widow and four children, the subject of this sketch being the youngest. David E. Wilson was fifteen years old when his father died and he then became the practical support of his mother and family. He was a good student and early began teaching school, being thus engaged for six years, teaching during the winters and farming during the summers. His mother died when he was twenty-one years old and he and his sister thereafter made their homes together. At the age of twenty-two he was elected township clerk and at the age of twenty-four was elected county school commissioner, being returned in that office for two terms. At the age of thirty-two he was elected to represent his district in the lower house of the New York Legislature and was re-elected, thus serving two terms in the House. At the age of twenty-eight he was elected a justice of the peace at East Bloomfield, New York.

In March, 1865, David E. Wilson married Caroline Gooding and in 1871 left New York and came to Michigan, settling at the new hamlet in the northern part of this county, which at that time was but a cluster of hardly more than a dozen houses—fourteen, to be exact,—and did not have even a definite name. Mr. Wilson started a saw-mill there, the second industry established in the hamlet, and gave to the place the name of Belding, which it ever since has retained. Mr. Wilson at once took a prominent part in the work of promoting the interests of Belding and was ever among the leaders in all movements having to do with the advancement of the town in a civic, social and material way, from the very beginning of the town having been regarded as one of its most progressive and enterprising citizens. For twelve years he served as postmaster of Belding and in other ways served the public. In 1892 he established a coal and wood business here. He is a Republican and ever has taken a warm interest in the political affairs of the county.

In May, 1874, Mrs. Caroline Gooding Wilson died, leaving one child, a daughter, Florence E., a graduate of Ann Arbor, who, in 1892, married Brinton F. Hall, president of the great Belding-Hall Company, and in 1876 Mr. Wilson married, secondly, Amelia Severance, of Shelburn Falls, Massachusetts, and to this union three children were born, Wilbur S., for twenty years deputy postmaster of Belding; Gertrude E., a graduate of the Michigan State University, who is now a teacher in the Belding schools, and Sumner H., a clerk in the postoffice at Belding.

## WILLIAM C. STEERE.

William C. Steere, official reporter of the circuit court at Ionia, this county, is a native of Iowa, having been born in Cedar Falls, that state, June 15, 1857, son of Daniel M. and Sophia F. (Frear) Steere, the former a native of Rhode Island and the latter of Pennsylvania, who later became residents of Stanton, in the neighboring county of Montcalm, where they lived many years.

Daniel M. Steere was one of the considerable family of children born to his parents. He grew up in Rhode Island, there learning the carpenter trade, and later moved to Pennsylvania, where he married Sophia F. Frear and shortly afterward moved to Iowa, locating at Cedar Falls, where he followed his trade. He was living in Pennsylvania when the Civil War broke out and he enlisted in Company E, Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, with which he served for three years, being mustered out as a corporal. Mr. Steere's ancestors fought in the Revolution and the War of 1812. At the close of the war he came to Michigan and settled in Stanton, where he engaged in building and was for years a prominent contractor there. His wife died in Ionia in 1904, at the age of seventy-eight, after which he made his home in the household of his son, the subject of this sketch, in Ionia, where his death occurred in 1908, he then being seventy-eight years of age. But two children were born to Daniel M. Steere and wife, sons both, George S., now deceased, and William C.

William C. Steere was eleven years old when he came to Stanton, Michigan, where he grew to manhood. For several years during his youth he clerked in a store at Stanton and then he began to study law and was admitted to the bar in 1883. He practiced law in Stanton until 1884 in which year he went West, where he remained for a year, at the end of which time he located in Chicago. In the meantime he had become a proficient stenographer and in 1895 he was appointed official reporter of the circuit court for the eighth judicial district and since then has made his home in Ionia.

On July 20, 1885, William C. Steere was united in marriage to Nina Streeter, who was born at White Haven, in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, daughter of William F. and Elma Streeter, both natives of that same state, the former of whom died in 1915, at the age of seventy-nine, and the latter of whom is still living.

To William C. and Nina (Streeter) Steere two children have been

born, daughters both, Margaret E., a graduate of the Ionia high school and of Denison University at Granville, Ohio, who is now a teacher in the Ionia high school, and Merrie S., also a graduate of the Ionia high school, who took a special course in Denison University, being an accomplished musician and a skilled violinist. Mr. and Mrs. Steere and their daughters take an earnest part in the general social life of the community and are held in high esteem by all. They are members of the Baptist congregation. Mr. Steere is a Republican and a member of the Masonic order, including the chapter, the council and the commandery and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that ancient order.

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### SAMUEL L. CAMPBELL.

Danby township, Ionia county, has many good farmers who devote a great deal of attention to raising live stock of all kinds, common to this latitude. Among this number is Samuel L. Campbell, who was born in Allegany county, New York, July 18, 1855, and is a son of Daniel and Lucy (Dana) Campbell. The father was born in Castile, Wyoming county, New York, of Scotch parents, who immigrated to America from Scotland when young and established their future home in the Empire state, and there on a farm in Wyoming county Daniel Campbell grew to manhood and attended the district schools. When twenty years old he went to the village of Castile, in his native county, where he learned the blacksmith's trade, remaining there three or four years, then went to Allegany county and established a blacksmith shop of his own and there met and married Lucy Dana, who was born in Genesee village, that county, and was of Yankee stock. Daniel Campbell continued to follow his trade there for nearly forty years, living all the while in the same house where he moved when he first came, and there his death occurred on January 16, 1902, at an advanced age, having survived his first wife thirty years, her death having occurred on November 15, 1872. His second wife, who still survives, was Jennie Marshall before her marriage. To the first marriage three children were born, namely: Samuel L., the subject of this sketch; Frank lives in Buffalo, New York; Dora is the wife of Emmett Hadley, of Hornell, New York.

Samuel L. Campbell received a common-school education. When sixteen years old he left home and went to live with his grandparents. When twenty-one years old he came with an uncle to Ionia county, Michigan.

Here he worked seven or eight years on a farm, or until his marriage, which took place on December 24, 1884, to Lillian Tirrill, a daughter of Martin and Rebecca (Buck) Tirrill. Her father was a son of John and Polly Tirrill, who came to Michigan from New Hampshire in 1838, among the earliest pioneer settler. Rebecca Buck was born in Lorain county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Hart and Mary Buck, who were of English stock, in fact, were born, reared and married in England. They came to the United States and settled at Avon, Lorain county, Ohio, where they lived until 1864 when they went to live near their daughter who had married Martin Tirrill, October 14, 1863, and had located in Ionia county, Michigan. Martin Tirrill and wife came direct to Portland township where they lived a few years, then located in the village of Portland, and there Mr. Tirrill died on May 2, 1907. He was the father of four children, namely: Alberta died when eighteen years old; Lillian, wife of the subject of this sketch; John died when a year and one-half old; Mary is the wife of Ed McKay, of Keene township, Ionia county.

Upon his marriage Samuel L. Campbell settled in Portland where he worked in a saw- and feed-mill for about eleven years, then purchased a farm of eighty acres in section 5, Danby township, and here he is making a good living as a general farmer and stock raiser.

One son has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Lester M., who was graduated from the Portland schools, after which he taught two years in Danby township, two years in Sebewa township, and is now in government service at Lake Odessa, Ionia county; he married Zelma Tyler, and they have one child, Stewart M. Campbell.

Politically, Mr. Campbell is a Democrat, but is not very active in public affairs.

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#### RICHARD ROY LOWREY.

Richard Roy Lowrey, of Boston township, Ionia county is a twentieth century farmer in all that the term implies, as the stranger readily notes when he visits his place. He was born in Berlin township, Ionia county, April 28, 1876, and is a son of Ebenezer and Carrie (Thomas) Lowrey. The father was born near Youngstown, Ohio, and was a son of Norton Lowrey, who removed with his family to Berlin township, Ionia county, Michigan, when his son, Ebenezer, was young, and here he entered one hundred and sixty acres from the government and developed a farm on which he spent the rest of his life. He was twice married and had three

sons by his first wife, Archie, John and Ebenezer. All three were soldiers in the Civil War. Archie, who was a member of the Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, was killed at the battle of Stone's River, but the other two served until the close of the war. Ebenezer having been a member of the Sixteenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The latter was promoted to corporal of his company. After his discharge from the army he returned to Ionia county, Michigan, and bought eighty acres in Berlin township, which land had belonged to his brother, Archie. He has lived on this place ever since. He and his sons cleared and improved it and he has added to it until he now has an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres. He has devoted his life to general farming. He is the father of the following children: Willard lives in British Columbia; Carl lives in Berlin township, Ionia county; R. Roy is the subject of this sketch; Harvey is at present county school commissioner; Edward N. is the present sheriff of Ionia county; Earl, who was graduated from the Ionia Normal School, lives at home; Hazel, who is a graduate from the Ionia Normal School and the Mt. Pleasant Normal School, lives at home.

R. Roy Lowrey grew up on the home farm and received his early education in the district schools, remaining on the home farm until he was twenty-six years old, working for his father, then worked a part of the place until 1908 as a renter, then bought ninety-five acres in section 25, Boston township, three miles south of Saranac, and here he has since resided.

On December 4, 1901, R. Roy Lowrey was married to Harriet B. Locher, a daughter of Joseph A. and Mary (Marsh) Locher, the former of whom was born in Germany from which country he was brought to the United States by his parents when six years of age, the family locating in Ohio, and there he grew to manhood. When the Civil War came on Mr. Locher enlisted in the Third Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, and became bugler of his regiment. After the war he came to Ionia county, Michigan, and bought eighty acres of land in Berlin township. He returned to Ohio, married and lived there awhile, then in 1866 came to Michigan to live, developing the land he had previously purchased, and remaining there until 1905 when he sold out and located in Saranac.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lowrey four children have been born, namely: Mabel Blanch, born on July 3, 1903; Jay Karl, May 7, 1906; Hazel Harriet, February 18, 1908; Evelyn Virginia, July 1, 1910.

Politically, Mr. Lowrey is a Republican. He has been a director of his school district since July, 1915. Fraternally, he belongs to Camp No. 4513, Modern Woodmen of America, at Saranac.

## O. F. WEBSTER.

One of the enterprising and successful publishers of central Michigan, who is doing a good work in encouraging general improvements is O. F. Webster, publisher of the *Degree of Honor Review* at Belding, Ionia county. He was born in Syracuse, New York, March 25, 1855, and is the son of Oscar F. and Caroline M. (Williamson) Webster. The father was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1836, of old Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry and Yankee stock. The birth of the mother occurred in Syracuse, New York, in 1837. These parents grew to maturity in their native community where they were married, and the father worked as a machinist and engineer in Syracuse for some time, and there his death occurred in 1868, and the mother remained there with her children until 1874 when the family moved to Detroit, Michigan.

O. F. Webster received his education in the public schools and when a boy learned telegraphy at which he worked for some time in New York, Pennsylvania and the West. He remained only a short time with the family in Detroit. He worked in a number of places in that section of the country, the West and the South until 1878 when he located at Greenville, Michigan, as operator for the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad Company. During his employment with the railroad and until September 1, 1904, he was agent for the American Express Company, in all about twenty years. This business was afterward taken over by the United States Express Company. On April 19, 1879, he married Luella Kingsley, a daughter of J. W. and Esther Kingsley. He remained in Greenville until January 7, 1880, when he came to Belding as station agent, which position he held until July 23, 1899, then started out on his own account, in the feed business, two years later engaging in the livery business, retaining his feed business also until 1903, when he sold out, but retained his livery stable until 1914, having been engaged in the same continuously for twenty-one years. After the death of his wife, July 12, 1912, he came into the printing establishment in Belding, which plant had been operated by her, and this he has continued to the present time, the business, known as the O. F. & L. K. Webster Company or the Herald Publishing Company, was started by them in 1893. In connection with his monthly newspaper, which he has greatly improved and the circulation of which is constantly increasing, he operates a job printing office, turning out high-grade work promptly. He has been a stockholder in the Belding Savings Bank, which he helped organize, and for a number



of years was a director in the same. He helped organize the Spencer Light & Power Company, and he has been vice-president of the same since its organization. He was treasurer of the Belding Building & Loan Association for twenty years. He was one of the originators of the plan which brought the Belding brothers to this place, in fact, he has been regarded as one of the leading men of affairs and public-spirited citizens of Belding for over two decades.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Webster, namely: Luella O., born on April 15, 1880, would have graduated from the high school the following June after her death in November, 1900; Edwin O., who was graduated from the Belding high school and the Ferris Institute, is interested with his father in his publishing business and is a city mail carrier.

Politically, Mr. Webster is a Republican. For six years he was deputy sheriff of Ionia county. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias, also of the Degree of Honor, and publishes the organ of that lodge, the *Degree of Honor Review*.

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#### WILLIAM A. CROEL.

An honored veteran of the great Civil War and one of the diligent farmers of Ionia township, Ionia county, is William A. Croel, who was born on April 14, 1841, in Monroe county, New York. He is a son of Silas and Ruth (Saxton) Croel, both natives of New York, the father of Monroe county, the mother of Greene county. In 1849 Silas Croel and family moved to Genesee county, Michigan, where they bought a farm and resided until 1865, then sold out and moved to Ionia county, buying a farm in section 26, Ionia township, on which the father and mother spent the rest of their lives. Politically, he was first a Whig, later a Republican. He and his wife were members of the Christian church, and very faithful in their attendance. His death occurred in March, 1890, and that of his wife two years previously, in July, 1888. They were the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters, namely: William, Henry, Emline, Henrietta (who died in infancy), Charles, Mary and George. The last named died when five years old, and Charles lived on a farm in Ionia township until his death some years ago. The other children are all living at this writing.

William A. Croel grew upon the home farm and received a common-

school education. On November 7, 1862, he enlisted, in Genesee county, in Company G, Fifth Michigan Cavalry, and was in the Army of the Potomac and in the various engagements in the Shenandoah valley, remaining in the service until June 22, 1865, when he was discharged at the government hospital at Leavenworth, Kansas. He saw much hard service and proved to be a faithful and gallant soldier. He was in the battles of Gettysburg, Winchester, Cedar Creek, Cold Harbor, Antietam and many others of lesser note. During the Gettysburg campaign he was in thirteen fights in so many days, the cavalry being almost constantly engaged for two weeks. He was wounded at Gettysburg by a piece of shell, which slightly shattered his shin bone. After the war he returned home in July, 1865, and has lived in Ionia county ever since, or for more than a half century continuously, and has engaged in farming all the while. He cleared the land where he lives, developing it into a good farm, and in 1884 built a large, comfortable dwelling house which is still in good condition. His place consists of one hundred acres. Politically, he is a Republican, and has held various township offices.

William A. Croel was married on October 28, 1875, to Emeline Way, who was born in Portland, Ionia county, and is a daughter of Alanson and Magdalene (Miller) Way. The father was born in Dutchess county, New York, January 25, 1803, and there he grew up and was married to Magdalene Miller, who was born in Alsace, France. Her mother died when she was thirteen years old, and her father sent her to America, and later he also came. She landed in New York City, where she remained awhile, then went into the interior of New York state, and after her marriage she and Mr. Way went to Sandusky, Ohio, and about 1845 came on to Portland, Michigan. Mr. Way was a cabinet-maker, which he followed until his health failed in later life. He was an active member of the Baptist church. His death occurred on May 22, 1871, his widow surviving until February 26, 1880. To these parents nine children were born, namely: Eunice, John, Priscilla, who died when two years old; Melitabel, Daniel, Arvilla, Emeline, Orville and Helen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Croel five children have been born, namely: Claude V., a farmer of Ionia township, married May Sommers and they have three children, Florence, Anna and Charles; William S., who lives on the farm west of that of his father, married Alice Chickering and they have three children, Alice, Willie and Russell; Magdalena is the wife of Walter Herrick, of Carson City, Montcalm county, and they have two children, Emeline and Mildred; Winifred, who was graduated from Lyons high school and

Mt. Pleasant Normal, is teaching in high school and lives at home; Lawrence A., who was graduated from the Lyons high school, is living at home and assisting with the farm work. The mother of these children received a good education and taught school two years in her girlhood days, making her own way in the world from the age of thirteen until her marriage. She has remained a student all her life and has been of great assistance to her children and grandchildren, all having attended the school where she was a pupil when a child. Mr. Croel is a member of the Masonic order at Lyons, and also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic.

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### WILLIAM J. CLARKE.

The well-known monument dealer, William J. Clarke, who has engaged in the same line of business continuously for the past thirty-three years at Belding, Ionia county, was born in Exeter, Ontario, Canada, April 22, 1858. He is a son of Mark and Emily (Shaddock) Clarke. The father was born in Somersetshire, England, January 23, 1833, and died on September 13, 1913. He lived in his native land until he was twenty years of age and there learned the shoemaker's trade, then immigrated alone to London, Ontario, and worked at his trade there a number of years. His wife was born in Devonshire, England, from which country she came to London, Ontario, when a young girl. Her father was a mason by trade. The parents of the subject of this sketch met and married in London, Canada. After living there awhile they went to Exeter, Ontario, where he continued his trade, also teaming, and they spent the rest of their lives there, the mother dying in March, 1882. They were the parents of nine children, namely: William J., the subject of this review; Mary, widow of William Fish, lives in Saskatchewan, Canada; Eli is deceased; Edward lives in Hillsboro, Texas; Minnie is the wife of D. A. Donaldson, a railroad conductor; Ida is deceased; Edith is deceased; John lives in the province of Saskatchewan; Fred died when one year old.

William J. Clarke received his education in the public schools of Exeter, Ontario, and there learned the trade of marble cutter, then came to Michigan, locating at Grand Rapids, where he worked at his trade about two years, then went to Muskegon, this state, where he formed a partnership with Frank Hays, returning to Grand Rapids a year later where he remained until the spring of 1882 when he came to Belding, and worked three years

for J. W. Sprague & Company, then bought a half interest in the E. W. Jersey Monument Works, nine months later he purchased Mr. Jersey's interest and has continued the business ever since, with the exception of two years, 1911-13. He is a very highly skilled workman and has enjoyed a good business all along.

William J. Clarke was married on December 24, 1881, to Anna J. Marshall, daughter of Isaiah and Mary Marshall, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Maude is the wife of Charles W. Ort and they live in Grand Rapids; Myrtle is the wife of Guy Alexander, of Grand Rapids; Frank W. is engaged in the monument business at St. Joseph, Michigan.

Politically, Mr. Clarke is a Democrat, and he has been alderman from his ward for two years. He is a member of Silk City Lodge No. 447, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is past noble grand. He has also represented his lodge at state encampments. He is also a member of the encampment. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Foresters at Belding.

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#### THOMAS F. MARTIN.

It is a pleasure, whether one is a farmer or not, to look over a place like that of Thomas F. Martin, of Ronald township, Ionia county, where everything indicates thrift, good taste and a strict adherence to system. Mr. Martin was born on July 15, 1865, in County Monaghan, Ireland, and is a son of Robert and Eleanor (Dinning) Martin. He was six years old when his parents immigrated to Michigan, locating in Ionia county, the father buying a farm in Ronald township on which he lived until about 1880, when he bought a farm half a mile west of Literary Hall, Ronald township, on which he lived until 1902 when he moved to Palo, where his death occurred on April 14, 1904. His widow survives, making her home with her son, William, who lives just east of Palo. Robert Martin's farm here consisted of forty acres, all in standing timber but about three acres, the remainder being stump land and bush. There was a small, cheap dwelling but no barn. He cleared the land of the bush, girdled the trees and sowed wheat and the next year cut off the timber, and finally had a good farm and comfortable home as a result of his industry and perseverance. His family consisted of nine children, all living but one, James, who died when four years old. The living are Robert, Mrs. Eliza Dinning, Thomas

F., John J., Irwin, James K., William A. and Mrs. Phoebe Carpenter, the last two being twins.

Thomas F. Martin was six years old when his parents brought him to America, the voyage on a sailing vessel requiring about six weeks. He has made two return trips to his old home in Ireland, the first in 1897, when he took his wife and two children, spending five months visiting his wife's parents and others. His second trip was in the summer of 1907, when he was accompanied by J. C. Beatty, but he returned alone.

At the age of twelve years Thomas F. Martin went to live with his uncle, Thomas Martin, who first came to Ionia county in 1848, entering a farm from the government—the place where Thomas F. Martin now lives. The uncle sold his farm to W. H. Mattison and bought another in the same neighborhood, where Thomas I. Martin, son of Thomas F., now lives. Thomas F. Martin remained with his uncle until the latter's death, in 1887. He had no children and treated Thomas F. as his own son and gave him every advantage. The uncle was a pioneer settler here and in the early days plowed with from five to nine yoke of oxen for John B. Welch, on land which is now Main street, Ionia, and where the high school stands, breaking up new ground. Upon his death he gave his home farm to Thomas F. Martin, the place consisting of eighty-three acres.

Thomas F. Martin was married on September 13, 1887, to Margaret Jane Martin, a third cousin. She was born in the same vicinity where he first saw the light of day and they played as neighbor children. She was nineteen years old when she came to America, direct to the home of her uncle, Thomas Martin, who was her father's brother and who had married a sister of Thomas F. Martin's father. Her parents were John and Rachael (Lemon) Martin. Two years after coming here her uncle died and she continued to make her home with his widow until the latter's death ten years later. It was in September, following the death of Thomas Martin, that the young people were married. After the death of Mrs. Thomas Martin, Thomas F. Martin bought the one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm on which he now lives, which Thomas Martin had entered from the government. He has lived here for the past six years. He has also owned other farms, aggregating a total of five hundred and three acres. He and his wife had three children: Margrett Elizabeth, the eldest, died when two months old; Thomas L., born on April 22, 1890, married Lila May Pew and he owns the farm where Thomas F. Martin was reared (one hundred and eight acres) and has one child, Maurice Cleveland Martin; Robert J. Martin, the third child, was born on October 14, 1893, and lives with his parents. Mr.

Martin and both his sons belong to the Masonic order, and he and his wife are members of the Baptist church of Palo, Michigan.

Mrs. Martin's sister, Rachael, came to America about two years after Mr. and Mrs. Martin were married, and she lived with them about nine years. In the fall of 1897 she married W. C. Whitcroft, and they reside in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Thomas F. Martin saw the steamship "Lusitania" start on her maiden voyage. This was at the time of his second trip abroad. This is the vessel that was sunk by a German submarine in 1915.

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#### HERBERT L. SMITH.

Farm life has been both pleasant and profitable to Herbert L. Smith, of Ronald township, Ionia county, and he has never had a desire to change his lot for that of the city man with his numerous cares that the rural dweller knows not of. Mr. Smith was born in the above named township and county, February 17, 1870, on the farm where he now lives. He is a son of Ambrose G. and Evangeline (Dixon) Smith. The father was born in Cayuga county, New York, June 21, 1844, and is a son of Daniel G. and Lucetta (Sperry) Smith, both natives of Cayuga county. Soon after their marriage they removed to Michigan and lived in Clinton county about eight years, then located in Ronald township, Ionia county, on the farm in section 19 on which the subject of this sketch now lives. The death of Daniel G. Smith occurred on March 15, 1891, his wife having preceded him to the grave only by nine days, her death occurring March 6, 1891. Ambrose G. Smith was the eldest of their five children. He was but one year old when the family came to Michigan, and when eight years old he went back to New York, where he spent four years in school, then rejoined his parents in Michigan on the farm. He and Evangeline Dixon were married in 1869. She was born in the city of Detroit in 1848, and was left an orphan at an early age. Her death occurred on July 7, 1897. She was the mother of five children, who will be mentioned in a later paragraph in the course of this sketch.

The history of the Dixon family may be accurately traced back to Charles Dixon, who was born in 1730 at Kirleavington, England, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. He immigrated to Sackville, New Brunswick, and settled in Nova Scotia in 1772. Evangeline Dixon was born in Ohio,

and is a daughter of John E. and Thirza (Dille) Dixon. John E. Dixon was a son of Edward and Mary (Smith) Dixon. John E. was born in 1811. Edward was the second son of Charles and Susannah (Coates) Dixon. This Charles Dixon was the immigrant ancestor, having come from England. He was a member of the first parliament of New Brunswick, in 1786, also was a member of the second parliament. He was collector of customs for some time, and was a man of influence in public affairs. He was a fervent Methodist. It was in 1833 that John E. Dixon moved to Ohio. He was a carpenter and builder. He and Thirza Dille were married at Euclid, Ohio. For some time they lived at Marine City, then moved to Detroit where he engaged in ship building until 1860. In 1864 he was sent to Alabama to work on some gunboats for the government. His daughter, Evangeline, married A. G. Smith.

Ambrose G. Smith lived on the farm until 1891 when his parents died, after which he moved to the town of Ionia where he spent nearly two years, then bought a farm on State Road, one mile north of Ionia, and lived there until 1910 when he sold out and bought his present farm. On April 11, 1906, he married Mrs. Elizabeth (Brown) Saxton, widow of James Saxton, deceased. Ambrose G. Smith was treasurer of Ronald township two terms. He is an elder in the Christian church. Of his children, Herbert L. is the eldest; Bertha L. is the wife of R. A. Grover, of Ionia; Mabel lives in California; Carrie lives in Oregon, and Lucetta, who was graduated from a medical school, is a practicing physician in Oregon.

Herbert L. Smith attended the public schools of Ionia for six years, and was within six months of graduation when his paternal grandparents died. He had been staying with them during his school days. Upon their deaths Ambrose G. Smith was compelled to move to Ionia in order to look after their property, this made it necessary for Herbert L. Smith to return to the farm, which he operated three or four years, then worked with his father on another farm a year, after which he returned to the old home place, where he has since remained. He is now operating two hundred acres, and in connection with general farming specializes in fruit growing and dairying. He has twelve head of registered Holstein cattle, and about twenty acres in fruit trees. He has a good income from all departments of his farming business and has been very successful all along the line.

Herbert L. Smith has always been a Republican. He was highway commissioner for some time, and in April, 1912, was elected supervisor of Ronald township, and has held this office ever since.

On December 25, 1894, Herbert L. Smith married M. Lucetta Leach,

who was born at Shiloh, Orleans township, this county, and is a daughter of Theodore and Mary Jane (Brown) Leach. The father was a native of Ohio, and a son of Jonas and Lucetta (Latham) Leach. He came to Michigan with his parents during the late sixties and they settled near Shiloh, Ionia county, where the parents spent the rest of their lives. Mary Jane Brown was born near Fenwick, Michigan, and is a daughter of Nathaniel and Emma (Milton) Brown, who came from England about 1854, settling near Fenwick, Montcalm county, Michigan. Mr. Brown came first, and, owing to a misunderstanding, he returned to England for his family, being on the ocean at the same time his wife was coming to America. When these parents settled on their farm near Fenwick the country was still a wilderness, the haunts of Indians and wild beasts, and they underwent the usual hardships of pioneer life. Theodore Leach and wife live near Shiloh on the farm where his father first settled. Jonas Leach, father of Theodore, was a lumberman and cut off all the good timber in this locality. Theodore Leach has devoted his life exclusively to farming. He and his wife are the parents of five children: M. Lucetta, Marvin F., Milton K. (deceased), Theodore L. and Adah M. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two sons and two daughters, namely: Ambrose Gorham, Milton D., Evangelia Mabel and Mary Lucetta. Evangelia is the wife of Charles Brown and lives in Ionia.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith belong to the Gleaners, and he is a member of the Maccabees.

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#### JOSEPH T. ANGELL.

Joseph T. Angell, now living in honorable retirement at his cozy home in Belding, Michigan, after spending nearly a quarter of a century in the meat business and as a stock buyer, was born in Columbia county, New York, twenty miles from the city of Albany, April 25, 1846. He is a son of Augustus and Anna Eliza (Smith) Angell. The father was born in Providence, Rhode Island, the eldest of the family of Ephraim Angell, of English Quaker stock, and a descendant of Governor Winthrop, of Massachusetts. Soon after the birth of Augustus Angell the family removed to Columbia county, New York, where Ephraim Angell spent the balance of his life. The mother of the subject was born in Dutchess county, New York, and there grew to womanhood and received her education. She married Mr. Angell in that county and there they established their home and spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Angell engaging in farming and stock buying.



He was a prominent man in his community and a prosperous farmer. These parents were Quakers on both sides of the house, and therefore the subject of this sketch is a birthright Quaker.

J. T. Angell grew up on the home farm and received his education from a private tutor, employed by his father, later attending the neighborhood schools, then studied at the Hudson River Institute, where he spent two or three terms, working on the farm during the vacation periods. Later he took a course in Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, New York. When twenty years of age he went to Dupage county, Illinois, with a cousin where they engaged in farming for one year, then went to Missouri and worked for a fruit tree firm for two years, then returned to Illinois, Mr. Angell remaining at Lisle, Dupage county, about a year and a half, engaged in mercantile pursuits, then sold his store and moved to Odell, Illinois, buying out a general store which he operated seven years, with a partner. From there he came to Belding, Michigan, in 1878. His health failing about this time he decided to discontinue mercantile pursuits and, in order to be in the open air, he began buying stock until 1880 when he opened a meat market which he conducted with much success until 1900 when he sold out and engaged in buying and shipping live stock to the Eastern markets until 1909, since which time he has been living retired from active life.

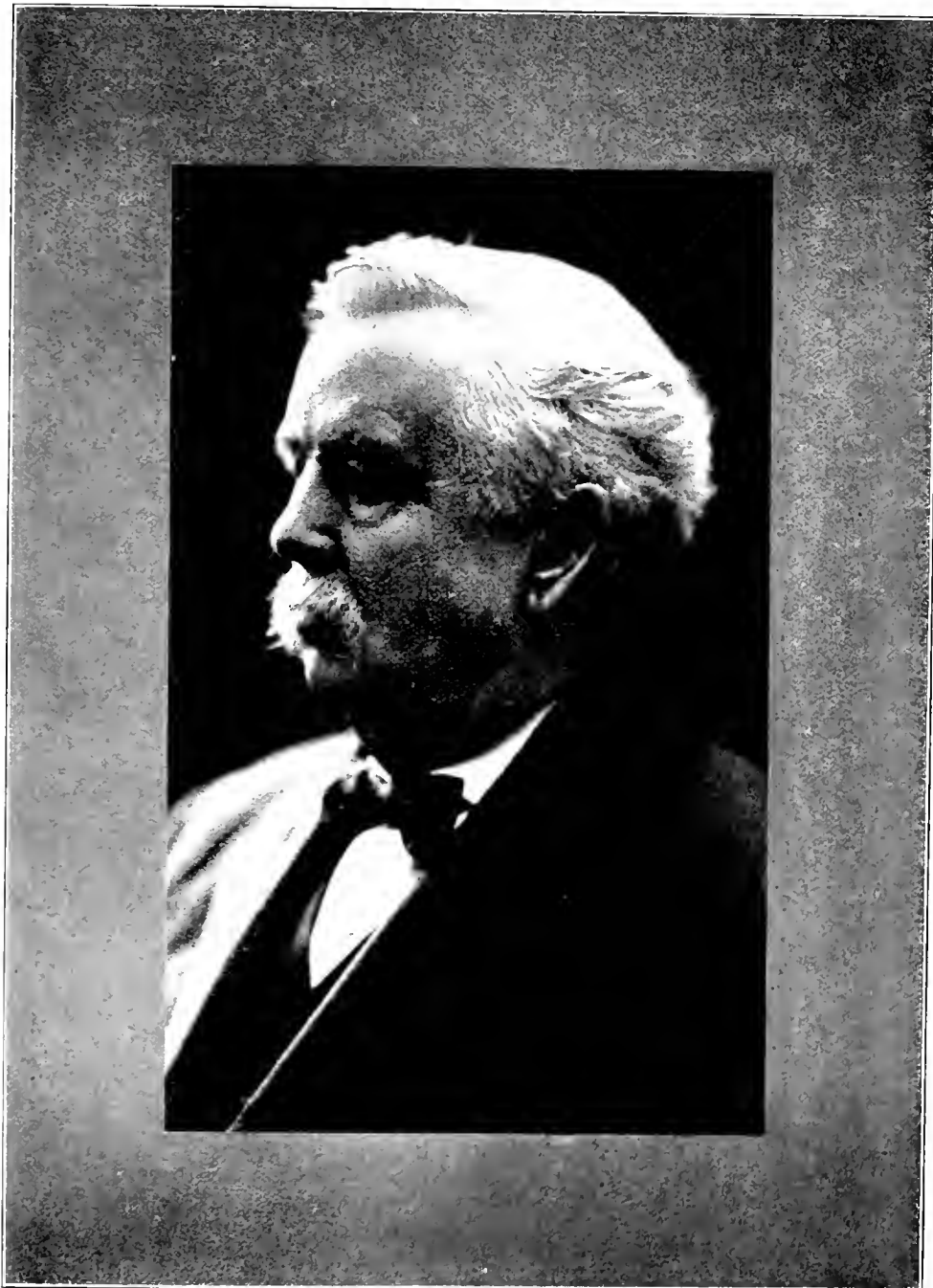
Joseph T. Angell was married on November 26, 1872, to Mary A. Parker, a daughter of Benjamin A. and Eliza Ann (Edmonston) Parker. The father was born at North Adams, Massachusetts, but when a small boy his parents took him to Ontario county, New York, where he grew up and married. Mrs. Angell received her education in the public schools and in Maston Academy, and it was while a student there that Mr. Angell met her. To their union four children have been born, namely: Benjamin Parker lives in Omaha, Nebraska, and is a traveling salesman for the Richardson Silk Company; A. Leroy died when nineteen years old; Rena M. was graduated from the Belding high school, the three-year course at Ypsilanti Normal, and Columbia University, New York City, and is now teaching art in all branches in the State Normal School at La Crosse, Wisconsin; Walter Herbert is assistant cashier in the Belding Savings Bank.

Politically, Mr. Angell is a Republican. He was a member of the council when Belding was made a city, and for nineteen years was supervisor of the second ward. He was highway commissioner two years before the city was incorporated and he built several bridges now standing. He is a member of the Maccabees at Belding. He build the splendid modern home at 221 Broas street, and also has other city property and real estate.

## HON. ALLEN BENTON MORSE.

Hon. Allen Benton Morse, formerly judge of the supreme court of the state of Michigan, for many years a leading member of the bar at Ionia, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former state senator from this district, one-time United States consul at Glasgow, Scotland, and former mayor of Ionia, to whom the people of that city very properly may apply the loving appellation of "the grand old man of Ionia," is a native son of this county, born on a pioneer farm in Otisco township, January 7, 1839, the third white child, and the first male white child born in the county, son of Judge John L. and Susan Ann (Cowles) Morse, natives of New York state, and pioneers and long prominent residents of this county, and both of whom died in Iowa.

John L. Morse was born at Cortlandville, New York, May 13, 1815, son of Minor and Sally (May) Morse, both of English descent, the former a native of Guilford, Connecticut, and the latter of Monson, Massachusetts, who were the parents of four children, John L., Perry, Charles and Sarah. John L. Morse was reared as a farmer boy in New York, his elementary schooling being followed by a course of two years at an academy. In 1822 his parents moved from Courtland county to Niagara county, New York, where the mother died in 1828, the eldest son being then thirteen years of age, after which the father and the children returned to Courtland county, where they remained three or four years, when they came to Michigan, settling in Oakland county. At the time of his coming to this state, John L. Morse was seventeen years of age, and for some years after coming here he supported himself by teaching school during the winter months and farming during the summers. On November 3, 1834, he married Susan Ann Cowles, a daughter of Alvin and Roxanna (Potter) Cowles, of Irish and English lineage, respectively, pioneers of Michigan, and the parents of two children, both daughters, Susan Ann having a sister, Cadelia, who married Rufus R. Cook. In March, 1838, John L. Morse and his wife came to Ionia county, settling in Otisco township, thus being among the earliest settlers of that part of the county. John L. Morse was a man of vigorous personality and took a leading part in the work of organizing the township, being elected first supervisor of the township. He was a man of great energy and prospered in his farming operations, at the same time continuing his activities in behalf of the general public, and in 1815 was elected a member of the Michigan state Legislature, representing the district then comprising the counties of Ionia, Kent and Ottawa, in which representative office he rendered a valuable service not only to his district, but to the state at large, becoming a figure of state-wide



HON. ALLEN B. MORSE

W. W. LINDSAY AND  
ASSOCIATES  
LIBRARY

importance. In 1849 he joined the gold-seekers who went to California, and was away from home for more than three years. In 1856 he was elected judge of the probate court of Ionia county, and was re-elected to that office in 1860, serving in all eight years. In 1866 Judge Morse decided to move on farther west, and emigrated to Iowa, settling in Wright county, that state, where he purchased a partially improved farm in the Belmond neighborhood, and there established his home. His forceful personality made him a public figure there, even as he had been here, and in 1868 he was elected county judge of Wright county. At the close of that term of public service he was elected county auditor, a position he held until January 1, 1876. In the meantime, 1875, he was elected a member of the sixteenth General Assembly of the state of Iowa and represented the district comprised in the counties of Wright, Hamilton and Humboldt during the sessions of the Legislature in 1876-77. In 1869 Judge Morse was admitted to the practice of the law in the courts of Iowa, and he spent the rest of his life in practice at Belmond. Judge and Mrs. John L. Morse were the parents of ten children, namely: Allen Benton, the subject of this review; Cadelia, widow of Orsene Daniels, of Durango, Colorado; Joseph D., deceased, who was a member of the Michigan State Legislature in 1890-94; Martha, wife of G. L. Cutler, of Clarion, Iowa; Perry L., deceased; Rhoda, wife of Shaler Hubbard, of Durango, Colorado; Rufus C., of Belmond, Iowa; Willard J., also a resident of Belmond, Iowa; Addie, who became the wife of John Whiting, and died in Iowa, and one who died in infancy.

Allen B. Morse was reared on the pioneer farm in Otisco township, this county, receiving his elementary education in the crude local school of that period, and later took a course at the State Agricultural College at Lansing. During the more than three years that his father was absent in California, in addition to carrying on the farm work, he taught school and in other useful ways earned money to add to the family treasury, a heavy task for a lad so young. He early became attracted to the law as a profession and was engaged as a law student when the Civil War broke out. On July 10, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company B, Sixteenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and for meritorious service presently was commissioned first lieutenant of the Twenty-first Michigan, later became adjutant of that regiment, and served as adjutant on the staff of Colonel Frank T. Sherman, commanding a brigade in Sherman's division. During the battle of Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, November 25, 1863, he lost his left arm, and on September 16, 1864, received his honorable discharge.

At the close of his military service, Mr. Morse returned to Ionia and resumed the study of law in the office of W. B. Wells, a prominent attorney of that day, and was admitted to the bar on February 28, 1865, by Judge Lewis S. Lovell, after which he formed a partnership with Mr. Wells, which continued until 1880, in which year the firm became Morse, Wilson & Trowbridge, and so continued until Judge Morse assumed his seat on the bench of the supreme court of the state of Michigan, to which high office he had been chosen during the election just previous. Judge Morse served as justice of the supreme court of Michigan from October, 1885, to 1892, resigning in the latter year to accept the nomination of the Democratic party as their candidate for governor. Shortly after his defeat in the memorable campaign, Judge Morse was appointed by President Cleveland to the position of United States consul at Glasgow, Scotland, in which honorable position he rendered distinguished service for four years, at the end of which time he returned to Ionia and resumed his law practice, and was thus busily and successfully engaged until his retirement. In addition to the public services above referred to, Judge Morse has served the public as state senator from this district, as mayor of Ionia, and as prosecuting attorney for Ionia county, in all of which service he was faithful to every obligation as a citizen and as an officer, during all those years acquiring a reputation for probity and for efficiency of service second to none in central Michigan, and in the "evening" of his life is held in the very highest regard, enjoying the fullest confidence and esteem of all hereabout.

In 1874 Allen B. Morse was married to Frances Marion Van Allen, who was born in New York state, her parents also having been natives of that state, of whose children two are still living, Herman Van Allen and Mrs. L. B. Townsend, both of Ionia. Judge Morse and his first wife were the parents of the following children: Marion, who married Elvert M. Davis, a prominent attorney of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Van Allen, of Ionia, who married Marguerite Jasper and has two children, Allen Henry and Dan Jasper; Lucy C., who married Gilbert Lee Yates, of Ionia, and has two sons, Gilbert Benton and Lee Van Allen, and Dan R., who died at the age of twenty years. The mother of these children died in 1884, and on December 12, 1888, Judge Morse was married to Anna Babcock, who was born on a pioneer farm four miles from Ionia, in this county, October 11, 1855, the daughter of Lucius and Matilda (May) Babcock, natives of New York state, and early settlers of this county, for many years prominent in all good works hereabout, the latter of whom died in 1893, at the age of eighty years, and the former in 1895, at the age of eighty-five.

## HON. J. CLYDE WATT.

J. Clyde Watt was born in the village of Saranac, this county, on October 4, 1875, and is a son of Samuel A. and Alice (Cotton) Watt, the former of whom was a native of Ohio, and the latter of Boston township, this county. Alice Cotton was the daughter of Gilbert A. and Lucy M. Cotton, who were pioneers in Boston township and both of whom held the office of postmaster of the village of Saranac in an early day. Alice Cotton was one of the first white children born in the township and frequently had Indian children for her playmates. She was active in the work of the church and is well remembered in this community. She died in the year 1906. Samuel A. Watt has been engaged in the mercantile trade at Saranac for the past forty years.

Samuel A. and Alice (Cotton) Watt were the parents of three children, as follow: Dr. C. L., who is engaged in the practice of dentistry in Grand Rapids, Michigan; J. Clyde, the subject of this sketch, and Stella M., wife of Norman J. Ogilvie, of Saranac.

J. Clyde Watt graduated from the public schools of Saranac, took a course in a business college in Grand Rapids, and graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in the class of 1896 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. After the completion of his work at the University he entered a law office in Ionia and remained there until March, 1897, at which time he located at Saranac and has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession since that time. Mr. Watt has been an earnest worker in the Republican party, having served as president and secretary of the Gridley Republican Club and as secretary of the Republican county committee. He served as village and township clerk; was circuit court commissioner for Ionia county for four years, and was elected to the Legislature in 1905 and re-elected to the session of 1907. In the year 1913 he was appointed by Governor Ferris as the Republican member of the commission to revise and consolidate all the laws of the state relating to civil practice and procedure in the several courts. The work of the commission was approved by the Legislature of 1915 and the act, which was the largest ever passed by the Legislature, is known as the "Judicature Act."

On March 1, 1905, J. Clyde Watt was married to Pearl Flint, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Flint, of Perry, Michigan. Miss Flint was educated in the public schools of the state and took a special course in music at Olivet College. To this union has been welcomed one child, Flint Clyde,

who was born on September 15, 1915. Mrs. Watt has taken an active part in musical and social affairs in Saranac and has been closely identified with literary work. She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

In 1894, through the accidental discharge of a shot gun, Mr. Watt had the misfortune of losing his right arm and it was soon after this that he decided to prepare for the law profession. He is prominent in fraternal affairs, being a member of Boston Lodge No. 146, Free and Accepted Masons; Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; Valley Chapter No. 276, Order of the Eastern Star, and is state consul of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Watt made an excellent record in the Legislature and is regarded as one of the staple men of the county and one who has the best interests of the community at heart.

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#### BYRON F. BROWN.

As assistant superintendent of the Richardson Silk Company at Belding, Michigan, Byron F. Brown has proven himself to be a man of ability and enterprise. He was born in this city, January 14, 1875, and he has been content to spend his life in his native community. He is a son of Solomon S. and Harriet (Tallman) Brown. The father was born near Brantford, Canada, in 1829, and the mother was a native of Rensselaer county, New York. Solomon S. Brown grew to manhood in his native locality where he received a common-school education. When a young man he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed as a contractor and builder up to his death. He came to Michigan and Ionia county in 1850 and in 1855 he married Harriet Tallman, a daughter of James Tallman, who had located here with his family in 1844, settling one mile north of Belding, carving out a home from the wilderness. They had come from Detroit with an ox-team over the trail of the pioneers. He took up land from the government and here he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. After their marriage Solomon S. Brown and wife settled on a farm north of Ionia, at Woods Corners, and Mr. Brown continued farming and carpentering here until he removed to Belding, being one of the first settlers of this town, which at that time had seven houses and a saw-mill. He built the first hotel here, and he was one of the earliest postmasters of the place. At that time the mail was brought by stage. Mr. Brown took a very active interest in the upbuilding of Belding. His death occurred in 1881. His



widow survived nineteen years, passing away in 1900 at an advanced age. To these parents three children were born, namely: James H. lives in Charlotte, Michigan, where he is engaged in the real-estate business; Carroll S., of Charlotte, Michigan, vice-president of the First National Bank, of Charlotte, and Byron F. James H. and Carroll S. formerly constituted the firm of Brown Brothers Clothing Company, of Charlotte, Michigan.

The subject of this review received a common and high school education in Belding, graduating from the high school, after which he entered the office of Knott-Rutan & Company, flour millers of Belding, with which firm he spent one year, then came to the Richardson Silk Company, starting in the stock department. Being alert, trustworthy and wide-awake, his rise was rapid, and he soon mastered the various details of the business. He has been with the company twenty-four years, his long retentive being evidence of his faithful and excellent work, and he is now occupying the responsible position of assistant superintendent.

Byron F. Brown was married on October 17, 1900, to Jeanette Reed, a daughter of Clarke P. and Jane Reed, of Owosso, Michigan, from which city the Reed family later removed to Belding. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brown, namely: B. Phillip, Dorothy Louise and James Carroll.

Politically, Mr. Brown is a Republican. He was for many years a member of the local board of education. He is president of the library board of Belding. He belongs to the Belding Board of Commerce, and he and his wife are members of the Congregational church, of which he is a trustee.

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#### SYLVESTER DAVID CHICKERING.

One of the progressive agriculturists of Ionia county is Sylvester David Chickering, of Orleans township, who takes a delight in his vocation, and, being at the same time a keen observer and a hard worker, has succeeded. He was born on April 12, 1845, about seven miles south of Cleveland, Ohio. He is a son of George and Clarissa Elvira (Fales) Chickering. The father was born in the state of New York in 1818, and was a son of George, Sr., and Juliet (Tracy) Chickering. George Chickering, Jr., was a small boy when his parents moved to Ohio and he grew up near Cleveland and there married Clarissa E. Fales, who was born in Oswego county, New York,

March 23, 1827, and was a daughter of David and Rachael (Wheeler) Fales.

Sylvester D. Chickering was six months old when his parents brought him to Ionia county, Michigan, in the fall of 1845. Indians were still numerous in this locality. The father worked out in the lumber woods and in saw-mills. He was handy with tools and made a saw which was a great improvement over the old style of saws. Finally he bought forty acres in Orleans township when Sylvester was seven years old, and four years later he moved to Cook's Corners where he bought an acre and built a house and there followed the cooper's trade. He had many years previously made whisky barrels for a distillery in Ionia. He was sometimes compelled to take a barrel of whisky in pay for his labors, and sell the contents to his neighbors. From Cook's Corners he moved to another forty acres in Orleans township, but lost it by a flaw in the title, after living there a year or two, then moved to the place now owned by the subject of this sketch, which he had bought some time previously. He moved to the place about 1862 and here spent the rest of his life. He was a great hunter, for wild game was plentiful when he came here, often killing two or more deer a day. He was a Republican, and he held some minor township offices. His death occurred on March 27, 1892. His wife died on June 2, 1883. They were the parents of six children, namely: Sally Ann died when three years old; Sylvester D., Roswell G., Daniel Z., Emory B., and Rachael Elvira, who married a Mr. Post.

The subject of this sketch lived with his parents until his marriage, April 28, 1875, to Anna M. Wooldridge, who was born in Hull, England, in May, 1849, a daughter of Samuel Wooldridge and wife, a record of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. She was four years old when her parents brought her to America. She attended high school here, being one of the graduating class of five in 1871. She engaged in teaching for about ten years in different parts of Ionia county. After his marriage Mr. Chickering moved to a farm in the southwestern corner of Orleans township, where he has since resided. His place consists of one hundred and ten acres, which he has kept well improved. He built his present handsome residence in the summer of 1914.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Chickering. Berthold Adelbert, born on September 14, 1876, lives near the homestead; he married Mabel Noddins and has two children, Maurice and Orville S. Clarence

Charles, born on December 24, 1878, married Myrtle Cosby, and they have four children, Laurence, Isabel, Inez and Clarence. This family lives in Otisco township on a farm. Alice, born in 1881, is the wife of William Croel, Jr., of Ionia township, and they have three children, Alice, William and Russell. Lucia, born in 1883, is the wife of James Lind. They live in Belding and have four children, Lucile, Harold, Helen and Marjorie. Ernest, born in 1886, who is farming on the home place, married Daisy Doty, a daughter of Charles Doty, and they have three children, Herbert, Sylvester and Alfred.

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#### WILLIAM E. LEACH.

William E. Leach, one of the successful farmers of Ionia county, was born on April 24, 1850, in Canada, the son of George and Margaret (O'Brien) Leach. His mother died when he was but four days old, after which his Grandmother Leach cared for him until he was ten years of age. At that time he began to work for himself. He was employed by farmers in the neighborhood and at the age of twenty-three he had saved two hundred dollars.

William E. Leach married Mary G. Drake, to whom was born the following children: F. E., Vern E. and E. C. F. E. is an engineer on the Pere Marquette railroad; E. C. is a motorman on the street cars of Grand Rapids, and Verne E. is a drayman in Belding.

After the death of his wife, Mary G., on June 6, 1910, Mr. Leach married Mrs. Etta (Young) Reed, who had one son, Bert Reed, who is a railroad man in Duluth. Mrs. Leach was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on March 24, 1859. She came with her parents to Mecosta county at the age of two years and there she grew to womanhood and attended the district schools. On April 23, 1877, she was married to Bruce Reed, who died in 1889. On July 22, 1914, she became the wife of William E. Leach.

Mr. Leach is a member of the Grange and the Farmers Club and takes much interest in the work of both organizations. Mrs. Leach is a member of the Daughters of Rebekah and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Both Mr. and Mrs. Leach are well known and prominent in the county.

## GILBERT W. WILSON.

Gilbert W. Wilson, well-known insurance agent and enterprising man of affairs at Ionia, this county, is a member of one of the oldest and most prominent families in Ionia county, his parents having been potent factors in the development of the best interests of this community almost from the days of the beginning of the social order hereabout. He was born at Ionia, son of Henry J. and Helen M. (Moseman) Wilson, both natives of New York state, the former of whom was born in the town of Avon, in Livingston county, and the latter in the town of Niles, in Cayuga county. They were married after coming to Michigan in the days of their youth and their active years were spent in Ionia, where their influence for good was felt in many ways.

Henry J. Wilson was born on January 20, 1820, son of Michael and Statira (Jones) Wilson, the former a native of County Armagh, Ireland, and the latter of the state of Massachusetts. Michael Wilson and wife were the parents of seven children: Joseph J., Gilbert, Alfred, Wealthy Ann, Catherine, Henry J. and William. Henry J. Wilson came to Michigan as a young man and located at Ionia, where he presently became one of the most forceful figures in the commercial life of the city, being for years engaged in the elevator and banking business and, as a partner with W. C. Page, in the marketing of wool and hides, long being regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of Ionia.

Not long after locating in Ionia, Henry J. Wilson was united in marriage to Helen M. Moseman, who was born in Niles, Cayuga county, New York, August 10, 1832, daughter of Charles M. and Harriet V. (Mills) Moseman, both natives of New York state, the former born on July 20, 1806, and the latter July 2, 1808. They came to Michigan with their family in 1844 and located at Ionia, where they spent the rest of their days, Mr. Moseman dying on January 29, 1853. His widow survived him for twenty-five years, her death occurring on August 2, 1878. Charles M. Moseman was engaged in the mercantile business in Ionia, his store being located at the corner of Third and Main streets, where the Lampkin clothing store is now situated, and his home was located on West Main street. He and his wife were the parents of two daughters, Helen M., mother of the subject of this biographical sketch, and Eliza A., who married James Kennedy and died at Ionia on September 11, 1915, at the age of eighty-one years, she having then been a resident of Ionia continuously for seventy-one years.



MR. AND MRS. HENRY J. WILSON



Helen M. Moseman was twelve years of age when she came to Michigan with her parents and the rest of her life was spent in Ionia, she having been a resident of that city for sixty-nine years at the time of her death on December 13, 1913. She was married to Henry J. Wilson on April 5, 1854, and about a year after their marriage they settled in the home which they occupied the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Wilson having been an occupant of that home for nearly sixty years at the time of her death. Mrs. Wilson was a woman of much energy and force of character. She and her sister, Mrs. Kennedy, in 1880, built what is still known as the Moseman block on West Main street. They also completed the erection of the four store buildings located on West Main street on the grounds of the old home, where their father died, and in other ways took an active interest in the business affairs and general upbuilding of the town. She was an earnest member of the Presbyterian church, as was her husband, and was a liberal contributor to the support of that church, and made a liberal contribution toward the erection of the new church, her children at the same time donating the north window in that edifice as a memorial to their father, who for years had been an elder and trustee in the church.

Mrs. Wilson ever was an ardent promoter of all measures designed to advance the social and moral welfare of the community and for fifteen years was the president of the local branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Of the children born to Henry J. and Helen M. (Moseman) Wilson five are still living, as follow: Alice W. Hutchins, wife of Lee M. Hutchins, of Grand Rapids, this state; Charles M., of Grand Rapids; William K., of that same city; Hugh E., also of Grand Rapids, and Gilbert W., of Ionia.

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#### BRINTON F. HALL.

Brinton F. Hall, president of the Belding-Hall Company and thus head of the great manufacturing concern which is generally regarded as the main industrial asset of the town of Belding, this county, is a native of Massachusetts, having been born in Ashfield, that state, December 15, 1865, son of Joshua and Electa (Edson) Hall, both natives of that same state, and is a direct lineal descendant of John Hall, the second, who came from Warwickshire, England, in the year 1630, ten years after the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock, and settled at Charlestown, Massachusetts.

The early life of Brinton F. Hall was spent on a farm and upon completing the course in the district school at Beldingville, Ashfield, he took a course in Sanderson Academy and in the winter of 1883 he taught school at Baptist Corners, Ashfield, Massachusetts. In January, 1885, he came to Michigan and became connected with the refrigerator company of which the present Belding-Hall Company is the direct successor, and has ever since been actively identified with the affairs of that great concern. At that time the refrigerator company was carrying on its operations in the large red frame building in which the Belding Basket Company now has its canvas basket department. From a business of small proportions, using the methods of that day, Mr. Hall has witnessed and been a very vital factor in the changes which have taken place in manufacturing methods since then and which have resulted in the splendid factories known as "A" and "B," which the company is using at the present time and which give the Belding-Hall Company high rank as one of the very largest refrigerator manufacturing concerns in the world.

During the first six years of his connection with the refrigerator company at Belding, Mr. Hall acted as the company's New England representative, with his headquarters in Boston, but in 1891 he returned to Belding to take up his permanent residence and has made his home in that city ever since. Upon the reorganization of the company in 1907 and the creation of the present Belding-Hall Company, Mr. Hall, the company's largest stockholder, was elected president of the same and has served in that executive position ever since, long having been regarded as one of the most energetic and enterprising business men in Michigan. Mr. Hall's business ventures are not confined wholly to the great concern of which he is the head, but he is connected with several other local enterprises of an important character and is president of the Peoples Savings Bank of Belding and a director of the National Bank of Ionia, at Ionia, this county. Mr. Hall has always been accounted one of the city's chief "boosters" and is ever found in the forefront of any movement designed to advance the material welfare of the community. He is the owner of one of the finest ranches in this state, situated three and one-half miles east of Belding, and takes much pride in the fine quality of the apples produced in the great orchard on that ranch. Mr. Hall is an ardent Republican and for years as chairman of the Republican city committee, his activities in that connection having given him a state-wide acquaintance among politicians. In 1896 he was president of the Young Men's Republican Club of Belding and in that capacity rendered a notable service in behalf of his party during the memorable campaign of



that year. In 1900 he was elected delegate from the fifth district to the national convention of the Republican party, held that year in Philadelphia and which nominated William McKinley the second time for President. For six years Mr. Hall served as a member of the board of education of Belding and for two years was president of the board.

On October 19, 1862, Brinton F. Hall was united in marriage to Florence E. Wilson, daughter of David E. Wilson and wife, and they occupy the residence at the corner of Pearl and Washington streets, considered to be one of the finest in the city. Mr. and Mrs. Hall take a proper part in the city's social and cultural activities and are regarded as among the leaders in local philanthropic movements. Mr. Hall is an ardent sportsman, fond of fishing and hunting, particularly of the latter, and makes a trip every year to the wilds of the Algoma district in Ontario, in quest of moose. He has brought down quite a number of these huge creatures and the heads of four of these trophies of his prowess as a Nimrod have been mounted and have been put up in his office, splendid specimens and visible proof of his fine marksmanship.

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#### CHARLES L. WILSON.

Charles L. Wilson, veteran lawyer at Saranac, this county, former judge of probate for Ionia county and former prosecuting attorney, who has been continuously engaged in the practice of law in this county since his graduation from the law department of Michigan University in 1867, is a native of the great Empire state, but has lived in Michigan since he was an infant in arms and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development that has marked this region within the past generation. He was born at Warsaw, New York, February 2, 1843, son of Samuel and Sebrina E. (Shaw) Wilson, both natives of New York state, who later became pioneers of Ionia county, where their last days were spent.

Samuel Wilson was born at Verona, New York, April 4, 1802, eldest of the six children born to Daniel and Sarah Wilson, the others having been Ammon, Thomas, Maria, Rhoda and Sarah. At Covington, New York, in 1838, Samuel Wilson was united in marriage to Mrs. Sebrina E. Jenks, widow of Christopher Jenks and daughter and only child of Samuel and Sybil Shaw, who were born in Vermont, of Scottish and English parentage, respectively, and who emigrated to New York about the year 1800, settling at Brutus, where their daughter, Sebrina, was born on June 10, 1810.

Christopher Jenks left at his death two sons, Loren S., born on February 16, 1833, and Judson J., October 5, 1834, both now deceased. At an early date Loren and Judson Jenks left this county and went to California, returning after several years for a visit at the home of their boyhood in Saranac. During the period of that visit Loren S. Jenks married Eliza Cotton, of Saranac, and later returned to California, where four children were born to him and his wife, namely: Lola, Vernon, Ida and Frank, all of whom are living save Vernon.

It was in 1844 that Samuel Wilson and his family came to Michigan, settling near Pontiac, whence, in 1846, they came to Ionia county and settled in Boston township, where Samuel Wilson bought the residence and other real estate holdings of Cyprian S. Hooker in that locality, he being one of the first settlers of that part of the county. Mr. Wilson converted the dwelling place into a tavern, which he and his wife conducted, at the same time engaged in farming until they erected a new hotel, now known as the Commercial House, at Saranac, which they and their sons conducted until 1867, in which year Mr. Wilson bought the residence of Tunis Cronkhite, largely improved the same and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on April 4, 1874. His widow survived many years, residing with her son, the subject of this sketch, until her decease on December 6, 1902, she then being in her ninety-first year and having retained her mental and physical strength until her last illness. She was a member of the Episcopal church and in her life work was ambitious and painstaking. During the long period of her hotel-keeping she was regarded as a most excellent landlady. She superintended the dinner at the first Fourth of July celebration held in Saranac, a free dinner spread on a long, roughly constructed, but well-provided table set in front of the old tavern. Hon. Los E. Jones, of Ionia, was the orator of the day. A large "liberty pole" was raised and the occasion was regarded as the most successful celebration in the early history of the village.

To Samuel and Sebrina E. (Shaw) Wilson were born three children, the subject of this sketch having a brother, George B., born on September 10, 1846, and a sister, Sarah M., July 24, 1848. George B. Wilson was born at Warsaw, New York, and was but four years old when his parents came to this state. He was reared at Saranac and was connected with the early history of that village until his enlistment in the Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, being later transferred to the Mississippi Marine Brigade, with which he served till the end of the war. Following the completion of his military service

George B. Wilson married Nancy M. Follett, daughter of John and Jane Follett, early settlers of this county, and resided in Ionia and Kent counties until the death of his mother in 1900, when he bought the old home in Saranac, where he is now living, retired. On November 9, 1909, Mrs. Nancy Follett Wilson died, leaving one son, Ferman G. Wilson, of Keene township, this county, and on June 15, 1910, George B. Wilson married, secondly, Mrs. Ella McKean, who was born on January 20, 1852.

Sarah M. Wilson, only daughter of Samuel and Sebrina Wilson, was born at Saranac and grew to womanhood in that village. On September 2, 1866, she married F. Henry Spencer, a Saranac druggist, who had served as a hospital steward during the Civil War, and to that union were born two children, Belle, born on April 12, 1869, and Charles F., February 10, 1873. On November 12, 1890, Belle Spencer was united in marriage to Elmer E. Power, who was born on March 14, 1863, now living near St. Maries, Idaho, to which union three children have been born, Harry H., Paul, who died in 1892, and Wilson H. Charles F. Spencer is married and resides in Chicago. F. Henry Spencer, for many years one of Saranac's best-known merchants, died on August 16, 1889, and his widow is now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Power, in Idaho.

Charles L. Wilson was but little more than one year old when his parents came to Michigan and he grew up at Saranac, his boyhood being spent as chore boy about the tavern and in attendance at the district school. At the age of fourteen he obtained employment, under Captain Simmons, on the "Nawbeck" and later, under Captain Parks, on the "Porter," steamers plying on Grand river prior to the advent of the railroad between Detroit and Grand Haven. On October 5, 1858, he became engaged as a clerk for Frazell & Stevens, dealers in merchandise and farm products, and for two years was thus engaged while not attending school. Then during the summers he attended the State Normal and the Ypsilanti union schools and during the winters clerked for H. Rich & Company at Ionia until 1864, when he engaged with his former employer, D. F. Frazell, in conducting the latter's sutler establishment in the Veteran Reserve Corps at Indianapolis, and upon the completion of that form of service began teaching school in Keene township. During the meantime Mr. Wilson was devoting his leisure hours to a close study of Blackstone and Kent's "Commentaries," and he presently entered the law department of Michigan University, from which he was graduated in 1867.

Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his profession, Mr. Wilson opened an office at Saranac, his home town, and later continued in practice

at Ionia, the county seat, but for years has been located at Saranac, where, in addition to his law practice, he has been actively engaged in the real-estate business. Judge Wilson is a Democrat and has been honored by election to various public offices, having served his home township as clerk and as justice of the peace and the county as prosecuting attorney and judge of probate. During his professional career, Judge Wilson has been associated, as a partner, with the law firms of Wilson & Strickland, Vosper & Wilson and Morse, Wilson & Trowbridge, the latter firm continuing until the election of Judge Morse as justice of the Michigan supreme court. Judge Wilson is a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar, for several years master of Boston lodge, and is a member of the chapter and the commandery at Ionia. His law practice in recent years has chiefly been confined to office work and probate practice. He has long given earnest attention to the general business affairs of his home community and is one of the directors of the Saranac State Bank.

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#### OTIS D. TYLER.

Another general farmer of Ionia county who is making a specialty of raising some fine grade of live stock is Otis D. Tyler, of Orange township, and he is making a success of each department. He was born in the home in which he now lives, September 28, 1862, and is a son of Isaac E. and Eliza G. (Hitchcock) Tyler. The father was born in Livingston county, New York, January 15, 1817, and removed with his parents to Oakland county, Michigan, in 1836, with an ox-team, Isaac E. being at the time nineteen years old. The following year, Dean M. Tyler, father of Isaac E., removed with his family to Orange township, Ionia county, entering two hundred acres from the government, which land is now in possession of the subject of this sketch. In coming here they had to blaze their trail through the wilderness, and to cut their road part of the way. This farm was all in timber, but it was soon cleared up and in growing crops. Their first dwelling was a log hut. Here Isaac E. Tyler remained with his father a number of years, assisting in the development of the place, finally buying the farm from the rest of the heirs. On January 5, 1840, he married Elizabeth Brown, who was born in England, from which country she came to America when young, first settling in New York, and while there first met Isaac E. Tyler. Her death occurred in 1854. She was the mother of five

children, namely: Amelia, who was the first white child born in Orange township, Ionia county, is the widow of Capt. John E. Smith, who was a prominent physician in Portland in his day; Emerson died when eighteen months old; Sarah lives with the subject of this sketch; Louise is the wife of James Page, of Dexter, Michigan; Melvina is the wife of Donald McCahm, of Guide Rock, Nebraska.

Isaac E. Tyler's second wife was a sister to his first wife, Mrs. Sarah (Brown) Field, who died on July 20, 1858. Isaac E. Tyler's third wife was Eliza G. Hitchcock, who was born in Cataraugus county, New York. She came to Michigan to visit relatives and while here met Mr. Tyler, who later went to her home in New York state and they were married there on January 1, 1860, and at once took up their residence on the farm in Ionia county, where they spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring on December 15, 1901, at the advanced age of eighty-five years, her death having occurred on October 2, 1897. To this third union four children were born namely: Adeline C., deceased, was the wife of John Rossman, of Otisco township, Ionia county; Otis D. is the subject of this sketch; William I. lives at Niles, Michigan; Mary E., who was graduated from the Portland high school, taught two months on the second year in that school, and her death occurred on July 12, 1887.

Isaac E. Tyler was a devoted member of the Baptist church, he and his father and the immediate family were charter members of the Portland Baptist church which was organized in 1840, and he was a deacon in the same for over fifty years, taking a very active interest in the church. Politically, he was a Republican, but was never very active in public affairs.

Otis D. Tyler was educated in the district schools and went as far as the tenth grade in the Portland high school. He spent his boyhood on the home farm, buying forty acres of the same when he reached young manhood and lived on the land two or three years, and upon the death of his parents purchased the rest of the place, comprising two hundred acres and this he still owns, having kept it in excellent cultivation and well improved. It includes all the land which his grandfather entered from the government during President Tyler's administration.

Otis D. Tyler was married on December 10, 1890, to Alta M. Tinney, daughter of Henry and Jerusha (Bingham) Tinney, natives of Ohio, where they grew up and were married, removing from there to Clinton county, Michigan, where their daughter, Alta, grew up and was educated. Mr. Tinney bought a farm in Eagle township soon after his marriage and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring on Febru-

ary 2, 1890, his wife preceding him to the grave in 1884, when Alta was seventeen years old.

To Otis D. Tyler and wife three children were born: Veryl I., who graduated on June 1, 1913, from the Portland high school, then attended the Michigan Agricultural College for two years, is now at home. Zelma A. married Lester Campbell on June 11, 1914, and they live on their own farm in Danby township, this county. He is a graduate of the Portland high school and taught school four years. To Mr. and Mrs. Campbell one child has been born, Stewart M. Dean H. Tyler, the third child, is attending Portland high school, where he is making an excellent record.

Mr. Tyler and his son Veryl I. are both members of Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons. The elder Tyler is a trustee of the Baptist church in Portland to which all the family belongs, and he has long been active in church work. Politically, he is a Republican. He was at one time treasurer of Orange township, and he was also treasurer and director of his school district for a number of years.

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#### LORENZO WEBBER.

Lorenzo Webber, cashier of the Webber State Savings Bank, of Portland, Michigan, an institution founded by his father in 1870, was born near Watkins (Blossburg) Schuyler county, New York, on July 22, 1869. He is a son of John A. and Mary E. (Mason) Webber, the former being born in the village of Monterey, Orange township, Schuyler county, New York, the son of Lorenzo and Jane A. (Welch) Webber, who moved to New York from Vermont in 1828. John A. Webber was born and reared on a farm, but his father, Lorenzo, who was a well-to-do man for that day, drifted into other enterprises and passed his latter years in Elmira. The Webbers are one of the older families of this county, tracing their ancestry back in unbroken line to 1704, when their forbears came from England to this country and established the American branch of the family.

It was while still engaged in farm enterprises that John A., father of the subject of this review, and his uncle, Jack Webber, opened a retail meat market in Elmira, resorting to this means of disposing of the surplus amount of sheep and other animals on the farm, not being able to obtain paying prices otherwise. It was while thus engaged in Elmira that John A. met and married Mary E. Mason, a daughter of George W. and Mary (Collingwood) Mason, Mr. Mason being editor and proprietor of the lead-



JOHN A. WEBBER.

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ing newspaper in Elmira at that time. John A. Webber was married on June 5, 1866, and continued to reside in Elmira for a short time. For a time he was trans-shipping clerk for the Bloss Coal Mining & Railroad Company at Watkins, New York (where Lorenzo was born), but left the employ of that company to come to Portland, this county, to establish the banking firm of L. Webber & Son, his father being associated with him, and under that firm style the business was conducted until the death of the elder Lorenzo Webber in 1884. John A. Webber continued the business alone until when Lorenzo was admitted to partnership, and from 1891 until 1908 the firm name was John A. Webber & Son, but since January, 1908, it has been known as the Webber State Savings Bank.

Lorenzo Webber is the eldest of a family of four children. A brother, George Mason, born April 28, 1872, died on February 11, 1891; Charles, June 9, 1875, is also dead, passing away on January 29, 1876; Christine, the youngest, July 18, 1878, and is the wife of James A. Latta, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. John A. Webber died March 26, 1905, being the active head of the banking business up to the time of his death. In addition to that business, he had accumulated about nine hundred acres of farming lands in this county and left considerable estate to his heirs.

Lorenzo Webber received his elementary education in the Portland schools, later studying at the Liggett Home and Day School in Detroit. From there he went to Phillips Academy at Andover, from which institution he was graduated in 1889, when he matriculated at Harvard. He continued his studies there for two years, and was called home in 1891 by the death of his brother, George, who had been assisting in the bank, and has himself given his undivided attention to that enterprise since that time.

Lorenzo Webber was married September 27, 1899, to Dora Alice Stone, daughter of William Harvey and Flora (Wilkes) Stone, and to their union has been born a family of four children, Charlotte Elizabeth, John A., and Christine are attending the Portland schools, while Constance, the youngest, is not yet of school age. Mr. Webber is a member of the ancient order of Free and Accepted Masons, through Portland Lodge, No. 31, having served as treasurer thereof for several years. He holds his religious membership in the First Congregational church of Portland, has been treasurer of that body for several years and is now also deacon. Politically, he gives his support to the Republican party and filled two three-year terms as a member of the school board. He is one of the progressive men of this county, a man who realizes fully his obligation in all walks of life and fulfills his duties to the best of his ability.

## CLYDE A. KNAPP.

Clyde A. Knapp, a well-known young manufacturer, member of the progressive firm of E. J. Knapp & Company, manufacturers of paint, at Belding, a former alderman of the city of Belding, a member of the Board of Commerce of that city and in other ways interested in the development of his home city, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born in the town of Smyrna, in Otisco township, this county, June 19, 1880, son of E. J. and Jeannette (Hayes) Knapp, well-known residents of this county, the former of whom was born in Wayne county, New York, and the latter in this county, for years prominent residents of Belding. When Jeannette Hayes was a child her father died and her mother married Charles Northway.

E. J. Knapp was born on July 16, 1850, and was reared on a farm in Wayne county, New York, where he lived until he was twenty-three years of age, at which time he came to Michigan, settling in Ionia county, and shortly thereafter married Jeannette Hayes, who was born in this county, member of one of the pioneer families of the Smyrna neighborhood. For a short time after his marriage Mr. Knapp made his home in Smyrna and then moved onto a farm in Otisco township, where he lived for five years, at the end of which time he went to Coopersville, Michigan, where for a short time he was engaged in the milling business. He then went to Grand Rapids and for ten years resided there, during which time he was engaged as a traveling salesman, a part of the time for a machine company and then for a paint company. While employed by the latter concern he acquired a thorough knowledge of the paint business and in 1895 returned to this county, locating at Belding, where he established a plant for the manufacture of paint and has been thus engaged very successfully ever since. E. J. Knapp & Company, composed of E. J. Knapp, C. A. Knapp and L. M. Berry, makes a specialty of its widely-known "Wolverine Elastic" paint, a heat- and acid-resisting product, designed particularly for roofs, structural iron, smoke-stacks and the like, and does a large business.

To E. J. Knapp and wife four children have been born, Clyde A., Edith M., Clifford H. and Clayton H. Clyde A. Knapp attended school at Belding. He has been associated with his father in the paint works ever since 1905. He has long taken an active part in the city's business life and is an influential member of the Belding Board of Commerce. He is a Republican and for four years served as a member of the board of aldermen, representing the second ward. On April 3, 1916, he was elected

mayor of Belding. He is a Mason, a member of Belding Lodge No. 355, Free and Accepted Masons, and a member of Fortuna Lodge No. 120, Knights of Pythias, which latter lodge he has served as vice-chancellor. In 1907 Clyde A. Knapp was united in marriage to Helen E. Wright. Mrs. Knapp is a member of the Congregational church and the Order of the Eastern Star and both she and Mr. Knapp take a proper part in the city's various social and cultural activities.

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### FRED L. SPENCER.

Fred L. Spencer, president of the Spencer Electric Light and Power Company, supervisor of the first ward of Belding, this county, and for years one of the best-known citizens of that city, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a pioneer farm in Jackson county, this state, April 12, 1838, son of Thomas and Jane (DeYarmond) Spencer, both natives of Nova Scotia, Canada, the former of whom was the grandson of an Irish immigrant who settled at Halifax and the latter of French and Scottish parentage, her father having been of French descent and her mother, who was a Fletcher, having been of Scottish descent.

In 1831 Jane DeYarmond accompanied her father on a trip to the Territory of Michigan and was at Detroit for a year, at the end of which time they returned to Nova Scotia and presently returned to Michigan with a party which settled in Washtenaw county, not far from Ann Arbor. One of the members of this party was Thomas Spencer and not long after their arrival in this state he and Jane DeYarmond were united in marriage. After his marriage Thomas Spencer settled at Norvell, in Jackson county, where from 1836 to 1840 he operated a saw-mill. He was a skilled millwright and for years was one of the best-known millmen in this part of the state. In 1840 he moved back to Washtenaw county, buying a farm near Manchester, and about a year later located at Manchester, where he was engaged as a carpenter until 1843, in which year he moved to a farm one-half mile from Vicksburg, south of Kalamazoo, but in the fall of that same year moved back north and settled on a farm in Kent county, near Lowell and Ada, where they lived until in June, 1846, in which month they moved into what then was Oakfield township, Kent county, where he bought a forty-acre farm and cleared it up and after this traded for one hundred and sixty acres in North Oakfield, also owned one hundred and twenty acres

adjoining same, and there he erected a saw-mill. As settlers were attracted to that point the township presently was divided, and the name was changed to Spencer township, in honor of the pioneer millman, Thomas Spencer, who was elected first supervisor of the same. In 1863 the Thomas Spencer mill was destroyed by fire and Mr. Spencer then moved to Montcalm county, where he bought a farm in Montcalm township, and in that county spent the rest of his life, his death being due to a mill accident at Langston.

Fred L. Spencer grew up to the life of the pioneer farm and the life of the big woods and from boyhood was a valuable assistant to his father, both on the farm and in the mill. He married in 1863 and in that same year accompanied his father upon the latter's removal to Montcalm county. In association with Jackson Barr, under the firm name of Barr & Spencer, he took the contract for building the state road from Greenville to Big Rapids and after the death of his father occupied the latter's farm in Montcalm township, where he lived until 1868, in which year he moved to Greenville, where he engaged in the general mercantile business and was thus engaged until his wife's health failed. They then went to California, where they remained a year, afterward returning to Greenville, where they remained until 1881, in which year Mr. Spencer bought an interest in a saw-mill at Smyrna, this county, and was engaged in the milling business there until his removal to Belding in 1892. Upon his arrival in Belding Mr. Spencer immediately entered actively into the industrial and business life of the city, one of his first acts being the organization of the Spencer Electric Light and Power Company, of which he has been the president ever since its organization in 1893. When the city was organized he was elected supervisor of the first ward, then others held the office for a term of years; later he was elected again and served for ten years. He also started a lumber yard at Belding and operated the same for a few years after locating there and in other ways has taken an active interest in affairs generally in that city. He is a Democrat and for years has been looked upon as one of the leaders of the party in this county.

On January 1, 1863, Fred L. Spencer was united in marriage to Judith A. Sutton, one of the four daughters of Avery and Rosamond (Ingraham) Sutton, natives of Ontario county, New York, who moved from that state to the Lowell neighborhood, in Lake county, Indiana, where they lived for three years, at the end of which time they came to Michigan, settling in Kent county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Spencer two children have been born, daughters both, Agnes, former principal of the Belding schools, who married Charles Neland, a hardware

merchant at Ionia, and Mabel, a graduate of the Belding high school and the University of Michigan, who is now a teacher in the central high school at Grand Rapids. The Spencers are members of the Baptist church, Mr. Spencer being one of the deacons of the church and the moderator of the official board of the same.

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#### ALBERT C. RENKES.

Albert C. Renkes, a well-known and enterprising young merchant of Clarksville, this county, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a farm in Johnston township, Barry county, this state, August 23, 1892, son of William N. and Edith A. (Risbridger) Renkes, both of whom were born in that same county, their respective parents having been pioneers of Barry county. William N. Renkes is the son of John Renkes and his wife is a daughter of William Risbridger. Both John Renkes and wife were natives of Germany and William Risbridger and his wife came to this country from England.

William N. Renkes was reared on a pioneer farm in Barry county and followed farming as an occupation until 1909, in which year he engaged in the mercantile business at Dowling in his home county, and was thus engaged until November, 1914, when he retired from business and moved to Clarksville, this county, where he since has made his home. To him and his wife two sons were born, the subject of this sketch having an elder brother, Percy L. Renkes, who is engaged in the grocery business at St. Johns.

Albert C. Renkes received his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home in Barry county, supplementing the same by a course in the Michigan Business and Normal School at Battle Creek, after which, at the age of eighteen years, he entered his father's store as a clerk and gained a practical knowledge of the goods business. On August 19, 1912, he went to Clarksville, where he bought the grocery, dry goods and meat store of Burns & Brutton, and has ever since been engaged in business there, during which time he has considerably enlarged his stock and greatly extended his trade, being now numbered among the leading merchants of the town. Not only is he the youngest merchant in Clarksville, but he is recognized as one of the most enterprising and progressive and he has created for himself a very definite place in the commercial life of that part of the county. Mr. Renkes is a Democrat and gives a good

citizen's attention to the political affairs of the community. In 1914 he was the nominee of his party for the office of township supervisor.

On October 19, 1911, in Barry county, this state, Albert C. Renkes was united in marriage to Ethel B. Robinson, who was born in Hope township, Barry county, December 31, 1892, daughter of George A. and Cora (Terpening) Robinson, well-known residents of that community, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Donna B., born on December 6, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Renkes take a proper part in the various social and cultural activities of their home town and are earnest supporters of all local movements looking to the advancement of the community interest thereabout. Mr. Renkes is a Mason and a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of those two popular organizations.

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### JOHN EMERSON ROSS.

John Emerson Ross, a well-known retired farmer and fruit grower of Lyons township, this county, who occupies the farm his grandfather entered from the government in the days of the early settlement of that part of Ionia county, is a native son of this county, born on a farm in section 4, Lyons township, just north of his present home, May 23, 1853, son of Joshua Jay and Julia (Nichols) Ross, both natives of the state of New York, early residents of the northeastern part of Ionia county.

Joshua Jay Ross was born in Rensselaer county, New York, August 21, 1826, son of Joshua and Anna (Rounds) Ross, the former of whom was born in Rhode Island, son of Joshua Ross, a sailor. The junior Joshua Ross became a stone-mason and moved to New York state, where he married Anna Rounds, who was born in Rensselaer county, that state, and there they lived, Joshua Ross pursuing his vocation as a mason, until 1836, when he moved to Yates county with his family and began farming. In 1846 Joshua Ross and his family came to Michigan and settled in Ionia county. The head of the family bought a tract of land in section 5, Lyons township, and had started considerable improvements on the same when death caused a cessation of his labors in 1851. His widow survived him for some years, she being seventy years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of nine children, four sons and five daughters, of whom Joshua Jay Ross was the eldest. He was ten years old when his parents moved from

Rensselaer county to western New York and was twenty years of age when the family came to this county.

On September 10, 1850, Joshua J. Ross was united in marriage, at her home in Lyons, this county, to Julia Nichols, who was born in Yates county, New York, February 3, 1829, daughter of John and Julia (McCloud) Nichols, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter in the state of New York. Following his marriage Mr. Ross bought for the sum of one hundred dollars, forty acres of land in section 4, Lyons township, and there he established his home. To this he later added by the purchase of adjoining tracts until he was the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and ten acres. He was active in the work of organizing the social life of his home community and employed the first teacher and helped to organize the first school in his home district, sending his eldest child, the subject of this sketch, to school when four years old, in order to swell the attendance on the same. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church at Muir, he being one of the trustees of the church, and were active in all good works in their neighborhood, being early recognized as among the leaders in the social life of that community. Joshua Jay Ross died in 1898 and his widow, who still survives him at the age of eighty-seven years, is making her home with her son, John E. Five children were born to her and her husband, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being E. Medora, widow of W. C. Ely; Eugene J., who lives at Alma; Lennie, now deceased, who was the wife of George Corbin, and Charles E., of Ionia.

John E. Ross grew up on the paternal farm in Lyons township and after his marriage in 1876 continued to aid in the operation of the same until 1881, in which year he bought forty acres of the farm which his grandfather had bought from the government and which has always been in the family, and there he has ever since made his home. He improved that place and bought adjoining land until he became the owner of one hundred and ten acres, all of which he since has sold save the original forty, on which he still lives, though he has rented the fields and has lived practically retired from the active labors of the farm since 1910. Mr. Ross's mother also still owns forty acres of the original Ross farm, which has never been out of the possession of the family. Mr. Ross is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. He has taken much interest in educational matters and has held school offices most of the time for many years.

In 1876 John E. Ross was united in marriage to Lottie M. Segog, who

was born in Dunkirk, New York, daughter of John and Elizabeth Segog, the former of whom, a railroad man, was killed in a railway accident in New York in 1872, after which his widow and her son, George, and daughter, Lottie, came to Michigan and located at Pado, this county, where George Segog died, after which the widowed mother made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Ross. To Mr. and Mrs. Ross four sons have been born, namely: George E., who married Lottie Dick and lives in Orleans township; Lester V., a farmer living north of Muir, married Catherine Culbertson and has a son, Culbertson Ross; Fred J., a foundryman at Greenville, married Jennie Krueger and has two children, Clifford and Mildred, and Alton, who is at home.

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#### MAJOR FRANK R. CHASE.

Major Frank R. Chase, one of the most prominent and influential business men of Smyrna, is a native son of Michigan, a fact of which he has never ceased to be proud, having been born at Napoleon, Jackson county, August 12, 1839. He is the son of Rev. Norman G. and Lucinda (Carroll) Chase, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Connecticut, whose last days were spent at Smyrna, this county.

Rev. Norman G. Chase was born at Guilford, Vermont, May 6, 1802, and in his early youth was apprenticed for three years to a merchant at New Haven, Massachusetts, to serve as a clerk, at twenty dollars a year. He was a studious and thoughtful lad and early decided to enter the gospel ministry. In due time he entered Alta Theological Seminary, now Colgate University, at Hamilton, New York, from which he graduated and later was ordained as a minister of the Baptist church at Smithville, New York. On May 5, 1831, Rev. Norman G. Chase was united in marriage to Lucinda Carroll, a select school teacher at Springfield, New York, a young woman of wide accomplishments, who was then owner and principal of a select school at Smithville, New York. She was born at Thompson, Connecticut, June 3, 1801. Norman G. Chase was pastor of the United Baptist church at Smithville, New York, at the time of his marriage, and where the first child was born, and at Boonville, New York, where it was buried and where the second child was born. Then at Herkimer, New York; then at Michigan City, Indiana, where the third child was born, and where the two children were buried. Then at Napoleon, Jackson county, Michigan; then at Howell, where he retired from the ministry on account of ill health from a fever.





MAJOR FRANK R. CHASE.

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sore and stiff limbs, which he carried to the day of his death. In 1844 he came to Ionia county and was located at Smyrna, where he operated a general store, until 1863, when he retired from active business. His death occurred on June 24, 1884. His wife had preceded him to the grave many years, her death having occurred on March 16, 1868. To them four children were born, three of whom died in infancy, the subject of this review being the last and only survivor.

Frank R. Chase was about five years old when his parents came to this county and was reared at Smyrna. In addition to the schooling he secured in the local schools, he received careful training under the direction of his cultured parents, and at the age of sixteen had prepared for college. After a course of forty-eight weeks at Kalamazoo College, he entered the Michigan Agricultural College and after a course there of eight months began teaching school and was thus engaged during the winter of 1856-59. He then entered the Commercial College at Kalamazoo, from which he was graduated, and at the age of twenty-one was given an interest in the general store with his father at Smyrna, where he entered upon his commercial career, being thus engaged when the Civil War broke out.

At the age of twenty-two Frank R. Chase was commissioned by Governor Blair to recruit a company for the Twenty-fifth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and in thirteen days he had accomplished the remarkable task of recruiting one hundred and fourteen men, this company being raised within a radius of ten miles about Smyrna. In this noble band there were nine pairs of brothers, and from one family three sons had enlisted. Forty-five of the company were relatives and sixty-two of the members were married men. Mr. Chase, the recruiting officer, was unanimously elected captain of the company, but, on account of his youth and inexperience in military tactics, he declined to accept the office, preferring to remain as a private. He was then elected first lieutenant of the company and went to the front with that rank, serving with his company and regiment until November, 1863. Being then disabled for field service, he was commissioned by Abraham Lincoln and was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps and made adjutant of the Eighteenth Regiment. In April, 1864, the field and staff of the regiment were ordered from the West to Washington, D. C., and there given a new regiment of the Veteran Reserve Corps, immediately entering the field with Grant's campaign of 1864. After the battles of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, White House and other notable engagements of that campaign, to City Point, the regiment was returned to Washington, D. C., in time to oppose Early's raid, on the national capi-

tal. At the close of the war, Major Chase was assigned to duty in the fifth military district, at New Orleans, under General Sheridan, being promoted to captain and brevet-major, and thereafter served on the staffs of Generals Baird, Gregg, Mower, Sheridan and Buchanan, retaining his position until his resignation in 1868, he then having served continuously for a period of more than six years. Major Chase was never absent from his company, regiment or brigade when it was under fire, and was twice wounded.

Since the war Major Chase has always taken a close interest in the affairs of his former comrades in arms and is one of the best-known men in the ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic in Michigan. He was a charter member and was elected first commander of Dan S. Root Post No. 126, Grand Army of the Republic, when that patriotic organization was established at Belding on April 14, 1883, and has since been elected commander twenty-three times, still serving as head of that post. He was aide on the staff of Department Commanders Dean, Kield, Dabol, Pealer, Hopkins and Foote, inspector under Department Commander Van Raalte, department chief of staff under five department commanders, Allen, Lawrence, Stone, Spillare and Strong, and in 1913, at the encampment at Lansing, was elected department commander for the term of 1913-14. In the affairs of the national department of the Grand Army of the Republic, Major Chase has been hardly less prominent than in the affairs of the state department. On several occasions he has been elected delegate to the national encampment from the Michigan state department; also member of the national council of administration. In 1914, during the administration of Washington Gardner, commander-in-chief, Major Chase was honored by being appointed national chief of staff, and in other ways his devotion to the interests of the great patriotic organization has been rewarded by his comrades.

At the close of his military service, Major Chase returned to Smyrna and resumed his mercantile career, remaining there two years, at the end of which time he went to Warsaw, Illinois, where he engaged in the mercantile business, and there he was married to Hattie E. Flood, daughter of General Martin A. Flood, who entered the Union army during the Civil War as captain in the Third Wisconsin Infantry and was promoted to brevet brigadier-general. Major Chase remained in Illinois until 1875, in which year he returned to Smyrna, and since then has been active in the general business and commercial life of Ionia county, few men in this section of the state having been identified with a wider range of activities than he. He is the owner of one hundred acres of fine land near Smyrna, and twelve hundred acres in other parts of Michigan. He is president of the

Citizens Light Company, was formerly vice-president of the Belding Savings Bank, and is now vice-president of the People's Savings Bank at Belding, long having been regarded as one of the county's most substantial citizens. Upon the creation of the soldiers' relief commission by act of the Legislature of 1880, he was elected chairman of the Ionia county commission and has been retained on that commission continuously. He is a Republican and for many years has taken a prominent part in the county's political affairs.

To Major Chase and wife three children were born: Dora C., a graduate of Olivet College, who married Dwight C. Sheldon; Carroll F., also a graduate of Olivet College, and of the dental department of the Michigan State University, is now in New York city, and Bertha Lou, who died at the age of two years. The mother of these children died in September, 1897, and on June 5, 1910, Major Chase married Mrs. Ettie A. Trask, a widow. Major Chase and wife are members of the Baptist church at Smyrna, and Major Chase is a charter member of Belding Lodge No. 355, Free and Accepted Masons, in the affairs of which he takes much interest, also belonging to the Consistory of Scottish Rite Masons at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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#### LUTHER M. BERRY.

Luther M. Berry, business man, now living at 903 Pearl street, in the city of Belding, this county, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on a farm in Orleans township, February 10, 1873, son of Leander and Emmaline (Babcock) Berry, well-known and influential residents of that community, the former of whom is still living at a ripe old age on the old farm in that township.

Leander Berry, who is an honored veteran of the Civil War, was born in Ulster county, New York, on February 10, 1832. The year after his birth his parents moved to Burlington, Pennsylvania, where they lived until 1846, in which year they came to Michigan, arriving in Ionia county on September 1 of that year. They took a farm in Otisco township and made their home there for three years, after which, in 1849, they moved over into Kent county and bought a farm in Grattan township. Leander Berry was about seventeen years old when his parents moved to Kent county and he began working there, being engaged in the lumber woods during the winters and on the farm during the summers. In 1855 he returned to this

county and located at Orleans, where on December 23, 1857, he married Emmaline Babcock. In the summer of 1858 he moved to Otisco, where he remained until 1861, in which year he bought the farm on which he ever since has made his home in Orleans township. On August 9, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-fifth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served with that command until the close of the war, participating in the numerous engagements and arduous campaigns in which that regiment took part. Leander Berry and wife were active and earnest members of the Methodist church and were influential in all good works in their community, especially in times of sickness and death, many times filling the place of doctor, nurse and undertaker. Mr. Berry for years was the chorister of the church. His wife died November 27, 1908. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are still living, namely: Warren, of Idaho; Anna E., wife of T. B. Winter, of Greenville, this state; Olive L., wife of Peter Anderson, of Cadillac, this state; Justice E., of Six Lakes, in the neighboring county of Montcalm; Luther M., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Armida E., wife of Harris Bolster, of Orleans township, this county.

Luther M. Berry was reared on the home farm in Orleans township, this county, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and remained at home until he was twenty years old, after which he went to Greenville, in the neighboring county of Montcalm and was there engaged as a clerk in a store for four years. He then took a normal course in Ferris Institute at Big Rapids and in Belding, Lansing and Detroit, spent five more years clerking in stores, after which he started a store at Fenwick, which he sold about five years later and in 1908 moved to Belding, where he has been an active member of the enterprising company known as E. J. Knapp & Company, manufacturers of paints and cement.

Luther M. Berry married Edith M. Knapp, who was born in Grattan township, in Kent county, this state, December 6, 1882, a graduate of the Belding high school and who had been teaching school for three years at the time of her marriage, and to this union one child has been born, Jeanette E., born on September 30, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Berry are members of the Baptist church, of which Mr. Berry is one of the trustees, and are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Berry having served as treasurer and one of the "points" in the "star" in that order. Mr. Berry is a member of the Masonic lodge at Belding, acting as secretary one year; is also a member of the board of commerce, and a staunch Republican.

## EUGENE F. COLWELL.

No history of Ionia county would be complete without fitting reference to the life and the works of the late Eugene F. Colwell, for years one of the leading merchants of Lake Odessa and one of the leaders in the general community life of the southern part of the county, whose death in 1898 was widely mourned throughout the region in which he had for so long been an active influence for good. Since his death his widow has managed his estate and is still living at Lake Odessa, where she is very pleasantly and comfortably situated.

Eugene F. Colwell was born at Hamilton, in Madison county, New York, May 26, 1828, son of Joseph and Laura (Smith) Colwell, the former of whom was born on February 11, 1771, was a native of Rhode Island and the latter born in November, 1785, was a native of New York state. The Colwell family is of English descent and is one of the oldest families in the United States, the late Eugene F. Colwell having been a direct descendant of Roger Williams, the illustrious founder of Rhode Island colony, and his great-great-grandfather having been associated with Williams in the foundation of the colony. Mercy Williams, daughter of Roger Williams, married Samuel Windsor, whose son married Mercy Harding, whose daughter, Martha Windsor, married Robert Colwell, whose youngest son, Benjamin Colwell, married Deborah Brown, daughter of the founder of Brown University at Providence, Rhode Island, and their eldest son, Joseph Colwell, was the father of Joseph Colwell, father of the late Eugene F. Colwell. The second Joseph Colwell married Laura Smith, who was born in Oneida county, New York, of English descent, and to that union nine children were born, of whom Eugene F. was the youngest, and all of whom are now dead. The mother of these children died in the East and about 1839 the father and his family came to Michigan, locating in Hillsdale county. About five years later Joseph Colwell returned to his old home in Oneida county, New York, where he died in 1851. Joseph and Laura (Smith) Colwell were the parents of the following children: Daniel S., born in August, 1805; Justin B., September, 1807; Albert G., December, 1810; Laura S., May, 1813; Harriet M., December, 1815; Joseph, 1818; Edwin B., February, 1821; Charles B., June, 1823, and Eugene F.

Eugene F. Colwell was about five years old when his mother died and in his early youth he was cared for by his elder brothers and sisters. When eighteen years of age he became a clerk in a drug store at Oswego, New

York, and later engaged in business for himself in that same line in Oswego. Four years later he sold his store and went to Madison, Wisconsin, where, in partnership with his brother, Charles, he again became established in the drug business. Later he went to Janesville, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1867, in which year he moved to Detroit, this state. In the latter city he remained until about 1882, in which year he came to Ionia county and opened a hardware store at Muir, which he conducted for a short time. Four years later, when the Pere Marquette railroad was built through Lake Odessa in 1888 he located in that town, erected a substantial store building and there engaged in the hardware business, remaining thus engaged until this year, 1894—his death occurred four years later, on February 1, 1898, his store having long been regarded as the most extensive mercantile establishment in Lake Odessa and one of the largest in the county. Eugene F. Colwell was enterprising and energetic and was one of the chief promoters of Lake Odessa. So firm was his faith in the growing village that he erected other business blocks there and at the time of his death was the owner of seven fine business houses in the place, the interests he left being now managed by his widow.

In 1860 Eugene F. Colwell was united in marriage to Louisa M. Smith, to which union three children were born, but one of whom is now living, Clayton M. Colwell, born on September 19, 1863, who married Nellie Gates, of Lake Odessa, and has five children, Harold, Marion, Clayton, Dorothy and Robert. Clayton M. Colwell was associated with his father in business at Lake Odessa and now lives at San Jose, California, where he owns a prosperous retail business. Mrs. Louisa M. Colwell died in 1872 and on October 15, 1873, Mr. Colwell married, secondly, Mrs. Alice (Rickey) Cornell, widow of Alanson Cornell, son of Thomas Cornell, one of the pioneer settlers of Ionia county, Alanson Cornell having died in August, 1872.

Alice Rickey was born in Carlisle, Ohio, November 5, 1843, daughter of Oren and Marcia (Webster) Rickey, the former of whom was born near Rutland, Vermont, and the latter at Hanover, New York. Both the Rickey and Webster families are of old colonial stock, the Websters in America dating back to the seventeenth century, being then included among the fifty-seven families that founded the town of Litchfield, Connecticut, one of the most prominent of whom was John Webster, who in 1642 was one of the committee who formed the code of criminal laws for the colony of Connecticut and in 1851 was commissioner for the United Colonies, and in 1656 was made governor. In 1758, Lucretia Webster, direct descendant of John Webster, married Elisha Mason, a revolutionary patriot, and from



their union came Lucretia Mason, who in 1810 was married to Guy Webster, an officer in the war of 1812, whose daughter Marcia Webster, married Oren S. Rickey in 1837, and who were the parents of Alice M. Rickey, wife of Eugene F. Colwell, and the mother of the subject of this biography.

The Cornells also are an old American family, being likewise connected by lineage with the colonist, Roger Williams, and relatives of the Colwells. By the marriage of Manson Cornell and Alice Rickey one child was born, a daughter, May, born on November 18, 1870, who married William H. McCartney, of Lake Odessa, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. By her second marriage Mrs. Colwell is the mother of one child, a son, Raymond A. Colwell, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

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#### WILLIAM N. STEELE.

William N. Steele is a native of Scotland, having been born at North Berwick, Haddingtonshire, November 8, 1845, and for many years was one of the most active figures in the industrial life of this section of the state, a veritable giant at labor in the old lumber days hereabout, a timberman whose mighty deeds have become a definite part of the cherished traditions of the old days of the deep woods and whose activities as a general contractor contributed very largely to the upbuilding of this section, and who is now, in the approaching "sunset time" of his life devoting his energies to the promotion of the sugar-beet industry of this county, his work in that direction on his fine farm of rich bottom land at Ionia demonstrating the possibilities of this promising form of agriculture.

When William N. Steele was seven years old the family emigrated from Scotland to Canada, the father determined to try in the new country across the sea to build a home for himself and family. From the days of his childhood, therefore, William Steele was compelled to work. At the age of ten he was cutting wood and clearing land with a four and one-half pound ax; at eighteen he "worked out" as a farm hand, starting in at a wage of one hundred and twenty dollars a year, regarded at that day as good pay. Out of that sum he had saved, at the end of the year, one hundred and fourteen dollars and sixty cents. He bought a suit of clothes and had one hundred dollars left, capital on which to begin business for himself. Mr. Steele was then nineteen years old, a young man of tireless energy and extra-

ordinary powers of physical endurance. He then became engaged in contracting and clearing and improving lands and toiled in his potash camp at night, catching naps "between times," not going to bed from Monday morning until Saturday night for eight months each year for five years. His hundred dollars was prudently expended in the employment of help on this initial contract, and he "made good." That was the decisive step in the career of William Steele, who from that time engaged in timber contracting, road building, railroad construction and kindred labors requiring the work of men's hands. He early learned to "toil terribly"; to labor more diligently than the men under his employ, not for the money thus to be made, but out of mere pride in the accomplishment of big tasks, and became very successful. In all his relations with the stalwart men whose herculean labor he directed, Mr. Steele ever remembered that "a man's a man for a' that," and was ever ready to lend a helping hand and incline a ready ear to those in distress; many of his most precious memories today being of those he has been able to aid both financially and by the good word, straight from the heart, "man to man." Upright in his own manner of living, Mr. Steele always set a good example to the men about him. He never tasted liquor nor tobacco and never went any place where wife, mother or daughter could not with propriety accompany him.

For four years after entering upon his career as a contractor, William Steele worked in his lumber camps by day. He was capable of performing an almost incredible amount of work, he always delighted in getting things done and was always a leader in his work camps. He was a rigid disciplinarian; required his lumbermen to go to bed at nine o'clock, fed them well, kept them busy and got results. In 1869 William Steele came to Michigan and located at Spring Lake, where he engaged in contracting and lumbering and where he established a general store. He constructed in 1882 a railroad twenty-two miles in length across the divide from the Saginaw waters to the streams flowing to Lake Michigan, on which he installed two locomotives and thirty cars, and during this time kept three lumber camps going. Mr. Steele early developed a system of accounting that revealed to him at the end of each day the actual results of his operations and the cost of the various details of the same, down to a fraction of a cent.

The winter of 1876-77 was mild and open and logs could not be moved. Other contractors in the lumber woods gave up, but Mr. Steele kept his men busy. Up to March 16 there had been no snow. That eventful day dawned clear, but Mr. Steele told his men that before the next morning they would be moving logs. The sky gradually clouded and at night the snow began

to fall. At midnight there was a good covering on the ground and Mr. Steele routed the men out of their bunks and by one o'clock all hands were busy hauling the precious logs to the streams. For eight days there was no such thing as going to bed in the camps; men and teams working day and night. The result was that William Steele was the only contractor in Michigan who got his logs in that winter. Again, the winter of 1878-79 was open. Other contractors gave up and many millions of feet of timber was left, much of it being burned. William Steele constructed five miles of wooden track, on which he ran his cars and thus got in his logs, fifteen million feet of fine timber.

In August, 1882, Mr. Steele moved to Ionia, where he has ever since made his home, for years thereafter continuing his lumbering operations, also being extensively engaged in farming. He bought five hundred acres just north of Ionia and also owned a tract of five hundred acres north of that. In 1886 he bought a beautiful country residence at the north edge of Ionia and on the home farm began the raising of the finest strains of Short-horn cattle. Mr. Steele was interested largely in the upbuilding of Ionia and was a leader in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of that city's substantial welfare, being active in the work of attracting factories to that place. He gave to the city the land for the public highway known as Steele street, from the railroad to Dexter street, and in addition to this contribution, constructed the grade, at a cost of seven thousand dollars more than the city paid for it. He also gave the right-of-way for the switch that runs to what was then a wagon factory, now the auto-body works, and built the grade for the same, free of charge, in addition to which he gave five acres of the land occupied by that factory; he also donated an acre or more where the light plant and Hales mill stand and the land for the "Sorosis" garment factory. He established the William Steele Packing Company and became heavily interested in the pork-packing industry. A firm believer in insurance, Mr. Steele carried the second highest life insurance of any man in Michigan and had an "A" rating in all the commercial directories.

Then in 1890 the tide turned and the troubles of Job seemed to descend upon William Steele. During the panic of 1890 he lost heavily in his pork-packing industry; tuberculosis broke out in his fine herd of cattle, and he had to kill all his valuable stock; in February, 1896, his beautiful home was destroyed by fire; he had indorsed heavily the papers of others and during the panic times many of these obligations fell upon him to meet. Whatever

he had to sell, had to go at nominal figures. The farm that had cost him fifty thousand dollars was sold for twenty-seven thousand, and other assets were sold in proportion; but through it all Mr. Steele kept his word good and his honor unassailed. He did not give up the fight, and now, though seventy-one years of age, is pushing his way along again. He owns two farms of rich bottom land at Ionia and is there successfully growing sugar beets, his operations setting an example to others interested in this growing and valuable industry.

In 1867, William Steele was united in marriage to Nancy Jane Storey, who was born in County Gray, Ontario, Canada, and to this union seven children have been born, Janet L., Margaret L., John L., William N., Mary Agnes, Jessie Douglass and Martha E. Mr. Steele is a thirty-second-degree Mason and when the Masonic home at Grand Rapids was established he was chairman of the committee on the building site of the same, and the only member of the board of twelve trustees whose home was not in Grand Rapids.

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#### ED S. TOWNSEND.

Ed S. Townsend, a prominent farmer and realty speculator of Ionia township, this county, and one of the best-known ranchers in Michigan, proprietor of the great Townsend ranch near Marion, in Osceola county, and owner of a fine farm of more than three hundred acres one and one-half miles south of Ionia, where he now makes his home, is a native son of Ionia county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm about three miles south of Ionia, in section 32, of Ionia township, March 19, 1865, son of Steward and Eliza (Tuttle) Townsend, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Ohio, both of whom came to Michigan in their youth, settling with their respective parents in Ionia county, where they later married and where they spent the remainder of their lives, Steward Townsend dying in 1904, his widow surviving until 1908.

Steward Townsend was born at Palmyra, New York, in 1828, and was about eighteen years old when he came to Michigan with his parents, Charles Townsend and wife, in the late forties, the family settling on a farm south of Ionia, where Charles Townsend and his wife spent their last days. In 1852 Steward Townsend bought a small tract of land in section 32 of Ionia township and began to improve the same, gradually enlarging his holdings as his affairs prospered, until at the time of his death he was the owner of

a fine farm of two hundred acres of well improved land. His wife was born in Ohio and came to this state with her parents, Nelson and Sophia (Pangburn) Tuttle, about the same time the Townsends came here, the family settling in this county, Nelson Tuttle becoming one of the most substantial and influential pioneers of Ionia county; a record of his life in this county being set out in a biographical sketch elsewhere in this volume. To Steward Townsend and wife six children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch is the fifth in order of birth, the others being Andrew, Nelson, Henry, Emery and Ella.

Until April 1, 1916, Ed S. Townsend made his home on the farm where he was born and for years was engaged in the development of that place, bringing it to a high state of cultivation and making it one of the best-improved places in the county. That place of three hundred and forty acres he recently sold for forty-two thousand five hundred dollars and on April 1, 1916, moved to his present fine place of three hundred and two acres, one and one-half miles south of Ionia, where he has created one of the best country establishments in Ionia county, his house being of modern construction, with hot and cold water, sanitary plumbing, heating plant and all the conveniences for comfortable housekeeping, the barns and other farm buildings being in keeping with the same. Though always active in the pursuit of his extensive business affairs, Mr. Townsend possesses the happy faculty of being able to do things "the easy way," and his activities, instead of proving a burden, are a pleasure to him. For the past twenty years he has built at least one house or barn each year and is widely known as a fine farm and ranch manager. In July, 1910, Mr. Townsend bought one thousand and sixty acres of land over in Osceola county, near Marion, and began the development of one of the best ranches in Michigan. When he bought the land only about sixty acres of it had been improved. He quickly "stumped" the remainder, put in about twenty thousand tile, erected a fine large ranch house, excellent barns and cattle pens and now has one of the best ranches of one thousand acres or more in the state, the stock on the Townsend ranch being in great demand, Mr. Townsend having made a specialty of pure-bred stuff. On the Townsend ranch are four good dwellings, four barns, of a capacity for two hundred cattle, besides barns and sheds for a thousand head of sheep and thirty or forty horses. In addition to his general farming and stock-raising activities, Mr. Townsend also has dealt extensively in improved farms and has made an equal success in that line, being recognized as one of the best judges of realty values hereabout, while as a dealer in live stock he is known far and wide throughout this section of Michigan.

In 1892 Ed S. Townsend was united in marriage to S. Ida Goodrich, who was born at Portland, this county, daughter of Francis and Rose (Culbertson) Goodrich, both natives of New York state. Francis Goodrich was born at Lima, New York, and when a young man came to Michigan and located at Portland. He married Rose Culbertson, who had come out here from Dansville, New York, on a visit to her sister, and engaged in farming. He died when his daughter, Ida, was a child, and his widow returned to New York, where she presently married Samuel Brown. She died in 1876 and after her death her daughter, Ida, returned to Portland, where she made her home with her mother's sister until her marriage to Mr. Townsend. To this union three children have been born, Francis, who died when three months old; Ray, who is at home, an able assistant to his father, and Guy, who died when four weeks old. The Townsends are members of the Methodist church and Mr. Townsend is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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#### WILLIAM H. McCARTNEY.

William H. McCartney, one of the leading merchants of Lake Odessa, this county, vice-president of the Lake Odessa State Savings Bank and one of the directors of the Lake Odessa Milk Condensing Company, former president of the council of that thriving village and in numerous ways actively identified with the material interests of the town, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Seneca county, that state, September 19, 1863, son of Charles and Julia (King) McCartney, natives of that same county and both of Scotch-Irish descent, their respective families having been residents of this country for several generations. Charles McCartney, in his earlier life, was a druggist, but later engaged in farming and was thus engaged until his death. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest and the only one now living in Ionia county.

As a boy, William H. McCartney was reared to the life of the farm. He received his elementary education in the rural school in the neighborhood of his home and spent one year in the high school at Geneva, New York. In the fall of the year in which he attained his majority he went West and in the town of Gordon Grove, Iowa, was engaged for four years as a clerk in a general store. He then returned to his old home and engaged

in the hardware business in partnership with his brother and was thus engaged for eight months, at the end of which time they sold out and came to Michigan, settling at Lake Odessa, in this county, at that time a promising village, which, though it had been established but two years, had a population then of more than seven hundred. There the brothers opened a store with a small stock of general merchandise and thrived from the very start, gradually growing with the town until they had a very profitable business. In February, 1904, William H. McCartney bought his brother's interest in the business and has since been operating the store alone, long having been regarded as one of the leading merchants of Lake Odessa. Mr. McCartney's business ventures are not confined solely to his store and he is interested in several extensive local enterprises. He is one of the principal stockholders of the Lake Odessa State Savings Bank, of which he is the vice-president, and is likewise a stockholder in, and a director of, the Lake Odessa Milk Condensing Company, of which he was one of the organizers. He is a Republican and has served as president of the council and as a member of the school board.

On November 26, 1891, William M. McCartney was united in marriage at Lake Odessa, this county, to May E. Cornell, who was born in the city of Ionia, daughter of Alanson and Alice (Rickey) Cornell, the former a native of this county and the latter of Oberlin, Ohio. Alanson Cornell's father was one of the early settlers of this county and owned the land where the brick factory at Ionia is now situated. Alanson Cornell, who was born on December 29, 1830, was united in marriage, at Carlisle, Ohio, October 23, 1867, to Alice M. Rickey, who was born on November 5, 1843, daughter of Oren S. and Marcia (Webster) Rickey, and died on August 25, 1872. On October 15, 1873, his widow married Eugene T. Colwell and to that union was born one child, a son, Raymond A. Colwell, born at Detroit, February 26, 1877. The Cornells were among the foremost settlers of Ionia county. This family is a branch of the Colwell family and with the latter claims direct descent from Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island. Mrs. McCartney's ancestors, both paternal and maternal, were numbered among the earliest settlers of the New England states. Governor John Webster was in Hartford, Connecticut, as early as 1636, having arrived there from Norfolk county, England. In Hartford he was a magistrate from 1639 to 1655; in 1656 was made governor and in 1642 was a member of the committee that framed the code of criminal laws for the colony. Lucretia Webster, sixth in descent from Governor John Webster, married Elisha Mason in 1785. Elisha Mason served three years in the

patriot army during the Revolutionary War. Lucretia Mason, daughter of Elisha and Lucretia (Webster) Mason, born at Litchfield, Connecticut, November 1, 1790, married, in 1810, Guy Webster, afterward a lieutenant in the army of the United States during the War of 1812. Marcia Webster, daughter of that union, born at Hanover, New York, September 15, 1819, married, at Carlisle, Ohio, December 14, 1837, Oren S. Rickey, grandson of John Rickey, who served as aide to General Ethan Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga, and Alice M. Rickey, daughter of that union, who married Manson Cornell, as set out above, was the mother of May E. Cornell, born on November 18, 1870, who married William M. McCartney.

To Mr. and Mrs. McCartney four children have been born, William C., born on May 26, 1892, a clerk in the Lake Odessa State Savings Bank, who married Verda Figg and has two children, Hale and Frances; Alice, born on May 29, 1893, who is a student in the Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing; Grace, born May 26, 1895, who is a stenographer in the State Savings Bank at Lake Odessa, and Arthur, born on May 4, 1898, who is a student in the Lake Odessa high school. The McCartneys are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a general interest in the benefices of that church, as well as in all local good works, and are held in high regard throughout that entire community.

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#### GEORGE ROBBINS.

George Robbins, a well-known carpenter and building contractor of Clarksville, this county, and a well-to-do retired farmer of Campbell township, is a native son of Michigan and has lived in this state all his life. He was born in Kent county, this state, August 16, 1853, son of George and Elizabeth (Crawford) Robbins, pioneers of this section, the former of whom, an honored veteran of the Civil War, died from the effects of illness contracted in the army in 1863, and the latter of whom spent her last days in Ionia county.

George Robbins was born in Yorkshire, England, and when he was eighteen years of age he came to the United States. He settled in Oneida county, New York, where he engaged in farming and where he married Elizabeth Crawford, who was born in that county. About the year 1840 he and his wife came to Michigan, settling in the neighboring county of Montcalm at the point where the thriving city of Greenville is now situated, Mr.



Robbins digging the first cellar in that town. Later they moved to Kent county where they established their home on a farm and where their children were reared. When the Civil War broke out George Robbins responded to the call, and in August, 1861, enlisted as a private in Company E, First Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, for the preservation of the unity of his adopted county, and served until a severe illness overtook him in the spring of 1862. He received his honorable discharge on a physician's certificate of disability and returned home, but was unable to recuperate, and his death occurred shortly after his return home. In August of the same year his eldest son, John, who then lacked four days of being fifteen years old, enlisted in the Sixth Michigan Cavalry and served with that command until the close of the war. John Robbins was captured by the enemy during a hot engagement and for four months and ten days was confined in Libby prison. To George Robbins and wife five children had been born, Hannah, John, Emma, George and Frederick, of whom the two latter are now the only survivors, Frederick Robbins also being a resident of Ionia county.

After the death of her soldier husband Mrs. Robbins kept the children together, and when George Robbins established his home in this country she made her home with him until her death in 1890. George Robbins was reared on the home farm in Kent county and received his schooling in the neighboring district school. Early in 1877 he married and continued to follow farming as a vocation. In 1882 he bought a farm of eighty acres in section 24 of Campbell township, this county, and there made his home until 1907, in which year he retired from the farm and moved to Clarksville where he ever since has been quite successfully engaged as a carpenter and building contractor. Previous to leaving the farm Mr. Robbins had been more or less engaged in carpentering and was well known as a builder throughout the southern part of the county. He continues to retain possession of his farm, which is well improved and profitably operated. Mr. Robbins is a Republican and for years has given his earnest attention to local political affairs. He has served the public in the capacity of highway commissioner and in certain minor township offices.

On January 28, 1877, George Robbins was united in marriage to Elizabeth Deifenbacher, who was born in Bridgeport, Ontario, May 2, 1855, daughter of Jacob and Christina (King) Deifenbacher, both natives of Germany, whose respective families had emigrated to Canada and who were married after coming across the water. In 1863 Jacob Deifenbacher and his family came from Canada to this state and settled in Ionia county. After living on a farm in Keene township for some time they moved to

Kent county where they bought another farm and there Jacob Deifenbacher and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

To George and Elizabeth (Deifenbacher) Robbins three children have been born, as follow: Ralph F., born on November 18, 1880, who married Mary Bassler who was born in Tennessee, and has two children, Willis and Eustace T.; Laura, June 26, 1883, who married George Bartell and has two children, Bernice and Owen, and Anna, August 15, 1893, who after graduating from the Clarksville high school took a course in the State Normal School at Ypsilanti and is now a member of the teaching force of the Ionia public schools, being employed there under a life certificate. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins are members of the United Brethren church and take an earnest interest in all local good works.

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#### MAURICE A. REED.

The records of men of industry and successful affairs in general would indicate that sound judgment, persistency and honorable ideals always win the goal sought. Maurice A. Reed, of the Citizens' Light Company of Belding, Michigan, was born on a farm in Cook county, Illinois, August 8, 1860, the place now being overspread by the city of Chicago. He is a son of Henry and Nancy (Totman) Reed, both natives of Jefferson county, New York. Henry Reed, the grandfather was a Methodist minister, who went from Connecticut to the state of New York, where he bought a farm; also preached in Bristol Center, Ontario county, that state, and there he spent the rest of his life. Ward Totman, the maternal grandfather, was born in the state of New York, in 1803. His mother was born in Scotland and his father died when Ward Totman was nineteen years old. When the latter was nineteen years old he was captain of an Erie Canal boat, which line of endeavor he followed some time, then settled on a farm in Ontario county, New York. He became a deacon in the church of which Abner Reed was pastor. He lived awhile in Jefferson county, New York. He became a deacon in the church of which Abner Reed was pastor. He lived awhile in Jefferson county, New York, where his daughter, Nancy, the mother of M. A. Reed, was born, and there she met and married Henry Reed, about 1853. They came immediately to Cook county, Illinois, where they worked for a farmer named Gooding for two years. Henry Reed had been West before and had pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of

land in that locality, and he moved there about 1855, on which he lived until 1864 when he sold out and went back to New York state, locating in Ontario county, but a year later removed with his family to Will county, Illinois, where he rented land one year then bought one hundred and forty acres on which he settled and spent the rest of his life. On that farm was made the first steel plow, which was put on the market by John Lane, who purchased the place. The death of Henry Reed occurred in 1903, but his widow is still living on the old homestead. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church to which he also belonged. Five children were born to these parents, namely: Maurice A., the subject of this review; Edna L. is the wife of Fulton B. Ormsby, an old school teacher in Englewood schools, Watertown, New York, now living at Pierpont, Manor, that state; Wallace L. is president of the Lake Transportation Company at Conestoga, Ontario county, New York; Frank L. lives in Will county, Illinois; Henry B. lives on the old home place with his mother, in Will county, Illinois.

Maurice A. Reed lived on the home farm until he was sixteen years of age, working during the summer months and attending the district schools in winter, then he was sick for three years, returning to high school when nineteen years of age for two years, after which he took a course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College. In 1882 he became assistant book-keeper for the firm of Wilson, Luther & Wilson, in Lake county, Michigan, at a town called Luther, remaining with the firm until it failed in 1890, after which he worked for their successors, Tucker, Hoops & Company, until 1893 in which year he came to Belding, Michigan, as cashier of the Peoples' Savings Bank, which position he held until 1910. In 1900 he had organized the Citizens' Light Company, of which he became cashier but retained this position in the bank for ten years, and since 1910 he has given his attention exclusively to the light company, of which he is now manager, secretary and treasurer, in fact, has been the prime motive force of the same all the while and has made it a pronounced success.

Mr. Reed was married on October 1, 1884, to Carrie L. Gregg, a daughter of William and Ellen (Severence) Gregg.

Politically, Mr. Reed is a Republican. He is a member of Belding Lodge No. 355, Free and Accepted Masons, also the Dewitt Clinton Consistory and Belding Lodge No. 8, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Lodge No. 543, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Ionia. He is a member of the Belding board of commerce. While living in Lake county, Michigan, he was township clerk for a period of six years.

## ALEXANDER MINTY.

Alexander Minty, superintendent of the famous "Woodcote Stock Farm," a splendid place of five hundred acres lying at the north edge of Ionia, this county, where Dwight Cutler, the owner, has brought to a high degree of perfection the several breeds of live stock to which he has given his close attention during the years he has been thus engaged, is a native of Scotland, having been born at Hill Head, in Aberdeenshire, December 6, 1868, son of John and Jane (Laing) Minty, farming people, the parents of eleven children and who spent their last days in Scotland.

When he was eighteen years old Alexander Minty came to America and located at Goose Isle, near Detroit, where for four years he was employed in the establishment of Savage & Faruham, importers of Percheron horses. He then returned to Scotland and for three years gave his assistance to his father on the farm, after which he returned to the United States and took employment with the Cutler & Savage Lumber Company at Grand Haven, this state, where for ten years he was employed in the office of that company. In 1900 when Dwight Cutler took over the "Haddington Stock Farm" on the outskirts of Ionia, this county, Mr. Minty was installed in "the big house" as the superintendent and there he ever since had made him home, during this time having come to be recognized as one of the most expert and successful breeders of pure-bred Percheron horses and Aberdeen-Angus cattle in the country, his stables being the only ones in the state that exhibit at the international live stock exhibitions at Chicago. When the Cutlers became the owners of the big stock farm the name of the same was changed to "Woodcote," and as such, under the competent and skillful superintendency of Mr. Minty, has become famous over the country. "Woodcote Stock Farm" is most admirably equipped for stock raising purposes, its modern buildings and stables all being up to date and designed with special reference to the best results and is a model of its kind.

Alexander Minty has been very successful in his scientific efforts to improve the strain of the breeds under his direction, and since 1907 has held the grand championship at the Chicago international live stock exhibits for both males and females in the Aberdeen-Angus classes. In 1911, with "Erica of Woodcote the Second," he won the junior championship, at which time he refused two thousand dollars for the prize-winner. In 1910 he bought the bull "Egerton W.," which proved very successful and which was resold in 1913 to the Amos Plantation Company of Memphis, Tennessee,

which showed him in 1914 at Memphis and he was placed as grand champion in a very strong class at the age of ten years. Recently there has been placed at "Woodcote" five fine fillies and a fine stallion to supplement the Percheron stables there, which already possessed "Grand Marshal," junior champion at all the Eastern fairs, and "Miss Modiste," grand champion mare in the hackney classes. Mr. Minty gives his closest attention to the superintendency of the fine breeding plant under his charge and has justly earned a high reputation in that line.

In August, 1896, while living in Grand Haven, Alexander Minty was united in marriage to Mary Donnelly, who was born in that city, daughter of Timothy and Ellen (McMann) Donnelly, who came to this county from Ireland and settled in Grand Haven, where they died when their daughter, Mary, was a little girl, the latter thereafter making her home with the family of George Hancock, the well-known florist of Grand Haven, until her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Minty three daughters have been born, Frances, Mary and Catherine. Mrs. Minty and her eldest daughter are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Minty is a Knight Templar, Mason and a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the affairs of both of which orders he takes a warm interest.

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#### MARJORY M. ORR, M. D.

Dr. Marjory M. Orr, of Belding, one of the best-known and most successful physicians and surgeons in Ionia county, is a native of Iowa, having been born at Albia, that state, on January 20, 1874, daughter of Adam and Anna (Schooley) Orr. Orphaned at an early age by the death of her parents, her youth was spent at Hastings, Nebraska, and she was graduated from the high school in that city, after which she became a stenographer in a newspaper office and while thus engaged gave her attention seriously to the study of medicine. Later she entered the office of her uncle, Dr. E. W. Schooley, at Toledo, Ohio, and under his able direction prepared herself to enter medical college. She then matriculated at the Grand Rapids Medical College and after the full four-years course in that excellent institution was graduated in 1902, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Thus admirably equipped for the practice of her noble profession, Doctor Orr came to this county and opened an office at Belding, where she ever since has been located and where she has met with much success in the prac-

tice of her exacting profession. Doctor Orr is a member of the Congregational church, of the order of the Ladies of the Maccabees, of the order of the Royal Neighbors and of the Daughters of Rebekah, in the affairs of all of which organizations she takes a warm interest.

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### SILAS H. PILKINTON.

Silas H. Pilkinton, president of the village of Portland, Ionia county, Michigan, since March of 1915, was born in Portland township, this county, on a farm on November 22, 1847. He is a son of Stephen and Henrietta (Bradley) Pilkinton, the former a native of Dublin, Ireland. Stephen came from a well educated and refined family, and during his boyhood days in Dublin was given a good education. He was a good student and made the most of his opportunities. After his school days were over he was bound out to a tradesman but did not long remain with him, coming to America when twenty-one years of age. He located for a time in New York state, went from there to Canada and finally located in Oakland county, Ohio, where he followed farming. While still a young man he came to Ionia county and in Sebawa township bought a farm of eighty acres, being among the earlier settlers there. He remained here a year when he returned to Oakland county, Ohio, and was united in marriage with Henrietta Bradley, born in Wayne county, New York, and brought in her girlhood to Oakland county, Ohio, by her parents. Stephen Pilkinton brought his bride to his farm here and they lived thereon for two or three years, when they traded for a farm in Portland township on Grand river and about three miles north of Portland, which at that time was but a small Indian trading post. Stephen passed the remaining active years on that farm and in latter life retired to Portland, where he died.

Silas H. Pilkinton is one of a family of nine children, five of whom are now living. The others are Mary, wife of Samuel A. McVey; Fred, located in Portland; Lucy, widow of a Mr. Baker, of Boise City, Idaho, and Oren, living at Twisp, Washington. Silas H. was given a good common and high school education, and at the age of nineteen he took a clerkship in a general store in Portland. After clerking for two years, desiring a better business education he attended the college of Bryant & Stratton under a Mr. Jewell, and took a complete business course. He clerked until 1874 when he went into the general mercantile business for himself, re-

maining therein until 1895. His health failing, he disposed of his business and purchased a small farm where he has continued to reside. He had quite a nice nursery business for a time and now has his fruit orchard, to which he gives especial attention.

Silas H. Pilkinton was united in marriage to Adelaide L. Brown on March 20, 1872. She is the mother of nine children, six of whom are living. Bruce and Grace died in infancy; Dora is at home with her parents; Arthur in Morenci, this state; Emma is the wife of George H. McMullen, of Athens, Michigan; Frank is in Traverse City, Michigan; Ethel in Maple Rapids; Glenn at home, and Lucy, the youngest, died in infancy. Mr. Pilkinton is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a member of the temperance committee of that church. For eight years he was superintendent of the Sunday school and has served in other official capacities. He holds membership in Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons, and has long been active in both lodge and church circles. Politically, he is a Democrat, but has never taken an active part in the political game, although often urged to do so. His present office is the first he has ever held, and needless to say he is discharging its duties in a highly satisfactory manner.

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#### RAYMOND ALBERT COLWELL.

Raymond Albert Colwell, one of the best known lawyers at Ionia and widely known throughout the county, having been a resident of Ionia county since he was five years old, is a native son of Michigan, having been born at Detroit, this state, February 26, 1877, son of Eugene F. and Alice M. (Rickey) Colwell and the sole issue of that parentage.

Eugene F. Colwell, for many years a well-known business man of Ionia county, was born in the state of New York, son of Joseph Colwell, a well-to-do manufacturer, and was the youngest of the children born to his parents, the others having been Edwin, Charles, Albert and Laura. He left New York when a young man and came West, locating in Detroit where for some years he engaged in the drug business. He married a Miss Smith, who died, leaving two sons, Eugene, who was drowned at Muir, in this county, at the age of fifteen years, and Clayton M., who now lives at San Jose, California. Eugene F. Colwell married, secondly, Mrs. Alice M. Cornell, widow of Alanson Cornell and daughter of Oren S. and Marcia (Webster) Rickey, Eastern people who came from Ohio to Michigan at

the close of the war and settled on a farm in Orleans township, this county, where both spent the rest of their lives, dying at advanced ages. Oren S. Rickey and wife were the parents of four children, Edwin, Edgar, Alice M. and Eva, the latter of whom, now deceased, was the first wife of Luther E. Hall. To Mrs. Colwell's first marriage there was born one child, a daughter, Mrs. May McCartney.

Upon discontinuing the drug business at Detroit Eugene F. Colwell engaged in farming near that city and was thus engaged for a short time, after which he moved to Sturgis and after a brief residence in the latter place moved on into Wisconsin, from which state he presently returned to Michigan and settled in Ionia county where the remainder of his life was spent. Upon coming to this county Mr. Colwell engaged in the hardware business at Muir, afterward engaging in the same line of business at Sebewa where he remained for four years, at the end of which time he moved to Lake Odessa where he engaged in business in the hardware line until his retirement in 1894. His death occurred on February 2, 1898, he then being sixty-nine years of age. His widow still survives.

Raymond A. Colwell was about five years old when his parents came to this county and he has lived here ever since. Following his graduation from the Lake Odessa high school he entered Olivet College in 1895 and remained there three years, at the end of which time he entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1901, being admitted to the bar just prior to graduation. Thus equipped for the practice of his chosen profession Mr. Colwell returned home. He opened an office at Lake Odessa in 1902 and practiced there until 1912, in the meantime having served as circuit court commissioner for about six years. In 1912 he was nominated by the Republicans as the candidate of that party for the office of prosecuting attorney for this county, but was defeated in the ensuing election. In December of that same year he formed a partnership with A. A. and H. A. Ellis, of Ionia, for the practice of law and moved to Ionia, which has been his place of residence since then. That partnership continued until in April, 1915, since which time Mr. Colwell has been practicing alone.

On June 29, 1904, Raymond A. Colwell was united in marriage to Cora Braden, who was born in Odessa township, this county, daughter of Cyrus F. and Almire C. (Cramer) Braden, natives of this state, who now live at Lake Odessa where Mr. Braden is engaged in the life insurance business. He also owns a fine farm and is one of the substantial residents of that community. Cyrus F. Braden's parents came to this state from



Ohio and here reared their six children, five sons and one daughter, Cyrus, Joseph, Samuel, Burrell, James and Mrs. VanHouten. Mrs. Braden's parents, Emanuel and Mary Ann (Myers) Cramer, both died at Lake Odessa at advanced ages. Emanuel Cramer was a veteran of the Civil War and he and his wife were the parents of two children, Almira C. and John Fremont Cramer.

To Raymond A. and Cora (Braden) Colwell two children have been born, Margaret E. and Frances E. Mr. and Mrs. Colwell are active participants in all worthy measures for the advancement of the interests of the community and are held in high esteem by their many friends. Mrs. Colwell is a member of the Methodist church and Mr. Colwell is a member of the Masonic lodge, the Elks lodge and the lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Ionia, in the affairs of all of which popular orders he takes a warm interest.

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#### HENRY LEE.

Henry Lee, well-known farmer of Keene township, Ionia county, Michigan, living in section 13, about four miles north of Saranac, was born in that same township on section 24, August 29, 1856, being a son of Hiram S. and Elvida (West) Lee. Both Hiram and Elvida were born in New York state, where they grew to maturity, married and in 1840 came to Michigan. They located in Ionia county on land on which South Lake Odessa is now located and remained there until 1851 when they disposed of their holdings in that section and came to Keene township, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Hiram Lee and wife were the parents of five children, but two of whom survive. Amanda is deceased, as is also Hiram N., ex-sheriff of Ionia county, and Judson, supervisor of Keene township for over twelve years.

Henry Lee was reared in Keene township, receiving his education in the early schools near his home and remained with the parents until he was twenty-one years of age. In 1875 he was united in marriage to Julia Lane, born also in Keene township on August 18, 1857. After marriage Henry Lee for a few years farmed the family homestead and later purchased the seventy acres on which he now makes his home. To Mr. and Mrs. Lee have been born two children: Amanda, born on June 13, 1878, is a graduate of the Saranac high school and is the wife of William Delk of Grand Rapids. Mabel, born on March 17, 1885, is also a graduate of

high school and is now Mrs. Grover Bigler, her husband being a farmer of Saskatchewan, Canada.

Henry Lee is an active worker in the ranks of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, through Saranac lodge No. 168, being past grand of that body, and also a member of the grand lodge. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lee are members of the Daughters of Rebekah in which body she is a past noble grand and also a member of the grand chapter. Politically, Mr. Lee gives support to the Democratic party, but has never been vitally interested in politics. He is one of the good farmers of Keene township, conducting the business of his place along approved lines and, with his wife, stands high in the estimation of the community.

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#### THOMAS FROST.

Having worked hard and managed well during his earlier years, Thomas Frost, who has spent his active life in agricultural pursuits, is now living in retirement in the town of Portland, Ionia county, where he has been content to spend his life. He was born in Ionia county, Michigan, December 6, 1848, and is a son of Isaiah G. and Mariah (Vernoy) Frost, he a native of New York city and she of New York state, and there they were married afterwards removing to Michigan, Mr. Frost entering three hundred and twenty acres from the government in Danby township, Ionia county. After living there a year he located in another part of this county and became supervisor and treasurer of his township. Later he farmed another year and was elected township treasurer, serving four years, then went into the hotel business, running the Zarby House for three years then returned to farming, in which he spent the rest of his life. He was a good citizen and a very successful man of affairs. His family consisted of four children, the subject of this sketch being the only survivor; Isaac T. died in 1916; John G. died when twenty-three years old; Sarah married Edmund Hickson and died some years ago.

Thomas Frost was reared on the home farm, where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools. When fifteen years old he left home and went to New York City, where he clerked in his uncle's store for three years, but not finding life in the metropolis entirely to his liking he returned home and resumed farm work, becoming owner of a good farm which he managed well and kept under good improvements,

carrying on general farming and stock raising, his place being known as "Frost Corner Farm." He has not been engaged in active work for several years.

Mr. Frost was married in 1875 to Anna Shelton, which union resulted in the birth of one child, a son, Thomas L., born June 24, 1878; he received his education in the Portland schools and is now living in Florida. He married Margaret Brice.

Mr. Frost is a Democrat, but is not active in the party. He belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Ionia. He and his wife have been spending their winters in Florida for several years.

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### CHARLES A. ESTEP.

Understanding every detail of the lumber business and being a man of industrious habits, Charles A. Estep is making a decided success operating a lumber yard in Portland, Ionia county, although the major portion of his active life has been devoted to farming. He was born on the parental acres in Sebewa township, this county, January 20, 1853, and is a son of William and Rebecca (Shafner) Estep, natives of Maryland and Ohio, respectively, and they were married in the latter state and they established their future home in the southern part of Ionia county in Sebewa township. There they carried on farming successfully the rest of their active lives. His death occurred a number of years ago, but she is still living on the old home farm, being now in her eighty-third year, her birth having occurred in 1833. To these parents five children were born, namely: Charles A., of this sketch; Ward B., who was a soldier in the Spanish-American War, is living in the soldiers' home at Grand Rapids; Maude is the wife of Ezekiel Downing; Dora is the wife of Russell Goodmute.

Charles A. Estep was reared on the home farm where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the district schools and the Ionia and Portland schools. When a young man he purchased a farm in his native locality on which he located at the time of his marriage, which took place in 1878, when he was united in marriage with Flora E. Kelly, who was born in Portland township, Ionia county, in 1857. He remained on the farm engaged in general agricultural pursuits and stock raising until 1901 when he went to Lake Odessa and entered the lumber business

where he remained a year, then sold out and came to Portland in 1901, purchasing a local lumber yard and in 1912 he bought the lumber yard near the depot, which he is still operating. It was formerly known as the Caswell yard. He owns both the grounds and the buildings there and is doing a large business with the town and surrounding country. He is also owner of a valuable and well-improved farm of two hundred and fifty acres in Orange township, Ionia county.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Estep: William Beach, who is married and is now thirty years old; Hazel K. is a teacher in the Grand Ledge public school.

Politically, Mr. Estep is a Republican. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to Portland Lodge No. 31, Free and Accepted Masons. He and his family are members of the Baptist church, of which he is a liberal supporter and has been a deacon for some time.

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#### LEDRUE ROLLIN BENEDICT.

Success has come to Ledrué Rollin Benedict, farmer of Orange township, Ionia county, because he has worked for it earnestly and persistently, never waiting for someone else to perform his tasks.

Mr. Benedict was born November 8, 1847, in the above named township and county, a scion of one of the old families of this section of the Wolverine state. He is a son of Hudson and Caroline (Sutton) Benedict. The father was born in New York, but came West when young and was married near Pontiac, Michigan. He came to Ionia county about 1845 or earlier, locating first in Berlin township on the River road. He was a cabinet-maker by trade, at which he worked at intervals after coming here. A year after moving to Berlin township he bought a farm in Orange township on which he spent the rest of his life. His wife died when Ledrué R. was sixteen years old, in January, 1864. In March of that year young Benedict enlisted in the second company of sharpshooters, attached to the Twenty-seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and saw service in the Army of the Potomac, his first engagement being one of the greatest of the war—the Battle of the Wilderness—and his last one was at the capture of Petersburg. Although a mere boy, he proved to be an excellent soldier and was honorably discharged and mustered out at the close of the war. Returning home he took up farming which has engaged his attention ever since. He owns a good place in section 2, Orange township.

On August 1, 1868, Mr. Benedict was married to Mary E. Taylor, who was born in Orange township, Ionia county, and was a daughter of Samuel and Polly (Goodnough) Taylor, who came from the state of New York to Michigan in pioneer times, finally locating in Orange township, Ionia county, where Mr. Taylor engaged in farming the rest of his life. Mrs. Benedict's death occurred on July 22, 1894. He has never remarried. He is the father of five children, namely: Stella, who is the wife of Nelson Willett, and they live two miles southeast of Lyons and have two children, Flora and John; Arton L. lives in Ionia township, married Nellie Adgate, and they have one child, Barton L.; Bertie L. died when six weeks old; Fred K. lives in Hope, Michigan, is married and has two children, Vera Ruth and Lucile Helen; Nora M. is the wife of Nelson E. Long, and they live near Elm Hall, Gratiot county, Michigan.

Mr. Benedict belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. He leads a quiet life on his farm and is known to his neighbors and acquaintances as a kind, generous and honest man.

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#### WILLIAM F. SOULE.

William F. Soule, a successful business man of Ionia, this county, in which city he has been prominently identified with the real estate and insurance business for years, is a native of Ohio, having been born at Chagrin Falls, that state, August 7, 1853, son of Ambrose L. and Sophia M. (Everest) Soule, the former a native of New York state and the latter of New Hampshire, who later became prominent residents of this county, where both spent their last days.

Ambrose L. Soule was born in 1801, eldest of the five sons born to his parents, the others having been Benjamin, Nathan, Dr. E. L. and Myron. He grew to manhood in New York state, receiving a good education and was reared to the life of the farm. He was a man of strong religious convictions and for years was an active preacher in the Christian (Disciples) church, not only in Ohio, to which state he had moved from New York and where he was engaged in farming, but after coming to this county. In 1854, having heard fine reports of the possibilities of pioneering in this section of Michigan, Mr. Soule came to this county and located on a tract of land on the river six miles east of Ionia, which he platted after clearing it of the pine timber and thus became the founder of the town of Muir.

He became an extensive owner of pine timber lands and was prospering largely when he died in 1857, three years after coming to this county.

Ambrose L. Soule was twice married, his first wife, who, before her marriage, was Ruth Paddock, having died in Ohio. To that first union thirteen children were born, namely: Judge Charles E. Soule, of Grand Haven, this state; James B., of Detroit; Ambrose L., Jr., deceased; Julia, who married Capt. E. L. Crow, of Grand Rapids, and nine who died in youth. Upon the death of the mother of these children, Ambrose L. Soule married, secondly, Sophia M. Everest, who was born in New Hampshire, daughter of William B. and Lydia M. Everest, both natives of that same state, who migrated to Ohio and thence to Michigan, settling on a farm north of Muir, in this county. William B. Everest was a farmer and millwright in the New Hampshire hills and followed the same vocation in this county. He became one of Ionia county's best known citizens and lived to the great age of ninety-two years. His wife also lived far beyond the usual allotment of years, she having been ninety at the time of her death. They were the parents of eight children, Sophia M., Mahala, Clara M., H. W., Frederiek, Jane, Charles and Stephen. To Ambrose L. and Sophia M. (Everest) Soule but two children were born, William F., the subject of this biographical sketch, and Belle, now deceased, who was the wife of Chester W. Chase. Mrs. Soule died at her home in this county in 1858, the year following the death of her husband, she then being forty-four years of age. She was a devoted member of the Christian church.

William F. Soule was but a babe when his parents settled in this county and he has lived here ever since. He was orphaned when five years of age and he grew up a farmer boy on the farm of his maternal grandparents in Ionia township. He was attentive to his studies and was given every opportunity to secure an education. After finishing the course in the district school in the neighborhood of his home he attended Hillsdale College for a year and then matriculated at Eureka College, Eureka, Illinois, taking the scientific course there, and was graduated from that institution three years later. He then spent about two years at Spring Lake, in Ottawa county, this state, after which he returned to Muir, whence, after two years, he moved to Ionia, where he ever since has been engaged in the real estate and insurance business and has been very successful, long having been one of the best known realty men in this part of the state. Mr. Soule is an ardent Republican and for years has given his earnest attention to political affairs hereabout. He was city treasurer of Ionia for one term and in all things is an active promoter of the city's best interests.

On May 25, 1886, William E. Soule was united in marriage to Mary Burke, who was born at Muir, this county, May 27, 1856, daughter of William and Mary (Lafin) Burke, both natives of Ireland and early settlers of this county, who reared their six children, Mary, Hannah, Edward, William, Catherine and John, in the faith of the Catholic church. Mr. Soule is a member of the Christian church and his wife of the Catholic church. Both are properly interested in all good works hereabout and are held in high regard by their many friends. Mr. Soule is a prominent Mason, a member of Ionia Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons, Ionia Chapter No. 14, Royal Arch Masons, Ionia Council No. 12, Royal and Select Masters, Ionia Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar and of Saladin Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Grand Rapids, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a deep interest. He also is a member of the Ionia tent of the Knights of the Maccabees, with which organization he has been connected for many years.

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#### JOSEPH ALBERT.

Joseph Albert, a well-known, progressive and prosperous farmer and stock raiser of Otisco township, this county, who owns a fine farm of three hundred acres on rural route No. 14, out of Smyrna, is a native son of Ionia county, having been born on the farm where he now lives, October 20, 1845, son of John and Margaret (Krupp) Albert, both natives of Germany, who were among the earliest settlers of the northern part of this county and for years accounted among the most influential pioneers of that neighborhood.

John Albert was born in the grand duchy of Baden in 1812 and was trained in the jeweler's and clocksmith's trade. When a young man he came to the United States, landing in New York City with five dollars in his pocket, this sum representing his sole financial possession. For four years he worked as a peddler of clocks and while thus engaged made his way into Ohio, where he made the acquaintance of Margaret Krupp, also a native of Baden, who had come to this country when a girl with her parents, the family settling in Ohio, and between the two a life-long attachment sprang up. After awhile John Albert pursued his vocation into Michigan, and in this part of the state became so deeply impressed with the possibilities that awaited the pioneer that he decided to settle here. With that end in view he entered a homestead claim to a tract of land in Otisco township.

this county, the tract now owned and occupied by his son, the subject of this sketch, and then returned to Ohio, where he married Margaret Krupp, and the two straightway came to this county and entered upon the task of establishing a home on their wilderness homestead, at that time covered by a dense forest. For the first year of their residence here they made their home in a house across the river and then they built a "shack" on their homestead tract and there established their home and reared their children. It was in 1843 that John Albert and his wife came to this county and they were thus among the earliest settlers in that part of the county. They were devoted members of the Catholic church and were among the leaders in the creation of St. Mary's parish in Otisco township, being also leaders in other good works in that neighborhood. As their family grew they gradually enlarged their original humble home and in 1865 built the commodious residence which now still marks the homestead. In 1876 John Albert sold his home farm to his second son, the subject of this sketch, upon the latter's marriage, and he and his wife retired from the farm and for two years made their home in Grand Rapids. He then bought a farm of two hundred and fifty acres in Kent county and there made his home for twelve years, at the end of which time he and his wife again retired from the farm and returned to Grand Rapids, where they spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Albert dying in 1897 and his widow in 1915. They were the parents of six children, namely: Charles, of Saginaw, this state; Joseph, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Catherine, wife of Joseph Patte, of Kent county, this state; George, superintendent of the county infirmary of Kent county, and Fred, of Wisconsin.

Joseph Albert has lived all his life on the farm on which he was born and which he has owned for years. He was diligent in his studies as a youth and supplemented his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home by a course in the old union school at Grand Rapids. On June 12, 1876, Mr. Albert was united in marriage to Catherine Blason, who was born in Utica, New York, and who had come to this county when a girl with her parents, natives of Prussia, who became well-known residents of the northern part of the county. After his marriage, Mr. Albert bought the old homestead, his parents at that time retiring from the farm, and there he ever since has made his home. He has added to the original tract and is now the owner of three hundred acres of well-cultivated land, one of the best farms in Otisco township. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Albert has given much attention to stock raising, with particular attention to Percheron and Belgian horses and Ohio Improved Chester and Poland-



China hogs. Mr. Albert is a Democrat and ever has given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. For more than twenty years he has been the treasurer of his home school district, and in other ways has given of his services to the public welfare.

To Joseph and Catherine (Blason) Albert three children have been born, Matilda, wife of Henry Rittersdorf, a well-known farmer of Keene township, this county; Sophronia, who married Joseph Brimyer, also a Keene township farmer, and Theodore, who married Margaret Felyan. Mr. and Mrs. Albert have seven grandchildren, in whom they take much delight. They are devoted members of St. Mary's Catholic church and their children were reared in the faith of that church, the family ever having been active in parish affairs.

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#### FREDERICK ALLEN MASON.

Frederick Allen Mason was born in Albany, New York, on September 23, 1866. He was the son of William and Sarah (Lindley) Mason, natives of Yorkshire, England. They were the parents of the following children: Charles Arthur, who is deceased; John Dixon, who lives in Birmingham, Alabama; William Henry, Jr., who is deceased; Endora Martha, who is deceased, and Frederick Allen, who is the subject of this sketch. William Mason was reared in Yorkshire, England, and learned the tanner's trade in Edinburgh, Scotland, and then moved to London and emigrated to the United States in 1856, locating in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Here he engaged in tanning for some years and then moved to Newark, New Jersey, and from there to Albany, New York. From Albany, New York, he went to Waterbury, Connecticut, where he died on a farm near Willimantic in 1892 at the age of seventy-four years. His wife died in 1872 at the age of forty years. He was postmaster at Waterbury for many years. He was a Republican in politics, and he and his wife both belonged to the Baptist church.

Frederick Allen Mason, the subject of this sketch, was raised in Waterbury, Connecticut, and graduated from high school there. He began learning the watchmaker's trade, which he has followed ever since. He worked for twenty-three years in watch factories both in the East and West, and spent six years in England teaching the American system of watchmaking. He then returned to America and traveled for the Hamilton Company of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for four years. He then worked for

various retail firms and finally engaged in the business for himself in Centerville, Maryland. He remained there for two years and then came to Ionia, Michigan, in 1912, and bought out the jewelry store of A. G. Bedford. For nearly eighteen years he has been following up the retail jewelry business and he has such a reputation that his services are sought by some of the largest jewelers in the United States. He has chiefly bent his energies to the railroad watch inspection work, as he excelled in the caring for and repairing of the high grade watches that railroad men are required to carry. He has the finest testimonials as to his expertness as a watchmaker from some of the largest and best watch factories in the United States and England. In his present location he carries a large stock and does a large business.

On October 14, 1905, Frederick A. Mason married Florence A. E. Harrison, of Liverpool, England. She was the daughter of William and Clara J. Harrison. She was the only child of her parents. Mrs. Mason was born in Liverpool, England, and her father was born on the northeast coast of Ireland, and her mother was born in England. Her father was chief engineer on one of the big boats running between New York city and Hong Kong, China.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Mason were born the following children: Charles R. and Clara Florence. Mr. Mason is a member of the Congregationalist church and Mrs. Mason affiliates with the Episcopalian church. Mr. Mason is a progressive Republican in politics.

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#### OSMOND SELWYN TOWER.

Osmond Selwyn Tower, deceased, was born in Ionia, Michigan, in 1839. He was the son of Osmond and Martha (Gallagher) Tower. Osmond Tower was a native of Massachusetts, and his wife was a native of Ireland. They had the following children: George; Warden, deceased; Osmond, deceased, who is the subject of this sketch; Angelo E., of Ionia, and James F., of Ionia. Osmond Tower was a school teacher in Massachusetts. He married in the East and came West to Detroit with his bride and lived there a little over a year. He was a pioneer in Ionia county and built the first frame house in Ionia City. He engaged largely in the lumbering business in Montcalm and Ionia counties. He was United States marshal at one time, and was a member of the school board for twenty years. He was a

very prominent man in his day. He and Fred Hall and Dudley Townsend were the three ruling spirits in the business interests of the town for many years. He and his wife lived to old age and died in Ionia.

Osmond Selwyn Tower, the subject of this sketch, was raised in Ionia and attended the public schools here. He later took a law course in Ann Arbor, and then began for himself by engaging in the hardware business which he followed for some years. He was register of deeds for a number of years. He served one year in the Civil War and was captain of a company in the Sixth Michigan Cavalry. Ionia was always his home, excepting ten years which were spent in Edmore, Montcalm county, in the hardware business. On September 18, 1862, he was married to Sarah Jane Bartholomew, who was the daughter of Albert Martin and Mary Miller (Boyd) Bartholomew. Sarah Jane (Bartholomew) Tower was born on June 24, 1843, in Detroit, Michigan. Her parents were natives of Massachusetts and came west to Michigan in an early day and settled in Detroit where her father was in the hardware business, the firm name being Ducharme & Bartholomew, for many years. Mr. Bartholomew retired from this firm before his death which occurred at the home of Mrs. Ducharme, in Detroit at the age of seventy-six years. His wife died at the age of thirty-two years. They had the following children: Elsie Elizabeth, who married Charles Ducharme; William Elkana, who lives in Detroit; Sarah Jane, who is the widow of the subject of this sketch; Mary Augusta, who is the widow of Thomas D. Hawley, of Los Angeles, California, and two children, who died in infancy.

Osmond Selwyn and Sarah Jane (Bartholomew) Tower were the parents of the following children: Fred Albert, who has been with the Pittsburgh Steel Company for over sixteen years. He married Inoge King. They have one son, Frederick King Tower; Marion Amelia, who married William B. Carpenter; they live in Chicago and have one son, Harold Bagley Carpenter; Elsie Mary, who married Capt. George H. Jamerson, and they live in Honolulu, where he is stationed in the United States infantry service; they have one son, Osmond Tower Jamerson, and Albert B., who died when five months old.

Osmond Selwyn Tower died in 1910 at the age of seventy-one years. He belonged at one time to the Knights of Pythias Lodge and also to the Elks Lodge. He was a staunch Republican. Mrs. Tower is a member of the Episcopal church. She is a lady of culture and refinement and takes an unusual interest in club and literary affairs.

## ELLIOT BOUCK.

The old Empire state has sent many of its best citizens into Michigan and they have done much in developing the newer sections of the West. Among this class in Ionia county is Elliot Bouck, a hard-working farmer of Danby township, and a regularly ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was born in Schohaire county, New York, April 21, 1862, and is a son of Daniel H. and Caroline (Borst) Bouck, both natives of the above named county and state also, where they grew up, attended school, were married and established their home on the farm. His grandparents on both sides were descendants from the early Dutch in that state. Daniel H. Bouck was young when his father died and he made his home with his grandparents until their deaths. Daniel H. Bouck died in April, 1902, and his wife preceded him to the grave by one year, dying in April, 1901. They were the parents of seven children, namely, Elliot, the immediate subject of this review; Martha, wife of Emery Sitterlee; William, a resident of New York state; Anna, the wife of Edward P. Mattice, of New York; Warner, who was killed in a runaway accident; Elma, who died at the age of one year, and Harley, who lives in Middleburgh, New York.

Elliot Bouck received his education in the district schools, and he remained on the home farm until he was twenty-one years old, then hired out at farm work for one year, then returned home for one year, continuing to work on the farm during the summer months, attending high school in the winter time, preparing for college, but finding himself without funds and twenty-eight years of age, gave up the idea of a college course. In the spring of 1890 he started for Vermont, and took the place of a regularly ordained minister in the Troy conference of the Methodist Episcopal church at East Middlebury, Vermont, where he remained two years. At the annual conference of 1881 Mr. Bouck joined the conference on probation and began the conference course, passing his studies with a good margin from year to year until 1895, when he received his final ordination by Bishop Walden at Saratoga Springs, New York. With natural gifts for speaking and being a good student, he soon became an acceptable and capable minister of the Gospel. On March 2d of 1892 he married Esther Wilcox, a daughter of H. H. and Mary (Silvermail) Wilcox, which family is mentioned on another page of this work.

After his marriage Mr. Bouck went to Benson, Vermont, where he preached four years, then went to Hinesburg, that state, and a year later

took charge of the church at Williston, that state, remaining there for two years. In 1899 he was transferred to the Michigan conference, Lansing district, and preached at Shepardville for two years, going from there to the town of Sheppard, near Mt. Pleasant, remaining there two years. Although he was doing good work as a minister, he gave up regular pastorate work on account of the protracted and serious illness of Mrs. Bouek, and came to the Wilcox farm, in Ionia county, and about eight months later moved to the farm he now occupies; this was in the spring of 1903. He engaged in farming until 1907, when he again took up ministerial work, and was assigned to the Methodist church at Eagle, renting out his farm for five years. He remained at Eagle three years and preached at Breckinridge two years, returning to the farm in 1912, and has been engaged in general farming here ever since. His place consists of one hundred and four acres and is under a high state of cultivation. Although he has continued to preach occasionally since moving to his farm, he has not taken any regular work. He makes a specialty of breeding a high grade of Holstein cattle; registered "Crown Korndyke de Mercedes" heads his fine herd. These pure-bred cattle are the best ever known in this section of the state. He also handles an excellent grade of Poland China hogs.

Mr. Bouek is a Prohibitionist and has long been active in temperance work. He is a member of the Grange.

One child, a daughter, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bouek, Mary C., who is a pupil in the tenth grade of the public schools of Portland.

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#### GEORGE C. THURLBY.

A man who has found both pleasure and profit in agricultural pursuits and has, therefore, not cared for other fields of activity, is George C. Thurlby, of Boston township, Ionia county. He was born in Montcalm county, Michigan, March 30, 1856, and is a son of Richard and Margaret (Parrott) Thurlby. The father was born in Lincolnshire, England, and there he grew to manhood and was educated, and when a boy was in what is known in that country as "gentleman's service," until he was about twenty-one years of age, when he came to America, locating in Kent county, Michigan, where he hired out as a farm hand. Saving his earnings he later purchased forty acres in that county, then went to Montcalm county and bought a farm where he lived a few years, then returned to Kent county, purchasing

another farm, which he finally sold and moved to the home of his son, George C., and there spent the rest of his life, dying in 1907, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1900. They were parents of three children, George C. being the only survivor.

George C. Thurlby grew to manhood on the farm where he worked when a boy, and received his education in the district schools in his home communities and in the town of Lowell. When fourteen years old he hired out as a farm hand, working three years for Sears Story, then hired to John Meyers and John Bell, learning the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed for a number of years, becoming a very highly skilled workman. In 1880 he moved to the farm and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 19, Boston township, where he carries on general farming and stock raising, also runs a dairy, but not on an extensive scale.

George C. Thurlby was married on January 3, 1879, to Emma Story, a daughter of George J. and Sarah Jane Story. She grew up on the farm and was educated in the public schools. Politically, Mr. Thurlby is a Republican. His wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. He served on the first jury impaneled in the new Ionia county court house, and his name was the first one called, he taking the first seat in the grand jury box. The first case was that of a man charged with stealing a horse blanket. Mr. Thurlby has a photograph of this jury.

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#### FRANK H. HUDSON.

One of the busy men of the northern part of Ionia county is Frank H. Hudson, who is engaged in the grocery and bakery business in Belding, Otisco township. He was born at Hudsonville, Ottawa county, Michigan, March 5, 1865, and is a son of Homer E. and Clarinda (Burt) Hudson. The father was born in the state of Connecticut and when a boy he came with his parents to Cleveland, Ohio, the father taking up land from the government, which he developed into a farm and on which a part of the city of Cleveland now stands. His place was finally platted. He spent the rest of his life there and there also occurred the death of his wife. Homer E. Hudson, mentioned above, remained with his parents until he was nineteen years old when he came to Michigan, locating in Grand Rapids, then a small town, and here he worked on the Kellogg farm which is now well within the city limits and is valuable residence property.

Mr. Hudson's duties partly were to drive oxen for his employer, and he helped break up the virgin soil along what is now Monroe street. After working for Mr. Kellogg two or three years he returned to Ohio where he married Clarinda Burt and then came to Holland, Michigan, where he started a nursery business, later taking in a partner to whom he subsequently sold out, then located at what is now the town of Hudsonville, which place was named for him. There he took up eighty acres from the government, spending about forty years there, becoming one of the leading men of that locality and was a successful farmer. His first wife, mother of Frank H., died and he married later, after which he removed to Grand Rapids where he spent a number of years, then moved to Belding, Ionia county, where he died. He was the father of six children by his first wife, five of whom grew to maturity and three are now living, namely: Horace A. is deceased; Della C., deceased, was the wife of Adelbert Barnaby of Grand Rapids; Frank H. of this sketch; E. E. lives in Belding; Belle M. lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, and is the wife of A. A. Pompe.

Frank H. Hudson grew up on his father's farm where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools. He remained at home until he was twenty years of age, then came to Belding, Ionia county, and worked in a factory for five years, then with E. R. Spencer in a drug and grocery store for a year and a half, after which he and R. R. Robinson bought the grocery store and this partnership lasted for fourteen years, and since 1905 he has managed the business alone. He has been on the same stand all the while. He has been engaged in the grocery business twenty-four years and the bakery business over ten years. He has built up a large and lucrative trade in each with the town and surrounding country and has a large and well stocked store and modernly equipped bakery.

Mr. Hudson was married on April 15, 1885, to Millie E. Annable. To Mr. and Mrs. Hudson three children have been born, namely; Willie, who died in infancy; Dorothea, who was graduated from the Belding high school, attended the Normal at Kalamazoo a year and a half and is now a student in Albion College, intending to engage in teaching; Irene is the wife of Gay West, and they live in Lansing, Michigan.

Politically, Mr. Hudson is a Prohibitionist. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Maccabees of Belding. He has been a member of the local school board for the past fifteen years and has done much to encourage better schools in his city. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church in which he is a trustee.















